

# Year 6 Knowledge Organiser - WWII (Liverpool Blitz)

Key Knowledge	
<b>Important dates</b>	
<b>1940</b>	Liverpool experienced its first air raid in August 1940 and was targeted regularly through the autumn of 1940 with 15 raids in September and nine in October. However, the first major raid came on 28-29 November when it was hit by 350 tons of high explosive bombs, 30 land mines and 3,000 incendiaries. Nearly 300 people were killed.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> December 1940</b>	From 20-23 December, Merseyside was attacked on three consecutive nights. On the first night of raids the docks were hit and timber valued at approximately £4 million was destroyed in the resulting fires. The headquarters of the Cunard shipping line and the iconic Adelphi hotel were also damaged.
<b>21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> December 1940</b>	On 21-22 December the docks were targeted again and the neighbouring residential areas in Bootle were badly affected too. The historic St George's Hall was hit by incendiary bombs but Civil Defence workers and firefighters saved the building from any serious damage. The following night the bombers returned. While the city's docks were the main target, the surrounding streets of terraced houses, which housed the dock workers and their families, were also devastated.
<b>May 1940</b>	<p>During the first eight days of May 1941, Merseyside was bombed almost every night. 1,900 people were killed, 1,450 seriously wounded and 70,000 made homeless. In Bootle, 8,000 out of 17,000 houses were destroyed or damaged. St Luke's Church, one of many of the city's churches that were destroyed, was kept as a ruin as a permanent memorial of the May Blitz.</p> <p>During the raid on Bootle on 8 May, all but one of the town's rest centres for air raid victims were destroyed. Civil Defence workers were among the casualties across Merseyside. These included 28 Air Raid Precautions (ARP) wardens and Women's Voluntary Services (WVS) workers killed and 14 seriously injured.</p> <p>During the May Blitz, nearly 70 out of 140 berths in Liverpool's docks were put out of action. Many roads and rail routes through the city were also blocked. Tonnages of cargo handled at the docks were substantially reduced. Two main electricity generating stations were damaged as were all main telephone lines. After the raids in early May, the German bombers switched their main focus to Hull. Winston Churchill later concluded that if the German attacks on Liverpool had continued 'the Battle of the Atlantic would have been even more closely run than it was'.</p>

## Curriculum Objectives

What was homelife like in Britain during the war?

Why was Liverpool a target?

What happened at the docks?

What might we find at Crosby beach which is related to the Blitz?

## Key Questions

What was domestic life like in Britain during the war? How did life differ from life today?

What changed for ordinary people? Why? How?

What happened during the Liverpool Blitz? Where was affected in Crosby?

## Selected Vocabulary and Definitions

<b>The Blitz</b>	Comes from the German word "Blitzkrieg" meaning "lightning war."
<b>Air raid</b>	An attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft onto a ground target.
<b>Dock</b>	An enclosed area of water in a port for the loading, unloading, and repair of ships.
<b>Battle of the Atlantic</b>	The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest continuous military campaign in World War II, running from 1939 to the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945, and was a major part of the Naval history of World War II.
<b>Rationing</b>	Limiting the amount of food (specific food items) people could buy or receive during the war to reserve food.
<b>Evacuation</b>	When children were sent to live with families in the countryside to protect them from the dangers of living in the city during the blitz.