

This is it, hope you don't find it too boring, but it gives some idea of what the civilians went through, and as it has just passed Remembrance day, thought it pretty relevant.
Letter describing Nottingham Blitz

21 Lamartine Street
Nottingham
Friday

Dear Ethel and Bill,

Don't die of shock, having a letter from me, but if you want to know what sort of mess Jerries made of town, then I'm the only one that's seen it all, or at least most of it. I hope the censor doesn't 'blue pencil' it all, I should hate to give away vital information.

Vera knew nothing about the show till Friday, so you see that part of the globe is OK. All the damage is down our end. I've not been down Mrs Clement's way, but there seems to have been quite a lot of H.E.'s and time bombs, St Christophers and St John's are burnt out. Emily and Maggie Bowes have been evacuated to Auntie Emma's because of a time bomb, and I don't know whether they are back home again yet. Meadow Lane has suffered badly, the bakery and shoe repairing has gone, and several other places. H.E.'s and incendiaries seem to have been scattered all over the Meadows, and made a nice mess.

Porchester got several direct hits on houses. Our Firm got it pretty bad, only the Framing and General Offices were working on Friday. The No. 2 warehouses, that's where I am, started work on Tuesday, the rest is gutted. (9 factories) Howitt's and Forman's are lending us machines, and our men have been sent to work them. The 45 Trolley Buses are not running yet, there was a time bomb just outside our factory, that has now been moved, but the wires are not up yet, there is still a time bomb at the other end of the street, and we are patiently waiting for it to blow us up.

Carter Gate looked a mess on Friday, but it's looking better now, the Stadium Hotel had a direct hit, the Depot windows are all out, Dunlop is completely down and so is the factory at the other corner of Pennyfoot St. Pullmans ladies shop is down. Trivetts Buildings, Price's factory and several others in that area are gutted. Morley's on Manvers Street, and Chesire's at the bottom of Alfred St are both burnt out.

All the street off Carlton Road up to Cooper and Roe have damage of some sort. Daddy's place has lost all its windows, and there was a direct hit on the place further up the street, where the air raid shelter is underneath, quite a lot of people were killed in the shelter.

St Anns Well Road district had a fair share, Kings Hall is down, but I don't know whether H.E.'s or fire caused the trouble. Lewis's old factory is damaged and Alfred Street has no windows, several houses are down in Dane Street and in other streets round about.

There was a direct hit on buildings opposite Toby's and Mr E.V. Brown has lost his office. The shop next to C&A is burnt out, Chapel bar got 2 craters in the middle of the road, and AB Gibson's is damaged. The University and Shakespeare St had one or two bombs. Something happened around Castle gate, but I don't know what it was.

Bridgford had quite a lot of damage, but I've not seen anything there, there were several deaths in that district, so some H.E.s must have landed on houses.

I think I've told you about all that's happened, and it took just 2 hours to do it all. I believe Mammy told you about Sabina St: fire - it was a beauty.

The casualty list is not complete yet, but there will be about 150 dead and 250 injured, so far as we can tell.

There is a rumour going round that a second attack was attempted, but our fighters drove the planes off at Belvoir, if that is the case, thank heaven we've got some good fighters, as another raid would've just about have got Lamartine St nicely, as we were surrounded by fires, and there was no water.

Sorry we can't give any information about Bill's sister's husband, or Mrs Clements as our first news on them came from you, and we have heard nothing further.

Can't tell you any more. Paper's run dry. We are still alive and kicking hard, and I hope you are too.

Cheerio,
Clare