

## WARDEN REPORT LESSON: COVER SHEET

(Please note that the resource begins on the next page after this information sheet)



### Introduction

Thank you for downloading this resource, which I hope you will find useful in teaching your Second World war topic. As an experienced teacher myself, I know how difficult it can be to try to design or find the right resources for any topic so your feedback is most welcome to enable me to make improvements. If you would like to provide feedback on your experience using this resource, please contact me at [info@blitzschool.co.uk](mailto:info@blitzschool.co.uk) and I will be happy to listen to your comments.

### So what is Blitz School?

The company is run by me, Darren Birchall, and I am an experienced QTS teacher offering fun and interactive WW2 simulated air raid warden training workshops based on the Home Front Experience during the second world war, tied in closely with the new 'significant events' and 'local history' strands of the New September 2014 National Curriculum.

Each workshop lasts a full day and involves an historical enquiry session with many genuine WW2 artefacts, plus a series of fun activities such as knocking over pretend wooden firebombs with stirrup pumps; blacking out windows and learning WW2 first aid. Current prices are available on my website but are typically comparable to a day's supply cost.

### How do I find out more?

My website at [www.blitzschool.co.uk](http://www.blitzschool.co.uk) has all the information you should require to make an informed choice about whether or not one of my workshops is suitable for your needs. Alternatively, please email me personally at [info@blitzschool.co.uk](mailto:info@blitzschool.co.uk) for more information or to request a free enquiry pack. The site is also full of lots more free teaching resources for you to use with my compliments.

Regards (and happy History teaching ☺),

Darren



**WARDEN REPORT LESSON:  
BLITZ SCHOOL LESSON PLAN:  
SUPPLEMENTARY LESSON NOTES:**

**Notes on objectives:**

This lesson is based around the children's writing of a fictional air raid incident report, resulting in them reciting it to a partner (or the teacher) as if they were delivering a genuine report from the time. As such, it covers several English writing and speaking & listening objectives, as well as the obvious History WW2 topic objectives.

**How were incidents really reported in WW2?**

The warden would normally be the first on the scene and would contact the control room either by telephone or messenger using the form to organise the information. He/She would read the information from the form to a dedicated controller (much like the current 999 service) who would assign different services such as fire, ambulance etc. to the incident.

A key part of this lesson is emphasising the succinct and formal nature of the report – in other words they wouldn't have time for pleasantries!

**Suggested lesson sequence:**

There are several parts to the lesson (or lessons) as follows, depending on how far you want to extend it:

1. Learning about real life incidents using the 'York incident report'
2. Learning how incidents were reported using the form
3. The pupils working together in pairs to devise an incident/complete the form
4. The verbal reporting of the incident to a 'controller' as if in an actual WW2 situation (either to another pupil, pair of pupils, or the teacher whole class)
5. Evaluation – would it have worked? I.e. would it have given the controller enough information to be able to deal with the incident effectively?
6. Extension work (see below)

**Suggestions for extension:**

As well as the original lesson idea, these are just a couple of suggestions to take it forward (though I have no doubt you can come up with more 😊)

**English:**

- A diary of the incident from different perspectives e.g. rescuer, a person being rescued, the controller
- A newspaper article about the incident
- A poem (if you choose this option, see our additional "Air Raid Warden Poem" lesson here: <http://www.blitzschool.co.uk/#/new-poetry-lesson/4555710770>)
- A playscript and performance of the incident



## WARDEN REPORT LESSON: ACTUAL LESSON PLAN (pg. 3):

### PUPIL SPEAK OBJECTIVES:

To learn how air raid incidents were reported in the WW2 Blitz

To learn how to write and deliver an incident report to suit the purpose

### INTRO: blitz incident familiarisation

#### OPTIONAL PART 1 (10-15 min)

- Show pupils the BLITZ PHOTOPACK (available from the website), either whole class or with copies on tables.
- Allow some discussion time with the following key questions:
  1. What is happening in the photos?
  2. What difficulties would the rescuers face?
  3. How would it have felt to have been both the rescuer and the trapped person?
  4. + any other questions the pupils can devise themselves

#### PART 2 (10 min): reading an account of an actual incident

- Show pupils the real report from the York air raid, discussing the sequence of events and the list of casualties
- Discuss the amount of information that the warden would have had to report for the incident and relate this to the report form they will be using

#### PUPIL TASK (or as guided writing): (20-25 min)

##### Writing your own report:

- Show pupils the sample report, listing a fictional incident
- Discuss the simplicity of the information and model the speaking and listening element with a volunteer controller pretending to write down the information as you read it from the form (remembering to keep it very formal and succinct)
- Pupils then to attempt to write their own reports in pairs

#### PLENARY:

- Role play the reading of the reports to a fictional controller, either whole class (i.e. with the teacher as controller) or in swapped pairs
- How does it match to the objective? In other words, would it have been an effective report, providing enough information for the incident to be dealt with?

#### DIFFERENTIATION OPTIONS:

- High/lower ability pairings
- Choose a writing, speaking or listening role to suit pupil needs

#### FINAL NOTE:

Please let us know if you have any suggestions for improvements to the lesson via

[info@balestra.co.uk](mailto:info@balestra.co.uk)



# WARDEN'S REPORT FORM

A.R.P./M.I.

*Form of Report to Report Centres.*

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(When telephoning, commence with the words) "AIR RAID DAMAGE"

---

Warden name

---

ADDRESS of occurrence

---

TYPE of bombs :- High explosive (H.E.)      Incendiary      Poison Gas

---

Approx. No. of CASUALTIES :-  
(If any trapped under wreckage, say so)

---

If FIRE say so :-

---

Damage to MAINS :- Water    Coal Gas    Overhead electric cables    Sewers

---

Names of ROADS BLOCKED

---

Position of any UNEXPLODED BOMBS

---

TIME of occurrence (approx.)

---

Services already arrived :-

AMBULANCE

FIRE

RESCUE

---

Remarks :-

---

(Finish with the words)

"MESSAGE ENDS"

---

# WARDEN'S REPORT FORM

A.R.P./M.I.

Form of Report to Report Centres.

(When telephoning, commence with the words) "AIR RAID DAMAGE"

Warden name

*John Birchall*

ADDRESS of occurrence

*21 Brookhouse Rd, Manchester*

TYPE of bombs :- High explosive (H.E.)      Incendiary      Poison Gas

Approx. No. of CASUALTIES :-

(If any trapped under wreckage, say so)

*14 (7 trapped)*

If FIRE say so :-

*Yes*

Damage to MAINS :- Water    Coal Gas    Overhead electric cables    Sewers

Names of ROADS BLOCKED

*Brookhouse road*

Position of any UNEXPLODED BOMBS

*1 in the main sewer in the middle of the road near number 44*

TIME of occurrence (approx.)

*11:40 am*

Services already arrived :-

AMBULANCE

FIRE

RESCUE

Remarks :-

*Ambulances needed urgently. The road is blocked so they will have to park nearby in Johnson Road. We also need an unexploded bomb team.*

(Finish with the words)

"MESSAGE ENDS"



## WARDEN REPORT LESSON:

### CITY of YORK CIVIL DEFENCE

Air Raid Damage, 2nd Aug. 1942  
Report on Air Raid

I have to report that on Sunday, 2nd Aug. a lone raider, flying low, dropped 4 bombs on the city at 16.36 hours. The Observer Alarm was received at 16.32 hours and the siren sounded at 16.40 hours. Two bombs exploded in the vicinity of 26 Skeldergate and Albert St. Walmgate respectively and approximately 400 properties were damaged in varying degree. Unexploded bombs fell at Buckingham Works, Buckingham St. and at the foot of the steps to Clifford Tower. These have been dealt with by the Bomb Disposal Squads. The services required were quickly in action and casualties promptly attended to.

#### Dead

1 male. N.F.S.

#### Seriously injured.

2 males.  
7 females.

#### Slightly injured.

13 males.  
13 females.  
10 children.

(Signed) G.H. Hunt.  
A.R.P. Officer.  
CITY of YORK

