

Is Britain Winning The War?

What are sources of evidence?

Any leftover of the past can be considered a source. Sources provide us with information to help us understand the past. Some examples of sources of evidence are: art, sculpture, photographs, letters, stories, diaries and artefacts (such as clothing, weapons and cooking utensils).

1. Examine the extracts and photographs carefully, thinking about what information they give us about the Blitz.
2. You will need to decide whether the sources show that Britain is winning the Second World War or whether things are going badly.
3. Write your ideas for each source into the table.



Historical Evidence

Britain winning the war

Things are going badly

Sources of Evidence

Source 1



This is the southern approach to Westminster Bridge, the photograph shows bomb damage to the nurses home (Galliford House) attached to St. Thomas's Hospital. The attack, on the night of 8th/9th September 1940 left six nurses killed and many injured. During the course of WW2 the hospital was bombed twelve times.

Source 2



British Red Cross volunteer, at work at London Bridge air raid shelter. The uniforms were practical for clambering over debris.

Source 3



Red Cross nurses and stretcher bearers prepare to transport an injured man to hospital after an air raid.

Source 4

The British nation is stirred and moved as it never has been at any time in its long and famous history, and they mean to conquer or to die. What a triumph the life of these battered cities is over the worst that fire and bomb can do!

The terrible experiences and emotions of the battlefield are now shared by the entire population. Old men, little children, the crippled, the veterans of former wars, aged women, the hard-pressed citizen, the sturdy workman with his hammer in the shipyard, the members of every kind of ARP service, are proud to feel that they stand in the line together with our fighting men. This, indeed, is a grand, heroic period of our history, and the light of glory shines upon all.

Winston Churchill, broadcast 27 April 1941

Source 5

All reports from London are agreed that the population is seized by fear. The Londoners have completely lost their self-control.

Nazi radio broadcast, 18 September 1940

Source 6

Down came the bombs. You could hear the HEs going over the top with a low whistling sound. After a moment or two they started in with the incendiaries and dropped a Molotov over the docks. There was fire in every direction. The City was turned into an enormous, loosely-stacked furnace, belching black smoke.

Diary of a London Air Raid Warden, January 1941