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## The Blitz

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❶ A young boy places a Union flag into the remains of his home, which was destroyed in an air raid on London in 1940. Picture: IWM.



❷ David LODGE, *Out of the shelter*, 1970. A novelist born in 1935, Lodge tells the story of young Timothy, aged 5, who likes going to his neighbour's shelter because he can meet his friend Jill. Jill and her mother later die during a German raid.

1 They didn't have their own shelter. He and his mother went up the road, to Jill's  
2 house, number 64, which had a shelter in the back garden. Jill's Dad had made it  
3 himself. His own Dad was usually on duty during an air raid, he was a Warden,  
4 making sure everybody was in a shelter, and not letting any lights show through  
5 their curtains. If the German planes saw a light shining through your curtains they  
6 would know where you were and they would drop a bomb on you. [...]

7 Not that Timothy was frightened. After a while he got so used to the Air-Raid sirens  
8 that his mother had to wake him to go up the road to Jill's before the German  
9 bombers came over. Jill was the same age as he was, five, but he was older because  
10 his birthday came first. Jill was pretty. He was going to marry her when they were  
11 grown up. His sister Kath was much older than he was, sixteen, almost grown up,  
12 but she wasn't living at home any more. She had gone away to the country, with  
13 her school, with the nuns. Kath's school had gone away because of the raids. The  
14 raids were because of the War. They were called the Blitz.

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, describe the living conditions of the Britons during the Blitz.