

C O V E N T R Y

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Title: Tragic Lifeboat.
Track: Typhoon.
Discs: 555.432.395.549.375.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: do.

1015

This is modern war. In that single night a great area of central Coventry was made a ruin. Man has acquired from misapplied almost the devastating powers of an earthquake. 500 tons of high-explosives - as well as countless incendiaries, did their devilish work. Night fell on a thriving town; dawn palely revealed this ghastly truth. War has taken wings, and to the locust-plague of the night bombers there is as yet little effective answer. We face a realistic enemy who knows that if he could kill enough civilians victory would be his.

Coventry's peace-time population of 200-thousand is swollen by wartime industries. Yet only 250 people were killed and the casualty-total is little more than a thousand. While all who could took cover, firemen from 30 miles round found a city aflame and fought to save what they could. The V.C. is not given to firemen, but seven that night gave their lives for Britain.

Next day ten-thousand people were given the opportunity to evacuate; they elected to stay in Coventry. The casualty lists sometimes assured the readers, sometimes confirmed their fears. Sent by the Salvation Army and other bodies mobile canteens brought immediate comfort as soon as day broke, a kind of first aid while the shock still numbed.

The A.R.P. Regional Commissioner, Lord Dudley, toured the city with Mr. Herbert Morrison and Miss Florence Horsboro, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health.

Of the 14th century cathedral only the walls and steeple remain. Among the ruins the Home Secretary and his party attended His Majesty who had hastened to the city to see its plight for himself. Before high explosives brought the roof crashing down the Provost (now in attendance on the King) himself dealt with several incendiaries. The bombers took no special aim for war-targets, and very few factories

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Lancaster, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

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were hit. The Nazis proved again that we are in the ring, keeping the outworn rules, against an enemy who will kick us below the belt every chance he gets.

A German airman was rescued from a bombed hospital.

Troops came to clear the wreckage. Demolition by blasting was necessary here and there.

Coventry keeps the flag flying. Her affliction horrifies the free world. Her courage inspires it.