September 28, 1940 London, England

The Germans are attacking every night now. We don't need an alarm clock – the sirens are our wake up call. We know that when they sound, it's time for work. Our hospital is on the Piccadilly Line, two stops up from our apartment in Covent Garden. As we pass through the stations of the London Underground, we see hundreds of people huddled in blankets and boxes. How they can sleep, I'll never know! The curious thing is, there are no children among them. One of the saddest things about war is that there are hardly any children left in London. At first, I thought perhaps they'd been killed. But they are safe and sound, far away in the countryside, evacuated from the bombs and destruction.

September 29, 1940 London, England

I received a letter from home this morning. Ma and Pa are deeply concerned about the reports coming over the Atlantic. America seems like another world away. Sometimes I long for our peaceful farm in Alabama. But I know my work is much needed here.

The English never fail to surprise me. I treated a man yesterday who had lost his house in the latest attack. Last month, his sister and her family were killed. He was sad, of course, but strangely upbeat too. There is a great deal of community spirit and solidarity here. The war has brought everyone together. The English seem determined to not allow Hitler to crush their morale. I wonder what he'll throw at them next?!

September 30, 1940 London, England

Well, that was the worst night yet! The word being used here to describe the bombing is 'Blitz' which means lightning. I can understand why now! I was terrified to be honest. The sky was full of planes, bombs dropping all around. At first the Germans were targeting just industrial sites, like the docks and factories, but now they are deliberately bombing civilians. Even the hospital isn't safe! At about 4am, there was an almighty crash, like thunder, on the east wing. The windows of the ward shattered. My instinct as a nurse was to get there to help, to see if anyone was hurt. Thankfully, the hospital was still standing, but a row of houses next to it had suffered a direct hit. Not one house remained intact. There was nothing I could do until the firemen and air raid wardens had dug through the rubble, searching for survivors.





Questions – World War Two Diaries: The Blitz

1) Why were people sleeping in the Underground stations? (2)_____

_____

2) Why did home life seem like "another world away"? (3)

_____

_____

_____

3) Why would the Germans bomb industrial targets? (1)

_____

4) What impact did the Germans hope they would have by bombing civilians? (1)

_____

5) ***"The word being used here to describe the bombing is 'Blitz' which means lightning. I can understand why now!"***

Why does the writer understand this now? (1)

_____

6) What do the pictures show? (2)



_____

_____



_____

_____

7) What words show that the English people were strong in the face of the attacks? (3)

_____

_____

CHALLENGE: Write down a diary entry for 1st October 1940, looking at the aftermath of the previous night's attack.

Answers – World War Two Diaries: The Blitz

1) Why were people sleeping in the Underground stations? (2)

Provide marks for answers that refer to it being a safe place; and for people to escape the bombing.

2) Why did home life seem like "another world away"? (3)

Provide marks for three separate points such as the contrast between a city and a farm; a land at peace and a land at war; or other relevant points such as home was in another country; her family wasn't with her.

3) Why would the Germans bomb industrial targets? (2)

Provide a mark for an answer that refers to the destruction of factories making weapons to be used in war.

4) What impact did the Germans hope they would have by bombing civilians? (1)

Provide marks for answers that refer to the English people losing support for the war.

5) ***"The word being used here to describe the bombing is 'Blitz' which means lightning. I can understand why now!"***

Why does the writer understand this now? (1)

The skies were lit up by the bombs, like the sky on a stormy night.

6) What do the pictures show? (4)



A milkman delivers the milk whilst firemen put out the fires of the previous night's attack. This shows that life goes on, despite the war.



English children are being evacuated away from London to escape the bombing.

7) What words and phrases show that the English people were strong in the face of the attacks? (3)

There are plenty to choose from in the paragraph that begins 'The English never fail to surprise me.' These could include 'community spirit', 'solidarity' and 'upbeat'.

CHALLENGE: Write down a diary entry for 1st October 1940, looking at the aftermath of the previous night's attack.