

World War Two Shelters

The first German air attack took place in London on the evening of September 7th 1940, within a few months other cities such as Liverpool, Birmingham and Coventry were being bombed too.

People needed shelters to protect themselves from these falling bombs being dropped by German aircrafts.

Anderson Shelters:

Anderson shelters were built within people's gardens so that those within the house had a safe place to go during the air raids. Some people became fed up with waking in the night to go to their shelter so they began to regularly sleep in them. These shelters were half buried in the ground, with earth put over the top to protect people from the blasts.

Anderson shelters were made from around six corrugated iron sheets, bolted together at the top, with steel plates at either end. They measured 1.95m by 1.35m. The entrance was protected by a steel shield.



The government gave out Anderson shelters for free to anybody who earned less than £5 a week. Those who earned more than this, could buy an Anderson shelter for £7.



Inside the Anderson shelters were often dark, damp and uncomfortable. Some shelters in low-lying areas even flooded. Sleeping was often difficult inside an Anderson shelter as they did not block out the

sound of the bombs. This was a scary time for those inside their shelter as they did not know what their street or town would look like when they got up in the morning.

This image shows the shape of an Anderson shelter that is not in the ground.



Morrison Shelters

The Morrison shelter was introduced in March 1941 for those people who did not own a garden. The shelter was made of strong heavy steel and could also be used as a table.

The Morrison shelter was 2m long, 1.2m wide and only 0.75m high.



Other Places used

The government soon realised that air raid shelters on the surface did not offer much protection from the explosive bombs being dropped therefore deeper shelters were used. Many caves across Britain were used as well as the London Underground. On one of the busiest nights, 177,000 people slept on the London Underground platforms.



What would you take with you to your air raid shelter? Think about the space you would have. What would keep you amused? What would you need most?

Suggested 5 items:

- A long book to keep me entertained!
- A comfy pillow so I could sleep
- A snuggly blanket, I hate being cold!
- Large bottle of water
- Lots of snacks!

(Remember you wouldn't have had your electronic devices!)