



MILTON KEYNES AT WAR

CRUSADES, CAMPAIGNS AND CONFLICTS

‘HIS CLOTHING WOULD SMELL OF SMOKE’

War for the Home Front Volunteers 1939 – 45...



Bletchley firemen
Photo: Living Archive collection

‘My father was in the voluntary Auxiliary Fire Service in Birmingham. He’d have to go off to the AFS station if the sirens went. His clothing would smell of smoke... He’d go all night and then have to go to work in the daytime. If it was badly bombed in Coventry, we could see the red glow in the sky.’

‘Joan’, from The Living Archive’s DVD ‘My Home Front’

‘The firebomb would burn with a very intense heat. If it was in a house, you’d grab the bomb by its fins and lob it out. But if you threw water over it the whole thing would explode and throw burning embers into people. A fine spray stirrup pump was ideal – it kept the surrounding area damp but allowed the bomb to burn itself out. You had to use your head and do it properly.’

‘William’, from The Living Archive’s DVD ‘My Home Front’