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black and white photographs

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## REPRINT PLYMOUTH – A SHATTERED CITY

THE STORY OF HITLER'S ATTACK ON  
PLYMOUTH AND ITS PEOPLE 1939–45

*Gerald Wasley*

As a schoolboy in wartime, evacuated from London to Dartmouth, the author of this book, Gerald Wasley, can remember looking at the red glow in the sky as Plymouth burned under the onslaught of Hitler's bombers in the spring of 1941. *Plymouth – A Shattered City* is largely inspired by these memories and provides the only fully illustrated and detailed account of the aerial bombardment of the city by the Luftwaffe in March 1941.

The author charts the pre-war build up to German plans for attacks on Plymouth, the emergency measures adopted by a city under siege, and the effects created by the relentless bombing. Fascinatingly he also chronicles the daily life of the people in the city, their extraordinary resilience and their fortitude and ingenuity in coping with the hardships of war.

The book concludes with the post-war rebuilding of the city and how a number of controversial planning decisions were made, with echoes to contemporary issues. For anyone who has a connection with Plymouth, particularly in the years during which the old city was replaced by post-war redevelopment, this book will be of great interest.

Originally published in 1991 as *Plymouth Blitz*, the book has been fully revised and updated, and now includes over 200 photographs and other images, many of them appearing here for the first time.

**Gerald Wasley** is retired from the Department of Clinical Immunology at St Thomas' Hospital, London. He has written several books on medical laboratory science and scientific papers, including 'Naval Medicine and Surgery at the time of the Armada'. Under the Halsgrove imprint the author has published *Devon At War 1939–45*, *Devon in the 1930s* and *Devon in the Great War 1914–1918*.



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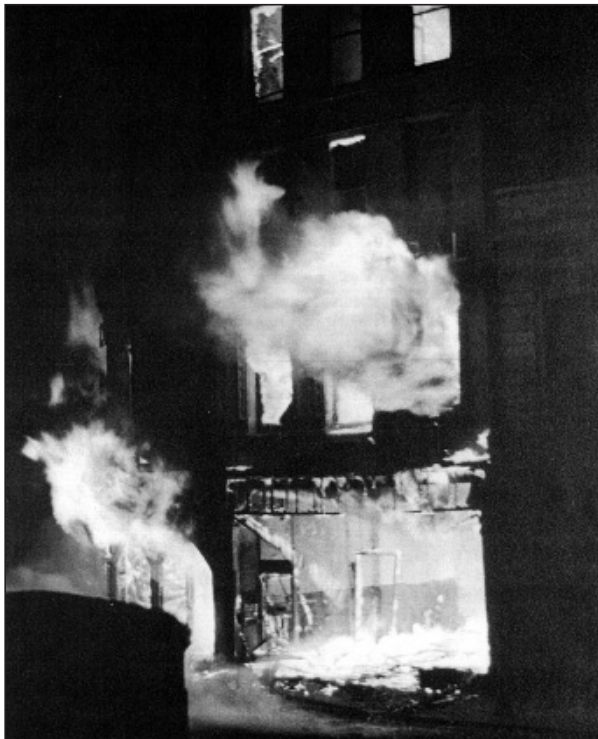
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- Chapter 8 **The Aftermath of Battle**



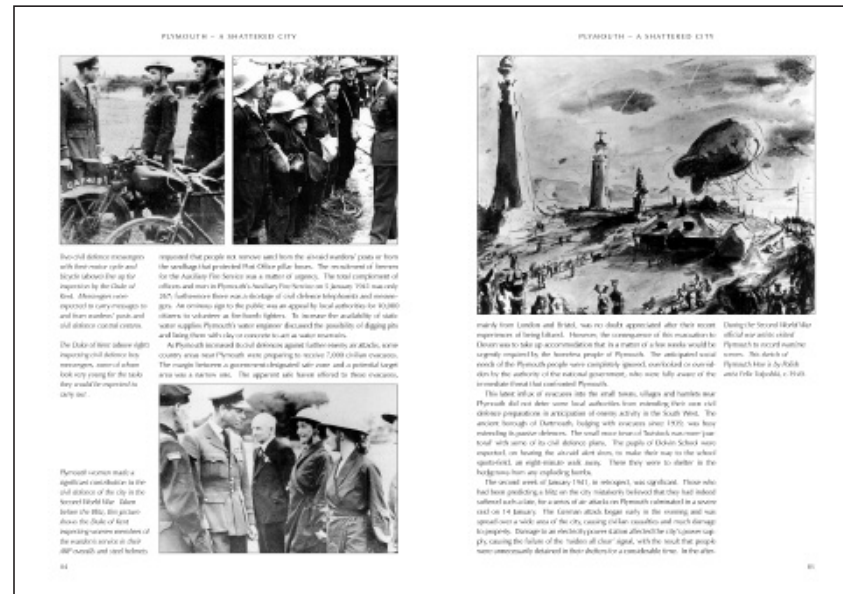
Spooners Corner and nearby building in ruins. Spooners store was where the first major fire was reported to have broken out on the first night of the Plymouth Blitz.



For young children caught up in the destruction of their home, toys had to be rescued. This little girl cares for her doll in its pram.



In the air raids on Plymouth in March 1941 many of the fires in the shopping area blazed all night and nothing could be done to extinguish them.



Example of a double page spread.



Examining the official casualty list. The names of the dead were placed on boards around the city.



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