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PORTSMOUTH – A SHATTERED CITY REPRINT

Anthony Triggs

The city of Portsmouth took a terrible battering during the Second World War, the dockyard and the mighty battleships making it a prime target for Luftwaffe pilots.

During those harrowing war years thousands of homes and public buildings were lost, especially on the terrible night of 10 January 1941, when 25,000 incendiaries and numerous high-explosive bombs rained upon the city, which at one time had 28 major fires burning and no effective water-supply to tackle them.

After the war the people began to rebuild their shattered lives, and the city fathers faced the task of reconstructing Portsmouth. But before work could begin the dangerous bomb-sites had to be made safe – by shoring up buildings which could be rebuilt, and by clearing the rubble of those with no hope.

In this unique collection of rare images local journalist and author Anthony Triggs shows the way the city changed as the demolition crews went to work, and how the gaping wounds of the city were cleaned and cleared to make way for the new Portsmouth.

Anthony Triggs is the author of numerous books about the history of the Portsmouth area. He is a retired *News* journalist and lives at Portchester with his wife Sue.



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THE GALLERY – PORTSMOUTH: A SHATTERED CITY



Example of a double page spread.



The cast takes a photo-call outside the ornate frontage of the Empire Palace Theatre in the days before the war.



Clarence Street takes a photo-call while demolition is under way, removing the remains of the last of the street's historic houses.



Kings Road was a favourite shopping centre before the war with many popular shops and department stores.



After the Guildhall was gutted in the blitz the area around the huge building was fenced off as a safety precaution.



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