NORWICH – A SHATTERED CITY REPRINT

Steve Snelling

During two nights of intense bombing in April 1942 Norwich suffered its worst ordeal of the war as Hitler targeted the cathedral city for destruction as part of his vengeance campaign designed to lay waste Britain's cultural centres.

Known as the Baedeker raids, the German bombers tore the heart out of the city, turning the commercial centre to a near wasteland, and leaving entire streets in ruins.

Yet, ironically, though there was heavy loss of life, with over 200 deaths caused by these raids alone, the majority of the city's most historic buildings, including its Norman castle and cathedral, escaped the bombs and the fires that ravaged so many shops, factories and homes.

The author has made much use of records in the National Archives together with Mass-Observation diaries held at the University of Sussex to tell the full story of a ruthless bombing campaign that continued into the summer of 1942. His research, combined with vivid eyewitness accounts, offers a fresh perspective on the raids as well as setting them in their proper historical context.

Illustrated with more than 170 photographs and other images, the book presents a graphic portrait of the suffering and the stoicism displayed during an assault from the air that changed the face of Norwich forever.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

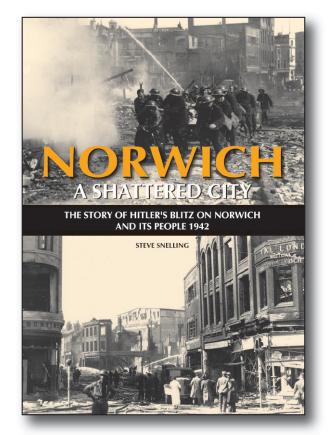
Steve Snelling is a freelance writer and journalist with more than 35 years experience of working on newspapers and magazines in Norfolk. For the past eight years he has edited and written for the *Eastern Daily Press* Sunday supplement and *Eastern Daily Press* Saturday magazines. He recently left the newspaper as an assistant editor in order to concentrate on writing books. His previous books include *Gallipoli, Passchendaele and the Naval VCs, Over Here: The Americans in Norfolk during World War Two*, and *Images of Norwich*.

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

The full Halsgrove catalogue is available free or visit www.halsgrove.com for regional and category listings of available titles.

Halsgrove Publishing Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796 www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format:	Hardback, 160 pages, 297x210mm,	
	profusely illustrated in black & white throughout	
Price:	£19.99	
ISBN:	978 0 85704 128 9	-
Imprint:	Halsgrove	
Published:	February 2012, reprinted Oct 2013	

Great Books from your Local Bookseller

Right: UXB heroes. Insp Edwin Buttle, head of the city's Bomb Reconnaissance Department, on the left with his assistant, PC Neville Ball, on the right, with members of an army bomb disposal team (via Archant).





Left: Time for a break. Firemen enjoy mugs of tea at the back of their City Hall station. The fire fighters earned high praise for their efforts to tackle the blazes that engulfed parts of the city centre (Norfolk Fire Service archives).

WAR COMES TO NORWICH



Firemen damp down amid the tangled girders of Curls' department store (Archant).

Smoke pours from the Caley's site in the centre and from the devastated shopping area around Curls, bottom right, in this RAF photograph taken at 7am on April 30 (via Archant).



NORWICH - A SHATTERED CITY



City Engineer Horace Rowley who was responsible for air raid shelter construction and corporation rescue parties (Archau) Defence Controller Bernard ditional builden was lakewarm. Even at the height of Mmich crisis, when ARP errores were mobilited, ucks were being dug in Chapel Field Gundens and endes were being dug in Chapel Field Gundens and statistististication and and the comparison of the strips of bushts, as at statist and shelter comparison in the distributed at a new of 200 per huar. Crisi Defines ruins of a fire-ravaged factory while other uni

tious issue. Victor Harrison, destined and the inadequacy of the city's air raid ions, describing the ARP committee as the line of the committee as the line of the committee as the ome the city's chief warden at the outbreak of war, With war drawing ever closer bela erella of the council". "It had almost been disowned placed on providing protection from the exp ted and its members had been half ashamed in the form of domestic and public air-raid shelters. In mid-August, the first of the ubiquitous Anderson shelters named after its designer Dr David Anderson, was delivered. Erected in five hours by corporation workmen nfess they belonged to it," he said. he Eastern Daily Press took up the cause, railing at e delays and urging "solid support" from everybody for e overdue "speed up" promised by the council. everish" preparations followed as the country teetered the pre-fabricated corrugated iron shelter stood behin City Hall as a model to be replicated in thousands of gardens throughout Norwich. Under the direction of Town Clerk and ARP Controller Bernard Storey, a the brink of war. But with trenches being dug by nplight through the night the city remained woefally eers by the thousand had bookish yet plain-speaking north c waretens, w are volumeer by the instant and pected only 200 hal come forward. "One could t hink of a wosse reflection upon the public spirit vennee man and womain i Newvich," declared an user in the the post in the post of the spirit of the spirit vennee man and womain in Newvich," declared an scale Civil Defence rehearsals carried out, but a

nade on August 29, just five days h

sications and gas dec

given firsch impetts is ALP nerraturen s ob ara schweich was coster-met i fan form die total. Die odie ywerde wurdene van dien owstehing urstwei-her das gewennen die der die ALP einkamsware existed inversoren ich eine offente offente die die ALP einkamsware existed inversoren ich eine offente ognisation ich soft 2020 volunters under subbishment, still 2200 volunters under subbishment, soft an die einem the months of

Example of a double-page spread.