

Unit 6 – Focus on

1. I remember the Blitz

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Tom: So that's the Imperial War Museum, Granny?

Granny: It is, Tom. Let's go in and see the photos of the Blitz!

Tom: The Blitz?

Granny: It's a German word. That's when there were air raids by the German Air Force during the Second World War. One third of London was destroyed, you know.

Tom: Granny, look at this board! 43,000 civilians died in England between September 1940 and May 1941 and approximately 90,000 were seriously injured.

Granny: Yes, it was a terrible time.

Tom: Hey, have you seen this photo? It says Oxford Street, September 18th 1940! Isn't it where you lived?

Granny: Next to it, yes. I remember, I was going to school the day after and I saw many shops were severely damaged. It was so terrifying!

Tom: How old were you?

Granny: I was eight.

Tom: Were you scared, Granny?

Granny: Yes, I was petrified night after night. As soon as we heard the sirens go, we had to find shelter in Underground stations. One night the King and the Queen visited people at Colindale Tube station.

Tom: Didn't they leave London?

Granny: Of course not! They wanted to show people that they cared for them.

Tom: What happened to you, then?

Granny: I was evacuated and sent to the countryside but my best friend had to go to Canada.

Tom: How lucky!

Granny: Well, she was separated from her family and I never saw her again.

Tom: Poor Granny!