

**THIS IS A JOURNEY
THROUGH NOW.**

**YOU WILL REMEMBER
WHAT WAS, SEE WHAT
IS AND IMAGINE WHAT
WILL BE.**

1.

13.12.1940
Midland Station
Parachute Mine &
Unexploded Bomb

CULVERT
CON
DUIT
MEGAT
RON

SHEFFIELD RAILWAY STATION. HERE. NOW.

Here, beneath your feet two rivers meet. The Porter and the Sheaf. Here lies the Megatron. Further ahead they will join the Don, where light industry turned heavy.

Alongside the Rivers Rivelin and Porter, they have shaped this city, the crucible of the industrial revolution. They set the boundaries, powered the grindstones, transformed us. Without them there is no city.

No bridges.
No cutlery.
No bombs.

Many of these bombs, as here, failed to explode, creating huge disruption throughout the city.

32 years after the city's first railway line, Sheffield 'Midland' Station opened in 1870 with a direct route to London. A bomb fell here on 13th December 1940, on the first of two nights of what was codenamed Operation Schmelztiegel ('Crucible') by Germany.

Here it is known as the Sheffield Blitz.

**Cross Sheaf St and turn right.
With the Electric Works on your left, continue to the junction of Sheaf St and Pond Hill.**

**“FIRES WERE
STARTED...”**

Crown Film Unit,
Jennings (1943)

2.

29.08.1940
Sheaf Street / Pond Hill
High Explosive

WHEREVER
RIVER MAY
TAKE
US

POND HILL. THEY CALLED IT THE HALL IN THE PONDS, WE CALL IT THE OLD QUEEN'S HEAD.

The first real damage in Sheffield was this bomb near Seniors Ponds Forge Works. This was a small raid on the city in August, before the major raids in December 1940. Sheffield had been bracing itself for Luftwaffe raids since war had been declared on Germany by Neville Chamberlain on September 3rd, 1939.

The river Sheaf can be seen from this vantage point. It emerges from under the railway platforms of Sheffield Midland station to here via the Megatron.

Sheffield takes its name from the Sheaf. In old English 'Sceath' was a boundary – this boundary sat next to a 'feld', meaning a clearing in an otherwise wooded area. Combined this became Scaffeld. That boundary would originally have been the Anglo-Saxon division between Northumbria and Mercia.

**Continue down Sheaf St
towards Ponds Forge, to the
junction with Commercial St.**

16.01.1941
Wheel Hill / Sheaf Street
High Explosive

3.



**ELECTRIC
DREAMS**

1878: THE FIRST EVER FLOODLIT FOOTBALL MATCH WAS PLAYED AT BRAMALL LANE ON 14 OCTOBER.

On the afternoon of 12th December British monitoring stations detected X-Verfahren (sometimes called X-Gerät) radio beams being laid across northern England and calculated that the likely target of the coming raid would be Sheffield.

Enemy action caused considerable damage to Sheffield's electricity supply. The distribution system was severely damaged during two heavy air raids of 12th–13th and 15th December 1940. Five substations were destroyed, and thirty were damaged.

Supplies of electricity to vital factories were quickly restored, and, as the industrial area of the city had suffered comparatively little damage industrial recovery was rapid.

**Turn up Commercial St and
turn left into Fitzalan Square.**

'OVER THE NETWORK OF WIRES LINKING UP THE COUNTRY'S AND THE CITY'S DEFENCE SERVICES, THE FIRST QUIET WARNINGS WERE BEING CARRIED TO OFFICIAL POSTS. THE YELLOW WAS RECEIVED AT 6.15, THE PURPLE AT 6.45. AT 7.00, THE WARNING WAS RED, AND THE WAIL OF THE SIRENS AROSE ON THE INSTANT.'

4.

WON DER LA ND

HERE, A CINEMA PROJECTIONIST,
BLOWN BACK BY THE BLAST ON
THE MARPLES HOTEL.

12.12.1940
Fitzalan Square
High Explosive

This area of the city had been the market quarter since the medieval era and the modern square takes its name from the Fitzalan Market Hall, which stood near the site from 1786 to 1930.

The Fitzalans were a lesser branch of the Howard family, Dukes of Norfolk and the major local landowners at that time. Fitzalan Square was created in 1881 when Market Street and its buildings were demolished. The early square had a substantial cab stand and clock. However, this was demolished in 1913 to make way for a bronze statue of King Edward VII by Alfred Drury.

The early square also had the Wonderland Theatre, becoming the Electra Palace Cinema, which opened February 1911. It became the News Theatre in 1945 and the Classic Cinema in 1962. It closed in 1982, and the building was destroyed by a fire in 1984. The site is now occupied by an amusement arcade.

The building at the corner of the square as it joins High Street was first occupied by a hotel in 1870; John Marples became the proprietor in 1886 and named the establishment the London Mart, however it was always known locally as 'The Marples'.

On the evening of 12th the incendiary bombs caused widespread panic, and many people took shelter in the Marples' extensive cellars, believing they were safe under the robust seven-storey building. At 11:44 p.m. the Marples building took a direct hit from a bomb which plunged through the building and detonated just above the cellars, killing approximately 70 people and reducing the building to a 15-foot-high pile of rubble.

Cross Commercial St and head down Haymarket. Turn left into Castle St.

5.

**A
FIELD IN EN
GLA
ND**

12.12.1940
Angel Street /
Corner of Bank Street
High Explosive

**HERE. LOOK TOWARDS THE
SITE OF THE OLD CASTLE.**

Sheffield castle was located at the confluence of the River Sheaf and the River Don. The rivers provided defence to the north and east and there was a moat on the south and western sides of the castle. Mary, Queen of Scots was held prisoner in this castle and its associated estates for 14 years between 1570 and 1584.

The Sheffield of 1640, an emerging manufacturing town, was largely disaffected with the Royalist cause and came out overwhelmingly in support of the Parliamentarians.

The castle was initially held by Royalist forces for part of the English Civil War, but was surrendered to the Parliamentarians in 1644 following a short siege. Its demolition was ordered soon after, and the castle was razed.

There are no known surviving drawings or plans of the castle, but excavations in the 1920s revealed stone foundations from the castle begun in 1270 as well as evidence of earlier structures. For a while it was used as an orchard, and then a bowling green, before being built over.

On the night of 12th December over 330 German aircraft are believed to have attacked the city, dropping 355 tonnes of high explosives and over 16,000 incendiary canisters. The most intense period of bombing being between 10.30 p.m. and 2.15 a.m. It wasn't until 4.15 a.m. that the all clear was sounded.

This area of Sheffield was particularly hard-hit. Every building in Angel Street was bombed or fire damaged. King Street was also badly hit.

Walk along to Angel St and turn left. Walk up the hill to Castle Square.

6.

H & S HOLES SHAMBLES

HERE, HOLES
IN THE ROAD.

12.12.1940
Castle Square
High Explosive

Castle Square was originally known as Market Place (or the Shambles); markets were held on this site from 1296. A market cross was erected here in 1568 but was taken down in 1786, when the market moved into the new Fitzalan Market Hall. The Fitzalan Market Hall was demolished in 1930, ending nearly 700 years of market trading at this spot.

At about 10.50 p.m. a 500 kg bomb fell on and destroyed the C & A and Burtons buildings.

In 1968 many old streets were cleared to make way for the new Arundel Gate, a dual carriageway road that terminated at a large roundabout built on the former market place. Underneath the roundabout a network of underpasses and shops were built forming a complex that was officially designated Castle Square but became known locally as the Hole in the Road.

Although considered by many to be a major city landmark, it was poorly maintained, and became dilapidated by the early 1990s. It lasted from 1967 until 1994, eventually filled in with the rubble from the recently demolished Hyde Park Flats.

In 1994, as part of the works for the construction of Sheffield's new Supertram network, the underground portion of the Hole in the Road was filled in. The roundabout was removed and the whole area landscaped. All three lines of the Supertram system cross the square and call at Castle Square tram stop, one of four tram stops in the city centre.

Continue up High St to the Cathedral, right down St. James Row and left along Campo Ln to the junction with Vicar Ln.

7.

14.12.1940
Campo Lane / Vicar Lane
High Explosive &
Incendiary Bomb

H EINKEL
JUNKERS
DORNIER

HERE, NOW. LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS. FEEL THE WIND. IMAGINE THE HEAT ON YOUR FACE.

The first main group was made up of three waves of 36 Junkers 88s and 29 Heinkel 111s. The second group was made up of 23 Junkers 88s, 74 Heinkel 111s and 7 Dornier 17s. The last group was made up of 63 Junkers 88s and 35 Heinkel 111s, a total of 280 aircraft.

The German 1kg incendiary bomb was air dropped in various sized containers, holding up to 700 bombs each. These were used to great effect in the German blitzes during the early part of WW2 against British cities. The bombs were made of a magnesium alloy body and fuse holder which would burn brightly and furiously.

The filling was thermite which burns at a very high temperature and thus ignited the magnesium body. Rivetted to the body was a steel tail with three fins.

These bombs did not explode but were set to burning by a small percussion charge, fired upon impact. The Civil Defence code-name was I.B., and those with a steel nose, instead of alloy, were termed S.N.I.B., i.e. Steel Nose Incendiary Bomb.

Walk up Vicar Ln, across Church St, along Orchard St and Leopold St, turning right into Barkers Pool.

**‘NOW AND AGAIN, THE
DISTANT WATCHERS HEARD
THE SCREAM OF BOMBS
FALLING NEARER TO THEM
AND THE ROAR OF THE
ATTACKING AIRCRAFT AND
SLOWLY, AS THE GREAT RED
BONFIRES IN THE VALLEY
BELOW INCREASED IN
SIZE AND NUMBER, THEY
REALISED, EXCITED AND
SOMEWHAT TREMULOUS,
THAT THEY WERE SEEING A
MAJOR “BLITZ”.’**

Raiders Over Sheffield,
Walton & Lamb (1980)

8.

**DUL
CE^{ET}
DECORUM EST
PRO PATRIA
MORI**

13.12.1940
Barkers Pool
High Explosive

HERE, A PLACE TO GATHER, TO REMEMBER WOMEN AND MEN.

The focus of Barker's Pool is the Grade II listed 90-foot-tall First World War memorial that was unveiled on 28th October 1925. Alongside it stands 'Women of Steel' by Martin Jennings, marking the contribution made by the women of Sheffield in the steel factories across both world wars.

In the September of 1940 a German Messerschmidt 109 aircraft was displayed in Barkers Pool to raise morale and war funds. The Grade II listed Sheffield City Hall is on the north side of the plaza. The pillars of City Hall were marked by fragments of shrapnel from exploding bombs.

In addition to supplying drinking water, the location of Barker's Pool at the highest point in the town allowed sanitation. Water was released from the reservoir to be guided through channels that ran along the centre of the town's streets. There was water in the Plaza that night and it cushioned the blow of a bomb that fell directly into it.

City Hall hosted Christmas dinner for 1,000 people made homeless by the Blitz on Christmas Day 1940.

**Turn down Burgess St, then left
and across Pinstone St to the
corner of Charles St.**

THE TOWN HALL ESCAPED UNHIT.

The Home Office published 'The Protection of Your Home Against Air Raids' in 1938. This was updated after the Second World War into 'Advising the Householder on Protection against Nuclear Attack' which was originally published in 1963, around the time of the Cuban missile crisis. 'Protect and Survive' was published in 1980, shortly before Raymond Briggs began work on his graphic novel, 'When the Wind Blows'.

A nuclear bomb destroyed the old town hall in 'Threads', a 1984 British television drama written by Barry Hines and directed by Mick Jackson; it is a docudrama account of nuclear war and its effects on the city of Sheffield. Jackson's research included the 1983 Science article 'Nuclear Winter: Global Consequences of Multiple Nuclear Explosions', by Carl Sagan and James B. Pollack, 'Doomsday: A Nuclear Attack on the United Kingdom (1983)', while the ineffective post-war plans of the UK government came from Duncan Campbell's 1982 exposé 'War Plan UK'.

12.12.1940
Union Street / Charles Street
High Explosive

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS

HERE STOOD THE OLD EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.

The Empire Palace Theatre escaped serious damage, though the sweetshop next to it on Union street was destroyed by a HE bomb. Campbell's furniture store stood the other side of the Empire on the corner of Charles and Pinstone. Campbell's had extensive showrooms and was the first of the big fires in the city centre.

That evening Henry Hall and his Orchestra were performing inside the Empire as the bombs began falling. The artists sheltered in the basement of the theatre until the morning.

Owing to craters in the roads the orchestra had to walk their way across the city before getting a coach to Bristol where they were due to record their weekly broadcast with the BBC. Music and instruments had to be left in Sheffield so the recording could not be made.

**Continuing down Charles St,
cross Arundel Gate. Turn left
onto Eyre Ln and along to the
junction with Howard Ln.**

**'THE FIRST WAVES OF RAIDERS
LEFT A RAGGED RING OF FIRE
SCRAWLED ACROSS THE DARK
CITY, WITH A CENTRE MARKED
BY THE FLAMES SHOOTING
THROUGH THE ROOF OF
CAMPBELL'S FURNITURE
STORE IN PINSTONE STREET.'**

10.

A
SHEFEL
DE^{THWITEL}
BARE HE
IN HIS
HOSE

12.12.1940
Howard Street
Incendiary Bombs

HERE STOOD WALKER & HALL.

The first documented use of the term “cutler” in Sheffield appeared in a 1297 tax return. Chaucer referenced Sheffield as a centre of cutlery in The Reeve’s Tale in 1380 where he says of the Miller of Trompington “a Shefelde thwitel bare he in his hose”. The thwitel was a knife.

1624: The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire was formed to oversee the cutlery trade in the town. By the mid C17 60% of the workers in Sheffield were working in the cutlery trades.

1913: Stainless steel was invented by Harry Brearley whilst working at the Brown Firth Laboratories.

Specialising in electro plate, cutlery and silver, the central block of the Electro Works of Walker & Hall dominated the central Sheffield skyline from the later 19th century up until the blitz. By 1894 the company reported a total of 1500 employees.

Two metal flags ‘flew’ over the building forming the identity for the company and marked on its goods. W&H rebuilt and continued production until 1963 and the building was demolished in 1965.

David Mellor joined Walker & Hall in 1954, where he designed the iconic ‘Pride’ range of cutlery. This range won a Design Centre award in 1957.

**Return to the confluence of
the Sheaf and Porter.**

HERE LIES GRANBY.

Each location featured here is commemorated with an 80mm bronze plaque. The designs featured on the plaques use four weights of Granby – Hippo, extra bold, bold and medium.

Granby is a Stephenson Blake typeface that first appeared in 1930 at a time when the Sheffield type foundry held the metal patterns for London Underground's Johnston wood letter. Granby drew influence from Gill Sans and the geometric sans serifs Futura, Erbar and Kabel.