



Aa



#NTBE

The Blitz Workshop
by collaborative **artists**
Jason & Becky



Your story



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by collaborative artists, Jason & Becky

In January 1941, at the height of the second world war, Cardiff, and Grangetown in particular, was heavily bombed by German aircraft during the Blitz on the city. Whilst the structural and personal devastation is well documented and often recounted, in the midst of the undeniable chaos, the lives of ordinary people continued in the close-knit streets of the Grangetown area of Cardiff.

Our research has focused on the children and teenagers of the time, and their enjoyment of popular comic strip publications such as Beano and Hotspur, with their mix of morale-boosting stories of plucky British heroes and 'slap-stick' humour of outrageous characters. An escape from the war to these worlds of make-believe was certainly on the mind of some of the younger residents of Clydach Street in Grangetown. A conversation with one of the current older occupants of the street focused on her recalling her brother trading these types of comics with the young boy across the street.



Another young Cardiff resident, Patricia Cox, wrote letters to her boyfriend Jack, who was stationed overseas at this time of war. In the letters, she recounts many of the everyday goings on in a young woman's life, largely circumnavigating the hardships of war and concentrating her writing on the more entertaining and uplifting tales of dancing, cinema, trips, the weather etc.

...way is - day, the typical
for Ron weather 10. I'd like to visit Africa in peace - to
ed I ... bitten by mosq

walking shoes so had to w
home in my dancing sho

Remember up just past
by the Jacobs Biscuits
- or can't you quite

I get a good breakfast wh
included my ration of hard-
boiled E.S.S. then I went on

this, but I have been
ting as much fresh air as
sible in the evenings, after
one window

think of the dog?

certainly get up early for
crocodile hunts, - four o'clock
your letter
all so interesting that

I was nearly in a blue
because you'd said meet me
there, then as I had

Your Ever loving
Pat. T.O.F.
xxxxxxx
normal ag
d'nt even knit

Choosing quotes from Pat

Luckily for all of us, the Glamorgan Archives do a great job of cataloguing and looking after documents from the past with local significance, so that we can reflect on them and better understand our history. We read through lots of Pat's letters to her boyfriend Jack, who was stationed overseas, and these are some of the quotes we picked out and edited for you to use as part of the workshop.

Choose a few from this list:

Went down to the different shops trying to get eggs, cakes and cigarettes.

It's been teeming down with rain all day today, the typical Cardiff weather.

Trying to pick out the best cafes.

Went for a walk along the prom and along some side streets, got lost...

What do you think of the dog?

It looks like a proper mess doesn't it?

Don't get bitten by mosquitos, or worse than anything, snakes.

I expect your hair is blonder than any of the platinum-blond girls in Cardiff now!

I haven't been to a dance for ages but I've been to the pictures a few times this week

They all made a wild dash upstairs

I'm more fond of dogs than ever now

To see the sunset, it must be really beautiful to watch it

I have been getting as much fresh air as possible

I have changed a bit since you last saw me

We have to go home by the public bus instead of the car

We apply the 'thumbs up' motion

After supper, I am good and ready for bed

Close up with snakes and wild elephants

Couldn't even knit

Max Factor lipstick and hair clips are rather hard to get.

Could you also get a green chiffon scarf?

A hand bag in my hand, or even gloves

I love milk chocolate and hard-boiled sweets

Keeping my fingers crossed until next week

I tried to write with my left hand

Got a chicken for the Christmas dinner

2.30am and we were pretty cold walking home in our evening dresses

Had to walk home as we couldn't get a taxi

Got a good breakfast that included my ration of hard-boiled egg

Having a thoroughly enjoyable time with the family

Taking things easy – I didn't get up until 12.30

Had to walk home in my dancing shoes

Now it's your turn...

Re-enacting some of Pat's quotes from the previous page, create an image or video to share using whichever method you'd like, eg hand-drawn, video or photography using Instagram, Tiktok, Snapchat etc. Use filters, effects, or go for the natural look. Feel free to do as many as you want!

If you're using social media platforms to create or share your re-enactment, **don't forget to include #NTBE** so we can see how we're each interpreting Pat's thoughts and stories :)

Some examples we made...

In one of her letters to Jack, Pat talks about walking home in her dancing shoes, so we took the quote from the list on the previous page...

'had to walk home
in my dancing shoes'

...and re-enacted it in an
Instagram story, using hashtag

#NTBE

so we can share how we've brought
Pat's quote's back to life with each
other. It's all about sharing,
swapping, exchanging stories
and interpretations of the lives
of those during the Blitz,
have a go!



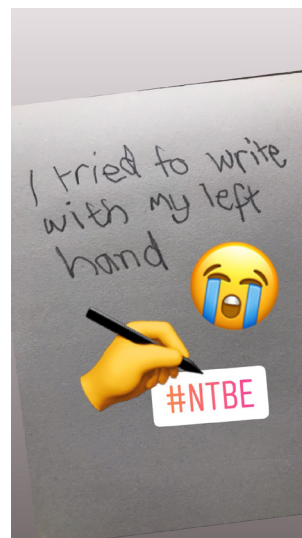


In this part of her letter to Jack, Pat talks about how she'd like to visit Africa to see Jack...

'provided I don't get bitten by mosquitoes, or worse than anything snakes'

...so we slightly changed the quote (it still means the same thing), and did a drawing. You can interpret the quotes in whichever way you'd like, using drawing, photography, video or a mixture. It's up to you!

A few more examples... have some fun with it!



Why are we doing this..?

Hopefully this has been a fun exercise, and has drawn your attention to the fact that the people who died during the Blitz, as well as those who survived, were normal people, having to get on with normal things, just like us. In a similar way to how we're each dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, it's important to keep sharing, and to remember the importance of everyday stories, so that generations to come can learn about how we dealt with the difficult issues of our own time, while keeping stories from the past alive.

