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MR. HERBERT MORRISON PRAISES CIVIL
DEFENCE WORKERS

Speaking to Civil Defence workers at Shoreditch this (Friday) afternoon, Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security, said:

"During 1940-41 the Civil Defence workers of London defied the heaviest and most sustained aerial bombardment that has ever been directed against one city. For months you stood to your posts every night with a fortitude which astonished not only our friends but, you may be sure, our enemy as well. As one who had been very closely associated with the work of Civil Defence in London from the very start, I was proud of the way in which London's Civil Defence Services stood the test.

"Hitler and Goering hoped to break your hearts as well as your City. You broke their hearts instead - for the time being - I beg you please don't assume that it was a permanent heartbreak. They gave it up as a bad job. We do not surmise this. They have admitted it. They said they gave up mass bombing of our towns because it did not help them to win the war.

"The other day somebody accused me scornfully of being a Cockney. I am proud to plead guilty to that. Messrs. Hitler and Goering and their poor tools have had reason enough to curse the day when the first Cockney was born.

"Now the Nazis are taking it. Not with the fortitude of our people, but with the whining which we are accustomed to hear from the bully who is given a taste of his own medicine. Our aerial counter-offensive has continued the attack on the heart of industrial Germany: the factories, the docks and the shipyards. Now comes the Nazi answer - Hitler's blow for blow - Bath, Norwich, York. A gem of Regency architecture for a U-boat base, an ancient church for a shipyard, old and beautiful monuments for a Heinkel works. These are not the replies of a man who carefully plans a strategic campaign. They are the frenzied blows of a mad lout who, stung by the carefully timed and aimed blows of a cool and skilful opponent, loses all self-control and runs amuck.

"But what he tried to do and failed to do with overwhelming superiority in the night sky a year ago, he cannot hope to do now that his resources are scattered.

"The cry of the German propagandists that it is up to us to call off our raids to save ourselves, shows that they know this very well. A message from Berlin to the Geneva Journal, which was passed by the German censor, is quoted in our Press today. It says: 'Semi-officially stated here that Germany will call off bombing of English towns if R.A.F. will change methods of bombing German cities.' It adds that the present bombing duel is highly unpopular with the German people.

"During the period of heavy raiding here the Civil Defence Committee of the Cabinet, the Departments of State concerned and the local authorities learned many lessons. We all collaborated to improve our Civil Defence organisation, to remedy the weaknesses we then found and to provide the arrangements which experience had shown to be necessary. I am glad to say that our experience during the past few days has shown how effectively that continuous work of overhauling and improving the machine has been done by our method of cordial and close association between the central government and the local authorities.

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MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY