

LIVES SAVED BY MORRISON SHELTERS

Fourteen people in a South East town were saved by two Morrison shelters when bombs hit their street in a recent raid. One bomb fell in the roadway, and the other on a pair of semi-detached houses. These were totally demolished, and the houses on either side of them collapsed almost entirely.

In one of the latter, nine people were in a Morrison shelter - the owner with his wife and child, a neighbour with her sixteen year old son and two small children, and a mother and baby from one of the demolished houses. The whole back of the house, together with the kitchen copper, collapsed on top of the shelter, and it is most unlikely that anyone unprotected in the room would have survived. Yet, within fifty minutes, all nine occupants of the shelter were rescued unhurt.

The pair of houses on the other side of the bomb hit were similarly damaged. One had no shelter, and in the parlour was a woman holding her four year old child. The mother was unhurt, but her child was killed in her arms.

In the adjoining house was another Morrison shelter. When the bombs fell two women and three children were in the shelter, one man was just getting in and another was standing in the room. The explosion brought down most of the house and drove the shelter through the party wall halfway into the living room of the next house. The man standing in the room was severely injured and the man getting into the shelter injured in the foot. To admit the latter, the wire side netting of the shelter was unfortunately open and, in consequence, some debris entered the shelter and seriously injured one of the women. Nevertheless, without the shelter some of these people would almost certainly have been killed; instead of which they were all rescued alive within the hour.

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MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY

Pictures available through P.N.A.