

Air Raid Hero

During November 1940, Birmingham was hit by a number of heavy air raids from German planes. Many local factories were damaged including Lucas Industries and the Birmingham Small Arms Company - both of which were involved in essential war work.

The factory of Thomas Fattorini in Hockley, Birmingham had been in business for decades prior to the Second World War, making metal items such as badges, cups, trophies and ceremonial items. Many of the War Work badges, worn by people working for the war effort in Britain at this time, were made by the company.

On 9th November, William Ramsdale, a night watchman for Thomas Fattorini at their Regent Street Works, saved the factory from fire after a direct hit from a German incendiary bomb. He was awarded with a watch for his bravery. Damage to the factory railings can still be seen to this day.



Imagine you are William Ramsdale at work on the night of 9th November 1940. Write a diary account of his experience of that night. Think about the sights, sounds and even smells he would have experienced and how he might have felt when the bomb hit the factory.

For extra background information www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-blitz-around-britain