

The Coventry Blitz



Martin Hoyle, Financial Times, 17 xi 2000

Remembrancetide is always interesting on radio. This year's crop of related programmes ranged from *The Archive Hour's* riveting evocation of the Coventry blitz to a one-man play by Peter Tinniswood ... As ever, the voices of ordinary people were more powerful than any actor could be, sometimes to surreal effect. In *The Archive Hour*, a practical Scots voice recounted enjoying Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney in *Strike Up the Band* in a Coventry cinema, vaguely aware of a 'rumpus' outside. The manager announced that a raid was on; the audience could leave or stay as they wished. When the film-goers emerged, they found a world altered beyond recognition.

