



A Teaching Resource



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Wearing a World War Two gas mask during an active learning session at the Herbert





## INTRODUCTION

**Session length:** 1 hr 30 minutes including a 45 minute facilitated session and 45 minute independent visit to the galleries

**Session Description:** KS2

**For costs and booking information see website.**

This session allows pupils to discover the impact of the war on daily life, using original costume and a wide range of stimulating Second World War objects. We will explore Coventry during the war including the Blitz, air raid precautions, civil defence, the impact of evacuation and rationing.

This teacher's resource pack has been designed to support the KS2 school curriculum. Within the pack you will find a selection of cross curricular activities supporting the development of key skills and other useful resources to complement your work in the classroom. The activities are suitable to be carried out pre or post visit to the Herbert and we strongly recommend a visit to the museum to get the most out of your pack.

### Learning Outcomes:

Through attending this session your children will build on the following skills:

- Improved speaking and listening skills through group discussion and interaction
- A better understanding of chronology and improved knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past
- An improved knowledge and understanding of relevant materials



Scooping up an incendiary bomb at the Herbert



Improved speaking and listening skills through group discussion and interaction  
An improved ability to engage with challenging and demanding subject matter

An increased understanding of chronology, Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past, An improved ability to carry out historical enquiry and organisation and communication

Research compare and address misconceptions about the experiences of wartime evacuees.

Investigate how people spent their leisure time during the war using evidence from the resources in this pack.

Visit the Herbert and use the interactive games. Look at related films and photographs to encourage post visit discussions.

Use images from the pack to discuss how people were encouraged to save precious resources and recycle their waste. Compare with current issues of recycling.

Use a range of sources including photographs and documents from the pack to examine life in Coventry on the home front.

PHSE

History

Coventry at War

Geography

Create a role play about rationing, from a housewives point of view.

Book an outreach session from the Herbert to work with archive material including maps and aerial photographs.

Literacy

Design & Technology

Use different types of text from the pack including reports and letters as inspiration for a piece of non-fiction writing such as a newspaper article or evacuee letter.

An increased knowledge and understanding of the local area. Increased development of geographical enquiry skills.

Numeracy

Look at aspects of rationing through utilising the ration interactive in the History Gallery at the Herbert. Use the menus and ingredients suggested to plan a VE day party back at school.

Using the summary of bus journeys organised by the Coventry Evacuation Scheme create a bar chart showing the places that the schools travelling were evacuated to.

Handling data and an improved understanding of measures relating to real life situations.

A greater understanding of cooking.

Improved speaking and listening skills through group discussion and interaction  
Improved knowledge, skills and understanding through reading information in non fiction reports



## THE COVENTRY BLITZ AND AIR RAIDS

### The Blitz

Coventry was first attacked by air on 26/27 August 1940 and in the following months raids began to increase. On the night of the 14 November 1940 the city suffered a devastating raid lasting 11 hours. Over 500 people were killed and a third of all houses were damaged or destroyed. Another heavy raid was to follow on 9/10 April 1941.

The main reason that Coventry became a target was that it had many factories making a vital contribution to the war effort, particularly in the aviation and armoured vehicle industries.

There are a number of contemporary accounts and official reports which describe and report the events of the Coventry Blitz. Another particularly valuable source of information are people who have their own memories of the Blitz and some have recorded these.

The report of the Chief Fire Officer (refer to supporting documents section of pack for relevant extracts) gives a graphic description of the terrible problems faced by the fire service.

### Air raid precautions

There were a number of ways in which people tried to protect themselves from the threat of bombing. These were known as air raid precautions or ARP. In Coventry, as in the rest of Britain, preparations had been under way for some time before war was officially declared in September 1939.

The 'blackout' of lighting to prevent aircraft from identifying their targets was practised in the summer before war broke out. A warning system was already in place and shelters and trenches were constructed.

In addition to being provided with shelters, everyone was issued with a gas mask which they were supposed to carry at all times though in the event they were never actually needed. Members of the Civil Defence were different masks from ordinary ones as they had a larger respirator connected by a trunk-like rubber hose. This would have enabled them to carry out vital rescue tasks for longer periods of time. Women often worked alongside men in the Civil Defence and had their own uniformed organisation, the Women's Voluntary Service whose work included the running of much needed mobile canteens and the collection of salvage.

Images in this pack show the typical kit of a fire fighter. Often fire engines could not pass areas of debris and craters so stirrup pumps and buckets were important in tackling fires. The steel helmet would protect the head from falling bricks and rubble. The initials on this helmet suggests that it probably belonged to one of the 'works' brigades based at Coventry's factories.

Civil defence work could be very dangerous. A memorial plaque to the firemen killed on duty can be found in the entrance to St Mary's Guildhall on Bayley Lane.



A German Incendiary bomb



## EVACUATION, RATIONING AND LEISURE

### Evacuation

A number of schools in Coventry were chosen to have their pupils evacuated from the city to safer areas and some other schools had their buildings taken over as first aid posts. These are listed in documents in this pack but not all of these schools are the same as those we have in Coventry today. Children over the age of five would be travelling without their parents usually to stay with strangers and many of them might never have visited the countryside before.



Gas Mask

### Rationing

Rationing was the system introduced during war time to ensure fair distribution of resources. Certain foodstuffs, items of clothing and petrol were all rationed according to a points system. Ration books of coupons were distributed and customers registered with retailers to exchange them.

#### Ration facts:

- Rationing of some items continued until 1953.
- Rationing of bread did not begin until after the war.
- The amount of rations varied throughout the war according to availability. For example, the cheese ration was 8oz per week in August 1942, but during 1951 was only 2oz.

The hardships of rationing were worsened in Coventry by the bombing of many of the city's shops.

Housewives were so unhappy that they started a petition of their complaints which was presented to city officials.

### Leisure

During the war people were encouraged to stay at home for their holidays as transport was only for necessary journeys and some coastal areas were considered dangerous.



Tin of dried eggs



PHOTOGRAPHS



Beanfield Avenue in Coventry after the Blitz



PHOTOGRAPHS



Well Street in Coventry after the Blitz



PHOTOGRAPHS



Stevenson Road in Coventry after the Blitz



PHOTOGRAPHS



Disposing of an incendiary bomb



PHOTOGRAPHS



Coventry Cathedral after the Blitz



PHOTOGRAPHS



Civil Defence workers on a gas mask drill



PHOTOGRAPHS



VE Day celebrations in a Coventry street



OBJECTS



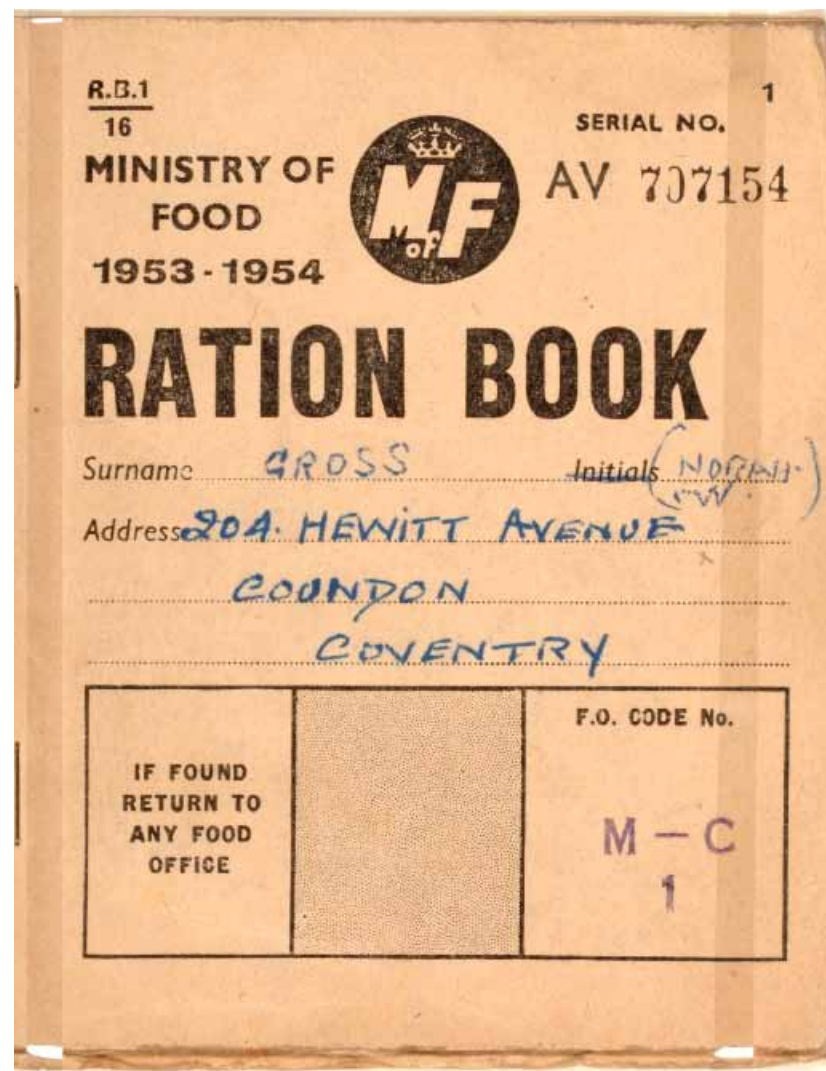
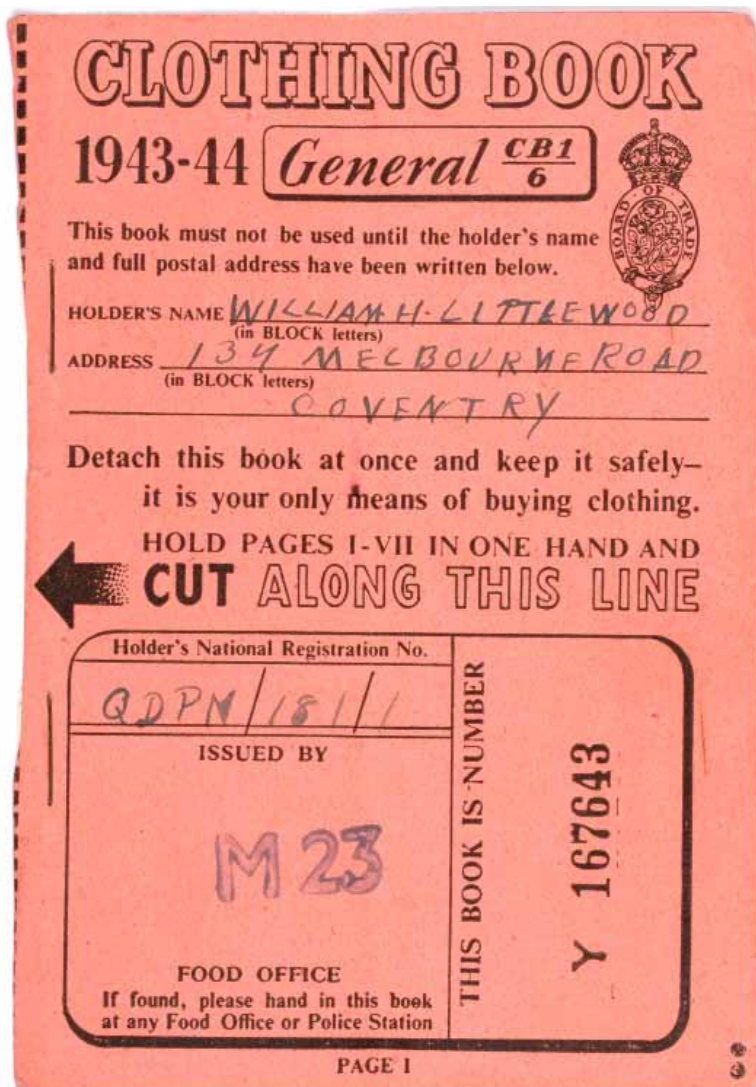
Firefighter's uniform with stirrup pump and hose



Fire bucket with stirrup pump and hose



## OBJECTS



Wartime and post war ration booklets for clothing and food



## OBJECTS



Medical kit carried by an ARP Warden



Evacuee suitcase including examples of belongings taken with them

**COVENTRY**  
**BLACK OUT**  
**JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**LIGHTS OUT**  
**12 TILL 4A.M.**



**CITY OF COVENTRY**

**AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.**

Householders and other occupiers of premises are asked to make sure that lights in their premises are extinguished or screened by dark curtains or blinds, and it is particularly desirable that external lights and other lights directly visible from the sky should be extinguished or screened.

All lighting in streets will be maintained, unless clouds, or for technical reasons, stop off the roads during the darkened period.

**FRANCIS C. SMITH,**

Gen. Insp.

**GOVERNMENT BY**

**ARE: BLACKOUT**



*from*  
**12 MID-NIGHT**  
**UNTIL 4 A.M.**

**AUG. 9<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup>**

In connection with the proposed Home Defense Evacuation of the Bay Area from contingencies of war, it is requested to arrange all light fixtures from 10:30 p.m. between the hours of midnight on August 9 and 4 a.m. 10th August. A complete list of instructions for the lighting will be sent to the owners of all buildings in the area.

**BE EFFICIENT - EVEN IN PEACE**

# The Battle for Fuel!

*Citizens of Coventry!*

MORE POWER for  
the WAR DRIVE

Save ==

Coal · Electricity  
Gas · Paraffin



**Save five lumps a day**

**And keep Hitler away**

**We're all in the Battle for Fuel**

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1942

**When you listen in tonight,  
For half an hour  
Switch off the light**

**We're all in the Battle for Fuel**

**We're doing without  
these now –  
How about you?**

**We're all in the Battle for Fuel**

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1942

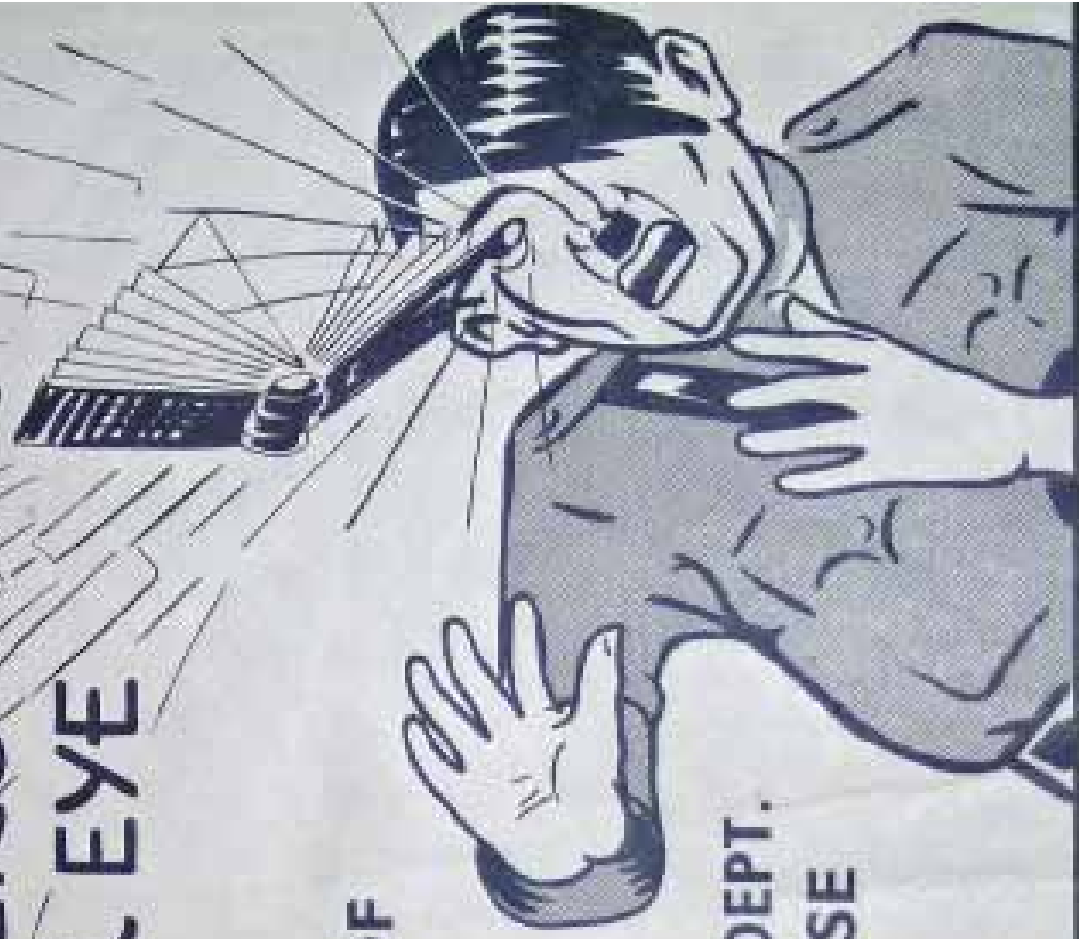
# SPYGLASS

AND BLACK OUT  
HITLER'S  
OTHER EYE

FOR DETAILS OF  
COLLECTION  
AND DEPOTS

WRITE

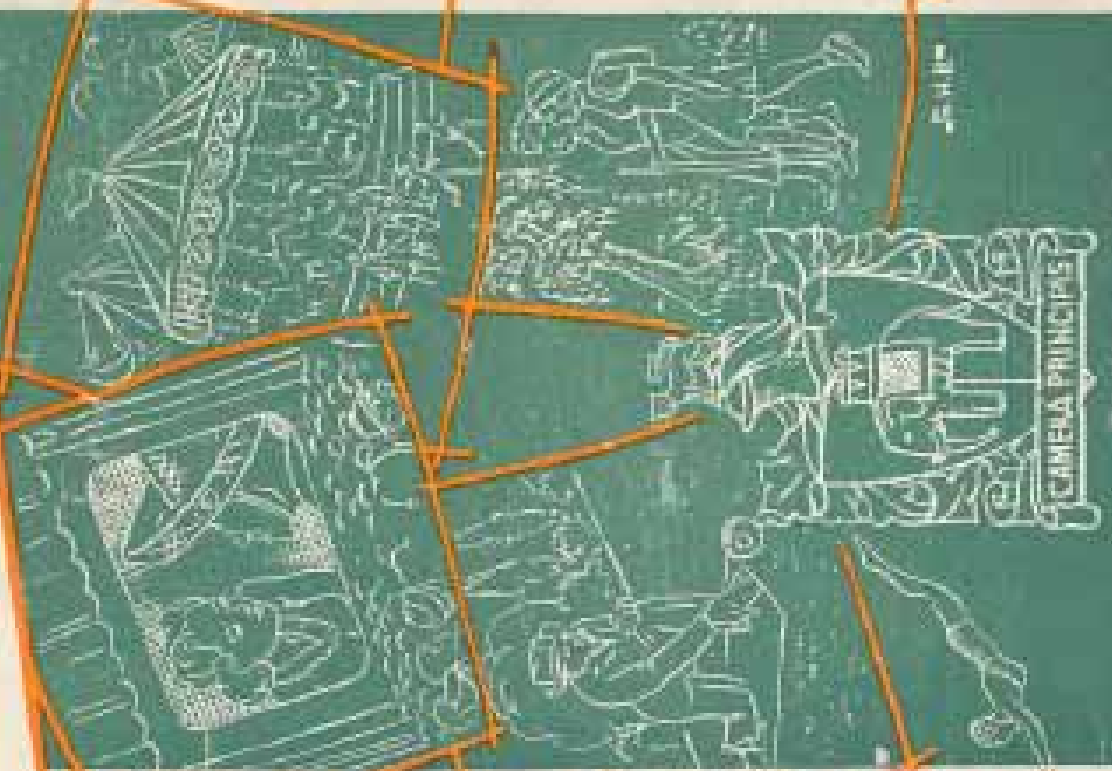
CITY ENGINEER'S DEPT.  
COUNCIL HOUSE  
**COVENTRY**



OFFICIAL SOUVENIR HANDBOOK - 1942



COVENTRY  
**HOLIDAYS AT HOME**  
SYNOPSIS OF  
**HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS**  
JUNE TO AUGUST



SIXPENCE

5.11.42



## RECORDS

98

Report on the Position of the Educational Services of the City since the Raid of Nov. 14th 1940

1. Damage to Schools

The following schools received damage: -

Christ the King R.C. Century Road	(Minor). Hut damaged. ( " ). Infants' Dept. again taken for First Aid Post.
All Souls' R.C. Moseley Avenue	(Major). Not inhabitable. (Considerable). Part of out offices & playing shed smashed.
Eagwick	(Severe). Much of roof stripped - walls cracked.
St. John's C.E.	(Minor). Several holes in roof.
St. Osburg's R.C.	(Heavy). Not inhabitable.
Stoke Council	(Minor).
Stoke C.E.	(Severe). Half roof stripped, walls cracked. Not inhabitable.
Compton	(Minor).
5 Swan Street	(Heavy). Mixed Dept. gutted by fire.
Hill Farm	(Minor). Ecfs damaged.
St. Michael's C.E.	( " ).
Fred. Elm	(Severe). 3 Girls' Classrooms in ruins - half roof unsafe - 2 infants' classrooms & cloakroom demolished.
Barbers Butts	Almost Complete demolition.
St. Mary's R.C. Broadway	Extensive.
Walgrave Colliery	Considerable.
South Street	Slight.
Wheatley Street Special	Considerable.
Rear of premises demolished - walls.	
Ken Lane	Slight.
Earlston	(Minor).
Red Lane	Boys' Club premises badly damaged - not inhabitable.
Technical College	Gymnasium practically demolished - Workahon roof lifted - main hall roof badly pierced.
Barr's Hill	Assembly Hall and 4 classrooms in new wing completely gutted - roof of main building pierced.

2. Evacuation

Immediately after the raid, steps were taken to organise the evacuation of all school children whose parents wished them to be sent out of the City. The teachers were recalled by wireless and all habitable schools were opened daily for registration.

The results to date are shown by the following table: -

Elementary School Children	3353
Secondary School Children	550
Jun. Technical, Jun. Commercial & Jun. Art Depts.	65
	4048
Mother's Children accompanying	112
Escorted	286
	378
	202
	4528
Totals	

Report of damage to schools in Coventry since November 14th 1940



## RECORDS

AIR-RAID ON COVENTRY 14th-15th NOVEMBER, 1940.

WORK OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

SUMMARY.

1. SOME OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

Casualties dealt with were : Killed : 508.  
Injured and admitted to Hospital : 888.  
Injured and treated at First-  
Aid Posts : 373.  
Total Casualties : 1,764.

In regard to the injured, all stretcher cases were dealt with through the two casualty clearing hospitals - the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital and the Guleson Road Hospital. After classification and initial treatment of cases at the clearing stations, the cases were evacuated under the Ministry of Health Scheme to the affiliated peripheral hospitals at Warwick, Leamington Spa, Stratford-on-Avon, Evesham, Crossgrove etc.

During the raid the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital was extensively damaged by bombs and fire. The Guleson Road Hospital was also hit but was damaged comparatively slightly. Both hospitals managed to carry on as casualty clearing stations. Despite great difficulties the whole hospital scheme worked admirably.

The ambulant and hitting casualties were dealt with effectively through the 10 first-aid posts. During the height of the raid certain stretcher cases were also treated at the Posts in order to relieve the pressure at the hospitals.

Throughout the night, the street collection of casualties was carried out splendidly by the R.A.S. ambulance service and the first-aid parties. The work was carried out under most hazardous conditions.

The killed were dealt with at the central emergency mortuary, Hill Street. The work of preparation and identification of bodies was a big and anxious task. The difficulty was increased on account of the badly mutilated condition of a considerable proportion of bodies. All bodies were placed in coffins and they were buried in a common trench-grave at the London Road Cemetery. Two impressive public funeral services were held in this connection on November 19th and November 23rd respectively.

Following the big raid, the medical officers of health of numerous major local authorities (including the London County Council) visited the Coventry Medical Officer of Health to elicit the lessons of the raid in so far as the working of the R.A.S. and the measures to meet post-raid public health problems were concerned.



RECORDS

A.R.P./M.I.

**WARDEN'S REPORT FORM.**  
Form of Report to Report Centres.

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**AIR RAID DAMAGE** (Commence report with these words)

Designation of Reporting Agent  
(e.g., Warden's Post No. )

Position of occurrence

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Type of bombs :—HE/Incendiary/Poison Gas

Approx. No. of Casualties :—  
(if any trapped under wreckage, say so)

If fire, say so :—

Damage to mains :—Water/Coal Gas/Overhead electric cables/Sewers

Names of Roads blocked

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Position of any unexploded bombs

---

Time of occurrence (approx.)

Services already on the spot or coming :—

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Remarks :—

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ORIGINAL } These words are for use with a report sent by messenger.  
DUPLICATE } Delete whichever does not apply.

Blank Warden's report form to complete after an air raid



RECORDS

COVENTRY EVACUATION SCHEME  
SUMMARY OF BUS JOURNEYS FIRST DAY

Bus No.	TIME	PICK UP AT.	SCHOOL	APPROX. CHILDRN. EST. DAY.	DESTINATION	APPROX. ARRIVE VAL.	APPROX. DUE BACK.
1	10.0	BROAD STREET	PRIDMORE ROAD	48	LEAMINGTON, MILVERTON	11.0	12.0
2	10.0	BROAD STREET	PRIDMORE ROAD	49	LEAMINGTON, MILVERTON	11.0	12.0
3	10.0	BROAD STREET	PRIDMORE ROAD	49	LEAMINGTON, MILVERTON	11.0	12.0
4	10.0	BROAD STREET	PRIDMORE ROAD	49	LEAMINGTON, MILVERTON	11.0	12.0
5	10.0	BROAD STREET	RED LANE	53	LEAMINGTON, ST. PAULS	11.0	12.0
6	10.0	BROAD STREET	RED LANE	54	LEAMINGTON, ST. PAULS	11.0	12.0
7	10.0	BROAD STREET	RED LANE	54	LEAMINGTON, ST. PAULS	11.0	12.0
8	10.0	BROAD STREET	RED LANE	54	LEAMINGTON, ST. PAULS	11.0	12.0
9	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	SPON STREET INFANTS.	55	KENILWORTH	10.45	11.30
10	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	ST. OSBURGS'	56	KENILWORTH R.C.	10.45	11.30
11	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	ST. OSBURGS'	56	KENILWORTH R.C.	10.45	11.30
12	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	ST. JOHN'S	49	KENILWORTH, ST. JOHN'S	10.45	11.30
13	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	ST. JOHN'S	50	KENILWORTH, ST. JOHN'S	10.45	11.30
14	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	ST. JOHN'S	50	KENILWORTH, ST. JOHN'S	10.45	11.30
15	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	ST. JOHN'S	50	KENILWORTH, ST. JOHN'S	10.45	11.30
16	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD INFANTS.	55	FILLONGLEY OR CORLEY	11.0	12.0
17	10.0	JOHN GULSON	SENIOR BOYS	56	LEAMINGTON, CAMPION	11.0	12.0
18	10.0	JOHN GULSON	SENIOR BOYS	56	LEAMINGTON, CAMPION	11.0	12.0
19	10.0	JOHN GULSON	JUNIOR & INFANTS.	50	LEAMINGTON, SHRUBLAND	11.0	12.0
20	10.0	JOHN GULSON	JUNIOR & INFANTS.	50	LEAMINGTON, SHRUBLAND	11.0	12.0
21	10.0	JOHN GULSON	JUNIOR & INFANTS.	50	LEAMINGTON, SHRUBLAND	11.0	12.0
22	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	SENIOR GIRLS	49	LEAMINGTON, CAMPION	11.0	12.0
23	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	SENIOR GIRLS	49	LEAMINGTON, CAMPION	11.0	12.0
24	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	SENIOR GIRLS	49	LEAMINGTON, CAMPION	11.0	12.0
25	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	INFANTS	49	LEAMINGTON, SHRUBLAND	11.0	12.0
26	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	INFANTS	50	LEAMINGTON, SHRUBLAND	11.0	12.0
27	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	SOUTH STREET JUN.	42	LEAMINGTON, LILLINGTON	11.0	12.0
28	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	SOUTH STREET JUN.	43	LEAMINGTON, LILLINGTON	11.0	12.0
29	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	ST. MARK'S	41	LEAMINGTON, LILLINGTON	11.0	12.0
30	10.0	WHEATLEY ST.	ST. MARK'S	41	LEAMINGTON, LILLINGTON	11.0	12.0
31	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD INFANTS.	45	MERTON, MERIDEN SCH.	11.0	12.0
32	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD JUN.	45	MERTON, MERIDEN SCH.	11.0	12.0
33	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD JUN.	45	MERTON, MERIDEN SCH.	11.0	12.0
34	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD JUN.	45	MERTON, MERIDEN SCH.	11.0	12.0
35	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD S. BOYS	54	BALSALL, BALSALL ST.	11.0	12.0
36	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD S. BOYS	55	BALSALL, BALSALL ST.	11.0	12.0
37	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD S. GIRLS	53	BALSALL, BALSALL ST.	11.0	12.0
38	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	F. BIRD S. GIRLS (36)	54	BALSALL, BALSALL ST.	11.0	12.0
39	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD INFANTS	54	FILLONGLEY OR CORLEY	11.0	12.0
40	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD INFANTS	54	FILLONGLEY OR CORLEY	11.0	12.0
41	10.0	FREDK. BIRD	FREDK. BIRD INFANTS	54	FILLONGLEY OR CORLEY	11.0	12.0
42	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	SPON STREET MIXED	54	KENILWORTH	10.45	11.30
43	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	SPON STREET MIXED	54	KENILWORTH	10.45	11.30
44	10.0	TECH. CAR PK.	SPON STREET	54	KENILWORTH	10.45	11.30
45	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	CHEYLESMORE	52	ATHERSTONE	11.15	12.30
46	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	CHEYLESMORE	52	ATHERSTONE	11.15	12.30
47	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	CHEYLESMORE	53	ATHERSTONE	11.15	12.30
48	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	CHEYLESMORE	53	ATHERSTONE	11.15	12.30
49	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	ALL SAINTS	50	POLESWORTH (CENTRAL)	11.15	12.30
50	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	ALL SAINTS	50	POLESWORTH (CENTRAL)	11.15	12.30
51	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	ALL SAINTS (13)	49	POLESWORTH (CENTRAL)	11.15	12.30
52	10.0	MARTYRS MEM.	ST. MICHAELS (36)	50	POLESWORTH (CENTRAL)	11.15	12.30

1ST. SEPTEMBER, 1939.

Bus journey report, including destinations, for evacuated schools



RECORDS

Ministry of Health  
 5th October 1942  
 D/N 372

HARNALL LANE EAST, COVENTRY.  
 12th November 1941.

Frank H. Harrod Esq.,  
 Director of Education,  
 The Council House,  
 COVENTRY.

COVENTRY CORPORATION TRANSPORT

Dr. to

AMENDED ACCOUNT.

TO	1940.			
Hire of Coaches for evacuation of School Children.				
Coaches Coventry to Solihull	14th Nov.	5	12	10 0
" " " Bidford	"	5	12	16 0
" " " Tamworth	15th Nov.	8	26	0 0
" " " Southern	1st Nov.	4	10	0 0
" " " District	"	5	15	12 6
" " " Shipston	7		29	15 0
" " " Stratford	1st Nov.	4	21	5 0
" " " Alcester	"	4	18	7 6
" " " Rugby District	"	4	15	10 0
" " " Bidford	11		27	10 0
" " " Banbury "	"	4	10	5 0
" " " Stratford & "	1st Nov.	0	29	7 6
" " " Tamworth	"	2	5	12 6
" " " Pelesworth	"	2	6	7 6
" " " Coleshill & "	"	2	7	13 9
" " " Southern	1st Nov.	3	7	10 0
" " " Rugby	"	3	6	7 6
" " " Solihull	1st Nov.	3	4	15 0
" " " Southern & District	1st Nov.	2	14	13 9
" " " Rugby	"	1	2	15 0
" " " Alcester "	"	6	23	5 0
" " " " "	"	3	11	12 6
" " " Hunsdon	1st Nov.	6	8	8 9
" " " Atherstone	"	1	3	7 6
" " " Polesworth	"	1	3	7 6
" " " Hunsdon	1st Nov.	2	6	10 0
" " " Atherstone	1st Nov.	1	3	10 0
	30th Dec.	1	3	10 0
			<u>2,350.</u>	<u>6. 3.</u>

Cheques to be made payable to "COVENTRY CORPORATION TRANSPORT."  
 No receipt will be recognised unless given on the Department's Official Form.

Coach bills showing places of evacuation for school children



## RECORDS

NOTES.EMERGENCY HOSTELS.

Special hostels will be provided with accommodation for approximately 5% of the quota for the reception of certain medical cases, e.g. impotigo, scabies, vermin, where it is considered undesirable to place the children in private households. As far as possible one hostel will be located in each rural district.

SICK BAYS.

Provision will also be made for three sick bays, one each in the north, centre and south of the County, for cases of enuresis, infectious disease contact, etc.

N.B. Cases for hostel or sick bay will be determined by the medical service as a result of examination, either prior to departure or at the inspection en route.

HELPERS FOR HOSTELS.

Each group of schools will be required to provide helpers at the emergency hostels in the ratio of 1 helper to 150 children.

ESCORTS.

Teachers will travel with the children and will be required to assist in the supervision during the journey. The number of escorts (including teachers) should be about 1 to 15 children. Where the number of teachers is insufficient the proportion should be made up by voluntary helpers who would return on the day of evacuation.

**10 MAY 1940**

-5-



RECORDS

28

1955/57

C I T Y O F C O V E N T R Y .

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME - PLAN IV.

<u>Coventry School</u>	<u>Number allotted</u>	<u>Receiving Villages (Schools)</u>	<u>Billets available</u>
<u>RECEPTION AREA - ALCESTER R. D. (Government Quota - 600)</u>			
Broad Street S.D.	80	Alcester * Overmleigh Arrow Wixford	50 10-15 10-15 10-15
Broad Street S.G.	80	Great Alne* Aston Cantlow * Wilmcote *	80
Ed Lane J.M. & I.	100	Bidford * Mapleborough Green * Sambourne Studley *	40 70
John Gilsou S.B.	80	Bidford *	80
John Gilsou J.M. & I.	80	Bidford *	80
St. Mary's R.C.	90	Studley *	90
St. Elizabeth's R.C.	90	Coughton *	90

Transport Arrangements - By Coventry Corporation Bus; departure from all above-named schools at 9 a.m. THIRD DAY.

Medical check and inspection of children not previously examined - en route at Alcester & Bidford.

<u>RECEPTION AREA - ATHERSTONE R.D. (Government Quota - 800)</u>	<u>Number allotted</u>	<u>Receiving Villages (Schools)</u>	<u>Billets available</u>
Stoke Park Secondary	150	Atherstone Grammar * Hartshill	150
Cheylesmore S.B.	100	Atherstone Senior *	350
Cheylesmore S.G.	100	Bentley Grendon Ansley	
Cheylesmore J.M. & I.	150		
S. John's S.M.	80	Baddesley Ensor *	170
S. John's J.M. & I.	70		
All Saints' J.M. & I.	100	Polesworth Central * Dordon *	120
S. Michael's J.M. & I.	100	" " Methersole * " Warton *	120

Transport Arrangements - By train; departure from Coventry Station at 11.40 a.m. FIRST DAY.

Medical check and inspection of children not previously examined - en route at Atherstone & Polesworth.

Coventry Corporation buses will convey children from S. John, All Saints' and Stoke Park Schools, from those schools to Coventry Station. Children from Cheylesmore and S. Michael's will walk from the school to the station.

Example of government evacuation scheme from Coventry



## RECORDS/LETTERS

19

Mr. School House,  
BISHOPS ITCHINGTON,  
Year Learnington.

REC. EVACUATION.

Stoke Council Senior Boys' School  
Party.

Dear Sir,

I beg to report that the children comprising the above party, have now been in attendance at BISHOPS ITCHINGTON School for one week - and that our arrangements and plans are working quite smoothly and satisfactorily.

We have adopted the 'Double Shift' system: our children for the morning session during the first week, and the afternoon session for the following week. The session spent in school is mainly devoted

Letter outlining lesson plans to evacuees school - page 1 of 3



## RECORDS/LETTERS

(2)

to instruction in the 3 R's, together with Religious Teaching, Moral Training, etc. The session not spent in school is devoted to Physical Training, Organised Games, Home Study, Rambles, and other Group Activities. The Village Playing Fields are utilised for P. T. and Org. Games in fine weather, while the Memorial Hall is at our disposal when the weather is unfavourable. The Senior boys are working in 3 Classes - First, Second - and Third Years, and the School sessions are from 9-12 - A.M. and 1/30 to 4 - P.M. It is hoped that some teaching in Handicraft may be commenced next week, as the local Training Centre has been placed at our



## RECORDS/LETTERS

(3).  
disposal. Our proposals re  
Organisation were submitted  
to the Director of  
Education, WARWICK - on  
September 6<sup>th</sup> - and, as no  
adverse criticism of same  
has been made, we are  
assuming that they have  
met with the approval of  
the Director. I shall be  
pleased to furnish further  
particulars if such are  
required.

Yours faithfully,  
M. A. Alcott.  
Head Teacher.

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 1939.



## LETTERS

The New Inn  
Long Itchington  
N<sup>o</sup> Rugby

2.9.39

Dear Sir

I am the Head Teacher of the children evacuated from Coventry. I have 60 children here - 47 from the Infants' Department of Stoke Council School, Coventry and 13 from the Quorn Department.

The school at Long Itchington is quite full and cannot accommodate another 60 children. The village hall is vacant and I should like to have the use of this for my school. The only alternative appears to be a "double shift" school and the use of the village hall is preferable for the following reasons

1. The village children and the evacuated children could all attend school for the usual two sessions per day. This would help us to carry on the work of the school more efficiently and would be of great assistance to the houseparents who have been kind enough to billet the children
2. If we have two sessions per day we can keep in touch with our children more easily, can keep them happily employed and so maintain a good morale
3. If we run the school as a double shift school we should still need another meeting place for our children for the session when they are not in school - the village hall is the only

Letter from head teacher regarding evacuation of Coventry children - page 1 of 2



## LETTERS

available meeting place  
+ The village school is so full that it would be  
difficult to find room for our stock + apparatus  
The chairman, secretary of the hall  
are getting in touch with you + I should be most  
grateful if you could do your utmost to obtain  
the use of the hall for me  
Yours faithfully  
H. Maudsforth

The Director of Education  
Education Office  
Northgate St  
Warwick

Letter from head teacher regarding evacuation of Coventry children - page 2 of 2



RECORDS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OFFICIAL EVACUATED PARTIES - April 1940 - March 1941

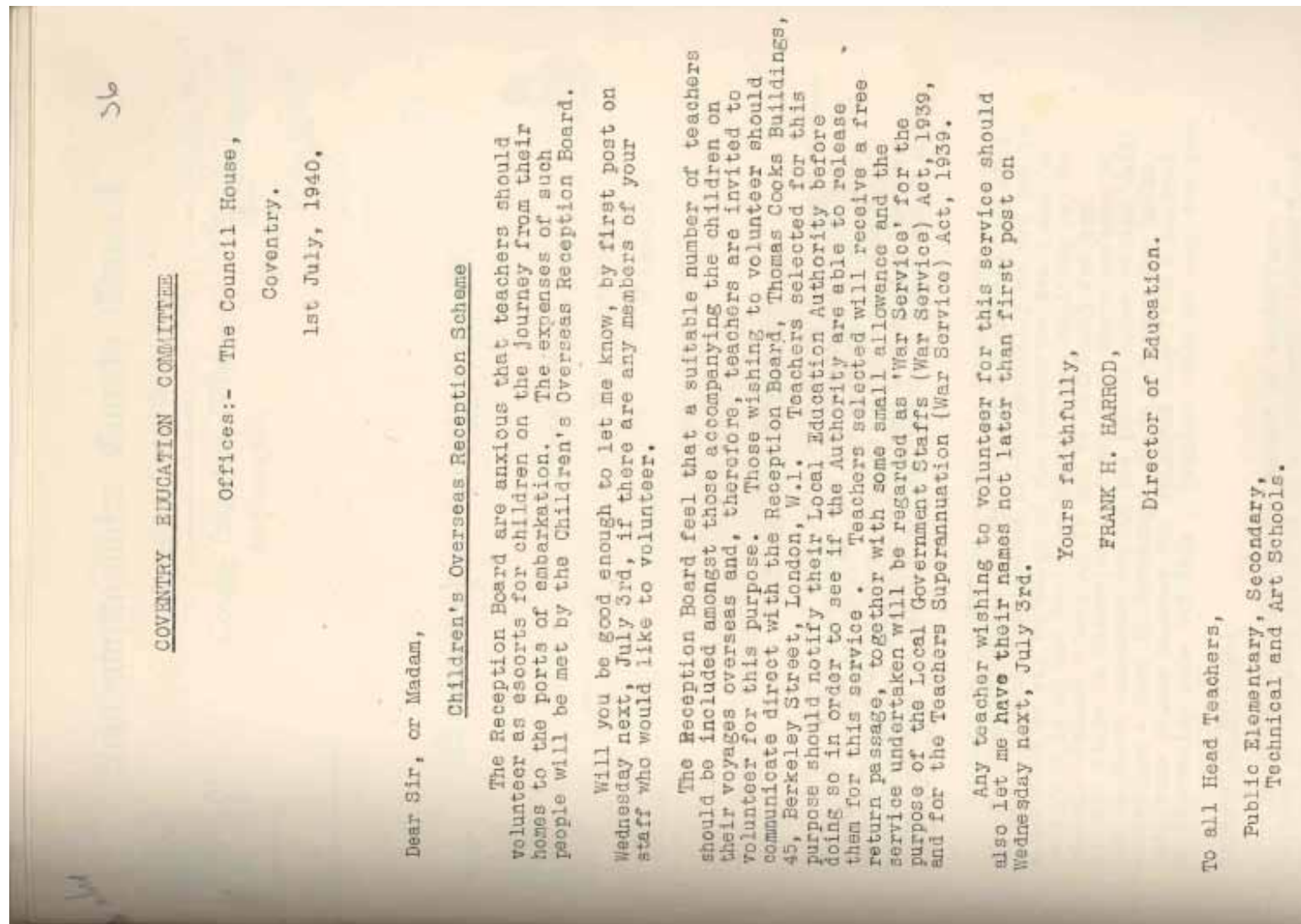
Date	Official Evacuees	(Unofficial Evacuees)
April 1940 - 8th Nov. 1940 (from actual attendance returns)	18,174	-
15th Nov. 1940 (from Cttee. return)	391	-
22nd Nov. 1940	2,000	-
29th Nov. 1940 (From H.T. Nominal Rolls)	3,581	-
6th Dec. 1940	3,250	-
13th Dec. 1940	3,000	-
3rd January 1941	2,545	-
10th January 1941	2,300	-
17th January 1941	2,250	-
24th January 1941	2,220	-
31st January 1941	2,180	-
7th February 1941	2,120	-
14th February 1941 (from Cttee. return)	2,100	608
21st February 1941	2,050	-
28th February 1941	2,020	-
7th March 1941	1,975	-
14th March 1941 (Cttee. Return - 1,991)	1,970	657
31st March 1941	1,850	-

*Handwritten notes:*  
 (two weeks holiday) - between 13th Dec 1940 and 3rd Jan 1941  
 Computed - next to 10th Jan 1941  
 Computed - next to 28th Feb 1941  
 Computed - next to 31st Mar 1941  
 1265/4070 // x 5178  
 average 633 x 17  
 1265) 4700 (1  
 12  
 47) 1265 (26  
 94  
 225

Record of evacuee figures between 1940 and 1941



## RECORDS/LETTERS



Letter to head teachers about accompanying children in overseas evacuation scheme



## RECORDS/LETTERS

THE COVENTRY EVENING TELEGRAPH,

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1942.

### Official Version of Coventry's Food Problem COVENTRY RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

DETAILS relating to supplies of unrationed food-stuffs to Coventry, which appear to suggest that the city has been getting preferential treatment compared with most places in the country, are published to-day in the form of a memorandum by the local Food Control Committee.

Facts disclosed will form the basis of a discussion at next week's meeting of the City Council.

Included in the statement are statistics mentioned by the Food Committee chairman (Councillor J. C. Lee Gordon) three weeks ago but which at that time could not be made public because of the attitude of the Ministry of Food.

The memorandum appears over the signature of Councilor Lee Gordon. It is a lengthy report on the city's food problem, and a number of interesting conclusions are reached.

#### CANTEN FACTOR

One of the principal elements in this confusing entanglement which have been advanced concerning food supply and distribution in Coventry, certain factors have to be kept in mind. One is that there are probably more works canteens in the city than in any other place, and that Coventry is famous for its well-supplied British restaurants. Both can be used without affecting the right to regular rations, and are thus of particular advantage from the point of view of food supply.

A factor stated to be not as favourable as the extent to which canteens are used is the distribution of the number of food shops, especially in the centre, and that few have been replaced owing to the virtual impossibility of securing licences for building materials.

#### EFFECTS OF GREATER PURCHASING POWER

Another circumstance bearing on the local situation (this being described as a very gratifying one) is stated to be that the purchasing power of Coventry is high. In consequence of this there is a greater demand for such unrationed foods as are available, with the result that the stocks of certain foods is quickly exhausted.

The Ministry of Food have given striking illustrations of this. One in 1933 under the rationing scheme the quantities purchased in Coventry are approximately 10 per cent higher than elsewhere in the country.

Here are some extracts from the Food Committee's submission to the public on the subject of the most widely-discussed food topics:

#### Meat Products

Figures supplied by the Ministry of Food provide the basis for the contention that the large manufacturers have reduced supplies to Coventry. On the contrary, they indicate substantially increased supplies. Details relate to four of the leading firms supplying the city. Although it is in respect to the supply of beef that the Ministry have reported in regard to three of the largest, the figures multiplying the six that brewer A is sending into Coventry 100 per cent more beer than in 1931, brewer B cannot cope with the demand, although he is having to export, and that he has been asked by Coventry to brew 20 per cent more than in 1931, brewer C is brewing seven days a week, and sending 301 per cent more than in 1933.

#### Confectionery

It is difficult to establish that there are in unduly short supply. It seems possible that the reduction in the number of foodshops, coupled with the practice of continuous queuing in the shops, is a section of the public responsible for many of the complaints that have been advanced.

Coventry Food Control Committee have suggested that cakes and similar commodities should be brought within "points" rationing, but the Ministry of Food have stated that there are difficulties which up to now, have proved insuperable.

#### Tomatoes

It is difficult to measure a regular distribution. Supplies vary a good deal in quantity and quality week by week, but even allowing for this point, the Food Control Committee favour an equal basis as being more equitable. Certainly there are neighbouring areas where tomatoe supplies seem to be in greater abundance than in Coventry. The Committee are told that one reason for this is that growers whose tomatoe production area is less than 500 square feet have to be under control, and hence their tomatoe which are near a market gardening district tend to receive a more favourable share.

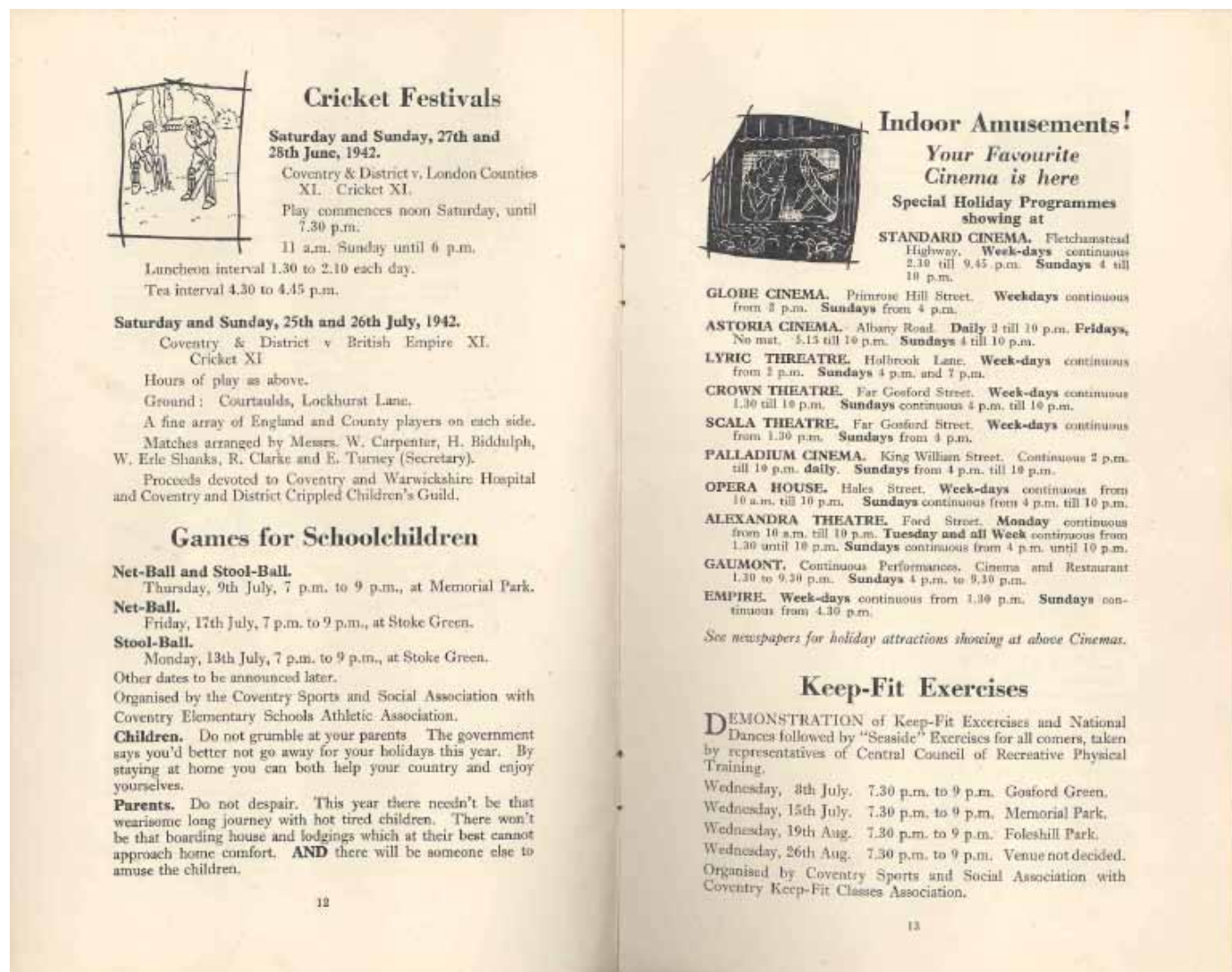
The Ministry of Food, while asked to be making inquiries with a view to rectifying inequalities between Coventry and other districts, have shown that for the 12 months ended July 19 the average number of tomatoes distributed per head of the population was 1400 for Coventry compared with 1520 for the country in general.

Meanwhile to replace the local arrangement whereby the sale of tomatoes was not begun until a year, only the distributed quantities in Coventry are now being rationed. The traditional rationing scheme on the basis of cards which will be issued by retailers to their customers

'Coventry's Food Problem' reported in 1942



## RECORDS





## RECORDS

**Come to the Fair!**

THE Showmen's Guild are assisting in the "Stay at Home Holiday" movement, and up to the time of going to the press the following arrangements have been made.

**3rd JULY to 11th JULY inclusive.**  
**AT LONGFORD.**

Speedway, Autodrome, Noahs Ark, Hooplas and Side Shows.

**18th to 25th JULY inclusive.**  
**AT EDGWICK RECREATION GROUND.**

As above.

**1st to 8th AUGUST.**  
**AT GOSFORD GREEN.**

As above.

**31st JULY to the 11th AUGUST.**  
**AT HEARSALL COMMON.**

Special Fair, Noahs Ark, Moon Rocket, Dodgems, Swirls, Autodrome, Speedway, Wall of Death, and Side Shows.

Bring the children along.

**Baby Show**

(For Infants in attendance at City Welfare Centres).

Arranged by the Medical Officer of Health  
(Dr. A. Massey).

Three classes, viz:— (a) Under six months of age.  
(b) Aged six to fifteen months.  
(c) Over fifteen months and under two years.

The preliminary judging will be at the various Welfare Centres. The best in each class, from each of the 15 Welfare Centres will be judged in the Final to be held at 3 p.m., on Thursday, August 6th, in the Memorial Park.

Prizes will be awarded for the first one or two children in each of the three classes.

**Sports in Corporation Parks**

The Memorial Park, Spencer Park, Moseley Avenue and Gosford Park, are all open for Tennis, Bowls and Putting. Prices are reasonable.

**STAY-AT-HOME HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS****Diary of Events**

Entertainment.	Situation.	Time.
<b>June, Saturday 20th.</b>		
Band of the South Staffordshire Regt.	Broadgate .. ..	3.30 p.m.
(Opened by the Mayor) .. .. .		7.40 p.m.
<b>June, Monday 22nd.</b>		
Band of the South Staffordshire Regt.	Naul's Mill Park ..	3.30 p.m.
		7.00 p.m.
<b>June, Tuesday 23rd.</b>		
Band of the South Staffordshire Regt.	Gosford Green ..	3.30 p.m.
		7.30 p.m.
<b>June, Wednesday 24th.</b>		
Band of the South Staffordshire Regt.	Foleshill Park ..	3.30 p.m.
		7.00 p.m.
<b>June, Thursday 25th.</b>		
Band of the South Staffordshire Regt.	Memorial Park ..	3.30 p.m.
		7.00 p.m.
<b>June, Friday 26th.</b>		
Band of the South Staffordshire Regt.	Gosford Green ..	3.30 p.m.
		7.00 p.m.
<b>June, Saturday 27th.</b>		
Band of the Leicestershire Regt. .. ..	Memorial Park ..	3.30 p.m.
Two-day Festival Cricket Match .. ..	Courtyard's Sports Ground .. ..	7.30 p.m.
	Noon Sat. .. ..	11 a.m. Sun.
<b>June, Sunday 28th.</b>		
Band of the Royal Armoured Corps (Flat Footmarch Regt.) .. .. .	Memorial Park ..	3.30 p.m.
Salvation Army Band .. .. .	Foleshill Park ..	7.40 p.m.
		7.30 p.m.
<b>June, Monday 29th.</b>		
Band of the Royal Armoured Corps .. ..	Naul's Mill Park ..	3.30 p.m.
		7.40 p.m.
<b>June, Tuesday 30th.</b>		
Band of the Royal Armoured Corps .. ..	Memorial Park ..	3.30 p.m.
C.E.M.A. Concert .. .. .	Gosford Green ..	7.00 p.m.
		7.00 p.m.
<b>July, Wednesday 1st.</b>		
Band of the Royal Armoured Corps .. ..	Longford Rec. Ground (Hunt Road) ..	2.00 p.m.
		7.00 p.m.
<b>July, Thursday 2nd.</b>		
Band of the Royal Armoured Corps .. ..	Gosford Green ..	3.00 p.m.
		7.00 p.m.
<b>July, Friday 3rd.</b>		
Band of the Royal Armoured Corps .. ..	Foleshill Park ..	3.30 p.m.
Fair opening at Longford Rec. Ground	Hunt Road ..	7.40 p.m.
<b>July, Saturday 4th.</b>		
Band of the Royal Armoured Corps .. ..	Memorial Park ..	3.30 p.m.
Fair .. .. .	Longford Recreation Ground .. ..	7.00 p.m.
<b>July, Sunday 5th.</b>		
Band of H.M. Life Guards .. .. .	Memorial Park ..	4.15 p.m.
		7.30 p.m.
<b>July, Monday 6th.</b>		
Band of H.M. Life Guards .. .. .	Naul's Mill Park ..	3.30 p.m.
Fair .. .. .	Longford Recreation Ground .. ..	7.00 p.m.
Folk Dancing .. .. .	Gosford Green ..	7.30 p.m.



## RECORDS

82

COVENTRY EDUCATION COMMITTEE,  
PLAY CENTRES IN RECEPTION AREAS.

1. With a view to maintaining contact with evacuated Coventry children, and in order to provide for the right use of their spare time, I have discussed with the responsible Head Teachers at with the Director of Education for Warwickshire and Leamington the possibility of arranging Evening Play Centres in the reception areas.

2. Most evacuated schools found it easy to arrange evening clubs and organised games during the first few weeks following evacuation. Many teachers subsequently made arrangements to meet children under their charge in an informal manner out of school hours. With the lengthening period of darkness it became desirable in certain districts to place these arrangements on a proper footing, and the Warwickshire and Leamington Authorities agree that Evening Play Centres are needed in the following areas.

Atherstone	Cheylesmore S.B.	Congregational Church Hall 2 hrs. on 3 evenings a wk. at a charge of 3/- per evening.
Temple Balsall	Frederick Bird S.B.	Village Institute, Chadwick Lnd. 2 hrs. on 4 evenings a wk. at a charge of 2/6 per week.
Temple Balsall	Frederick Bird S.G.	Wesleyan Schoolroom, Balsall common. 2 hrs. on 2 evenings a wk. at a charge of 2/6 per evening. (a charge of 15/- is asked to meet half the cost of 'blacking out').
Sticops Itchington	Stoke Council S.B.	The Parochial Hall. 2 hrs. on 3 evenings a wk. at a charge of 2/- per evening.
Burton Dassett	Stoke Council S.G.	Village Hall. 1½ hrs. on one evening a wk. at a charge of 2/- per evening.
Gambrook	Folly Lane B.	School premises - care- taker paid 1/- a wk. extra.
Leamington (Lillington)	South Street J.M.) St. Mark's C.B. )	Lillington Men's Club. 1½ hrs. on two evenings a wk. at a charge of 3/6 per evening.



## RECORDS

3. Several of these centres are already in use, the teachers serving in a voluntary capacity. It is clear, however, that these duties are extraneous, and it appears reasonable that those responsible for conducting these play centres should be remunerated. The Committee's scale for play centre work is 7s.6d. per evening for the supervisor and 5s.0d. per evening for assistants. As the numbers attending the reception area play centres, however, rarely exceed 50 in any one case, it would seem unnecessary to appoint supervisors. Games and apparatus have been provided by voluntary agencies in most instances.

4. It is suggested that the centres are staffed on a basis of one teacher for 20-30 children and two teachers for 31-50 children.

Under normal circumstances approved expenditure on play centres attracts grant at the rate of 50% from the Board of Education. It is presumed, however, that in this case the expenditure will be included in the Evacuation account and met fully by the Exchequer.

FRANK H. HARROD,  
Director of Education.

4th December, 1939.

2.



## LETTERS

12. Sregeoty Avenue  
 Sreem Lane  
 Coventry.  
 Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 1940.

My dear Sheila,  
 I hope you arrived home safely on Sunday last. Father is sorry he will not be able to come to see your Father on Sunday next owing to the airraids. He does not want to leave us. I am also writing to your Father at Sregeoty as we do not know where he is. Since you left the airraids have been dreadful. Last Saturday it started and every night since. The sirens have been going at twenty minutes to eight and Sunday night the all clear did not go until 6am. Monday morning we were up until 5am. Then went to bed

Letter from Joan Thornton describing her experiences of living in Coventry during the war



## LETTERS

16/9/15/11  
utterly <sup>2</sup>enormous. It has  
been dreadful. They dropped  
a bomb at the back of the  
Queens Hotel and one in Broadgate,  
the city centre, you know last  
night and smashed every  
window in every shop. I will  
write to you again tomorrow  
Thursday afternoon and tell  
you all the news. Oh, by the  
way we were turned out of  
the shop 12.0 noon today as  
there is a delayed action  
bomb in a garden opposite so  
we have had the afternoon  
off. The father & mother are now  
getting ready in the kitchen  
(refuge room) for the sirens to  
go. Oh dear, last night the  
whiffing of the bombs were  
dreadful but thank God not  
in us. If only I could  
evacuate. These were about

Letter from Joan Thornton describing her experiences of living in Coventry during the war



LETTERS

3  
a thousand people evacuated  
last night & today.  
Must close now a longer  
letter tomorrow  
All my love to  
Dore from  
Joanage

REVENUE  
POSTAGE  
2/6

COVENTRY  
OCT 29 1940  
ENGLAND

Miss S. Hannam  
"Marworth"  
Leicester Road  
Rothley  
N. Leicester

Letter from Joan Thornton describing her experiences of living in Coventry during the war



**Billet** : A place to sleep or stay

**Blitz** : Heavy bombing from the air from the German 'Blitzkrieg' meaning 'lightening war'.

**Doodlebug** : A nickname for the V-1 flying bomb, so called because of the humming sound it made

**Incendiary bomb** : A bomb designed to start fires.

**Respirator** : Breathing apparatus to remove poisonous gas from the air





If you are interested in finding out more detailed information about Coventry during the war then have a look at the following websites.

Aimed at children, also contains information for parents and teachers. Includes rationing challenge and letters home.

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2children](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2children)

Extensive collection of wartime audio clips including a public health announcement from Coventry.

[www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/history/worldwar2audioclipslibrary.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/history/worldwar2audioclipslibrary.shtml)

Images of wartime Coventry

[www.bbc.co.uk/coventry/content/image\\_galleries/ww2\\_in\\_pictures\\_gallery.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/coventry/content/image_galleries/ww2_in_pictures_gallery.shtml)

Film clips including the Homeguard and Holidays at Home (mostly from the Northeast)

[www.bbc.co.uk/nationonfilm/topics/war](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nationonfilm/topics/war)

Archive of wartime memories including some of Coventry

[www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar)

Link to Moonlight Sonata film of interviews with Blitz survivors.

[www.bbc.co.uk/coventry/content/articles/2006/11/07/video\\_moonlight\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/coventry/content/articles/2006/11/07/video_moonlight_feature.shtml)

The Imperial War Museum, including access to some online collections

[www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

The Anne Frank House Museum in Amsterdam. Links to Citizenship

[www.annefrank.com](http://www.annefrank.com)

The National Archives, includes many Second World War themes and lesson plans

[www.learningcurve.gov.uk](http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk)



If you are interested in finding out more detailed information about Coventry during the war then have a look at the following websites.

Site including research into the Victims of the Coventry Blitz

[www.familyresearcher.co.uk](http://www.familyresearcher.co.uk)

Information about the Hillfields area of Coventry during the Second World War

[www.hillfields.org.uk/History/Blitz.htm](http://www.hillfields.org.uk/History/Blitz.htm)

Search under 'war and armed forces' for pictures of bomb damage

[www.picturesofcoventry.co.uk](http://www.picturesofcoventry.co.uk)