

Second World War resources

Islington Local History Centre holds a range of resources concerning the Second World War. Much of this material is divided into two sections, reflecting the previous organisation of the borough as the metropolitan boroughs of Finsbury and Islington.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON – ARCHIVE MATERIAL

Material available includes:

- Mortuary records, including civilian war dead records, police notifications and records of personal effects
- Civil defence records, including Emergency Committee and Civil Defence Committee reports, civil defence manuals and a card index of civil defence personnel
- Air raid records, including air raid warning records, bomb incident reports, a report on the response to the bombing of Mackenzie Road (1944), air raid damage reports (with card index by street) and a card index of air raid wardens.
- 'Civil defence in Islington' – an account by W Eric Adams, ARP controller
- Warden's instruction book and certificates belonging to Walter Parry, air raid warden.

Photographs: two albums of bomb damage photographs, plus some additional photographs (ref. Q031).

Newspaper cuttings (ref. B852).

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF FINSBURY – ARCHIVE MATERIAL

Surviving records for Finsbury are less extensive but include the following:

- ARP memorandum, warden's book and examination papers
- Civil defence correspondence
- List and plans of public shelters
- Air raid records, including incident list and sketches, plans of bombed areas and bomb damage reports
- Records of civilian war dead, including some mortuary records

Photographs: a small number of images are held in the Finsbury collection (ref. L8.9).

Newspaper cuttings (ref. L8.9).

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- The Sadler's Wells collection includes papers concerning the requisitioning of the theatre as a public shelter during the Second World War.
- The records of Dove Brothers builders contain accounts of the company's work on repairing bomb damage in Islington and other London boroughs.

MAPS AND AERIAL BOMB DAMAGE PHOTOGRAPHS

- London County Council/Ordnance Survey maps showing degrees of damage across Islington (1946).
- RAF/Ordnance Survey aerial photographs showing bomb damage across Islington (1946).

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS (ref. Q034)

- Civilian war dead 1939-1945: extract from the Imperial War Graves Commission's Roll of Honour, listing deaths in the Metropolitan Borough of Islington (see also John Hook, *'The glorious dead'*).
- *Roof over Britain: the official story of the AA defences, 1939-1942*. Prepared for the War Office by The Ministry of Information, 1943.
- *Front line 1940-41: the official story of the civil defence of Britain*. Issued for the Ministry of Home Security by the Ministry of Information, 1942.
- Home Office civil defence and air raid precautions literature, 1938-1962.
- British Standard specifications (ARP series) for air raid shelters, 1939-1943.

BOOKS

Pre-war (ref. Q034)

- J Thorburn Muirhead, *Air attack on cities: the broader aspects of the problem*. George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1938.
- J B S Haldane, *A R P* [air raid precautions]. Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1938.

Second World War (ref. Q034)

- Cyril Demarne, *The London Blitz: a fireman's tale*. Battle of Britain Prints International, 1991.
- John Hook, *'The glorious dead': the air raids on the London Borough of Islington 1940-1945. A chronological listing of the fatal casualties*. Privately published, 1987.
- Leslie F Jordan, *The saga of Lucky Jordan: the autobiography of an airman*. Upfront Publishing, 2003. (Includes descriptions of the author's experiences of air raids in Islington).
- Michael Leitch, *World War II songs*. Wise Publications, 1975.
- Terence H O'Brien, *Civil defence*. HMSO/Longmans, Green and Com, 1955.
- Marguerite Patten, *We'll eat again: A collection of recipes from the war years*. Imperial War Museum/Hamlyn, 1985.
- Stephen Spender, *Citizens in war – and after*. George G Harrap & Co, 1945. (Includes 48 colour photographs of the Second World War by John Hinde).
- Philip Ziegler, *London at war 1939-1945*. Sinclair-Stevenson, 1995.

Post-war recovery (ref. YU900)

- R G Burnett, *London lives on*. Phoenix House Limited, 1948.
- Harold P Clunn, *London marches on*. The Caen Press, 1947.
- C B Purdom, *How should we rebuild London?* J M Dent & Sons Ltd, 1945.

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