

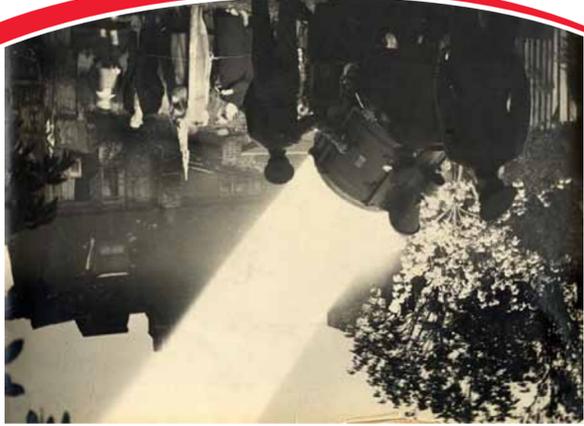


Bus Routes

34, 102, 144a, 149, 259,
279, 318, 444, 419, W6



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Edmonton WW2 Heritage Trail



This heritage trail was produced for the Enfield at War Project thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding. It is an easy going walk that takes between 1 to 1½ hours to complete.

Hundreds of bombs and thousands of incendiary devices fell in the Edmonton District during the war. It also suffered from 3 V1 Flying Bombs and 5 V2 Rocket strikes. Its industrial base and proximity to other industries in Enfield and the Lea Valley made it an obvious target for German bombers. In all 162 people were killed in Edmonton during the Second World War with 432 seriously injured. 433 houses were destroyed with many more damaged.

1 North Middlesex Hospital



The hospital was built in 1842 as the Edmonton Union Workhouse. It became a military hospital in 1915 returning to civilian use in 1920. During the Second World War the hospital was bombed on several occasions. The first occasion was on 24th September 1940 when the west wing suffered major damage. Further damage was caused when a mine was dropped on Silver Street on 28th December that year. On 19th April 1944 incendiary bombs caused extensive fires and some casualties. The children's ward was hit and the entrance was blocked by debris so that nurses had to pass the children out through the rubble to bystanders. According to the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Log nineteen people were killed. Then on 3rd March 1945 there was damage to windows from a V2.

2 Regal Cinema & Angel Road Factories

The Regal cinema stood on the corner of Fore Street and the North Circular Road. During the Second World War it was used as an air raid warden's post and shelter which could accommodate up to 700 people. The warden's post was at the stage door and staffed by the cinema employees; it was said to be one of the better shelters in the area as it was spacious and free from damp. According to Mr Hurry, the manager of the cinema, all the staff



received training as ARP wardens. There is a mosaic commemorating it on the side of the present day Lidl. The area around Angel Road housed many factories; most of which were producing war equipment under government contracts. The area was hit by bombs during the Blitz and again by the V1s & V2s. Among the factories hit were British Oxygen, Tottenham Gas, Gadsons, ICI, Rego Clothiers (makers of uniforms), Insulators Ltd, MK Electrics, Nathan Factory and North London Ballast. The first bombs fell on 9th October 1940. The next occasion was on 19th

3 Alcazar Cinema & Railway



The Alcazar Cinema was opened in 1913 on the west side of Fore Street just north of the junction with the North Circular Road. It housed a dancehall, roller skating rink, hall where boxing matches took place, tearooms and gardens and could seat up to 1700 people. The first bombs dropped in the Edmonton area fell on 23rd August 1940 in Fore Street hitting the Alcazar demolishing the dance hall and destroying one wall of the cinema so that the roof collapsed. This was the first WW2 bomb that fell in the



Hall, Bounces Road. These were communal canteens originally set up in bombed areas which aimed to provide nutritious but cheap food for the public. The cost was between 10d and 1/- per head (4p and 5p respectively today). There were four British Restaurants in Edmonton.

14 Edmonton Green Library

The library houses the Roll of Honour from Edmonton Town Hall. The centre panel is dedicated to the men who died trying to rescue the pilot and other victims of the Dunholme Road plane crash. As part of the preparation for war there was a push to train pilots. On 4th September 1938 a plane from the training school at Hatfield crashed onto houses in Dunholme Road. The pilot, Sergeant Stanley Morris, and 12 people on the ground were killed. Brothers James and Edward Letch and John Euesden were killed trying to rescue the pilot and those in the houses. An inquest into the victims of the crash found that the pilot should have been flying circuits around Hatfield. There is a memorial to those killed in Edmonton Cemetery, Church Street.

15 War Memorial

The Edmonton Memorial to the dead of The Great War was unveiled in October 1924 on an afternoon of cloud and rain. It was created by William Griffiths & Co Ltd of Salisbury House, Finsbury Park. It is constructed from 30 tons of Cornish marble. The bronze sword and wreath were created by LF Roslyn RBS of the Avenue Studios, Fulham Road. An inscription for the Second World War was later added.

Produced by Enfield Local Studies Library & Archive.
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4 Pymmes Park & House



Pymmes House stood at the southern end of the park parallel to Silver Street. In 1897 part of the park was acquired by the Edmonton Urban District Council and opened to the public in 1906. During the Second World War the house was used as a staging post for Prisoners of War, a children's clinic, an emergency

hospital and a fire station. Trenches were dug in the park for air raid shelters, then concreted and roofed over. They were prone to flooding and required extensive drainage work to make them usable. The remains of the shelters were excavated in May 2015. In December 1940 Pymmes House caught fire and the remains had to be demolished. The cause of the fire remains unknown but is unlikely to have been the result of enemy action.

5 Fore Street



Bombs fell along Fore Street on several occasions during the Second World War. The first time was on 23rd August 1940 then again on 12th and 26th September near the Tottenham boundary causing major damage and blocking the street. Fore Street was again blocked due to bomb damage on the night of 2nd/ 3rd October this time at the junction with Sebastopol Road. On the 20th October major damage occurred when an anti-aircraft shell hit a water main. Nine people were killed in these bombing raids including PC Richards and a 15 month old boy.

Enfield area causing damage to buildings. On 7th March 1945 the railway line north of Angel Road was put out of action by a rocket which destroyed both tracks leaving a large crater. Lines were re-opened the same day

12 Croyland Road



Hero of the Holocaust in 2010. posthumously named him a British Hospital. The British government to patients at the North Middlesex match from Tottenham Football ground broadcasting every home football involved in charitable work including

13 Hertford Road Flood

In 1941 there was a campaign to salvage ironwork for war use. Park and garden railings and even the railings around tombs were taken. One of the collection points for these railings was in Croyland Road. On the night of 30th September 1940 a bomb fell on the dump showering fragments of the railings over the surrounding area. The next morning people found their roofs and gardens impaled by spear like bits of railing which had been flung high into the air by the explosion. Many of the dumps remained long after the war as it was found that much of the metal collected was unsuitable for war use. There was a first aid post in Croyland Road which also suffered from this bombing incident.

On the night of 15th October the pipeline carrying water from the New River at Southbury Road was hit by a bomb at Park Avenue causing severe flooding that eventually spread as far as the Hertford Road. 2000 soldiers dug out the filled in section of the original course and within twenty four hours water was flowing again. Restoration of the water supply was completed by 6th November. Due to the Blitz it was imperative that the water was reconnected quickly to ensure a supply of water to put out any fires. At the time it was widely thought to be an act of sabotage rather than a bomb but this couldn't be denied at the time due to censorship. The correct version was published at the end of the war. In 1941 a British Restaurant was set up in St Peter's Church

6 Site of Edmonton Town Hall



In March 1939, in preparation for a war that was becoming increasingly inevitable, an ARP exhibition was staged in the Town Hall; attracting 2000 visitors a day. There were demonstrations of the work of the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) and the ARP and displays of Warden's equipment, helmets, respirators, bombs, pumps and other items. Railings around the

Town Hall were removed for salvage in 1941. The Tottenham and Edmonton Weekly Herald of 5th December reported that "... the improvement is generally admired" as it enabled the building to be seen to better advantage. The Town Hall was floodlit to celebrate VJ Day in August 1945.

7 All Saints Church



There has been a church on this site since at least 1136. After the First World War the Lady Chapel became a War Memorial to the men of the Parish who had died. On 16th October 1940 a landmine fell in nearby Granham Gardens and the church's stained glass windows were blown out. Salvaged pieces of the glass were later incorporated into the windows in the Lady Chapel.

8 Lambs Institute



ARP members from 'C' Division staged a Noel Coward farce 'Hay Fever' at the Lamb's Institute. According to the local paper it was a triumph over the odds owing to the difficulty of arranging rehearsals with all the actors working shifts.

10 Latymer Road, Harrow Drive, Stanley Road, Tiltotson Road

The new Fire Station was opened in 1941. It was equipped with state of the art alarm system and modern equipment. At the opening Mayor Lacey stressed how important the new station would be to the civilian population who due to the threat of bombing had been brought into the war as never before.



These roads experienced bombing of varying severity. On 17th October 1940 there was bombing on Latymer Road. On 7th September 1940 there was some minor bombing which left an unexploded bomb in Stanley Road. On 31st October 1943 high explosives were dropped on Tiltotson Road, a gas main was set on fire and 4 people were trapped. Robert Blount of Tiltotson Road was the only known fatality. Harrow Drive suffered minor bombing on 16th June 1944.

11 Chichester Road

There is a blue plaque on number 133 honouring Charles Coward. Coward was a sergeant in the Royal Artillery who became a prisoner of war. He made several escape attempts. During one attempt he was presented with an Iron Cross whilst posing as a wounded German soldier. In 1943 he was transferred to Auschwitz labour camp five miles from the Auschwitz extermination camp. He smuggled himself into Auschwitz Birkenau by exchanging clothes with one of the Jewish prisoners and witnessed the conditions there. He helped around 400 prisoners to escape from Auschwitz testifying at the Nuremberg trials. He also sent coded messages back to England giving military information including about the manufacture of long range missiles. He was declared a Righteous Among the Nations in 1963 by the Israeli Government and had a tree planted in his honour at Yad