

**Westbourne During World War Two.**  
**Extracts from the Log Book of Western Senior Girls' School**  
**(now Westbourne Academy)**

**1939**

October 2nd. The Western Senior Girls' School opened at 9 a.m. this morning. All the staff were present as well as 297 girls.

October 3rd. Trench drill taken – gas masks fitted.

October 16th. Ilford, London Evacuees – 51 children and 3 teachers admitted.

**1940**

May 14th. School reopened this morning after a shortened Whitsun Holiday caused by the seriousness of the National situation.

May 24th. Empire Day. The usual service and Empire lesson were taken in the morning. In the afternoon the school assembled in the Assembly hall for an Empire Play after saluting the flag in the playground at 3 p.m.

July 8th. Ms. Hornblow visited the school to look for any places suitable in the building for storing bottled fruit.

September 16th. Children sent home in the morning to deliver letters to parents re further evacuation and asking parents to attend a meeting at Springfield or Whitton schools.

October 18th. Children did not leave school until 5.45 p.m. owing to the 'All Clear' signal not going until 5.30 p.m.

**1941**

January 27th. 40 girls and 2 teachers went to the A.R.P. centre at Argyle Street to see a film dealing with fire fighting.

October 29th. Essay on salvage written by all the school in the morning session.

**1942.**

March 5th. The girls attended the films shown at the Public Hall in the, 'Dig For Victory' Campaign.

**1943.**

February 1st. Miss Cordle absent this afternoon, after an accident in the kitchen. An explosion occurred and Miss Cordle received burns to her hair and face.

May 24th. 'Wings For Victory' week began today, the girls bringing £37.3.11 towards the school target of £100.

April 20th. Air Raid warning. 11.35 – 12. Plane brought down in sight of school – off Clacton. (This was a German Ju88 special test aircraft shot down by a Spitfire at 11.50).

June 8th. This school chosen (by ballot) to send a girl to present the cheque from Ipswich for the 'Aid for Russia' Fund.

November 8th. School re-opened. The art room having been completely gutted by fire, the Science rooms partially so, and the Craft and Geography Rooms below flooded. The fire occurred shortly after 7 p.m. on the 3rd November as the result of an enemy incendiary attack. Normal class work is suspended while the girls help to put stock in order.

**1944.**

June 16th. Trench drill taken at 3.15 because of news of 'pilotless planes'.

August 28th. Repair to our war damage continues slowly and water is lying in the Needlework Room and it comes along the bottom corridor.

November 23rd. Thanksgiving address given to the girls by a Chaplain of the American Army Air Force.

**1945.**

May 8th. V.E. day. School closed.

May 10th. Pupils removed protective muslin from the school windows and lit a bonfire in the field to finish a day of celebration.

DARTIME ALERTS					
DATE	Start	Arr. - Contd.	Date	At.	At.
1.1.40	2.30 p.m.	3 p.m.	12 Apr	2 p.m.	2.30 p.m.
13.1.40	9.50 a.m.	9.40 a.m.	25 Apr	2 p.m.	5.45 p.m.
18.1.40	2.10 p.m.	5 p.m.	28 Apr	8.25 a.m.	8.10 a.m.
20.1.40	11.35 a.m.	1 p.m.	1.5.40	1.45 p.m.	2 p.m.
	1.50 p.m.	2.45 p.m.	7 May	2.55 p.m.	3.15 p.m.
20.1.40	10.35 a.m.	12.45 p.m.	16 May	2.30 p.m.	3.15 p.m.
26.1.40	1.45 p.m.	2.10 p.m.	19 "	11.35 a.m.	12.4 p.m.
6.3.40	12.35 p.m.	2.20 p.m.	25 "	8.50 a.m.	9.10 a.m.
7.3.40	10.35 a.m.	12 noon	28 "	8.55 a.m.	12.5 p.m.
	12.15 p.m.	2.5 p.m.			
16.4.40	1.50 p.m.	2.10 p.m.			
18.4.40	2.20 p.m.	2.55 p.m.	8 Jun	1.20 p.m.	2 p.m.
19.4.40	2 p.m.	2.40 p.m.	3 July	4.30 p.m.	4.55 p.m.
20.4.40	10 "	10.20 a.m.			
21.4.40	10 "	10.20 a.m.	18.9.42	4.25 p.m.	2.45 "
15.5.40	10.30 p.m.	10.55 p.m.	2.9.43	4.30 p.m.	4.45 p.m.
25.5.40	9 "	9.20 a.m.	23.7.43	11 a.m.	11.45 a.m.
	9.40 p.m.	9.40 p.m.		2.40 p.m.	3 p.m.
1.7.40	10.35 a.m.	11 a.m.	26.8.43	11 a.m.	11.45 a.m.
8.7.40	1.45 p.m.	11.45 p.m.	1.10.43	6.35 a.m.	9.15 a.m.

