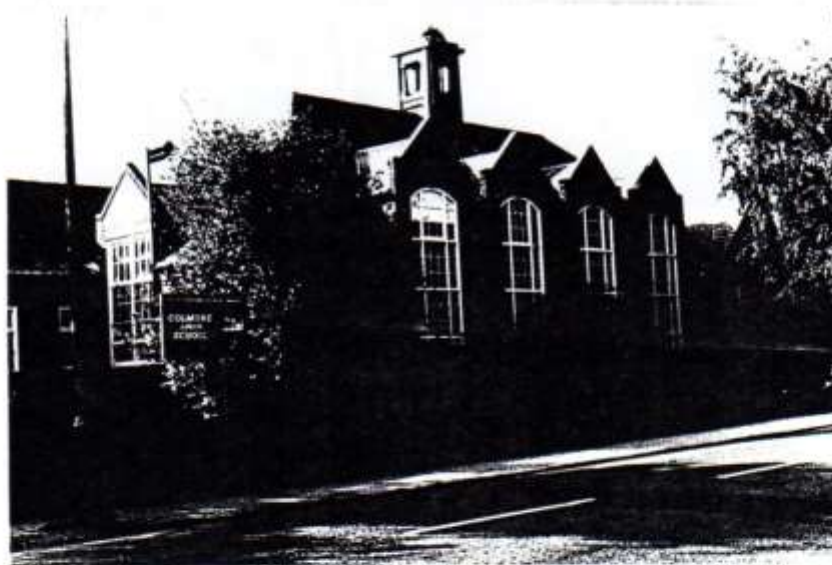


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KING'S HEATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



COLMORE ROAD BOYS'/JUNIOR SCHOOL

1909-1957

BY

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The building of Colmore Road Schools, known originally as Grove Road Schools, was ordered by the Northfield and Kings Norton District Council in 1908 to alleviate the overcrowding in Kings Heath school. The White House in Kings Heath park was rented while the building was in progress and the infants stayed there until their own building was completed in 1911. However, the older boys and girls were moved in 1909 and accommodated in a temporary building in the future playground while waiting for the permanent school to be finished.

Thus on September 13th 1909 Mr George Howard Mann, headmaster, opened the school with 269 boys and girls aged 8 - 13 and six teachers. There were six standards of about 45 pupils each: Mr Harold Dodd with Sts VI and VII; Mr Raymond Rhodes with St V; Miss Helen Mitchell with St IV; Mr John Sutton with St III; Miss Mary Brookes with St II and Miss Mabel Freeman with St I. All were certificated teachers except Mr Rhodes and he obtained his certificate the following March. There were, however, alterations in the first month as Mr Sutton was returned to Kings Heath school so Miss Mitchell moved to St III and Mr Ernest Ludlow came to take St IV. Teaching must have been difficult enough without these changes with the sounds of the building work going on and the effort to keep the youngsters away from the sand and cement and all the other temptations to be found in the builders' paraphernalia.

A consignment of books arrived: Highroads to History; Excelsior Readers; the World and its People; McDougall's Suggestive Arithmetic. Modelling and brushwork were introduced and games played during the drill lessons although I am not sure where as space must have been limited.

At the end of October the better off children brought left off clothes which were distributed to the poorer ones - no comment was given on what the latter thought of it. At Christmas each class had a tree and presents were distributed but only to the poorer ones and no comment on what the better off thought of that.

There were three half day holidays during the term for good attendance and in December the school was closed for a special poll - for or against Kings Heath being annexed to Birmingham.

Bad weather in January affected the attendance and in February

came yet another change in staffing when Mr Dodd was moved to Tiverton Road and Mr Sutton returned from Kings Heath. The headmaster protested to the education office but to no avail.

Three cases of diphtheria were diagnosed in April so the health visitor examined all throats and excluded another four children.

On May 9th the headmaster spoke to the children about the death of Edward VII and the following resolution was sent to the Home Secretary: "The children attending the public elementary schools in Northfield and Kings Norton Urban District have received with deep regret the sad news of the death of their beloved King Edward VII and desire respectfully to tender to his Majesty King George, to her Majesty Queen Alexandra and to all members of the Royal Family their sincere sympathy with them in their time of sorrow" As a sign of respect the school was closed for the afternoon.

There were official visits to the school - the school doctor for regular medical checks and the Rev. Roxburgh, Vicar of Kings Heath church, who commented on the excellent work done by the girls in their cookery classes held in the parish hall kitchen.

On Saturday July 9th nine candidates sat the Labour examination at Stirchley school and at the end of the month school closed for a three week summer break.

New equipment was provided for the new academic year: readers for each class; squared paper for graphic arithmetic and a cyclostyle for copying purposes. Nature study lessons were taken in Kings Heath park when the weather was favourable. Paper folding and cardboard modelling were introduced in art lessons and plasticine for hand work.

One of His Majesty's Inspectors visited in October and made the following report: "The temporary building of iron and wood was opened as a mixed school on part of the site of a large three department school now nearly completed. There is a mixed lot of children but good progress has been made. Spelling is the weakest subject. Pencil and brush drawing is praiseworthy and some good modelling has been produced by the younger children. Provision should be made for wood work for

and more domestic science for the girls." The H.M.I gave no indication, of course, as to where either subject could be fitted into a temporary and overcrowded building.

A chief assistant master was appointed in December and he, Mr Ward, taught the boys of St IV and Miss Freeman the girls. A collection of £1 12s 6d (£1.72½p) was made for the new Children's Hospital but a mumps epidemic nearly turned the school into an isolation hospital itself and school closed a month early for Christmas.

1911 opened with the inevitable staff changes as Mr Rhodes was moved to Stirchley and Mr Albert Legg replaced him.

A set of dumb bells was received for the boys' drill (not suitable for girls?) and toothbrushes for sale to both sexes.

In February is the first mention of a school visit when 152 children and three teachers went to the city to the art gallery and town hall. The log book does not say how they travelled but a later visit was made by train which, with one teacher to 50 children, would be easier than by tram.

During the Easter holidays the temporary buildings were removed and the school separated into their own brand new departments: the girls in the middle block and the boys at the end which would later be the junior school. To mark the occasion the boys had new caps. Mr Mann remained as headmaster with Mr Ward as chief assistant; Miss Brookes; Mr Legg; Mr Ludlow and Mr Sutton. There were 197 boys so classes averaged 39 which was small for that time.

Empire Day on May 24th was celebrated with special lessons and the singing of patriotic songs.

In June Coronation medals were distributed and the whole school went by special train to the cinema to see the Naval Review and the pictures of the Coronation. Unfortunately, the Board of Education refused to sanction the visit as of educational value so attendance marks were not allowed and the staff lost a half day's pay. A picture of George V was bought by a small sub from the pupils and hung on the hall. A picture of Queen Mary was bought later.

Four boys sat for secondary school admission and one gained a scholarship. This was the beginning of many academic successes.

The school opened on August 22nd after the summer holiday but minus the headmaster who was stranded in Whitby as a result of a rail strike. Mr Legg had been transferred to another school. Mr Arthur Bacon came as a certificated teacher and Mr William Houlday as a temporary uncertificated teacher.

Several boys were examined who might have benefitted from transfer to the newly opened Uffculme Open Air school but no report is given of anyone moving.

A quantity of science apparatus was received but the log book does not mention any details of whether there was a special area for science but a little later chemicals for experiments in elementary science came so presumably there must have been.

50 senior scholars were taken to an evening performance of the Taming of the Shrew at the Theatre Royal. Such visits to productions of Shakespeare became regular occurrences.

On November 1st the school was closed for the election of councillors to Greater Birmingham and on November 9th Kings Heath was annexed and the school moved under the jurisdiction of the City's Education Department. Amongst the books received that week was "Greater Birmingham." Another acquisition was a piano and a gift of 7s 6d (32½p) from the parents of two boys to purchase a football.

January 1912 was a bad month attendance wise: deep snow, whooping cough and chicken pox all contributed to keeping the attendance at a little over 50%.

In February the senior boys visited an exhibition of Students' work at the R.S.A and a month later their own work in Brushwork, paper folding and plasticine modelling was exhibited at Bingley Hall.

An eclipse of the sun in April gave the boys a practical lesson as they were taken into the playground to view it. Only the top classes, however, attended the lecture given by a member of the Band of Hope on "Alcohol and its use." Other visitors to the school included Sir George Kendrick, chairman of the Birmingham Education Department; Mr Butler H.M.I and Mr Morris who demonstrated free arm handwriting.

School reopened after the summer holidays with 379 boys on roll, the headmaster and eight teachers. There were eight standards: Ia, Ib, IIa, IIb, III, IV, V and VI and VII together.

This gave a class size of 48 so the headmaster asked for more desks as many were sitting three to a desk but it was December before 25 locker type desks arrived.

On October 21st, according to the requirements of the Education Committee, Sts 1a and 1b i.e the youngest pupils were dismissed at 4p.m. Two days later the regulation was cancelled and they left at 4.30pm with everyone else. Mr Mann made no comment.

Four boys received bronze medals in December for three years perfect attendance and a collection for the Birmingham Mail Christmas Tree Fund raised £1.2s (£1.10p) in the same month.

Two public events affected the school in the spring term of 1913. In February an account of the disaster to Captain Scott's polar expedition was read at Assembly and in April the school closed when the Duchess of Argyle laid the foundation stone of the new children's hospital and unveiled a statue of Edward VII.

There were successes for the school: 9 boys sat the secondary school examination and all passed with two scholarships; one boy came third in the list for a free scholarship to Lawrence's College and another obtained a free pass to day classes at the School of Art. Four boys also sat an examination in connection with the Fallow's history prize and another for the Scott exhibition.

During 1913 the school found a corporate identity with the formation of a school choir in May, a drill squad in July and a football club in September. A visit from one of His Majesty's Inspectors resulted in the following report: "Little formal grammar has been attempted but will receive attention in the future. Reading and recitation quite good; composition, mental and written arithmetic excellent. Singing is good and good use made of clay modelling." I'm not sure whether the opening sentence was a threat or a promise.

Following a prize giving in November an Honours Board was obtained to hang in the hall and record the ever increasing honours being obtained.

1914 began peacefully enough with the usual school routine of medical examinations, visits to the Art Gallery and Nature Study at the Lickey Hills. A quantity of science apparatus came including a microscope. Visits were made by Councillor

Fryer and Mr Bethune - Baker to inspect the school with a view to redecorating.

Life changed, however, when school reopened after the summer holiday on August 14th as war had been declared on August 4th. Four teachers were missing as Messrs Ward, Bacon, Locker and Edwards had all joined the Birmingham Battalion and it was over a month before they were replaced. A further blow came in October when Mrs Jamieson went for an operation at the Women's Hospital in Showell Green Lane and was initially absent for three months. She, in fact, resigned owing to ill health in March 1915.

The boys made their contribution to the war effort by collecting money to buy wool for the girls in the adjacent school to knit comforters for the soldiers!

By Christmas the staff consisted of Mr Mann, Mr Margerson and seven women teachers. The headmaster commented that his examination of classes had found a falling of standards but only to be expected considering the upheaval and changes of staff in the previous three months. He didn't know of the even greater upheaval that would come in April of 1915.

Before that, in January 1915 the dentist visited and low attendance resulted as so many had to have teeth extracted. It is to be hoped that the same ones did not succumb to the ensuing measles epidemic.

An H.M.I report in March was favourable: "Difficulties have arisen over a change of teachers as four teachers are in the army - now more settled and under the efficient supervision of the headmaster will doubtless maintain a good level of work." Unfortunately the settled period did not last as in April the government ordered the closure of all three depts. so that the buildings could be used as a military hospital and on the afternoon of the 16th school was closed so that all stock could be moved to Kings Heath school where for the next four years the pupils attended part time - four weeks in the morning from 8.45 to 12.45 and four weeks afternoons from 1.15 to 5.15. Despite the difficulties the school continued to gain scholarships throughout the war years.

The attendance in February and March 1916 was affected by severe snow storms and blizzards but the better weather in

May saw a visit by 150 boys and five teachers to the Temperance Hall to see the submarine pictures. This was an afternoon visit after a morning in school. IN the same month 200 badges to commemorate Shakespeare's tercentenary were sold.

Money was collected throughout the year: £2 4s (£2.20p) for the War Fund; £1 4s 6d (£1.22½p) for the Jack Cornwell Memorial Fund; £4 17s 6d (£4.77½p) for the Belgian Children's Fund. MOney was also collected for a wreath for a boy in the school who had died.

1917 again opened in deep snow. On January 8th 154 boys were absent and another 45 were sent home with wet feet. The snow continued through into February.

After Easter Mr Edwards and Mr Bacon returned to school presumably invalided out of the army although the log book doesn't say so. However, they both had to attend a military medical examination in October.

In December Mr Butler H.M.I inspected the school. His report said that because of half time schooling secular work was reduced to a minimum. No subject had been dropped and homework was encouraged. He made no mention of the scholarships still being obtained or that an eleven year old had been awarded first prize in the Fallow's History Competition -£2 worth of books.

A branch of the Junior League of Anchor was started at the request of the Food Controller and every boy joined and was allowed to wear a badge.

1918 opened with snow storms reducing the attendance to 50%. IN April attendance was affected again by an epidemic of mumps and in July there is the first mention of influenza. This world wide epidemic which killed more than the war had done had reached Kings Heath and when Armistice was declared on November 11th only a third of the boys was present to assemble in the playground to be addressed by the headmaster and sing patriotic songs before being sent home. School closed for Christmas on December 6th as the epidemic was still raging.

Things improved slightly in 1919. Admittedly there was heavy snow in March and the school had to close in February as there was no fuel but two more teachers returned from the army and there was a five week holiday in the summer.



In November 1919 the school returned to Colmore Road and resumed full time education. The occasion was marked by the wearing of a new school cap.

The headmaster reported that the boys were taking a weekly newspaper called "The Children's Newspaper."

There were two collections in 1920 for the Lord Mayor's Fund for the starving children of Europe of both money and tinned goods.

In April two teachers and eighty senior boys went to the swimming baths and the next day 100 junior boys and two teachers. It doesn't say whether this became a regular occurrence or to which baths they went. NOT everyone was included but there is no hint of how they were picked or how two teachers were expected to cope with so many youngsters.

The second anniversary of the Armistice was observed on November 11th with a short service and two minutes silence.

School visits to the theatre began again in 1920 and there was also a visit to the Palestine exhibition in July 1921.

In August 1921 Mr Ben Coppock was appointed; he remained when the school became a junior department in 1930 and retired in 1957 on his 66th birthday.

In February 1922 three students from Springfield College came for teaching practice - the first mention of students in the school. IN the same month the school closed for the wedding of Princess Mary and £3 was collected for the Wedding Fund to go to the children's hospital.

In May the second eleven football team won the Junior Shield.

Following the summer holidays in 1922 there was an alteration in teaching methods in that the two top standards began specialisation. Instead of the form teacher taking all the subjects the two classes were taken by different teachers for different subjects - a method more usual in a grammar school. Mr Ward taught English and History; Mr Bacon taught Geography and Art; Mr Margerson taught Arithmetic, Geometry and Singing; Mr Lecke taught P.T; Mr Coppock taught Elementary Science and Nature Study; Mr Chesham taught Poetry and General Information. Mr Coppock also took Mrs Greenhough's class for drill and games while she taught singing to his class.

A visit was paid in October by 300 boys and 6 teachers to

The Sturchley picture house to see a film on life in Australia.

1923 was marked by two extra holidays - the first in April for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York and in June for a visit to Birmingham by the Prince of Wales.

IN May 1924 the school was redecorated - only ten years after the idea was first considered. In June the school was closed for the day when 94 boys, teachers and parents visited the World Exhibition at Wembley.

Two events marred the latter part of 1925. In September a boy took some phosphorus from the store room and ignited his clothes. The headmaster "quelled the flames with a wet towel." He was treated by teachers and a local doctor and taken by motor ambulance to hospital where he was detained. There is no further report so presumably he recovered. More serious was the report of the death of one of the staff, Mr Wensley, on December 23rd. He had been ill since October. The headmaster said that he would be a distinct loss to the school and would have had a brilliant future.

Throughout the twenties the numbers of boys obtaining passes and scholarships continued to rise with numbers ranging between 25 and 30 every year. For instance in 1926 twenty five boys gained grammar school places with 17 scholarships and one boy was top in the sitting for Moseley and he received a Junior Scott exhibition worth £90. There was also the regular routine of school visits, sports days, cricket and football matches etc. One visit in June 1930 was to an experimental camp school near Oxford when Mr Leonard and 31 boys went for three weeks. The acting headmaster and Mr Coppock visited them and found them "happy and in excellent condition."

At Christmas 1929 Mr Mann retired having been headmaster since the beginning of the school in 1909. Mr Ward became acting head for the Spring and Summer terms of 1930 while the school underwent an enormous change. The Authority had decided to close the school as a boys' school and reopen it as a mixed junior school taking children aged 8 to 11. At 11 the boys would go either to a grammar school or to Kings Heath school and the girls would go to either grammar school or to the senior girls' block on the same site. The District Inspector came in June to interview the staff as they had a choice of either

remaining with the younger children or moving to stay with the older boys. Parents were consulted in July.

Thus on August 25th 1930 Colmore Road Council School Junior Department opened with Mr Alfred Howard as headmaster. He had: 195 boys from the previous boys' department + 86 infants and 7 from other schools.
120 girls from the previous girls' department + 79 infants and 7 from other schools.
288 boys and 206 girls making a total of 494.
The classes were divided:

Class 1	Mr Ward (Chief Assistant)	50 boys (to equalise other classes)
Class 2	Mr Coppock	27 boys 23 girls
Class 3	Miss Greenfield	28 boys 22 girls
Class 4	Mrs Westlake	26 boys 23 girls
Class 5	Miss Millar	25 boys 20 girls
Class 6	Mr Moseley	28 boys 22 girls
Class 7	Miss Doggett	26 boys 24 girls
Class 8	Miss Fardon	27 boys 23 girls
Class 9	Miss Greenhaugh	27 boys 23 girls
Class 10	Miss Brookes	24 boys 26 girls

All classes except 4 and 5 numbered 50 and with only eight class rooms two classes had to be accommodated in the hall.

The first term proceeded with one tragic incident when a boy, playing at home with his brother, was struck on the head and died. Mr Coppock was absent in November as his son had diphtheria. He returned to school two days later but had to live away from home during the period of exclusion as a dip. contact.

A letter was sent to the superintendant of police at Kings Heath police station re the dangerous junction of Featherstone, Tenbury and Alcester Roads where there had been two serious accidents and requesting an officer to be on duty there. This was granted and a policeman resplendent on his horse directed the traffic.

There were end of term tests in spelling, composition, arithmetic and intelligence and an Open afternoon to which parents were invited.

The school reopened in January 1931 with Mr Ward as acting head owing to the illness of Mr Howard. Miss Doggett returned

to the girls' school and was replaced by Miss Bounden. In February there was a transfer of 42 boys and 7 girls to the senior schools; class 1 ceased to exist and a new class 3b was formed between classes three and four.

On February 10th came the news of the death of the headmaster, Mr Howard. Messrs Ward, Coppock, Moseley and Westlake attended the funeral.

A month later there was a further change in staffing. Miss Rowe was appointed in place of Mr Westlake who moved to Golden Hillock Road school as chief assistant and Mrs Howard, widow of the former headmaster, came on supply for two weeks. She was appointed to the permanent staff and eventually retired in 1953.

Mr Ward left in May having been transferred to Kings Heath school and Mr Arthur Downes was appointed headmaster. He was obviously a keen gardener as he took Miss Millar's class, she being absent owing to the death of her father, into the shrubbery next to the school to pull out the weeds and make it more tidy. He took the top four classes together for a moral lesson using Kipling's 'Glory of the Garden' as his text and he organised a wild flower display when the hall was filled with 173 bunches of wild flowers which "all looked delightful." An eight year old boy was presented with a prize for the best bunch. Parents were invited to see them and about 80 came.

It is amazing to think of children in Kings Heath being able to find wild flowers although I can remember the land opposite the school in Howard Road being derelict until the houses were built in the late thirties and I regularly picked May blossom to take home from the bushes there. It always finished up in the back yard, put there by my very superstitious mother.

Mr Jackson, H.M.I visited the school to look at the time table with regard to time allowed for various subjects including hand writing and to see what portion of English lessons was devoted to 'mechanical' writing.

At the end of June the time table was suspended and there were examinations in hand writing, spelling, composition, reading and mental and written arithmetic. Reports were sent to parents with an invitation to attend an Open Day in July. 300 parents

came to see full sets of exam papers in a case which each child had made and decorated. There was an exhibition of drawing, handwork, needle work etc and the window sills were decorated with flowers brought by the children. A collection of £6.7s.6d (£6.37½p) was made for school fund.

A staff meeting was held on the following day and it was decided to continue the merit list and supplement it with stars for good work. It was also decided to adopt the team system used in P.T. in other subjects.

Assembly that week was accompanied by violinists from the Senior Girls' school. Obviously impressive as 25 junior pupils began violin lessons with a teacher supplied by the Education Committee.

On July 23rd all children moved to their new classes when 79 boys moved to Kings Heath Seniors; 62 girls to Colmore Road Seniors and 9 boys and 1 girl to grammar school. 150 infants moved up and then everyone went home for a well earned four week break.

School reopened in August with ten classes. Harvest Festival was held in September when large quantities of garden produce was brought and, after a service, sold back to the parents. £10.17s (£10.85p) was sent to the N.U.T charities' fund.

The same month Mr Downes and Mr Smith took class 1 by charabanc to Frankley water works and a walk round the reservoirs.

October half term was extended by one day for the General Election and on their return the school was told of the death of Miss Ward, headmistress of the infants' school. Mr Downes attended the funeral with a wreath from the staff. He spoke in Assembly of Miss Ward as most of the children would have known her and there was a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

On November 11th Mr Downes conducted an Armistice Day service including the two minute silence at 11am. The sale of poppies realised £5.2s (£5.10p).

There were end of term tests and a visit from the dentist when 118 needed treatment so the head gave a special lesson on 'Teeth' to classes 1 - 4 and then repeated it for the rest.

For Christmas the classes entertained one another with songs or recitations and on the last day, December 23rd there was a

show from Mr Daniels, conjuror and ventriloquist and class 1 acted "The Pied Piper" in costume.

1932 opened with another change of staff as Mr Smith was appointed chief assistant at Bushmore Farm Junior school in Pitmaston Road and Mr Price from Hope Street was appointed in his place.

There were two special visitors to the school that term. In January Mr Thompson, an American Negro, talked about Negro history and life in America and sang Negro songs and spirituals. In February Mr Kirkpatrick, representative for the Midland Society for the Blind, talked about schools for blind children.

On March 17th the head talked about St Patrick in Assembly and presented shamrock to every girl called Patricia in the school. Empire Day on May 24th was also marked by a short talk and special class lessons.

During the summer term Mr Coppock and Miss Forden attended a Junior games course at Stechford and Cole Bank playing fields respectively.

Just before the Whitsun break the children went to the Senior Girls' school to see the plays staged for the Midland Music Festival and the following day to the Kings Norton picture house to see "Life of David Livingstone" - not wholly recreational as there had been lessons beforehand and questions afterwards.

Miss Davey from Yardley Wood was appointed chief assistant in June.

Also in June the school nurse visited "with a view to detection of vermin" as the log book put it. Unfortunately 11 girls had to be excluded. Later in the same month Mr Downes took a party of 46 children by charabanc to the Wrekin where they climbed "right to the top."

The weather was not good in July when the Kings Norton District sports were postponed on the 6th, 8th and 11th due to rain. They were finally held on the evening of the 15th when the boys won the Christopher Cadbury Challenge Shield being best out of fifteen schools. The runners up were Bournville and Pineapple.

Two Open Days were held when parents came to look at exam papers, exercise books, craft etc. There was also a programme of singing, dancing, performance of a play and games in the playground.

116 children left at the end of term with 19 going to King Edward's New St or King Edward's Camp hill or Kings Norton or Moseley.

The Autumn term 1932 opened with 499 children divided into 10 classes. On August 31st Miss Rowe, the previous chief assistant, retired and received as leaving gifts a car rug from the staff and a crystal necklace from the children.

Harvest Festival was in September and in November the head spoke of the League of Nations at Assembly. Playtime was brought forward and the children assembled at 10.40 when the headmaster sang to the children and the Columbia record specially prepared for Armistice Day was played on the gramophone. After the two minutes silence hymns were sung and prayers said. Miss Marks and Mr Goose H.M.I. were present.

The two inspectors presented their report at the end of a two day inspection. "The school is overcrowded with large classes and two of them in the hall. The home environment of the children has produced self confidence and self control with eager interest and ready of speech."

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs Goodby) visited and spoke to the children. The next day, the last day of the term, the school was entertained by Mr Charles Duvall ventriloquist and Mr Downes played the hand bells.

Icy weather in January 1933 caused a boy to fall while sliding in the playground and break his arm. Mr Downes took him home and then took him and his mother by car to Selly Oak. Later in the month two special buses took 116 children and 7 teachers to the Rep in Station St to see Alice in Wonderland.

On January 31st Miss Brookes retired having been at the school since its opening in 1909. She received a leather and sealskin handbag from present and past staff and an umbrella from the children. She was replaced by Miss Ingram.

On Saturday February 4th a social evening for parents was held "to foster good will amongst parents and teachers" and to raise money to replenish the pictures in the school. There was a concert, refreshments and a novelty whist drive. All the staff and 123 parents came and £9.18s (£9.90p) was raised.

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On February 24th only 240 came to school because of a severe snowstorm and most of those had wet feet and stockings and so were sent home again. 395 got there the next day and 414 by the afternoon - out of a total of 499.

On March 24th there was the first mass inoculation against diphtheria. 183 were inoculated - "a few fainted but otherwise there were no ill effects." The nurse came two days later to ensure that all was well but the dentist on the next day found 283 needing treatment so the head repeated his lesson on 'Teeth.' The second and third inoculations were held in April and May.

Another social evening for parents was held on March 25th and this time the Lord Mayor and his wife attended. The prizes for the novelty whist drive and the refreshments were given by the parents. £8.18s.3d (£8.91p) was raised for school funds.

An epidemic of mumps reduced class sizes in April but this was nothing compared to the chaos when the school was decorated in May. Classes 3 and 4 were removed from the hall and put in the playground shed and "allowed liberty and discretion in the time table during the emergency." Outdoor measuring was done for arithmetic and there was no lack of things to draw. The classes took turns in the shed as their room was done and fortunately (or unfortunately according to your point of view) the painting was finished during half term.

On June 14th class 1 with Miss Davey and Miss Fardon attended an exhibition of elementary school drawing at the Society of Arts in New St. In the evening was the school sports to choose competitors for the district sports. Reds won with 33½ points; Greens 19; Yellows 17½ and Blues 14.

After exams and reports two Open Days were held and out of the 104 pupils who left 39 went to various grammar schools.

In August 1933 there is the first mention of a grammar school intending teacher coming from the sixth form for two weeks informal teaching practice. I did this while at Kings Norton along with others. At the same time five University students came for formal teaching practice.

In early September the head was absent as his twin girls were ill with suspected scarlet fever. He was allowed to return after a fever specialist inspected the girls and said that there was no danger.

Armistice Day being a Saturday the two minute silence could not be observed but Mr Downes referred to it in Assembly and showed the children pictures of the school when it was used as a hospital during the war.

The Christmas festivities consisted of carol singing, post bag delivery and entertainment by Mr Marvelle, conjurer, assisted by a supply teacher on his violin and one of the pupils on the cornet. Chocolate from Messrs Kunzle was distributed to everyone.

In January 1934 the staff was informed that the number of classes was to be reduced from 10 to 9 and therefore one teacher would be lost. In February Mr Price ceased duty and was presented with a case of pipes, tobacco pouch and ½lb tobacco from the staff and a tobacco jar from the children. Despite the reduction there was still one class in the hall and each class numbered fifty or more.

The Christmas production at the Rep was 'Toad of Toad Hall' and 88 children and teachers went to see it.

During the Spring term the class rooms were decorated with bowls of daffodils and hyacinths "nurtured by Mrs Howard at home"; Mr Coppeck went on a P.T. course using the new 1933 syllabus and used classes 1 and 2 for a demonstration to the rest of the staff; a minute's silence was observed on the death of the King of the Belgians; a staff meeting was held to discuss methods of teaching multiplication; Miss Greenfield visited Peckham Road junior school on the Kingstanding Estate to see a new type of school building; Miss Millar visited Dolphin Lane junior in Acocks Green to see work done with the 'C' classes; the whole school went to the Kingsway to see a film on the Prince of Wales' Tour of the World and there was a chicken pox epidemic.

In the summer there was another rumour of a reduction in staffing but the decision was put off until 1935. There were the usual activities - school sports won by the Reds; District sports shield won by the boys; end of year tests and reports; parents' days etc.

There was an occasional day's holiday in June and the head took 37 from class 1 by charabanc to Whipsnade.

On December 4th, 5th and 6th the Schools' Music Festival organised by the National Union of Teachers and with Dr Shaw H.M.I.

as critic and conductor of the massed singing took place at Central Hall. A choir of forty youngsters conducted by the head sang on December 4th and was well received. A group of twenty then took part in the massed singing.

The highlight of 1935 was the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of King George and Queen Mary. On May 3rd Councillor Fryer and Councillor Miss Sant presented medals, spoke to the children and appropriate songs were sung. To mark the occasion a tree was planted in the playground. Everyone sang "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and the National Anthem and three cheers were given. May 6th was a public holiday. On May 7th there was normal (?) work in the morning and a 'Jubilee' feast in the afternoon. The allowance was 4d (1p) per child. Mr Sandon Moss of Ladypool Road catered and "excellent fare was provided." Lemonade, not tea, was drunk - the children's choice. There was a concert on the afternoon of May 10th to conclude Jubilee week. Finally on Saturday May 25th 123 children, the head and 7 staff and 23 parents went to London and visited Westminster Abbey, the Tower and the zoo.

At the end of the month Mr Ross "a traveller walking round the world" gave an interesting talk to the children on his strange and weird experiences.

In July teams were entered for the first time in the B'ham Federation of schools' sports competitions at Perry Barr. The girls reached the semi final in the relay.

In September the Education Office ordered that all children born in 1925 be given a standardised intelligence test. Only one child could sit in a dual desk so the rest had to sit on the floor. A week later instructions were sent for marking the test. The results were sent to the office.

In October there was an open meeting for parents when Dr Vera Fellowes, assistant medical officer of health, gave an interesting talk on the prevention of diphtheria and Dr Andes spoke of the work in the U.S.A to stamp the disease out. About 80 attended.

In November there was a day's holiday for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and one for the General Election.

The choir and an audience attended the schools' music festival at Central Hall in December and Christmas was celebrated with a conjuror and tea.

Royal events continued to affect the life of the school when, in January 1936, the top three classes went across to the girls' school to hear the proclamation of Edward VIII on the wireless and six days later the school closed for the funeral of George V. At the end of the year the head spoke briefly of the abdication.

In January 1937 Miss Fardon left to go to Pineapple school and was not replaced so at last there was no class in the hall. She was presented with a weekend bag and a reading lamp.

In February the head attended the funeral of Miss Pitman, a member of the girls' staff who had been killed in a road accident.

In April preparations began to celebrate the Coronation of George VI and Elizabeth. Dr Macmahon, musical adviser, visited the school to hear the mass singing of national songs and, as the weather was sunny, massed country dancing was practised in the playground. One of the parents provided a loud speaker and a microphone for the headmaster. On May 7th a Coronation message from the President of the Board of Trade was read to the children; souvenir mugs were distributed and school closed at lunch time for the Whitsun holiday. The school reopened on May 20th when the Coronation was celebrated in the playground with a fancy dress parade, community singing and country dancing. Parents, H.M.Is, D.Is, Dr Macmahon and seven actors from the Alexandra Theatre were all present. Everything was amplified. The next day a tea was provided by the Education Committee at 5d(2p) per head. May 24th was Empire Day so suitable hymns were sung and next day the Coronation decorations were taken down. Not quite the end, however, as the summer holiday was extended by one day as it was Coronation year.

Money collected at a couple of parents' social evenings was put to the purchase of a wireless and this was installed in June. Use was made of the schools' broadcasts e.g. classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 listened to Nature Study; classes 1 and 2 to World History; classes 3 and 4 to travel talks and class 8 to Music and movement. It was also used on Armistice Day when the whole school listened to the broadcast from the Cenotaph.

The following year in April 1938 a Standard Siemen's Film Projector was bought and films on hire from the Education Dept. were shown.

Colmore Road Junior School
KING'S HEATH, BIRMINGHAM

**Coronation
Celebrations
1937**

THURSDAY, MAY 20th
AT 3-0 p.m.

In the School Playground

. . . *Souvenir* . . .
Programme

A. S. [DOWNES - - -] [Head Master.]

Fancy Dress Parade

2-30 to 3-0 p.m.

JUDGING OF COSTUMES in the school by members of the Alexandra Theatre Repertory Players. (By courtesy of Leon Salberg, Esq.)

Prizes in each class awarded for :-

1. Best 1937 Coronation Costume.
2. " Historical Costume.
3. " British Empire Costume.
4. " Character from Literature.
5. " Present-day Celebrity.
6. " Advertisement.
7. " Novelty Costume.
8. " Costume costing 1/- or less.

3-0 p.m.

Parade in the School Playground

Prizewinners in each class will lead in the above order.

During the Parade a selection of Gramophone Records, amplified with Loud Speakers, will be given, arranged by Messrs. Scaris & Co.

Community Singing

Of National Songs by all the children in the School, led by P.C. Cook, of the City Police Band. (By permission of the Chief Constable).

SONGS :-

1. National Anthem.
2. The Jolly Waggoner.
3. The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond.
4. John Peel.
5. Blue Bell of Scotland.
6. Bobbie Shaftoe.
7. Here's a health unto His Majesty.

Display of English Country Dances

Massed Performance — 360 children taking part.

1. Brighton Camp.
2. Galopede.
3. Durham Reel.
4. Gathering Peascods.
5. Epping Forest.
6. Ruffy Tuft.
7. Sellengs Round.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES BY

W. E. HARDWICK, ESQ., M.B.E.

" GOD SAVE THE KING."

SCARRS & CO.

The only Radio Establishment in the district where you can hear and compare such famous and high quality receivers as H.M.V., R.G.D., BUSH, McMICHAEL, PYE, etc., etc.

Remember — Only one dealer in 15 can sell BUSH and McMICHAEL, and one in 9 — H.M.V.

Every make and type of Radio Receiver Serviced. The finest Testing Equipment and Experience in Birmingham at your disposal.

60 ALCESTER ROAD SOUTH

Phone: Highbury 2195. Also at King's Norton

Alexandra Theatre

JOHN BRIGHT ST., BIRMINGHAM

6-30

TWICE NIGHTLY

8-50

The Alexandra Repertory Company

PRESENT

A SEASON OF PLAYS

Prices of Admission 6d. to 2/-

Box Office Open :
10-0 to 10-0

Tele. No. MID. 1231

Advertisements on the back of the Coronation program.

In September 1938 a meeting was held with parents to discuss possible evacuation procedures. There were 200 children including brothers and sisters from other schools likely to be evacuated. A month later, however, the danger was averted and an extra day's holiday added to half term by the Education Dept "in recognition of services of teachers and behaviour of children during the European crisis."

In December Mr Hague, superintendent of attendance officers, discussed with the heads of the infants and junior schools the possible effects of the opening of Wheelers Lane school in February 1939.

A dog got into the playground before school on the morning of January 13th and managed to bite seven children who were sliding at the time! The police were informed and they interviewed the dog's owner but there was no further reference in the log book so presumably no one was badly bitten.

The same month the head's two daughters, as intending teachers, came for two weeks informal teaching practice.

Wheelers Lane school opened in February and 8 children left to go there but 11 were admitted from Kings Heath who reckoned it was "too far."

On May 25th news of the death of Mrs Greenhough was received only three weeks after the death of her sister. She would have been 60 in October. The school observed a minute's silence.

The school was redecorated in June but as there were no classes in the hall it was not quite such a horrendous affair.

In June the head went to see Dr Burns at the child guidance clinic about a boy who in a "brainstorm" had attacked Mr Moseley. The boy was readmitted but following an attack on the head Dr Burns agreed to his exclusion.

The end of term saw the usual tests, reports, sports etc. There were staff meetings about the Autumn term but all was wasted as war was declared on September 3rd. On Saturday August 26th the head and seven members of staff attended a meeting at Golden Hillock Road school having been recalled from holiday by wireless to stand by for evacuation. School opened on August 28th after the summer break but two teachers were at Greet school for an evacuation rehearsal. On Wednesday school closed by government order at the end of the afternoon session.

On Friday September 1st the head and five teachers accompanied an evacuation party from Greet school to Bishop's Cleeve near Cheltenham. The head stayed with Mr Trout, who had only started at the school on the 28th, to assist with the billeting. The other four staff returned home and two of them were sent to accompany a party from Golden Hillock to Worcester. On September 2nd the head and Mr Trout returned as the head of Greet school could cope as only 80 had been evacuated.

The school remained closed but the head and staff met at frequent intervals and undertook the following duties:

- a. Registration of small consumers of coal.
- b. Medical inspection arrangements for a second evacuation of over 2,000 children.
- c. Registration of Cotteridge schools' evacuation party.

On October 13th the chief education officer instructed the head to call a meeting of parents to discuss reopening the school on a voluntary basis. About 150 parents attended and agreed to the reopening despite the fact there were no air raid shelters. On October 17th 184 out of 370 attended + 18 from other schools. I was not amongst them as I had been evacuated privately with my next door neighbour's son to his aunt and uncle in Gloucester. He returned to the infant school at Christmas and I returned at Easter 1940 both of us in time for the bombing.

Gradually during November and December the numbers increased possibly because the expected bombing had not happened. At the end of term there was no Christmas tree but there was some entertainment and each child had a packet of sweets.

School reopened in January 1940 still on a voluntary basis but the shelters had been built in the playground so everyone came full time but finished at 3.30pm because of the black out. There was a meeting of the three heads of school re the allocation of shelter space but school was closed for five days on January 17th as there was no heat.

On January 29th only 17 children came as there had been 14 inches of snow, the severest fall this century, so they were sent home.

It was decided, as the weather and heating situation had improved, to open on a compulsory basis but as only 200 could be accommodated in the shelters it was decided to have only one

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Colmore Road Council School, King's Heath

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

REPORT FOR HALF-YEAR ENDING July 1940NAME Margaret Shepherd CLASS 3 B Year 3
Form 2
Class Group 1

SUBJECT.	TERM WORK.	EXAM.	
		Possible	Gained
ENGLISH			
(a) Reading	<u>B.</u>	50	<u>50</u>
(b) Handwriting	<u>B.</u>	25	<u>25</u>
(c) Spelling	<u>B.</u>	25	<u>25</u>
(d) Composition	<u>B.</u>	50	<u>46</u>
(e) General	<u>B.</u>	50	
ARITHMETIC			
(a) Mental	<u>B.</u>	50	
(b) Written	<u>B.</u>	50	<u>46</u>
DRAWING	<u>B.</u>	50	<u>20</u>
HISTORY	<u>B.</u>		
GEOGRAPHY	<u>B.</u>		
HANDWORK	<u>B.</u>		
NEEDLEWORK	<u>B.</u>		
TOTAL EXAM. MARKS		<u>250</u>	<u>212</u>

General Conduct and Progress:— Very satisfactory

Class Teacher

Head Teacher

Parent's Signature.....

class full time and the rest either morning or afternoon. On February 7th registers were marked for the first time since the previous September. Unfortunately school closed again at the end of the month as there was no heat.

On April 1st school reopened after the Easter break with me in attendance although the log book doesn't mention such an important event! The Education Office said that everyone could attend full time voluntarily and that the cloakrooms could be used as temporary shelters if necessary. On May 10th school closed for the week's Whitsun break but reopened on Government orders on May 14th following the invasion of Holland and Belgium. The next day all three depts had an air raid practice and the shelter space was re allocated and the junior school used 10 places in one of the senior girls' shelters.

At the end of term Mrs Howard was sent to Ross on Wye to relieve one of the evacuated teachers there and Mr Trout who had been at the school for twelve months was suspended from duty "by resolution of the City Council regarding conscientious objectors in their employ for the duration of the war." When the school reopened after two weeks summer holiday two supply teachers replaced Mrs Howard and Mr Trout.

Two days after the beginning of the term came the first mention of an air raid - August 14th from midnight to 3.30am. Only 141 attended the next morning and 269 in the afternoon out of a total of 379. There were night raids for the next four nights with a corresponding reduction in those attending.

Miss Davey left on August 20th to be married and Miss Garlick came on supply. On August 27th the night raid lasted from 10pm to 4am so only 58 reported in the morning. The siren sounded again at 1.40pm as the children were on their way to school after dinner (there were no school dinners). Many returned home but those who arrived were sent home again by the Special Police.

The raids continued nightly during September with the occasional day light warning. On October 3rd there was an alarm at 10.50am - shelters until 11.25; at 12.15 shelters to 1.15 and at 3.05 to 3.45. Irritating and boring as nothing could be done in the shelters except sing. There was now a full complement of shelters so full attendance was compulsory and despite nightly warnings attendance was fairly normal. The Autumn half term was extended to two weeks much, I am sure, to everyone's relief.

On the return on November 4th there was a raid from 1.20 to 2.10pm when a plane flew low over the neighbourhood and caused a great deal of damage in Kings Norton. On the 13th there was a warning at 4.10pm with a dog fight overhead and a great deal of gun fire and, no doubt, much shrapnel to be found.

Mrs Howard returned from Ross on Wye and Misses Garlick and Roberts were made permanent members of staff.

On November 20th there was a violent air raid lasting from 6.50pm to 4.15am. Miss Greenfield was absent next morning having been in a badly bombed area in Sparkbrook and had been evacuated on account of a delayed time bomb.

On Sunday November 24th following instructions received on the wireless on Saturday the head went to a meeting chaired by the chief education officer at 11am. It doesn't say where the meeting was held so I presume the Margaret St offices were still usable.

The C.E.O explained the situation regarding the interruption to the city's water supply and gave instructions for all heads to register for evacuation all children whose parents consent and whose homes have no water. Next day on Monday November 25th 20 children registered for evacuation and as the school's water supply had failed it was closed for the next five days. On the 28th the head attended a meeting at Acocks Green re evacuation when 39 registered and were taken next day to Sutton in Ashfield by the head, Miss Garlick, Miss Millar and Miss Roberts.

On December 2nd the school reopened with Miss Ingram in charge + four other teachers so the classes were amalgamated. On Dec 6th Mr Coppock and his wife accompanied 16 evacuees to Kirkby in Ashfield. The head returned on December 12th but Miss Greenfield was absent as her house had been badly damaged in the previous night's raid. 124 children were present after a raid which had lasted 14 hours. School closed for Christmas on December 20th with no mention of festivities - I imagine everyone was too exhausted.

The school reopened on January 6th 1941 with 222 present out of 279 and five staff so the classes were again amalgamated. Miss Ingram was absent having applied for three months leave of absence as both her parents were ill. Both Miss Garlick and Miss Roberts were in Sutton in Ashfield and the head had spent

five days there during the holidays to relieve them. The raids continued and deep snow at the end of the month reduced the attendance to 39%.

In February Miss Ingram resigned as there was no possibility of her returning to school. At the beginning of March the head took four boys to the evacuation party at Sutton in Ashfield and took the opportunity to visit the other 37 pupils there.

Miss Rogers was absent in May with a very unpatriotic attack of German measles and was appointed to the permanent staff in July having been on supply since February. Twelve days later she was called to trial at West Bromwich having failed to report for a medical exam for military service. She returned next day to announce that she was getting married and had permission to cease duty on July 14th. This was not the end of her story, however, as she was reappointed as a supply teacher from August 11th as Mrs Beedle. Women teachers having to resign on marriage did not apply in war time.

The end of term tests were held but reports only sent to the parents of the leavers to economise the use of paper.

The summer holiday was only two weeks not the usual four but more normal schooling prevailed as the main bombing had virtually ceased. On September 22nd Sir Ernest Canning, Chairman of the National Savings Committee and his wife visited to congratulate the children on saving over £1,000. Certificates were presented to 48 children who had purchased them during the previous three weeks. Alderman Fryer and Councillor Miss Sant were also present. The proceedings were interspersed with singing and concluded with a march out to the percussion band playing "The British Grenadiers"

October 22nd was the beginning of Warship Week and Alderman Rhys Davies of HOUNSLOW addressed the children. A cinema van was parked in the playground and two films were shown to all three departments. The sum of £73 was raised during the week.

A week later Mr Arnold H.M.I, Miss Bordesley H.M.I and Miss Perry H.M.I visited to see the P.T and discuss the possibility of opening a canteen for dinners as a war time measure.

On November 11th, Armistice Day, there were special hymns and prayers and the head sang "Land of Hope and Glory."

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Colmore Road Council School, King's Heath

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

REPORT FOR HALF-YEAR ENDING 23 JUL 1942

NAME Margaret Shepherd CLASS 4a Year _____
 Form _____
 Class Group 5

SUBJECT.	TERM WORK.	EXAM.	
		Possible	Gained
ENGLISH			
(a) Reading	<u>V.G.</u>	50	<u>50</u>
(b) Handwriting	<u>V.G.</u>	25	<u>25</u>
(c) Spelling	<u>V.G.</u>	25	<u>23</u>
(d) Composition	<u>V.G.</u>	50	<u>48</u>
(e) General	<u>V.G.</u>	50	<u>33</u>
ARITHMETIC			
(a) Mental	<u>V.G.</u>	50	<u>46</u>
(b) Written	<u>V.G.</u>	50	<u>50</u>
DRAWING	<u>V.</u>	50	<u>25</u>
HISTORY	<u>V.G.</u>	50	<u>48</u>
GEOGRAPHY	<u>V.</u>	50	<u>37</u>
HANDWORK			
NEEDLEWORK			
TOTAL EXAM. MARKS		<u>450</u>	<u>385</u>

General Conduct and Progress:— Very Satisfactory

M. Howson
 Class Teacher
A. S. Downes
 Head Teacher

Parent's Signature: _____

1942 opened with bad weather - snow and blizzards. The school was re organised to take all children of 7 years and 6 months and upwards so the school had, for the first time, all children of junior school age. The eight classes were arranged for a four year course in two streams.

On January 30th Mr Moseley retired after 17 years service at the school. He was presented with gifts of money.

A staff meeting was held in February when it was decided to revive the team system but not with colours but new names: Britons; Soviets; Americans; Chinese.

Both St George's Day and Empire Day were celebrated with the flying of the flag and the singing of patriotic songs.

At the end of July 33 children moved to grammar schools but the log book does not record that one of them was me!

A rota was made for teachers to attend during the two weeks summer holiday to look after children sent by parents for "recreative occupation." 53 enrolled but the highest number present was 42. These play centres were opened throughout the city as so many children would be alone in the house with father in the army and mother probably working full time. They continued after the war and when I helped with one at Hope Street school we had a two hour session in the afternoon and two hours in the evening during the summer and a morning and afternoon session during the Christmas holidays. We did various types of handwork and played games etc.

When the school opened after the summer holiday two girls from Kings Norton Grammar school came for informal teaching practice. Mrs Howard took six pupils to the Council House to be presented with prizes for essays on the Birmingham Food exhibition. Each received a National Savings Certificate and John Bembridge a special book prize for special merit.

On September 3rd, in response to the King's command that the third anniversary of the outbreak of war be observed as National Day of Prayer, the school assembled to hear a special broadcast service from 11 - 11.15am.

In October Miss Greenfield was transferred to the supply register and was presented with a basket of fruit and some money.

Christmas was celebrated with a party followed by carols and entertainment.

1943 began quietly enough and then on March 4th the sirens sounded during prayers and an hour was spent in the shelters; it had been two years since the last time the sirens had sounded. The school sang "Now Thank We All Our God" in gratitude that the sirens hadn't sounded for so long.

In May the head attended a meeting at the office re the Brighter Birmingham Scheme. He was more concerned with warmer Birmingham as it was unseasonably cold and he asked and was given permission to put the heating back on.

Harvest Festival was celebrated in September and the money raised sent to a children's charity. IN the same month the head attended a meeting at Central Hall addressed by Mr R.A. Butler, President of the Board of Trade, on the new education bill.

A conference was held in November of the heads of the three schools, the heads of Wheelers Lane schools and Mr Norwell H.M.I to discuss the use of record cards so that information might be passed more easily from one department to another. Handwriting was also discussed - script, joined script, cursive, looped and loopless. Mr Downes presented a paper called 'Methods in Arithmetic' and offered it as a basis for a further conference.

A visit to the school was made by Squadron Leader Mayer R.A.F on behalf of the National Savings Committee and spoke of his work in the squadron and his experience of bombing Germany.

Christmas was celebrated with entertainment and a "sumptuous" tea provided by Ten Acres and Stirchley Coop.

There were a number of visitors in the early part of 1944. Mr David, lecturer in Geography at Birmingham University came to see how films could be used in the teaching of geography to help him in the book he was writing for his students. Commander Partington from the Imperial Institute gave a lantern slide lecture on the Far East and there were also talks on the West Indies and West Africa. Major Dean, chaplain in the United States army spoke about American schools and Miss Shewell from the Friends' Temperance Movement spoke on the use and abuse of alcohol.

In JULY the school was closed to pupils but opened as a rest centre for evacuees from Surrey escaping from the doodle bugs.

A teacher came with them and they were billeted in the area. When school reopened, although a teacher had come with them, classes were 54 - 57 strong.

After a four week summer break another 25 evacuees came so accommodation was very tight. A circular received from the office authorised classes of 55 as, apart from the evacuees, there was an acute shortage of teachers.

On March 16th members of the city orchestra gave a concert and two songs were sung by the children accompanied by the orchestra. This was the first of many such visits.

Swimming at Kings Heath baths was begun again. They had been used as a first aid post and had also been badly bombed.

In April Mrs Wilkes was appointed not as a teacher but as a clerical assistant - 15 hours per week - every afternoon and Tuesday morning. The first of her kind and now indispensable.

May 8th was V.E. Day and the school closed for two days but there doesn't seem to have been any other celebration although most of the children would have had a street party.

Sports day was held on the TASCOS ground and the Yellowes won so the new names hadn't lasted.

School broke up in JULY for six weeks. The 1944 education act had come into force and now council schools had the same length holiday as grammar schools.

The new term opened in September with eight classes and 424 children so the smallest class numbered 51 and the largest 54.

Miss Maddocks, headmistress of the girls's school, spoke at harvest festival and £24. 5s 2d (£24.26p) was collected. £10 was given to the N.U.T children's fund; £3 to the lifeboat fund and the remainder put to the Christmas party when a conjurer entertained and there was tea. In NOVember there was a day's holiday when the King and Queen visited the city.

In February 1946 students from the Birmingham Emergency Training College came for two weeks observation. These mature students were following a one year course rather than the usual two.

In May the music festival was held for the first time since before the war. 10 children took part and another 23 were part of the audience. Parents were invited the next day to see the performance.

1947 saw the return of a more normal school year although the year began badly with the worst winter within living memory. Snow continued right through to Easter and piled up to four or five feet in depth. Numbers were still high in the school but an extra member of staff had been appointed so an extra fourth year class was created and based in a spare room in the girls' school. This meant that classes numbered between 46 and 48.

In September, however, another part of the '44 education act came into force namely the raising of the school leaving age to 15. This meant that Miss Maddocks needed her room back so a class was back again in the hall. During the summer holiday the building of temporary classrooms in the playground had been begun but not finished.

In January 1948 I got my one and only mention in the log book when Barbara Homer and myself did two weeks informal teaching practice.

In June the Kings Norton and District sports were held for the first time since the war began at the Elliotts sports ground in Selly Oak. The boys' shield, won in 1939, was lost to Colmers Farm school.

In the next nine years until 1957 when the girls' school moved to Swanshurst there were a number of innovations.

During the war a suggestion had been made to the setting up of a canteen to serve dinners. In April 1948 Mr Mellor H.M.I came to discuss the conversion of one of the air raid shelters into a washing up kitchen. Eighteen months later Miss Bircock H.M.I visited again to discuss the washing up arrangements for conveyed meals. It was not, however, until February 1951 that school dinners were served for the first time in the hall - cooked at Pineapple school and brought in containers. By April the system was up and running and over 100 children stayed each day.

School outings became a feature of the fifties. At the end of May 1951 135 children, 9 teachers and 37 parents visited the Festival of Britain exhibition in London. In July 1953 182 children and 18 adults visited Bristol, Cheddar Gorge and Weston and a year later 200 children and 12 adults went to the Elan valley.

There were also class visits to places nearer home. In 1952 Miss Garlick took a small party to Central Hall to visit the schools' gardening exhibition. The same year separate groups of children and staff visited the Art Gallery. In 1954 the top class was taken to the art centre at Hanley and to other potteries in Stoke. Other groups were taken to Cannon Hill park to see the 'Plays in the Park'; for concerts at the town hall; Selly Oak railway station and the Lickeys. The top class also attended the annual music festival.

Visitors also came to the school. A representative from the Midland Society for the Blind came regularly as did the C.B.S.O. The police came to talk on road safety and teachers from Canada and Australia came to talk of the schools in their countries. Each year parents were invited to Open Days to see the children's work and watch P.E and dancing.

Royal events affected the school, too. In May 1949 there was a day's holiday for the visit of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip to the city. In February 1952 a special service was held following the death of King George VI and the children listened to the broadcast of the proclamation of Elizabeth II from St James' Palace. On February 15th there was a special service on the day of the King's funeral and one of the staff spoke of his contact with the King when, as Duke of York, they were both at one of the camps at New Romney. A year later Coronation mugs were issued and the Whitsun holiday extended for the celebrations. Later the whole school visited the Pavilion cinema to see the film "Elizabeth is Queen."

Overcrowding was a problem at the school throughout the fifties. In July 1950 Mr Andrews from the Byelaws Dept. visited 50 families living on the Alcester Road and the East side of it to persuade them to send their children to Wheelers Lane and so relieve the congestion at Colmore Road. New estates at Brandwood and Woodthorpe Farm areas had made things more difficult. 354 children were accommodated in classes averaging 44 to a class.

In September 1951 the practice of six monthly transfers was abolished so all youngsters aged seven and over were transferred from the infant school i.e 113. As only 67 had left for secondary

education this meant a rise to 391 and to keep the classes to the low forties another class was formed. A year later numbers reached 439 so a tenth class was formed so two classes were back in the hall.

In July 1953 Miss Hircock H.M.I visited to discuss the possibility of renting the Scouts' hut in Colmore Road as an annexe. This was done in January 1954 and activities such as P.E,drama,dancing and singing took place there on a two hour basis. Fortunately the distance was not far.

In July 1955 there was a general inspection when two H.M.Is visited for three days. They reported: "The school occupies the same site as the infants and senior girls. Most pupils live locally but some are conveyed by bus from the more outlying and recently developed parts of the district. The school,built in 1910,has recently been decorated. The premises consist of a central hall,eight classrooms five of which adjoin the hall. The school also uses one room in a HORSIA hut erected on the site in 1949 and a Scout hut. There is one small cloakroom and one water closet for staff use. There is an electric kiln,strip projector,silent film projector,wireless,record player and a portable gramophone and some records.

465 children are organised according to age and ability. Two classes are housed in the hall and the Scout hut is used for drama,dancing etc. Midday meals are also taken in the hall. The nearby park is used for nature study and games."

When the girls' school finally vacated the central block to go to Swanshurst in 1957 the space was divided between the infants and juniors to everyone's relief.

Despite the difficulties the school did well at sports. Every year the school sports were held at the TASCOS ground in Tunnel Lane and competitors were chosen for the district sports. In 1951 the football team beat Wheelers Lane 4 - 1 to go into the final of the junior school league but lost 1 - 0 to Trescott Rd. They did receive a shield. The same year the girls won the TASCOS challenge shield at the district sports and a month later four girls attended the B'ham schools' championship sports at Perry Barr and won the shield for the relay. There were also weekly visits to the swimming baths.

During the fifties some familiar faces disappeared from the staff. On April 1952 Mr Downes, headmaster, retired having been at the school for 21 years bar one month. Miss Masterson from St Benedicts replaced him.

In December of the same year Miss Millar retired. She had come to the school in 1911 as a pupil teacher and taught in the senior girls' dept. until 1930 when she moved to the newly formed junior dept. so had been at Colmore Road for 41 years.

In July 1953 Mrs Howard retired. She had come to the school following the death of her husband, the first headmaster of the junior dept. in 1931. She was temporary chief assistant from 1941 to 1949 and permanent chief assistant from 1949 to her retirement. She had been at the school for 22 years.

In January 1957 Mr Coppock retired. He had been appointed in August 1921 when the school was a boys' school, remained when it became a junior school so had been there for nearly 36 years when he retired on his 66th birthday.

There were other long serving teachers:

Mrs Beresford was appointed in 1947 and retired 1970 - 23 years. Miss Garlick was appointed in 1940 and retired 1961 - 21 years. Mr Priest appointed chief assistant 1953, became headmaster in 1959 and retired 1970 - 17 years.

A non teaching member of staff but well known to everyone in all departments was the caretaker, Mr Watts, who retired in 1962.