

A woman in a floral dress and a man with a beard looking through a microscope.

The Bombing of Vicarage Terrace in WW2

The Second World War

The Second World War started on the 1st of September 1939, when Britain declared war on Germany. Soon, the Germans had invaded France and had started to attack England from the air.



By No. 609 Squadron RAF [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

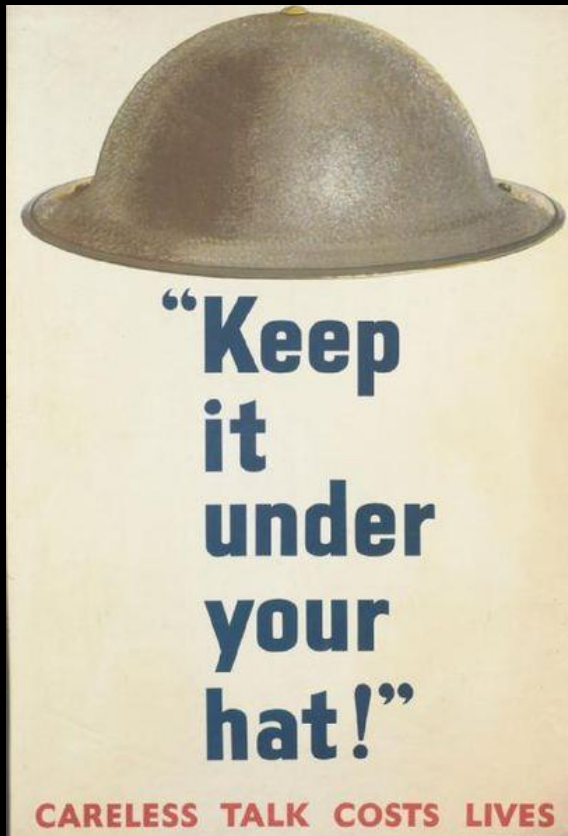
The War comes to Cambridge

At the start of the war, the Government decided that all the children should be evacuated from the bigger cities, so they wouldn't be bombed. A lot of evacuees from London came to Cambridge.



Evacuees arrive at Barnwell Junction Station,
1939

Fear of Invasion



Lots of people were scared that England would be invaded by Germany. The police even thought the newspaper reporter was a German soldier because he was wearing red and grey pyjamas.

By Unknown
(artist), J Weiner
Ltd, 71/5 New
Oxford Street,
London WC1
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Cambridge in 1940



Typical Cambridge Victorian Terrace

In the 1930s and 1940s Cambridge was a very mixed town, with a lot of rich people at the University and a lot of poorer working families, often living in terraced houses like the ones that were on Vicarage terrace.

First Bombs in Cambridge

A few weeks before Vicarage Terrace was bombed, a Nazi plane dropped 11 bombs on Cambridge, aimed at the train station. All of them missed, and landed in fields, only causing harm to the sugar beet crops.



Cambridge Railway Station
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Then and Now

Vicarage Terrace was
a typical victorian
working class street.
This is a picture of
Vicarage Terrace
now.



Modern Houses on Vicarage
Terrace

But why was it rebuilt?

On the night of the 18th of June, a German bomber plane mistook the nearby Church for a control tower, and dropped bombs on what they thought was Marshalls airport.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 101I-317-0043-17A / CC-BY-SA 3.0 [CC BY-SA 3.0 de (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/deed.en>)], via Wikimedia Commons

The Bombing

The Bombs fell on numbers 6 and 7 of Vicarage Terrace, destroying most of the houses on the street.



FACT!

St. Matthews Church was only 18 meters from the bombs, but was undamaged

The Toll

FACT!

A rabbit whose hutch was hit by the rubble survived none the worse



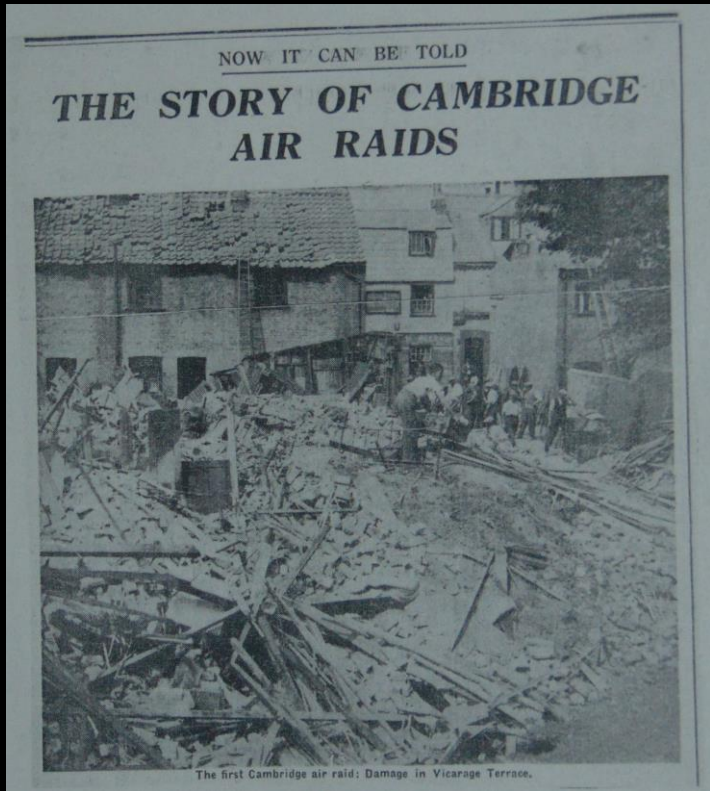
Sadly, 9 people died, including 4 children. Lots more people were hurt, including Lily Itzcovitch, an evacuee

Eyewitness

Barbara Wright, who was six at the time, recalls it vividly: "We were grabbed and my father said 'Quick - to the stairs'. It was an old two-up and the stairs were in a cupboard off the kitchen. We huddled there, my father in front with my brother Stuart and sister Anne, then mother with the baby and me behind them and it went quiet. Suddenly there was a huge noise, the actual walls on either side came in and practically touched us."



Then and Now



The scene of the bombing.
Cambridge Chronicle 14/8/1945

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After the bombing, the rubble was cleared up and all remains of the houses destroyed. The street remained empty until the 1970s when new homes were built



The same place now. The houses in the distance of the first picture were rebuilt down in the 1960s

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Then and Now



Vicarage
Terrace
then and
now

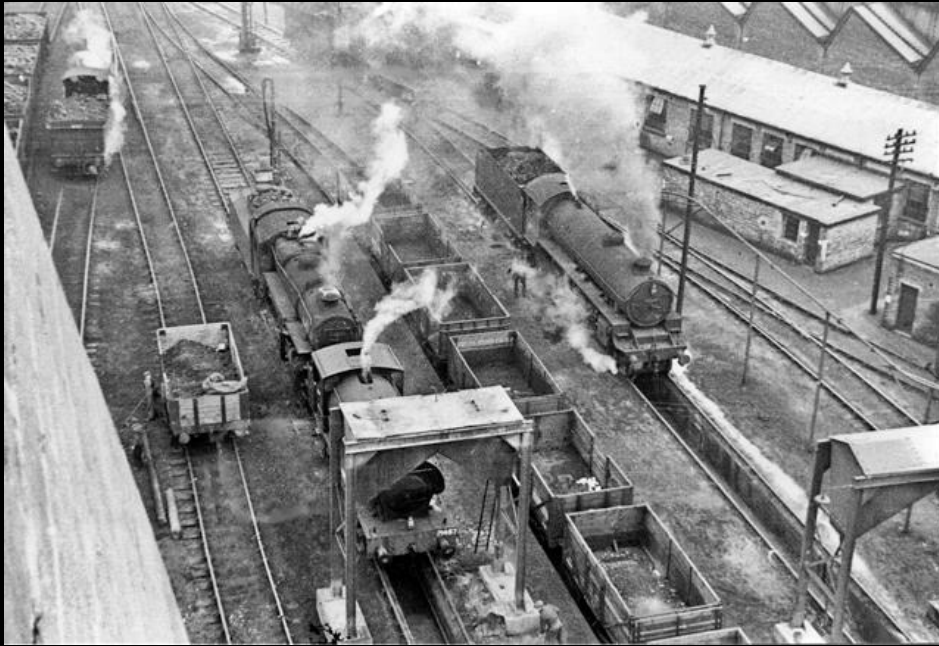
Where we
think the
bombs hit

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More Bombs on Cambridge



Cambridge Station Rail Yard

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Cambridge was bombed again several times in WW2, often near to the railway. The railway cottages, off Mill Road, were also hit.

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Bombing of the Railway Cottages in World War II



The Dornier aircraft that bombed the Railway Cottages
Bundesarchiv, Bild 101I-341-0489-13 / Spieth / CC-BY-SA 3.0 [CC BY-SA 3.0 de (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/deed.en>)],
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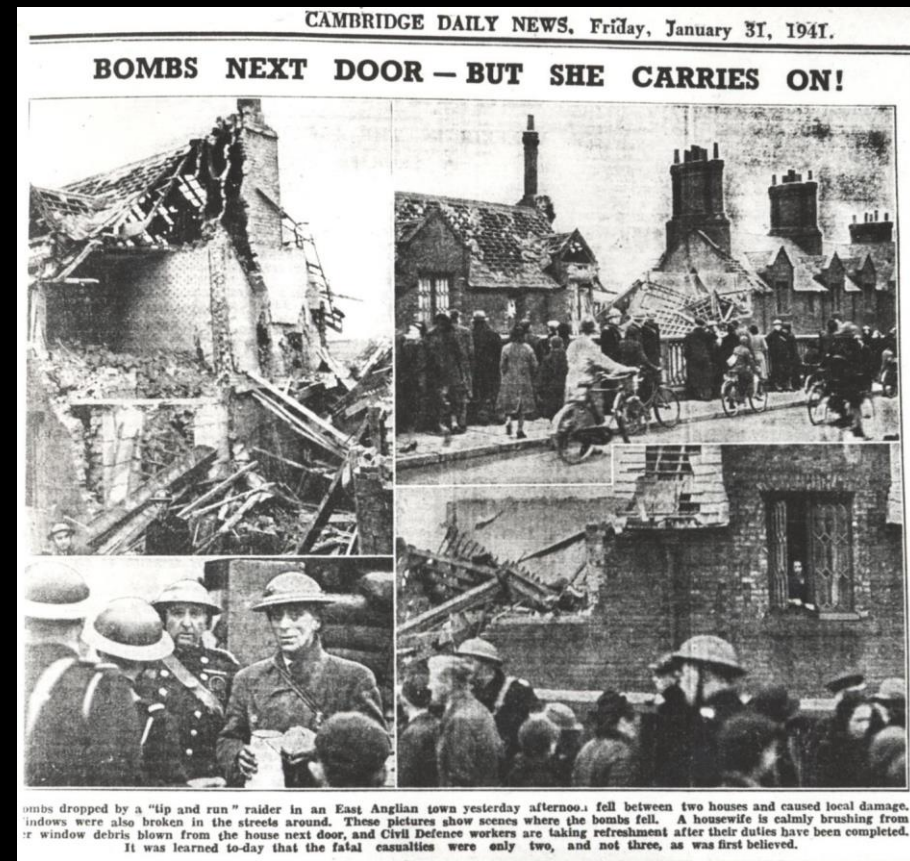
Eric Lee was 7 years old when the planes bombed the Railway Cottages during World War II.

He lived just round the corner on Great Eastern Street and remembers the bombing happening.

Eric's Memories of the Bombing on Mill Road in WWII

"On the day of the Mill Road bombing we came out of school in Ross Street – my brother Tony and I. We ran all the way home and on the way the air raid siren went. We looked down the railway track and there was a German plane, and he came up the line dropping bombs. We ran in the house and hid under the stairs with our Mum as you did in those days. The Cambridge Daily News must have sent a photographer early the following morning (a January afternoon would have been dark by 4 p.m.) as the following remarkable photographs and commentary appeared in the newspaper of 31 January"

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Cambridge Daily News,
31st January 1941-
Mill Road Bridge Bombing

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The End of the War



Lots of people celebrated the end of the war on VE Day (8th of May). Many people held street parties.

Gwydir Street VE Day Party, from Capturing Cambridge. Gwydir St. is very close to Vicarage Terrace.

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After the War

Form 5-44
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Form No. 5-44-45

INFORMATION SHEET (concerning passenger arriving on aircraft)

This sheet must be filled out in the English language, typewritten or printed in ink. (See further instructions on back of this sheet.)

1. Aircraft: NC 888 57 Departing from: LONDON, ENGLAND Date: July 1946
2. Passenger: Arriving in area at: NEW YORK Date: 7/2/46

NAME IN FULL: SCHILLING LILY Given Name: LILY Age: 17 Sex: F Country or Place of Birth: ENGLAND Place of Birth: LONDON Country of Residence: ENGLAND

3. Destination (permanent residence, if any) in United States: NEW YORK Destination, if any, for temporary stay in United States: 1451 WILKINS AVE

4. In case of U. S. citizen, passport, state date and number of U. S. passport. If on passport, state below:
IN CASE OF CITIZEN BY BIRTH: Date of Birth: 0300-129720 State: NY City or Town: NEW YORK
IN CASE OF CITIZEN BY NATURALIZATION: Date of Birth: 0300-129720 State: NY City or Town: NEW YORK Date of Naturalization: 159

5. Immigration visa, passport visa, reentry permit, or other immigration document. (Obtainable with CV, IV, IV-1, IV-2, or appropriate document after inspection documents at port of entry.)
No. 231 Issued at: LONDON Date of issue: JUNE 12, 1946

6. Ticket issued at: LONDON Date of issue: JUNE 20, 1946 Passage paid by: HUSBAND

7. Height: 5 Ft. 3 In. Weight: 110 Lbs. Color of hair: BROWN Color of eyes: BROWN

8. Accompanied by: MAX SCHILLING Relationship, if any: HUSBAND

9. Name: MAX Married or single: MARRIED Able to read: ENGLISH Able to write: YES

10. Place of birth: ENGLAND Date of birth: LONDON Calling of occupation: HUSBAND

11. Last permanent residence: ENGLAND Date of departure: LONDON Address: 24 BARCLAY ST

12. Strong relatives in country of birth: ENGLAND Address: 24 BARCLAY ST

13. Final destination (dependent future permanent residence): USA Address: 1451 WILKINS AVE

14. Going to U.S. to join relatives or to United States: ASSISTANT Address: 1451 WILKINS AVE

15. Approximate date and part of intended departure from United States: NO

16. If in United States before, state when and where: NO

17. Purpose in coming to U.S. (field of work, business, pleasure, etc.): ASSISTANT

18. Whether ever in prison or in institution for the care and treatment of insane: NO

19. Whether ever excluded from admission to the United States: NO

20. Whether ever arrested and deported from United States: NO

21. Condition of health, mental and physical: GOOD

22. Defect, crippled condition, length of time and cause thereof, and nature of disability: NO

23. Whether has claim to destination: YES

24. Amount of money above: 250

Passenger inspected and information herein verified by: [Signature]

(These spaces reserved for U. S. Immigration Officer)

Immigration list No. 1 List No. 2
Name of person or transportation company operating aircraft: BOEING
Alien's Passport No. 161270 will expire 4/1/48
Head tax status: PAID
Date held for B. I. I.: NO Date: NO
Deported by B. I. I. for: NO Grounds for exclusion: NO
Date deported: NO Date: NO
If admitted, date: JUL 2 - 1946 File No. NO
Admitted under section: NO Admitted under NO For NO
Alien registration number, if any: NO

This form may be obtained upon application from the Superintendent of Document Distribution, Printing Office, Washington, D. C. It may be printed by private parties provided it conforms to official form in size, heading, arrangement, and content and color of paper.

People were badly affected by the war. It changed people's lives. After the war many families left Cambridge, and some went to America, including Lily Itzcovitch, the 11 year old evacuee who was injured in the bombing of Vicarage Terrace

Lily Itzcovitch's landing card
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Further Links

http://cambridgehistorian.blogspot.com/2012/06/bombing-of-vicarage-terrace_7702.html

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/cambridgeshire/low/people_and_places/history/newsid_8754000/8754009.stm

[Letters from local residents](#)

[Survivors Accounts](#)

[Map of Bombs in Cambridge](#)

[Map of Bombs in Cambridge \(2\)](#)

[Cambridge WW2 Statistics](#)

[Cambridge Evacuation Survey](#)

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