

Another glimpse of memories of 1940s living conditions at Tipner Portsmouth

We lived at No 8 Tipner Green. A naval housing estate adjacent to Whale Island up harbour.

All 16 properties were similar layout built in 'U' shape. We were at the bottom of the "U" in middle of 4 houses. They comprised Kitchen, separate Toilet with Bath (amazingly) and small Front room & tiny open fire (we even had a piano), with adjacent stairway downstairs. Back & front door entrances into an alleyway (with adjacent property similar in reverse opening into alleyway). 3 Bedrooms, a single & small double with just space for 2 beds only and rear bedroom that could squeeze 3 single beds into it with wardrobe/ dressing table. Very small for family of 6 but we survived and really knew no different then. Fires to keep warm was not even considered but we survived.

Rear garden and small brick store at end of the alleyway leading into the two gardens of Nos. 8 & 9. This 'shed' was damaged on occasions by horses that were kept in the Naval Establishment with its main entrance directly in line with our 2 houses whence with gunfire and aircraft dogfights above caused them to "bolt", (go mad and run amok). They then sped straight down into our alleyway breaking the shed door on occasions and then we had to arrange for Navy to move the injured horse(s). A frightening experience for us children.

The garden had Anderson Shelter dugout used for numerous nights with air raids continuously raging. Cold and far too small for 5 of us. Another fortunate aspect was we had fruit trees, black currents, gooseberries, and various Vegetables we grew in garden that we survived on. Also reared rabbits for food. Thus we survived.

The other houses in the "Green" were ...2 for Navy personnel (nos 2 & 5) and rest occupied by families (note fathers were all away in Navy at War so seeing our Fathers was not very often.

Schooling at Stamshaw School Infants and Secondary sited only mile away was undertaken. Post Office located at entrance to our Estate, and local food and butcher shops existed in adjacent roads of Stamshaw, also an open air swimming pool that was not usable during war. The Dog Racing course located at rear of our house was viewable from our bedroom (in Target Road) and beyond was Alexandra Park. Overall we were very fortunate.

Later we went to Northern Grammar School (on foot) daily and partook in Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides that led to lifetime association as leaders and yet another huge memories of our exploits both in UK and worldwide. (Another story in itself).

Eventually, residents were moved/rehoused to Paulsgrove but friendships remained a lifetime passion.

Families during the War in Tipner Green were 1. Navy. 2. Navy, 3 Mrs Brown Stella & Peter. No 4 ? No 5 Navy. No 6 Mrs Smith & Margaret, No.7. Mrs Lodder, Ray & Trevor, No 8 Mrs Regnard, Yvonne, John . Pat, Keith, No 9 Mrs Green, Stuart, Pat, Brian, Molly. No 10 Mrs Wells, Neville. No 11. ? (no Child). No. 12. Mrs McNeil, John & Joan, No 13. Mrs Silk, Brenda. No 14, Mrs Weaver, Brenda, No 15 ? No. 16 ?