

# Being a CHILD in England during World War Two

As both my wife Cicely and I were born during the early years of the 2nd World War we both have memories of the precarious times during the bombing. We were both evacuated from the age of about four to safer places with our mums and siblings to Wales and Lancashire respectively.

I can vividly remember sitting with my mother and sister under the stairs, happily crayoning on the walls with the flickering light of two candles whilst the occasional explosion of a dropped bomb made the whole house shudder.

We rarely used the shelter out in the back garden which was rather amusing as, after returning home after the war had ended, we realised that the gas meters were located underneath the stairs where we had sheltered for some time and we were lucky that the pipes hadn't leaked or the candles hadn't caused an explosion!

John R, April 2020



This image shows children getting into the air raid shelter at the bottom of their garden. Image courtesy Imperial War Museum, London. Image HU 36152.

# 1942

If you're interested in reading more about London's backyard air raid shelters, go to <https://mashable.com/2015/07/24/wwii-backyard-bunkers/>

# 1946

If you'd like to read about some Australian memories of being a child during World War Two, go to the ABC's Radio National website: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/children-in-world->



Mrs Alice Prendergast of Balham grew vegetables on the top of her Anderson shelter. In this picture she is watering her lettuce, beetroots and marrows. Image courtesy Imperial War Museum, London. Image HU 63827A.



This image shows boys from the Ballarat Junior Technical School during an air-raid drill in zig zag trenches at the Ballarat School of Mines, c1942. Image 04222. Courtesy Federation University Australia Historical Collection (Geoffrey Blainey Research Centre).



This image shows the Mayoress of Coburg, Mrs A. McDonald, joining children in Victory celebrations at Coburg Infants School, about 1946. Image H99.206/3240. Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs, State Library of Victoria.