

**CARDIFF SCHOOLS  
& THE AGE OF  
THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

**THE LOG BOOKS:  
A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY**

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For Alexander

## Acknowledgements

First and foremost I must thank the headteachers who allowed me access to their school records (though I would, ever so politely, draw their attention to my postscript).

The staffs of the Local Studies Department of Cardiff County Library and of the Glamorgan Record Office deserve my particular gratitude for their expertise, patience and support.

I would also like to place on record my thanks to Dan Chidgey, archivist for the Catholic Archdiocese, for tracking down the Heathfield House, St. David's and St. Illtyd's records, and to Sister Mary Bernardine of the Sisters of Providence of the Institute of Charity and Brother Damien of the De La Salle Brothers for allowing me to work on this material. The debt I owe Dennis Morgan will become apparent as the reader turns the pages.

Finally, my thanks are also due to the staff of *Keymaster Locksmiths*, Penylan Road, Cardiff who managed in several cases to open Log Books which had been locked for years and to cut the keys which opened even more.

To one and all, sincere thanks.

## Introduction

Masquerading as a senior lecturer in the Cardiff School of Education I have been privileged to be allowed access to the Log Books and, where they still exist, the Admissions Registers and Punishment Books of 95 City of Cardiff schools and 23 Glamorgan ones. I have also drawn on the Education Committee Minutes of both authorities, especially Cardiff, and various other primary sources, but the great bulk of the material presented here has been culled from the Log Books.

Since the advent of State education in 1870 all publicly funded schools had been required to keep a Log, normally stoutly-bound and with its own lock and key, in which 'The Principal Teacher must make at least once a week an entry which will specify ordinary progress, and other facts concerning the School or its Teachers - such as the dates of withdrawals, commencements of duty, cautions, illness etc. - which may be require to be referred to at a future time, or may otherwise deserve to be recorded'.<sup>1</sup>

The keeping of these logs varied enormously from head to head and from school to school. So whilst some logs contained some detail others devoted page after page, year after year (and in some cases decade after decade) to minimalistic entries along the lines of 'Miss So and So was absent today' or 'Mr. So and So resumed duties today' and common to all was a preoccupation with pupil attendances which, in an age when salaries and capitation were at stake, is understandable even though it didn't subsequently lend itself to exciting reading. Nor did the practice of recording the title of each and every Circular sent out by the Education Office which was another common phenomenon. Heads have told me that it was a demand of the Authority but I have read enough Logs to know that by no means all schools did this even though a great many did.<sup>2</sup>

I have waded through literally hundreds of years of 'Miss So and So was absent today' and 'Received Circular...' and, believe me, the experience is hardly an edifying one; but in this wading I have also come across much which is of interest and this book is a product of such encounters. If, *individually*, many logs were laconic and mundane, *collectively* – as I hope what follows will show - they can provide a unique and fascinating insight into schooling and the wider world.

The reader will need to appreciate that the school system in place in Cardiff and elsewhere during the war years was quite different to our present one. Basically there were two types of state schools, Elementary and High. The great majority of children only attended elementary schools, which consisted of mixed infant departments and single sex upper schools, in which they remained until their fourteenth birthday. A minority of pupils, having passed an

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<sup>1</sup> From the printed frontispiece of the first volume of the Log of Roath Park Boys', 1895.

<sup>2</sup> Whilst I have yet to track down, if it exists, the Circular which informed Heads that they no longer needed to keep their Logs, from the nine Cardiff schools whose records I have looked at through to the 1990s it would seem that the end came by the middle of that decade and I only know of one instance where the Log is still being maintained.

entrance examination, went to single sex High Schools at the age of eleven where they studied for five years for their Central Welsh Board School Certificate Examinations and only a very few went on to the sixth form and sat Higher Certificate Exams.<sup>3</sup> Thus in January 1943 there was somewhere in the region of 125 elementary schools in the City of Cardiff with a total of 30,070 pupils and ten High Schools with just 3,816 pupils.<sup>4</sup>

Within the elementary sector there were some variations, with mixed sex junior and senior departments in some schools for example and, in June 1939, Glamorgan County opened a brand new non-selective Senior Mixed School, what would later become known as a *Secondary Modern*, in Whitchurch. [At this time the schools at Whitchurch together with those at Llanederyn, Llysfaen, Radyr, St. Fagan's and Tongwynlais did not come under the aegis of Cardiff but as they are all now a part, or recognised as suburbs of the City I have included material from them.]

In an attempt to enable the reader to identify individual schools and at the same time reduce the verbiage, I have shortened the names of some of them, used their present day titles in other instances or even renamed them completely – this latter course of action being inevitable when confronted by the logs of no fewer than six schools named *St. Mary's*. Thus Roath Park is reduced to Roath, to distinguish between Llandaff Church in Wales and Llandaff Council, Highfields, the one becomes Llandaff City and the other Highfields, and *St. Mary's Church in Wales Mixed, Clarence Road*, is rechristened 'Clarence Mixed'. Should this strategy cause any offence, I apologise profusely.

Finally, I have drawn on the work of a predecessor of mine at UWIC, Dennis Morgan, in an attempt to provide a Cardiff perspective and incorporated a sparse commentary about the war so as to help place events in the City into the wider, global perspective.

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<sup>3</sup> For example, in June 1945 there were 353 girls on the register of Heathfield House and yet only two pupils sat the Higher Certificate Examinations. CCL, City of Cardiff, *Reports of Education Committee*, November 1944 – October 1945, Secondary Schools Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> July 1945, p.252, for pupil numbers, and CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1945-46, *Minutes of the Governing Body of Heathfield House*, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1945, tabled at the Secondary Schools Committee of 5<sup>th</sup> December 1945, p.252, for the exam details.

<sup>4</sup> The figures for the elementary schools, based on statistics from January 1943, were presented in April 1945 to a sub-committee considering the reorganisation of the City's schools following the 1944 Education Act. The secondary figures are based on returns for January 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, (Re-organisation of Schools) Sub-Committee, 18<sup>th</sup> April 1945, pp.164-170 & CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, Higher Education Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1943, p.87. The exact number of elementary schools cannot be given with certainty as my research has revealed that the numbers given in the report of April 1945 are in some cases inaccurate. For example, all eight Roman Catholic elementary schools are listed as having Boys', Girls' and Infant Departments and yet six of them only had Mixed and Infant schools, the exceptions being *St. David's* and *St. Peter's*.

## The Log Books

### City of Cardiff

Albany Road Boys' \*  
Albany Road Girls' \*  
Albany Road Infants' \*  
Allensbank Boys'  
Allensbank Girls'  
Allensbank Infants'  
Baden Powell Infants'  
Birchgrove Infants'  
Birchgrove Mixed  
Canton C W Girls' \*  
Canton C W Infants' \*  
Cathays High for Boys  
Court Road Boys' <sup>5</sup>  
Court Road Girls'  
Court Road Infants'  
Crofts Street C W Infants' <sup>6</sup>  
Crwys Road Infants' \*  
Crwys Road Mixed \*  
Dulwich House Hospital School \*  
Eleanor Street Mixed & Infants' <sup>7</sup>  
Ely Infants' <sup>8</sup>  
Gladstone Boys'  
Gladstone Girls' <sup>9</sup>  
Gladstone Infants'  
Grangetown Boys'  
Grangetown Girls'  
Grangetown Continuation School  
Grangetown C W Infants' <sup>10</sup>  
Grangetown C W Mixed  
Greenhill Open Air School  
Hawthorn Infants'  
Hawthorn Mixed  
Heathfield House RC High <sup>11</sup>  
Herbert Thompson Boys'  
Herbert Thompson Girls'  
Herbert Thompson Infants'

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<sup>5</sup> The Logs of the schools at Court Road are held at Ninian Park Primary.

<sup>6</sup> Now renamed St. Anne's.

<sup>7</sup> This and other Eleanor Street Logs are held at Mount Stuart Primary.

<sup>8</sup> Now renamed Millbank Primary.

<sup>9</sup> Two Logs, covering the period 1915–1970, are held at Cathays High School.

<sup>10</sup> Now renamed St. Paul's Primary.

<sup>11</sup> Held by the Sisters of Providence of the Institute of Charity, Loughborough.

Hywel Dda Infants'  
 Hywel Dda Junior Mixed  
 Jackson Hall Oral School for the Deaf \*  
 Kitchener Road Mixed & Infants' \*  
 Lansdowne Road Boys'  
 Lansdowne Road Girls' \*  
 Lansdowne Road Infants'  
 Llandaff City C W Mixed  
 Llandaff, Highfields, Mixed & Infants' \*  
 Llanishen C W Mixed & Infants' \*  
 Maindy Infants' \*  
 Maindy Junior Mixed <sup>12</sup>  
 Marlborough Road Girls' \*  
 Marlborough Road Infants'  
 Metal Street C W Boys' \*  
 Metal Street C W Girls' \*  
 Metal Street C W Infants' \*  
 Moorland Road Boys'  
 Moorland Road Girls'  
 Moorland Road Infants'  
 Ninian Park Infants'  
 Radnor Road Boys' \*  
 Radnor Road Girls' \*  
 Radnor Road Infants' \*  
 Roath Park Boys'  
 Roath Park Girls'  
 Roath Park Infants'  
 St. Alban's RC Infants'  
 St. Alban's RC Mixed  
 St. Cuthbert's RC Mixed & Infants'  
 St. David's RC Infants' \*  
 St. Francis' RC Infants'  
 St. Francis' RC Mixed  
 St. Joseph's RC Infants'  
 St. Mary's C W Junior Mixed, Bute Terrace \*  
 St. Mary's C W Senior Mixed, Bute Terrace \*  
 St. Mary's C W Infants', Clarence Road \*  
 St. Mary's C W Mixed, Clarence Road \*  
 St. Mary's RC Infants', Canton  
 St. Mary's RC Juniors', Canton  
 St. Monica's C W Infants'  
 St. Monica's C W Mixed  
 St. Patrick's RC Infants' \*  
 St. Patrick's RC Mixed \*  
 St. Peter's RC Girls'  
 Severn Road Manual Centre \*  
 Severn Road Girls'  
 Splott Road Infants' \*

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<sup>12</sup> Held at Allensbank Primary.

Stacey Road Boys' \*  
Stacey Road Infants' \*  
Tredegarville C W Boys'  
Viriamu Jones Boys' \*  
Wartime Nurseries <sup>13</sup>  
Windsor-Clive Boys' \*

Glamorgan: Cardiff Rural District Council

Llanederyn C W Mixed & Infants' \*  
Llysfaen Mixed & Infants'  
Radyr Mixed & Infants'  
St. Fagan's C W Mixed & Infants' \*  
Tongwynlais Junior Mixed & Infants' \*  
Whitchurch Boys' \*  
Whitchurch Girls' \*  
Whitchurch Senior Mixed \*

Glamorgan: <sup>14</sup>

Aberdare Town Girls' & Junior Mixed, Cynon Valley \*  
Abernant Mixed & Infants', Cynon Valley \*  
Aman Infants', Cynon Valley \*  
Blaenycwm Mixed, Rhondda \*  
Cwmbach Junior Mixed, Cynon Valley \*  
Pentre Girls', Rhondda \*  
Pentre Mixed, Rhondda \*  
Ynyslwyd Central Mixed, Cynon Valley \*

Admissions Registers, Address Books & Punishment Books only

Cardiff High for Boys \*  
Cardiff High for Girls \*  
Ely Mixed  
Grangetown Infants'  
St. Illtyd's College <sup>15</sup>

[\* Denotes material held at the Glamorgan Record Office]

Common abbreviations used in the footnotes:

CCL            Cardiff County Library  
GRO            Glamorgan Record Office

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<sup>13</sup> This unique Log, held at Rumney Infants', was kept by Miss Winifred Hunt who was appointed as Headmistress of Cardiff's Wartime Nurseries in January 1942. The log, just 67 pages long, covers the period from her appointment to October 1949.

<sup>14</sup> Though I have looked at a total of fifteen Logs from the Cynon and Rhondda Valleys, I've only included material from these particular schools.

<sup>15</sup> The Admissions Register for 1923-1964 is held by the De La Salle Brothers, Oxford.

## 1938

In March, Adolf Hitler's troops take control of Austria against the wishes of the Austrian Government and the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. In the late summer Hitler demands the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia...<sup>16</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> September

At Hawthorn Infants' two seven year old boys are not promoted to the Mixed School. One has 'retarded mental development due to severe operations and mastoid abscesses' and the other 'slow mental development and a weak constitution'. At Lansdowne Boys' sixteen pupils are not promoted. One is described as 'defective', two as 'mentally retarded' and six as 'backward'.

5<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Birchgrove Mixed 'Admitted Lionel Clarke, a very delicate boy suffering with heart trouble. He always has blue lips and, when cold, very blue. He is brought to school in a chair. He is eight and a half years old and has never been to school before. It is the worst heart case I have ever experienced'.

6<sup>th</sup> September

At Severn Road the Headmistress records 'Educational films will be shown Tuesday afternoon 1<sup>st</sup> week, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> week, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> week every month, to girls half session and to boys the other half, beginning today, to the great delight and benefit of the scholars'.

15<sup>th</sup> September

'Miss Thornley MA, gave a Temperance Lecture to Forms 3 & 4...Prizes for the best essays in each form will be given and Certificates for the next best six in order of merit' records the Head of Birchgrove Mixed.

22<sup>nd</sup> September

Thomas Adler, from Czechoslovakia, is admitted to Roath Boys'.<sup>17</sup>

At St. Patrick's Mixed 'Four children (two boys & two girls) visited *HMS Viscount* and were entertained to tea by the ship's company'. Four girls from Grangetown also take part in the visit as well as three boys and three girls from Eleanor Street.

26<sup>th</sup> September

Mr. Moses Samuel, a teacher at Herbert Thompson Boys', 'is absent with leave – Jewish Holiday'.

28<sup>th</sup> September

Cardiff's Head Teachers are summoned by the Director of Education to attend a meeting at 12 noon about Air Raid Precautions at the Technical College, Cathays Park. The Head of Viriamu Jones Boys' records 'Result – All

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<sup>16</sup> *The Times Atlas of the Second World War* (London: Times Books Ltd., 1989), p.30.

<sup>17</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

Headteachers have to devise their own schemes of getting the children to their homes after air-raid warnings. A staff meeting will be held this afternoon to discuss ways and means'.

At Tredegarville they hold their first air raid practice in the afternoon.

29<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Stacey Boys' notes a Circular about 'Air Raid Precautions'. Pupils are to be 'grouped for dispersal' if the alert is sounded and so schools should practice 'falling in the proper groups'. The Headmistress of Radnor Girls' elaborates: 'girls are to be in the playground in 'Street Groups' in one and a half minutes. Arrangement made with mothers of girls in Fairwater to be housed with friends nearby in an emergency'.

At Birchgrove 'The scholars of the Upper School were made Wardens of the Lower School, each being responsible in most cases for one pupil. Those who lived near each other were paired. At ten to twelve the main bell was pulled four times and the school evacuated in one and a quarter minutes. Only two Wardens failed to do duty. The practice was carried out in case War was declared and Air Raids started. I consider the experiment a very successful one. The eighty-four pupils outside the ten minutes limit were paired with smaller children outside the same limit'.<sup>18</sup>

Moorland Girls' holds its first evacuation drill as they do at Herbert Thompson where 'It was successfully carried out and all the children were clear of the school premises in under one and a half minutes'.<sup>19</sup>

Infant schools are closed so that gas masks can be distributed to all local people. At Birchgrove, Roath and St. Patrick's this takes two days, at Albany, Allensbank, Court Road, Maindy, Radnor and Stacey it takes three and at Baden Powell, Clarence Road, Hywel Dda, Lansdowne and Splott it takes four.

In an attempt to resolve the situation an International Conference is held in Munich in Germany at the end of September. Despite the strong opposition of the Czech Government, Britain and France agree to Hitler's demands for the Sudetenland in return for a promise of peace. Prime Minister Chamberlain returns and tells the British people he has secured 'Peace for Our Time'.<sup>20</sup>

In Cardiff, the Lord Mayor orders that the flags of all the nations which took part at Munich should be flown from the City Hall so, briefly, the Swastika flies over the city. A huge outcry eventually sees it being lowered.<sup>21</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Roath Girls' admits that the timetable has been disrupted this week by ARP practices.

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<sup>18</sup> Birchgrove Mixed.

<sup>19</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys'.

<sup>20</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.30.

<sup>21</sup> Dennis Morgan, *Cardiff: City at War* (Cardiff: Dennis Morgan, 1998), pp.3-4.

Miss Margaret Morrish, a teacher at Court Girls' 'terminated her duties, in view of her approaching marriage'.

4<sup>th</sup> October

The Head of Stacey Infants' reports 'School re-opened after being closed for air raid precautions, only 100 out of 204 children present'. At Maindy Infants' only fifty-six children turn up and at the Infants' in Lansdowne Road 134 children out of 237 attend. At Llanishen, however, 'The infants room is still occupied by ARP'.

The Head of St. Paul's sends the following to all parents:

'Dear Sir / Madam,

Air Raid Precautions

Whilst the immediate danger of War has been averted, the events of the past week make it essential for the general public to be ready at short notice to meet any emergency.

I send herewith a copy of the plans which were made last week for the evacuation of the children from this school in the event of Air Raids.

If, in the future, war appears imminent, whilst details of the plan may be modified, the general principles will remain the same.

Thanking you for your co-operation,

Yours faithfully,

F.H. Parkin,  
Headmaster'.

[Enclosed is a detailed scheme whereby the children of both Mixed and Infants' are divided into six groups, each to assemble at a specified place and be escorted to different 'dispersal points' such as St. Paul's Church, the Parish Hall and the corner of Ferry Road.]

'Important

1. Parents are urgently requested to refrain from rushing to the School. Children should be met at the dismissal points given above.
2. Impress upon your child the route to be taken from the point of dismissal to the home. In this way children will be sure of meeting their parents.
3. See that your child brings his/her gas mask to school at every session.
4. Impress upon your child:-
  - (a) The necessity for taking great care of the gas-mask.
  - (b) The need for control and order in carrying out the plan of evacuation.
5. In the event of an air raid occurring on the way to, or when leaving school the child should be instructed to run home with all speed.
6. In the process of evacuation, coats, hats, or any personal belongings must remain in the school'.

10<sup>th</sup> October

At Herbert Thompson Boys' 'It was reported to me this morning that William Cunningham, of 63 Red House Road, was yesterday admitted to the Sanatorium suffering from infantile paralysis...His brothers are excluded from

school pending instructions from the Medical Officer of Health’.

14<sup>th</sup> October

Moorland Girls’ is closed in the afternoon for an ‘Attendance Holiday’. [Since 1907 half-day holidays for good attendance have been awarded to Cardiff’s schools. To qualify Boys’ and Girls’ or Mixed schools have to have a monthly attendance averaging 95% or over whilst Infant schools have to make 90% or over.<sup>22</sup>]

18<sup>th</sup> October

The Headmistress of St. Peter’s is ‘Notified of two cases of poliomyelitis in the school’.

28<sup>th</sup> October

At Hawthorn Infants’ ‘Jean Gardner, a pupil in Class 2, died today from Tubercular Meningitis’.

2<sup>nd</sup> November

Cardiff’s schools receive a Circular about Air Raid Precautions. The Head of Viriamu Jones sets out its contents in some detail:

‘Extract from Joint Advisory Committee proceedings - ‘Services of Schools Staffs – In the opinion of this Committee, the first duty of the teachers is to be with the children, and that any offer of voluntary service should be available only when the children are in safety. Service is voluntary on all staffs, but it is suggested that the voluntary service offered by staffs should be based on each and every school as a unit of the Air Raid Precautions organisation...’

‘In connection with the above, the Chief Constable has been given permission to approach members of the teaching staffs under the Authority with a view to securing their enrolment as volunteers in the various schemes of ARP work’.

3<sup>rd</sup> November

Stacey Boys’ notes a Circular about ‘The Use and Care of Gas Masks’.

4<sup>th</sup> November

Another Circular concerns the ‘Admittance of Infants under four years of age’. No child under four is to be admitted without permission from the Director of Education.<sup>23</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> November

‘Representatives of the Chief Constable interviewed teachers regarding ARP classes’ records the Head of Radnor Girls’. The next day a policeman does the same at St. David’s Infants’.

10<sup>th</sup> November

The Junior pupils at Howell’s hold a ‘Peace Party’ and ‘six Basque girls came’.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> See, for example, Roath Park Boys’, 16<sup>th</sup> May 1907.

<sup>23</sup> Crwys Road Infants’.

<sup>24</sup> *Howell’s School Magazine*, No.16, July 1939, p.4. This, and other editions are held at the school.

11<sup>th</sup> November

Armistice Day. At Grangetown Girls' School was assembled in the corridor for the Two Minutes Silence. The children heard the Broadcast Ceremony and took part in the singing'. In his address to the children of Hywel Dda Mixed, the Headteacher stresses the need for Peace 'together with the League of Nations'.

15<sup>th</sup> November

Two police officers visit St. Paul's. 'With the exception of Mr. R.B. Wright and Mr. W.L. Jenkins who had previously taken a course of ARP and Miss C. Benwell who is at present taking a 'First Aid' course all members of the staff including myself have agreed to take the prescribed course for teachers in schools'.

16<sup>th</sup> November

Miss Brogden visits Whitchurch Girls' and saw three classes being drilled. She suggested that they should perform their exercises with lightness, attention to posture and wear rubber shoes always when in the yard – teachers included'.

22<sup>nd</sup> November

News is received at Hywel Dda Mixed that John Scandrett, a pupil in Standard 1a, has died of diphtheria.<sup>25</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> November

Temperatures are low at Ninian Infants' because there's no coal. In the afternoon the time table was suspended for a time and the children allowed to exercise vigorously in the Hall'.

7<sup>th</sup> December

Mr. Dan Jones gives his third talk of the term at Birchgrove Mixed. Having lectured on 'The Extent of the Universe' and 'The Planets' he now turns his attention to 'Reasons to prove the Earth is round'.

20<sup>th</sup> December

'Miss Hattingh left today as she is sailing for South Africa on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for a year's exchange' records the Head of Roath Infants'.

At Allensbank Infants' 'Owing to the intensely cold weather, and the inadequate method of heating the school, the attendance has dropped to 51%. A strong letter of complaint, giving temperatures in various rooms, was sent to the Director'.

21<sup>st</sup> December

'Glenys Hughes went to the Infirmary to present the School Purse containing £2. 7. 0. to the Lady Mayoress' records the Head of Hawthorn Mixed. The

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<sup>25</sup> John was one of the 349 school children to have contracted the disease in Cardiff this year, and one of eight people to have died as a consequence. CCL, City of Cardiff, Public Health Department, *Medical Officer of Health Annual Report*, 1938, pp.12,154.

pupils of Hywel Dda Mixed donate £2. 2. 6. [Opened in 1883, since 1903 schools have been encouraged to raise money for what became, in 1923, Cardiff Royal Infirmary.<sup>26</sup>]

22<sup>nd</sup> December

At St. Joseph's Infants' the Christmas party has been postponed until after the holidays because so many of the pupils are away ill. Those children who were in school, however, 'enjoyed the 'breaking up' day with a concert, sweets and a crib provided by the staff'. The children of St. Paul's Mixed are 'presented with a bag of fruit and sweets', those at Tongwynlais with 'oranges and sweets'.

## 1939

9<sup>th</sup> January

Two evacuees, one from Skegness and the other from Surrey are admitted to Roath Boys'.<sup>27</sup>

The Headmistress of Lansdowne Infants' records that 'Attendance is fair. Two cases of diphtheria and one of scarlet fever reported'. At Court Infants' the Head reports on an epidemic of whooping cough.

At Tongwynlais, where there had been 130 children in September 1938, the number on the books is now 119 and the Head explains that 'Owing to the demolition of several cottages in this area as a result of a slum clearance order a few families were removed to Whitchurch where Council Houses were erected for them. We have lost at least twenty children in this way during the last two years'.

13<sup>th</sup> January

'Owing to an outbreak of Measles, the average attendance for this week has fallen to 59.25%. This information has been sent to the Director of Education and the Medical Officer of Health' records the Head of Hawthorn Infants'. [The Head is hoping that the School Medical Officer will issue an 'exemption certificate' which will enable this particular week's attendance to be discounted when the annual attendance calculations are made for capitation purposes.]

20<sup>th</sup> January

The Headmistress of Ninian Infants' receives a letter from the Director asking for the details of an accident to Shirley Gage. Some six weeks before, Shirley had pulled a bench over on her hand and cut it badly and now 'the parents had written to him making a claim for Doctor's expenses'.<sup>28</sup>

25<sup>th</sup>. January

At Roath Boys' 'Having drawn the attention of the Schools' Medical Officer to

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<sup>26</sup> Dennis Morgan, *The Cardiff Story* (Cowbridge: D. Brown & Sons, 1991), pp.172-3.; Education Committee, 30<sup>th</sup> January 1942. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.71.

<sup>27</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>28</sup> See also 8<sup>th</sup> December 1938.

the fact that the two cases of diphtheria were of boys in the same class, a Medical Officer called here this afternoon to discuss the matter'.

Because it is snowing heavily only 54% of the children at St. Mary's Infants' in Canton turn up for school in the morning. At Ninian Infants' attendance is 58%, at Hywel Dda Infants' it is 68%.

St. Joseph's Infants' receives a copy of their Inspection Report from HMI. Inspected last November 'The number on books is ninety-seven. Thirty-three are under five, and some of these are between three and four. The number in the latter group increases considerably during the school year, and during the summer term of this year a separate class of three year old pupils was formed...'

27<sup>th</sup> January

The percussion band from Maindy Mixed `this afternoon gave a demonstration before the students of the School Music Refresher Course at the University College'.

31<sup>st</sup> January

`Miss L. Schmutz resigns today after forty years service in this school' records the Head of Splott Infants'.

3<sup>rd</sup> February

At St. Alban's Mixed the 'Head Teacher is attending a course in Air Raid Precautions on Mondays and Wednesday evenings at the Law Courts'.

7<sup>th</sup> February

Two classes from Radnor Girls' visit the Temple of Peace in Cathays Park and the Head notes `These girls were the first group of Cardiff Schoolgirls to visit and used the arranged service for which they had learnt three special hymns which we hope to use at Assembly occasionally. A most instructive and impressive visit'.

13<sup>th</sup> February

A visit to the *Western Mail* by a class from Radnor Girls' `is postponed owing to the political Irish situation'.

14<sup>th</sup> February

Hawthorn Infants' receives 'a letter from the Director concerning the Exhibition of International Children's Art at the Howard Gardens School'.

21<sup>st</sup> February

The Head of Tredegarville Boys', where there are 134 pupils, sends in a 'Requisition for 105 pairs of 'Gym' Shoes for Necessitous Scholars'.<sup>29</sup>

Three girls from Radyr leave 'for the Winter Residential School at Rhoose this afternoon'. So too do two girls from Tongwynlais.

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<sup>29</sup> An entry dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 1939 gives the numbers.

3<sup>rd</sup> March

At Lansdowne Infants' 'Attendance has been continually low since the middle of January. Lack of heating in school during January and February caused a high percentage of influenza and colds. Two cases of pneumonia reported... About forty children are suffering from measles'.

6<sup>th</sup> March

A party of twenty boys from Hawthorn Mixed visit 'the Dowlais Works of Messrs Guest, Keen and Nettlefords Ltd'. Two days later a group of ten girls 'visited the Laundry in Llandaff North'.

16<sup>th</sup> March

Despite his promises at Munich, Hitler orders the German Army to seize the whole of Czechoslovakia. Britain and France do nothing other than complain and Hitler now sets his sights on Poland...<sup>30</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular regarding teachers who are members of the Territorial Forces. They are to be granted a fortnight's leave, with pay, in addition to the normal Easter holiday so as to enable them to train.<sup>31</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> April

Cardiff Education's Secondary Schools Committee recommends 'that arrangements be made for Moritz Wagschal and Siegfried Wagschal, Jewish refugee children, to be admitted to Canton High School for Boys...and that ...in view of the special circumstances of these cases, the Committee decided to excuse payment of the school fees'.<sup>32</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> April

Eight pupils accompanied by two of the Sisters from Heathfield House set off 'on the Schoolgirls' Pilgrimage to Lourdes'.

17<sup>th</sup> April

The Head of Radnor Infants' records 'Muriel Richards aged eight was admitted today. She is a refugee from Prague'.

19<sup>th</sup> April

The inaugural meeting of Cardiff Rural District Council's Government Evacuation Scheme Committee is held at Park House, 20 Park Place, Cardiff. Chaired by Mr. F.C. Hale, Chairman of the Council, the Committee hears that, across Britain, 'the survey which has been carried out shows that there has been a remarkable response from the householders of the country to the appeals for voluntary assistance in the reception of those to be evacuated from the crowded areas of the large cities'.

The Committee considers and adopts a report submitted by Mr. A.J. Colley,

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<sup>30</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.30.

<sup>31</sup> Lansdowne Road Infants'.

<sup>32</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1938-39, p.209.

its Chief Survey Officer, in which he states `that the total number of persons for whom accommodation could be provided at private residences is 9,684, and for the Special Schemes 2,616...I propose at this stage, in view of the fact that no decision has been reached regarding the erection of dormitories at the various Golf Clubs in our area, and pending acceptance of the proposals for fitting up various special buildings for accommodating school-children and others, to deal with the allocation of the 6,000...by disregarding the number of persons which it is estimated could be accommodated by the adoption of the Special Schemes, except that of the Rhoose Social Camp, which, of course, could be brought into use immediately an emergency arises.

By excluding the Special Scheme figures, and those of relatives, you get a total of 6,690, which includes 3,153 in respect of Whitchurch, a district for which representations have been made...to classify as a Neutral Zone...

The actual allocation of the number of persons to each parish is not an easy matter...as the facilities for continuing the education of the children who are evacuated to our area has to be taken into account...It is believed that difficulties may be overcome by adopting the dual use of certain schools, under which the accommodation would be used by the local scholars and teachers in the mornings and by the Birmingham scholars and teachers in the afternoons...'<sup>33</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> May

The Head of St. Alban's Infants' records `Head Teacher and Staff completed the full Anti-Gas Course for all ARP Services'.

9<sup>th</sup> May

The School Dentist examines the teeth of 209 children at St. David's Infants'.

16<sup>th</sup> May

Gladstone Boys' admits twelve year old Fritz Wittman, a refugee from Austria.<sup>34</sup>

During the afternoon Mr. Lines, an Eleanor Street teacher, canes 'two girls in Standard 4...for continued disobedience'. As one 'continued to sulk, she was put with Standard 1 for a time. At playtime she ran home and, as a result [her parents] came on to the school premises, used obscene language and had to be restrained from attacking Mr. Lines. Eventually Mr. Lines was struck in the face by [the mother] who, with her husband, then departed with threats of future attacks'.

17<sup>th</sup> May

The girls of Howell's hold an `ARP practice'.<sup>35</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> May

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<sup>33</sup> GRO, RD/C 64, Cardiff Rural District Council, Government Evacuation Scheme Committee, Minutes, 1939-46.

<sup>34</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>35</sup> *Howell's*, No.16, July 1939, p.5.

At St. Patrick's Mixed the 'seniors visit the French Flotilla of Destroyers' at Cardiff docks.

Birmingham's Chief Education Officer writes to the Director of Education for Glamorgan confirming that, in the event of war, 'it is proposed to evacuate the Mentally Defective Children – numbering about 800 – to the camps at Ogmore, Rhoose and Gileston, and...it is not intended to send any other persons to your County in the event of evacuation'.<sup>36</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> May

100 pupils from Maindy Mixed 'visited the *Plaza* Cinema at the invitation of the Empire Tea Expansion Bureau to view the film '*Life in India and Ceylon*'. 200 pupils from Birchgrove Mixed also attend 'on the instruction of the Director of Education'.

Miss Winifred Hunt, a Hawthorn Infants' teacher, is 'granted leave of absence to visit Nursery Schools in France (visits arranged by the Nursery Schools Association)'.

24<sup>th</sup> May

Across the city schools celebrate Empire Day. At Viriamu Jones the Head records the items in the service: 'both National Anthems, the singing of the Flag of Britain, an address on the duties and responsibilities of British Citizenship, and the recitation of Rudyard Kipling's Recessional Hymn '*Lest We Forget*'. Schools dismiss at 10.30 and the registers are not marked'. [The Empire Day ceremony has remained exactly the same since it was first introduced in 1909.<sup>37</sup>]

26<sup>th</sup> May

'Castell Coch Infant Department closed today and all furniture and apparatus were transferred to this school for amalgamation with this department' records the Head of Tongwynlais.

5<sup>th</sup> June

Glamorgan's Education Committee formally opens its new non-selective Senior Mixed School at Whitchurch. 419 pupils will start attending tomorrow.

6<sup>th</sup> June

'To-day a number of children over eleven, accompanied by two teachers, made an all day educational excursion to a rehearsal of the Aldershot Tattoo' records the Head of Eleanor Street.

8<sup>th</sup> June

As a result of a Nutrition Survey at St. Fagan's 'three more pupils were added to the 'Free Milk' Scheme'.

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<sup>36</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, Letter included in a report dated 11<sup>th</sup> August to Cardiff Rural District Council's Evacuation Committee of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1939 by AJ Colley, the Council's Chief Survey Officer.

<sup>37</sup> See, for example, Roath Park Boys', 24<sup>th</sup> May 1909.

16<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff's Catholic Elementary schools close 'as the children are taken to Barry Island for their annual treat'.<sup>38</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> June

At Baden Powell the Head notes a Circular regarding the 'Provision of Meals. Names of children suffering from malnutrition to be submitted for medical examination'. ['Necessitous Meals' had been introduced in Cardiff in 1908.<sup>39</sup>]

21<sup>st</sup> June

HMI inspect St. Mary's Junior Mixed in Bute Terrace and begin their report by stating that 'Due chiefly to slum clearance schemes in the neighbourhood, the number in attendance has decreased from about 240 to 150 during the last three years... Judging from the appearance and physical condition of many pupils who attend the school, there is wide scope here for early training in sound habits of cleanliness and hygiene...'

Highfields receives a 'Circular regarding Air Raid Precautions in schools and a request for numbers requiring the provision of shelters'. At Gladstone Girls' a staff meeting is held at 4.20 'to discuss ARP arrangements'. Another Circular entitled 'Enlistment for Voluntary National Services' is noted at Lansdowne Boys'.

Because 'Rain fell heavily from 2 to 2.30 pm, many of the boys due to go to the Manual Centre were kept back – these were without overcoats, and were badly shod' records the Head of Court Boys.

26<sup>th</sup> June

Mr. Fenton, a Birchgrove Mixed teacher, is excluded from school because there is a case of scarlet fever in his house.

At Ely Mixed a boy discovered 'sending dirty notes to a girl' is caned: 'one on each hand and a few on the buttocks'.<sup>40</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> June

As a result of a Nutrition Survey at Tongwynlais 'thirteen new cases were put on milk'.

28<sup>th</sup> June

All City of Cardiff schools are closed for the Annual School Sports at Sophia Gardens.<sup>41</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> July

Mr. William Beynon, a teacher at Grangetown Boys', is 'absent for two weeks training in the Auxiliary Air Force'.

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<sup>38</sup> St. Patrick's Infants'. See also St. Alban's Mixed, St. Mary's Juniors, Canton, & St. Peter's Girls'.

<sup>39</sup> See, for example, St. Monica's Mixed, 12<sup>th</sup> October 1908.

<sup>40</sup> Ely Mixed Punishment Book.

<sup>41</sup> Gladstone Girls' & Radnor Road Infants'.

All Glamorgan schools have a day off to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the County Council.<sup>42</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> July

At Moorland Road `Forty three girls in charge of three teachers left for a fortnight's camp at Brockweir'. 120 boys from Herbert Thompson spend the day in London. 'They visited the House of Commons, Westminster Abbey, the Tower, travelled by Underground, walked from Trafalgar Square to Westminster through Whitehall and had a motor-coach tour to other places of interest'.

10<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Rogan, a teacher at Severn Girls', is absent with leave `at the presentation of ARP medals'.

12<sup>th</sup> July

Mr. Dan Jones gives another lecture at Birchgrove Mixed - `A Trip to Mars'.

17<sup>th</sup> July

At Baden Powell a Circular arrives `giving particulars of arrangements for feeding Necessitous School Children during the summer holidays'. As a result `twenty-two Dinner tickets marked with date, name and school and twenty-two Milk tickets are to be given to each child on the meals register'.

19<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Whitchurch Mixed notes `Twenty-nine boys proceeded on the 2.10 pm train to the School Camp at Ogmore. Nineteen girls went on the same train to the camp at Rhoose'. The next day he sends home `a thirteen year old girl as her head was verminous'.

20<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Hilda Ahrens, a South African teacher on exchange at Gladstone Girls', has the day off as she `has been granted permission to attend the Garden Party given by Their Majesties at Buckingham Palace'.

24<sup>th</sup> July

At Metal Street Infants' the Head of the Boys' School `came down and caned Colin O\_\_\_\_, aged six, for using bad language, screaming and kicking'.

25<sup>th</sup> July

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton `Individual Reports are made out for the three upper classes as the parents like to know the progress of their small folk'.

28<sup>th</sup> July

At a meeting of Cardiff Education's Secondary Schools Sub-Committee `The Director reported the receipt of a communication from the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia, regretting that they cannot undertake to be responsible for payment of the school fees in respect of Jewish refugee

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<sup>42</sup> Whitchurch Boys'.

children.

The Sub-Committee gave further consideration to this question and recommend that, before a decision be made with regard to the admission of these refugee children to the High Schools, their guardians be asked to give an undertaking to be responsible for payment of the full school fees and to provide the necessary text books, etc.<sup>43</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> August

Cardiff is chosen as one of six British cities to be 'attacked' by the French Air Force in an exercise designed to test both the RAF and the Civil Defence Forces.<sup>44</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> August

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee is told 'that supplies of canned meat and canned milk have been forwarded to all detraining stations...' The Council 'is still awaiting the decision of the Minister...as to whether Whitchurch may be excluded from the receiving area, in view of the fact that the parish is contiguous to and generally indistinguishable from the City of Cardiff, which is understood to be a neutral zone...'

29<sup>th</sup> August

Following the usual month long summer holiday, Cardiff's schools re-open.

Appended to the Log of Viriamu Jones is Circular 39:

#### 'Air Raid Precautions.

I wish to inform you of the details of the scheme of Air Raid Precautions to be carried out by all the schools of the City in the event of War...

#### Closure of Schools

In the event of hostilities breaking out all day schools shall be closed for a period of not more than two weeks with the exception of Infant and Special Schools which shall remain closed indefinitely.

#### Air Raid Warning

Children living within a distance from their schools which can be traversed in five minutes will be evacuated to their homes immediately upon warning of hostile air raids.

#### Method of Evacuation

The dispersal of children to their homes, etc., during a hostile attack will be a problem to be solved by the staff of each school, the work to be shared by the staff and senior pupils.

#### Structural Precautions in Schools

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<sup>43</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1938-39, p.420.

<sup>44</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.5.

Adequate protective measures will be required for those children who cannot be evacuated to their homes, and where this is impossible, consideration will be given to the closing of the school.

#### Services of School Staffs

The first duty of the teachers is to be with the children, and that any offer of voluntary service (eg., Air Raid Wardens, etc.), should be available only when the children are in safety.

It is suggested that the male teaching staffs should undertake a course of training in Air Raid Precautions and that the female teaching staffs should be prepared to enrol as members of the St. John's Ambulance and British Red Cross Societies. It is not suggested that teachers should endeavour to train themselves in the technical methods of protection, etc., but should acquire some elementary knowledge of first aid treatment of wounds and gas cases in order to give immediate first-aid to any casualties among school children'.

#### Gas Mask Training for Children

The Committee decided that gas mask training for children should be undertaken by the school staffs.

#### Periodic Drills in Dispersal

The Committee decided that each school should arrange a system of dispersal and that, periodically, drills in dispersal should be rehearsed.

#### Training in First-Aid for Children

The Committee recommend that training in first-aid should be incorporated in the hygiene lessons and emphasised.

#### Shelters

Steps have been taken to provide shelters in all schools where children are retained on the premises during raids and for the fitting of dark blinds to all windows.

In connection with First Aid Posts etc., I wish to inform you that the Infants' schools mentioned below have been allocated for these purposes as follows:-

#### First-Aid Party & Ambulance Depots

Windsor-Clive School  
Maindy Infants' School.  
Lansdowne Road School.  
Grangetown Council School.  
Clarence Road School.  
Oral School for the Deaf, Howard Gardens.  
Adamsdown Council School.  
Moorland Road Council School.

#### Reserve First-Aid Posts

Marlborough Road Infants' School.  
St. John's National Infants' School.  
Eleanor Street Infants' School.

St. Mary's Mission, North Church Street.

Telephones will be installed in the above schools.

It should be noted that the whole of Crwys Road School and Maindy Senior School will be used entirely for military purposes and that in consequence, arrangements will be made for the transfer of all the senior children affected to neighbouring schools.

#### Teachers in Infant and Special Schools

Teachers in Infant and Special Schools not called out in connection with the various forms of National Service will be transferred to other schools to fill vacancies caused by the calling up of members of the staffs of those schools...

Yours faithfully,  
W.J. Williams,  
Director of Education'.

At Viriamu Jones where there is a staff of ten, seven, including the Headmaster, have completed ARP courses, another is a Special Constable and Mr. C.W. Hunt 'is absent, being an Officer in the Territorial Force'. Mr. T. Spear of St. Patrick's Mixed is away for the same reason as is Mr. David Henry of Court Boys', Mr. Beynon of Grangetown Boys', Mr. D.J. Thomas of Herbert Thompson Boys' and no fewer than five teachers from Howard Gardens Boys'.<sup>45</sup>

'Fifty-seven girls were admitted from Severn Infants' four days early because of congestion in the Infants' due to Nursery School building' records the Head of the Girls' School there.

30<sup>th</sup> August

At St. Monica's Mixed 'The children were ordered to bring their Gas Masks this afternoon. They were first given instruction in fitting them on quickly and then had three trials at the quick evacuation of the school. The results were entirely satisfactory. Another trial may be held on Friday for the benefit of the new Standard 1 pupils'. Gas Drills are also held at the Boys' School in Metal Street and at Tredegarville.

Miss Hilda Ahrens, the South African teacher on exchange at Gladstone Girls', is reported to be 'ill in Germany'.<sup>46</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> September

At St. Paul's Mixed 'Recent events in Europe indicate the possibility of this country being at War with Germany very shortly. The Germans have invaded Poland whom we have promised to support in the event of aggression...I instructed the Staff to be present on Monday morning even if war broke out

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<sup>45</sup> GRO, E/HG Sec/28, *Two Wars, Reminiscences of Dr. Woosnam*, 1945.

<sup>46</sup> She never returns to the School and, on instructions, is taken off the staff strength as of 29<sup>th</sup> September 1939 as she is 'to return to South Africa'. Entry dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 1939.

during the weekend’.

The German invasion of Poland had begun at dawn. In Britain the Blackout begins as the British Government sends Hitler an ultimatum: Withdraw from Poland or we will declare war.<sup>47</sup>

At Crwys Road the schools are ‘closed until further notice – owing to being requisitioned by the Military Authorities’.<sup>48</sup> The Head of Crwys Mixed records ‘Summoned to Director’s Office at 11 am. Received instructions to vacate the school at once and to make myself personally responsible for all official stock, eg Log Books etc’.

Maindy Infants’ ‘closed at mid-day for an indefinite period – school required for first aid purposes’. The Head of Maindy Mixed records ‘On instructions received from the Director of Education, this school is closed for an indefinite period, being occupied by the Military Authority at 12 noon’.

Five girls are not promoted to a higher class at St. Peter’s, four of whom are described as ‘constantly absent and dull’. At Court Boys’ five pupils are held back, three of whom are ‘below normal’.

Lansdowne Infants’ admits seven year old Peter Flook, an evacuee from London who is ‘unable to read at all fluently’.

The Mixed and Infants’ schools at St. Cuthbert’s are amalgamated.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Sunday. War with Germany is declared and all schools are to be closed as the Government is worried that massive bombing will begin immediately.<sup>49</sup>

### 4<sup>th</sup> September

Whilst the schools are closed the Head of Canton Girls’ explains that ‘Necessitous children have been issued with a week’s supply of meal tickets. Necessitous milk is to be issued each morning by the caretaker’.

At Tredegarville ‘The Log Book and Class Registers were placed in the safe in St. James’ Church for safety’.

Marlborough Infants’ is taken over as a Reserve First Aid Post but it’s not used as no bombers arrive.

At a conference of Head Teachers held at the Technical College the Director of Education informs the Heads of the Upper schools that when they re-open on the 11<sup>th</sup> ‘Scholars were not to attend Baths, Manual Centres or Domestic Subject Centres unless they could reach their homes in five minutes in the event of an air raid warning’.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.15.

<sup>48</sup> Crwys Road Infants’.

<sup>49</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.15.

<sup>50</sup> Tredegarville Boys’.

The Director informs a meeting of Cardiff Education's 'War Emergency Sub-Committee' that as well as the Crwys Road and Maindy Schools the Military Authorities have commandeered from the Contractors 'the Lady Margaret High School, now in course of erection'.

'The Committee recommend that dark blinds be supplied to all schools in session as it is necessary frequently to use artificial light during school meetings at certain periods of the year'.

'The Committee agreed to the recommendation of the Director that, in the first instance, permission be granted to 20% of the establishment of teaching staffs who may wish to volunteer for enlistment in HM Forces, this ratio to apply also to the Administrative Staff for the present'.<sup>51</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> September

'The Head Teachers of the schools in St. John's Parish met Canon J.A. Lewis at Tredegarville to consider the arrangements to be made to accommodate the scholars of St. John's Boys' and Girls' Schools at the Tredegarville Schools. It was decided that the three schools be amalgamated and re-organised to form Senior and Junior Departments, Mr. W. Thomas [Head of Tredegarville Boys'] to be the Head Organiser, Miss Gwen Evans to have charge of the Senior Department and Mr. George Hughes to have charge of the Junior Department. Tredegarville Infants' were to be accommodated in the Roath Road Wesleyan Schoolroom, and St. John's Infants' in Charles Street Congregational Schoolroom'.<sup>52</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> September

At a meeting of Cardiff Education's Joint Advisory Committee 'It was decided that head teachers be requested to advise the parents of children living more than five minutes distance from school that until shelters are provided they should either-

- (1) transfer their children to schools nearer their homes; or
- (2) arrange for their children to be dispersed to the homes of friends living near the school'.

'It was further decided that in the case of infant children, who may return to school on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, arrangements similar to those above be made pending the provision of air raid shelters, etc., except that the time distance from home for dispersal purposes shall be reduced from five minutes to four minutes'.

'The Committee decided that in view of prevailing circumstances it would be advisable to refuse for the time being the admission to school of children under five years of age'.<sup>53</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> September

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<sup>51</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1938-39, p.415.

<sup>52</sup> Tredegarville Boys'.

<sup>53</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1938-39, p.441.

The first major units of British troops arrive in France.<sup>54</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> September

‘Mr. C.J. Lawrence, the teacher in charge of Standard 3, is on Active Service’ records the Head of Whitchurch Boys’. At Grangetown Boys’ Mr. Stephen Wickham ‘has volunteered for full time military service and been accepted’. Similarly, Mr. Colin Harvey, a Court Boys’ teacher ‘has joined the RAF and has left for military service’.

Cardiff’s Upper Schools re-open. The children of Crwys Road Mixed fit in to the classes of the Girls’ and Boys’ Schools at Albany where ‘all the boys paraded with their gas masks’.<sup>55</sup>

Among the eight pupils not promoted to a higher class in Marlborough Girls’ is ‘Roselle Stern – German Refugee’.

The pupils and teachers of Maindy Mixed meet at the school ‘for the purpose of posting scholars to other schools in the District as follows:-

44 to Allensbank Boys’

40 to Allensbank Girls’

23 to Viriamu Jones Boys’

21 to Viriamu Jones Girls’

5 to St. Monica’s and Gladstone Schools

133 Total

All unused stock has been divided between the schools concerned and placed in charge of the teachers who were transferred with the children’. Two go to Allensbank Boys’, three to the Girls’ School there and one each to Viriamu Jones Boys’ and Girls’.

‘Miss Norah Ready commenced duties as a Temporary Supply Teacher in place of Mr. T. Spear, who is serving with the 77<sup>th</sup> Welsh Anti-Aircraft Regiment’ records the Head of St. Patrick’s Mixed.

At St. Mary’s Infants’ & Junior Mixed ‘Miss K.L. Williams is granted leave of absence with salary, upon joining the Royal Air Force’. Next door at the Seniors they admit Donald Medlock, an evacuee from Middlesex.<sup>56</sup>

Four children who have been privately evacuated are admitted at St. Fagan’s. Tongwynlais admits ten evacuees.

At St. Peter’s ‘Mr. Thomas, City Engineer, came to arrange for air raid shelters to be erected in the playground’.<sup>57</sup>

The Head of Gladstone Boys’ ‘Admitted a number of children from London. [His Admissions Register records the names of seventeen evacuees,

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<sup>54</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.15.

<sup>55</sup> Crwys Road Mixed.

<sup>56</sup> Bute Terrace.

<sup>57</sup> St. Peter’s Girls’.

including three sets of brothers] Several children were transferred to schools nearer their home'. The next day he reports that the usual timetable has been interfered with by rehearsals to evacuate the building in case of bombing.

The Art Room in Whitchurch Mixed is being used to store Glamorgan County Hall records.

At Heathfield House 'the Hall has been made a temporary refuge room in case of a raid. It has been made gas-proof and all glass has been covered'.

News arrives at Severn Road Girls' that fifteen pupils have passed the examination for the High Schools although 'two girls did not accept scholarship places'. [Such refusals are not uncommon as the cost of books and other equipment makes secondary education prohibitive for many families.<sup>58</sup>]

12<sup>th</sup> September

'The children seem to be settling down very well in the new atmosphere. They are being taught how to fix the gas masks without any excitement' records the Head of Whitchurch Boys'. Arrangements are made for two instructors from the Handicraft Centre at Ninian Park School to attend Grangetown Boys' on three mornings and an afternoon.

At a meeting of Cardiff's Education Committee 'The City Engineer reported on the question of providing air raid shelters in schools, or where these were not practicable other means of protection such as re-inforcing classrooms. A scheme had been drawn up on the principle that protective accommodation should be only provided for those children who could not reach their homes from school within five minutes. It was estimated that the cost would be approximately £70,000.

On a motion of Alderman Sir H. Miles, seconded by Alderman Pethybridge, it was resolved:- That the City Engineer be instructed to provide air raid shelters or other means of protection...and that approval to the expenditure on this scheme be limited to a sum not to exceed £30,000 for the present.'

The Director reports on fifteen teachers who, being in the Territorial Army, have been called up. No fewer than six had been teaching at Howard Gardens High School for Boys. A further twelve teachers 'had been granted permission to enlist in H.M. Forces'. Among these are the four teachers from Herbert Thompson Boys' and Misses Kathleen Williams, St. Mary's, Bute Terrace, and Edith Jones, Baden Powell Infants'.<sup>59</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> September

Mr. Harold Pepperell, a teacher in Herbert Thompson Boys', 'was today called up for service with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Regiment of the Royal Artillery'.

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<sup>58</sup> This had always been the case as is illustrated by the following: 'Percy Thorne and Florrie Marsh do not attend taking up their Scholarships at the Municipal Secondary School owing to their inability to purchase books etc. This is a frequent experience'. St. Monica's Mixed, 6<sup>th</sup> September 1909.

<sup>59</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1938-39, pp.434,436.

14<sup>th</sup> September

A Circular is sent out to all Cardiff schools: 'Civil Pay to Employees during Service with Military Authorities or Auxiliary Services – Teachers granted leave, paid their full salary less the sum received by them in virtue of service'.<sup>60</sup>

Miss Myerson, a Marlborough Girls' teacher, is granted two days' leave of absence for 'the Jewish Festival'.

16<sup>th</sup> September

At another meeting of Cardiff Education's Joint Advisory Committee 'It is suggested that the Head Teachers of girls' and mixed schools be asked to undertake the making of cases for gas masks for the whole of the scholars in their schools, as part of the needlework instruction'.

'A letter was received from the Cardiff Association of the NUT enclosing the following resolution passed by that body at a special emergency meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, viz.:-

'The Cardiff Teachers' Association notes with dismay the inconsistency shewn between the various measures taken to protect the schoolchildren and staffs of the City, and those taken to protect the remainder of the civilian population.

The Association urges that – as a first step – all infants' departments remain closed until adequate precautions are made'.

The Committee recommend that the above resolution be adopted, and referred to the Education Committee for their consideration'. Despite this a week later the Education Committee 'Resolved that the NUT Resolution be not adopted and that infants' schools remain open...'<sup>61</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> September

The Infants' Schools re-open though, as the Head of Llanishen points out, 'Children are to attend at the option of Parents'.

At Clarence Infants' one of their three classrooms is being used as a First Aid and Ambulance depot. The children of Crwys Infants' together with their two teachers resume work at Albany Infants'.

The Headmistress of Maindy Infants' notes 'School re-opened in one wing of Allensbank Infants' School. Nineteen children have been transferred to other schools on grounds of distance'. The Headmistress of Allensbank Infants' notes that the Maindy children have been given three classrooms and a separate cloakroom and entrance.

The Head of Gladstone Infants' reports that ARP practices improve greatly as the week passes.

At Marlborough Infants' the Head goes into detail about how the school has

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<sup>60</sup> Viriamu Jones Boys'.

<sup>61</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1938–39, pp.442–443, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1939, p.446.

organised its evacuation plans should the bombing start:

'(1) A.R.P. Drill was organised as follows.

Teacher Red Patrol - Miss Jenkins - takes the children to Marlborough Rd. and Blenheim Rd. crossing, and across the road from whence they run home.  
(1b) Auxillary Red Patrol - Miss Orchard.

(2) Blue Patrol - Miss Chorley conducts the children to Blenheim and Sandringham Road corner, conducts across the road, and they run home.

(3) Green Patrol - Miss James accompanies the children to the junction of Sandringham and Agincourt Road, across the road, and they run home.

(4) Yellow Patrol. Children remain in school, half in the Head Teacher's room and half in the staffroom. (Temporary arrangement until Air Raid Shelters are complete)'.  
'

The Head of Roath Infants' explains 'This week is to be an experimental one. All children living within four minutes of the school are to be tested in groups with a teacher as to how long it takes them to get home so that in case of air-raids no time will be lost'.

At St. Monica's Infants' they note that several children have been admitted from the St. John's, Crwys Road and Maindy Schools.

Four more evacuees are admitted to Gladstone Boys', three from London and one from Birmingham. Among them are Dennis and Ronnie Debnam from Islington who are staying at 20 Minny Street.<sup>62</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> September

In an effort to ensure the quick dispersal of children at Court Road the 'old exits from the playground were re-opened today'.<sup>63</sup>

Because the playing fields at Blackweir have been 'taken over by the Military' the Headmistress of Heathfield House accepts an offer to use a playing field at Rumney owned by the CWS Biscuit Factory.<sup>64</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> September

At Cathays High for Boys' 'sand-bagging work commenced [and] ARP work began'. The Head of Radnor Girls' notes that 'ARP practice is taken weekly'.

The Headmistress of St. Cuthbert's records 'Instead of going to Cookery and Laundry, the Domestic Science teacher, Miss Evans, came to the school and gave the girls cutting out lessons. Sewing was done in the afternoon'.

23<sup>rd</sup> September

Petrol rationing is introduced.<sup>65</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> September

Because Windsor-Clive Infants' has become a First-Aid & Ambulance Depot

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<sup>62</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>63</sup> Court Road Girls'.

<sup>64</sup> Heathfield House, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September 1939.

<sup>65</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.46.

the Boys' School gives up one of the huts in the playground to house some of the infants. This means the staffroom in the Boys' is turned into a classroom.

Another evacuee is admitted at Roath Boys'. Since the end of August the school has taken in eight evacuees, five from London, two brothers from Birmingham and a boy from Surrey.<sup>66</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> September

A Parents' Meeting is held at Allensbank Infants' so that the two Headteachers can explain 'their plan of evacuation in case of an air-raid'.

27<sup>th</sup> September

At Baden Powell Infants' they record another Circular, 'As a result of the present war conditions the Joint Advisory Committee has decided:

- (a) Suitable arrangements are to be made for the storing of gas masks.
- (b) Attendance of children at school shall be optional pending the provision of structural air-raid precautions in the school.
- (c) Time Tables may have a certain flexibility with regard to play-time and playground games'.

The first air-raid and gas mask drill is held at De La Salle but 'this first practice was too jolly to be a success'.<sup>67</sup>

Messrs J.O. Thomas and V.C.W. Phelps, two more teachers from Herbert Thompson Boys', are called up for military service with the Royal Artillery.

28<sup>th</sup> September

The pupils of Crwys Mixed, now at Albany Road, are examined for malnutrition. So too are those at Albany Girls'.

At a meeting of Cardiff's Secondary Schools (Evacuated Secondary School Pupils etc.) Sub Committee 'The Director reported that applications had been received on behalf of forty children (twenty-four boys and sixteen girls)...for admission, by transfer, to the Cardiff High Schools...[and] that applications had been received for the admission...of five Jewish Refugee children who have come to reside at Cardiff with their parents (or guardians). The Sub-Committee recommend that...arrangements be made for their admission, on the understanding that the full school fees of £10 per annum will be paid in respect of each child admitted'.<sup>68</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of St. Monica's Infants' explains 'There have been many admissions to this school during the last two weeks from the closed schools in the area'. On the same day the Head of Maindy Infants' admits 'Thirty-nine children have been transferred to other schools nearer their homes during the past two weeks'.

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<sup>66</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>67</sup> De La Salle Day by Day, *The Illtydian*, Vol.12, No.1, Christmas 1939, p.55. This, and other volumes are held by the De La Salle Brothers, Oxford.

<sup>68</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1938-39, p.466.

At Whitchurch Boys' `Police Detectives have been making enquiries here today in connection with a cruel outrage and murder of a little Infants' girl, Joyce Cox, yesterday afternoon'.

2<sup>nd</sup> October

Miss Edith Jones, a teacher at Baden Powell, is 'called up to serve in the WAAF for the period of the war'.<sup>69</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> October

The Head of Gladstone Boys' reports on a dress-rehearsal evacuation by all three schools at the site: 'Police watched the arrangements, and fully approved of them'.

Following the medical examination of the Crwys Mixed pupils 'a number of parents are invited to meet the School Medical Officer'. At Albany Boys' too the doctors `interviewed the mothers of fourteen boys who showed signs of malnutrition'.

At Grangetown Girls' `The Instructress at the Swimming Baths visited the school and gave a lesson (Land Drill) to Form 2'. [From now until the middle of November she visits weekly.]

4<sup>th</sup> October

Following a cleanliness inspection at Tongwynlais a pupil is 'excluded for being verminous'.

9<sup>th</sup> October

Mr. Tom Jones HMI calls in at Marlborough Girls' 'to ascertain the number of evacuees and refugees attending this school'. [Unfortunately the Head does not give the details]

At St. Monica's Infants' 'Afternoon playtime is being given up and the school will close at 3.45 instead. This will get the children home earlier and give the caretaker longer daylight for cleaning the school'.

10<sup>th</sup> October

Radnor Girls' holds its `Junior and Senior Assemblies for Harvest Service. Owing to national circumstances (War) teachers brought products – flowers, vegetables and fruit, instead of the children. These were given to the sick and poor and in all cases received gratefully. Children's collection for the Infirmary = £3'.

12<sup>th</sup> October

The Secretary of the 'British Ship Adoption Society' writes from their temporary address at Trident House, Dock Street, Newport to all schools participating in the adoption scheme:

'In previous years, when there was peace, we usually commenced to think of

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<sup>69</sup> WAAF = Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Christmas gifts for our friends afloat about October, because we wished those at sea to receive them during the festive season. Now that war has come, it is more necessary than ever that we should think ahead...[so] please be early. We are certain that none would wish our gallant Merchant Service, and – in particular, the personal friends made in ‘our ship’ – to feel forgotten this Christmas. It is not necessary that your gifts should be bought. Your friends afloat will be even more pleased with anything you can make or do for them... You may even care to think of other ships, not adopted, but which still are doing their part, in dangerous circumstances, to ensure the flow of those things we most appreciate at Christmas time...<sup>70</sup>

Llandaff City Mixed has ‘A few suggestions for Christmas presents to ships’. The girls are urged to make ‘long woolly scarves’, socks, handkerchiefs, bookmarkers, ties and hand-made Christmas cards. The boys are asked to make ashtrays, pipe-racks, book-ends, bookmarkers and jigsaw puzzles. ‘Cards, Monopoly, Draughts and Games of all kinds would be particularly welcome’. On the other hand the children are advised not to send ‘cakes, sweets and such ‘extra comforts’ of that sort, including cigarettes’ as these are deemed to be perishable. In a special note at the end of the leaflet the children are reminded that they must not mention the name of ‘their ship’ in any letter because ‘by writing in this ‘mysterious’ way, and using codes instead of names, you are helping to defeat the U boats and those who would imperil our seafarers. I know you all will be strictly ‘on your guard’’.<sup>71</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> October

Work at Gladstone Boys’ is ‘interfered with this week by the workmen sent here to ‘black out’ the windows’.

At De La Salle ‘More gas mask drill and air raid rehearsals. All the boys are now serious, and the practice is a success’.<sup>72</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> October

‘Miss Marshall gave her first talk to girls of 13 and 14 years on ‘Growing Up’ records the Head at Severn Road.

17<sup>th</sup> October

Two more London evacuees are admitted to Roath Boys’ bringing the total for the month to six.<sup>73</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> October

The Headmistress of Albany Girls’ notes ‘Miss E.J. Johnson terminated duties as a supply teacher today. She returns to her own post at Gabalfa Special School which is to be re-opened on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>’. For the same reason Miss Myfanwy Ashton leaves Gladstone Girls’.

25<sup>th</sup> October

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<sup>70</sup> Letter contained within Llandaff City Mixed Admissions Register.

<sup>71</sup> Pamphlet contained within Llandaff City Mixed Admissions Register.

<sup>72</sup> *The Illydian*, 1939, p.55.

<sup>73</sup> Roath Park Boys’ Admissions Register.

At St. Patrick's Infants' 'air raid shelters are being erected in the playground'.

The Head of Gladstone Infants' admits that ARP practices take place every day 'when the weather permits'.

Albany Girls' notes a Circular 'stating that the operation of the sections of the Education Act relating to the raising of the school leaving age, which took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, have been suspended'.

26<sup>th</sup> October

The Head of Crwys Mixed 'Handed the staff notices received from the Director regarding their transfer from this School as from November 1<sup>st</sup>. Three men will join the staff of Albany Boys' and three women will join Albany Girls'. Another man is to go to Herbert Thompson Boys' and a woman to Ely Mixed. Next day he complains 'No official notification has yet been received regarding the proposed amalgamation although this is presumably the last session before the amalgamation is intended to take place'.

27<sup>th</sup> October

The Head of Tongwynlais notes a Circular 'instructing me to utilise available ground for purposes of gardening, in connection with the movement to produce more foodstuffs owing to the National Emergency. In consequence...fourteen plots have been allocated to boys'.

1<sup>st</sup> November

Crwys and Albany Infants' are officially amalgamated. Seventy-four Crwys Road pupils, forty boys and forty-four girls, together with their Headmistress, Miss Gwendoline Hancock, and Miss Jessie Adams become a part of Albany Infants'. Two other teachers are transferred to Baden Powell Infants'. Ninety-six Crwys Road girls and three of their teachers are amalgamated with Albany Girls'. Maindy and Allensbank Infants' are also officially amalgamated. The Headmistress of Maindy, together with two of her teachers joins the staff of Allensbank adding forty-five children to the Register. Another Maindy Infants' teacher is transferred to Birchgrove Infants'.<sup>74</sup>

The Head of Crwys Mixed still hasn't received any official notification or instructions...

At St. Mary's Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace they admit Betty Walding from London. Gladstone Boys' admits Cyril and Kenneth Pigott from London.

Glamorgan schools change their hours, cutting the lunch break by an hour so as to be able to close at 3.30. 'The change has been made necessary on account of the lighting restrictions'.<sup>75</sup> At Radyr the Head notes that the morning session now starts at 8.45.

2<sup>nd</sup> November

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<sup>74</sup> Allensbank Infants' & Maindy Infants'.

<sup>75</sup> Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

`Owing to war conditions and the fact that the children cannot play in comfort with their gas masks on their backs, it has been found advisable to do without play, continuing straight on through the timetable. School is therefore dismissed at quarter to twelve and quarter to four' records the Head of Stacey Infants'.

Mr. H.R. Davies, the P.E. Master, leaves Cathays High for Boys' for the Forces. He is replaced, on 'a month's trial' by Mr. J.B. Roberts of Allensbank Boys'.<sup>76</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> November

Workmen begin building air raid shelters in the playgrounds of Metal Street, St. Alban's and St. Patrick's Mixed.<sup>77</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> November

Following a Nutrition Survey at Court Boys `Seventeen of the scholars who were considered to be under-nourished were medically examined by Dr. Murphy'.

10<sup>th</sup> November

At a meeting of Cardiff's Education Committee the Director reports that approval has been given by the Board of Education `for the first instalment of the Committee's scheme for the provision of air raid shelters for schools'.

13<sup>th</sup> November

Mr. Colin Harvey returns to Court Boys' `having been released by the RAF for the time being'.

17<sup>th</sup> November

A 'Nutrition Survey' at Gladstone Infants' results in six more children being 'added to our...list for Free Milk'.

Cardiff Education's Elementary Sub-Committee is 'unable to accede to a request from Miss L.S. Rate, an Assistant Teacher at the Roath Park Girls' School, to be allowed to continue in service after marriage, for the duration of the war. The Director was requested to inform Miss Rate that upon marriage, favourable consideration would be given to an application from her for supply work'.<sup>78</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> November

New school hours are introduced in Cardiff's schools because of the Blackout. In the Upper Schools 'the morning session shall begin at 9 am and close at noon. The afternoon session shall begin at 1.30 pm and close at 3.45 pm'. The Infant Schools are to open for the afternoon at 1.30 and close at 3.30.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 7<sup>th</sup> November 1939.

<sup>77</sup> St. Alban's Infants', 3<sup>rd</sup> November, St. Patrick's, 5<sup>th</sup> November & Metal Street Boys', 6<sup>th</sup> November 1939.

<sup>78</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.14.

<sup>79</sup> Roath Park Girls' & Radnor Road Infants'.

Andrew Cant, the only boy to have been evacuated from De La Salle on the outbreak of war returns to the school.<sup>80</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> November

'The City Engineer reported verbally with regard to the progress made in the provision of air raid shelters in those schools in the vicinity of the docks and major industrial areas'.

'Howell's School, Llandaff – The City Treasurer and Controller reported the receipt of a letter from the Clerk to the Governors regarding expenditure of approximately £700 on Air Raid Precautions at the school, and it was Resolved – That a contribution of 40% of the cost be paid by this Committee'.<sup>81</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> November

'A stammering class started here this morning in an empty class-room. Miss Parry HMI came in to see the class and Miss Morris, the teacher' records the Head of Roath Infants'. The next day 'Speech Training Classes' are re-opened at Herbert Thompson Boys'.<sup>82</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> December

The Head of Hawthorn Mixed records that for the past three mornings he has left school at 10 am 'to attend the Aliens' Tribunal at the Law Courts'.

8<sup>th</sup> December

'An emergency exit on the top floor has now been completed' notes the Head at Kitchener.

11<sup>th</sup> December

'The sum of one guinea was forwarded to the Cardiff Schoolchildren's Royal Infirmary Fund' records the Head of St. Alban's Infants'.

At Radyr 'From today the afternoon session will begin at 1.15 pm and end at 3.30 to enable all children to reach home in the daylight'.

13<sup>th</sup> December

Nurse Parker visits Canton Girls' 'and inspected the heads of those who had already been reported'.

18<sup>th</sup> December

Radnor Girls' receives a letter from 'Rhoose School Camp expressing great appreciation of seven woollen knitted blankets (squares) sent with a little clothing to the evacuees from the girls of this school. Two blankets, two pillow cases and a pair of mittens are being forwarded to *H.M. Submarine Trident* this afternoon'.

20<sup>th</sup> December

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<sup>80</sup> *The Illydian*, 1939, p.55.

<sup>81</sup> Cardiff Education's War Emergency Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939–40, p.38.

<sup>82</sup> Hywel Dda Infants', 24<sup>th</sup> November 1939.

The pupils of Hywel Dda Mixed donate £3. 6. 0. to the Infirmary Fund. The total amount raised by the schools of Cardiff this year is £326. 7. 8.<sup>83</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> December

Gladstone Boys' Annual School Concert has to be abandoned 'owing to the difficulties created by the war'.

At St. Alban's Mixed 'The Baseball Cup (St. Peter's) which was won by the school during the past summer was presented to the Captain (T. McGrath) this afternoon. The Presentation took place at 3.30 pm. Owing to the 'Black Out' restrictions the usual [evening] ceremony had to be abandoned'.

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' records 'the children were handed their reports. On the whole, considering 'war nerves' and staff disorganisation consequent upon Mr. C.J. Lawrence rejoining the forces on the outbreak of war, quite good work has been done'. The school closes at midday 'to enable the boys to attend the Christmas Party arranged by the Melingriffith Tinplate Works' workmen'. The Head of Hawthorn Infants' explains that this is because 'Owing to Black Out Regulations, the Annual Christmas Party given to children of employees of the Melin Griffiths Tin Works Company was held during the early afternoon...'

Miss Doreen Hill resigns from Herbert Thompson Girls' as she is about to get married.

## 1940

2<sup>nd</sup> January

Cardiff's Education (Air Raid Precautions) Sub-Committee recommends that tenders submitted for the construction of 199 school shelters be accepted at a total cost of £17,754. [This works out at an average price of a little over £89.]

'The City Engineer reported that the approximate cost of the above shelters and the ones in course of erection amounted to £25,649. In addition to this expenditure the cost of sandbagging certain schools and the provision of one or two shelters in Junior Instruction Centres and Special Schools must be added, but it is estimated that the total cost for all schools will be at least £2,000 less than the total of £30,000 sanctioned by the City Council'.<sup>84</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> January

Two children from Clarence Infants' 'Margaret Evans and Phyllis Perks are at the Sanatorium suffering with diphtheria'.

The Headmaster of Grangetown notes that the 'senior boys (11+) will resume attendance at the Ninian Park Manual Centre'. Nineteen girls from forms 1 & 2 at Eleanor Street attend at Bromsgrove Street Domestic Science Centre.

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<sup>83</sup> Education Committee, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1939. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.61

<sup>84</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.63.

'Terminal Examinations were not held last term owing to the disturbance created by the building of a concrete shelter in the Girls' playground and the construction of a new door in the classroom accommodating Standards 1 & 2' records the Head of St. Paul's Mixed.

Mr. Lawrence, discharged from the Army, returns to Whitchurch Boys'.

The rationing of bacon, butter, ham and sugar is introduced.<sup>85</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> January

'Mr. Tom Jones, HMI, visited the school to inspect the new air raid shelters' records the Head of Tredegarville. At St. Peter's 'Three brick air-raid shelters, accommodating fifty each, are being built in the Girls' School playground and two in Heathfield House playground for our use also'.

11<sup>th</sup> January

Mr. J. Arnold Roberts is absent from Herbert Thompson Boys' in the morning: 'He is attending the Cardiff Police Court as a witness. He is a Special Constable'.

Mr. Gwyn Daniel, the Welsh teacher at Grangetown Boys', 'was absent in the morning...to attend the Military Service Appeal Tribunal'.

[Of the sixteen evacuees admitted to Roath Boys in 1939, only six remain and two of those will return to Birmingham before the week is out. At Gladstone Boys', however, eleven of their twenty-four evacuees are still there.<sup>86</sup>]

12<sup>th</sup> January

'Owing to the yard being occupied by men and materials connected with the building of 'Air Raid Shelters' play has had to be cancelled all this week' records the Head of Gladstone Boys'.

At Whitchurch Mixed 'The County Hall records have been transferred from the Art to the Craft Room so that the larger room may be used for educational purposes'.

15<sup>th</sup> January

Lansdowne Boys' receives a Medical Certificate from one of the teachers who is suffering from 'Facial Impetigo'. He will be away for a fortnight.

17<sup>th</sup> January

Mr. Edwards, a teacher at St. Cuthbert's, 'left today to join the Royal Engineers Corps. Anne O'Shea, uncertificated, has been appointed on supply in his place'.

In the afternoon there's a meeting at the City Hall convened by the Lord Mayor about the War Savings Campaign.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.46.

<sup>86</sup> Roath Park Boys' & Gladstone Boys' Admissions Registers.

<sup>87</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys'.

19<sup>th</sup> January

'The extreme cold has caused the water supply to freeze' writes the Head of Whitchurch Mixed, 'Water for the toilets is being carried from the brook by the caretaker. Water for midday meals is obtained from the nearest house'.

At Ninian Infants' attendance is only 54.81%. The Head of Hywel Dda Mixed observes that the fall of snow has seen attendance suffer because 'many children attending school are badly shod'.

At a meeting of Cardiff's General Education Committee the Director reports on problems identified by the Town Clerk with the erection of shelters at Albany Road and St. Peter's. The City Engineer 'has found it impracticable to site shelters elsewhere than upon the adjoining Public highways...[and] the Corporation have no power to erect Shelters upon the highway unless they are Public shelters...I therefore recommend...the erection of these shelters as Public Shelters on the understanding that they will be available for the pupils of the schools concerned during ordinary school hours'.<sup>88</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> January

Only nine of the nineteen children at Llanederyn turn up for school because of the snow.

26<sup>th</sup> January

A Circular is sent out 'Excluding Children with Warts from Swimming Baths'.<sup>89</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> January

Attendance is down to 45% at Hywel Dda Infants' and it's a similar tale across the City.<sup>90</sup> Nevertheless, when the Headmaster of St. Paul's 'telephoned the Education Office and informed them that the lavatories were frozen, that the attendance in the Mixed Department was 64% and in the Infants' 44% and asked for instructions' he is 'Instructed to carry on'.

2<sup>nd</sup> February

Miss Mary Carter terminates her temporary duties at Gladstone Girls' because her own school, Greenhill, is about to re-open.

5<sup>th</sup> February

Greenhill Open Air School, having been closed since the outbreak of the war, re-opens with fifty-three children.<sup>91</sup>

The Head of Clarence Infants' records that the afternoon session 'again begins at 2 pm and closes at 4 pm'. At St. Peter's Girls' the new afternoon hours are 2-4.30.

8<sup>th</sup> February

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<sup>88</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.75.

<sup>89</sup> Viriamu Jones Boys'.

<sup>90</sup> See, for example, Allensbank Infants' & Herbert Thompson Infants'.

<sup>91</sup> Opened in November 1927, the school was for children suffering from Tuberculosis.

The Head of Gladstone Infants' reports that the Air Raid Shelters are now finished 'a hundred odd pupils to be protected in case of Raid'. [There were over 280 children at the school before the war so the majority are expected to run home if and when the sirens start. It's the same across the city...<sup>92</sup>]

9<sup>th</sup> February

The King and Queen visit Cardiff and review Civil Defence forces. Many of the City's teachers who are part-time policemen, or ARP or Red Cross workers are given time off but, because this would involve the loss of seven staff from Albany Boys', the four Air Raid Wardens draw lots so as to allow three to go to the parade.<sup>93</sup> The pupils of Cardiff's High Schools witness the inspection in front of the City Hall and all schools are closed in the afternoon to celebrate the Royal Visit.<sup>94</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> February

The Canton Schools are closed 'as no fires were lit, owing to a shortage of firewood'.<sup>95</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> February

'On arriving in school this morning I found that the building had been entered during the night. All the teachers' desks had been forced and the piano. A small amount of money was stolen. The police reported an arrest at 11.30 am' records the Head of Metal Street Boys'.

A Nutrition Survey of 285 girls at Severn Road reveals that twenty-seven are undernourished.

27<sup>th</sup> February

Eighty-seven St. Peter's girls whose parents have given their permission are immunised against diphtheria.

The Head of Severn Girls' completes the 'Annual 'Milk in Schools' form, showing 330 on books, 38 free milk, 182 paying (nine evacuees)'.

1<sup>st</sup> March

At Marlborough Girls' 'St. David's Day was celebrated by a varied programme consisting of songs, dances and plays in the Hall. Miss Roberts, a former Head Mistress, addressed the girls on the present war, and how we can all help to win it by our own individual efforts – to be courageous, brave, cheerful, self-sacrificing and economical'.

4<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff's first Nursery School 'provided in conjunction with Severn Road

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<sup>92</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> December 1938.

<sup>93</sup> For other examples see Birchgrove Infants', Gladstone Boys' & Radnor Road Girls'.

<sup>94</sup> Cathays High for Boys', Heathfield House & *History of the House* 1923-1981, p.52. The latter, a hand-written journal kept by the various Head Teachers of St. Illtyd's summarising the main events of each year in a couple of pages, is held by the De La Salle Brothers, Oxford.

<sup>95</sup> Canton Infants'.

Infants' School' opens with accommodation for 120 children.<sup>96</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> March

Mr. Hinton, a Metal Street Boys' teacher, 'left today to serve in the Royal Air Force'.

8<sup>th</sup> March

At Grangetown Boys' 'The whole school was assembled in the playground in the morning for a presentation to Sydney Nurse who was in the Battle of the River Plate'. [Appended to the log is a newspaper cutting explaining that he was an ex-pupil of the school who was serving on *HMS Exeter* when the frigate attacked the *Graf Spee* in December 1939. The boys presented him with an inscribed wrist watch]

'Mr. Mends has informed me that he has to report for duty in the Royal Air Force tomorrow' reports the Head of Metal Street Boys'.

11<sup>th</sup> March

Grace Chamberlain, a Gladstone Girls' pupil, is presented with a cheque for £5 by the Deputy Lord Mayor for winning first prize in the *Western Mail's* St. David's Day essay competition with her entry 'A Grim Reminder of War'.

[Meat rationing is introduced.](#)<sup>97</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> March

At Roath Infants' 'During the building of the air raid shelters playtime is dispensed with and school is being dismissed 10 minutes earlier in the morning and afternoon'.

The Head of the Boys' at Metal Street receives a 'post-card from Mr. Mends informing me that the Air Force has permitted him to return to Civil Life'. He returns to the school the next day.

14<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee is told of the 'poor response' to the official leaflets which have been distributed, in English and Welsh, appealing to householders to take in evacuated school-children already in the district or likely to be sent there. Subsequently, the Chairman and Clerk 'had interviewed officers of the Welsh Board of Health thereon and suggested that, with the view of bringing the matter prominently before the public, the Board consider the question of a local broadcast appeal and newspaper propaganda urging cooperation by householders in providing accommodation for the evacuee school-children'.<sup>98</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff's schools receive notification that 'The allowances for School Requisitions as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1940 are as follows:-

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<sup>96</sup> CCL, Cardiff, MoH, *Annual Report*, 1938, p.169 & 1939, p.91.

<sup>97</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.46.

<sup>98</sup> See also minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Boys & Girls in Mixed Schools	5/6 per head per year
Infants	3/9 per head per year
Seniors	10/- per head per year. <sup>99</sup>

The Headmistress of Herbert Thompson Infants' notes that this is an increase of 9d. per head on last year's capitation.

19<sup>th</sup> March

Glamorgan's Secondary Education Sub-Committee discusses the charges to be made on Evacuating Authorities:

`With regard to pupils who migrate as school parties [the sub committee recommends] the following charges be made to the Evacuating Authorities:-  
 (1) an apportionment to be ascertained of additional expenditure on fuel, light and cleaning;  
 (2) 1/- per head per annum in respect of upkeep of buildings and grounds;  
 (3) proportionate additional cost of books and stationery;  
 (4) additional expenditure on salaries and travelling expenses of Medical Staff'.<sup>100</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> March

The last of the evacuees admitted to Roath Boys in 1939 returns home to Skegness.<sup>101</sup>

Mr. Elcock of the *Altmark* visits Whitchurch Boys' in the morning: `great joy amongst the boys. He is a Whitchurch product'.

Eric Elcock had been the third engineer on the *SS Trevanion* when it had been sunk by the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1939. Taken prisoner, he was later transferred with others to the German supply vessel *Altmark*. In February 1940 `The *Altmark* was lying in neutral Norwegian waters when the prisoners became aware of the presence of a British destroyer. They made a deafening clamour and, as the *Altmark* was boarded by British sailors, Eric Elcock said `I have never seen a more thankful lot of men than those of us who went on board the destroyer that night'.<sup>102</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> March

The Clerk of Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee reports that `of the 9,563 householders circularised, 247 have intimated they will take 382 school-children and that 226 have replied stating they have no accommodation'.

1<sup>st</sup> April

`Fifteen children under five years of age were re-admitted today. They left when war broke out' notes the Head of Metal Street Infants'.

4<sup>th</sup> April

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<sup>99</sup> Roath Park Boys'.

<sup>100</sup> GRO, GC/EDSE/5, Glamorgan Education Committee, *Reports of Secondary Education Sub Committee*, 1938-1952.

<sup>101</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>102</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.12.

Mr. Ball, a teacher at Cathays High for Boys', leaves for the Forces.

8<sup>th</sup> April

Mr. Sirrell, a 'Temporary Supply Teacher' at Stacey Boys' is called up to join the Army.

9<sup>th</sup> April

German troops occupy Denmark and begin the invasion of neutral Norway. British and French troops sent to help the Norwegians repel the Germans are soon forced to retreat by a far superior enemy. Within two months the surviving Allied troops have to be evacuated and the German conquest is complete.<sup>103</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> April

Four pupils do not sit the High Schools Entrance Examinations at Radnor Girls'. One is ill, another doesn't want to take the exam and 'one refugee and one evacuee have returned home'.

16<sup>th</sup> April

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee is told that, as a result of a campaign by the Women's Voluntary Services, a further 370 billets have been offered which could accommodate 908 evacuated school-children. The Committee resolves 'that the canvas by the Women's Voluntary Services be intensified and extended so as to include all households in the district...and, in the event of the response being insufficient to accommodate the 1,800 school-children to be received from London and Birmingham, consideration be given to the preparation of a list of compulsory billets'.

17<sup>th</sup> April

Miss Sheelagh McLean, a teacher at Metal Street Infants' 'was sent for, her brother having been killed in action'.

19<sup>th</sup> April

Rain interferes with an Air Raid Practice at Gladstone Infants'.

22<sup>nd</sup> April

Because 'two classrooms have been commandeered to accommodate Standards 3 & 4 of Rhydypenau School until September or until further notice' records the Head of Allensbank Infants', two of her classes have to share a room and 'a new timetable has had to be drawn up'.

23<sup>rd</sup> April

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular dealing with the 'Admission of children under 5 years of age:-

Children over 4 years of age can be admitted subject to the following conditions:

(a) Children residing within 5 minutes distance.

(b) Children residing more than 5 minutes distance, if accommodation is

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<sup>103</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.40.

available in the existing air raid shelters.  
(c) Number of children in Class 3 (Babies) must not exceed 40.  
Admissions will depend upon individual applications made by the parents in writing'.<sup>104</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> April

Metal Street Infants' receives a Circular about salaries and Miss Milkins, the Headmistress, notes the figures which will apply in her school:

Miss Milkins	£348
Miss McLean	£208. 10. 0.
Miss Hubbarde	£192
Miss Jewell	£176. 5. 0.

25<sup>th</sup> April

Another Circular is entitled 'Food: How the Teachers can help the Nation'.<sup>105</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> April

Mr. Mends leaves Metal Street again for the RAF.

30<sup>th</sup> April

'The Domestic Science Centre is closed during the afternoon session: a demonstration on War Time Cookery and the best use of Rationed Foods was given to housewives by R. Bettley of 28 Cathedral Road' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

At Whitchurch Boys' 'The Cardiff Wastepaper Co., West Dock, Cardiff, took eight sacks of old used books this morning...Mr. Lawrence left at 3.45 to attend a Masonic Function. Leave granted by the Director of Education'.

1<sup>st</sup> May

At Hawthorn Mixed 'In the evening a Concert was given in the Hall on behalf of a Comforts Fund for Old Pupils and the parents of present scholars now serving with HM Forces. About 220 were present, including Miss M. Parry BA, HMI. The Concert realised £8. 19. 6. Miss Parry spoke eulogistically of the items and especially praised the dramatic work of the children'.

3<sup>rd</sup> May

The Headmistress of Radnor Girls' supervises Betty Buckle 'when she took the examination set by the Southampton Education Committee for entrance to Secondary Schools'.

Mr. Mends returns to Metal Street: 'He has been released by the Air Force for one month'.

6<sup>th</sup> May

Albany Infants' notes a Circular: 'Action on the Kitchen Front'.

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<sup>104</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>105</sup> Eleanor Street Mixed & Infants'.

Glamorgan schools have a day's holiday for 'Labour Day'.<sup>106</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> May

Mr. Colin Harvey leaves Court Boys' for the RAF.

10<sup>th</sup> May

Schools close for the Whitsun holiday.

German troops invade Luxembourg, Holland and Belgium.

Prime Minister Chamberlain resigns following strong criticism in the House of Commons of his government's running of the war. Winston Churchill becomes the new Prime Minister.<sup>107</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> May

The Head of Roath Infants' explains that 'School re-opened this morning under orders from the Government whereby the Whitsun Holiday was given up by all on account of the entry of the Germans into Dutch and Belgian Territory on the 10<sup>th</sup>'. Across Britain all schools in 'Reception and Neutral areas' re-open.<sup>108</sup> At Birchgrove Mixed only 266 pupils out of 333 attend, at Hawthorn Mixed 237 out of 260.

Mr. Shaw, another Cathays High for Boys' teacher, has joined the Army.

15<sup>th</sup> May

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee notes a Circular from the Ministry of Health 'intimating that the Government has decided that the rate of payment to householders for billeting unaccompanied school-children...will be as follows:-

Between 10 and 14 years of age	10/6 a week
Between 14 and 16 years of age	12/6 a week
Over 16 years of age	15/- a week'.

German troops invade France.<sup>109</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> May

Mr. M. Powell, one of the teachers at Roath Boys' is absent in the afternoon on 'Observer Corps Duty'. His regular absences will continue for years...

17<sup>th</sup> May

Mr. V.H. Jones, a teacher at Albany Boys', is absent 'to attend as a witness at the Military Service Exemption Tribunal'.

19<sup>th</sup> May

Somewhere in the region of 500 evacuated school-children from London and

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<sup>106</sup> Whitchurch Boys'.

<sup>107</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.16.

<sup>108</sup> Cathays High for Boys'.

<sup>109</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.43.

the Medway towns arrive for billeting in Cardiff Rural District.<sup>110</sup>

Sunday. Whitchurch Mixed 'was used for the reception and distribution of 204 children evacuated from Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham: the children were accompanied by twenty-nine teachers and helpers...The party was provided with refreshments by local women's organisations and conveyed to billets by the Women's Voluntary Service'.

20<sup>th</sup> May

'Forty Mixed and ten Infant children from Eglinton Council School, LCC, together with seven of the staff arrived here this morning' records the Head of Radyr.

Six girls who had been evacuated from Chatham to Sittingbourne in Kent are re-evacuated to St. Fagan's along with a teacher.

21<sup>st</sup> May

Miss Stewart, the Domestic Science teacher at Court Girls', begins a series of lectures on 'War-Time Cookery' for local housewives. This means 'the girls of Forms 1 & 2 will only receive a half-day's tuition until further notice'.

An HMI visits Whitchurch Mixed and it is decided 'that Chatham Junior Technical Girls should be accommodated at this school to work as a separate unit; Gillingham County School pupils to go to Whitchurch Secondary School; the location of pupils from Rochester Junior Tech. for Boys was deferred. The elementary school children were admitted here'.

More than 100 Dutch and Belgian refugees, aged from under one to eighty, arrive in Cardiff eight days after escaping in fishing boats from Ostend.<sup>111</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> May

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee is told 'that 187 compulsory billets have been selected in the Eglwysnewydd Ward of the parish of Whitchurch, bringing the number of compulsory billets...up to a total of 877...'

Cardiff's Catholic schools are closed for the day for the Feast of Corpus Christi.<sup>112</sup>

The Headmistress of Severn Road attends a lecture at the City Hall on 'War Cookery' addressed by 'R. Boothby, Food Minister'.

24<sup>th</sup> May

Schools hold their Empire Day services as usual following which the children have the rest of the day off. At the Oral School for the Deaf in the Jackson Hall, Westgate Street, they also hold 'a collection for tobacco for the Serving Forces'.

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<sup>110</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1940.

<sup>111</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.14.

<sup>112</sup> St. Cuthbert's Mixed & Infants'.

Hawthorn Mixed 'Today...sent off 77 Postal Orders of 2/6 each to old pupils of the school and parents of present scholars now with the Forces. In addition £1. 15. 2. was sent to the Overseas League Tobacco Fund for the Services. This was collected from the scholars'.

'The pupils and teachers of Rochester Junior Tech. for Boys were removed from Whitchurch to Caerphilly at 2 pm today' notes the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

26<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June

226,000 British and 112,000 French troops are evacuated from Dunkirk leaving behind almost all of their equipment. German forces have overwhelmed Western Europe and smashed Allied forces...<sup>113</sup>

A camp for evacuated troops is established at Heath Park.<sup>114</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> June

Miss George is absent from Whitchurch Girls' in the morning 'due to hysteria'.

Three students from Trinity College Carmarthen begin teaching practice at Tredegarville where Mr. George Hughes is called up for the Army.

4<sup>th</sup> June

Mr. Profit, a teacher at Albany Boys', is given leave of absence to attend the Law Courts in his role as a Special Inspector of Police who 'has charged a motorist...with the offence of exceeding the speed limit in the blackout'.

Churchill speaks in the House of Commons: 'We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, the landing grounds, in the fields, in the streets and on the hills. We shall never surrender...'<sup>115</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> June

At Radnor Girls' 126 pupils are immunised against diphtheria.

6<sup>th</sup> June

'Mr. A.G. Prys-Jones, HMI, and Sir P. Wheldon, Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Department, Board of Education, visited the school this morning, regarding the transfer of sixty students of Chatham Day Technical School for Girls, who are, at present, either at Porthcawl or Bargoed, to this school in the immediate future' reports the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

8<sup>th</sup> June

Fourteen pupils from Chatham together with a teacher and an infant move from Bargoed to Whitchurch for re-billeting.

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<sup>113</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.43.

<sup>114</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.18.

<sup>115</sup> Speech reported in *The Daily Mail*, 5<sup>th</sup> June 1940. *The War Despatches 1939-1945* (London: Marshall Cavendish, 1977).

## The last British troops are evacuated from Norway.<sup>116</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> June

At St. David's Infants' 'A Penny Bank, in conjunction with the Cardiff Trustee Savings' Bank, was opened in this school this morning, to assist in the National Savings Movement'.

Cardiff City Council passes the following resolution by thirty three votes to seven with one abstention: 'That in view of the supreme national effort now demanded, calling for equality of service and sacrifice, this Council resolves that no employee who has registered as a Conscientious Objector...shall continue in the employ of the Council on being granted exemption from military service by any tribunal'.<sup>117</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> June

As a result of a Nutrition Survey at St. Alban's Infants' another 'child is to receive free milk and dinners and six children free milk only'.

Recorded in the Punishment Book of St. Paul's Mixed is the penalty meted out to one boy for 'Lying and truancing – One stroke on each hand, several on the rectum'.

13<sup>th</sup> June

At Radnor Girls' 'During the week a very special effort has been made to increase the War Savings takings and with great success. £48. 5. 0. taken and forty-two new members'.

14<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Allensbank Infants' records that 'the children of this Department have saved £18 this week through the National Savings Association'.

At Whitchurch Mixed 'Forty-seven pupils of the Chatham Junior Technical School for Girls were transferred from Porthcawl to Whitchurch at 4 pm today...the party was accompanied by six teachers, nineteen children attending elementary schools and two secondary children'.

## Paris falls to the Germans.<sup>118</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> June

851 evacuee school-children from London accompanied by sixty-one teachers and helpers arrive at Cardiff Central Station to be billeted in Cardiff Rural District. This brings the number of evacuees in the Council's district to 1,311. Of these, 1,207 are children, seventy-nine are teachers and a further twenty-five are 'helpers'.<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.40.

<sup>117</sup> Tabled at the Education Committee of 28<sup>th</sup> June 1940. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939–40, p.206.

<sup>118</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.44.

<sup>119</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 18<sup>th</sup> June 1940.

Whitchurch Mixed is closed in the afternoon `to prepare for the reception of 850 children proposed to be evacuated from London'. In the event 583 children, thirty teachers and twenty-seven helpers arrive and `the party of Edmonton Junior Tech. for Girls and that of Eggerton Road were provided with tea, medically inspected and conveyed to Treorchy and Lisvane respectively for billeting. The remainder were billeted in Whitchurch after tea and inspection. The Edmonton County School pupils were absorbed in the Whitchurch Secondary School'.

The Head of Stacey Boys' notes a Circular 'asking that, in view of the paper shortage, all examinations in Senior as well as Junior classes be in future conducted orally, with the exception of such subjects as Arithmetic and English'.

During the evening thirty-nine children and two teachers evacuated from Rainham in Essex are billeted in Tongwynlais.

[French military resistance to the Germans ends. Britain now stands alone...](#)<sup>120</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> June

At Whitchurch Mixed `At a meeting of the leaders of parties held at this school this morning, the evacuees billeted in Whitchurch, who would require educational facilities were reported as follows:-

School	Infants	Juniors		Seniors		Central School	
		B	G	B	G	B	G
Lower Latymer	8	14	7	25	2	-	-
Edmonton County (Relatives)	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
Laysterne	34	17	21	13	21	1	1
Canterbury Rd.	46	30	20	31	5	-	-
Rowland Hill	40	31	30	138	10	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	128	175		245		2	

'A party of forty-five children from Tottenham (Downhills Council School) together with three members of staff arrived here this morning' records the Head of Radyr.

Llysfaen Mixed & Infants, which had just forty-seven pupils in 1937, sees thirty-three evacuees from London and a teacher arrive at the school.<sup>121</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> June

At Whitchurch Mixed `Captain T.J. Evans, the Primary Inspector, visited the school this morning when a meeting of the visiting leaders of evacuated parties and local head teachers was held. He instructed that the visiting infants should be absorbed in the Whitchurch Infants' and Rhiwbina Schools,

<sup>120</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.45.

<sup>121</sup> See HMI Report, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1938.

the Junior Boys in the Whitchurch Junior Boys' School and Rhiwbina School, the Junior Girls in the Whitchurch Junior Girls' and Rhiwbina Schools, the Senior Boys and Girls should be amalgamated to form a school under Mr. Woodley, the Headmaster of the Rowland Hill Senior Boys' School. This group was to work on the 'Double Shift' basis with our School, the local school from 9 am to noon, and the visitors from 2 to 5 pm. The Chatham Junior Technical School for Girls, now 101 pupils, were to work full time at this school for the time being'.

Twelve evacuees are admitted to Llanederyn and the following day another three arrive.

20<sup>th</sup> June

Sixty-nine evacuees are admitted to Whitchurch Boys' but 'as there is no seating accommodation the children spent most of the time out of doors (weather most favourable) under the supervision of their three teachers'.

The Head of Marlborough Infants' reports that the 'Phoney War' has ended. 'On the night of the 19<sup>th</sup> Cardiff experienced its first Air Raid. In spite of children being up at night attendance was very good'. At Metal Street Boys', however, where they report that the warning had lasted for an hour and twenty minutes, 'a large number of boys were late this morning'.

In fact the first German air attack came in the early hours of the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> when a sole aeroplane attacked the Docks and dropped sixteen bombs. 'Most of them dropped harmlessly but the *SS Stresso*, moored in the East Dock, was damaged after being hit in the stern. No lives were lost and the ship was later refloated'.<sup>122</sup>

With the fall of France German aeroplanes are now within two hours striking distance of South Wales.<sup>123</sup>

When an attack appeared likely, the 'Yellow Alert' was given by the air raid siren. When German aeroplanes were overhead this became a 'Red Alert'.<sup>124</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> June

A pupil is excluded from the School for the Deaf because he has scabies.

24<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of St. Peter's Girls' explains that the attendance is low because the 'Children have been up for three nights'. At Radnor Road the 'senior girls are busy covering the windows in class rooms and corridors with diagonal strips for ARP'.

At Llysfaen the evacuees are officially merged into the three classes.

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<sup>122</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.46.

<sup>123</sup> Information supplied by Nigel A. Robins, author of *Eye of the Eagle 2: The Luftwaffe Aerial Photographs of Cardiff and Barry* (Swansea: Tawe History Publications, 1995).

<sup>124</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.44.

25<sup>th</sup> June

At Kitchener 'The attendance this morning was poor as a result of last night's air raid warning and the ensuing loss of sleep in the district'. It's the same at Hywel Dda Infants' and at Greenhill where 'the time-table was altered, and the children went to rest at 10.45 until 11.30. Lessons were taken from 11.30 until 12.30 and afternoon rest from 1.15 to 2.30. Many children failed to wake up then, and were allowed to sleep on'.<sup>125</sup>

At Canton Girls' the following notice is distributed to parents:

'Should an air raid occur during school hours, with or without warning, adequate arrangements have been made for the care of the children. The teachers will be with them and the children know exactly what to do. You will help us greatly by staying away from the school until the 'All Clear' signal has been given and we appeal to all parents to do this'.

26<sup>th</sup> June

The Headmaster of Albany records 'Many boys are absent this morning due to sleeping late after two air raid alarms during the night'. Only 20% of the children of St. Alban's Mixed turn up in the morning.

Whitchurch Mixed acts as 'the Reception Centre for thirteen pupils of Chatham Junior Technical School for Girls and three attached relatives, elementary school children, who were evacuated from Sheerness today. The children were provided with tea, medically inspected and conveyed to billets by members of the Women's Voluntary Service'.

At Lllysfaen 'Two small evacuees have returned to London'.

27<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Clarence Mixed reports 'This district was practically terrified in the early hours by the whizzing of a bomb. Several houses were shaken'.

'At 4.30 pm, twenty children, whose parents were present, were medically inspected at this school to ascertain if they were suitable for evacuation to Canada. They were children attending Whitchurch Infants', Junior Girls', Junior Boys' and Senior Schools, the Secondary School and Rhiwbina Junior Mixed and Infants' School'.<sup>126</sup>

At a meeting of Cardiff's Education Committee: 'Children's Overseas Reception Scheme - In reporting the progress of the scheme for evacuating children overseas, the Director stated that up to the present applications in respect of over 800 children had been received during the past week and that about 550 of these had been medically examined by the School Medical Officer. Applications in respect of 400 of these children had been despatched to the Children's Overseas Reception Board'.<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> The regime at the Open Air School called for plenty of fresh air, good food and rest.

<sup>126</sup> Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

<sup>127</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.208.

1<sup>st</sup> July

In many schools attendance is cut by 50% or more.<sup>128</sup> As the Head of Metal Street Boys' explains 'Last night was the seventh successive night visit by enemy raiders'. Before the morning lessons at Hywel Dda Mixed 'Community singing was taken in the Hall after Scripture and Prayers. The songs were much enjoyed and served as an antidote to the night air raids'.

At Radyr the evacuees from Tottenham 'took up the temporary occupation of the Methodist Chapel, Heol Isaf'.

'Miss Morwena Davies and Miss Olwen Davies from the Training College of Domestic Arts are doing a week of School Practice' reports the Head of Herbert Thompson Girls'.

Cardiff Education's Joint Advisory Committee recommends 'that, in view of the fact that Cardiff has now become a vulnerable area, the Education Committee be asked to make representations to the Ministry of Health on the question of the evacuation of school children from the City'.<sup>129</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> July

At Metal Street 'At 9 am this morning I was told by Miss Coles, Headmistress of the Girls' School, that children were being stopped on their way to school by the police and told to take cover. At the same time Air Raid Wardens were sounding whistles in the streets. I at once dispersed the children to their homes and to the air raid shelter. At 9.20 am the police informed me that it was 'All Clear' and the children returned to school in time for assembly at 9.30'. Next door at the Infants', however, only thirty five children appear.

3<sup>rd</sup> July

'There were three day time Air Raid warnings today' reports the Head of Marlborough Infants'. Because of the night raids there's a cut in school hours to 11-12, and 2-4 pm in Cardiff's Infants' schools, 11-12 and 2-4.30 pm in the Upper schools.<sup>130</sup>

Radnor Girls' ARP practices became real when a German aeroplane is spotted overhead at 10.35 am: 'Girls in playground and all under shelter in one and a half minutes. Very satisfactory'.

When the siren sounded at lunchtime at Clarence Road 'About forty or fifty adults, and three children took advantage of the shelters'.<sup>131</sup>

Two more evacuees are admitted to Llanederyn bringing the number to twenty-three received since 19<sup>th</sup> June. When the air raid siren sounded at 12.15 pm the 'Children ran to shelter in surrounding farms'.

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<sup>128</sup> See, for example, Allensbank & Baden Powell & St. Monica's Infants' & Eleanor Street Mixed & Infants'.

<sup>129</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.209.

<sup>130</sup> Kitchener Road Mixed and Infants'.

<sup>131</sup> St. Mary's Mixed, Clarence Rd.

4<sup>th</sup> July

There's an air raid warning between 8.50 and 10 am.<sup>132</sup>

Several children arrive late at Whitchurch Mixed `explaining that Air Raid Wardens had detained them'. The next day the Head records `The numerous air-raid alarms during the nights this week have affected the attendance. The children show signs of disturbed sleep'.

5<sup>th</sup> July

At St. Paul's Mixed 'An air raid warning during the night has reduced the attendance today. The average attendance for the week is 168 (211 on books): 79.6%'.

Because of what it describes as `the altered conditions and of the feeling of unrest which has been caused in the minds of parents of the children now billeted in the district' Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee has sent a letter to the Ministry of Health requesting that no more evacuees be received.

8<sup>th</sup> July

The Director of Education visits Tredegarville and 'stated that the windows would be covered as a protection against flying glass'.

The Head of Gladstone Boys' writes a letter drawing the attention of the Director to the poor construction of the air raid shelters at the school.

At Whitchurch Mixed the Head reports that from now on the evacuated children's school and his own will alternate the Double Shift system on a weekly basis. This means the Whitchurch pupils will attend in the mornings for one week and then afternoons the next and vice versa.

9<sup>th</sup> July

At Eleanor Street 'A daylight air-raid took place today. Boys at P.T. in the school yard saw bombs drop from an aeroplane into the Docks area. The whole school was put under cover. There was no warning'.

At Clarence Senior Mixed `Immediately the children had been sent down for playtime this afternoon, bombs began to drop in the Docks, not so far away. The scholars ran to the shelters, and all were under cover very quickly, attended by the teachers. No scholar was sent home. There were a few on the nervous side. They were encouraged to sing, and so were unable to hear the anti-aircraft guns. The bombs gave a shock to every one...The scholars were in the shelters until 3.50, after which they were allowed to run about the yard for fresh air'.

The Head of Tredegarville records 'Air raid...Damage done to ship at the Docks – six killed and several injured. The children, as soon as the bomb crashed, sheltered beneath the desks'.

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<sup>132</sup> Radyr.

The Headmistress of St. Peter's explains that the series of day and night air raids has deprived both children and staff of sufficient sleep. Consequently the `time table has been adapted to the present emergencies and no terminal tests have been given'.

Cardiff's Director of Education sends out a Circular 'calling attention to the Board's desire that teachers should volunteer for escort duty in connection with the `Children's Overseas Reception Scheme''.<sup>133</sup>

In an attempt to provide seating for the evacuees the Head of Whitchurch Boys' borrows six tables, twelve trestles and ten benches from Bethel Baptist Chapel.

André and Rogét Hubrouk, aged ten and eleven from Ostend in Belgium, are admitted to Gladstone Boys'.<sup>134</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> July

The `Battle of Britain' begins with the first large scale German attack on Britain.<sup>135</sup>

The Head of Marlborough Infants' records 'Air Raid Warnings 10.30 and 3.15. Children conducted to the shelters. Children arriving at school described the sight of falling bombs. Very disturbed morning; enemy planes over-head. Duck under signal (Gong). Parents very anxious. Attendance 51%. Planes in the vicinity all the afternoon'. At Baden Powell attendance is only 41% in the morning and 44% in the afternoon `Owing to the presence of enemy aircraft overhead'.

Across the City at Grangetown Boys' `At 10.30 this morning a German aeroplane flew over the neighbourhood pursued by British fighters. Anti-aircraft guns were also in action. The boys, on arrival, were accommodated in the air raid shelter and on the two stairways until 11.15. They then assembled in their classrooms. Registers were marked, milk distributed and the boys dismissed at 11.35 am. They were escorted home by members of the staff'.

At Moorland Girls' `As the morning session was spent in the Air Raid Shelters, and the last batch of girls could not leave until 12.45, it was deemed advisable to close school for the day, especially as no `all clear' had been sounded'.

The Head of St. Monica's Mixed reports that despite the two raids in the morning and the lack of any warning 'the children were quite calm'.

The girls sitting the Central Welsh Board's English examination at Heathfield House are forced to take cover twice in the morning. The first warning lasts from 10.20 to 10.40, the second, when 'no warning was sounded' lasts from 11.05 to 12.55. Later an Inspectress from the CWB 'called to enquire as to the

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<sup>133</sup> Stacey Road Boys'.

<sup>134</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>135</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.17.

examination conditions during raids and it was explained to her that it was necessary to break off, on account of the position of the Examination Room on the top floor and the amount of glass surrounding it'.

The Head of Albany Boys' notes 'This afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the boys were again sent to the shelters where they remained until 4.35 when the 'All Clear' was given'.

At Stacey Infants' 'Owing to the present war conditions there will be no playtime. The time table will continue and children will leave school early'.

Another Circular is sent out regarding the 'Evacuation of children and asking for volunteers to accompany the children to the port of embarkation'.<sup>136</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> July

Only eighty pupils turn up to Clarence Mixed in the morning 'and we remained in the shelters until 12.10. One hundred and six present this afternoon'.

Jean Canon, aged nine from Brussels, is admitted to Gladstone Boys'.<sup>137</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> July

Albany Boys' sees a drop in attendance because of 'Air raids during the night'. At Marlborough Infants' attendance is down to 69%.

The City Engineer tells a meeting of Cardiff's General Education Committee 'that the cost of providing seating accommodation in the school shelters would be approximately £1,200, and it was decided not to take any action thereon, at the present time'.<sup>138</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> July

Following two warnings the night before the Head of Heathfield House records 'During the Chemistry paper this morning the air-raid warning sounded at 10.20. The candidates continued in the Geography Room. The 'All Clear' sounded at 11. In the afternoon, towards the end of the Art paper, the signal went again at 4.35. The candidates went on to the end at 5.30'.

When the sirens are heard at Whitchurch Boys' 'The children were dispersed to local houses (arrangement having been previously made) in record time...Alderman Chappell called in the afternoon and stated that three rooms were to be prepared as shelters, ie protection from falling glass. Now that temporary seating accommodation has been obtained for the evacuees, some semblance of work can be done. The little strangers seem to be settling down to their new surroundings. They are already making friends with our boys, and seem quite happy'.

The Head of Whitchurch Girls' records 'Although eighty-six Official Evacuees were enrolled during May and June many have returned to their respective

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<sup>136</sup> Radnor Road Girls'.

<sup>137</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>138</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.225.

homes. Many parents came for weekends to see their girls and experienced the first air raid. They became panicky and speedily took their offsprings to their own (safer) districts'. Because of the night alarms the girls are 'tired and sleepy and concentration almost impossible'.

The school cellar at St. Fagan's is inspected to see whether it can be adapted as an air raid shelter.

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee, informed that the Ministry of Health has refused to suspend the sending of more evacuees, resolves to send a telegram to the Ministry urging it to reconsider 'having regard to the daily air raids occurring of as many as three and four in 24 hours, and stating that parents are alarmed, with the result that 137 children have already been taken home again'.

Mr. Lawrence Gibby, a teacher at St. Francis' Mixed, has left for the Royal Navy.

16<sup>th</sup> July

Hitler orders 'Operation Sea Lion': the Invasion of Britain.<sup>139</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> July

Following a survey carried out at Gladstone Boys' earlier in the month '60% of the boys were immunised this afternoon against diphtheria'.

18<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Marlborough Infants' reports 'Raid Warning 11.40 to 12.15. Thuds heard twice, much gun fire. Children good and orderly. Afternoon at 4 pm and 5 pm children in shelters. Window Protection...the material was duly received and cut into required pieces ready for adhesion. Previously the Staff has assisted in making what protection they could'. Allensbank Infants' also receives a 'roll of anti-smash net' to protect its windows.

At Tongwynlais the Head records two air raid warnings: 'In both cases the children were quickly dispersed. The Radyr girls attending Domestic Science were accommodated in the Boiler House, below ground. This serves as an Air Raid Shelter'.

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' notes 'the children as yet, look upon the raids as 'charming little episodes' – a break in school life monotony. This is just as well, as by the time the severe raids occur, everything will be working smoothly. We as teachers are doing our utmost to keep the children's minds 'off' war talk, and although it is apparent that the little ones are naturally suffering from war-strain, still we are able to keep up as happy as possible'.

At St. Alban's Mixed the Head explains that because of the interruption caused by the air raids the children have been examined 'in the 3 Rs only'.

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<sup>139</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.52.

Radnor Girls' has a 'Collection of Aluminium for war purposes'.

19<sup>th</sup> July

At Llanishen the Head records:

'Air Raid Warning                    2.49 pm. Pupils dispersed.  
Raiders Passed                    3.55 pm. Some returned.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Air raid Warning                4.15 pm. Pupils dispersed'.

The Director tells Cardiff's Education Committee 'that at some schools members of the public had rushed into school shelters on an air raid warning seriously impeding school organisation. Resolved...that no access to school shelters would be given to the public during school hours'.

'Children's Overseas Reception Scheme.- The Director reported that applications for 1,630 children for evacuation overseas had been received. It was further stated that although the operation of the scheme had been postponed, preparations for embarking children already registered as and when the opportunity arose were being proceeded with'.<sup>140</sup>

The last of the evacuees at Llanederyn return to London.

20<sup>th</sup> July

Albany Girls' receives a Circular about 'School Sessions – From 13<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> November 1940. Morning Session 10 am – 12 noon. Afternoon Session 2 pm – 4.30 pm. From 18<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 1941, Morning Session 10 am – 12 noon. Afternoon Sessions 1.30 pm – 3.45 pm'.

An Air Raid occurs between 3 and 4 pm.<sup>141</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> July

Over the weekend the storeroom at Windsor-Clive has been broken into and twenty-six pairs of plimsolls, a dozen toilet rolls and 10lbs of soap have been stolen.

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' warns the evacuees about 'rough play in the evenings'.

Mr. Haines is transferred from Cathays High for Boys' to the Technical College 'to take charge of a class for training production employees'.

23<sup>rd</sup> July

At Clarence Infants' the Head notes that she has abandoned the terminal exams 'owing to the frequency of air-raids night and day. Little ones tired and nervous and unable to concentrate'.

There is another warning in the afternoon.<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939–40, p.234.

<sup>141</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

<sup>142</sup> Roath Park Girls'.

24<sup>th</sup> July

Roath Boys' receives 'a quantity of net for the windows. These were cut up into suitable sizes by Teachers and Senior Pupils'. 'Workmen started putting muslin on the windows' at Crofts Street.

There is another 55 minute long warning in the afternoon despite which, at St. Monica's Mixed at least, 'the children are in good order and good heart'.<sup>143</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> July

There is another hour-long alert in the afternoon.<sup>144</sup>

Because of the bombing the usual month-long summer holiday is cancelled by the City of Cardiff. Instead there will be a two week break now and another one at the beginning of October.<sup>145</sup>

The Head of Marlborough Infants' reports that 'Many children have left for the duration of the war, having gone to a quieter area'.

At St. Alban's Infants' the 'Return of Physically Handicapped Children was completed and returned to the South Wales Organiser, Council for the Care of Cripples'.

Miss Marjorie Jones leaves Allensbank Infants' for the WAAF.

29<sup>th</sup> July

An Inspector from London County Council visits Llysfaen.

30<sup>th</sup> July

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation Committee notes a Circular from the Board of Education 'impressing on the Authorities of Reception Areas the need for taking all possible steps to ensure that (1) children who have been evacuated should not return to the evacuation areas for their holidays, and (2) such children should, during the school holidays, be taken out of the hands of the householders as much as possible...' Consequently, 'buildings and playgrounds of all schools in such areas attended by evacuated children are to be kept open for recreative activities during the whole or the greater part of the summer holidays'.

The Committee also notes a letter from Mr. Gibbs, Billeting Officer for Lisvane and adjoining parishes, 'stating he is seriously alarmed at the stream of returning evacuees from the area under his charge, namely, seventy-eight out of a total of 119 children...' In all, of the 1,311 evacuated school-children received into the District, 258 have returned home.

13<sup>th</sup> August

It is 'Eagle Day': The start of the Luftwaffe's campaign to destroy the RAF, its airfields and aircraft factories so as to allow the German Army a safe passage

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<sup>143</sup> St. David's Infants' & Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

<sup>144</sup> Radnor Road Girls'.

<sup>145</sup> Albany Road Girls', 20<sup>th</sup> July 1940.

across the English Channel...<sup>146</sup>

This means that Cardiff's schools re-open at the height of the 'Battle of Britain'...

The Head of St. Peter's notes that so far there have been seventy-one air raids over Cardiff.

At St. Alban's Mixed 'Peter Walentine, a lad in Form 2, was killed in an air raid during the night'. Peter was thirteen and lived at 184 Portmanmoor Road.<sup>147</sup> The Head of Ninian Infants' reports that the raid had lasted for three and a half hours.

Mr. Robert Cornish, a Grangetown Boys' teacher, 'has been granted a week's extension to his holiday as he has been engaged in escorting overseas evacuees to Liverpool for embarkation'.

14<sup>th</sup> August

Because of 'the frequent air alarms during the night' attendance is low.<sup>148</sup> At Albany Boys' it is 80%, at St. Mary's Seniors in Bute Terrace it's 73% and at Marlborough Girls' and Metal Street Boys' only 59% turn up.

15<sup>th</sup> August

At Gladstone Infants' 'Fourteen children arrived in school this morning out of 328 owing to the siren sounding at School Time - these were sent home when the 'All Clear' was sounded'. Next door the Head of the Boys' records 'Air Raid Warning sounded at 9 am. When I reached school after the 'All Clear' I found the children in the shelters and all the Staff present. We remained there until 10.50 am. The children then returned to their classes and there were 207 present'. Radnor Boys' reports on a second warning later in the morning.

16<sup>th</sup> August

Mr. Cornish informs the Head of Grangetown that he has 'another escort engagement for the 19<sup>th</sup> August'.

Mr. F.G. Davies, a teacher at St. Alban's Mixed, 'left school today to join the Air Force for the duration of the war'. Mr. David John leaves Herbert Thompson Boys' for the Royal Navy.

17<sup>th</sup> August

In the morning the Headmistress of Court Girls' 'took Joan Coombes and Edith Thomas to the City Hall in order to present the Lord Mayor with a cheque for £2 - money which had been collected by the girls for the 'Cardiff Spitfire Fund'.

19<sup>th</sup> August

The Head of Clarence Mixed records 'Last Thursday morning, after the first

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<sup>146</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.53.

<sup>147</sup> Reported to Education Committee, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1940. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.264.

<sup>148</sup> Albany Road Boys'.

`All Clear' signal, some of the boys who were on their way to school, and were nearer the school shelter than the public shelter, were turned back by a Warden and told to go to a public shelter. Consequently, we lost their [attendance] marks.

Some of our scholars were away on Friday afternoon, as one or two Air Raid Wardens had advised that it would be better for them not to go to school as they were expecting an Air Raid that afternoon. I am given to understand that even the yellow signal did not turn up at all that day.

The above remarks have been forwarded to the Director of Education, hoping that steps could be taken to prevent a recurrence of such incidents'.

At St. Fagan's the cellar has been whitewashed and fitted with an electric light so as to serve as an air raid shelter.

Whitchurch Mixed re-opens though, as the Head explains, `The lessons are of a recreational nature, games, singing, play-reading; handcraft and domestic science, physical training and swimming; nature walks.

The number of children attending is:-

Glamorgan children	347
Evacuees absorbed	16
Evacuees in separate school	145
Chatham Junior Tech. for Girls	88

During the holidays, walls have been erected to minimize the blast of exploding bombs. Children are now sheltered during air raids in rooms having this protection'.

20<sup>th</sup> August

Eleanor Street is closed because 'a delayed-action bomb has been dropped on the foreshore some fifty yards away by enemy aircraft during the night'.

At Marlborough Infants' attendance is down and the children and staff are very tired as they'd had little sleep last night owing to an air raid when 'screaming bombs' were used. The Head of Albany Boys' records that the 'warning was on from 10 pm to 4.30 am'.

There are aeroplanes about in the day-time too.<sup>149</sup>

Mr. Cook, a Cathays High for Boys' teacher, has left for the Army.

21<sup>st</sup> August

Gladstone Boys' records an 'Air raid warning sounded at 10.35 am. Children went home and to the shelters. All Clear sounded at 11.40 am. Children in shelters returned to school. Another warning sounded in five minutes and children returned to shelters until 12.20 pm'.

22<sup>nd</sup> August

At Eleanor Street 'The bomb having been exploded by the military authorities, the school opened this morning with 54% present. Some damage to the roof

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<sup>149</sup> Marlborough Road Infants'.

and windows has been caused and, following a visit from the Director of Education and Mr. W. Thomas, Inspector, workmen are now attending to it'.

Reporting on an air raid between 10.30 and 11.12 the Head of St. Fagan's notes 'Part of the school sheltered in school shelter, remainder sheltered near haystack in field'.

Later at Gladstone Boys' 'Gunfire heard at 4 pm. Children taken to shelters. When all was quiet they were sent home. This was at 4.30 pm'.

23<sup>rd</sup> August

'During last night, there were continuous air raids lasting from 9.50 pm until 5 o'clock this morning. Bombs were being dropped and there were loud reports from guns. Children could have had very little sleep and there were eighty-four absent this morning' records the Head of St. Peter's.

At Marlborough Infants': 'Planes overhead, gunfire 11.35 am over the playground'. At St. Peter's 'There was no warning for children to take cover, but as there was a good deal of gun fire the children down on the ground floor lay down on the floor under the desks and the bigger girls came down to the cloakroom and under the stairs'. Next door at Heathfield House when 'heavy gun-fire was heard...the pupils came to the places assigned on the ground floor but no-one went to the shelters'.

26<sup>th</sup> August

Mr. Mends finally leaves Metal Street Boys' for the RAF and the Head records another warning in the afternoon.

27<sup>th</sup> August

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular demanding that they report immediately any 'damage to school property through enemy action'.<sup>150</sup>

The Head of Moorland Girls' explains that the promotions she has made are based on last term's work. 'Very few examinations were taken, as attendance was extremely poor and those who did attend showed very little power of concentration – all due to disturbed nights caused by air-raids'.

At Hawthorn Mixed 'On Saturday morning John Griffiths and Vera Evans accompanied by the Headmaster and Miss Sparks with two girls from the Infants' School went to the City Hall. The children presented the Lord Mayor with seven guineas, collected by the children, for the Lord Mayor's Spitfire Fund. The children were afterwards received and congratulated by the Director of Education'.<sup>151</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> August

Lansdowne Infants' admits a seven year old boy who 'has had meningitis twice lately. Doctor's advice to proceed slowly'.

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<sup>150</sup> St. Francis' Infants'.

<sup>151</sup> Seven guineas = £7.35p.

There's an air raid between 3.50 and 4.55 pm.<sup>152</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> August

An air raid lasts from 12.30 to 1 pm.<sup>153</sup>

At St. Mary's in Bute Terrace `Miss F.E. Richards terminated her engagement as Uncertificated Teacher. She is retiring after forty-seven years service in this school'.

The average attendance for August at Splott Infants' is 246. A year earlier it had been 333.<sup>154</sup>

Miss Parry, HMI, visits Greenhill `to note arrangements made for providing an air-raid shelter for the school'.

One of the teachers at Gladstone Boys' leaves to take up duties under the Ministry of Labour, one at Windsor-Clive leaves to join the Forces.

2<sup>nd</sup> September

There are two more air raid warnings. The first, in the morning, lasts an hour. The second, in the afternoon, half an hour.<sup>155</sup> At Hywel Dda Infants' all the children are taken to the air raid shelters in the morning 'as the warning was not heard in time to disperse'.

Of the four children not promoted at Radnor Infants' two are evacuees whilst one of the two children not promoted at Canton Infants' `has missed a great deal of time in school owing to impetigo and sores'.

The Head of Clarence Infants' reports that three of the pupils who should have been transferred upstairs to the Mixed School have been `removed to a safe area'.

At Lansdowne Boys' Mr. Alfred P. Green is not included in the list of staff 'as he has applied for his 'Break Down' pension and is thus not likely to return for school duties. Mr. Green has given thirty-eight years of loyal and efficient service in this school, and it is very unfortunate that ill-health has caused his early retirement. He was an excellent teacher'.

At Whitchurch Mixed `Normal lessons were resumed today. The Hall of the Wesleyan Church at the junction of Penlline and Kelston Roads has been acquired for educational purposes during the `off shifts', ie from 10.45 to 12.15. Local children use this hall during the mornings of this week for short services, singing, play-reading and folk dancing. Those who cannot be accommodated there assemble in the school yard and, after registration, have games, lessons on the ordnance survey maps, nature study and outdoor

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<sup>152</sup> Metal Street Boys'.

<sup>153</sup> Heathfield House.

<sup>154</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939.

<sup>155</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

sketching’.

Following in the footsteps of his brother, Mr. Albert Gibby leaves St. Francis’ Mixed for the Navy. He is replaced by Elizabeth Colbert, an uncertificated teacher.

3<sup>rd</sup> September

The Head of Stacey Infants’ records ‘Air Raid warning sounded at 10.30. All Clear 11.55. Dismissed school’.

Cardiff’s General Education Committee receives a letter ‘from the Cardiff Association of the NUT enclosing resolutions passed by the Association on the following matters, viz.: - (a) Lighting, ventilation, sanitation and seating for school shelters; (b) Provision of Air Raid shelters for all Cardiff school children; (c) Air Raid shelters for Public Parks and (d) Evacuation of schools deemed to be in a vulnerable locality’.

‘Consciencious Objectors.- Resolved – That notice to terminate their engagements be served in accordance with the resolution of the City Council on Clifford W. Othen, Cardiff High School for Boys, and Dewi L. Jones and D. Ll. Walters, Welsh Staff, who have been registered as consciencious objectors’.<sup>156</sup>

Mr. Leslie Herbert Leaves Radnor Boys’ ‘for National Service in the Navy’.

4<sup>th</sup> September

At Albany Boys’ ‘During the night the district around the school was attacked by enemy ‘planes and many bombs, high explosive and incendiary, were dropped on property (including the Wesleyan Church) in the vicinity. People were brought out of their homes nearby and sheltered for a time in this and Marlborough Road School, about 250 being brought here, and afterwards taken to the Wesleyan School Hall in City Road or the Church Hall in Wyverne Road. First aid treatment was given to the injured, many of whom were afterwards taken to hospital. It is feared there is some loss of life. Many windows in the school were blown out by the bombs and a ceiling collapsed in Room 9. Police and Military placed a cordon around the district and all roads leading to the affected area were closed to the general public. Only a few boys presented themselves at school. These were kept under shelter until an Air Raid alarm was cancelled by the All Clear signal when they were sent home. The presence of unexploded bombs in the immediate vicinity of the school was the deciding consideration in the dismissal of the few boys who attended for the afternoon session’.

The Head of Marlborough Infants’ records that last night ‘was the most terrible of those yet experienced. Bombs fell with swift whistling sounds and alarm. Wellfield Road and Albany Road suffered severely. Head Teacher was asked by A.R.P. to go to the school early - the Infants’ School had been used to receive refugees from the devastated area. The Director was at the school.

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<sup>156</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939–40, p.236.

He advised taking in any children from the district around, to keep them away from the wrecked area. The Infants were accommodated in the Girls' school for the morning. There were two air raid warnings during the morning. Children in the shelters'.

At Roath Boys' `bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the school. Two boys were seriously injured at their homes and taken to hospital. A number of houses were evacuated, the families including a number of our boys. Two delayed-action bombs were dropped about fifty yards away and, as a consequence, the school was closed for two whole days. By Friday morning, September 6<sup>th</sup> the bombs were removed by the military, and the school re-opened at 10 am. 164 boys present out of 305 (54%)'.

The Head of St. Peter's records `Night air raids have been continuous but last night was one of the worst...Houses were demolished by high explosives and delayed-action bombs in Angus St., Diana St., Arabella St., Donald St., Alfred St., Moy Rd., Wellfield and Albany and Claude Roads'.

At Gladstone: "Air Raid' warning at 9.35. 'All Clear' 9.55. School assembled at 10.10. Second warning at 10.25. 'All Clear' at 10.40. School reassembled. 'Gun-fire' sent children to shelters. Scholars re-assembled at 11.20. Attendance very poor in consequence. Third warning - lasted from 1.15 to 1.45'.<sup>157</sup>

At Llysfaen 'School vacated twice this morning due to air raid warnings. Gun firing after 'all clear' so that children had to be kept in the hall as a precaution against falling shrapnel, pieces of which have been found by children in the yard'.

The Head of Birchgrove Mixed records that although the `all clear' signal had gone at 10.05 `we saw a fight going on above and sheltered for ten minutes more'. It was the same at St. Francis' Mixed where, because gun-fire continued after the second all-clear, the children remained in the shelters for another hour and were then dismissed `a few at a time in case of danger'.

Cardiff's Education Committee is told that Winifred Waters, of 78 Arabella Street, Roath, and a pupil at Cathays High School for Girls was killed in last night's attack: `It is deeply regretted that the whole family were killed in this raid'. As well as Winifred, her mother and father and 21 year old sister died.

As well as the Waters family, seven year old Percy Holdstock of 3 Angus Street, Roath, a pupil at Roath Park, and Ivor and Herbert Folland of 2 Angus Street, aged ten and fourteen, the one a pupil at Roath the other at Howard Gardens, have been seriously injured and six year old Shirley Stevens of 2 Angus Street, a pupil at Roath Infants, has been slightly wounded.<sup>158</sup>

**During the attack on Roath 'Angus Street, Moy Road and Claude Place,**

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<sup>157</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

<sup>158</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.264.

where an oil bomb set three properties ablaze, all suffered damage and loss of life. There were forty six casualties that night, eleven of them fatal'.

'One of the bombs dropped in very close proximity to a crowded cinema, creating some alarm, but fortunately the building was not damaged and no casualties were sustained'.<sup>159</sup>

Up until the early Autumn 'South Wales had been visited by enemy aircraft on more occasions than anywhere else in Britain and representatives from the Civil Defence organisations came from London and other cities to see how similar services were coping in Cardiff. The raids at this stage, involving a few bombers at a time, were to continue until the end of the year...'<sup>160</sup>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> September

Because of the unexploded bombs around Albany Road 'During the early morning more people were advised to leave their houses' and 'the Military Authorities considered it unsafe for the children to be on school premises' so the schools are closed for the day.<sup>161</sup>

There is another warning in the morning.<sup>162</sup>

Mr. Hubert Davis leaves Radnor Boys' for the Army and Mr. B. Roberts, another teacher at Cathays High for Boys', also leaves for the Forces.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> September

Roath Girls' re-opens but only eighty-three pupils are present. The Head notes that a Spanish refugee admitted to the school in February has not been promoted. The Albany Schools re-open but at the Girls' attendance is only 50%.

At Gladstone Boys' 'Gun-fire' sent the scholars to shelters from 11.40 to 12 o'clock. 'Gun-fire' was again heard at 3.50. The children remained in the shelters until 4.20'. A German aeroplane is seen over St. Francis' Mixed and gun-fire heard at 3.55 pm.

Sister Mary Agnese, the Headmistress of Heathfield House, records candidly 'The air-raid warnings are now so frequent that no more notice will be taken of their occurrence unless anything serious occurs in connection with them'.

Mr. T.J. Thomas, the Geography Teacher at Whitchurch Mixed, leaves for the RAF and Mr. Coles from Whitchurch Boys' also leaves for the Forces.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> September

The Luftwaffe changes tactics. Instead of attacking the RAF the Germans switch to the mass bombing of London and other British cities in the hope that the British people will panic and surrender. It becomes known as the

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<sup>159</sup> GRO, D/DX 529/2, W.H. Evans, *Cardiff Air Raid Wardens' Organisation: A Brief History*, p.6.

<sup>160</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.47.

<sup>161</sup> Albany Road Boys' & Infants'.

<sup>162</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

`Blitz'...<sup>163</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> September

One of the teachers at Gladstone Infants' attends the funeral of a girl guide killed in the bombing. The Headmistress of St. Peter's notes that `Day raids are not quite so frequent and attendance is better'.

The Grangetown Continuation, or Evening, School re-opens for the Autumn session offering classes in Commercial and Technical subjects, Cookery and `Adult Dressmaking' from 7.15 to 9.15 pm. Thirty nine people enrol during the week. [In September 1938, eighty-eight people had enrolled.<sup>164</sup>]

10<sup>th</sup> September

At Gladstone Boys' `Gun-fire' sent scholars to shelters 10.05 am. Scholars returned to rooms at 11 am'.

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular informing them that `dispersed' children must return to school `provided the `All Clear' is sounded up to half an hour before dismissal'.<sup>165</sup>

Mr. David Williams, a teacher at Viriamu Jones, is called up to join the Forces.

11<sup>th</sup> September

Ernest and John Rudge, who have been living at 34 Bettws y Coed Road since September 1939, spend their last day at Gladstone Boys' before returning home to London.<sup>166</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Metal Street Boys' records `During last night numbers of incendiary bombs fell in the streets surrounding the school. None fell on the school premises'.

At Gladstone Boys' `Siren' sounded at 1.50. `All Clear' at 2.10'.

This is the last day at Roath Boys' for Peter Swain who is moving to Birchgrove because his house at 32 Alfred Street has been `destroyed in an air raid'.<sup>167</sup>

Mr. T. Stevens leaves St. Patrick's Mixed for the Forces as does Mr. A. Rees, a teacher at Cathays High for Boys'.

13<sup>th</sup> September

Another Herbert Thompson Boys' teacher, Mr. Gethin Thomas, is called up for the Navy.

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<sup>163</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.53.

<sup>164</sup> Grangetown Continuation School (Boys), 12<sup>th</sup> September 1938.

<sup>165</sup> Lansdowne Road Infants'.

<sup>166</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>167</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

16<sup>th</sup> September

'High explosive bombs fell in Orbit Street last night. As a result the attendance was poor this morning' records the Head of Metal Street Boys'. In the morning the Director of Education accompanied by the Chief Inspector of Schools visits 'to see the effects of air raids on the children'. At St. Peter's they report that because of an air raid alarm school didn't start until 10.30. The Head of Radnor Girls' notes laconically 'Miss Robinson absent – house bombed, miraculous escape'. Consequently she's granted a week's leave of absence...

As Mr. Parry, the Geography Master at Cathays High for Boys', leaves for Military Service so Misses E.J. Baker and V. Fernandez commence duties as 'temporary' teachers at the school.

17<sup>th</sup> September

There are another two Air Raid warnings, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Both last for half an hour.<sup>168</sup>

No class is held in the Cookery Centre at Court Girls' because 'Miss Stewart and eight girls attended the 'Kitchen Front Campaign' which was held at Messrs James Howell and Co.'

[Following the Luftwaffe's failure to destroy the RAF, Hitler postpones the invasion of Britain 'until further notice'...](#)<sup>169</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> September

An Air Raid warning in the morning lasts for an hour and a half.<sup>170</sup>

'Work has been in progress during the past week in erecting blast walls at certain selected places around the school buildings for the protection of children during air raids' records the Head of Tongwynlais.

Mr. J.D. Williams, who has taught at Gladstone Boys since 1932, is seconded to work at Cathays High School though 'no other teacher has arrived to take his place'. Mr. G.E. Groves of St. Mary's Mixed in Bute Terrace is called up for Military Service.

20<sup>th</sup> September

At a meeting of Cardiff's General Education Committee: 'School Shelters. – The question of (a) cleansing; (b) seating; (c) lighting, these shelters was considered. Resolved – (1) That it be a recommendation that the caretakers be paid for cleaning these, and the ARP Committee be recommended to pay the amount incurred; (2) that seating be provided, and that the ARP Committee be recommended to contribute towards the cost, but in the meantime, that it be a recommendation to the Elementary Education Committee that the children should take their chairs to the shelters; (3) that the ARP Committee be recommended to light these shelters at their own

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<sup>168</sup> Albany Road Infants'.

<sup>169</sup> Peter Furtado (Ed.) *World War II* (Abingdon: Andromeda Oxford Ltd., 1992), p.31.

<sup>170</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

cost'.<sup>171</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> September

There are two more warnings in the morning.<sup>172</sup>

At Albany Boys' `News was published this weekend of the sinking by enemy action (torpedo) of a British ship carrying children from this country to Canada, 600 miles off land and in very stormy seas. Among them was a pupil of this school – Leighton Ryman...He with many evacuees lost their lives'.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September the U-48 had sunk the Liner *City of Benares* and 260 evacuees had been killed.<sup>173</sup>

At Windsor-Clive `Mr. R.W. Loosemore absent from school according to the Director of Education's instructions. Proceeding to Liverpool with overseas evacuees'.

24<sup>th</sup> September

There is an air raid warning at 11.40 am.<sup>174</sup>

Mr. G.J. Salmon, another St. Mary's Mixed teacher, is called up for Military Service.<sup>175</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> September

There is an air raid warning in the morning.<sup>176</sup> In the afternoon Mr. Dan Jones speaks at Birchgrove Mixed on the `Origin of the Universe'.

26<sup>th</sup> September

Another woman, Miss M. Bevan, begins teaching in a temporary capacity at Cathays High for Boys'.

Another warning lasts from 3.50 to 4.10.<sup>177</sup>

Mr. A.M. Danovitch, who has taught at Viriamu Jones since April 1934, is called up to join the Armed Forces. `He was a good, energetic and helpful Assistant and we are sorry to lose him'.

27<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' records:

`Air Raid 9.35 – 9.48 am.

Air Raid 11.45 – 12.15.

Air Raid 2.08 – 2.30 pm.

Feeling that the raids were rather intense today and that so many `planes had

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<sup>171</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939–40, pp.252-3.

<sup>172</sup> Marlborough Road Infants'.

<sup>173</sup> *The History of World War 11, A Wall Chart* (London: Bison Books Ltd., 1991).

<sup>174</sup> Metal Street Girls'.

<sup>175</sup> Bute Terrace.

<sup>176</sup> Albany Road Infants'.

<sup>177</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

worked through the Bristol Channel, coupled with the possibility that there were 'planes lurking behind some suitable cloud, the children were dismissed ten minutes before time this afternoon – according to ARP regulations'.

Gordon Lawrence, evacuated from London, says goodbye at Gladstone Boys'. Of the twenty-four evacuees admitted to the school in 1939 only four now remain.<sup>178</sup>

According to a log of the air-raids kept by the Headmistress of Grangetown Girls' September has seen seventeen warnings during school hours and her pupils have spent a total of 7 hours and 15 minutes in the shelters.<sup>179</sup> At a meeting of Cardiff's Education Committee 'The Director reported that since 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1940, air raid warnings had been sounded during thirty school sessions causing a total loss in school time of nearly eighteen hours'.<sup>180</sup>

The Director also presents a report on the Children's Overseas Reception Board. Of the 1,630 applications, forty-one Cardiff children, twenty-six elementary pupils and fifteen secondary ones had been selected for evacuation to Australia (13), New Zealand (1), South Africa (9) and Canada (18). The evacuation had been organised by grouping the children in Nominal Rolls, seven of which had been received to date. Eleven children, those in Rolls 1 and 2, had already been evacuated. The twelve Cardiff children selected in the third Roll had been on a ship which had been torpedoed and all had returned to Britain. However, five of the children in the fourth Roll were on board the *City of Benares* when it was torpedoed on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> during a severe storm. The ship was making for Canada and the Cardiff children were among the victims.

'Resolved – That the Director be instructed to write to the parents of the children lost...expressing the heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolence of this Committee in their sad bereavement'.

Name	Address	Age	School
Leighton Ryman	147 Richmond Rd.	9	Albany Rd.
Lewis Came	25 Earl St.	11	Grangetown
James Came	25 Earl St.	13	Howard Gardens
Margaret Lloyd	85 Wellington St.	14	Canton High
Nesta Lloyd	85 Wellington St.	12	Canton High

The Director also reports on fairly light bomb damage to the schools at Adamsdown, Albany, Baden Powell Mixed, Cardiff High for Boys, Eleanor Street, Hawthorn, Rumney, St. David's Girls', St. Mary's Bute Terrace, St. Mary's Mission and South Church Street. Most had lost tiles and some ceilings and had windows damaged. At Cardiff High 670 panes of glass had been broken and a portion of its front boundary wall and railings were down. Albany had suffered 'a fair amount of damage' to its roof.

'The Director reported that he had received a revised list of evacuation,

<sup>178</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>179</sup> Based on a log of the air raids kept between 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1940 – 15<sup>th</sup> July 1941.

<sup>180</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, p.264.

neutral, and reception areas in England and Wales, from the Board of Education, and it was noted that Cardiff remained classified as a neutral area'.<sup>181</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> September

Roy Hambleton of 11 Montgomery Street leaves Roath Boys' as he is being 'evacuated to London'.<sup>182</sup>

Mr. Thomas Reynolds leaves Hywel Dda Mixed for Military Service.

1<sup>st</sup> October

Cardiff Rural District's Government Committee, now renamed 'Evacuation & Welfare', is told by its Chief Billeting Officer 'that forty-nine mothers with eighty-four children had arrived yesterday and are being temporarily cared for by the Public Assistance Committee at the City Lodge, Cardiff, and that billets for them have to be arranged by tomorrow, and, further, called attention to the difficulty that arises by reason of the fact that eight of the mothers have families of five, four, and three children with them'. The Committee resolves 'that the principle of requisitioning empty dwelling-houses be agreed to for the accommodation of mothers with large families...'<sup>183</sup>

Cardiff Education's Elementary Committee records that the Managers of the Roman Catholic schools had met to consider a suggestion from the Director that they cancel Church Holidays and had decided that for the duration of the war the schools would close in the mornings only to allow pupils and staff to attend Mass.

'It was noted that arrangements had been made for nine evacuee children from Leytonstone to be admitted to Greenhill House Open-Air School, and that the border fee of 9/- per child per week will be paid by the Leytonstone Authority'.<sup>184</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> October

At Whitchurch Mixed 'An air raid sounded at 10.44 this morning and the all clear did not sound until 11.42...A 'plane could be heard for some time after the sounding of the 'all clear'".

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October

This is 'Cardiff War Weapons Week'.

11<sup>th</sup> October

Cardiff's General Education Committee notes a letter from the Welsh Board of Health 'informing the Committee that the Howard Gardens and Canton High Schools had been earmarked for the purposes of reserve hospitals and asking whether accommodation can be provided on these premises for the

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<sup>181</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, pp.261-5.

<sup>182</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>183</sup> Subsequently, 'Maesyderi', 35 Heol Isaf, and 'Penrhiw', Station Road, Radyr, are immediately requisitioned. Reported at meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> October.

<sup>184</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1939-40, pp.267-8.

storage of beds, bedding and other medical supplies...'

13<sup>th</sup> October

Sunday. Whitchurch Mixed 'was prepared for 150 mothers and children evacuated from London. Double bunks were installed in the Geography Room and Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4. Only sixty-one arrived and these were billeted by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October'.

14<sup>th</sup> October

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular with a copy of a minute passed by the Education Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1940:

'The Director reported that he had visited schools during and immediately after air raids, and that he found the morale of both staffs and pupils to be unshaken. Further, the attendance of children even in districts which had been bombed heavily on previous nights was almost normal'.

Resolved: 'That the Committee place on record their great appreciation of the way in which both teachers and pupils are carrying on during these difficult times'.<sup>185</sup>

Other Circulars tell them that heating and lighting are to be provided in their shelters and 'A stirrup pump and three buckets are to be provided to each school. Bells and whistles should not be used except by an authorised person engaged in ARP work'.<sup>186</sup>

Roath Boys' peripatetic Welsh teacher is called up to join the Royal Navy whilst at Clarence Mixed 'Mr. M. Richards has joined the RAF'.

16<sup>th</sup> October

Cardiff's schools are told that the usual mid-term holiday has been cancelled.<sup>187</sup>

At Gladstone Boys': 'Air Raid. Children sent home at 2.15. Resumed work at 3 pm'.

'The sum of £18 was sent to the Lord Mayor of Cardiff. The money was raised by the girls of this school towards the purchase of a third 'Spitfire' aeroplane' records the Head of St. Peter's. [Appended to the Log is a newspaper cutting about this fund-raising which reports that the children of Baden Powell Mixed and Infants' have also donated £5. 12. 6. and the 'Spitfire Fund' now stands at £10,648]

Mr. Clifford Stainer, a teacher at Hywel Dda Mixed, leaves for Military Service.

18<sup>th</sup> October

Mr. H. Watkins, a teacher at Grangetown Boys', 'has to report today for service with the RAF. He may return to duty next week for a short time'.

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<sup>185</sup> Splott Infants'.

<sup>186</sup> Baden Powell & St. Francis' Infants'.

<sup>187</sup> St. Paul's Infants'.

19<sup>th</sup> October

`Sirens sounded at 3.13 pm. Usual procedure. All Clear 3.22 pm. Sirens sounded 3.27. All Clear 4.02. As the last period could not be taken the children did not return to school' notes the Head of Metal Street Boys'.

21<sup>st</sup> October

At Gladstone the Headmaster records 'Air Raid warning at 3.18. All Clear at 3.30. Another warning at 3.35pm. All Clear at 4. Children sent home after the second All Clear'.

There is a meeting at the City Hall in the afternoon at which Lord Kennet stresses the `necessity for an increase in National Savings'.<sup>188</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> October

Mr. J.P. Power, a 'supply teacher' at St. Alban's Mixed, leaves to join the Forces.

23<sup>rd</sup> October

Whitchurch Mixed is again `used today for the reception, inspection and billeting of 261 children, who were in the charge of twenty three adults, from North Northolt (Ealing Education Committee). The party was billeted as follows:-

	Teachers	Infants	Juniors	Seniors
Lisvane	1	1	6	8
Pentyrch	1	3	14	13
Radyr	1	6	11	10
Whitchurch	9	27	91	76

Mr. Aneurin Williams, another Hywel Dda Mixed teacher, is called up for Military Service.

24<sup>th</sup> October

St. Alban's Infants' receives `three galvanised buckets' for ARP purposes.

There is a 15 minute `Alert' at 1.25 pm.<sup>189</sup>

Mr. W.A. James resigns as a temporary supply teacher at St. Patrick's Mixed `having been called up for active service in the RAF'.

25<sup>th</sup> October

De La Salle raises £3. 11. 2. for the Spitfire Fund whilst at St. Mary's Infants' in Canton '£8 has been collected this week for National Savings'.<sup>190</sup> Roath Boys' raises £20 and Lansdowne Boys' £20. 0. 5.<sup>191</sup> Metal Street Infants' raises £20. 19. 0. for War Weapons Week and `A Postal Order for 18/- was sent to the Lord Mayor for the Spitfire Fund'. Allensbank Infants' raises £31. 0. 6. and Roath Girls' £51.15. 0. At Highfields the total is £77. 8. 6. and at St.

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<sup>188</sup> Gladstone Girls'.

<sup>189</sup> Viriamu Jones Boys'.

<sup>190</sup> *The Illydian*, Vol.13, No.1, p.60.

<sup>191</sup> Roath Park Boys', 4<sup>th</sup> November 1940.

Illtyd's it is £80.<sup>192</sup>

Mr. Saunders, another Cathays High for Boys' teacher, has left for the RAF.

28<sup>th</sup> October

St. Fagan's re-opens after a fortnight's holiday and admits two more official evacuees and an unofficial one. Radyr admits twenty-three evacuees from Ealing together with a teacher. At Llanishen the Head records 'Eleven children – seven boys, four girls, evacuated from Woodend Junior & Senior School, Ealing, reported to school as all were billeted in the Glamorgan County Area. I telephoned the City Hall for instructions. After three calls I was instructed to treat them as 'Border' cases and refuse admission until the usual acceptance of financial responsibility by the Glamorgan Education Committee had been received'.

At Llanederyn 'Work of protecting the school against the blast from bombs commenced'.

Another warning lasts from 11.45 to 12.40 pm.<sup>193</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> October

Forty more evacuees and two teachers from Ealing arrive at Whitchurch Girls'. One class is taken in the Hall, the rest, together with thirteen who arrived yesterday are taken to the Wesleyan Chapel where three rooms are now being used to teach about seventy-five evacuees.

At Whitchurch Boys' 'Two new Evacuee Teachers were added to this staff this morning – Messrs John Francis Ransom and Frederick J. Stevens of Wood End Junior School, Greenford, Ealing'.

Cardiff Education's Joint Advisory Committee discusses a petition from Splott calling for all children to be kept at school during air raids, for deep shelters of the Haldane type to be provided at all schools and for hot drinks and meals to be provided for children detained in the shelters. In response the Committee declines to go against the Board of Education's instructions regarding the dispersal of children during air raids, points out that deep shelters are not practical in Cardiff as they would flood and decides 'conditions do not yet justify the provision of hot drinks and meals for the children'.

The Committee hears that because no Timber Permits had yet been granted the City Engineer had been unable to provide heating, lighting and seating in the school air raid shelters and 'Hurricane lamps for lighting had not proved successful in view of the fumes which caused the air to become foul'.<sup>194</sup>

A concert is held at Canton High School for Boys 'to mark, officially, the installation of the organ which was a memorial to those members of staff and

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<sup>192</sup> Highfields & Roath Girls' details from entries dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 1940, St. Illtyd's from *The Illtydian*, Vol.13, No.1, Christmas 1940, p.9.

<sup>193</sup> Albany Road Infants'.

<sup>194</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, pp.1-2.

pupils who had given their lives in the 1914-18 war'.<sup>195</sup>

31<sup>st</sup> October

The Head of St. Mary's Mixed in Bute Terrace `did not send the boys to the Marlborough Manual Centre this afternoon. It was raining very heavily and many of them were poorly clad and badly shod'.

There is another meeting of head teachers at the City Hall called by the Director 'to arrange for First Aid classes in the schools'.<sup>196</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> November

During an air-raid warning between 12.45 and 1.15 pm the children at Greenhill are `unable to take shelter in the air raid shelters owing to their condition – pools of water made their use impossible'.

4<sup>th</sup> November

As a result of a Nutrition Survey at St. Paul's Mixed 'thirty-four children are to receive free milk and of this number eleven have also been recommended for free meals'.

[As a result of a Board of Education Circular dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1940 the last month has witnessed a change in policy for nutrition surveys. Previously 'a child was judged to be suffering from malnutrition only if definite physical signs such as thinness, poor muscle tone, bad posture, pallor, anaemia, dark rings under the eyes, debilitated appearance or stunted growth were in evidence' and 'recommendations by the teachers for the purpose of providing extra nourishment were accepted only if the children so recommended showed one or more of these signs'. Now it is accepted 'that a child should be provided with extra nourishment if there were any signs of deficiency, *however slight, whether educational or physical*, and further that, and generally speaking, the recommendation by the teacher...should be sufficient indication for the provision of free milk or meals'. As a direct result the numbers recommended for extra nourishment have risen from just 7% of those examined to almost 25%.<sup>197</sup>]

Another Cathays High for Boys' teacher, Mr. Ware, 'reported to the RAF for service as an Education Officer'.

6<sup>th</sup> November

The `Shelters were so flooded with the recent storms that children could not use them in the raid today' records the Headmistress of St. Peter's.

7<sup>th</sup> November

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee is given a breakdown of the total number of evacuees billeted to date:

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<sup>195</sup> From the *Programme of the Official Opening of the new Canton High School for Boys*, 30<sup>th</sup> April 1963, p.10. Programme in the possession of the Official Archivist of Cantonian, Mr. Norman Williams, Cyncoed.

<sup>196</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys'.

<sup>197</sup> CCL, Cardiff, MoH *Annual Report*, 1940, pp.75-6.

Unaccompanied children	1,035
Accompanied children	340
Mothers	219
Others	92
 Total	 1,686

At Grangetown Boys' 'Mr. A.E. Hall terminates his duties as Temporary Supply Teacher on being appointed as a Wireless Officer in the Merchant Navy'. Once again another teacher, Mr. Russell, leaves Cathays High for Boys' for the Army.

11<sup>th</sup> November

Armistice Day services are held in all schools. At Llanishen 'Staff and children attended the Parish Church to lay a wreath on the War Memorial'.

Cardiff schools receive a Circular: 'Owing to the continuation of Summer Time during the winter months, School Sessions are to be as follows:-

Morning 10 am – 12 noon.  
Afternoon 2 pm – 4.30 pm.'

Afternoon sessions in Infant schools will be from 2 to 4 pm.<sup>198</sup>

The Head of Gladstone Boys' reports on another air raid warning and complains that the 'Shelters are in a dreadful state, wet, dark, cold and seatless'.

News is received at Hywel Dda Mixed that a pupil, Betty Gundersen, has died of diphtheria.<sup>199</sup>

Cardiff's Education Committee adopts an Administrative Memorandum from the Board of Education 'That as from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1940, a war allowance of 6% of salary shall be paid to teachers whose remuneration does not exceed £260 per annum...'<sup>200</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> November

At St. Fagan's the Head records 'Very boisterous weather. Poor attendance of pupils from outlying area, there being no bus service now available'.

'An air raid alarm sounded this afternoon at 3 pm. Very heavy rain was falling at the time. Children remained in their classrooms and normal work proceeded' admits the Head of St. Paul's Mixed.

13<sup>th</sup> November

The Head of Stacey Infants' records 'Raid warning at 3, all clear 3.15.

<sup>198</sup> Albany Road Girls' & Metal Street Infants'.

<sup>199</sup> Betty was one of the 349 Cardiff school children to have contracted the disease this year, and one of 32 fatalities. CCL, Cardiff, MoH, *Annual Report*, 1940, pp.7&84.

<sup>200</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.6.

Children returned to school. Raid warning 3.40 and the all clear 5 o'clock'.

15<sup>th</sup> November

There is another air raid warning in the morning which causes many of the boys at Albany to be late.

Seventy London evacuees admitted to Whitchurch Girls' are enrolled at the Wesleyan Chapel and a further forty-seven from Birmingham are being taught at the Ararat Baptist Chapel.<sup>201</sup>

The Head of Radnor Girls' meets the parents of the 'shelter girls' and it is agreed that the parents 'will meet the children if they have to stay in the shelters during a warning and darkness falls'.

20<sup>th</sup> November

At St. David's Infants' as a result of Dr. Murphy's examination of 136 children 'nineteen have been recommended for free dinners and milk and another seven for free milk only'.<sup>202</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> November

The Head of Stacey Infants' records 'Air raid alarm sounded 2.15. All clear 2.45. Air raid alarm sounded 3.15. All clear 3.45'.

22<sup>nd</sup> November

The City Engineer reports to Cardiff's General Education Committee. 280 shelters have been built for school children but 'approximately 50%...are wet owing to driving rain through the entrances, and to the porous nature of the bricks. It is recommended that the blast walls in front of the entrances be lifted eight or nine inches; that coverings be provided at the entrances as a protection against driving rain; and in addition, that the walls of the shelters be treated with a special preparation for protection against damp...Seating accommodation has been provided in one-third of the shelters and within the next few weeks the whole of the shelters will be provided with seating'.<sup>203</sup>

Two rooms at Ararat Baptist Church are taken over for use by Whitchurch Mixed but, nevertheless, the next day 'the assembly of local children during the 'off shift' is discontinued owing to the insufficiency of accommodation'.

A Circular is sent to all Cardiff schools asking them to record the time spent by children in air raid shelters during school hours for the fortnight beginning 25<sup>th</sup> November.<sup>204</sup>

'School had to take cover today at 4.05 pm and dispersed at 4.25 pm' records the Head of Kitchener.

25<sup>th</sup> November

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<sup>201</sup> Information from entry made on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1941.

<sup>202</sup> See also 24<sup>th</sup> October 1940.

<sup>203</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.28.

<sup>204</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

There's an air raid between 11.48 am and 12.50.<sup>205</sup>

Another Hywel Dda Mixed teacher, Mr. Norman Merriman, leaves for the Forces. Two days later a supply teacher at the same school, Mr. R.H. Phillips, is also called up.

26<sup>th</sup> November

A further 606 children and sixty-five teachers from Birmingham arrive for billeting in Cardiff Rural District. Of the children, no fewer than 107 are hospitalized 'for various causes'. The billeting arrangements in the Cardiff area are:

Lisvane	18
Rhiwbina	31
Tongwynlais	34
Llanedeyrn	40
Radyr	65
Whitchurch	166

This brings the total number of evacuees received to date to 2,338.<sup>206</sup>

In the afternoon Whitchurch Mixed is used as a Reception Centre again for 460 children from Birmingham.

There is an Air Raid warning from 3.10 to 4.30 and the Head of Gladstone Boys' complains that his staff cannot hear the warning siren.<sup>207</sup> At Heathfield House the girls 'took cover in the basement, junior cloakroom, study staircase and Geography Room. This arrangement has been followed for the last week or two as the shelters cannot be used owing to the wet weather – all but one are about an inch deep in water'.

27<sup>th</sup> November

There are another two warnings during school hours.<sup>208</sup> One comes just before lunchtime and at Stacey Infants' the Head records 'Air raid warning at 11.50 am. The children who remained in the shelter were taken home by members of the Staff at 12.15 as there was no apparent activity in the air. All clear at 12.55'. Exactly the same thing happens at Albany too.<sup>209</sup>

Cardiff Education's Elementary (Special Services) Sub-Committee hears that 'At the present time 723 necessitous school children are receiving mid-day meals'.<sup>210</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> November

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<sup>205</sup> Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

<sup>206</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1940.

<sup>207</sup> Albany Road Infants'.

<sup>208</sup> Marlborough Road Infants'.

<sup>209</sup> Albany Road Infants'.

<sup>210</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.37.

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton the 'Children have had to go to the shelters only once this week but it was for a period of one hour and forty minutes, from 2.50-4.30, and it was a difficult task to keep up circulation'.

'School work goes on reasonably well but interruptions occur when there are air raid warnings. On the last two occasions the shelter has not been used as it has been very damp. Instead the children are kept quiet in school' records the Head of St. Monica's Infants'.

Mr. J.O.P. Tanner, another Herbert Thompson Boys' teacher, is called up to serve in the RAF.

30<sup>th</sup> November

Thirty pupils and two teachers from Moorland Girls' go to the Camp School at Porthcawl for a fortnight.

2<sup>nd</sup> December

Two doctors and a nurse immunise 'the majority of the children present' at St. David's Infants' against diphtheria.

At Clarence Infants' 'the number on the books is still low, many little ones being evacuated to safer areas'. At Tongwynlais, however, 'A number of Birmingham children have been evacuated to this village. Twenty attended school this morning'.

At Cardiff Rural District's 'Evacuee School-children Distress Fund Sub-Committee' the Clerk states 'that this meeting has been called to consider the question of providing clothing for evacuee school-children who are in immediate need, and...more particularly in the case of the Birmingham children...The Clerk instanced cases in which a large number of the Birmingham children had been re clothed by Committees of Ladies in districts in which they were temporarily accommodated in Church Halls, but stated that, in view of the conditions under which the majority of these children had been recently forced to live, owing to indiscriminate aerial bombardment, and the speedy arrangements made by the Birmingham Authorities for their evacuation to the Council's district, very little time was allowed in which to obtain clothing suitable to the winter conditions'.

The Committee is informed that, as yet, no local system of helpers, as organised by the Greater London Authorities, has been established by Birmingham.

3<sup>rd</sup> December

The Headmistress of Hywel Dda Infants' records 'The School Building was hit by Incendiary Bombs last night. Bombs fell through the roofs of the Staff Room and two of the classrooms 1b and 3b (five bombs)'.

At St. Peter's the 'Children and staff spent an hour and ten minutes in the air-raid shelters this afternoon'. For the first time in over a month the children at Greenhill use their shelters.

An emergency exit has been constructed for the air raid shelter at St. Fagan's, an anti-blast wall built outside and `several courses of sandbags have also been placed on the window ledges in the Infants' Room'.

4<sup>th</sup> December

Sixty-eight of the recently arrived Birmingham children are admitted to the Girls' and Boys' Evacuated Schools at Whitchurch Mixed. Down the road at Whitchurch Boys' the Head reports on an air raid lasting from 3 to 3.20 and he borrows tables and trestles from the YMCA and benches from Tabernacle Chapel in order to admit another thirty-two Birmingham evacuees and a teacher.

The Headmaster at Viriamu Jones `received a letter requesting me to prepare storage for Food and Blankets and also Field Kitchens as this school is to be used as an emergency ARP Centre'.

5<sup>th</sup> December

There's another air raid warning between 12.05 and 12.46. Mr. Cyril Jones, an evacuated teacher from Dennis Road Senior Boys' School, Birmingham, joins the staff at Whitchurch Mixed.

`Today the boys re-commenced Organised Games at Splott Park. I have not fixed a definite period for this activity owing to enemy air activity' records the Head of Metal Street Boys'.

6<sup>th</sup> December

At Tongwynlais `Miss Mary J. Keegan, a Birmingham evacuated teacher, reported for duty at this school this morning. Her school at Birmingham was `English Martyrs', Spark Hill. The following evacuated children have been enrolled during the week:

Birmingham 27

Shoreditch 2

Tottenham 1

Miss Frances Kilgour, a Birmingham evacuated teacher, reported here for duty this afternoon. Her school at Birmingham was Cherry Wood Road Mixed and Infants''.

9<sup>th</sup> December

`Mrs. A. Royle...commenced duties today on a War time Appointment' at St. Mary's Mixed in Bute Terrace. At Cathays High for Boys' 'Mr. Silva commenced duty as temporary Spanish Master'.

Twelve evacuees from Birmingham are admitted to Llysfaen together with a teacher.

10<sup>th</sup> December

More children from Birmingham are admitted to Whitchurch Boys' and the names of the evacuees there are transferred from a temporary register to the permanent ones.

11<sup>th</sup> December

'The first hour of the afternoon session was spent in the air raid shelter' records the Headmistress of St. David's Infants'.

12<sup>th</sup> December

At Marlborough Infants' 'Siren 1.50 to 2.10 pm, Siren 2.15, All Clear 2.45. During the period from 1.50 on the 11<sup>th</sup> to the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, there were eight alert signals, two being in school hours, three before midnight and three before 9 am'.

In the shelters at St. Mary's in Canton the 'teachers endeavour by movement and exercises to keep the children warm'.<sup>211</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> December

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular: 'Teachers who intend spending the Christmas Holidays away from home are requested to leave addresses at the Office in case of an emergency recall to duty'.<sup>212</sup>

'In order to provide for the supervision of evacuated children during the Christmas holiday, evacuated teachers are 'staggering' their holiday' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

17<sup>th</sup> December

Twenty-six more evacuees from Birmingham arrive at Llysfaen together with Mrs. Jones, a teacher. Another twenty-eight and a teacher arrive at Llanederyn.

18<sup>th</sup> December

'Now that Shelters are provided en route, the boys restarted Swimming at Guilford Crescent Baths' records the Head of Birchgrove Mixed.

In the afternoon at Gladstone Infants' the 'Children had a Jelly and Biscuits Party...with a lit up Christmas Tree in every room. It was indeed a great credit to all staff who were untiring in giving the young ones a joyous Christmas in spite of War Conditions and pending Air Raids'.

19<sup>th</sup> December

Thirteen year old Bernard McCarthy of 44 Stoughton St. and a pupil at St. Patrick's Mixed has been killed in an air raid.<sup>213</sup>

The Head of Hywel Dda Mixed admits that 'Owing to numerous changes in staff arrangements during the term, examinations have been postponed until Easter to enable the new teachers to settle down and get to grips with the classes and work'.

Mr. John Milburn leaves Radnor Boys' for Military Service.

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<sup>211</sup> St. Mary's Infants'.

<sup>212</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>213</sup> GRO, E/C1, 26/4, St. Patrick's Mixed Admissions Register.

20<sup>th</sup> December

St. Patrick's Infants' records that Gerald Keegan of 56 Clive St. has been killed in an air raid.<sup>214</sup>

The air-raid log kept at Grangetown Girls' since the beginning of September reveals that there have been thirty-three warnings during school time and the pupils have spent a total of thirteen hours in the shelters.

'Arrangements have been made during the vacation for evacuees to attend the school for pleasurable and recreational activities' records the Head of Tongwynlais.

## 1941

6<sup>th</sup> January

At Court Boys' 'On Thursday evening, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cardiff suffered a heavy attack from German bombers. The Court Road district was very severely bombed and sustained very serious damage.

A land mine was dropped on Jubilee St. and several houses were razed to the ground while others were so badly damaged that they are beyond repair. Compton St., Stafford Rd., Allerton St., Monmouth St. and Court Rd. also sustained heavy damage particularly to roofs, doors and windows, and several houses here have been rendered uninhabitable. A bomb fell in Maitland Place demolishing part of Saltmead Hall and seriously damaging a neighbouring house. This explosion also damaged the roof of the Infants' Department, and smashed window frames, panes and doors of these Departments.

Owing to this destruction scores of families have been evacuated to other districts, and consequently the school has lost many of its scholars.

Fortunately not a single scholar lost his life.

The staff attended school this morning but owing to the extensive damage the school had to be closed'.

Downstairs at the Girls' the Headmistress explains that following the raid the families who had been bombed out had been taken to St. Patrick's Hall until accommodation could be found and that she and her staff 'begged clothing and several car-loads were brought down to the school, where they were distributed among necessitous families connected with this department'.

At Marlborough Infants' the Head records 'hundreds of incendiaries fell and many high explosives and land mines. Part of the district from where children are drawn suffered collapse. Four children were admitted from Crofts Street School which suffered damage'.

Written into the Log at Crofts Street is an entry by the Vicar: 'As a result of enemy action the school buildings were rendered unfit for school use. The

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<sup>214</sup> GRO, E/C1, 25/4, St. Patrick's Infants' Admissions Register.

teaching staff reported for duty today and found the school in a dilapidated state'.

At Roath Boys' 'A large number of fire bombs did much damage. Four fell in the Boys' yard, six in the Girls' yard and a number on the roads outside. Three fell in the Boys' school and two or three in the Infants' school. In the Boys' School one fell in the lobby and one in Room 5. Both were put out quickly. One fire bomb fell in the recess behind the stock room. The door had to be forced open and a lath and plaster wall had to be broken through. A small fire had started but was put out by means of a stirrup pump. Much wood was charred, some paper spoiled and the ceiling saturated.

These bombs and fires were put out by the Caretaker (Mr. Dunn), Ronald Wensley (ex-pupil) Graham Leigh (pupil), Miss Wensley, Wardens from the ARP Post and neighbours. An outbreak in the Infants' School was also got under control quickly.

Sand, stirrup pumps, buckets and ladders are necessary.

This school has been earmarked as an Emergency Centre. The necessary 'blackout' is being carried out'.

Across the city at St. Patrick's Mixed `School re-assembled Monday 2 pm, 50% present. Owing to Air Raid on Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup> January) many have been evacuated. Dillon Lyons, aged fourteen, killed with parents. R.I.P...Damage to school during raid was slight'. [As well as Dillon their Admissions Register records that Bernard Sadler, aged thirteen, of 142 Clive St., was also killed on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>215</sup>]

These were not the only child casualties and another thirteen schoolchildren and two under school age have also been killed. One is thirteen year old Sheila Brotheridge of 60 Neville Street, a pupil at Cardiff High for Girls.<sup>216</sup> A further nineteen schoolchildren have been hospitalized.<sup>217</sup>

40% of the children turn up at Ninian Infants' to find that there are smashed windows in all but two of the classrooms, a water pipe has burst and the gas is off.

At Grangetown Boys' `This district suffered very severely, much damage being done to buildings of all sorts, with many casualties. Six incendiary bombs came through the roofs of these schools (four in the Boys' Dept. and two in the Infants' Dept.) but the caretaker, Mr. Davies, fortunately succeeded in extinguishing them with practically no damage. Many of the children have been evacuated owing to the presence of delayed action bombs and the destruction of their homes. School was re-opened this morning with 201 boys present out of 419 on roll'.

Whitchurch Boys' and Girls' remain closed for two days because of land mine damage. At the Girls' about fifty windows are smashed and broken and some

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<sup>215</sup> GRO, St. Patrick's Mixed Admissions Register.

<sup>216</sup> GRO, E/Sec 66/5/1, *Cardiff High for Girls Address Book*, 1932-1946.

<sup>217</sup> Information presented to Cardiff's Education Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.86.

of the ceilings are cracked as well.

At Clarence Mixed `Four incendiaries were dropped in the playgrounds and were quickly put out. One dropped on the coal house which was set on fire, using up much of the coal. About fifteen window panes were cracked, and a small portion of another blown out. None of the children were killed. Of course, they had to face a grim reality, and stood it well'. Downstairs in the Infants forty-seven children turn up and they all congregate in the `Baby room, because the school was not properly heated. An incendiary bomb fell on the coal shed and the coal and sticks were wet'.

The Head of Lansdowne Infants' reports that the roof has been damaged by incendiary bombs and only ninety-nine children turn up for school. In the afternoon 'the children from Grangetown Council and National Schools who were resident at the Rest Centre in the Girls' School attended for instruction'.

At Kitchener less than 55% of the pupils turn up only to find that the schools are closed because of the bombing.<sup>218</sup> In all twenty-four Cardiff schools have suffered with the most serious case being Canton High School which was hit by an oil bomb and 'extensively damaged by fire and water, the Boys' department particularly'.<sup>219</sup> Nevertheless, the Girls' School downstairs re-opens 'with an attendance of forty-one out of ninety-eight...'

Lansdowne Girls' is being used as an Emergency Centre for those who have been bombed out of their houses as are the Girls' schools at Gladstone, Herbert Thompson and Radnor Road.<sup>220</sup>

`Apart from some badly cracked panes, the school premises escaped damage...children reported broken windows and roofs, but there were no casualties from school. Miss Broom's home was destroyed' records the Head of Moorland Girls'.

At the one-teacher Dulwich House Hospital School `Miss Fowler was absent from duty owing to a septic wound in her leg caused by her injury during the `Blitz' on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>221</sup> Miss Vokes, a teacher at Splott Infants', is also absent as her arm was injured in the raid.

The Head of St. Paul's Mixed records 'owing to the presence of an unexploded bomb in Bromsgrove Street approximately thirty yards from the school, the school could not be opened. All families living between St. Fagans Street and Knole Street and Worcester Street have been evacuated'. St. Mary's in Canton is also forced to close because of unexploded bombs.<sup>222</sup>

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<sup>218</sup> Information provided to Cardiff's Education Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> January 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.75.

<sup>219</sup> Ibid.

<sup>220</sup> Gladstone Girls'.

<sup>221</sup> This hospital was for children aged 3-15 suffering from Heart Disease and Rheumatism. CCL, Cardiff, MoH, *Annual Report*, 1938, pp.29-30.

<sup>222</sup> Information provided to Cardiff's Education Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.75.

At Whitchurch Mixed School could not be resumed today owing to damage to the building by an enemy bomb which landed in the field north of the school on the evening of Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. A naval bomb disposal squad attempted to render the bomb harmless, but at 5.15 pm on Saturday it exploded, or was exploded. The Director of Education has authorised the closure of the school until further notice’.

Across the City attendance is down. Only 57% of the girls at Severn Road attend many children having been rendered homeless through Thursday’s Fire Blitz’. At Albany Boys’ The attendance is very low, in consequence of the evacuation of many families from their houses which were utterly or partially demolished by bombs...It was the most destructive and widespread raid we have experienced up to date’. At the Girls’ attendance is only 71%.

Despite the scale of the raid it appears that some districts at least remained relatively unscathed. The Head of Birchgrove Mixed, for example, records ‘This area has not suffered much – only the top of Caerphilly Road’ and at St. Joseph’s Infants’ ‘those present looked well and seemed little the worse for their experiences in the ‘Blitz’...[though] They were more excited than usual, and were eager to tell stories of the happenings of that night’.

At 6.27pm on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, on a bitterly cold, moonlit night, the biggest German attack of the war on Cardiff began when 111 aeroplanes attacked the city.<sup>223</sup> They began with flares and incendiaries to illuminate their target with an eerie green light. Then came an estimated 115 tons of high explosives and parachuted land mines.

Riverside was the first district to be hit and it bore the highest cost, more than sixty people died there in the first half hour of the raid. In Grangetown, the Cardiff gasworks was hit and thirty-two people were killed in the basement of Hollyman’s Bakery on the junction of Corporation Road and Stockwell Street when a high explosive bomb scored a direct hit.

Llandaff Cathedral was hit by a land mine and suffered serious damage. Both the Isolation Hospital near Lansdowne Road and Llandough Hospital were damaged.

Butetown suffered heavily. Bute Street was hit hard and nearly twenty people were killed, among them three Norwegian sailors.

A landmine caused a huge crater in Cardiff Arms Park ‘fifteen metres in diameter and four metres deep’ and seriously damaged the grandstand and terraces at the river end.

A cascade of incendiary bombs landed on the roofs of the Civic Centre, thirty on the roof of the City Hall alone, but prompt action by firefighters saved the

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<sup>223</sup> The number of bombers is given by Robins, *Eye of the Eagle 2*, in notes appended to Photograph No. 2.

buildings.

In Roath several houses were destroyed at the corner of Rose Street and nine people were killed. Nearby in Talworth Street the same stick of bombs claimed another four lives.

The 'All Clear' didn't come until 4.50 am.

In all ninety-five houses had been totally destroyed, another 233 had to be demolished and 426 were uninhabitable until repaired.

156 Cardiff people were killed that night and 427 seriously injured, fifteen of whom would die later of wounds. Six days later there was a civic funeral at Cathays Cemetery where some of the victims were buried in a common grave.<sup>224</sup>

On the night of the 2<sup>nd</sup> `Fourteen parachute mines, 150 H.E. bombs and approximately 5,000 incendiary bombs are recorded as having been dropped on the City. Eight parachute mines and forty H.E. bombs failed to explode and widespread evacuation was necessary...'<sup>225</sup>

When Llysfaen re-opens after the Christmas holiday there are forty-seven evacuees and twenty-one local children.

Mr. Ernest Cooper, another Herbert Thompson Boys' teacher leaves the school, this time seconded to the Technical College.

7<sup>th</sup> January

At St. Peter's the Head records `The Director of Education, Mr. W.J. Williams, called a meeting of Head Teachers from all schools. These met at the Technical School at 11.30. There were discussions and criticisms of services rendered on the previous nights of the raids and it was resolved that Head Teachers should ascertain from parents if they would be willing to co-operate with any evacuation scheme put forward by the LEA'.

8<sup>th</sup> January

`The scholars are uneasy, and are not able to concentrate on their work. We are trying to give some occupation that will make them forget the ordeal for a time' records the Head of Clarence Mixed.

When Whitchurch Boys' re-opens the attendance is `exceedingly low' because many families have been evacuated following the Blitz, several others are `still away owing to the fear of more raids' and there are epidemics of chicken-pox, mumps and measles.

Two teachers from each of the Boys' Schools at Herbert Thompson, Lansdowne, Radnor and Roath are drafted in to the City Hall 'doing some

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<sup>224</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, pp.47-59.

<sup>225</sup> GRO, Evans, *Cardiff Air Raid Wardens*, p.6.

work in connection with the billeting of the unfortunate people rendered homeless owing to the Enemy Blitz'.<sup>226</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> January

One of the teachers at Roath Boys' 'kindly transported twenty-one bags of sand from F. Bowles & Sons, Harroby Street, to this school: seven bags to each department'. At Albany Boys' three teachers use their cars to go and collect enough sand for all three schools. The same thing happens at Viriamu Jones too.

10<sup>th</sup> January

'An air raid last night has kept many children at home today' records the Head of St. Peter's.

At St. Paul's Infants' the unexploded bomb 'was removed on the morning of Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and we opened today. Fifteen children were present at the morning session and eighteen at the afternoon session'. [In July 1940 there had been ninety children on roll.<sup>227</sup>] Next door at the Mixed School only sixty-nine children attend.

Court Girls' re-opens but only ninety-eight out of the 269 children attend and these have to be taught in three classrooms 'as workmen were attending to broken windows in the other rooms'. Radnor Girls' re-opens but only 42.54% of the children turn up. At Canton Girls' 'Attendance for the week 43.29% due to the evacuation of children from bombed areas'. At Lansdowne Infants' the attendance for the week is 46.61% because of the blitz and an epidemic of measles. At Grangetown Boys' the 'average attendance for the week has been 229 (55%)...Many boys have been sent to relatives in other districts and others are going as accommodation can be arranged by the parents'. At Albany Boys' the attendance is better at 78.84% but again 'many boys have been evacuated from their damaged homes'.

12<sup>th</sup> January

In order to cope with the influx of evacuees, the school at Radyr takes over the adjacent Church Hall.

13<sup>th</sup> January

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton 'We are a week late in commencing on account of the Blitz which took place in this City...this district was very badly hurt; an unexploded bomb fell in the School Hall and several similar bombs fell near the school; these had to be removed before school could be re-opened. One child from this Department was killed but it was the only casualty; many homes were destroyed and many families rendered homeless but all have now been placed, with the exception of three or four'.

The Court Schools re-open. In the Infants' the children are re-organised into three classrooms 'until the others are ready. Numbers are small as many

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<sup>226</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys'.

<sup>227</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1940.

children have moved and others are with relatives’.

At St. Paul’s Mixed ‘It is now confirmed that one child, Ron Noble, was killed during the recent air attack. Several children have been removed from the district’.

14<sup>th</sup> January

When Heathfield House re-opens there is ‘good attendance in spite of adverse conditions following the blitz...a few children have been temporarily evacuated. One child, Shiela Brotheridge, was killed, together with other members of her family’.

When Cathays High for Boys’ re-opens it is without Mr. Silva who has ‘re-started work with his own Gibraltar children in London’.

15<sup>th</sup> January

Lansdowne Girls’ re-opens in the afternoon after being used as a Rest Centre for those bombed out on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Clerk of Cardiff Rural District’s Evacuation & Welfare Committee informs a meeting that, at the request of the Chairman of the Welsh Board of Health, he had agreed ‘to the admission to Coryton Hall of forty-four persons rendered homeless by the recent enemy air raid on Cardiff...and, further, that nineteen residents of Whitchurch, temporarily evacuated from their homes, were also accommodated there’.

17<sup>th</sup> January

At Viriamu Jones ‘Owing to heavy snow the attendance this morning is very low – 124 boys are present out of 201 = 61.4%. Sirens heard at 1.50 pm, All Clear heard at 2 pm. A further drop in attendance is registered this afternoon, ninety-seven present = 48.25%’.

Another twenty evacuees and a teacher, Miss M. Griffiths, from Garrison Lane School in Birmingham are admitted to Llanederyn. ‘These children are conveyed to and from school by bus’.

18<sup>th</sup> January

Twenty-two girls from Court Road leave for two weeks at the ‘School Holiday Camp’ in Porthcawl: ‘These were mainly girls who had lost their homes in the recent raids’.

20<sup>th</sup> January

‘Monday. The weekend has been a very disturbed one. Friday evening 8 pm raid warning lasting until 6 am in the morning. Gun fire terrific’ records the Head of Marlborough Infants’.

Gladstone and Herbert Thompson Girls’ re-open after use as Rest Centres.

Only 35% of the pupils are present at Radnor Infants’ ‘owing to the weather’. The Head of St. Fagan’s explains there’s been a heavy fall of snow. At St.

Mary's Infants', Canton, forty-seven out of 144 are present and next door at the Juniors' only ninety-eight pupils make it to school although, as the Head points out, 'Many children are still absent from the district while awaiting billets or repairs to their bombed homes'.

At Court Infants' 'very few children are in school. The water is pouring into two classrooms and the entrance hall because of slates missing through the effects of the Blitz'. It's the same at Ninian Infants' where water is pouring through the roof and the hall and most of the classrooms are flooded. The 46% of pupils who attend are gathered in two unaffected rooms and 'The Boys' Department has today taken over the lower portion of the building – three classrooms – their own building having been requisitioned for Canton High School for Boys whose own building was rendered uninhabitable in the Air Raid'.

[Some of the pupils from the Boys' School at Canton High have been evacuated to the Rhondda whilst others are being taught in parts of their own damaged building and in the Girls' School below. The girls of Canton High have moved to Llanover Hall and the Salem Church schoolroom.<sup>228</sup>]

Whitchurch Mixed re-opens although workmen are still repairing the Domestic Science Room and the Gymnasium. Mr. William Cooper, the PT specialist has left for the RAF but Mr. Tom Miller, an evacuated teacher from Kent arrives to take charge of the forty-three Gillingham refugees in the district: 'he will teach classes in the school into which Gillingham children have been absorbed'.

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular appealing 'for fire watchers for schools to be organised by the school's staff'.<sup>229</sup>

There are two more warnings in the afternoon.<sup>230</sup> The Head of St. Francis' Infants' dismisses the children at 3.30 pm after the second warning. Their boiler has been playing up, the temperature in the classrooms has not risen above 40 degrees fahrenheit and the children 'were bitterly cold' after their second spell in the shelter.

21<sup>st</sup> January

Mr. W.T. Profit, a teacher at Albany Boys' 'left school at 11.30 this morning to attend the funeral of one of his scholars, Allan Evans, who died as the result of burns'.

Mr. F. Winter, a Windsor-Clive teacher, returns after being absent for a day and a half 'because of enemy action'.

Roath Infants' receives a Circular 'about the Evacuation Scheme for school children' and there's a parents' meeting in the afternoon at Gladstone Infants' to discuss it.

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<sup>228</sup> *Programme of the Official Opening of the new Canton High School for Boys*, p.10.; See also Higher Education Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> February 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, pp.92,98.

<sup>229</sup> St. Patrick's Infants'.

<sup>230</sup> Tredegarville Boys'.

At Grangetown Girls' `Air Raid Warning 3.50 pm. This was a false alarm. The sirens heard were reported to belong to canal boats'.

22<sup>nd</sup> January

The Head of St. Monica's Mixed notes 'I am sending out `Forms of Enquiry' to the parents this evening, regarding a probable evacuation of children to other parts should the necessity arise. A meeting of the parents has been called for tomorrow morning to explain any difficulties in the filling of the forms'.

One of the Court girls 'was brought home from Porthcawl Camp by Mr. Reed, the Head Teacher. She had given trouble to the nurse and teachers and had been impudent to Mr. Reed'.

One more Cathays High for Boys' teacher, Mr. Yates, has left 'to report for service under the Ministry of Aircraft Production'.

23<sup>rd</sup> January

Birchgrove Infants' notes a Circular about the 'Evacuation of School Children and parents' contribution towards the upkeep of the child billeted in a reception area'.

At Highfields `A few parents visited the school re evacuation of children: little definite information to give them. A small stock of food, some crockery and 250 blankets have been placed in the school in readiness for possible emergencies'.

Between 400 and 500 parents attend a meeting at Radnor Road about evacuation and there are other meetings at Grangetown, Splott, St. David's, St. Paul's and Viriamu Jones.<sup>231</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> January

The Headmistress of Albany Infants' records 'The children of Crofts Street School are housed in this school and will be until their own building, which was severely damaged in the air raid over the city on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, has been repaired'. The Head of Crofts Street records that of the sixty-one children on the register only thirty-two reported to Albany in the morning and thirty-three in the afternoon.

At Llanishen `The coal supply arrived and owing to the difficulty of obtaining firewood, the caretaker made an exchange of coal for firewood with Mr. Palmer, *Dunvent*, Heol Hir – the caretaker having been instructed previously by the Superintendent to obtain a supply locally by purchase or other means'.

More Parents' Meetings occur at schools across the city to discuss the evacuation of children `aged five and over'.<sup>232</sup> At Stacey Road the meeting is

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<sup>231</sup> Radnor Road Boys', Grangetown Girls', St. David's Infants' & St. Paul's Mixed.

<sup>232</sup> See, for example, Allensbank, Clarence Road, Ninian Park & St. Joseph's Infants', Heathfield House, Lansdowne Road Boys', St. Francis' Mixed & Hywel Dda Junior Mixed.

`attended by about 150 parents. An explanation of the situation was presented and questions were invited. The meeting...lasted nearly an hour'.<sup>233</sup>

The chief points raised by the parents of Marlborough pupils are:

- '(1) Would children be billeted in homes or camps?
- (2) Relating to the Scholarship Examination.
- (3) Religion, would they be with their own denomination?
- (4) Where was it proposed to send them?

Only about fifteen parents expressed a wish to have their children evacuated'.<sup>234</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> January

Ten year old Lasser Sulchbacker, a London evacuee billeted in Lisvane, dies in 'the Isolation Hospital'.<sup>235</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> January

In response to a request from the Director, the Head of St. Alban's Infants' records that four out of the six teachers there 'are engaged in ARP work'. Next door at the Mixed School 'A meeting of Parents was held this afternoon...It was the unanimous wish of the meeting that evacuation should not take place'.

The Head of Roath Boys' records 'The First Aid Equipment (for the purposes of teaching First Aid to the pupils) consists of thirty six triangular bandages, two charts, two handbooks and twelve splints'. Radnor Girls', on the other hand, receives just 'two text books and six triangular bandages'.

29<sup>th</sup> January

At St. Alban's Infants' 'The completed Evacuation Forms were returned to the Director. Thirty-four children did not wish to be evacuated and seven wished to be evacuated. Twenty forms were not returned'. The returns from Lansdowne Boys' show that only 26.5% of parents want their children evacuated and it's a similar tale across the City'.<sup>236</sup>

31<sup>st</sup> January

At Grangetown Boys' 'The movement of scholars to and from their homes has continued throughout the month. This has had a considerable effect on work and progress. Average attendance is only 69.23% for the month'.

The Head of St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton notes 'Attendance is very unsatisfactory. This is not entirely due to the effects of air-raids but to carelessness on the part of the parents'.

3<sup>rd</sup> February

At St. David's 'School closed for the day as there were no sticks for lighting

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<sup>233</sup> Stacey Road Boys'.

<sup>234</sup> Marlborough Road Infants'.

<sup>235</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 4<sup>th</sup> February 1941.

<sup>236</sup> See, for example, Birchgrove Mixed & St. Paul's Infants'.

fires and the weather was intensely cold. Head Mistress remained on duty to attend to School Bank, Milk, Dinner Tickets etc.'

4<sup>th</sup> February

At St. Patrick's Infants' 'A contribution of £1, collected by the children, was forwarded to the Lord Mayor for the Spitfire Fund'.

The Director of Education writes to the Head of the Boys' at Viriamu Jones 'informing me that two boys privately evacuated to Cardiff are ineligible to sit the [Cardiff High Schools] Entrance exam. Viz Ronald Chapple and William White evacuated from London and Middlesex respectively'.

5<sup>th</sup> February

At Stacey Boys' 'Classroom temperatures on assembly were all lower than 50 degrees and one as low as 41 degrees. The caretaker states he cannot get into the heating chamber early enough to ensure the required temperature on account of the 'Black-Out' restrictions and that the furnace is not functioning properly because a lack of firewood prevents him from letting the fire out for proper clearing of clinkers. At my request he has agreed to 'black-out' the heating chamber window so that he may commence morning operations on the furnace early enough.

Received Circular asking Headteachers to warn children against interference with the street sand bags placed for firefighting'.

Mr. John Islwyn Thomas, a 'temporary supply' at Herbert Thompson Boys', is called up for the RAF.

7<sup>th</sup> February

The Headmistress of Court Infants' records 'Numbers have decreased alarmingly since the end of December. Families have left the town and the district owing to the dilapidated condition of the houses. The children's attendance has deteriorated since the Blitz'. [Ten years later an HMI reports 'the number of pupils fell from 290 to 151 following the Air Raids of the winter of 1941 when considerable damage occurred in the neighbourhood'.<sup>237</sup>]

Following the distribution of evacuation enquiry forms to all the parents of Cardiff's 32,530 pupils the Director of Education reports to Cardiff Education's (War Emergency) Sub-Committee that only 26% wish to see their children evacuated although the parents of another 708 children 'have already arranged voluntary evacuation'.

The Director also provides a breakdown of teaching staff involved in ARP duties. Cardiff has 825 female teachers of whom 313, or 38%, are engaged in some form of Civil Defence duties and there are 461 male teachers of whom 278, or 60%, are doing some form of war work.<sup>238</sup>

'Miss Farrow, an evacuated Domestic Science teacher from Folkstone,

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<sup>237</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> February 1952.

<sup>238</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, pp.89-91.

completed duty today and is leaving to take up an appointment of National Service' records the Head of Tongwynlais.

8<sup>th</sup> February

Twenty-two mothers and forty-two children from London arrive for billeting in Cardiff Rural District.<sup>239</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> February

At Whitchurch Boys' 'Miss Bronwen Davies of the National Milk Marketing Board is here this morning lecturing on the Food Value of Milk'. The next day Mr. Lawrence leaves the school early again 'to attend a Masonic Installation ceremony'.

13<sup>th</sup> February

Cardiff's schools receive Circulars about 'the danger of war souvenir hunting' and 'asking for the names of eligible volunteers for Fire-watching duties in schools'.<sup>240</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> February

The Head of Roath Girls' attends a 'Refresher Course on War Gases' at Cardiff High School, Newport Road.

At 4 pm at Hywel Dda Mixed 'an ARP squad gave a practical demonstration of incendiary bomb extinction. The staff was instructed in the use of the School Stirrup Pump'.

15<sup>th</sup> February

Another fifteen mothers and twenty-five children from London arrive in Cardiff Rural District.<sup>241</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> February

Miss Ethel Giblin, a teacher at Albany Infants' is 'granted leave of absence from the Director of Education in order to organise 'Keep Fit' classes in Government Factories'.

18<sup>th</sup> February

Because the 'coal range is still out of order' girls from Gladstone are sent back to school from the Cookery Centre.

20<sup>th</sup> February

'The night of the 19<sup>th</sup> 7.45 pm to 11.55 raid warnings and planes overhead' records the Head of Marlborough Infants'.

Beginning on the 19<sup>th</sup> German bombers attack Swansea on three successive nights. They miss their target which is the docks and heavy industry, but largely destroy the town centre killing 230 people, injuring another 309 and making over 700 people homeless. This is the worst attack of the war on

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<sup>239</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 25<sup>th</sup> February 1941.

<sup>240</sup> Stacey Road Boys'.

<sup>241</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 25<sup>th</sup> February 1941.

Wales.<sup>242</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> February

The attendance has been poor all week at Clarence Infants' as the children are 'getting little sleep through air raids' though an epidemic of measles also plays its part.<sup>243</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> February

At Albany Boys': 'Last night enemy 'planes attacked the eastern part of Cardiff. St. Martin's Church and Littlewoods Stores [in Albany Road] were set on fire by incendiary bombs. Only the walls of the Church stood this morning, the roof having collapsed. The business premises were not seriously affected. The school buildings escaped, although incendiary bombs fell in the playground, but little damage was done. A few window panes in the Infants' department were broken. The attendance this morning was down by nearly fifty'. Next door the Director of Education and Councillor J.H. Lovitt visit the Infants' 'to see the extent of damage done to this school after the air raid over the city last night. Incendiary bombs had fallen on the glass roof in the hall and fallen on the stone floor'.

The Head of Roath Boys' records 'an incendiary bomb fell on the roof of this school. The warning was given by Mr. George Morgan of Donald Street, who did splendid work in putting out the resultant fire. There is a big hole in the roof, and the floors are saturated. A gas pipe is fractured and the gas is turned off at the main meter...The boys have been sent home for the day'.

At Marlborough Infants' the Head writes 'City visited by a terrible fire Blitz. Very low attendance (46%). School windows out. Crater in Boys' yard'. At Metal Street Boys', however, 'There is good attendance this morning although there was considerable air activity during the night. Bombs fell in Gold Street, Silver Street and Metal Street'.

'A letter was received from the Director of Education in which a 10/- note was enclosed. The money is to be used to purchase boots or articles of clothing for a child or children whose homes were affected by enemy action' records the Head of St. Patrick's Infants'.

Because his house was badly damaged in the raid, the Head of Viriamu Jones is absent for two days. Mr. Moses Samuel of Herbert Thompson Boys' is 'absent owing to injuries received during the air raid last night'.

**That night four people had been killed in Violet Place near Whitchurch Common.<sup>244</sup>**

28<sup>th</sup> February

The Head of Eleanor Street records 'Air Raid Warning 10.20 am. As an

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<sup>242</sup> Nigel A. Robins, *Eye of the Eagle: The Luftwaffe Aerial photographs of Swansea* (Swansea: Tawe History Publications, 1993).

<sup>243</sup> St. Mary's Infants', Clarence Rd., 28<sup>th</sup> February 1941.

<sup>244</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.59.

enemy aircraft was heard directly overhead the children were kept indoors. All Clear 10.50 am'.

At Stacey Boys' 'An air raid warning at 10.15 am made it impossible to complete the St. David's Day Celebration Eisteddfod Programme which will be continued on Monday afternoon. At Grangetown too the air raid interrupts their St. David's Day programme.<sup>245</sup> At Albany Infants', however, and with remarkable stoicism, the Head records 'Saint David's Day was celebrated in the normal way. School took shelter in the air raid shelters from 10.15 – 10.50 am during an air raid over the city'.

At St. Fagan's the 'Evacuees helped considerably to make the eisteddfod successful'.

3<sup>rd</sup> March

Another night raid on Cardiff has seen Moorland Infants' burnt to the ground.

Miss Hubbarde, a Metal Street Infants' teacher, is allowed 'to go home in the afternoon. Her home had been damaged owing to a delayed bomb'.

There's an 'Air raid over the city from 3.52 – 4.20 pm'.<sup>246</sup> At Heathfield House this 'necessitated the cessation of lessons' although 'the older girls continued their work'.

The Grangetown Continuation School re-opens after a long break. Classes have been suspended since early December 1940. That Autumn the school had been disrupted by air-raids on twenty-three occasions. Now another raid warning sees the school dismiss.

4<sup>th</sup> March

The Headmistress of Marlborough Girls' reports 'A terrible catastrophe took place last night to our beloved school. Through enemy action, the whole of the Senior School, which housed the Boys' and Girls', suffered irreparable damage. High explosive bombs were dropped in this district, and it is surmised that a stick of bombs demolished our building. The children have been asked not to come near the school'.

Next door at the Infants' a shocked Head records 'Last night, at 11.50 pm Marlborough Road School was destroyed by enemy action in the Boys, Girls, Domestic and Manual Departments. The Infants' building was damaged to the extent of broken windows and ceiling, it suffered no structural demolition. Playground a sea of glass. The Caretaker was very severely injured'.

The Headmaster of Howard Gardens Boys' records 'On Monday night, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cardiff suffered a severe attack shortly after nightfall. Thousands of incendiary bombs were scattered over a wide area, followed by the usual high explosives. Roath Church and Dewi Sant were hit early on and set alight. The

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<sup>245</sup> Grangetown Boys'.

<sup>246</sup> Albany Road Infants'.

school also received a Molotoff basket but these were promptly put out by the two firewatchers and the caretaker. The traces of some of these bombs are still visible on the gymnasium and art room floors as well as in the rooms of the old Pupil Teachers' Centre and the Oral School.

Shortly afterwards another shower of bombs came down, among them being oil bombs, one of which falling on the caretaker's house set the bedrooms alight, which in less than six minutes became a furnace. Others fell [upstairs] on the Girls' School and set fire to the roof. Owing to their numbers, the dryness of the rafters and the meagre fire fighting equipment available, the fire spread quickly.

Many people came on the scene immediately, among them being Mr. Daniel, old boys, members of the Home Guard and a number of Air Force men. They quickly set to work to remove as much material as possible from the Boys' School below and by their exertions most of the school records in the secretary's room, such as the card index of old boys, admissions registers, books, cupboards, trophies and school cups...were carried out into the yard and the air raid shelters. The greater part of the form libraries and the main library were also saved though in transit many books fell to the ground and were trodden into pulp.

Owing to the number of fires raging in different parts of the city, the school was burning two hours before the arrival of the [fire] brigade and even then it was difficult to get the force of water required to check the fire effectively. The roof of the chemical laboratories was of glass and through this fell a number of fire bombs, so that floors and benches were soon alight. Here all our expensive chemical and physical apparatus was completely destroyed...The heat in this part of the building must have been intense from the way in which the glass bottles melted and coalesced while the huge iron beams supporting the floors and roof were bent like pins. Here in a cupboard in the wall was housed our new cinema apparatus bought with money that had patiently been collected for years from the pupils...but the most grievous loss of all was our noble war memorial in the hall below the labs. The large bronze mural tablet commemorated the names of 102 old boys and masters 'who served and laid down their lives in the Great War'...

On Tuesday morning...we all returned to school to find the upper storey – the Girls' School – completely destroyed, water pouring through the ceilings into the Boys' School below, the playground a foot under water, furniture, books and other material scattered about the yard and lying in the water, while the firemen were still playing [water] on the smouldering ruins. In spite of the destruction and devastation boys were enabled to salvage their text books and exercise books from their desks...The masters and upper school boys set to work to bring out from the building before the ceilings collapsed all the cupboards, desks, library cupboards, stock, books and anything of value. They also salvaged a good deal of the stock in the Girls' School...<sup>247</sup>

[With the exception of one wing housing four classrooms and the Domestic Science Centre, both the Boys' and Girls' Schools and the caretaker's house have been completely destroyed.<sup>248</sup>]

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<sup>247</sup> GRO, *Reminiscences of Dr. Woosnam*.

<sup>248</sup> Elementary Education Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.113.

At St. Illtyd's a high explosive bomb has completely demolished the wing built in 1929 destroying fourteen classrooms. 'Brother David and Brother Colman who were firewatching at the College had providential escapes'. Two other Brothers had managed to extinguish a fire started at De La Salle.<sup>249</sup>

Allensbank Infants' is closed because five incendiary bombs have fallen through the roof: 'That the school was not burned down is due to the persistence and hard work of the Caretaker (Mr. Wakeley) and the 'street fire watchers' – but particularly high praise should be accorded the former'.

At Tredegarville 'the windows of the Junior School facing the Infirmary, where a bomb was dropped, were blown in by the blast and consequently the school was closed for the rest of the week'. Cathays Mixed is also closed because of 'extensive damage to the roof and ceilings'.<sup>250</sup> Because so many of the windows have been blown out at Stacey Road the schools there are closed as is the School for the Deaf in the city centre which has been 'flooded with water following the 'Blitz' during the night'.<sup>251</sup>

At the already badly hit Canton High incendiaries have caused further damage to the roof of the Chemistry laboratory.<sup>252</sup>

Severn Road Manual Centre is closed in the morning because an incendiary bomb has caused minor damage, but it re-opens in the afternoon. Twenty incendiaries also landed on the roof of the Technical College but again damage is slight.<sup>253</sup>

At St. Monica's both schools are closed for the day because of the 'considerable damage to private property in the district surrounding the schools'.<sup>254</sup> The schools in Metal Street are closed because of unexploded bombs nearby.

St. Peter's 'was set afire in several places (7) but the fires were quickly extinguished and no serious damage was done. A large flare which had failed to ignite was removed from the top floor by the police. There are two fairly large holes in the roof'. At Lansdowne Infants' the Head reports that incendiary bombs were again dropped on the roof and 'several fires broke out'.

At Gladstone Boys' the Head records 'Four incendiary bombs dropped on the roof. Lead came through the ceiling. During the morning sessions there were 157 boys present out of 359'.

At Heathfield House, where two incendiaries had been extinguished by fire-

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<sup>249</sup> *History of the House*, p.55.

<sup>250</sup> Elementary Education Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.113.

<sup>251</sup> Stacey Road Infants'.

<sup>252</sup> Elementary Education Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.113.

<sup>253</sup> Technical College Sub-Committee, 5<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.116.

<sup>254</sup> St. Monica's Mixed.

watchers, only '147 children attended school this morning out of 299 – nearly 50%. Many of the younger children's parents sent messages that they were sleeping'.

At Moorland Girls', where there are 416 on roll, 117 pupils turn up in the morning and ninety-four in the afternoon. At Splott Infants' only eighty-seven children turn up in the morning. At St. Alban's Infants' attendance is 55.86% and at Ninian Infants' the figure is 46%. Sixty-two children attend St. Mary's Infants' in Canton and only ten Crofts Street children turn up. Attendance is down to 52% at Albany Boys' and 61% at Roath Boys where 'Everybody is very tired after a busy night'.

Gladstone Infants' and Cookery Centre are closed as they are being used as Rest Centres for those bombed out by the raid. Birchgrove Mixed closes at 4.20 to act as another one.

The Head of Grangetown Boys' records 'Mr. Stanley Stuckey, who was on duty as a special constable, was injured and detained in hospital. As the staff and scholars had been out of their beds for the greater part of the night and were very tired school was dismissed at 11.15 for the morning session'.

Miss Angela Forbes, a teacher at Hywel Dda Infants, was 'bombed out of home last night. Suffering from Shock'.

At Albany Boys', where the Head notes that the raid lasted for upwards of five hours, 'The horror of these raids has been brought most poignantly to us at this school, by the terrible loss sustained by our colleague Mr. Cyril Mould, whose wife, daughter and son were killed in their home by a bomb explosion'.

Two teachers have also been killed. Miss Gwen Hancock, Head Teacher of South Church Street Infants' and Mr. I. Morgan who had been fire watching. A number of schoolchildren have also perished, including Peter Barnard, a pupil at St. Illtyd's College.<sup>255</sup>

The attack, described as 'one of the greatest fire raids of the war' caused extensive damage, especially in Roath. At the corner of City Road and Newport Road, Roath Road Church, one of the finest Wesleyan chapels in Wales, was destroyed by incendiaries. Cardiff Royal Infirmary suffered too, and several wards were put out of action until after the war. The Blind Institute in Longcross Street was destroyed as was St. German's Church Hall where a catholic nun and a girl were killed.

In the city centre the Carlton Rooms were destroyed and incendiaries destroyed the roof of St. David's Catholic Cathedral. The CWS building in Guildhall Place also received a direct hit.

'Approximately sixty H.E. bombs and some 7,000 incendiaries bombs were

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<sup>255</sup> Elementary Education Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.113; St. Illtyd's Admissions Register held by the De La Salle Brothers, Oxford.

dropped in the raid. Casualties numbered fifty-one killed and 243 injured'.<sup>256</sup>

The Chief Constable of Cardiff reported 'I doubt if any town has had more incendiary bombs showered upon it in one raid. It was a real pyrotechnic display'.<sup>257</sup>

'Commencing tonight, three teachers will act as Fire Watchers from dusk to dawn' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

Mr. Joseph Davies, yet another Herbert Thompson Boys' teacher, is called up to serve in the Forces.

Grangetown Evening School attempts to re-open again but yet another warning sees the dismissal of the classes and it 'did not re-open after this evening'.

There is another warning in the afternoon and that night the Docks and Penarth are singled out for special attention in another mass raid.<sup>258</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> March

Incendiaries have destroyed Moorland Boys' and, downstairs, the Girls' is out of action because of water damage but 'Fortunately a considerable amount of stock was salvaged'.

Highfields is also closed as the school is being used as a Rest Centre 'for housing and feeding people rendered homeless by enemy action. The entire school staff is present, giving all possible help. This help will continue until normal school work resumes'. It is the same story at Hawthorn Mixed where 'the premises were used as a Refuge Centre for people evacuated from the Adamsdown district'. The Domestic Science Centre at Allensbank is also being used as a Rest Centre.<sup>259</sup>

At St. Peter's 'Many children have not been allowed to attend school as large areas around their districts have been roped off on account of the presence of delayed action bombs'. Attendance is down across the City.<sup>260</sup>

Dennis Court, evacuated from London to Gladstone Boys in September 1939 spends his last day at the school. He is about to be evacuated again.<sup>261</sup>

Mr. John G. Wickham, a teacher at Eleanor Street, leaves for the Forces.

6<sup>th</sup> March

The Head of Allensbank Infants' records 'The school having been closed for

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<sup>256</sup> GRO, Evans, *Cardiff Air Raid Wardens*, p.6.

<sup>257</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, pp.60-62.

<sup>258</sup> *Ibid*, p.64.

<sup>259</sup> Allensbank Girls'.

<sup>260</sup> See, for example, Gladstone Boys', Heathfield House, St. Mary's Senior Mixed, Bute Terrace & St. Paul's Mixed.

<sup>261</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

two days while the debris was being cleared away and furniture cleaned, re-opened this morning. Damage is as follows – Holes in the ceilings of Rooms 2, 3 & 4, and in corridor. Hole burned in floor of Room 4. Floors of Room 2 and corridor badly charred. A large portion of the ceiling of Room 3 is sodden with water and will possibly fall. Four window panes are broken. Two children's chairs and two locker desks are badly charred. The electric light at one end of the school does not function'.

7<sup>th</sup> March

At St. Monica's Mixed 'The attendance has not been high this week owing to the air-raids. Many children appear to have left the district'. At Stacey Road the schools re-open but only eleven children attend the Infants' in the morning and sixteen in the afternoon. At the Boys' 'Only eighty children out of 204 are present this morning. An air-raid warning at 1.20 pm lasting till 2.05 delayed school opening until 2.10'.

At Crofts Street the attendance for the week is just 28.57%.

Seven pupils from Roath Boys' have been privately evacuated this week. Three have gone to Brecon and one each to Bargoed, Carmarthen, Ferndale, Tirphil and St. Mellons.<sup>262</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday. The last of those bombed out of their houses in the raid of the 3<sup>rd</sup> leave Birchgrove Mixed at 7.25 am.

10<sup>th</sup> March

At St. Monica's Mixed the Head confirms 'that quite a number of children have been evacuated to various parts of the country'. Next door in the Infants' 'I regret to say that the two Phillips' children and Iris Williams have been killed by enemy action'. [Phillip Williams, Iris's brother was also killed in the raid of 3<sup>rd</sup> March as was Glyndwr Evans, all from Cathays Terrace.<sup>263</sup>]

The Head of Metal Street Boys' records 'the school re-opened after being closed from March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a heavy air raid on the night of March 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and when I arrived in the morning I found that part of Clifton Street and the whole of Iron Street were roped off and evacuated owing to the suspected presence of a 'time-bomb' behind the houses in Iron Street. Eclipse Street and Comet Street were also closed for the same reason, and also part of Metal Street...I visited the school every morning but the bombs were not disposed of until Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>...I am very pleased and grateful to record that no children were killed or injured, although some had their houses damaged or destroyed. All members of staff also escaped injury'.

At Howard Gardens Boys' 'school started in the old Pupil Teachers' Centre and a few rooms in the Oral School. Mr. Diamond, the headmaster of Cardiff High School, most generously and at great inconvenience to his own boys

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<sup>262</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>263</sup> Education Committee, 28<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.147.

and staff, offered us in his school sufficient rooms to accommodate the lower school, Forms 2, 3 & 4, as well as the use of his laboratories for two afternoons a week...'<sup>264</sup> Four forms of Howard Gardens Girls' recommence work in the undamaged wing of their own school. The remainder are being taught at Cardiff High for Girls in the Parade and in the Oral School for the Deaf.<sup>265</sup>

At Marlborough the 'Heads again confer with the Director at 3 pm and arrange for the children to return to school. Arrangement: The Infant's Department to give four classrooms to Boys' and Girls' Schools viz. Standard 1 & 2 Boys, Standard 1 & 2 Girls. The other classes to share with Roath and Albany Rd. (3 & 5 to Roath, Seniors to Albany Road)'. Over the next four days the Marlborough teachers organise the various moves and 'The glass which littered the playground has been removed, the windows repaired and some furniture salvaged'.<sup>266</sup>

The schools re-open at Tredegarville as 'the smashed windows have been replaced with transparent material'. Attendance is poor however 'and those who attended were given hot cocoa in Miss Hill's Department'.

The evacuees from Adamsdown leave Hawthorn Mixed in the morning but the school remains closed for two days because 'the cleaners were in possession'. The same thing happens at Birchgrove Mixed.

Three unofficial evacuees are admitted at Llanederyn.

The Head of Whitchurch Mixed reports on two air raid warnings, one from 12.14 to 12.31 and another from 4.32 to 5.04.

11<sup>th</sup> March

At Stacey Infants' the Head records:

`Air raid warning at 11.25 – All clear 11.55.

Air raid warning 3 o'clock – All clear 3.30'.

12<sup>th</sup> March

Evacuees sit the LCC examination for High School entry.<sup>267</sup>

Mr. J.R. Morgan, a Windsor-Clive teacher, leaves to join the RAF.

13<sup>th</sup> March

The Head of Highfields records `School re-opened: Emergency food stock and other materials have been left in this school. Furniture and apparatus from the Deaf and Dumb School have been brought to this school'.

Eight girls and two of their teachers from Court Road visit the ship adopted by the school, the *SS Broompark*, and meet the crew and Captain Paulsen OBE.

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<sup>264</sup> GRO, *Reminiscences of Dr. Woosnam*.

<sup>265</sup> Higher Education Committee, 27<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.120.

<sup>266</sup> Marlborough Road Infants'.

<sup>267</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys', Viriamu Jones Boys' & Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

Writing his report on Religious Knowledge at Llanederyn, the Diocesan Inspector remarks that the 'Happy fusion with the evacuated children is a splendid feature of this little school – complimentary to teachers and children'.

14<sup>th</sup> March

'Owing to the presence of Time Bombs in the district, many children have been evacuated from their homes. Attendance last week only 57% - this week, 60%' records the Head of Baden Powell Infants'.

Miss Tegwen Jones, a teacher at Whitchurch Girls', is absent with rheumatism. The Headmistress notes 'Miss Jones has persevered to present herself on duty in spite of the fact that she has suffered agony, due possibly to fire watching under difficult circumstances'.

17<sup>th</sup> March

The Head of Marlborough Girls' writes 'School resumed this morning in the following buildings:-

Standards 1 & 2, in our Infant School, and are to remain there in the care of Miss Beavan and Miss Myerson.

Standards 3 & 4, in Roath Girls' School in the care of Miss K. Fisher MA (in charge) and Miss E.M. Francis.

Forms 1, 2, 3 & 4 at Albany Road Girls' School with Miss D.M. Thorne (in charge), Miss Bancroft and Miss Davies.

I, Mary Jenkins, will consider Marlborough Infants' School as my headquarters but will visit, daily, the above schools as, in the meetings which were held with the Director of Education last week, I was repeatedly urged to retain the entity of my school to the utmost of my power, having been assured that this was the wish and policy of our Education Committee. The interim – 4<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> March has been spent in salvage work. Every member of the Staff has worked most earnestly and energetically to this purpose. It has been found impossible to enter the debris in Standards 1, 2 & 3 and Form 2 classrooms but a great deal of stock from other classrooms, as well as the three sewing machines, and the gramophone have been retrieved and are now in use'.

The pupils and staff of Marlborough Boys' are also redistributed. Three forms and two teachers start work at Albany Boys' and two forms share a classroom at Roath Boys'. This redistribution has repercussions at Marlborough, Albany and Roath. At Roath Infants', for example, classes have to double up and share rooms to accommodate the girls and boys from the Upper Schools.

The boys of St. Illtyd's resume school.<sup>268</sup>

At St. Alban's Mixed 'Miss Phillips called in the afternoon to arrange for the Domestic Science teachers from the Splotlands Centre to take the Cookery girls at this school in the theory of cookery etc. This arrangement is necessary because Moorland Road School has been seriously damaged in an air raid, and the Moorland Infants' have taken the Domestic Science Centre as

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<sup>268</sup> *The Illtydian*, Vol.13, No.2, Easter 1941, p.87.

classrooms’.

There is another air raid warning in the afternoon lasting half an hour.<sup>269</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> March

‘One Stirrup-Pump and several bags of sand were delivered at the school today’ records the Head of St. Fagan’s. Two more unofficial evacuees arrive at Llanederyn.

At Viriamu Jones ‘Dr. Wright carried out a medical inspection of boys born during 1931 this afternoon. One boy brought a note on behalf of his mother refusing to have her son examined’.

At Ninian Infants’ ‘This afternoon the school, consisting of 131 children and a staff of four teachers vacated our building and marched to that of Court Road where we expect to remain for some months until the Canton High School for Girls, which has taken up our own building, may have their own school building repaired after the Air Raid on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month. We occupy four classrooms in the Court School’. Some of the boys of Canton High are also transferred to Ninian though another two forms are sharing the children’s reading room at Canton Library.<sup>270</sup>

There is a 25 minute warning in the afternoon.<sup>271</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> March

‘A time-bomb discovered in Monkton House’s garden necessitated the closing of West Grove to traffic and the girls had to come to school by longer routes’ explains the Head of Heathfield House.

Moorland Girls’ re-opens at four different sites. Two forms are housed at Stacey Road, three at Splott Road, three at Baden Powell and a further three at St. Francis’ Hall.

‘Miss Fox and Miss Wallace, lecturers at Furzedown College London, now evacuated to Cardiff, visited the school this morning and gave demonstration lessons to their students’ records the Head of Stacey Infants’.

There’s another air raid warning from 12.25 to 12.41 pm.<sup>272</sup>

Following the flooding of the Jackson Hall the School for the Deaf has been housed at Howard Gardens but now it has to move again to Highfields because the Howard Gardens High School needs the space. Much salvage work is still going on at Marlborough whilst at Gladstone ‘Their Majesties the King and Queen visited the Rest Centre at the school this afternoon. Children were assembled to welcome their Majesties and were dismissed at 4 pm’.

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<sup>269</sup> Albany Road Boys’.

<sup>270</sup> Higher Education Committee, 27<sup>th</sup> March 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.121.

<sup>271</sup> Radnor Road Infants’.

<sup>272</sup> Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

Three Radnor Girls' teachers who are 'Air Raid Wardens and Red Cross workers' are given permission 'to attend the Inspection by their Majesties on their visit to Cardiff's bombed districts'. So too is Mr. Bale from Albany Boys' who is a Special Constable and Miss Casey from St. Alban's Mixed who is a member of the WVS.<sup>273</sup> At one point during the Royal visit the motorcade passed along Albany Road and the children of the schools there 'paraded outside the front of the school to see their Majesties pass'.<sup>274</sup>

#### 20<sup>th</sup> March

At Heathfield House 'Notice was received from the Warden that it would be necessary to evacuate the Library, Sixth Form Room and Staffroom on account of danger from the time-bomb'.

Since the bombing of Moorland Boys' there's been no school but the pupils re-assemble at 11 am at East Moors Hall where it's been arranged that six classes will be taught, and then three other classes are taken to Splotlands Boys' School and a further one to Jerusalem Vestry. In order to accommodate the boys 'Furniture and equipment, including stationery, books etc have been spared from other schools...and...the number of classes has been reduced by three'.

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee sanctions the payment of a total of £4. 3. 0. to four people 'as compensation for damage done to bedding by evacuees'.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> March

At St. Peter's 'About twenty children have left the school on account of the severity of the air raids. Attendance this week and last was 58%'.

'Miss Donovan away in the afternoon because she had news of the death of her brother at sea, through enemy action' records the Head of St. Alban's Mixed.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> March

Following the destruction of the night of the 2<sup>nd</sup> there's been no school for the infants of Moorland Road but they resume today with four classes at Splott Infants' and the remainder at the Aion Baptist schoolrooms in Walker Road.<sup>275</sup>

Mr. Trewartha, a Marlborough Boys' teacher is transferred to Gladstone Boys'. Two of the teachers from Marlborough Girls' 'Miss G.L. Cronin and Miss C.M. Thomas have been transferred to Gladstone Girls' School and Rhydypenau Mixed School respectively as the two Standard 4 classes and the two Form 1 classes have been amalgamated'.

#### 25<sup>th</sup> March

At Llanishen the Head records:

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<sup>273</sup> WVS = Women's Voluntary Service.

<sup>274</sup> Albany Road Boys'.

<sup>275</sup> See also Splott Infants'.

`Air Raid Warning 9.40 – 10.08.  
Air Raid Warning 3.50 – 4.15’.

26<sup>th</sup> March

The Domestic Science Centre at Allensbank re-opens for lessons.

At Roath Boys’ the Head records:

‘Alarm 9.20. All Clear 9.25.

Alarm 9.30. All Clear 10.05.

Alarm 1.10. All Clear 1.40.

Alarm 3.45. All Clear 5.10’.

At Albany Infants’: ‘Air raid over the city at 3.50 pm. The children living near the school ran home with their older brothers and sisters, and several parents and teachers at 4.15 pm took home the children who lived further away from the school as no gun fire was to be heard’. It’s the same story at Heathfield House where ‘the girls left school as usual at 4.30’.

27<sup>th</sup> March

‘Air raid warning at 2.30. All clear at 3.20 pm’ records the Head of Stacey Infants’.

28<sup>th</sup> March

An incendiary bomb is discovered in the loft of Lansdowne Infants’ and damage to a rafter and joist. The Headmistress writes to tell the Director.

The Head of Moorland Infants’ records that although 239 children are on the registers ‘many of the children are being evacuated by the parents to safer areas’.

Mr. Watkins, a teacher at Grangetown Boys’, leaves for the RAF as does Mr. Elfet Jones of Lansdowne Boys’.

31<sup>st</sup> March

The Head of St. Mary’s Juniors’ in Canton reports that the terminal examinations have now been completed. The average attendance for the year is only 239 and ‘Owing to persistent irregularity many children are not up to the usual standard of work’. Next door at the Infants’ the Head explains that the ‘number on Registers has dropped from 193 to 172; the Blitz of January 2<sup>nd</sup> caused a decided drop and since then there has been a slow voluntary evacuation of families to safer areas’.

Mr. Stuckey resumes duties at Grangetown Boys’ having been away injured for most of the month.

At Birchgrove Mixed ‘Miss Mary Davies BA left the permanent staff today because of her forthcoming marriage’. It’s the same at Allensbank Girls’ where ‘Miss Ida Densley resigned her appointment after over twenty-five years at this school – Marriage’.

There is a 55 minute air raid in the afternoon.<sup>276</sup>

Following a lull in January and February, when the air-raid warning log kept by the Head of Grangetown Girls' recorded just two warnings during school hours, this month there have been nine such warnings and her pupils have spent a further 5 hours 37 minutes in the shelters.

2<sup>nd</sup> April

A Circular is sent to all Cardiff schools regarding the collection of Waste Paper to be carried out by the Cardiff Waste Paper Company of Collingdon Road. The paper should be sorted into the following categories:

1. Exercise and Drawing Books, books with paper covers.
2. Newspapers, in bundles.
3. Reading books with stiff covers.
4. Wrapping papers, cardboard and mixed paper'.<sup>277</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> April

The Head of Moorland Boys' writes to the Director 'suggesting certain improvements in the lighting and heating arrangements and also lavatory accommodation at the East Moors Hall and the lighting at Jerusalem Vestry'.

As had happened last Christmas 'Teachers who intend spending the Easter Holidays away from Cardiff are requested to leave the temporary address with telephone number at the Office, in case an emergency should arise for their recall to duties'.<sup>278</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> April

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, at a meeting of Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee, the Clerk reports that 'up to last month no appeals had been lodged by foster-parents against the operation of billeting notices served in the Council's area. Since then, however, many appeals have been lodged, necessitating four sittings of the Billeting Tribunal within a period of four weeks, and notices of appeal are still being received. The principal ground of the appeals so far considered was that the foster-parent was physically 'worn out' after several months constant care of evacuees without any relief or respite being afforded. The ordinary school daily session of about four and a half hours no longer affords relief, inasmuch as the children return to their billets on each 'Alert' signal, and, therefore, the billets must always be open for the evacuees, even during school hours, while at week-ends no recreative arrangements are made for the children by the teachers whereby the foster-parent could be relieved for a short time from the care of the children, to enable the household shopping, etc., to be done, so the responsibility of the foster-parent for the care of the child is continuous. Again, so far as the Birmingham children are concerned, the mending and darning of articles of clothing has to be done almost entirely by the foster-parent. The effect of the unrelieved strain on the foster-parent is such that the Billeting Tribunal has allowed a majority of the appeals made by them...'

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<sup>276</sup> Albany Road Infants'.

<sup>277</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>278</sup> Ibid.

On both days the examinations for the High Schools are taken. Normally they are held on two consecutive mornings but this year they are held in the afternoon `because of the longer sessions and also because, if there had been an air raid at night, the children could rest the following morning'.<sup>279</sup> The Headmistress of Marlborough Girls' records 'Nine of our girls did not take the Scholarship Examination as they intended – they have been privately evacuated' as have candidates from Roath and Stacey Boys'.

Mr. G.E. Groves returns to St. Mary's Mixed in Bute Terrace `having been discharged from the Army'.

Cardiff Education's Secondary Committee rejects a request from the Headmistress of Canton High for Girls `for the provision of free travelling facilities for the school staff between the schools in which the pupils are temporarily accommodated'.<sup>280</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> April

Another class from Marlborough Boys' is transferred to Roath.

Miss Keegan leaves Tongwynlais and returns to Birmingham.

21<sup>st</sup> April

Roath Boys' re-opens after the Easter Holidays. The 'blitzed' classroom is ready for use again. Standards 1 & 2 are now based in two rooms in the Infants' whilst Standards 3 & 4 of Marlborough Boys' are based in the Boys' School.

Because no firewood is available there's no heating at Hawthorn Mixed.

`Some fire fighting appliances have been received. We now have the following utensils:- Ladders, 7, Shovels, 1, Rakes, 1, Stirrup Pump, 1, Buckets, 3' records the Head of Viriamu Jones.

22<sup>nd</sup> April

Cardiff's schools receive a 'Circular about Respirators – School Children: suggesting regular inspection of respirators, regular practice in the use of them, the reporting of cases of defective respirators to the Director, and the exercise of the influence of teachers to get parents to relinquish the Mickey Mouse type of respirator in favour of the small adult civilian type for their young school children'.<sup>281</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> April

£5 is collected this week for National Savings at St. Mary's Infants', Canton.

26<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> April

For the children of Roath Girls' this is 'Evacuation Week - Registration and

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<sup>279</sup> St. Alban's Mixed.

<sup>280</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, 8<sup>th</sup> April 1941, p.157.

<sup>281</sup> Stacey Road Boys'.

Medical Examination of children. Thirty-four children travelled to Gelligaer Urban District on Saturday. Four pupils have returned and have been re-admitted to this school'.

28<sup>th</sup> April

At Clarence Infants' six year old `Ruth Ford died today of Cerebro Spinal Fever'.

Several girls 'who had been sent into country districts after the raid of March 3<sup>rd</sup>' return to Heathfield House.

29<sup>th</sup> April

The Head of Roath Boys' records 'A severe raid was made on Cardiff last night. The children are very tired this morning and many are absent'. At Albany Boys' `Much damage was done, and there were many casualties, including boys from this school. Many families have been forced to leave their houses. The attendance has been very seriously affected, the percentage being 60'.

Gladstone Infants' is again being used as a Rest Centre.

At St. Peter's `The homes of many of the children were damaged and some were entirely wrecked'. At Tredegarville 'A street in which three scholars lived was severely damaged by a land mine. Thank God the children are safe' and a Miss Jones is absent with an injury to her arm caused when her house was bombed. At St. Monica's Mixed 'Miss Earl's residence in Miskin Street was again affected and Miss Earl was very much shaken up'. Miss Doris Hobbs is absent from Metal Street Girls' as her house has been damaged in the raid and so too is Miss Parry, a teacher at Court Girls', as 'her home was badly damaged in the Raid'.

Attendance is poor at Severn Girls' where Miss B.A. Jones is inexplicably absent...

Three Cathays National pupils living at 19 Wyverne Road have been killed in the raid.<sup>282</sup>

In all `forty-one persons are reported to have been killed and many injured'.<sup>283</sup>

This was the third serious air raid on Cardiff. Four massive land mines were dropped on the city. One dropped harmlessly in the Castle grounds but two fell on Llanbleddian Gardens and Wyverne Road, killing twenty-three people, among them ten members of the Palmer family who had taken shelter in their Anderson shelter in Wyverne Road. The fourth landed in Riverside where several streets suffered extensive damage and ten more died.

250 people 'bombed out' in Cathays turned up at Gladstone Infants' Rest

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<sup>282</sup> Reported to the Education Committee, 30<sup>th</sup> May 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.190.

<sup>283</sup> GRO, Evans, *Cardiff Air Raid Wardens*, p.6.

Centre to find there was no-one to receive them, a fact 'hushed up' at the time...<sup>284</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> April

Because Gladstone's Domestic Science Centre is being used as a Rest Centre girls from Allensbank are sent back to their school.

1<sup>st</sup> May

Mr. J.P. Hourahane, an Albany Boys' teacher 'is absent today, suffering from nausea and stomach trouble as the result of dealing with an oil bomb dropped at Llanishen during the raid on Tuesday night'.

At Whitchurch Mixed 'the number of evacuees attending the school having diminished, the Director of Education authorised the absorption of remaining evacuee children of elementary school age into our school so that full time instruction could be obtained by all at these premises...Accordingly the 288 local children and 142 evacuees have been organised into eleven classes'. Ten teachers from the former Boys' and Girls' Evacuated Schools are absorbed as well, although the independence of the Chatham Technical School for Girls continues.

2<sup>nd</sup> May

Severn Girls' discovers that Miss Beatrice Jones and her family were killed in the air raid. So too was Miss Mildred Jones, a teacher at Canton High for Girls for over thirty-two years.<sup>285</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> May

Cardiff sends out another Circular: 'Teachers are asked to assist in the running of 'Shadow Kitchens' in the event of a severe raid'.<sup>286</sup>

A Welfare Centre for evacuee mothers is opened at the Church Hall, Church Road, Whitchurch, though few women attend.<sup>287</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> May

At St. Monica's 'a shell-cap came through the roof of the main building last night making a small hole. The cap was found on the floor'.<sup>288</sup>

Gladstone Infants' re-opens to children but very few turn up.

8<sup>th</sup> May

Another Marlborough Girls' teacher is transferred, this time to Canton High School 'to fill the post of English Mistress there'.

9<sup>th</sup> May

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<sup>284</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, pp.65-6.

<sup>285</sup> Reported to the Higher Education Committee of 16<sup>th</sup> May 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.174.

<sup>286</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>287</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 15<sup>th</sup> May 1941.

<sup>288</sup> St. Monica's Mixed.

Gladstone Boys' reports 'Attendance during the week has been poor, due to the fact that air raids in this area have been in operation until the small hours of the morning'.

12<sup>th</sup> May

The Headmistress of St. Patrick's Infants' records 'Several more window panes in the school were shattered by the blast in the raid of last night'. At Ninian Infants' 'some bombs having fallen nearby the district during the night, and consequently a sleepless night for the neighbourhood, made attendance this morning 55%'.

13<sup>th</sup> May

'Mr. Britten, the Secretary of the Ship Adoption Society spoke to the girls about the aims of the Society' records the Headmistress at Allensbank.

15<sup>th</sup> May

There are now 2,008 evacuees billeted in Cardiff Rural District of whom 1,376 are unaccompanied children.

19<sup>th</sup> May

Crofts Street re-opens as 'the temporary repairs have been completed'.

20<sup>th</sup> May

'An urgent meeting of Head Teachers with the Director was held at the City Hall. An evacuation scheme is in project' records the Head of St. Peter's.

21<sup>st</sup> May

There's another hour-long air raid in the morning.<sup>289</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> May

The Head of Gladstone Boys' records "Alert' sounded at 2.15 pm. 'All Clear' sounded at 2.35 pm.'

'Three quarters of a hundredweight was collected by the Cardiff Waste Paper Co.' from St. Patrick's Infants'.

The Admissions Register of Grangetown Infants' records that this is the last day of school there for thirty-two pupils who are to be evacuated.<sup>290</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> May

The senior boys and girls of Herbert Thompson are 'addressed by Colonel Lyttelton, DSO, Officer Commanding Troops, Cardiff Area, who gave an inspiring speech which was much appreciated by his audience'.<sup>291</sup>

The girls of St. Peter's 'spent an hour in the shelters owing to an air raid'.

At a meeting of Cardiff's Education Committee 'The chairman reported the

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<sup>289</sup> St. Peter's Girls'.

<sup>290</sup> The Admissions Register is held at Grangetown Juniors'.

<sup>291</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys'.

action decided upon by the Council in connection with the decision of the Welsh Board of Health declaring a certain area of Cardiff as an evacuable area. Resolved – That the Director be instructed to carry out the evacuation of school children in accordance with the evacuation scheme'.<sup>292</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> May

The children of Marlborough Girls' and Boys' Schools re-assemble in their old playground along with the infants 'to celebrate Empire Day'.<sup>293</sup> [Miss Jenkins makes no comment, but given the playground is dominated by the bombed-out ruin of her school the celebration must have been somewhat muted...]

26<sup>th</sup> May

Head Teachers attend a meeting in the Technical College in the morning about the official evacuation of Cardiff's schoolchildren. Presided over by the Director of Education 'all the details of the forthcoming evacuation were given and discussed'.<sup>294</sup> At St. Alban's Mixed 'Leaflets were distributed in the afternoon giving instructions to parents'.

Mr. J. Rees, a teacher at Court Boys' is 'appointed 'Divisional Officer' for the evacuation of school children from Court Road, Ninian Park and St. Patrick's Schools, and is freed from school duties to attend to that work. Members of staff are released to do clerical work in connection with registration etc. as required'.

27<sup>th</sup> May

At Highfields 'A parents meeting was held this afternoon to discuss evacuation'. Others are reported at Albany, Canton, Eleanor Street, Heathfield House, Lansdowne, Metal Street, Radnor Road and St. Mary's, Canton.<sup>295</sup> Of the 356 pupils at Radnor Girls' only thirty-two register for evacuation. Three teachers will act as escorts but no member of staff volunteers to teach in the 'Reception Area'.

A Hywel Dda Mixed boy receives two strokes of the cane on each hand for 'cutting the hand of another boy with a razor blade. Children previously warned by Headteacher several times not to bring razor blades to school'.<sup>296</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> May

The Head of Highfields records 'Air raid warning 4.20 pm. Children dispersed. Raiders passed signal 5.04'.

29<sup>th</sup> May

There's an Air raid from 10.30 to 11.40.<sup>297</sup>

Miss Jenkins of Marlborough Girls' writes 'Most of the staff and I spent our

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<sup>292</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.184.

<sup>293</sup> Marlborough Girls'.

<sup>294</sup> St. Joseph's Infants'.

<sup>295</sup> Albany Road Boys', Lansdowne Road Girls', Metal Street Boys' & Radnor Road Infants'.

<sup>296</sup> Hywel Dda Mixed Punishment Book.

<sup>297</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

morning at Roath School with our little girls whose mothers registered their names yesterday to be evacuated to a safer area'.

Gladstone Girls' closes a day early for the Whitsun Holiday 'as this Department is needed tomorrow morning for Medical Examination pending the Evacuation of Cardiff school children to safer areas'.

At Moorland Girls' 'Standards 1 & 2 were dismissed early so that a Parents' Meeting could be held about evacuation'.

30<sup>th</sup> May

The Head of Stacey Infants' records 'Air raid warning 11 o'clock. All clear at 11.30. Head Teacher and Miss John were at Splott Road School at 9 o'clock to see the Evacuation Medical Inspection. Nineteen children [out of 195] from this school are registered and are leaving Cardiff tomorrow morning. Miss Thomas attended a meeting in the Technical College of all helpers taking children to their destinations tomorrow'.<sup>298</sup>

At St. Monica's Infants' 'During this week evacuation plans have been prepared and all parents asked to evacuate their children to the country. Thirteen children are to go tomorrow morning'. [There had been 118 children there in September 1939.<sup>299</sup>] The evacuees from St. Monica's together with those from Cathay's National and Gladstone are inspected at Gladstone Girls'.<sup>300</sup>

The fifty-one children who are to be evacuated from St. Mary's Infants' in Canton 'receive their labels'.

Court Boys' closes 'so that staff could be released for evacuation work'. At the Girls' 'A medical inspection of all the children to be evacuated took place...At the same time the 'Kit' to be carried by the children was inspected by teachers, and queries concerning any deficiency made. In some cases grants of clothing were made by the kindness of the Women's Voluntary Service'. The Headmistress explains that the medical inspection was carried out by 'Glamorgan Medical Officers and nurses...[and a total of] 491 children were passed fit and told to assemble here by 8.25 am tomorrow'.

At Roath Infants', where there are around 170 pupils, fourteen children are medically examined before their evacuation the next day and one is found to have chicken pox. One of the infants from St. Paul's is rejected 'on account of shingles'.

31<sup>st</sup> May

The Head of Marlborough Infants' records 'The night of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> was very disturbed by a Barrage'.

The Court Road evacuees, together with those from Ninian Park and St.

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<sup>298</sup> An entry for 1<sup>st</sup> May 1941 gives the numbers.

<sup>299</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> September 1939.

<sup>300</sup> Gladstone Girls'.

Patrick's, 'assembled in the playgrounds at 8.30 am. They were arranged in groups, under the charge of teachers. Buses conveyed the children to Queen Street Station where they were entrained for Treherbert and Treorchy at 9.25 am. All the arrangements worked smoothly'. Two members of staff from Court Boys', Mr. Jones and Mr. Phillips 'attended to arrangements at Treherbert'. Seventy-five pupils from the Girls' School are evacuated in the care of all their teachers who acted as escorts and Misses Evans and Parry volunteer to stay in the Rhondda for a week to help settle the children in.

165 pupils from the three schools at Albany, including twenty-four infants, are 'taken to the Glyncoed area, and billeted in Cymmer, Glyncoed, Blaengwynfi and Abercregan'.<sup>301</sup>

Ninety-four children from St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton and fifty-one infants are evacuated to Mountain Ash. They assemble in the recently repaired school hall where 'Father Byrne spoke a few words of encouragement to the children and parents before the party set out to Severn Road School, the assembly point; at 10.20 the children were taken by tram to the Taff Vale Station where they were met by His Grace the Archbishop of Cardiff and Officials; the Archbishop visited each carriage and spoke to the children and blessed them as they left the Station; the children were quite happy'.<sup>302</sup>

Eighty-one Moorland boys, an unspecified number of girls and fifty-one infants are sent to Aberdare. Fifteen other infants and ten of the boys are evacuated privately.

Seventy-two boys and fifty-seven girls from Grangetown travel to Ystradfelte in the Swansea Valley.

At St. Patrick's Mixed where there had been over 380 children before the war 'ninety-five girls and boys from this school were evacuated to Llwynypia. Six teachers attended as Escorts. Miss McGinty and Miss Donovan will remain in the reception area until 14<sup>th</sup> June'. Thirty-three infants are also sent to the Rhondda.

Fifty-nine pupils from Gladstone Boys', forty-two girls and twenty-six infants are evacuated to Llanharan.<sup>303</sup>

Sixty-four children from St. Paul's, fifty-one from the Mixed School and eleven infants (including two sets of brothers and sisters and a pair of sisters) are sent to Talgarth together with one child from Grangetown Infants'.

Forty-eight pupils, including six sets of brothers, are evacuated from Herbert Thompson Boys'.<sup>304</sup> Twenty-five of the infants and twenty-one of the girls there also go to Talybont whilst a further six of the girls are evacuated

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<sup>301</sup> Roath Park Boys', 31<sup>st</sup> May, Roath Park Infants', 13<sup>th</sup> June 1941.

<sup>302</sup> St. Mary's Infants'.

<sup>303</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register, Gladstone Girls', 31<sup>st</sup> May 1941 & Gladstone Infants', 7<sup>th</sup> June 1941.

<sup>304</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys' Admissions Register.

privately.

Forty-one seniors and thirty-six infants and juniors from St. Mary's in Bute Terrace travel to Cwmaman.<sup>305</sup>

Sixty-nine girls from Heathfield House are evacuated. They assemble at 8 o'clock at Cardiff High for Girls in the Parade, walk to Queen Street station 'and left Cardiff by the 9.25 train, reaching Ferndale, our destination, at about 10.45. We were received by the Billeting Officer and members of his Committee and also by the Director of Education for the Rhondda, and members of school staffs'.

Thirty-one children from Clarence Mixed are sent to Abercynon and a further four go to relatives. At Clarence Infants' the Head notes the names of her evacuated children under two headings - 'School Scheme' with fourteen names, and 'Evacuated to Relatives and with Mothers' with seventeen names. The latter also lists the locations to which the children are sent: 'Pontypridd, Blackwater, Bridgewater, Stockton (2), Chepstow, Bournemouth, Carmarthen (2), Milford Haven (2), Birmingham, Cornwall, Somerset, Redditch (2), Bristol'.

Forty-five pupils from Roath Boys', escorted by some of their teachers, leave Cardiff. Sixteen go to Bedlinog, fourteen to Trelewis and another fourteen to Ystrad Mynach. Eleven pupils are privately evacuated – two to Abergavenny, two to Carmarthen, two to Cheltenham, two to the Rhondda, two to Rhyl and one to Oakdale.<sup>306</sup> An unknown number of girls and infants also leave.

Thirty-six children from Stacey Boys' travel to Blaenrhondda as do eighteen infants and an unspecified number of the girls.

Fifty-one children from Eleanor Street are evacuated to Abercynon.

Twenty-eight Metal Street infants, twenty-two of the boys and an unknown number of girls are sent to Aberdare.

Twenty-nine boys from Lansdowne and eighteen infants leave for the 'Caerphilly District' and an unspecified number of girls are 'sent by train to Caerphilly and Llanbradach'.

Forty-six children from Hywel Dda Mixed travel to Bargoed and Fochriw.<sup>307</sup> Among them are nine sets of two children from the same family, and two sets of three: Betty, Florence and Lionel Anderson of 105 Deere Road and Edith, Lilian and Olive Boulton of 59 Deere Road.<sup>308</sup>

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<sup>305</sup> St. Mary's Infants'.

<sup>306</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>307</sup> Whilst the Admissions Register doesn't give the destination, this is where the infants who were evacuated were sent.

<sup>308</sup> Hywel Dda Junior Mixed Admissions Register.

Forty children from St. David's are evacuated to Abernant.<sup>309</sup>

Forty children from Baden Powell Infants' leave for the Cynon Valley.

Thirty-nine children from St. Cuthbert's are sent to Abercynon, as are an unknown number of Severn Road pupils.<sup>310</sup>

Twenty-six children from St. Monica's Mixed and thirteen infants go to Beddau.

Thirty Ely Mixed children and eight of the infants leave for an unknown destination.<sup>311</sup>

At least twenty boys and eleven girls from Allensbank are sent 'to Reception Areas'. Five infants also go.<sup>312</sup>

'About thirty-five' girls from Cardiff High travel to Porth in the Rhondda.<sup>313</sup>

Thirty-three children from Canton Girls' are evacuated as are thirty-three children from Tredegarville, the latter to Aberdare.

An unspecified number of children from Radnor Boys' and Infants' and thirty-two girls go to Mountain Ash.

Thirty-two girls from St. Peter's leave for Hirwaun. Another thirty-two, from Howardian High for Girls, travel to Ogmere and Pontcymmer.<sup>314</sup>

Thirty-two children from Ninian Infants' are evacuated.

Eighteen children from Marlborough Girls', twelve infants and an unknown number of boys are sent to Pontlottyn.

Thirty boys from Viriamu Jones go to 'Mid Glamorgan'.

Twenty-nine Splott infants and twenty-seven children from Greenhill leave.<sup>315</sup>

Twenty-five children from St. Alban's Infants' are sent to Treorchy. Next door at the Mixed School they don't give the number of children, but as no less than seven teachers are needed to accompany them, and two stay on at Treorchy to help, we can assume it was a considerable number.

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<sup>309</sup> Abernant Mixed & Infants' Log, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1941.

<sup>310</sup> Severn Road Girls'.

<sup>311</sup> Ely Mixed & Infants' Admissions Registers.

<sup>312</sup> The Boys' number is based on details contained in the Admissions Register which, unfortunately, are not complete.

<sup>313</sup> Catherine Carr, *The Spinning Wheel: City of Cardiff High School for Girls, 1895-1955* (Cardiff: Western Mail & Echo Ltd., 1955), pp.104-5.

<sup>314</sup> T.J. Foster, *Floreat Howardia: The Story of the Howard Gardens Schools* (Cardiff: Friends of Howardian High School, 1990), pp.320-1.

<sup>315</sup> The Greenhill details were given at the Elementary Education Committee, 13<sup>th</sup> June 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.193.

Somewhere in the region of twenty-five pupils from St. Cuthberts are evacuated to an unknown destination.<sup>316</sup>

An unspecified number of children are evacuated from Highfields and St Francis' Mixed, the latter to Bargoed. Presumably this was also the destination for the twenty one evacuees from St. Francis' Infants'.

At least nineteen boys from Cardiff High are evacuated.<sup>317</sup>

Seven children from Hawthorn Mixed are officially evacuated and another nine go privately.

Fourteen boys from Cathays High are sent to Pentre in the Rhondda.

Eleven pupils from St. Joseph's Infants', accompanied by two teachers, are sent to Ynysyboeth in the Cynon Valley.

An unspecified number of boys from Windsor-Clive go to 'Deri' and an unknown number of boys from Howard Gardens travel to Pentre in the Rhondda.<sup>318</sup>

In all the exercise sees 4,256 Cardiff children leave the City, something like 13% of the school population.<sup>319</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> June

At Heathfield House 'a 'phone message from Ferndale mentioned that one child, Helma Fish, wanted to return home. The Headmistress got in touch with the child's parents and they brought her home this evening'. The Headmistress of Gladstone Girls' reports that two of her pupils have returned and another one 'was sent back, suffering from Scabies'.

[Cloth, clothes and shoes are now rationed.](#)<sup>320</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> June

The Head of Marlborough Girls' records that the evacuated children 'are happy and satisfactorily settled'. Those from St. Mary's Infants' in Canton are also described as 'comfortable and happy in their new homes'.

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<sup>316</sup> Although the Admissions Register only records five evacuees actually leaving on this date, another twenty six are recorded as being evacuated, only one specifically not on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1941, and if the experience of other schools is recognised then it is likely that the majority of these also left Cardiff at this time.

<sup>317</sup> GRO, E/Sec 65, *Cardiff High for Boys Address Book No.4*, 1932-42. This gives the names of the evacuees.

<sup>318</sup> Howard Gardens information based on details presented to Cardiff's Secondary Education Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.85. [see this book, 15<sup>th</sup> February 1943]

<sup>319</sup> Elementary Education Committee, 13<sup>th</sup> June 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.193.; The percentage is based on the statistics provided by the Director of Education to the Education (War Emergency) Sub-Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> February 1941. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.89.

<sup>320</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.46.

4<sup>th</sup> June

Sister Mary Agnese of Heathfield House visits Ferndale to make arrangements with Mr. Howells, Head of the Secondary School there. They decide that her evacuees 'should have the use of three classrooms, and remain a separate unit under their own teachers'. Two of the Sisters will join Miss Linehan who travelled up with the evacuees to teach the girls.

6<sup>th</sup> June

At Cwmbach Junior Mixed in the Cynon Valley the Head records 'Attendance very greatly affected this week owing to the village being hit by an enemy bomb in the early hours of 31<sup>st</sup> May. During the afternoon evacuee children from Cardiff (39) were billeted in the school area'.<sup>321</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> June

Gladstone Infants' reports that 'Miss Humphreys remains in the Evacuation area to teach' and that one of their evacuees has returned. The first evacuee to have left Moorland Boys' on May 31<sup>st</sup> returns to the school.

9<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff's schools re-open after the Whitsun holiday. There had been 269 pupils at Court Girls' in January. Now, because of the evacuation to Treherbert and the fact that other children have been evacuated privately, there are only 139 on the books, a fall of close to 50%.

The Head of Gladstone Boys' reports 'Re-opened school after the Whitsun holidays. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Walters were not present as they were on duty in the areas where the children are evacuated'. At Grangetown Boys' too, two teachers remain at Ystradfelte. At Radnor Boys' 'Mr. Hares remains in the Reception Area as Party Leader' as does Mr. Hodges from Viriamu Jones, Mr. Edward James from Hywel Dda Mixed, Miss Coney from Clarence Infants', Miss Jones from Moorland Girls' and Mr. Jones and Mr. Phillips from Court Boys'. Because two Albany Boys' teachers are 'retained in the Glyncorwg and Rhondda Reception Areas for supervisory and teaching duty' classes have to be combined.

One of the evacuees from Ely Mixed returns to the school as does one from Allensbank Infants'. Two evacuees from Lansdowne Infants' return as do three Roath Boys' evacuees and three from Lansdowne Boys' and St. Patrick's Infants'. Four of those evacuated from Court Girls', St. Monica's Infants' and from Tredegarville return, five from Court Boys', Ninian Infants' and Radnor Girls', seven from Canton Girls', eight from St. Cuthbert's and Moorland Boys', ten from Splott Infants', eleven from both St. Mary's Seniors, Bute Terrace and Viriamu Boys', and fourteen from Grangetown Girls' and St. Patrick's Mixed.<sup>322</sup>

According to statistics presented to the Education Committee, 508 Cardiff

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<sup>321</sup> Cwmbach Junior Mixed.

<sup>322</sup> Court Road Girls' Admissions Register.

evacuees have returned, almost 12%.<sup>323</sup>

Nevertheless, at Pentre Mixed in the Rhondda, 'five girls and fourteen boys were admitted from the Cardiff area this morning' and a further nine enrol at Blaenycwm Mixed.<sup>324</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> June

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton the Head explains that, because no-one has volunteered to go to Mountain Ash to teach the evacuees, 'a principle has been set up, ie. the Junior in service to go for one term, then the next etc.; following out this principle, Miss Cronin will be the first to go'.

A parcel of stationery is sent from Heathfield House to Ferndale.

The Head of Greenhill records 'One child who had been evacuated returned to school as she 'didn't like it there''.

Following her two day Inspection of Allensbank Infants', Miss Parry, HMI, subsequently reports 'during the last few months about twenty-eight children have been privately evacuated to districts outside Cardiff, but only five left the school under the recent official evacuation scheme for the City...Some minor repairs, due to damage caused by incendiary bombs, still remain to be completed: the ceiling of one corridor lets in water; in another part of the building the electric wiring needs repair. A few window panes, which were temporarily repaired, should be attended to before winter...a large classroom accommodates temporarily two classes of the Rhydypenau School...'<sup>325</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> June

Birchgrove Infants' notes a Circular concerning 'arrangements for the evacuation of Jewish children in attendance at the Cardiff schools'. One of the teachers from Heathfield House travels to Ferndale for the day to take PE lessons. A week later another teacher makes the trip to teach Art.<sup>326</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of St. Monica's Mixed reports 'Up to this morning seven children who were evacuated have now returned and have been re-admitted (total number evacuated was twenty-six)...There were no teachers who volunteered for teaching duties in Reception Areas from this school'.

At 2.30 there is a meeting of the Heads of Cardiff's High Schools 'to discuss the problems of evacuation; also a meeting of the Catholic Teachers' Association held at Heathfield House at 7 o'clock, when Father Byrne addressed the teachers on the same subject'.

13<sup>th</sup> June

In response to a number of requests by Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation &

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<sup>323</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, 10<sup>th</sup> June 1941, p.193.

<sup>324</sup> GRO, E/R 27/5, Pentre Mixed & E/R 6/2, Blaenycwm Mixed.

<sup>325</sup> Allensbank Infants', 1<sup>st</sup> September 1941.

<sup>326</sup> Heathfield House, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1941.

Welfare Committee for more helpers for the evacuees from Birmingham, that City's Chief Education Officer sends a letter `stating it is practically impossible, large as the City is, to obtain voluntary helpers for evacuation work. Women who feel the urge to do National Service find a greater outlet for their abilities in munitions factories, where, of course, the pay is much more. Moreover, they are at home and not living away from Birmingham...'

The Committee, on the report of the Medical Officer of Health `with regard to the extra cost incurred by the Council in the disinfection of bedding, etc., used by evacuees' resolves `that the cost be charged to the Government Evacuation Account'.

At Whitchurch Girls' `Fifty-nine evacuees now remain including twenty-seven from Birmingham. They seem quite happy and contented at the Wesleyan Chapel'.

Cardiff's Director of Education reports that only fifty-four permanent and fourteen supply teachers have volunteered to teach in Reception Areas. Consequently, the Elementary Education Committee resolves `That in future, all teachers working in schools from which children have been evacuated be placed on a rota for one term's service in Reception Areas, commencing from the Autumn Term 1941'.<sup>327</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> June

Fifteen infants from Hywel Dda are officially evacuated to Bargoed and Fochriw. Another three are privately evacuated, one to Abertillery and two brothers to Abercregau.<sup>328</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> June

Mr. Bernard Cummins returns to Windsor Clive after seven weeks at Deri only to leave immediately as he's granted a week's holiday in lieu of the Whitsun one he spent with the evacuees. A `temporary' at the school, Mrs. Macdonnell, is transferred to Pentre in the Rhondda `where some of the Cardiff children are being taught during the Evacuation period'.

At St. Patrick's Mixed `Miss McGinty and Miss Ready left to commence duties in the Reception Area under the Rhondda Authority for a term'. Subsequently the Head finds out that `Miss McGinty is teaching in Cwmclydach Boys' School. Miss Ready is teaching in Blaenclydach Boys' School'.<sup>329</sup> At Albany Boys' `Messrs. Middleton and Profit returned to school today from Treherbert and Glyncoed. Mr. Middleton will be transferred as from tomorrow, to Treorchy Junior Mixed School, under the evacuation scheme'. Similarly, Mr. J.A. Roberts of Herbert Thompson Boys' is seconded for service in a Reception Area as is Miss A. Thomas, a teacher at Clarence Mixed, who volunteers for evacuation duty and leaves for Aberdare, Miss M. Guise of St. Patrick's Infants' who is appointed to a school in Llwynypia and Miss Rita Daley, of St. Joseph's Infants' who is transferred to Ynysyboeth Council

<sup>327</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.193.

<sup>328</sup> Hywell Dda Infants' Admissions Register.

<sup>329</sup> St. Patrick's Mixed, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1941.

School.

The two teachers from Grangetown Boys' who have been working with evacuees return to school. Similarly Mr. Hodges returns to Viriamu Jones as do two evacuees. Four more evacuees from Court Girls' also return.<sup>330</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> June

Across the City more teachers leave for Reception Areas.<sup>331</sup>

The Head of Roath Boys' notes that an ex-pupil 'Captain Alfred Edward Ward, Master Mariner, has been awarded the OBE for gallantry at sea, and bringing his ship safe to port in the face of enemy attacks'.

18<sup>th</sup> June

St. Mary's Infants' in Canton sends off a supply of materials and books to Mountain Ash.

19<sup>th</sup> June

St. Mary's Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace receives its inspection report from Miss Parry HMI:

'When the school was inspected in 1940 the number on books was 148. This has now decreased to eighty-eight, partly as the result of the movement of pupils to other districts, considered safer. Forty-two pupils were evacuated under the recent official scheme, but fourteen have since returned and have been re-admitted...A fund was collected by the pupils for buying wool to knit 'comforts' for Troops, and many useful articles have been despatched to old pupils of the school...The premises were improved...in 1940...by repairs carried out to roofs and walls. During subsequent air raids, these have been damaged by blast and vibration, and many slates dislodged. Rain penetrates the ceilings and at times buckets have to be placed in position to prevent flooding. These necessary repairs should be carried out with the least possible delay...'

'Of the ninety-four children who were evacuated on May 31<sup>st</sup> twenty-four have now returned to Cardiff' records the Head of St. Mary's Juniors', Canton.

20<sup>th</sup> June

Miss Kate Dinham of Albany Girls' is transferred to the Reception Area at Glyncoedwg.

Cardiff's General Education's Committee 'recommends that the City Engineer be instructed to proceed immediately with the work of the installation of electric heating and lighting of school air-raid shelters at an estimated cost of £7,420. It was noted that this expenditure would be recognised for grant at the rate of 100%'.<sup>332</sup>

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<sup>330</sup> Court Road Girls' Admissions Register.

<sup>331</sup> See, for example, Court Road Boys', Radnor Road Boys', Roath Park Boys', St. Alban's Infants' & St. Mary's Mixed, Clarence Rd..

<sup>332</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.201.

The Head of Albany Infants' notes 'Two more children have returned to Cardiff who were evacuated from this school... Brian Elward, 54 Upper Kinraig St. and Patricia Jones, 39 Cranbrooke St.'

22<sup>nd</sup> June

'Operation Barbarossa', the German invasion of the Soviet Union, begins.<sup>333</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> June

Across Cardiff more teachers have been transferred to Reception Areas elsewhere in South Wales leading, in some cases, to the 'amalgamation' of classes.<sup>334</sup>

Five more pupils who had been evacuated from Moorland Boys' at the end of May are readmitted.

Whitchurch Boys' receives a two-tier bunk and two mattresses for the nightly fire watchers.

25<sup>th</sup> June

Two cases of scabies are discovered at Radnor Girls' and six more St. Paul's children are evacuated to Talgarth.

26<sup>th</sup> June

'A nurse of the Medical Officer's department attended school today for a cleanliness survey. Three children were excluded because they had scabies and two on account of verminous heads' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

27<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff's full Education Committee amends the motion passed by its Elementary Sub-Committee a fortnight earlier so as to extend the term of service for teachers in Reception Areas from a term to a year.<sup>335</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> July

The Head of Gladstone Infants' reports 'Poor attendance owing to last night's Blitz in this neighbourhood. Room 1 used by Cardiff Corporation to store material for First Aid repairs to houses etc. damaged during last night's Air Raid'. Next door at the Girls' attendance is down because of the 'land mines which fell in the neighbourhood'. At Allensbank Infants' 'slight damage was done to the school in an air-raid last night – a large piece of ceiling plaster has fallen in Room 1, five window panes have broken and the bolts on two doors have been forced by blast'.

At Heathfield House, where they record that the raid had lasted for about two hours, the CWB examinations start and a sympathetic Head writes 'one could not expect the candidates to do themselves full justice after their rest had

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<sup>333</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.56.

<sup>334</sup> See, for example, Highfields, Metal Street Infants' & Stacey Road Boys'. Albany Road Boys' & St. Paul's Mixed refer to amalgamations.

<sup>335</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.204.

been badly broken’.

‘Four parachute mines were dropped on the City. Residential property was affected, but not extensively. There were no fatal injuries sustained, but twenty persons were injured’.<sup>336</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> July

‘Mr. J.C. Phillips, the Council Inspector’ calls at St. Monica’s Mixed ‘and informed Mrs. Cousins the supply teacher that she would be required for teaching evacuated children at Tonyrefail for the period of one week’.

An Ely Mixed boy receives one stroke of the cane on both hands for ‘sticking a pen into a girl’s nose’.<sup>337</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> July

‘Mrs. McCarthy, formerly Anna Killeen, has had two days leave of absence on the occasion of her marriage. She returned to duties this morning’ records the Head of St. Cuthbert’s.

11<sup>th</sup> July

Two more infant evacuees from Albany, ‘Raymond Porter, 40 Thesiger St. and Barbara Parker, 29 Strathnairn St.’ return to the school.

14<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Eleanor Street records:

‘Air raid warning 2.10 pm.

All clear 2.25 pm

Air raid warning 4.23 pm.

All clear After school’.

‘William Davies, 33 Russell St. and David Tapper, 74 Rhymney St.’ return to Albany Infants’.

Dr. Herripath and Nurse Sampson attend Court Girls’ ‘in order to consult the parents of thirteen children suffering from malnutrition’.

15<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Stacey Infants’ records ‘Air raid warning at 3.05. All clear 3.40 pm’. The raid interrupts the CWB Art examination at Heathfield House where ‘The candidates continued work until gun-fire began, when they went to the shelters, but returned after about 20 minutes – the ‘All Clear’ was sounded some time later’.

18<sup>th</sup> July

The senior girls from Allensbank attend a performance of *Pride and Prejudice* at Cathays High School for Girls.

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<sup>336</sup> GRO, Evans, *Cardiff Air Raid Wardens*, p.7.

<sup>337</sup> Ely Mixed Punishment Book.

19<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' complains that attendance has dropped this week and one reason for this is that some of the younger children are 'being taken away for day trips to the seaside by their mothers. We as a staff and the Attendance Officer are doing our best to stamp out this 'evil'".

21<sup>st</sup> July

Yet another Albany Road infant who was evacuated returns to the school, 'Anthony Turner, of 47 Glenroy St.'

Schools receive notification 'That all teachers appointed on the permanent staffs of Cardiff Schools shall be placed on rotas for periods of twelve months' service in Reception Areas. The rota system to operate from August 12<sup>th</sup> 1941, except in special cases where short periods of service would be justified...<sup>338</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> July

Another Circular is received regarding the Second Evacuation of school children to take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>.<sup>339</sup>

Ten steel helmets and twelve blankets are delivered to Whitchurch Boys' for fire-watching purposes.

24<sup>th</sup> July

Medical inspections are held in Cardiff prior to the second evacuation exercise to be undertaken the next day.<sup>340</sup>

The Head of Marlborough Infants' reports 'Summer Holidays. Schools close today and re-open on Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup>. A further fortnight will be given from September 29<sup>th</sup> re-opening October 13<sup>th</sup>. The usual Mid-Term holiday is cancelled. The school sessions from August 12<sup>th</sup> will be 9.30 am to 12 noon. 2 pm to 4 pm.'

25<sup>th</sup> July

The Mayor and Mayoress of Leyton visit Whitchurch Mixed in the morning to meet evacuees.

7<sup>th</sup> August

Mr. Penry Rees, a Cathays High for Boys' teacher, is called up for Military Service.

9<sup>th</sup> August

Mr. R.D. Treharne, a Windsor-Clive teacher, leaves for the RAF.

12<sup>th</sup> August

Cardiff's schools re-open with considerable changes in staffing as teachers are either transferred to or return from Reception Areas. The following, from

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<sup>338</sup> Llanishen Mixed & Infants'.

<sup>339</sup> Roath Park Infants'.

<sup>340</sup> See, for example, Albany Road Boys' & Grangetown Boys'.

St. Patrick's Mixed, is typical: 'Miss Poolman left to take up duties in the Reception Area. Miss Ready remains in the Reception Area. Miss McGinty returns to school from the Reception Area but is taking three weeks holiday granted by the LEA'. Once again because of staff absences classes are 'combined' in some schools.<sup>341</sup>

Three evacuees return to Marlborough Infants' and another five return to St. Mary's Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace where the Head records that 'George Downs, 22 Tredegar St., was drowned accidentally in the Canal during the holiday'.

A Roath Girls' teacher has been given special leave of absence for 'Government Work' as a Physical Trainer. Mr. J.D. McCarthy, a teacher at Herbert Thompson Boys', has been called up for military service. The Head notes that he is the sixth member of the permanent staff to leave for the Forces, two others have been seconded for duties elsewhere and that four supply teachers have also been called up. Mr. Mordecai, a Moorland Boys' teacher, has also joined the Forces, as has Mr. Morgan W.R. Morgan from Lansdowne Boys' 'called up for war service in the Anti Air-Craft Artillery'.

There is an air raid in the afternoon which lasts for 35 minutes.<sup>342</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> August

'Miss Stewart resumed duties here this morning. Apparently, the Hirwaun School, where she was to serve, was closed for the holidays. Officials and Headmaster were away, and she could get no satisfaction. Finally, she was advised to return here' records the Head of Clarence Mixed.

At Kitchener 'Mr. F.M. Sheskonas ceased duties today on being called up to serve in HM Forces under age group 30-35'. At Windsor-Clive Mr. Cummins leaves for the Armed Forces as does Mr. J.E. Jones, an instructor at Severn Road Manual Centre, and Mr. Vivian Lloyd Jones, a teacher at Hywel Dda Mixed.

14<sup>th</sup> August

At Radnor Boys' 'Mr. Richard C.N. Evans left today for National Service'.

15<sup>th</sup> August

Ninian Infants' returns to its own school with 'a large new cupboard, two teachers' table desks and chairs and twenty-four children's desks lent to them' by Court Infants'.

Mr. Randall L.R. Davies leaves Stacey Boys' 'to join H.M.Forces'.

16<sup>th</sup> August

Miss F. Kilgour, a teacher evacuated from Birmingham, finishes duties at Tongwynlais and is transferred for duty to a Reception Area in Herefordshire.

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<sup>341</sup> See, for example, St. Mary's Mixed, Clarence Rd., St. Alban's Mixed, St. Patrick's Infants' & Tredegarville. Court Road Girls' provides an example of classes having to be combined.

<sup>342</sup> St. Peter's Girls'.

18<sup>th</sup> August

The Head of Court Boys' records 'the number of children on the school registers has fallen during the year to 170. This was due to the demolition of houses in the neighbourhood by enemy action, and the evacuation of school children to safer areas. The teaching staff has also been reduced to the Head Teacher and five certificated Assistants [there had been a staff of nine in 1938]. Consequently the school has been organised mainly by promotion into five classes'.<sup>343</sup> The same thing happens at Albany Boys'.

Although twenty-one of the pupils at Grangetown Boys' have passed the examination for the High Schools 'four did not accept and six have been evacuated'. One of the girls who has passed the examination at Canton Girls' is Thelma Torgesen, an evacuee.

Of the two children not promoted at Radnor Infants', one is seven year old Joy Pithers, an 'evacuee from London'.

22<sup>nd</sup> August

Mr. W.T. Davies, a teacher at Lansdowne Boys' is transferred to Radnor Boys': 'This is a temporary transfer for the duration of the War'.

Mr. R.B. Wright, a teacher at St. Paul's Mixed, leaves to join the RAF. He is replaced by Miss Isabel Stewart, an uncertificated teacher. At Cathays High for Boys' Mr. J.D. Williams 'terminated his temporary work as Geography Teacher as he is taking up a Commission in the RAF'.

25<sup>th</sup> August

At Viriamu Jones 'Mr. A.L. King received a letter from the Director during the morning session asking him to take up duty at once in Cathays Secondary School. Mr. King accordingly left'.

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular 'regarding further evacuation on 27<sup>th</sup> August'.<sup>344</sup>

Four more of the children who had been evacuated from Moorland Boys' at the end of May are re-admitted [By now forty-four of the eighty for whom we have details, or 55%, have returned after less than three months away.<sup>345</sup>]

Mr. Jones returns to Court Boys' from Ystradfellte.

26<sup>th</sup> August

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular regarding 'the rationing of Cloth, Clothing, Footwear and Knitting Wool'.<sup>346</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> August

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<sup>343</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> September 1938.

<sup>344</sup> Kitchener Road Mixed & Infants' and Moorland Road Boys'.

<sup>345</sup> Moorland Road Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>346</sup> Canton Infants'.

The third official evacuation sees four boys from Grangetown leave, five more St. Alban's Mixed children are sent to Treorchy and Eileen Kervin is the last pupil to be evacuated from Hywel Dda Infants'.<sup>347</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> August

Mr. Charles Mullins leaves Grangetown Boys' for the RAF and is replaced by Mrs. Betsy Thomas.

After considering Circulars from the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health about Wartime Nurseries, and noting that any expenditure would be repaid by the Ministry which 'is also prepared to supply pre-fabricated huts which can be made suitable for the purposes of war-time nurseries', a meeting of Cardiff's Joint Health and Education (Medical Services) Sub-Committee recommends that nurseries be established at Splott, Grangetown and Ely.<sup>348</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> August

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton the 'August War Savings Drive was completed today; School aimed at providing a Parachute; they have succeeded in raising the amount, £40, the staff taking an active part. Congratulations have been received from the Director of Education'.

The Head of Highfields notes 'The close of the second year of school work under conditions of war. Deficient rest and disturbed lessons have had a definite effect on the work generally: There has been a wavering of concentrated effort, though little ill-effects are seen in playground activities. Written work has given way to mental work, with a quickening effect generally. In the Infants' department a happy atmosphere prevails and foundations are being well and truly laid. The Upper School play games with spirit: baseball provides the opportunity for good running, throwing and catching by both boys and girls. In the swimming baths, boys and girls display scant timidity and no small proficiency. An intelligent interest is taken in current topics. Work in the garden has been taken up with enthusiasm and much welcome produce has been taken home. Once again I record with gratitude that the ready obedience and good conduct of the children when dispersal was ordered reduced to a minimum my anxiety for their safety'.

At Grangetown Girls' 'Miss Kitch left today for a year's service in an Evacuation Area'.

1<sup>st</sup> September

The Head of Tongwynlais notes that 'Quite a number of evacuated children returned to their homes during the vacation. On books ninety-six Glamorgan children, twenty-six official evacuees and three unofficial evacuees'.

'Five girls from this school were chosen to demonstrate at an Exhibition of Wartime Cookery held at the Assembly Rooms, City Hall, every day this week'

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<sup>347</sup> Hywel Dda Infants' Admissions Register.

<sup>348</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.243.

records the proud Head of St. Peter's. Six girls from Lansdowne also take part.<sup>349</sup>

The last week has seen the staff and pupils of Moorland Girls' return to their own building, which has been fitted with a temporary roof, but the Head is far from happy: 'The work of renovating the school leaves much to be desired. Lighting which was adequate in the classrooms has been altered most unsuitably. Children's wash basins, though cleaned, are still looking shabby through wear – new ones had been asked for. The pedestal seat in the Staff Cloakroom has been left unrepaired. The main storeroom has received only a very thin coat of whiting, and the floor has been left in a very dirty condition. There are no amenities of any kind for the dinner hour for the staff. Fire places have been removed, and nothing has been installed for cooking purposes'.

At Whitchurch Mixed 'During the Vacation, Mr. John Vousden, evacuee teacher from London, was called up for service with HM Forces and his place as Party Leader has been allotted to Miss Anne Sobolewski'. Mr. Ivor Williams leaves Hawthorn Mixed for the RAF to be replaced by Mrs. Winifred Watts.

2<sup>nd</sup> September

'The following ARP equipment was delivered here today:- Eight helmets: twelve blankets: two mattresses: one two-tier bunk: two torches and two spare batteries' records the Head of Radyr.

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular requesting 'the names of male teachers not yet called up and asking why'.<sup>350</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> September

The Head of Kitchener notes a 'Circular about further evacuations on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September'.

Whitchurch Boys' receives two torches and four batteries to help with fire watching.

The Head of Abernant Mixed & Infants records that the 'Number on books is now 120. 100 Aberdare children and twenty evacuees'.<sup>351</sup>

The SS undertake an 'experiment' in German-occupied Poland at a punishment camp for political prisoners just outside the town of Auschwitz. 600 Soviet prisoners of war together with 300 Polish Jews are murdered using Cyclon B in an improvised gas chamber.<sup>352</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> September

Another four children are evacuated from St. Alban's Mixed.

8<sup>th</sup> September

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<sup>349</sup> Lansdowne Road Girls', 4<sup>th</sup> September 1941.

<sup>350</sup> Kitchener Road Mixed & Infants'.

<sup>351</sup> GRO, E/A 11/4, Abernant Mixed & Infants.

<sup>352</sup> Martin Gilbert, *The Holocaust: The Jewish Tragedy* (London: Fontana Press, 1987), p.239.

Hywel Dda receives the sad news of the death from diphtheria of one of their children, George Deakin.<sup>353</sup>

An HMI visits Albany Infants' in connection with the transfer of a teacher to Cymmer in the Rhondda where some of the pupils have been evacuated. The Headmistress notes laconically 'Number remaining at Cymmer = four'. At the same school 'Two more children who were evacuated have returned...Jean Coutts, 99 Strathnairn St. and Alan Mullins, 85 Strathnairn St.'

Grangetown Continuation School re-opens for the Autumn term with thirty-five scholars.

10<sup>th</sup> September

Because sixty-one of the evacuees from Heathfield House have either left school or returned to Cardiff their three teachers have also returned and the eight girls remaining in Ferndale are to be absorbed into the Secondary School there.

Miss Anne E. Morgan, of Albany Infants', 'is evacuated to Cymmer for the period of one year by the Cardiff Education Authority'.

11<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Roath Girls' records that during the special summer campaign for War Savings her school raised £126. 6. 0. in five weeks.

12<sup>th</sup> September

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular about encouraging evacuation.<sup>354</sup>

The Deputy Schools' Medical Officer visits Hywel Dda Mixed 'to take swabs of certain children in Standard 3b where cases of diphtheria have recently recurred'.

At Radyr 'On instructions from the Director of Education the Methodist chapel was given up today. The Tottenham children will go to Whitchurch Senior School while the other children will return to this school'. Three days later the Head of Whitchurch Mixed notes 'Eight pupils of Downhills Central School, Tottenham, were absorbed into this school today: they were transferred from Radyr'.

Miss Webb leaves Moorland Girls' to teach in Aberdare for a term.

15<sup>th</sup> September

At Cathays High for Boys' Mrs. Neath 'commenced duties as temporary French Mistress'.

16<sup>th</sup> September

Cardiff schools receive a Circular from the Director of Education: 'I have been

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<sup>353</sup> Hywel Dda Mixed.

<sup>354</sup> Kitchener Road Mixed & Infants'.

instructed by the Board of Education to inform Head teachers in confidence that in the event of an invasion, the schools should remain open unless and until authoritative instructions are received by them to the contrary, and that such instructions may in certain circumstances be issued directly by the Regional Committee and not through the local Education Authority'.<sup>355</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> September

'All the windows in the school have been covered with anti-splinter net' records the Head of Crofts Street.

'A Fifth Evacuation is scheduled to take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September'.<sup>356</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> September

An Air Raid Warden inspects the children's gas masks at Metal Street Infants': 'Eleven required repairs and those needing adjustment were attended to'.

Two classes from Hawthorn Mixed 'went for a country ramble to pick blackberries'. The next day the Head notes a Circular on 'The Preservation of Wild Fruit etc.'

19<sup>th</sup> September

Cardiff's General Education Committee agrees 'to a request from the Director of Public Assistance for permission to erect five Maycrete Huts on school premises for use...by persons rendered homeless by enemy action'.<sup>357</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> September

'An Ambulance car was brought from Newport Military Hospital for the girls to inspect, in connection with the special effort made for War Savings. £733. 10. 0. was raised in four weeks. The target was £600 to buy a heavy Ambulance' records the Headmistress of Allensbank.

24<sup>th</sup> September

Up in Llysfaen 'This afternoon the children are all going out at 2.15 to pick blackberries for the hospital'.

26<sup>th</sup> September

Cardiff schools close for two weeks. The Head of Gladstone Boys' reports 'National Savings. During the month of September the children saved £224. 3. 0. through the School Savings Association. This amount together with £90 from outsiders made a grand total of £314. 3. 0. There are 208 members in the Savings Association'.

Mr. Gwynne Thomas leaves Windsor-Clive for the Armed Forces.

Miss Nichols retires from Radnor Girls' after 'forty years of faithful service'.

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September

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<sup>355</sup> St. Monica's Infants'.

<sup>356</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>357</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.264.

In the Ukraine, German execution squads round up and shoot 33,771 Kiev Jews at Babi Yar. This is not an isolated incident. From the very beginning of their invasion of the Soviet Union, Nazi *Einsatzgruppen*, mobile SS death squads, have been systematically murdering the Jews in every city, town and village in Western Russia. By the end of 1941 they will have killed more than a million men, women and children...<sup>358</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> October

Adamsdown Girls' has collected £56. 13. 0. for National Savings over the last six weeks.<sup>359</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> October

The Head of Tongwynlais records `Miss Glenys M. Williams, a teacher under the Essex Authority, reported for duty at this school this morning. She has come to replace Miss J.B. Oliver, and will take over supervision of all Essex evacuated children in this school and neighbouring schools'.

13<sup>th</sup> October

`There is no improvement in the attendance. Many children have been absent for weeks on end for the most trivial excuses...There are now only thirty-six children at Mountain Ash' records the Head of St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton.

Mr. Owen, a Moorland Boys' teacher, leaves for the Forces.

14<sup>th</sup> October

At St. Peter's and St. Alban's Mixed Standards 1 begin to learn Welsh. The Cookery Centre at Gladstone is closed because `they have no fire'.<sup>360</sup>

A further Evacuation of Cardiff children is arranged for the 17<sup>th</sup>.<sup>361</sup>

Mr. John Evans leaves Radnor Boys' for the RAF.

15<sup>th</sup> October

Radnor Girls' holds its Harvest Festival Services and `produce was sold for the benefit of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary and realised the magnificent sum of £5. 8. 9. A parcel of bread and vegetables was sent to Dr. Barnado's and flowers to St. Winefride's Hospital'.

16<sup>th</sup> October

For Dennis Tuckwell, evacuated from London to Gladstone Boys' in September 1939, this is his last day at the school because he is being evacuated again. Only two evacuees now remain there.<sup>362</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> October

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<sup>358</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.93.

<sup>359</sup> Reported to an Elementary Education Committee meeting. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1940-41, p.274.

<sup>360</sup> Gladstone Girls'.

<sup>361</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>362</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

Three boys from Herbert Thompson, including Albert and Melvin Porch, are evacuated out of the City.

The three Moorland Infants' classes still at Splott are transferred to two rooms at Moorland Girls'.

The Head of Highfields notes `At 3.45 pm a message was received to the effect that the school was to be open on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 am. Boiling water in plentiful supply to be available. Arranged that the caretaker, with Miss Lewis and Miss Jones and two WVS members should be on duty'. The same thing happens at Radnor Girls'.

### 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October

In the biggest exercise of the war in South Wales, the Navy, Army, Air Force, Home Guard and Civil Defence forces pretend that, under the cover of fog, the Germans are invading from the Bristol Channel as a diversion to an all-out assault on Southern England.<sup>363</sup>

On the 20<sup>th</sup> Pauline O`Connell, who had been privately evacuated from the Deaf School, returns. Another member of staff at Albany Boys' is transferred, this time `seconded for service as a lecturer in radio work to the Forces at the Technical College'.

### 21<sup>st</sup> October

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular asking them to complete an `Inventory of School furniture, books, apparatus and stationery – in case of destruction by enemy action'.<sup>364</sup>

### 23<sup>rd</sup> October

The Head at St. Fagan's reports that this month `In response to appeals, over 40 lbs of Blackberries have been collected by the pupils for conversion into jam at the Women's Institute Centre. Also, 70 lbs of Rose Hips have been forwarded to a firm in Bristol...'

The children of Roath Infants' are immunised against diphtheria. Next day the same thing happens at Albany Infants'.

### 26<sup>th</sup> October

Alan George, a Hywel Dda Mixed pupil, dies in hospital. On the same day three boys 'found smoking in the lavatory' receive two strokes of the cane on each hand.<sup>365</sup>

### 27<sup>th</sup> October

Miss Nesta Thomas, a teacher at Herbert Thompson Infants', is transferred to a Reception Area as is Miss Courtney of Allensbank Girls', sent to the Rhondda.

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<sup>363</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.23.

<sup>364</sup> St. Francis' Mixed.

<sup>365</sup> Hywel Dda Mixed Punishment Book.

28<sup>th</sup> October

At a meeting of Glamorgan Education's Secondary Committee 'The Director of Education reported that he had informed Heads of the County and Secondary Schools that all vacancies should be advertised, and that until he is satisfied that proper steps have been taken to obtain suitably qualified candidates under the regulations, he does not propose to approve the appointment of married women, or the retention of teachers beyond the normal retirement age'.<sup>366</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> October

Two children are excluded from Llanederyn because they have scabies.

3<sup>rd</sup> November

The Head of Radnor Infants' records that the school will close 'at 3.45 pm for the winter months – no play taken'.

Birchgrove Infants' notes a Circular about a 'Request from the Public Assistance Department for volunteers to act as Marshals at the Rest Centres'.

Cardiff's Education Committee decides to adopt a Board of Education Circular 'urging local authorities to (1) provide school meals on a much larger scale, and (2) to increase the number of school children taking school milk to as near as 100% as may be possible'. The Committee notes that the grant payable 'for the provision of meals for children attending Public Elementary Schools would be increased subject to an over-riding maximum of 95%' and 'the price to be charged to parents for meals should cover, but not exceed, the cost of food'. The Committee also decides to ask the Military Authorities to release Maindy Infants' 'immediately in order that the City Engineer shall convert the premises into a Central Kitchen'.<sup>367</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> November

Brenda Hughes and John Miller are the last two children to be evacuated from Herbert Thompson Infants'.<sup>368</sup>

Mr. Hywel Jones of Windsor-Clive leaves for the Forces.

6<sup>th</sup> November

At Hawthorn Mixed 'Miss Prosser left school at 9.50 am with one boy for evacuation and returned for the afternoon session'. The next day Miss Emily Sims is transferred to Cathays High School for Girls.

10<sup>th</sup> November

'Miss K. Davies, County Organiser, visited the school today to discuss the possibility of putting into operation a scheme of School Feeding. I was asked to inquire as to the number of children who would desire to partake of a mid-day meal in school' records the Head of Tongwynlais.

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<sup>366</sup> GRO, Glamorgan, *Secondary Education*.

<sup>367</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.1.

<sup>368</sup> Herbert Thompson Infants' Admissions Register.

14<sup>th</sup> November

Cardiff's Elementary Education Committee recommends that Highfields be closed because of 'the low numbers on registers' and that the building be used to accommodate 'the school for Children with Defective Sight, now housed at 34, Cathedral Road'.

'Blood Transfusion Service.- the Committee were unable to see their way to accede to an application from the Medical Officer of Health to use the schools as a medium for propaganda in connection with the above service'.<sup>369</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> November

Two HMI visit Tongwynlais 'to inquire into the question of accommodation. Numerous hostels and houses are being built on a site near Pantmawr Road to accommodate workers in the Government Royal Ordnance Factory, hence the question of school accommodation for the children of such workers has to be considered'.

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee discusses a Ministry of Health Circular about the provision of Christmas treats for evacuees and notes that 'the London County Council and the Birmingham Education Authority have been furnished with the number of children from their areas billeted in the district, namely, 591 and 219, respectively'. Whilst the LCC has sent a letter enclosing a cheque for £29 representing 'approximately one shilling in respect of each child of school age', the Birmingham Authority has yet to respond.

The Committee also notes a Circular from the Welsh Board of Health in which it is pointed out that the Board has 'set up a psychological service for the examination and treatment of difficult behaviour or problem cases amongst evacuated children now billeted in reception areas in South Wales. The service aims at dealing with those cases of behaviour or personality difficulties which have given rise to trouble in billets, necessitating removal to a hostel or numerous attempts at re-billeting'.

The caretaker of Whitchurch Boys' joins the Forces and so 'Mrs. Kate Balloch is substituting temporarily'.

19<sup>th</sup> November

The Director of Education visits Severn Road to look at 'the rooms likely to be used for the suggested mid-day meals'.<sup>370</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> November

The Head of Allensbank Infants' records 'The classroom occupied by Standard 4 of Rhydypenau School has now been vacated so, after a re-distribution of classes, an empty room has been given up to the storage of 'Rest Centre' equipment'.

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<sup>369</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, pp.7-8.

<sup>370</sup> Severn Road Girls'.

24<sup>th</sup> November

Another evacuee from Court Girls' returns to the school. [Of the seventy-five who were evacuated at the end of May sixty-two have now returned.<sup>371</sup>]

27<sup>th</sup> November

St. Alban's Infants' is visited by the 'Assistant Inspector of Schools with regard to Miss A. Cleary being transferred to Gelli Infants' School from Treorchy Infants'...'

28<sup>th</sup> November

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress visit Hawthorn Mixed. The Mayor distributes certificates for swimming and his wife 'prizes for Temperance Essays'.

Cardiff's Education Committee resolves 'that an allowance of 1/- per head be made towards the expenses of Christmas Treats for all evacuee children from the Cardiff Area in Reception Areas'.

'The Director reported the receipt of a letter from the British War Relief Society (Inc.) of USA, offering gifts for distribution at Christmas from the children of America for children living in towns which have suffered as a result of enemy Air Raids. The consignment will comprise candy, mechanical toys for boys, dolls for girls, and other gifts, so that each girl will receive one packet of sweets, one doll and another gift, and each boy one packet of sweets, one mechanical toy and another gift. The total number of gifts is 5,000 of each kind. It was further reported that the cases of candy had been received, but it was regretted that four cases had been broken open during transit, with a loss of approximately 300 individual boxes of candy'.

'On the report of the City Engineer, the Committee agreed to the erection of water tanks at the Marlborough Road and Roath Park Council Schools...[and] in the twenty two schools selected as Rest Centres'.<sup>372</sup>

[Learning from their experiences in previous raids, when burst and fractured water-mains had seriously hindered an already over-stretched Fire Service, the Authorities are now positioning water-tanks across the City.]

5<sup>th</sup> December

Mrs. Sexton, a teacher at St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton, is excluded from school 'owing to an outbreak of diptheria in the home'.

7<sup>th</sup> December

The Japanese launch a surprise attack on American naval forces at Pearl Harbor.<sup>373</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> December

The Head of Marlborough Girls' says goodbye, 'Tomorrow I start at Windsor

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<sup>371</sup> Court Road Girls' Admissions Register.

<sup>372</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, pp.32-33.

<sup>373</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.68.

Clive Girls' School'. At Court Boys' the Infirmary Fund has raised £2. 7. 6.

The Japanese attack the British Colony of Hong Kong as the USA declares war on Japan.<sup>374</sup>

The SS begin to gas Polish Jews at Chelmno. The victims are herded into five sealed lorries, three of which hold up to 150 people and two up to 100, and they are gassed by the exhaust fumes as the lorries drive to deep pits dug in nearby woods to receive the corpses. Elsewhere, outside Belgrade, mobile gas vans disguised as Red Cross vehicles begin to kill Jews from Serbia...<sup>375</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> December

The Head of Roath Boys' records that nine pupils are eligible for an extra forty clothing coupons. The Headmistress at Severn Road explains:

'Supplementary clothing cards issued to six girls over 5' 3" height or 7st. 12lbs.'<sup>376</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> December

St. Patrick's Infants' notes a Circular regarding Christmas gifts from the British War Relief Society: 'Twenty-four children will be entitled to gifts. The recipients will each receive two gifts and a half-pound packet of candy'. At St. Alban's Infants' twenty-eight children are to benefit and sixty-two at St. Francis' Mixed. At Baden Powell they are told that the thirty-four parcels of Christmas Gifts sent by the children of America 'are to be received and distributed equally between the boys and girls'.

'Mr C.L. Jones is absent this afternoon to attend the Welsh Board of Health Offices regarding the clothing of Birmingham evacuees' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

16<sup>th</sup> December

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular about 'The De-reservation of Educational Staffs'.<sup>377</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> December

'This afternoon Doreen Kents (Form 1a), on behalf of the scholars, presented the School Purse (£5. 10. 10.) to the Children's Hospital Infirmary Fund. The annual Christmas Parties were held in the various classrooms this afternoon. The Head Teacher is very grateful to the Parents for so kindly assisting to provide the provisions and dainties, and to the Staff for their kindness in organising and superintending the parties, which proved very bright and enjoyable' records the Head of Hywel Dda Mixed.

18<sup>th</sup> December

At St. Alban's Mixed 'A Circular concerning School Canteens was received... The children were told to ask their parents if they would pay four

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<sup>374</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.68.

<sup>375</sup> Martin Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust* (London: J.M. Dent Ltd., 1993), p.83.

<sup>376</sup> See also Lansdowne Road Boys' & St. Monica's Mixed.

<sup>377</sup> Hawthorn Mixed.

pence ha'penny per meal for a hot meal at Splotlands or Baden Powell School'.

The children of St. Patrick's Infants' send another £1 to the Lord Mayor for the Spitfire Fund.

Two teachers from Albany Boys' `Messrs. V.H. Jones and Isaac Davies are absent today. They have to appear before the Tribunal for Conscientious Objectors to War Service'.

Miss M.J. Jones leaves Allensbank Infants' for `a period of twelve months to take up an appointment in a Reception Area (Cymmer Afan Junior Mixed School)'.

19<sup>th</sup> December

The Head of Llanederyn records `Men called at the school to measure the windows for black-out curtains'.

At Blaenycwm Mixed at the top of the Rhondda Valley: `The Cardiff evacuees received a gift of candy provided from a Fund by Welsh people in the USA' <sup>378</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> December

[British forces in Hong Kong surrender to the Japanese.](#) <sup>379</sup>

## 1942

1<sup>st</sup> January

At a meeting of Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee the Clerk reports `that the following monies had been received from the undermentioned towards the cost of the Christmas entertainment of evacuated school children, namely:-

London County Council	£29. 0. 0.
Birmingham Education Authority	£13. 13. 9.
Hull (3 children only)	2. 3.
Lord Mayor (London) Air Raid Distress Fund	<u>£22. 10. 0.</u>
	£65. 6. 0.

The Clerk also reported the receipt from the London County Council of (a) £2. 10. 0. for distribution to evacuated London mothers, representing 2/9 per person, which he had accordingly distributed, and (b) forty-eight packets of *American Bricks*, and Christmas greetings cards sent by American donors'.

4<sup>th</sup> January

Five more evacuees return to St. Cuthbert's.

5<sup>th</sup> January

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<sup>378</sup> Blaenycwm Mixed.

<sup>379</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.69.

Eight returned evacuees are re-admitted to Albany Boys' and another nine return to Grangetown Boys'. All but twenty one evacuees from St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton have now returned from Mountain Ash.

At Llysfaen there are now twenty-six local children and sixteen evacuees.

Miss Winifred Hunt has left Hawthorn Infants' to become the Headmistress of Cardiff's Wartime Nurseries. In her log she records 'The staffs for the three Nurseries were appointed as from today'. They are to be at Portmanmoor Road, Splott, at Ferry Road, Grangetown, and Vachell Road, Ely. Under her leadership three certificated teachers, two nursery nurses, a cook and four probationers 'all started work at Ferry Road – making flannels, sewing on emblems and painting discs etc.'<sup>380</sup>

Miss Morgan returns to Albany Infants' from Cymmer whilst Miss L.E. Singer, a Kitchener teacher and Miss Edna Owen, a teacher at Baden Powell Infants', are transferred to Aberdare and Fochriw.

6<sup>th</sup> January

The Head of Roath Boys' records 'A parcel of presents consisting of sweets, toys, pens, pencils, notebooks and games was received from the American Red Cross and distributed among forty-eight boys in this school'. The next day the same thing happens at Stacey Boys' and Hawthorn and St. Alban's Infants'.

Eight more of the children who were evacuated from Moorland Boys' last May are re-admitted.

7<sup>th</sup> January

The Head of Crofts Street notes 'Heating and Lighting has been installed in the Air Raid Shelter'.

9<sup>th</sup> January

Miss K. Gresham leaves Eleanor Street 'in order to take up a temporary appointment in a Reception Area'.

12<sup>th</sup> January

A school canteen opens at Tongwynlais where 'thirty-eight children and two teachers partook of the meal for the first week. The food is being brought from a Cooking Depot at Wenvoe and is kept hot in special containers until served'. 'Hot dinners were supplied to 160 children today' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

15<sup>th</sup> January

Miss Davies, Glamorgan County Organiser, visits Tongwynlais 'to note the arrangements and type and condition of the food provided. We afterwards discussed certain points where some improvements could be made, especially with regard to keeping the food hot. The lack of sugar in the sweet

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<sup>380</sup> Hawthorn Infants' & Wartime Nurseries.

provided should also be gone into’.

At Stacey Infants’ workmen start ‘installing the apparatus required for the feeding of children in the school’.

‘In preparation for Warship Week, January 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 200 Souvenirs at 3d. each have been sold to or by the children. A great effort is being made by the school to contribute the sum of £50 towards the adoption of *HMS Cardiff*’ records the Head of St. Peter’s.

16<sup>th</sup> January

Mr. Beardwell, an evacuee teacher from Edmonton at Whitchurch Boys’, is replaced by a Mrs. Belbin.

19<sup>th</sup> January

At Stacey Infants’: ‘Cardiff Warship Week commenced today – our school asked to collect £25 for a Depth Charge – collected £50 by the end of the afternoon’. Ten boys from Hawthorn Mixed visit the Exhibition of Warships at the National Museum.

‘Grangetown Nursery opened today with six children’.<sup>381</sup>

‘Miss F. Poolman returned to duties from the Reception Area. Miss M. Donovan has taken her place’ records the Head of St. Patrick’s Mixed.

19<sup>th</sup> January

A party of girls from Cathays High leave for a two week holiday at Vronhaul, Llandinam.<sup>382</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> January

At Marlborough Infants’ gas masks are inspected and faulty ones replaced.

At a lunchtime meeting in Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin, the decision is taken by representatives of Nazi Germany’s ruling elite for the ‘Final Solution’. All European Jews are to be exterminated. They are to be taken by trains to special ‘Death Camps’ in eastern Poland and killed in gas chambers, most within twenty-four hours of arrival. The biggest of these are to be at Sobibor, Majdanek, Treblinka, Belzec and Auschwitz-Birkenau.<sup>383</sup>

The Japanese start their campaign to conquer British Burma.<sup>384</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> January

‘A lecture on Paris was given by M. Ledesert of Eton College, on behalf of the Union of Free France’ records the Headmistress of Heathfield House.

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<sup>381</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>382</sup> Reported to the Higher Education Committee, 13<sup>th</sup> February 1942. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.80.

<sup>383</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, pp.85-6.

<sup>384</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.76.

22<sup>nd</sup> January

At Hywel Dda Mixed 'The Children's Christmas Concert was repeated yesterday afternoon and today in the Hall. Parents were invited and the proceeds, which realized £5. 7. 8. were forwarded as a gift to the Lord Mayor's Warship Week effort...from 120-150 parents attended each afternoon'.

Three more boys from Greenhill Open Air School are evacuated. One travels to Pontygwaith in the Rhondda and the other two are sent to Ynysyboeth and Mountain Ash in the Cynon Valley.<sup>385</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> January

The Head of Gladstone Infants' records that 'Warship Week' has ended. 'Most pupils brought War Ship Savings Cards back seven or eight times during week with fresh savings to enter'. Hawthorn Infants' raises £26. 12. 6. St. Alban's Infants' collects £28. 6. 0. and Metal Street Infants' £33. 0. 3. In Canton the pupils of St. Mary's Juniors raise £35. 13. 3. St. Patrick's Infants' raises £50. 8. 0. and Ninian Infants' £53. 5. 5. Set a target of £50, the infants of St. Mary's collect £63. 10. 0.<sup>386</sup> Allensbank Infants' raises £67. 3. 0. and Stacey Infants' £72. 16. 8. The infants of St. Joseph's and Moorland raise £74. 5. 0. and £81. 18. 6. respectively. At St. Monica's Infants' where the target was £15 they raise £90. Hywel Dda Infants' raises £92. 15. 4. Asked to raise £25, the children of St. Paul's Infants' collect £100. 15. 0. St. Peter's Girls' raises £111. 15. 7. Albany Boys' makes £119. 5. 6., Lansdowne Boys' £132. 6. 0. and Eleanor Street £138. 14. 0. Moorland Girls', set a target of £60, raises £152. 10. 0. The girls of Marlborough collect £155. Howell Dda Mixed raises £170 whilst the infants of Splott raise £171. Birchgrove Mixed realises £182. 16. 0. whilst the sum at Roath Boys' is £190. The pupils of Llanishen, set a target of £50, collect £227. 16. 6. Court Infants' raises £230. £243. 2. 0., 'over a pound per pupil!', is collected at Severn Girls' and £247. 5. 0. at St. Paul's Mixed. Lansdowne Infants' raises £271. 17. 4. whilst the total at Radnor Girls' is £317. 8. 6. £325 is collected at Windsor-Clive and £335. 5. 6. at Lansdowne Girls'. The infants of Herbert Thompson raise £350. 5. 0., the girls of Grangetown £354. 8. 3. Albany Girls' raises £410. Heathfield House, asked to raise £75, makes £500. Gladstone Infants' collects £572. Allensbank Girls' raises £735 and St. Illtyd's £750, ten times the target.<sup>387</sup> The boys of Howardian raise £1,117 whilst those at Gladstone manage to collect no less than £1,939.<sup>388</sup>

In all the schools of Cardiff raise £33,000, an average of 30/- per pupil, whilst the City's total is £4.5 million, three times the target set.<sup>389</sup>

Whitchurch Girls' raises £470 and next door at the Boys' they raise £502. 5. 0. Whitchurch Senior Mixed raises £663. 18. 3. for Glamorgan's Warship Week.

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<sup>385</sup> GRO, E/C 11/3, Greenhill Open Air School Admissions Register.

<sup>386</sup> Canton.

<sup>387</sup> *The Illydian*, Vol.14, No.2, Easter 1942, pp.68,76.

<sup>388</sup> Foster, *Floreat Howardia*, p.289.

<sup>389</sup> Roath Park Boys' & Baden Powell Infants', 20<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

26<sup>th</sup> January

`Splott Nursery has opened today with eleven children'.<sup>390</sup>

[The first American troops land in Britain.](#)<sup>391</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> January

Two children at Splott Nursery are found to be suffering from rickets: `They are to go to the City Lodge for an X-Ray'.<sup>392</sup>

Cardiff's Education Committee `noted with great pleasure that a record sum of £558 had been raised by the school children of Cardiff during the past year' for Cardiff Royal Infirmary.<sup>393</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> February

The Head of Albany Boys' records `Mr. V.H. Jones is absent today, appearing before the Appeals Tribunal for Conscientious Objectors. Mr. Isaac Davies is absent for the same purpose this afternoon'. Mr. Griffith Jones, a teacher at Lansdowne Boys', also attends an 'Appellate Tribunal'.

3<sup>rd</sup> February

There are now 865 evacuees billeted in Cardiff Rural District, of whom 548 are unaccompanied children.

4<sup>th</sup> February

`Standards 4a & 5 visited the ARP centre at Castell Coch School to see exhibits in connection with Warships Week. The exhibition contained varieties of bombs dropped by the enemy in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, shells in various stages of manufacture and models of ships' records the Head of Tongwynlais.

6<sup>th</sup> February

The question of `Married Woman Teachers' is considered by Cardiff's Education Committee which is `unable to agree to a recommendation...that women teachers who marry, be allowed to continue in employment in a permanent capacity'.

`The Lord Mayor reported...that he had received...a cheque for £88 from Mr. L.D. Jones, Headmaster of the Forest High School, Johannesburg, collected by the pupils of this school for the relief of Cardiff children in the bombed areas. The Committee...unanimously decided to utilise the money to augment the Education Authority's Clothing and Boot Fund'.<sup>394</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> February

Vachell Road Nursery opens but `the Ely boys have damaged the school wall

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<sup>390</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>391</sup> *World War 11 Wall Chart*.

<sup>392</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>393</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.71.

<sup>394</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.71.

and broken two windows'.<sup>395</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> February

Two and a quarter hundredweight of paper is collected for salvage from St. Alban's Mixed.

13<sup>th</sup> February

Mrs. Anna McCarthy, a teacher at St. Francis' Mixed, is away for three days because her husband is home on leave.

15<sup>th</sup> February

British troops in Singapore surrender to Japanese forces. The seventy day Malayan campaign has seen the loss of 138,000 British and Empire troops, one of the worst disasters in British military history.<sup>396</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> February

Mr. Joseph Williams, a supply teacher at St. Francis' Mixed, leaves for the RAF.

17<sup>th</sup> February

Cardiff's Director of Education 'reported that the Special (Community Kitchens and Feeding Centres) Sub-Committee had decided to make a charge of 6d. per meal in respect of foods served from the Cooking Depots, plus 1d. per meal for delivery to the school canteens. It was decided that the charge to be made to school children be 5d. per meal (cost of food), or a weekly ticket of 2/- per head'.

The Director also reported 'that in the original scheme arrangements had been made for the provision of washing-up facilities etc, in fifteen schools and this work is near completion. In view of the extended scheme it will be necessary to utilise an additional twenty-three school halls or hired premises. It was decided to instruct the City Engineer to provide the necessary washing-up facilities at the additional twenty-three school canteens'.<sup>397</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> February

'Miss Grace Vokes has joined the ATS and left for Wrexham today' notes the Head of Splott Infants'.<sup>398</sup>

Cardiff's General Education Committee resolves 'That notices to terminate their engagements be served...on Griffith J. Jones, Isaac Davies and David H. Harries, Welsh staff, who have been registered as conscientious objectors...'.<sup>399</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> February

The heating is again 'negligible' at Ninian Infants' and 'a letter has been sent

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<sup>395</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>396</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.71.

<sup>397</sup> Elementary Education (Special Services) Sub-Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.83.

<sup>398</sup> ATS = Auxiliary Territorial Service.

<sup>399</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.84.

to the Director begging for some independent system of heating to be installed here – separate from that in the other Departments’.

The Head of Grangetown Boys’ records ‘Mr. Jarret called to ask me to select four boys to go to Weston-Super-Mare for a fortnight’s holiday provided by the Cardiff Rotary Club’.

At Kitchener ‘Miss L.E. Singer resumed duties today after a period of duty in the Reception Area’. Miss Donovan, too, returns to St. Patrick’s Mixed as does Miss Kaye Courtney to Allensbank Girls’.

27<sup>th</sup> February

Nesta Lee, a probationer at Splott Nursery, ‘left today to join the WAAFS’.<sup>400</sup>

Cardiff’s Education Committee resolves to dismiss two more conscientious objectors: ‘Gwyn M. Daniel, Welsh Staff, and Norman Bramfitt, Lecturer at the Technical College’.<sup>401</sup>

A young boy evacuated from Donald Street in Roath to Glyncorwg is wetting his bed every night. A local doctor has ‘recommended barley-water and parsley tea’ and told him not to worry as ‘he will outgrow it’.<sup>402</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> March

Cardiff introduces trolley buses and also a ‘Pay as You Enter’ scheme whereby people using trams or trolley buses pay 1d. to go anywhere in the city.<sup>403</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> March

‘Notification was received this morning of the suspension from duty of Mr. Isaac Davies, Teacher of Welsh, because of his attitude as a conscientious objector to military service’ records the Head of Albany Boys’. At Lansdowne Mr. Griffith Jones is suspended too as is Mr. Gwynfryn Daniel of Herbert Thompson despite the fact that ‘during his service here Mr. Daniel has done very valuable and excellent work’.<sup>404</sup>

The Whitchurch Mixed dinners are now supplied from ‘the Cooking Centre at Tongwynlais’.

Miss Gresham returns to Eleanor Street after working in a Reception Area.

4<sup>th</sup> March

The Head of Whitchurch Boys’ records ‘Mrs. Belbin left for home this morning without permission. She had become quite hysterical and would not accept any advice regarding having permission from the Director of Education or

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<sup>400</sup> Wartime Nurseries. WAAFS = Women’s Auxiliary Air Force Service.

<sup>401</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.93.

<sup>402</sup> GRO, D/D X 504/19, *Notes on children evacuated from Cardiff to Glyncorwg, 1940-1943*.

<sup>403</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.81 & Stewart Williams, *Cardiff Yesterday*, Vol.31 (Barry: Stewart Williams Publishers, 1996), notes accompanying photograph No.83.

<sup>404</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys’ & Lansdowne Road Boys’.

Edmonton. I warned her that she would be returning home without authority, and she replied that she was prepared to bear the consequences. In my opinion it was a mistake for the Edmonton Authority to have sent a woman of her age and family responsibilities, and although we tried to make her happy amongst us, she was definitely most miserable – It was really a case for pity’.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff’s Joint Education and Health (Medical Services) Sub-Committee recommends `that War-time Day Nurseries be established in Bute Street, Shakespeare Street, and on a site adjoining St. German’s Church, that Nursery Classes be established at Court Road, Kitchener Road, Ninian Park and Viriamu Jones Schools [and] Nursery Classes housed in pre-fabricated huts be attached to Baden Powell and Hywel Dda Schools’.

`The Committee agreed to the following charges to parents, viz.:- First child, 5/- per week; second child, 4/- per week, and third child, 3/- per week’.<sup>405</sup>

#### 13<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff’s Higher Education Committee hears that Mr. W. Roberts intends to resign his post at Howard Gardens High School for Boys at the end of April on his retirement. The Committee recommends `that, in view of the difficulties under which the school is at present operating, the Director be asked to interview Mr. Roberts asking him to kindly reconsider his decision’. [He subsequently declines to do so.<sup>406</sup>]

#### 16<sup>th</sup> March

Because the great majority of evacuees have returned to St. Mary’s Juniors’ in Canton an extra classroom is needed and is provided by the Senior School.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff’s Catholic schools have the morning off for St. Patrick’s Day.<sup>407</sup>

Dr. Gibbs visits the Grangetown Nursery and `suggests that the children have *Bemax* added to their diet. She also gave instructions...that arrangements had been made with the City Lodge that upon recommendation by the Head Teacher or Health Visitor a child who is taken ill and will need attention at night may be taken in there at once, after which the parents must be notified. This is to ensure that the mothers who are at war work get rest at night and the instructions come from the Welsh Board of Health’.<sup>408</sup>

#### 18<sup>th</sup> March

Two children are excluded from Vachell Road Nursery because they have scabies.<sup>409</sup>

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<sup>405</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.103.

<sup>406</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, pp.95-6.; Ibid, Higher Education Committee, 16<sup>th</sup> April, p.137.

<sup>407</sup> St. Peter’s Girls’.

<sup>408</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>409</sup> Ibid.

19<sup>th</sup> March

`A new class in Mathematics and English was started and eight students joined on the first evening; seven of these were members of the ATC' records the Head of Grangetown Continuation School.<sup>410</sup>

Mr. Thomas Wilson, a Greenhill teacher, has left to join the Forces.

20<sup>th</sup> March

D.V. Smales sits the 'Special Place' Examination of the Hull City Education Committee at Hawthorn Mixed.

27<sup>th</sup> March

`Notices from the Director of Education were today distributed among the parents of children in attendance at this school to the effect that it is the intention of the Education Committee to close the Highfields (Llandaff Council) School as an Elementary School on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1942'.

`The Director reported the receipt of a letter from the Lord Mayor informing the Committee that he had received a second gift of £50 from the children of South Australia for the relief of Cardiff children...and it was decided to place the money in the...Clothing and Footwear Fund'.<sup>411</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> March

There are now only twenty-two London evacuees and fifteen from Birmingham left at Whitchurch Girls'.

9<sup>th</sup> April

`Gordon Stevens (aged nine), formerly of 5, Blackstone Street, Cardiff, who lost his sight as a result of enemy action' is admitted to the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.<sup>412</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> April

The Head of Tredegarville reports 'Re-opened school after the Easter Holidays. The attendance in the morning was poor (68%) probably due to the fact that the children have not yet adapted themselves to the Double Summer Time'.

Eight evacuees from Birmingham are transferred from Llanederyn to Llysfaen and the remainder go to Whitchurch.<sup>413</sup>

At Radyr the school has 'reverted to the old times of opening, 9-12 am, 1-4 pm'.

Mr. J.H. Evans returns to Windsor-Clive after temporary duty as an 'evacuee teacher at South Bargoed'.

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<sup>410</sup> ATC = Air Training Corps.

<sup>411</sup> Education Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.125.

<sup>412</sup> Elementary Committee meetings of 6<sup>th</sup> March & 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1942. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, pp.94,179.

<sup>413</sup> Llanederyn & Llysfaen.

14<sup>th</sup> April

Circulars are sent to all Cardiff schools: Teachers are to warn the children against playing around with 'Fire Service Water Storage Tanks' and war souvenir hunting - 'Accidents to Children & Dangerous Military Objects'.<sup>414</sup>

Three Marlborough Boys' classes are now being taught at Roath Boys', two of them sharing a classroom.

Because the 'Baby Class has reached forty on books' at Hawthorn Infants' the Head notes that it is not possible to admit any more children under five years of age.

16<sup>th</sup> April

142 pupils are immunized against diphtheria at Lansdowne Boys'. At the Wartime Nurseries 'the children are very peevish today after their third whooping cough injections'.

17<sup>th</sup> April

'The School garden has been started. The work was fairly heavy but nearly fifteen perches have been turned up' records the Head of Viriamu Jones.<sup>415</sup>

Mr. Adams, a teacher from Birmingham who has been working at Llanederyn since December 1941 returns home.

20<sup>th</sup> April

'Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Thomas have received an intimation that they are now to be paid at the Burnham Scale rate of salary from January 1<sup>st</sup> 1942' records the Head of Grangetown Boys'.

28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April

At Radnor Girls' 'The senior pupils of Forms 3 & 4, having knitted comforts for the Russian Red Cross effort, wished to arrange a concert to raise further funds. The rehearsal was given this afternoon to the scholars and the result was a splendid one'. Next day there is a 'seniors only Concert for the parents (charged 6d. each)...A tremendous success - discovery of talent in unexpected places. Grand total, parents & children = £7. 2. 6.'

30<sup>th</sup> April

At St. Peter's the 'attendance this week has been low. Children have had sleepless nights due to air raid warnings'.

The iron gates and railings around Tongwynlais School are removed 'for purposes of scrap metal for the war effort'.

The Head of Highfields records 'Although the notice of closure was received on 27<sup>th</sup> March, it is apparently not the intention of the Education Committee to

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<sup>414</sup> Radnor Road Boys' & Albany Road Infants'.

<sup>415</sup> Just under 380 square metres.

close this school today’.

Cardiff’s Elementary Education (Special Services) Sub-Committee hears that a water tank has been erected on the site next to St. German’s Church so they recommend that the nursery be sited on a bomb-site at the end of Wordsworth Avenue instead. They also decide to erect another nursery at West Yard, Docks.<sup>416</sup>

A deputation of Highfields’ parents is received by the Education Committee and as a result it is resolved ‘That the closing of the Llandaff Council School be deferred until the end of the Summer Term, 1942, and that in the meantime further consideration be given to the matter’.<sup>417</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> May

At Herbert Thompson Girls’ ‘The school was visited by Captain West and Chief Officer Mr. Russell of the *Errington Court*, the ship adopted by the school. They were accompanied by Mrs. West, Mrs. Russell and baby Russell. The school was presented with the ship’s Red Ensign and a Silver Trophy’.

Next door at the Boys’ School ‘It is a pleasure to record that Flight Sergeant Edward James Thomas, who has been awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of ‘Devotion to Duty’ was a scholar at this school from 1927 to 1931, leaving when he was fourteen years old’.

4<sup>th</sup> May

ARP Wardens examine all the gas masks of the children in Roath Girls’. Lost and broken masks are replaced and new carrying boxes are distributed.

[The mass gassing of Jews begins at Auschwitz.](#)<sup>418</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> May

Llandaff City Mixed is ‘visited by certain officials from the Office to see where it might be possible to have school meals, and where to put the necessary apparatus’.

7<sup>th</sup> May

A Circular is sent to all schools about the ‘City of Cardiff Evacuated School Children’s Boot and Clothing Fund Dance’.<sup>419</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> May

Fifty-two pupils from Whitchurch Boys’ start attending the Senior Mixed for dinners and the next day a ‘Hot Cupboard was installed in the Hall for the provision of mid-day meals’.<sup>420</sup>

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<sup>416</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.145.

<sup>417</sup> Ibid, p.147.

<sup>418</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, p.100.

<sup>419</sup> Kitchener Mixed & Infants’.

<sup>420</sup> Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

13<sup>th</sup> May

A Circular is distributed about 'The Position of the Schools in the event of Invasion': 'In accordance with a request contained therein, a list of teachers, giving their private addresses, was submitted. These teachers will remain available for service with the children in the event of invasion'.<sup>421</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> May

At Highfields a notice from the Director of Education is distributed to parents. The 'Education Committee has decided to defer the closing of the school until the end of the Summer Term 1942, and in the meantime to ascertain the wishes of the parents of the children attending the school as to the proposal of the Authority. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will kindly complete the attached schedule and return it to the Head Master...'

Grangetown Boys' closes at 3.50 'as the teachers are asked to visit the local Shadow Kitchen at St. Patrick's Hall'.

15<sup>th</sup> May

The first British troops reach India following their long retreat. The Japanese have overrun Burma inflicting great casualties and cutting off China from surface communication.<sup>422</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> May

At Highfields 'All the Voting Papers have now been returned, and the result of the plebiscite is as follows:

Those who agreed to the transfer of their children to Hawthorn School or any other school in Cardiff – one only.

Against the above – eighty-nine'.

19<sup>th</sup> May

Four evacuees at Roath Boys' sit the examination for High schools. At Albany Boys' 'Police Inspector Pittaway addressed the whole school on 'Safety First' and the avoidance of damage to public property, especially emergency water tanks and shelters'.

21<sup>st</sup> May

At Hywel Dda Mixed 'Nurse Garrett carried out a cleansing survey of girl pupils this afternoon. Three cases of scabies discovered, also several girls' heads needing attention'.

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular about the 'Rationing of Soap'.<sup>423</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> May

Radyr breaks up for the Whitsun holiday and two evacuee teachers, Miss Howells from Ealing and Miss Skill from Birmingham, return home.

Cardiff's Education Committee receives a letter from a meeting of the twelve

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<sup>421</sup> Highfields.

<sup>422</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.77.

<sup>423</sup> Radnor Road Boys'.

Co-operative Women's Guilds of Cardiff strongly protesting `against the Government's proposal to compel children of twelve years of age and upwards, to be taken from their schools to work on the farms. We are definitely of the opinion this would be detrimental not only to the children and health, but a serious handicap to their educational training. We say – Hands off the children'.<sup>424</sup>

31<sup>st</sup> May

During the Whitsun Week's Holiday 'The School building was opened as a Rest Centre - Civil Defence Services - from 9 am to 1.30 pm. Large scale exercises have been arranged in Cardiff and part of Glamorgan County' records the Head of Roath Girls'.

1<sup>st</sup> June

The Head of Tongwynlais `received the Rota for fire-watching duty at this school from Mr. Fidoe, Cardiff RDC Assistant Fire Guard. The duties commenced today'.

After over eleven months at Glyncorrwg, Miss Dinham returns to Albany Girls' and Miss Owen returns to Baden Powell Infants' after six months at Fochriw.

At a meeting of Cardiff's Joint Education and Health (Medical Services) Sub-Committee `The School Medical Officer reported that Messrs. Lever Brothers Port Sunlight, Ltd., had offered, free of all costs, an emergency bath unit for the use of Cardiff and District. The object of the service is to provide people living in badly blitzed districts with hot shower baths and hot water. During non-blitz periods the unit will work to a set programme which will include a number of appointments with schools. The Committee decided to recommend that the offer...be accepted'.<sup>425</sup>

Cardiff's Elementary Education Committee decides that only the Senior Mixed department at Highfields will be transferred to Hawthorn and the Infants' will remain there. The vacated classrooms will be utilised by the School for children with Defective Sight.<sup>426</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> June

'A few of the senior girls attended a meeting at the Parade High School concerning recruitment for the WAAF' records the Headmistress of Heathfield House.<sup>427</sup>

[US naval aircraft destroy four of Japan's finest aircraft carriers and 332 of their aeroplanes in a crushing victory at the Battle of Midway. Never again will the Japanese have the initiative in the Pacific...](#)<sup>428</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> June

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<sup>424</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.160.

<sup>425</sup> Ibid.

<sup>426</sup> Ibid, p.164.

<sup>427</sup> Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

<sup>428</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.97.

`The School garden looks well and a good crop is anticipated' observes the Head of Viriamu Jones.

11<sup>th</sup> June

The pupils of Radnor Girls' raise £5. 10. 6. for the `Duke of Gloucester's Prisoners of War Fund' which is enough to `provide eleven parcels'.

At St. Patrick's Infants' `Salvage was collected'.

12<sup>th</sup> June

At Radyr, presumably because so many of the evacuees have returned home, they stop using the Church Hall to teach children.

15<sup>th</sup> June

Mr. Moses Samuel returns to Herbert Thompson Boys' as 'He has been temporarily released from duties in the Reception Area'.

17<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Gladstone Boys' reports 'The ceremony of 'taking over' the shower bath presented by Lever Brothers was performed by the Lord Mayor, together with members of the Education Health Committee in the school yard. One hundred and twenty six boys had a shower during the afternoon session'. Downstairs at the Girls' forty five pupils `who have no bathrooms in their homes availed themselves of this opportunity to get a shower'.

19<sup>th</sup> June

Canton Girls' `Received Circulars regarding a collection for an X-Ray unit for the Red Army and the collection of plants for medicinal use'.

At St. Peter's `Two workmen began work on the windows for hanging black curtains for `Black-out' purposes, as the school is used for the accommodation of the Girls' Club and Youth Movement'.

22<sup>nd</sup> June

`During the day, shower baths have been given to a large number of the boys and girls in a mobile shower bath...' records the Head of Albany Boys'. The Head of the Girls' notes that parents have to give their written permission for these showers.

At Court Girls' 'Sir Robert Webber DL, JP and Mr. W. Smith JP visited the school this afternoon for the purpose of receiving a cheque for £20. This money was collected by the girls towards the 'Blitzed Wards Fund' of Cardiff Royal Infirmary'.

23<sup>rd</sup> June

At a meeting of Glamorgan Education's Secondary Committee: `Whitchurch Secondary-Staffing...It was reported that Miss B. Phillips, the Domestic Science Mistress, was married on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1942, and the Sub-Committee recommend confirmation of the action of the Governors in re-appointing her on a temporary basis as from that date'.

`Teaching Appointments.

The Sub-Committee recommend that for the duration of the present emergency the following procedure be adopted for the appointment of women teachers, viz.:-

- (1) that all vacancies be advertised;
- (2) that if there are no suitable applicants, temporary appointments be offered in the first instance to suitable persons whose husbands are serving in H.M. Forces.
- (3) That if there are not available persons falling within (2) above, the Director of Education be authorised to appoint temporarily any other available suitable persons'.<sup>429</sup>

At Metal Street Infants' the Head records `On the authority of the Managers five children were admitted to form the nucleus of a Nursery Class for children between three and four years, as there have been many applications from the parents in this district who are either engaged in war-work or who are anxious to take occupations'.

25<sup>th</sup> June

Highfields notes a `Circular regarding the desirability of the senior girls making comforts for the men and women serving in His Majesty's Forces and the Mercantile Marine. Miss Gwen Lewis is going to pick up the necessary wool at the Lady Mayoress' Parlour and give her utmost co-operation to the scheme'.

26<sup>th</sup> June

`Six boxes, each containing twenty-four bars of chocolate, were received for distribution amongst the children. The gift was received from the Optimist Club, Toronto, Canada' records the Head of St. Patrick's Infants'. It is also distributed to the infants of Albany, Court Road, Crofts Street, Lansdowne, St. Monica's and Stacey Road.

29<sup>th</sup> June

At Llysfaen, where Mrs. Jones' handbag had been stolen by an intruder on the 25<sup>th</sup>, she 'informs me that her Post Office Account Book and Army 'Wife Allowance' Book, both of which were in her handbag, were returned to her by post on Saturday morning. Nothing has been seen or heard of the handbag'.

30<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Marlborough Infants' reports that attendance is good despite two successive nights of warnings.

At Hywel Dda Mixed `In response to the Lord Mayor's Appeal for Cardiff citizens to provide £1,500 (cost of a Mobile X-Ray Unit for the Russian Army) the Head Teacher today forwarded a cheque for £7. 10. 0., the contribution of staff and scholars towards this fund'.

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<sup>429</sup> GRO, Glamorgan, *Secondary Education*.

1<sup>st</sup> July

Mrs. K.M. Stoddart, a teacher at Radnor Infants', is away for a day as 'her husband is home from sea'. Five days' later she's granted a week's leave for the same reason.

2<sup>nd</sup> July

The Head of Albany Boys' records 'An 'alert' was sounded early this morning, when there was considerable air and 'AA' activity. The attendance is less by twenty-one than yesterday'.

At St. Mary's Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace 'Mr. Groves reported to me this morning the presence of unexploded bombs near his house. The area has been evacuated. He returned to the locality in accordance with police instructions'. Subsequently he's away for two days.

Stacey Boys' receives notification 'that as of Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> children receiving free meals are to take their meals at the Celtic Corridor British Restaurant'.

Established to provide cheap but nutritious meals for the public, 'British Restaurants' were self-service cafeterias, operated by local authorities. Eventually some thirteen were opened in Cardiff.<sup>430</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> July

Cardiff's Elementary Education Committee, responding to a Board of Education Circular stating that 'Authorities are urged to suspend any local regulations requiring the resignation of women teachers on marriage... decided to recommend that where the resignation of a woman teacher on marriage will create a permanent vacancy, the post be filled from the Reserve List of Teachers, or, if the Reserve List has been exhausted, by advertisement, before the previous holder is re-engaged'.<sup>431</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Viriamu Jones records 'A very pleasing incident:- Kenneth James, Form 3, came to the Headmaster this morning to hand over a 10/- note he had found in the road. Juvenile crime is reported to be on the increase, but it is very satisfying to record here that no complaints have been received about any of the boys and girls of this school'.

7<sup>th</sup> July

Cardiff's Director of Education 'reported that delay had been experienced in the delivery of equipment for the School Canteens from the Pool. It was decided to press the Ministry of Works and Buildings for delivery with the view to opening some of the canteens on 1<sup>st</sup> September next'.<sup>432</sup>

Cardiff's Joint Advisory Committee considers 'Circular No.1596 issued by the Board of Education on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1942, in which it is requested that the

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<sup>430</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.74.

<sup>431</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.180.

<sup>432</sup> Elementary Education (Special Services) Sub-Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.197.

schools shall remain open throughout the year, with full provision of meals and milk, and with staffing during the weeks normally assigned to holidays on a scale sufficient to ensure that the children can be provided with interesting and useful occupation...<sup>433</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> July

The Director of Education visits Heathfield House 'to make a request for the use of three classrooms to accommodate part of the Howard Gardens Girls' School. Their school was badly damaged in 1941 and since then they have been working under difficult conditions'.

The Mobile Shower Van visits St. Alban's Infants' again. From now on, as elsewhere, it will visit once a fortnight.

10<sup>th</sup> July

At Whitchurch Boys' 'Mr. B. Hill is absent today (with leave) attending the annual executive meeting of the Sons of Temperance at Oxford. The attendance is improving, but there are still several children absent suffering from scabies'.

Tongwynlais holds its monthly inspection of gas masks: 'Generally their condition was good though one or two had lost valve flaps and were advised to report to the Chief Warden. A few with cylindrical metal containers were told to change these for a more suitable pattern'.

13<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Thorne, the acting Head of Marlborough Girls' records 'The sum of £8. 2. 6. was sent by Miss Bancroft to the Red Cross War Organisation earmarked for the Prisoners of War Parcels Fund – the proceeds of a Play given by Form 3 to the rest of the school and a sale of Garden Produce by the girls in various classes'. Of the three children not promoted at the school 'Valerie Fudge and Pamela Rees are both evacuees returned during last term who have not done Standard 1 work'.

14<sup>th</sup> July

Clarence Mixed reports a burglary to the Director of Education. Fourteen locks have been forced and War Savings Stamps to the value of 14/3 as well as 6d. in cash have been stolen.

A Higher Education Sub-Committee approves the temporary accommodation of Howard Garden Boys Boys'. Nine forms of first, second and third year pupils are being taught at Cardiff High for Boys and the other seven forms are being taught at the old Pupil Teacher Centre at Howard Gardens. Science is being taught at Cardiff High and on two or three full sessions at Cathays High for Boys.<sup>434</sup>

Next day the Sub-Committee recommends the following temporary

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<sup>433</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.200.

<sup>434</sup> Higher Education (Howard Gardens High School Accommodation) Sub-Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.200.

accommodation for Howard Gardens Girls: Three forms are to be taught in Heathfield House whilst other pupils are to be taught in four rooms in the house of the caretaker of Cardiff High for Girls and two rooms in the flat of the Headmistress there. Two classrooms in the old building are to be re-conditioned and, if this is not possible, then Mount Tabor Chapel, Moira Terrace, will be rented.<sup>435</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> July

'The individual effort of Beryl Walters, Form 2, in raising £5. 12. 6. for the Russian Red Cross has been very gratefully acknowledged by Mrs. Churchill' records the Head of Radnor Girls'.

20<sup>th</sup> July

Clarence Infants' notes the death over the weekend of Carl Pilgrim 'a little scholar of this school who was drowned in the Canal'.

The Director of Education writes to Radnor Girls' 'in appreciation of the work done by the girls for the Master and Crew of the S.S. *Barrwhin*, our adopted ship, to which and from which several mails have been sent and received and parcels sent'.

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular telling them that all schools are to remain open for children during the summer holidays. The Head of Llandaff City Mixed complains 'the instruction for this came very late, after most teachers had made their holiday arrangements'.

21 & 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Mr. Cyril Evans, a teacher at Stacey Boys' is granted leave of absence for the period Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July inclusive to attend a 'Bomb Reconnaissance Course'.

The Headteachers of the schools 'which will share the Albany Road Feeding Centre met to consider the lay-out and seating arrangements'.<sup>436</sup>

The Head of Gladstone Infants' records 'Yearly Examinations in full swing. Considering the extra work school entails - Milk Accounts, War Savings Certificates, Immunisation, Dental Clinic and this coming year 'Feeding', also periods of Infectious Diseases, the results are very satisfactory. We break up this afternoon officially for a month's rest from a hard year's work with the children. Infectious diseases are in homes today. Unofficially we remain in rotas to guard our own School Club for the month. We look ahead in apprehension owing to the likelihood of prolonging infectious diseases in warm weather and without stop, as it were'.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the Germans open the Treblinka Extermination Camp to murder Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto. It is only forty miles from Warsaw and 'in one month alone, 66,701 Jews were deported...and gassed on arrival'.<sup>437</sup>

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<sup>435</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.205.

<sup>436</sup> Albany Road Boys'.

<sup>437</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, p.108.

23<sup>rd</sup> July

The German assault on the Russian city of Stalingrad begins. Against the advice of his Generals about a Soviet build-up in the East an over-confident Hitler orders his Sixth Army to capture the city that Stalin had renamed in his own honour...<sup>438</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' records 'It is very gratifying to note that although we are in the midst of such a horrible war with its consequent effects upon both staff and pupils, good steady work has been made. The Secondary Schools Entrance Examination's result conclusively proves this to be so – already thirty one-pupils gaining admission and three evacuees and two into public schools'.

Miss Marie Tyrrell, a teacher at Hywell Dda Mixed, 'terminated duties this afternoon having obtained a Government Post in the Censorship Department'.

Two more evacuees from Chatham return home from St. Fagan's so there is now only one evacuee left at the school.

27<sup>th</sup> July

'Mr. Rundle is absent today and for the rest of this week. He is attending a series of lectures on the Soviet Republic at Swansea' records the Head of Viriamu Jones.

Cardiff Education's Elementary (Special Services) Sub-Committee accedes to a request from the Town Clerk that Shadow Kitchens be established at the schools in Eleanor Street, Grangetown and Baden Powell.<sup>439</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> July

Once again a Circular points out that Cardiff teachers 'proposing to spend the holiday period away from home, should give their temporary address with telephone number, if available, in case an emergency might arise for their recall to duties'.<sup>440</sup>

'War Savings Special Effort. Week's total = £23. 5. 0.' notes the Head of Radnor Girls'.

30<sup>th</sup> July

At Roath Girls', among the seventeen circulars received from the Education Office are those concerned with 'Schools in the event of Invasion, Rationing Soap, Waste Paper Salvage, School Canteens and Woollen Comforts for the troops'. The Head of the Boys' explains 'By order of the Government, the school will be open during four weeks in August for children whose mothers are doing war work. This is purely optional. No registration. Open 10 - 12 and 2 - 4. A rota of teachers has been formed'.

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<sup>438</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.100.

<sup>439</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.207.

<sup>440</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

Earlier in the month the Head of Radnor Girls' had described the activities that were to be undertaken at her school: 'Community Singing, Sports, Gala, Excursions, Visits to Parks when possible, Improvised Concerts, Games, Knitting, Sewing, Painting, Gummed Paper Work, Films'.<sup>441</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> August

At Kitchener the Head records 'School sports were held in Loudon Square Gardens in accordance with the Stay at Home Holidays Programme'.

7<sup>th</sup> August

The Head of Viriamu Jones reports that the 'Holidays in School Scheme' has been a failure at his school as the average number of pupils present is only five. At Lansdowne Infants' only four turn up and only two attend Tredegarville.<sup>442</sup> At Ely Infants', Grangetown Boys', Llandaff City Mixed and St. Alban's Mixed *no-one* turns up and as the Head of Herbert Thompson Boys' puts it 'this experiment was a decided failure'.<sup>443</sup> The only positive comment is supplied by the Head of St. Alban's who reports a 'Swimming Gala and Sports were held in Splott Park on Bank Holiday Tuesday. It was a great success, hundreds of the children competed'.

[US Marines land at Guadalcanal in the Pacific. The American fight-back against the Japanese has begun...](#)<sup>444</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> August

As the 'Holidays at School' scheme has had a very poor response generally, Cardiff's Education Committee decides to close the schools altogether for the second fortnight in August.<sup>445</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> August

Sunday. Three boys are arrested in Whitchurch for stealing apples from Greenhill Open-Air School where 'it was found that two small bush trees of 'Bramley Seedling' apples had been practically stripped. The total weight of the apples was 10lbs, and the value 6/8'. Subsequently Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee 'decided to instruct the Town Clerk to take proceedings against the three boys...'<sup>446</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> September

Cardiff schools re-open and again there is considerable disruption as teachers either return from Reception Areas or are transferred there.<sup>447</sup>

At Canton Girls' 'Nine children were not promoted, seven of whom have

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<sup>441</sup> Radnor Road Girls', 16<sup>th</sup> July 1942.; See also St. Paul's Infants' for another, similar programme.

<sup>442</sup> Lansdowne Road Infants, 1<sup>st</sup> September, Tredegarville, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1942.

<sup>443</sup> See, for example, Herbert Thompson Boys' & Severn Road Boys'.

<sup>444</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.21.

<sup>445</sup> Roath Park Boys'.

<sup>446</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, 18<sup>th</sup> September 1942, p.224.

<sup>447</sup> See, for example, Albany Road Boys', Herbert Thompson Girls', Radnor Road Boys', St. Mary's Junior Mixed, Bute Terrace, & St. Monica's Mixed.

returned from evacuation'. Seven boys at Herbert Thompson are also kept back, one is described as 'young and backward' and the other six as 'very backward'. One of the five pupils not promoted at Gladstone Girls' is a Belgian refugee, Angele Romans.

Whitchurch Senior Mixed now has 318 local children and forty-two evacuees. [A year earlier there had been ninety evacuees at the school.<sup>448</sup>]

Alma James of 16 Tynant Street is the last of the seventy-five Court girls who were evacuated to Treherbert in May 1941 to return to school.<sup>449</sup>

A Circular asks Cardiff schools for 'instructive talks to children on trees and shrubs, with a view to preventing the despoiling of the countryside'.<sup>450</sup>

Mr. John Sullivan leaves Windsor-Clive for the Armed Forces.

2<sup>nd</sup> September

A Circular is sent to Cardiff's schools informing them that schoolchildren no longer need to carry gas masks but 'examination and servicing is to be carried out periodically'.<sup>451</sup> They also receive a 'Board of Education Memoranda on the Care of Children's Foot-wear, the Study of the Soviet Socialist Republics and also the Collection of Horse-chestnuts'.<sup>452</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> September

The Head of St. Peter's records 'First day of the fourth year of the war with Germany, Italy and Japan. This day is a special day of prayer ordered by His Majesty King George VI. At 11 o'clock the whole school assembled for prayers and hymns until 11.15'. At Lansdowne Road 'Forms 1, 2 & 3 of both girls' and boys' departments assembled in the boys' school to listen to a broadcast service from 11–11.15 am on the occasion of a National Day of Prayer'.<sup>453</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> September

There are now 280 children on the registers of Moorland Infants' suggesting that most of its evacuees have returned. Four children are not promoted to the upper schools, one, a boy, 'has been living in Ireland and not attending any school' and another girl is 'Delicate and backward – Doctor wants an X-Ray but father refuses'.

Cardiff's Elementary Education Committee recommends that eight children 'be transferred to the care of the Mental Deficiency Committee, the certificates under the arrangements for dealing with defective and epileptic children of school age having been signed by a certifying officer of the

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<sup>448</sup> Whitchurch Senior Mixed, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1941.

<sup>449</sup> Court Road Girls' Admissions Register.

<sup>450</sup> St. Francis' Infants'.

<sup>451</sup> Roath Park Boys'.

<sup>452</sup> Radnor Road Boys'.

<sup>453</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys'.

LEA'.<sup>454</sup>

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee hears that the average daily attendance of evacuees at the 'Holiday Club' at the Wesleyan Hall, Whitchurch, during August was twenty-six and notes that the number of evacuees billeted in its area has now fallen to 483.

7<sup>th</sup> September

The first School Canteens open in Cardiff at Baden Powell, Eleanor Street (which also caters for pupils from Clarence Road and St. Cuthbert's) Grangetown, Hywel Dda, Lansdowne Road, where 'the old disused laundry building has been transformed into a suitable dining-hall', Ninian Girls' (which also serves meals to children from Court Road, Ninian Park and St. Patrick's) Severn Road, Splott (where children from St. Alban's are also fed) and St. Mary's, Bute Terrace.<sup>455</sup>

Thirteen pupils are not promoted at Radnor Girls', three of whom are described as 'returned evacuees'. The Head also notes that some 'senior girls and eighteen boys are doing intensive work in singing this week in readiness for Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> when a choir will sing on the Castle Green in connection with the 'Tanks for Attack' effort'.

9<sup>th</sup> September

Officials representing the Glamorgan County Clerk, the Commissioner of Civil Defence and the County Architect visit Tongwynlais to inspect 'the building and certain equipment with a view to establishing accommodation for any assistance brought into the area from distant towns in case of a severe air raid on Cardiff'.

10<sup>th</sup> September

Miss E. O'Flynn, a teacher at Court Girls', 'informed the Head Teacher that she wished for a transfer to another school. The Headmistress agreed that a change would be good as Miss O'Flynn has been in this school twenty-seven years'.

11<sup>th</sup> September

Following a report by the Director, Cardiff's Secondary Education Committee recommends 'that a sum of £39. 1. 0. for the period ended the Spring Term 1942, be paid to the Rhondda Education Committee in respect of the costs of exercise books, stationery, etc., supplied to Cardiff pupils officially evacuated and attending the Rhondda Secondary Schools'.<sup>456</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> September

'The three Nurseries were opened today, Saturday, from 9 am – 2 pm for mothers who need their children in on Saturdays – extra charge, 6d. The

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<sup>454</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.208.

<sup>455</sup> Baden Powell Infants', Grangetown Boys', Hywel Dda Infants', Lansdowne Road Boys' & Infants', Ninian Park Girls', Severn Road Girls', Splott Infants', St. Alban's Mixed & St. Mary's Junior Mixed, Bute Terrace.

<sup>456</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.219.

attendances were Grangetown, nineteen, Splott, eighteen, Ely, seventeen'.<sup>457</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> September

At Hawthorn Infants' `Mrs. Phillips commenced duties as an extra member of Staff due to the increase in the number of scholars – 118 on Books. The Hall classroom has been cleared of Rest Centre equipment to accommodate the new class'.

Another Circular informs schools that the target for Cardiff's 'Tanks for Attack' Savings Campaign is £800,000 and that 'schools are asked to attain an objective of £50,000 during the next fortnight to help in this effort'.<sup>458</sup>

Mr. Walter Payne, a teacher at Court Boys', is transferred to the Technical College and is replaced by Mrs. F. Bland.

15<sup>th</sup> September

Heathfield House re-opens and 'eighty-nine pupils from Howard Gardens Schools are occupying the three classrooms on the middle floor. One of our own forms is occupying the Biology Room, and the Art Room has been divided by a curtain so as to make accommodation for another form. Form 5 are occupying the room in No.23 the Walk which was formerly used by Form 6'.

At Cathays High for Boys' 'Miss Smith's services as temporary Biology Mistress [have been] terminated owing to her marriage' whilst another teacher, Mr. Young, has been suspended because he is a Conscientious Objector.<sup>459</sup>

`The Clinic Nurse, Nurse Renshaw, visited school and excluded three children for unclean heads' records the Head of Canton Girls'.

18<sup>th</sup> September

Following the receipt of a letter from the Board of Education regarding `the strengthening of surface shelters built with lime mortar or lime cement mortar...The City Engineer reported that there were nine school shelters built in lime mortar, viz.:- Rhydypenau School (2), Gabalfa Special School (2), Greenhill Open Air School (2), Fairwater School (3), and that the estimated cost of strengthening these shelters amounted to £1,092. The Committee recommend...the necessary strengthening work...be carried out...'<sup>460</sup>

Cardiff Education's Finance Committee is told of the Burnham Committee's decisions regarding war allowances for teachers to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942. `For teachers under 21 years of age the war allowance shall be:-

Men: £26 per annum.

Women: £19. 10. 0. per annum.

For teachers of 21 years of age and over the war allowance shall be:-

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<sup>457</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>458</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>459</sup> See entry made on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1942 for Miss Smith.

<sup>460</sup> Education Sites & Buildings Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, pp.223-4.

For teachers in receipt of salaries up to £262. 10. 0. per annum:-

Men: £45 per annum.

Women: £36 per annum.

For teachers receiving salaries exceeding £262. 10. 0. but not exceeding £525 per annum:-

Men: £35 per annum.

Women: £28 per annum'.<sup>461</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> September

School meals begin at Viriamu Jones and at Gladstone. The Head of Gladstone Boys' records 'Commenced the feeding of children in the three schools. One hundred and forty children were fed today'. The Head of the Infants' school is clearly not amused and writes 'Twenty-three voluntary cases have paid in 2/- for freely distributed MEALS whether mothers work in factories or not'.

At Albany Infants' the Head goes to the trouble of itemising all the equipment sent for the canteen. This takes two whole pages and ranges from '240 knives' right down to 'two packets of salt'. The Head of the Boys' notes 'The giving of school dinners commenced. Meals were cold and few boys finished their dinner'. At Stacey Infants', however, the 'School Canteen opened this morning. Eighty-four children took dinners. The menu consisted of Beef, Potatoes, Cabbage and Gravy, Custard and Prunes. Everything went off satisfactorily'.

22<sup>nd</sup> September

'The school garden produce was sent to the 'Dig for Victory' Exhibition at the City Hall' records the Head of Viriamu Jones.

25<sup>th</sup> September

The first case of dysentery is confirmed at Vachell Road Nursey.<sup>462</sup>

Twenty senior pupils from Marlborough Girls' 'visit the 'Dig for Victory' Exhibition at the City Hall this morning'. So too does the senior class from Llanishen. Twenty boys from Herbert Thompson also go although 'it appears that the exhibition Hall was so packed with people that the boys failed to see the exhibits, but they did see the 'Dig for Victory' films'.

The Head of Hywel Dda Mixed notes 'the extremely wet weather during the past week has adversely affected the Attendance, owing to the fact that several children are badly shod – daps etc.'

Cardiff's Education Committee receives a letter from the Lord Mayor stating that a 'contribution of £100 received from the Tanganyika War Relief and Welfare Fund' has been credited to the LEA's Clothing and Footwear Fund.<sup>463</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> September

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<sup>461</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.225.

<sup>462</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>463</sup> CCL. Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.231.

St. Mary's Infants' in Canton has raised £59. 5. 3. this month for National Savings.

28<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Roath Boys' 'visited the Schools Canteen in Wellfield Road this afternoon, and made experimental arrangements with tables and chairs. Probably 130 children could be seated for meals'.

Miss Elizabeth Hawkes resumes duties at Gladstone after working with evacuees from Howard Gardens Girls'.<sup>464</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> September

Four more cases of dysentery are confirmed at Vachell Road and all are sent to the Isolation Hospital.<sup>465</sup>

The Headmistress of Radnor Girls' records, in red ink,

'Special Savings Effort - 'Tanks for Attack':

1 <sup>st</sup> week	£23. 5. 0.
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	£46. 18. 0.
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	£29. 7. 6.
4 <sup>th</sup> week	£64. 3. 0
Total	£218. 18. 0.'

She also notes that during the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 1941 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942, the school has raised £1,030 in War Savings.

The girls of Howell's raise £2,517 for 'Tanks for Attack'.<sup>466</sup>

Cardiff's schools are sent a Circular about 'Fuel Economy in Schools'. There is to be no heating until November 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>467</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> October

Twelve sacks of salvaged paper are delivered to the Cardiff Wastepaper Company from Whitchurch Boys'.

2<sup>nd</sup> October

The first case of dysentery is confirmed at Ferry Road Nursery.<sup>468</sup>

The girls at Radnor Road collect and forward £1. 4. 0. for wool for comforts for the *S.S. Barrwhin* and receive letters from the ship 'expressing gratitude for the parcels received'. Thirty girls have shower baths and another thirty bring money for dinners which will start next week at the Hope Baptist Hall.

Cardiff's Elementary Education Committee instructs the Director 'to inform Head Teachers of Girls' Schools that disciplinary action must not be taken in

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<sup>464</sup> Gladstone Girls'.

<sup>465</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>466</sup> *Howell's*, No.17, July 1943, p.16.

<sup>467</sup> Stacey Road Infants'.

<sup>468</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

the cases of pupils who may attend school wearing slacks'.<sup>469</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> October

'Today the school canteen was opened. Ninety-four children were supplied with hot dinners: seventy-one from this school, ten from the Infants' School, eleven from Highfields School and two from Watson Road. The food was delivered at 10.45 am, served at 12 and the meal ended at 12.30' records the Head of Hawthorn Mixed. Of the ten infants, six are entitled to free meals.<sup>470</sup> Another 'School canteen is opened at Kitchener Road School'.<sup>471</sup>

The Head of Severn Girls' records that the half-yearly total for National Savings is £377. 3. 6. and the next day their Harvest Festival raises £5. 7. 6. for the 'Infirmary Fund'.

6<sup>th</sup> October

At Tredegarville 'This morning forty-five children received hot shower baths in the cubicles erected in the yard by Messrs Lever Brothers. This firm also provided towels and Lifebuoy soap. I understand that in order to carry on this useful work they are subsidized by the Government'.

9<sup>th</sup> October

'In order to save fuel no fires are lit but it is very cold' records the Head of Llandaff City Mixed.

Amongst the expenditure recommended by Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee is £1,292 for the installation of hot cupboards in its thirty-two 'School Feeding Centres'.<sup>472</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> October

Because of the epidemic of dysentery only four children turn up at Vachell Road Nursery.<sup>473</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> October

The Head of Radnor Boys' reports on the opening of a School Canteen at Llandaff Road Baptist Church. Sixty children from the three schools at Radnor Road pay for meals.

Responding to a Circular calling for schools to collect 'medicinal plants' the Headmaster of Llanishen takes a class out to gather horse-chestnuts. Three days later they go out to collect rose hips.

13<sup>th</sup> October

Miss Gwen Lewis, a Highfields teacher, takes 'a party of twenty-five scholars to visit an Exhibition of Work by Allied Artists at the Pyke Thompson Gallery, National Museum of Wales'.

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<sup>469</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.235.

<sup>470</sup> Hawthorn Infants'.

<sup>471</sup> Canton Girls'.

<sup>472</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1941-42, p.248.

<sup>473</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

14<sup>th</sup> October

At Albany Boys' `Mr. W. Thomas, Inspector, called with a Belgian Schoolmistress to arrange a loan of some school furniture'.

15<sup>th</sup> October

A party of senior boys from Moorland Road 'visited their adopted ship *Supreme Impala* under the Ship Adoption Scheme'.

16<sup>th</sup> October

At Radnor Girls' `Violet Cooke has received a letter of thanks and receipt for £2 from Lady Isobel Cripps from the Aid to China Fund. Violet is still making hats and posies. Pat Shelley has received a prize for the `Tanks for Attack' poetry competition for her two original verses'.

Miss L. Morris sends in a week's Medical Certificate to Gladstone Girls'. She is suffering from dysentery.

22<sup>nd</sup> October

There is another issue of thirty 'Supplementary Clothing Coupons' to children... '5ft. 3 inches or more in height, or 7 stone 12lb or more in weight'.<sup>474</sup>

A head inspection at Radnor Girls reveals `twenty troublesome cases'.

At Grangetown Boys' `Mr. H. Davies, Chairman, and Mr. Wallbrook, Secretary, of the Baseball League visited the school and presented the Benjamin Sheldrick Cup to the school having recently won the same in the final match of the Cardiff Schools' Baseball League'.

23<sup>rd</sup> October

Llanishen's `Collection of Horse Chestnuts and Rose Hips is taken by Miss Williams and three boys to the Parks Department offices. Total weight to date: 360lbs of Horse Chestnuts, 19lbs of Rose Hips'.

Attendance is down at Whitchurch Boys' because of the poor weather and `fresh cases of scabies and whooping cough'.

28<sup>th</sup> October

`The dysentery epidemic seems to be subsiding' reports Miss Hunt of the Wartime Nurseries.

29<sup>th</sup> October

Albany Boys' lends `One blackboard, one easel, two Teachers' Desks and two pegs' to `the Belgian School'.

30<sup>th</sup> October

The Head of the Oral School for the Deaf observes `School closed for the

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<sup>474</sup> Roath Park Boys' & Whitchurch Senior Mixed.

usual Autumn Holiday for the first time since war broke out’.

23<sup>rd</sup> October – 5<sup>th</sup> November

British troops win the Battle of El Alamein in Egypt. A jubilant Churchill tells the British people ‘This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning...’<sup>475</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> November

Radnor Girls’ receives the sad news ‘of the sinking of the *S.S. Barrwhin* – twelve lives saved. Mr. Stubbs, engineer, who had written to the girls is lost. Two casks of oranges subscribed for by the crew as a ‘Thank You’ to the girls also lost’.

Children from St. Peter’s begin having meals in the Scouts’ Hall in Bedford Street.

5<sup>th</sup> November

At Grangetown Boys’ ‘A sum of £11. 1. 0. was collected in this Department for the Aid to China Fund and forwarded to the Lady Mayoress’.

10<sup>th</sup> November

The Head of Court Boys’ records ‘I have today inspected the exercise books of Standard 2 and regret to have to note that I find them, in general, not adequately corrected and many exercises not marked at all’.

At Grangetown Continuation School ‘the following changes were made in the times of the lessons:

Monday	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Shorthand
	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Shorthand
Tuesday	6.30 – 8.30 pm	Arithmetic & Accounts
Thursday	6.30 – 7.30 pm	English & Commercial Practice’.

11<sup>th</sup> November

Armistice Day is observed as usual. Viriamu Jones holds a combined Boys’ and Girls’ service where ‘A novel feature was the *Echo* of November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918, the Headline being ‘*Germany surrendered this morning*’. This paper was shown to the boys and girls’. The pupils of St. Alban’s Mixed attend a mass ‘which was said for the Old Boys of the School who have died in the service of King and Country’.

13<sup>th</sup> November

‘The attendance is still much below normal, whooping cough prevails and there are seven cases of scabies under treatment. 75.8% for the week’ records the Head of Tongwynlais.

16<sup>th</sup> November

‘The School Canteen for Dinners only is opened at the Roath Presbyterian

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<sup>475</sup> Mansion House speech reported in *The Daily Mail*, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1942. *The War Despatches 1939-45*.

Church. Forty-five Roath boys have paid for dinners'. Down the road at Marlborough Infants' 'School Canteen opened. Food appetising and appreciated...Numbers registered for Dinners = eighty'. At Tredegarville twenty-one Juniors have dinners. A canteen is also opened at Allensbank which is where the children from St. Joseph's attend. In all 121 children eat meals there.<sup>476</sup> At Llandaff City, where the meals are described as 'excellent', eight infants and twenty-seven children from the Mixed School are fed.

Mr. D.J. Phillips returns from evacuation duties to Court Boys' and so Mrs. Bland finishes her temporary duties there.

### 19<sup>th</sup> November

The Red Army launches a massive counter-attack against German forces at Stalingrad. Its sheer weight, speed and ferocity shocks Hitler and his commanders.<sup>477</sup>

### 20<sup>th</sup> November

Reporting on the first week of school meals at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Wellfield Road, the Head of Roath Boys' observes 'The dinners served were very good, and very satisfactory throughout the week. However, the work of moving tables and chairs is too heavy for the women helpers, and some assistance must be given'.

The attendance for the week is down to 85% at Whitchurch Boys' 'due to so many cases of illness – colds, whooping cough, scabies, impetigo and suspected diphtheria. It is also feared that owing to the poor heating of the classrooms, many children catch cold on assembly. The matter of opening the school later is receiving the consideration of County Hall'.

Cardiff's General Education Committee agrees to a request from the Town Clerk to erect a 5,000 gallon water tank in the playground at Allensbank. It also sanctions the expenditure of £140 to build an emergency fire exit at Roath Boys' and resolves that 'an allowance of 1/- per head be made towards the expenses of Christmas Treats for all evacuee children from the Cardiff Area in Reception Areas, out of rates...'<sup>478</sup>

### 23<sup>rd</sup> November

'To ensure children get home before the black-out the afternoon playtime has been given up and school dismissed at 3.50' notes the Head of Stacey Infants'.

The Red Army completely surrounds the Germans in Stalingrad. From now on German troops will have to fight without reinforcements and any supplies of ammunition, food or medicine...<sup>479</sup>

### 24<sup>th</sup> November

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<sup>476</sup> Allensbank Girls' & St. Joseph's Infants'.

<sup>477</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.105.

<sup>478</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, pp.27,28,30.

<sup>479</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.105.

`Dr. Gibbs was at Grangetown Nursery today. She recommends that the children have hot cocoa for tea now during the winter and that they have stewed apples or prunes for tea once a week instead of cheese sandwiches. Also cod liver oil twice a day instead of once'.<sup>480</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> November

At St. Peter's `Hester Kelly, who had been to the ceremony of the Installation of the Lord Mayor, Councillor James Griffiths, wrote an essay which was sent to the City Hall today'. [For many years it has been the practice in Cardiff for the Head Boy or Girl of every Elementary and High School to attend the annual installation ceremony of the Lord Mayor. They are then invited to submit an essay on the occasion...]

A girl at Clarence Mixed is excluded for scabies. At Crofts Street the Head sends a report on 'a mentally retarded child' to the School Medical Officer.

26<sup>th</sup> November

At Hywel Dda Mixed `In accordance with Circular...`Thanksgiving Day' was celebrated at school this morning by a service in the Hall. The children sang the `Battle Hymn of the Republic' after which the Head Teacher gave an address on the `Pilgrim Fathers and the origin of Thanksgiving Day'. Severn Girls' sends a congratulatory telegram to the American Consulate.

Mr. V.H. Jones of Albany Boys', a conscientious objector, is called up for National Service with the Fire Brigade.

30<sup>th</sup> November

At Splott Infants' the average attendance for the month is 199, or 71.59% and the Head records `The epidemic of measles has seriously affected the attendance again'.

At Llanishen `School dinners began. Six children taken to Rhydypenau Canteen'.

8<sup>th</sup> December

A pupil at Radnor Girls' is excluded as `scabies or impetigo is suspected' and `examinations are continuing according to plan. Some very good work has been done during the term but this shows room still for improvement which I hope will follow as a result of quieter nights and steadier days'.

Allensbank Girls' has an `exhibition of calendars and articles made in Handicraft lessons – also knitted garments made by the senior girls for `Our Ship''.

11<sup>th</sup> December

Radnor Girls' raises £1. 5. 0. for Dr. Barnado's and a further £1. 7. 0. for the `Prisoners of War Fund'.

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<sup>480</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

14<sup>th</sup> December

The Head of Marlborough Girls' records that 'A 'Bring & Buy' sale of books, games etc. among the children realised £5 which is being sent to Lady Cripps for the children of China'.

16<sup>th</sup> December

The pupils of Radnor Girls' have today posted a letter to Captain Dixon formerly of the *Barrwhin* and the School's record contribution to the Infirmary Fund is £27. 11. 4. Grangetown Boys' has collected £13. 16. 0. for the Infirmary and Hywel Dda Mixed £9 15. 0. Severn Girls' total is £44. 8. 0. and St. Alban's Infants' collect £2. 10. 6.<sup>481</sup> In all, the schools of Cardiff have raised £952. 6. 3.<sup>482</sup>

At Whitchurch Boys' 'A little boy in Standard 4, Montague Edwards, accidentally sustained an injury this morning during an Art test. The scissors which he was using became loose, and in trying to grasp the loose part, the sharp end punctured his left leg, severing an artery...'

A Christmas Party is held at Allensbank Girls' 'arranged by the newly formed Parents' Association'.

18<sup>th</sup> December

Cardiff's schools close for the Christmas holiday. The Head of St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton records 'Attendance has been very poor for several weeks. Much of it is due entirely to neglect and carelessness on the part of the parents'.

At Cathays High for Boys' Miss Hammond, the temporary Spanish Mistress, resigns as she is joining the ATS and Mr. Young, who has been suspended all term for being a Conscientious Objector, now sees his contract terminated.

25<sup>th</sup> December

The German people are told that their troops are hanging on bravely in Stalingrad. A propaganda 'spin' sees a false radio link-up with German troops to boost morale. In reality the Red Army is bearing down on the German troops and it broadcasts a remorseless message to the surviving Germans in the city: Against a chilling backdrop of a ticking clock a stark message, in German, is repeated all day long - 'Every seven seconds another German dies in Russia...' On this day alone 1,500 Nazi troops will die of frostbite at Stalingrad...<sup>483</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> December

At Whitchurch Mixed the 'evacuees were entertained by the Whitchurch Welfare Committee at this school today from 2 to 5.30'.

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<sup>481</sup> St. Alban's Infants' 27<sup>th</sup> November 1942.

<sup>482</sup> Elementary Education (School Management) Sub-Committee, 5<sup>th</sup> February 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.80.

<sup>483</sup> *The World at War; Stalingrad* (London: Thames Television International, 1973).

4<sup>th</sup> January

`Miss L. Sparkes, who has been teaching in the Reception Area (Pengenfordd) since 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1941, resumed duties this morning' records the Head of St. Paul's Mixed. Similarly, Miss Poolman of St. Francis' Mixed returns from Bargoed where she's been teaching since June 1941, Miss Nesta Thomas returns to Herbert Thompson Infants' after working in a Reception Area since October 1941 and Miss M.J.Jones returns to Allensbank Infants' after a year in the Rhondda.

'During the holidays a start was made at erecting a Water Tank in the playground to contain 22,000 gallons of water, by order of the ARP Authorities' records the Head of St. Alban's Mixed. Under the National Service Act Mrs. E.H. Ready is directed to start work as a supply teacher at the school.

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton, because 'It was necessary to promote children in the lower classes, as a result there are sixty-seven in the top class, the lower portion being taken, part of the time, by the Head Teacher'.

Schools receive a Circular about the 'City of Cardiff Book Drive from January 9<sup>th</sup> to January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Children are asked to bring at least five books each to help in this drive. These books will be placed in three categories:

- (a) Books for the Services.
- (b) Books to re-stock Public Libraries.
- (c) Books for repulping and manufacture into vital war materials'.<sup>484</sup>

Preparations are being made to accommodate a 'Nursery Class' at Court Infants'.

Three boys are excluded from Whitchurch Mixed 'one suffering from impetigo and two from scabies'.

Mr. J. McCarthy returns to Herbert Thompson Boys' as 'he has been discharged from the Army for health reasons'.

7<sup>th</sup> January

'Twenty-six evacuees, accompanied by Mr. Nunn, visited the pantomime at the *New Theatre*, Cardiff, this afternoon' records the Head of Radyr.

11<sup>th</sup> January

At Viriamu Jones 'Five sacks of books were taken away today. They represented a week's collection by the boys'.

12<sup>th</sup> January

Two boys are punished at Herbert Thompson 'for going through Francis Williams' pockets and robbing him of his sweets' coupons'.<sup>485</sup>

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<sup>484</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>485</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys'.

Roath Boys' collects 2,000 books for 'Cardiff Book Week'.

13<sup>th</sup> January

At Gladstone Girls', where the target is 3,500 books, ten per pupil, 'a very good response has already been made'.

14<sup>th</sup> January

As the Mobile Shower Unit leaves Clarence Mixed it demolishes part of the school wall.

William and Gordon Crocker are absent from Grangetown Boys' on two weeks' holiday at the Western Super Mare Rotary Holiday Home.<sup>486</sup>

'The Captain of our ship, the *SS Rosario* paid us a very welcome visit this afternoon' records the Head of Gladstone Girls', 'Captain Morgan presented the School with a very handsome tray. The girls presented Captain Morgan with £7 for benefits for his crew'.

18<sup>th</sup> January

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular stating 'that those teachers paid through the Post Office should be asked to have salaries paid through a Bank'.<sup>487</sup>

Miss Grant returns to St. Mary's Junior Mixed, Bute Terrace, after working in Aberdare since last September.

19<sup>th</sup> January

Twenty boxes of sweets and thirty toys from the 'War Relief Society, USA' are distributed at Allensbank Infants' to 'those children who have lost their fathers by enemy action, and whose fathers are serving overseas'.

21<sup>st</sup> January

Miss Cronin, a teacher at St. Mary's Infants' in Canton, 'is sent for, news being received that her brother has been killed in action'. Pilot Officer Con Cronin had been the Geography Master at St. Illtyd's before volunteering for the RAF early in 1940.<sup>488</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> January

'During the fortnight ending today' notes the Head of Radnor Boys' 'the boys have collected 11,420 books'. Hawthorn Mixed collects 10,391 books, an average of 43 books per pupil, 455 of them coming out of school stock. Roath Girls' raises 6,840 books. Grangetown Girls' collects 5,249 books. The girls at St. Peter's collect over 5,000 books and the Head records that whilst the target for Cardiff was 500,000 books, no fewer than 630,000 have been collected.<sup>489</sup> Radnor Girls' raises 4,422 books and the girls of Marlborough collect 3,088 'as well as many periodicals and magazines'. Gladstone Infants'

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<sup>486</sup> See entry made on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1942.

<sup>487</sup> St. Patrick's Infants'.

<sup>488</sup> *History of the House*, p.58 & *The Illtydian*, Vol.16, No.1, Christmas 1943, p.19.

<sup>489</sup> St. Peter's Girls'.

collects 1,000 books and Tredegarville 500.<sup>490</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> January

School dinners begin at Heathfield House: 'They are delivered in large containers and served hot – 101 girls and two teachers had dinner today'.

28<sup>th</sup> January

Miss Driscoll, another teacher from St. Mary's Infants', Canton, 'has been taken to the Isolation Hospital – she has a 'carrier' germ'.

1<sup>st</sup> February

New hours are introduced at Radyr: 'From today the morning and afternoon sessions will be as follows – 9.15 -12.15, 1.45 - 4.15 pm'.

2<sup>nd</sup> February

Against the orders of Hitler that they fight to the last man, the surviving German forces at Stalingrad finally surrender. 'In all the Battle of Stalingrad may have cost the Germans as many as one and a half million men killed, wounded, missing and prisoner, nearly a quarter of their strength on the eastern front'. For many it will prove the turning point in the war against Nazi Germany.<sup>491</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> February

'Mrs. E. Powell was struck on the head by an inkwell thrown by Oswald Taylor. She suffered some shock, but carried on' records the Head of Kitchener.

8<sup>th</sup> February

'Mrs. Edith Powell is absent this morning. A medical certificate was received, indicating nervous debility as the nature, and one week at least as the duration of her illness'.

The Head of Roath Boys' records 'The sirens sounded the Alert and All Clear at 11am. This covered about four minutes - in order to test the sirens. An Emergency Practice was carried out...the whole school was cleared promptly and in good order. 'Shelter Boys' went to the three shelters; 'Home Boys' remained in the Yard. The three shelters were full (about 180 boys in all). Ventilation is bad in these places'.

Mrs. Bishop, teaching at Windsor-Clive, is granted a week's leave of absence without pay because her husband is home on leave. Miss Field, teaching at Cathays High for Boys', has leave without pay 'to get married'.

9<sup>th</sup> February

Because no teacher is willing to accompany thirty senior pupils from Grangetown Boys' on a fortnight's camp at Porthcawl the offer is retracted by the Director of Education.<sup>492</sup>

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<sup>490</sup> Gladstone Infants', 20<sup>th</sup> January 1942.

<sup>491</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.105.

<sup>492</sup> See also entry for 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1943.

11<sup>th</sup> February

Clarence Infants' admits a boy, almost eight years old, who 'has been running the streets for two years and does not know his alphabet'.

12<sup>th</sup> February

At Whitchurch Mixed 'A fire broke out in the Domestic Science centre at about 12.30 today. While Mrs. James, the Domestic Science teacher was in the bedroom of the centre, a newly fitted blackout curtain must have been blown over a gas stove and ignited. Mrs. James took prompt action by closing all the windows with the result that only two curtains were destroyed, the flames being extinguished by members of the staff using a stirrup pump'.

15<sup>th</sup> February

The seventeen evacuees remaining at Whitchurch Boys' begin receiving a daily free pint of milk.

'Wordsworth Avenue Nursery opened today...this nursery is to be open from 7am – 7pm. Twenty children were sent for to start today and seventeen arrived, four arrived before 8am and were given breakfast'.<sup>493</sup>

Because the number of evacuees from Howard Gardens Boys' has fallen at Pentre Secondary School, Mr. R.W. Lewis returns to Cardiff.<sup>494</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> February

At Llanishen 'Air Raid Alarm – 3.15 – 3.40. All children to shelters. Two stirrup pump teams ready'.

18<sup>th</sup> February

'Desmond Harris, Standard 4, of Hawthorn Road West, met with a serious accident in the school playground. He fell when swinging from a beam of the playground shelter and damaged the skull. He was sent home with two prefects at 2.15 pm' records the Head of Hawthorn Mixed.

19<sup>th</sup> February

At Gladstone Boys' the 'Siren sounded 3.10 pm. ARP drill carried out. Raiders passed signal 3.40. Work resumed'.

Following representations from the Head Teachers of Highfields and Roath Infants' Cardiff's General Education Committee recommends 'the erection of an additional shelter for fifty children at both of these schools...'<sup>495</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> February

Cardiff's Director of Education forwards a letter sent by Mr. R.A. Butler, President of the Board of Education, to all schools. In it he 'advises women teachers to render National Service by remaining in the schools'.<sup>496</sup>

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<sup>493</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>494</sup> Secondary Education Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.85.

<sup>495</sup> Ibid, p.89.

<sup>496</sup> St. Francis' Infants'.

25<sup>th</sup> February

Hester Kelly, Head Girl of St. Peter's, 'was invited to take tea with the Lord Mayor...when she was also presented with three book prizes for her essay on the installation...'

Hywel Dda Infants receives 'one pair of baby's shoes from the British War Relief Society, USA, for distribution'.

1<sup>st</sup> March

Dulwich House Hospital School celebrates St. David's Day. The children 'wear paper daffodils which they have made in school during the previous week'.

The Taffs Well Cooking Depot is transferred to Cardiff's Education Committee.<sup>497</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> March

The Headmistress of Radnor Girls' records 'I am not satisfied with the discipline at the Canteen and have issued an order that the teacher on duty drops tools at 11.45 to enable her to be on the premises at 12 before the children arrive'.

230 boys at Herbert Thompson are immunized against diphtheria.

5<sup>th</sup> March

At Lansdowne 'Eighteen of the senior girls visited the Czecho-Slovakian Exhibition at the Museum, Cathays Park'.

Reflecting the continuing decline in the number of evacuees at Whitchurch Mixed 'Only one candidate presented himself for the Metropolitan Examination for Junior Technical, Commercial and Art Schools'.

9<sup>th</sup> March

The proud Head of the Boys' School in Metal Street records 'on Saturday last the School Association Football Team completed their matches in the Third Division of the Schools' Football League. The team was unbeaten throughout the season. Great credit is due to Mr. R.E. Jenkins for the work he has done with the team'.

10<sup>th</sup> March

At Ynyslwyd Central Mixed in the Cynon Valley 'Mrs. Chandler, Halt Rd. Rhigos, visitor for Cardiff Evacuees now in Aberdare, called at the school. She left a gift for one Cardiff Evacuee, Harry Baker, Form 2c, from the War Relief Society, USA'.<sup>498</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> March

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<sup>497</sup> Elementary Education (Special Services) Sub-Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> March 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.97.

<sup>498</sup> Ynyslwyd Central Mixed.

'Miss Anne Elizabeth Morgan is transferred to the Wartime Nursery at Baden Powell School for the period of the war' records the Head of Albany Infants'.

18<sup>th</sup> March

At Stacey Boys' notice received that the period January 4<sup>th</sup> – January 17<sup>th</sup> 1944 has been allocated for this school at Porthcawl School Camp. Twenty boys can attend – charge 5/- per week except for children receiving free meals or milk'.

19<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff's General Education Committee is told by the City Engineer that in order to bring the school shelters up to the approved standard, strengthening work would have to be carried out on 247 shelters and 'that 'Portal' frames were needed for the internal shelters at the Howard Gardens, Splotlands and Adamsdown Schools'. The Committee recommends that the work be done and also sanctions the building of an air-raid shelter 'to accommodate fifty children at the Vachell Road, Ely, War-time Day Nursery'.<sup>499</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> March

Professor R.H.Tawney, guest speaker at the National Union of Teacher's Higher Education Section (Glamorgan) Annual General Meeting at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, 'pleaded strongly for a new Education Act in which the school leaving age would be raised to fifteen without exemptions, and to sixteen within a limited period after the end of the war, secondary education should be given free to all children in schools, multilateral in character, to allow for variety of interests and ability. The present inadequacy of Nursery Schools should be remedied by making their provision obligatory upon all Education Authorities. The wholesale reduction in the size of classes was an urgent necessity in the interest of true education...'<sup>500</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> March

'The Baden Powell Nursery, Tremorfa, opened today. Twenty children were sent for and seventeen came...'<sup>501</sup>

The Head of Windsor-Clive makes two entries. The first concerns 'School Feeding. Canteen opened for supply of meals. 150 children sat down to dinner. Everything worked smoothly'. The second involves two named boys from St. Francis' Mixed who 'forcibly entered classroom 3 in the first hutment and stole two National Savings Cards. These cards were taken to the Grand Avenue Post Office and changed for cash. Police called in and boys charged'.

24<sup>th</sup> March

Hywel Dda Infants' receives a 'letter about an Empire Day Collection for the Tobacco Fund amongst Schoolchildren. The unit of collection suggested is 1d. A parcel of 50 cigarettes, duty free, to be sent to Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen over-seas or in hospital – or a smaller quantity, duty free, to RAF Bomber and Fighter Stations in Great Britain'.

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<sup>499</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.111.

<sup>500</sup> GRO, D/D Xul 2/2, Minutes of the Higher Education Committee, NUT (Glamorgan).

<sup>501</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

29<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff's schools receive notification of the capitation allowances for 1943-44:

Boys', Girls' & Mixed Schools	6/- per head.
Senior Schools	10/- per head.
Infants' Schools	4/- per head. <sup>502</sup>

31<sup>st</sup> March

'Mrs. D. Lea Banner of the King Edward V11 National Memorial Association' visits Gladstone Girls' and lectures on Tuberculosis and 'Infant Welfare'.

Mr. D. Jones, a Lansdowne Boys' teacher, is transferred to South Church Street School. He is replaced by Miss Margaret Freeman, an uncertificated teacher.

1<sup>st</sup> April

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular concerning the opening of playground gates when there is an alert outside school hours to allow the general public to take cover in school shelters.<sup>503</sup> The Head of Lansdowne Infants' points out that as her school has a room reserved for ARP workers the doors and gates are never closed. This has been an ARP Centre since September 1939'.

2<sup>nd</sup> April

'The Director reported the receipt of Board of Education Circular 1626, dated 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1943, setting out their proposals with regard to the staffing of Elementary Schools. In an accompanying communication the Board stated that for the year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1943, the number of teachers who may be appointed by the LEA had been fixed at sixteen, subject to the Board being furnished with an assurance that the Authority have suspended, for the duration of the war, the operation of any rules under which the service of a teacher is terminated on marriage. The Board further state that no teachers may be appointed under this notification until the assurance has been given. The Director was instructed to communicate with the Board...pointing out the present difficulties of the Committee with regard to the staffing of schools, including the supply of teachers for the War-time Nursery Classes, and asking the Board to increase the quota of teachers who may be appointed as from the 1<sup>st</sup> August next'.<sup>504</sup>

At Cathays High for Boys' the head notes laconically 'Mr.Batt absent [this] afternoon following heart attack in the morning'.

6<sup>th</sup> April

At Allensbank Girls' 'Captain Sheasby, Master of 'Our Ship', *Normanville*, visited the school'. Next door at the Infants' 'A banana, sent from North Africa by the father of one of our children, was today raffled in aid of Red Cross Funds and made £2. 10. 0.'

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<sup>502</sup> Roath Park Boys'.

<sup>503</sup> St. Mary's Senior Mixed, Bute Terrace.

<sup>504</sup> Elementary Education (School Management) Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, pp.134-5.

8<sup>th</sup> April

'After many years of agitating for it, the authorities have now seen fit to commence work on a second exit for this school. It is now the fourth year of the war! The school was opened in 1895!' records the Head of Roath Boys'. [The cast-iron fire escape is still there]

12<sup>th</sup> April

A Wartime Nursery opens at Hywel Dda Infants'. There's a teacher in charge and two trained nursery assistants as well as two assistants, one of whom works from 7 am – 2 pm, and the other from 12 – 7 pm. Three probationers are also employed, one in each room. Sixty children will eventually attend.<sup>505</sup>

Mr. J.E. Jenkins leaves Viriamu Jones `to take an appointment at the Technical College for the duration of the war'. He begins to train RAF Air Crew there in radio work.<sup>506</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> April

The Head of Whitchurch Girls' reports on the second day of `feeding' at the Methodist Chapel. The day before the container of meals had been mis-directed to the Senior School `with the result that the girls' first experience was disappointing as very few had dinner and sweet while some hungry mortals had bread and gravy (I'd been obliged to go out to buy a loaf). Today insufficient pudding was supplied... There is a great need for a hot plate as the dinners are cold when they are partaken of'.

It's the end of Whitchurch Boys' `Wings for Victory' week. The £462. 15. 0. collected `reflects great credit upon parents, pupils and my excellent staff'.

14<sup>th</sup> April

'The School Nurse examined thirty boys born in 1934-5 this afternoon' records the Head of Herbert Thompson who goes on to explain 'this is a war expediency caused by the shortage of doctors'.

Hywel Dda Infants' learns that its target for the forthcoming `Wings for Victory' week is £75 - `the cost of a full tank' of fuel.

[Back in October 1940 the Germans had forced 500,000 Polish Jews into the Warsaw Ghetto. Most of these have by now been murdered at Treblinka but the survivors rise up against the Germans and bitter fighting begins...](#)<sup>507</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> April

At Marlborough Girls' 'As a result of a Concert and a Raffle for a doll's bed given at Albany Road School by our Standards 3 & 4 and Forms 1, 2, 3 & 4, the sum of £4 was sent by Miss Bancroft to the Red Cross Prisoners of War Parcels Fund'. At Lansdowne Boys' 'A public concert was held in the School this evening. The boys provided the whole of the programme, and the

<sup>505</sup> Hywel Dda Nursery Log, 5<sup>th</sup> September 1949. This is held at Hywel Dda Infants'.

<sup>506</sup> Technical College Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> November 1944. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.23.

<sup>507</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, p.158.

proceeds are to be devoted to the School Wireless Fund'.

22<sup>nd</sup> April

'School closed at noon for the Easter Vacation. This is the end of Marlborough Road Girls' as a separate school. It has been decided that as and from May 3<sup>rd</sup> (the date schools re-open after Easter) our school shall be amalgamated as follows:-

Standard 4 and Forms 1, 2, 3 & 4 with Albany Road Girls' School.

Standards 2 & 3 with Roath Girls' School.

Standard 1 with Marlborough Road Infants' School.

The staff will be dispersed as follows. Misses Fisher, Bancroft and Davies to join Albany Road Girls' Staff. Misses Beavan and Myerson to join Marlborough Road Infants' School Staff. D.M. Thorne to join the staff of Roath Girls' School.

[Signed] Dorothy M. Thorne, Acting Head Teacher'.

The last pupil to be evacuated from Court Girls' leaves. In all ninety-one of the girls have gone to safer areas since July 1940.<sup>508</sup>

Miss Glenys Williams, a teacher from Essex who has been working at Tongwynlais since June 1940, 'completed duty here this afternoon...She is now being transferred to Wiltshire on similar duty'.

Mrs. Macdonnell returns to Windsor Clive after twenty-one months at Pentre in the Rhondda.<sup>509</sup>

The number of evacuees billeted in Cardiff Rural District has fallen to 298, of whom 183 are unaccompanied children. Its Chief Billeting and Welfare Officer reports that, as directed, he has undertaken an enquiry amongst these children to ascertain how many of them 'are not in communication either directly or indirectly with their parents, from which it appeared that:-

102	hear frequently
25	hear occasionally
38	hear seldom
17	hear never
1	is an orphan'.

He also reports 'that he has now received a communication from the Birmingham Education Authority accepting responsibility for the provision of boots and clothing in the cases of children deserted by their parents'.<sup>510</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> May

Three Marlborough Boys' classes are absorbed into Roath Boys' and their three teachers join the staff. One of them is a Mr. George Thomas of Tonypany who had started at Marlborough in 1922.

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<sup>508</sup> Court Road Girls' Admissions Register.

<sup>509</sup> Pentre Girls, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1943.

<sup>510</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*. See also 25<sup>th</sup> March

3<sup>rd</sup> May

Clarence Infants' receives the news that six year old Terence Fyfe 'passed away during the Easter Vacation suffering with meningitis'.

Albany Boys' records the official transfer of two classes and their teachers from Marlborough. Downstairs at the Girls' seventy-one Marlborough pupils are absorbed.

At Lansdowne Infants' 'Though there is a waiting list of over sixty, only nine new children over five years old have been admitted. The reason for this is that ARP still hold one large room in the school'.

5<sup>th</sup> May

Clarence Infants' reports that six year old Billie Jones has been taken to hospital with diphtheria and pneumonia whilst five year old Sonia Pound has been hospitalised with scarlet fever.

At Highfields, despite the opposition of parents, the end comes abruptly. The Acting Head notes 'Received and distributed Notice to Parents from the Director of Education:

'I have to inform you that the Board of Education has agreed to the proposal of the Authority to reorganise the Llandaff Council School by the transfer to the Hawthorn Council School of those children in classes above Standard 2, ie. children of nine years of age and upwards.

The Education Committee has decided to carry out the proposed reorganisation on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May and I shall be glad if you will arrange for the attendance of your child/children at the Hawthorn Council School (or other such school as you may select) on that date'.

7<sup>th</sup> May

At St. Peter's Girls' 'Several exhibits were sent to the Jackson Hall to be shown during 'Wings for Victory' Week. The following were exhibits from this school.

- 1 Doll, entirely hand made and dressed.
- 2 Sets of knitted table mats.
- 1 Patchwork cushion cover, hexagonal shapes.
- 1 Pair of knitted reins.
- 1 Raffia circular shopping bag.
- 1 Sheet of Lino-cuts.
- 1 Sheet of aeroplanes drawn and coloured.
- 2 Sheets of coloured designs.
- 1 Book of needlework edgings'.

Schools receive a Circular about Cardiff's 'Wings for Victory' Week'. They are asked to fix their objective at £50,000. The target set for Baden Powell Infants' is £250 for a 'Wireless for a Bomber'.

At a meeting of Cardiff's Elementary Education (School Management) Committee the Director reports on clarification received from the Board of

Education. The quota of sixteen teachers for Cardiff for the coming school year `excluded teachers appointed to Special Schools, Nursery Schools, War-time Nurseries, Secondary or Technical Schools. In view of this, the Committee confirmed the action of the Director in giving an assurance to the Board...that the Authority have suspended, for the duration of the War, the operation of their regulations under which the service of women teachers is terminated on marriage'.<sup>511</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> May

Hawthorn Mixed `Admitted twenty-one children from Llandaff Council School on the closing of the Senior Department there'. Another ten Highfields pupils are admitted at Llandaff City Mixed where the Head notes that their old school `is now a junior school'. Hawthorn Infants' takes charge of the infant class of twenty-eight children which remains at Highfields and their teacher, Miss Enid Jones, together with requisitions and stock.

The Head of Roath Boys' records that 'since last Friday evening the weather has been most severe; very heavy rain and gales. The attendance is down to 76% today. Probably the lack of good footwear has something to do with it'.

11<sup>th</sup> May

'Following the diptheria epidemic' the children at Roath are immunized against the disease.<sup>512</sup>

At St. Patrick's Mixed the 'Mobile Shower Unit visited the school on Tuesday and will visit every fortnight from now on'.

`Howard Gardens High School for Girls...The Headmistress reported that Miss Ruth Jones, Physical Training Mistress, had married during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1943, and that it was her desire to remain on the staff of the school. In view of the instructions of the Board of Education regarding the retention of married women...the Committee decided to retain the services of Miss Jones...in a temporary capacity...'<sup>513</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> May

St. Peter's sends '10/- to the Overseas Tobacco Fund. Children's collection'.

Twelve senior girls from Allensbank, accompanied by the Headmistress and another teacher, visit the *Normanville*.

[All German and Italian forces in North Africa surrender to the Allies.](#)<sup>514</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> May

A 'Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund' is started at St. Alban's Infants'.

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<sup>511</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.154.

<sup>512</sup> Roath Park Infants'.

<sup>513</sup> Higher Education (High Schools' Staff Appointments) Sub-Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.163.

<sup>514</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.22.

The senior girls from Radnor Road `are at Conway Road this afternoon practising for May 22<sup>nd</sup> and the `Wings for Victory' ceremony on the Castle Green. The school is decorated and every effort will be made next week to reach our target of £250'. The girls of St. Peter's sell 'Badges and Programmes' for the campaign.

The Head of St. Fagan's reports that between 3<sup>rd</sup> May and today `In connection with the Book Recovery and Salvage Scheme of the Cardiff Rural District Council, the school was used as a Receiving Depot. Total books received for the Forces – 600. For salvage – 600'.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> May

The Germans finally crush the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto where they have systematically torched every building. 'During the fighting more than 56,000 Jews have been burned alive, shot as they emerged from the burning buildings, or rounded up and deported to Treblinka'. Those who have survived are sent immediately to the gas chambers...<sup>515</sup>

#### 17<sup>th</sup> May

One of the teachers at Albany Infants' is given the afternoon off to act as a supervisor at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition for 'Wings for Victory Week'. The Head at Hawthorn Mixed records that the target set for his school is £200.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> May

At Metal Street Boys' `It is with regret that I record that the school suffered severe damage during an air raid last night. The raid started at about 2.45 am this morning and continued for an hour. During this time the roof was hit and penetrated by several incendiary bombs, three of which started fires. The fire in the corner of Room 5 was not brought under control owing to a difficulty with the water supply and spread and ignited the whole roof. The Fire Service succeeded in extinguishing the flames before daylight. On examination I find that the roof is entirely destroyed but owing to the efforts of the fire-watchers and Fire Service the floor and furniture suffered only slight damage. The floor is covered to a depth of six inches with broken tiles etc. and water and fire damage has destroyed about 20% of the stock. The roof on the private room is the only one which remains. Except for severe water damage the Girls' Department on the ground floor is undamaged. An incendiary which fell in the Infants' Department was extinguished.

I am happy to state that although a number of high explosive bombs fell near the school no pupils or their parents were killed or injured. All members of the staff and their families are also safe.

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Phillips, Inspectors of Schools, visited the school this morning and advised me to close for the rest of the week.

During the height of the raid some Old Boys entered the burning building and succeeded in saving from destruction various portable property including many photographs'.

At Birchgrove Infants' 'Several windows are broken. The floors and desks in

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<sup>515</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, p.158.

the classrooms and hall were covered with splintered glass which has since been cleared'. Only five children turn up in the morning and four in the afternoon. At Splott Infants' a 'huge stone has come through the roof of the baby room causing a large hole and displacing a rafter'. For the third time the Headmistress of Allensbank Infants' reports bomb damage to the school in the form of a hole in the roof and ceiling of Room 1 and a broken desk. At Whitchurch Mixed 'eight pieces of reinforced glass were damaged by shrapnel' and 'the door of the gymnasium at the boys' end was jammed and slightly damaged'. At Clarence Mixed 'much damage was done in Bute Road and other streets. Some streets are closed owing to the presence of UXBs. Number of children present this morning = fifty five or 36.18%. Damage to building – twelve shattered windows and many dislodged slates on the coal shed and lavatories'.

At Heathfield House 'many children are absent from school. It was learnt that a child in 1S, Mary Dickinson, had been killed [along with two other children of the family.<sup>516</sup>] Soon after mid-day, police instructions were received to evacuate the school, on account of a time-bomb discovered in the Parade. No school was held in the afternoon'.

The Head of Roath Girls' reports 'Miss Hughes was unable to remain in school for she was suffering from shock after the early morning Raid, when her home was blitzed. Mavis Rees of 12 Penylan Road [a Marlborough girl and an evacuee] was seriously injured and taken to hospital. Later she died as the result of burns and shock. The pupils of her class sent a wreath and a letter of condolence was sent to the nearest relative, an aunt'.

The Head of Albany Boys' 'sent Mr. Bale home because his house had been wrecked'. Mr. H. L. Davies, a Gladstone Boys' teacher is absent for the same reason as is Mrs. Harris, a teacher at Allensbank Girls' and Mrs. Colbert of St. Francis' Mixed.

At Kitchener 'Following the severe air raid during the night, two teachers are absent and one of those present is suffering from shock. About 25% of the pupils were present. After a telephone consultation with Mr. W. Thomas, Inspector of Schools, the school was closed for the day'. At Whitchurch Boys' the Head 'asked the staff not to 'overdrive' during the early lessons, but to allow the children to quietly settle down, and if any of them desired a little sleep, to allow them to drop off – quite a number did. Mrs. Manley, who had been out all night doing ambulance duty, was allowed to return home at 9.30 to rest. She returned for the afternoon session. Mr. Lawrence, who had been on police duty all night, was allowed to leave at 11.30 – plainly unfit'.

Birchgrove Mixed is being used as a Rest Centre as are Gladstone and Marlborough Infants'.

At Lansdowne Infants' attendance is poor because 'many homes in the

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<sup>516</sup> *The Heather*, October 1943, p.32. The Annual Magazine of Heathfield House, this and other editions are held by the Sisters of Providence of the Institute of Charity, Loughborough.

neighbourhood have been destroyed. Some of the children are homeless'. At Tredegarville attendance is down to 51.4%, at Lansdowne Boys' it's 61% and at St. Alban's Infants' it's 68.5%.

Cathays High is closed 'by the Civil Defence Authorities owing to the proximity of unexploded bombs...'

Alec, John and Thomas Cockerel of 31 Allensbank Road leave Gladstone Boys' for Moorland Road because their house has been 'bombed out'.<sup>517</sup>

This was a very well planned raid 'plotted by a Nazi who knew his Cardiff'. German bombers first rendezvoused north of Cardiff then followed the railway lines from Whitchurch and Rhiwbina into the heart of the city. Because the crews of the anti-aircraft guns were away attending a competition, the bombers were able to fly at low level and use their machine guns.

Houses in Ton-yr-Ywen Avenue were damaged and four people were killed when bombs destroyed their houses in Pantbach Road and Caegwyn Road. Another seven were killed when four houses in St. Agnes Road, Heath, were destroyed by a landmine.

Another stick of bombs landed in Allensbank Road, severely damaging a row of houses and the Heath Hotel. Another landmine hit Cathays Cemetery and sent a massive shower of gravestones and statuary high into the nearby streets.

In Penylan Road five people, including a nine year old evacuee, were killed when a bomb hit their house.

In the city centre two firewatchers were killed in Charles Street and three sisters aged between four and fourteen were killed in Frederick Street. Three platforms of the General Station were temporarily put out of action, Bute Street Station was closed for several days and two men were killed when a high explosive bomb struck the ingot stripping mill of the Guest Keen steelworks.

The final casualties came when the Germans jettisoned their remaining bombs over Canton and, amongst others, four terraced houses in York Street were destroyed.

The raid had lasted for just eighty-three minutes. No more than fifty aircraft were involved but widespread damage had been caused. Over 4,000 houses and 140 shops were destroyed or damaged and another forty-five people had been killed and fifty seriously injured.<sup>518</sup>

It was the last time that bombs would fall on Cardiff.

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<sup>517</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>518</sup> GRO, Evans, *Cardiff Air Raid Wardens*, p.7.

In all the bombing had destroyed 600 buildings and damaged 30,000 others. 355 people had been killed and 502 seriously injured.<sup>519</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> May

At Kitchener `The school was re-opened at the ordinary time. It is to be reported that two members of the staff lost their lives in the Air Raid. Mr. Herbert A. Noble, First Assistant, and Miss Megan Williams. Mrs. Lewis (supply) was also absent having been bombed out and suffering from shock. About 60% of the pupils were present'.

Amongst the fatalities was twelve year old Mary Dickinson of 28 Frederick Street and a pupil at Cardiff High for Girls. It would have been her birthday next week.<sup>520</sup> In all six children of school age were killed in the raid and a further eleven had been admitted to hospitals suffering from injuries.<sup>521</sup>

Hawthorn Mixed is closed to children as it is being used as a Rest Centre. Birchgrove Mixed re-opens but only 111 children turn up in the morning and 145 in the afternoon. Because the time-bomb in the Parade was removed during the night Heathfield House re-opens but sixty children are absent in the morning.

Mrs. Gladys Healls, a teacher at Herbert Thompson Girls', leaves school after the morning session because her house was 'badly damaged' in the air raid.

At Metal Street Boys' the staff and senior boys `commenced to salvage as much as possible'.

At Gladstone Girls' the `attendance is still very poor owing to the fact that a number of children have been bombed out of their houses and are staying with friends or relatives elsewhere'.

20<sup>th</sup> May

Whitchurch Girls' has collected over 400 books so far this month for the Armed Forces.

'Leaflets regarding the scheme for the assistance with the harvest by High School pupils were distributed' at Heathfield House.

21<sup>st</sup> May

The Head of Clarence Infants' reports that since the raid the children have been nervous all week.

Mr. Amos E. Jones of Kitchener `represented the staff and scholars at the funeral of Miss Megan Williams this afternoon'.

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May

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<sup>519</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, pp.67-70.

<sup>520</sup> GRO, *Cardiff High for Girls Address Book*.

<sup>521</sup> General Education (War Emergency) Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> May 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.168.

This has been Cardiff's 'Wings for Victory' week. Savings are collected every day. Metal Street Infants' raises £25. 9. 6. Ninian Infants' collects £70. 10. 0. The pupils of St. Patrick's Infants' raise £76. 5. 0. whilst those of St. Mary's Juniors, Canton, asked to raise £30 – 'the cost of a Dinghy' – raise £78. 15. 0. Hawthorn Infants' collects £160. 6. 6., St. Monica's Infants' £160. 10. 0. The children of Splott Infants' raise £223. Moorland Boys' makes £237. 12. 6., St. Paul's Mixed £238. 4. 6. and Stacey Infants' £242. 10. 0. Gladstone Boys' collects £253. 9. 0. St. Alban's Mixed raises £257. 15. 0. Asked to raise £60, Allensbank Infants' collects £318. 6. 6. The total at Severn Girls' is £328. 17. 0., at Llanishen it is £401. 15. 0. and at Baden Powell Infants' it's £500. The £516. 17. 6. raised by Herbert Thompson Boys' is more than five times the target set. Grangetown Girls' collects £528 and the boys of Roath £568 which the Head thought 'an excellent effort'. £662. 2. 0. is collected by Radnor Infants' and £666 by St. Mary's Infants', Canton. Heathfield House raises £700, Gladstone Infants' £713. 1. 6. and Radnor Girls' £824. 16. 6. The children of Court Infants' manage to collect no less than £1,015. 12. 0. but at Roath Girls' the total is £1,254. 6. 6. and Mary Skinner, the Head Prefect, 'was the Guest Speaker for Children's Day at the Indicator Ceremony. She had the honour of being on the platform with Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC etc. who also spoke on this occasion'.

The girls of Howell's collect £12,282.<sup>522</sup>

In all, Cardiff's schools raise almost £67,755, an average per child of £2. 4. 2., which earns them an extra day's holiday in the summer.<sup>523</sup> The total amount raised by the city is £3,218,084.<sup>524</sup>

[Wing Commander Gibson had led the 'Dam Busters' raid against the Ruhr on the night of 16<sup>th</sup> May when 'Bouncing Bombs' had been used.](#)<sup>525</sup>

Cardiff's General Education Committee accepts tenders to construct two more air-raid shelters, one at the Vachell Road Nursery and one at Highfields.<sup>526</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> May

Saturday. The last of those bombed out in the raid leave Hawthorn Mixed. On Monday the school is 'closed for cleaning and disinfecting'.

Nine year old Patricia Armstrong, an evacuee from Woolwich, London, who is billeted in Morganstown, is killed by a train at the Gelynis Crossing.<sup>527</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> May

Empire Day services are held in schools across the city. At Radnor Girls' £1. 7. 6. is collected for the 'Empire Cigarette League'.

<sup>522</sup> *Howell's*, No.17, July 1943, p.16.

<sup>523</sup> Roath Park Boys' & Baden Powell Infants', 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1943.

<sup>524</sup> *The Illydian*, Vol.15, No.3, Midsummer 1943, p.166.

<sup>525</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.22.

<sup>526</sup> General Education (War Emergency) Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> May 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.169.

<sup>527</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 24<sup>th</sup> June 1943.

26<sup>th</sup> May

Metal Street Boys' re-opens `at Adamsdown this morning, in two rooms, one in the Infants' Department (Standards 1,2 & 3) and one in the Boys' Department (Standard 4 & Forms 1,2 & 3). I am grateful to the Adamsdown Headteachers for the most helpful attitude they have adopted'.

27<sup>th</sup> May

The girls of Metal Street are `allowed the use of two rooms at Adamsdown Girls' School' and so return to work. `A senior class from Cathays High School who have had a classroom and the staff room since 18<sup>th</sup> May have returned to their own school' records the Head of Allensbank Girls' as the unexploded bombs have been dealt with.<sup>528</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> May

`The Director reported that in consultation with the Head Teachers of the High Schools and a representative of the War Agricultural Committee, arrangements had been made for pupils...to assist local farmers in pea and bean picking...'<sup>529</sup>

31<sup>st</sup> May

Mr. Jack Williams retires from Metal Street Boys'. He `has been associated with this school for fifty two years; eight years as a pupil, four years as a Pupil Teacher, and forty years as an Assistant Master'.

The girls of Howell's record that their weekly savings since June 1940 amount to £10,530 whilst the total raised for National Savings is £25,329.<sup>530</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Tongwynlais `wrote to the Director of Education protesting against the far too frequent calls for teachers for temporary duty in neighbouring schools. During the last ten weeks I have teachers on temporary duty in other schools for five weeks. This has militated seriously against the successful working of this school and interfered considerably with the normal timetable'.

10<sup>th</sup> June

Thirty-seven fifth and sixth form girls from Heathfield House 'went to Bonvilston to do farm work on the Forestry Committee Nurseries. This is in accordance with the scheme of the Glamorgan War Agricultural Committee to obtain the help of High School pupils in the working of the farms. The girls, in charge of Miss Healy, were taken by a lorry which left the school at about 9.50. They will be brought back at about 6.30'.

A Concert is held at Radnor Girls' which raises £2. 11. 7. for the Red Cross.

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<sup>528</sup> Cathays High for Boys', entry dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 1943.

<sup>529</sup> Education Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.174.

<sup>530</sup> *Howell's*, No.17, July 1943, p.16.

11<sup>th</sup> June

In the Viriamu Jones garden `a first class job of the tomato plants has been done`.

14<sup>th</sup> June

Mr. Aneurin Davies, the History Teacher at Whitchurch Mixed, leaves for the Forces.

23<sup>rd</sup> June

The Headmistress of Allensbank Girls' records `girls and helpers ill after having dinner`.

24<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Albany Boys' reports `about thirty children and four staff have suffered from sickness and diarrhoea after eating school dinners yesterday`.

28<sup>th</sup> June

103 girls from Heathfield House go `to Lisvane to work on a farm`.

4<sup>th</sup> July

In the biggest tank battle the world has ever seen, German forces attack the Russians at Kursk. For Hitler it is the battle which will finally secure victory in the East, but the Russians have been preparing and are getting stronger by the day...<sup>531</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> July

Six boys, including two sets of brothers, are evacuated from Roath Boys' to Bargoed `at their parents' request`. For five of them it's their second evacuation.<sup>532</sup>

At Herbert Thompson `The School Canteen was opened today, when 202 children sat down to dinner. The children were drawn from the following Departments:

Herbert Thompson Boys'	67
Herbert Thompson Girls'	49
Herbert Thompson Infants'	60
Ely Council Mixed and Infants'	20
Fairwater Juniors'	6`.

6<sup>th</sup> July

The West Yard Nursery, Bute Street, opened yesterday. `Twenty-four children were sent for and sixteen came in. Two more have come in today and several other parents have called to say they are accepting the places offered`.<sup>533</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> July

At Heathfield House `£9.11.0. was received from Morgan Bros., Lisvane – the wages for the girls who picked beans on June 28<sup>th</sup>. [This works out at just

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<sup>531</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.124.

<sup>532</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>533</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

over 1/10 per pupil.]

8<sup>th</sup> July

Following a short illness Mr. F.L. Nunn, the evacuee teacher from London based at Radyr, 'died this morning at Glanely Hospital'.<sup>534</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> July

British and American forces land in Sicily.<sup>535</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> July

Radnor Boys' receives a booklet from the Education Office: 'How to Keep Well in Wartime'.

14<sup>th</sup> July

Once again some of the girls from Heathfield House are sent out to work on farms. Twenty-eight go to Lisvane, thirty to Sully and thirty-one to St. Mellons.

16<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Metal Street Infants' records 'Alert during the night – very few children in school this morning'.

20<sup>th</sup> July

Red Army forces win a decisive victory at Kursk. From now on the Germans will be in retreat on the Eastern Front...<sup>536</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> July

At Albany Boys' 'Owing to an 'alert' last night there is a big fall in the attendance this morning'.

23<sup>rd</sup> July

The Head of St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton records that the terminal exams have been completed: 'Results are, on the whole, quite satisfactory except in those cases where children have been irregular and unpunctual. There are far too many of these during the past year or even two'.

In order to accommodate the increasing number of pupils at Cardiff High for Boys Cardiff's Secondary Education Committee agrees to lease No.8, Wordsworth Avenue for three years.

'Arising out of a discussion on the present shortage of teaching staff and the difficulty in obtaining suitable applications for certain posts, it was decided to request the Director to communicate with the Board of Education as to the possibility of the Board permitting the Authority to engage teachers who have retired on pension...'<sup>537</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> July

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<sup>534</sup> He had been absent from school since 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

<sup>535</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.130.

<sup>536</sup> *Ibid*, p.124.

<sup>537</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, pp.231,233.

A Heathfield House `school camp for agricultural work at Cowbridge' begins. Thirty-five girls sleep in the gym of Cowbridge High School for Girls and spend three weeks picking peas and potatoes. On Saturdays their parents are allowed to visit.<sup>538</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Whitchurch Girls' complains that the `Dinners have not been appetising taking them as a whole: potatoes sodden, peas with grubs, cabbage has had slugs'.

28<sup>th</sup> July

Six pupils from Radnor Girls' are awarded prizes for their `perfect attendance during the year'.

29<sup>th</sup> July

At St. Alban's Mixed 'Mrs. Kenny resigned today. She has given forty-four years of faithful service in this school. To mark the event a series of presentations took place. The staff gave her a solid silver salver. The children and well-wishers presented her with a nest of tables and an electric table lamp. The boys of her class also gave her a case of groceries and a book. The girls, a statue of The Little Flower'.

At Radnor Girls' `War Savings Special Effort. Week's total = £23. 5. 0.'

The girls of Howell's note that since September 1942 their sale of foreign stamps has raised £77 for the Red Cross.<sup>539</sup>

Cardiff's Director of Education reports on a Circular from the Board of Education asking LEAs `to undertake an accelerated programme for the expansion of the school meals service. Under the new arrangements, no charge will be made to Authorities for any equipment for school kitchens and canteens ordered by them from the Ministry on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1943. Further, the Ministry of Works...will be prepared to supply, erect and equip complete kitchens, sculleries and canteens and so far as practicable, to carry out adaptations to school premises on the request of LEAs. These services also will be rendered...free of charge.

The Committee decided to recommend that an extension of the school meals service be made by the provision of School Kitchens in the Ely and Tremorfa districts each with a capacity of 2,000 meals daily...<sup>540</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> August

The Head of Kitchener records `School sports were held in Loudon Square Gardens in accordance with the Stay at Home Holidays Programme'. Attached to their Log is the programme for the `Cardiff Holidays-At-Home, Docks Area'. On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, as well as `children's sports' there's an open air children's tea party, a display by the Boys' Brigade and Dancing on the Green. On the 5<sup>th</sup> there's a `Baby Show', a fairground with free rides, a

<sup>538</sup> *The Heather*, October 1943, pp.23-5.

<sup>539</sup> *Howell's*, No.17, July 1943, p.17.

<sup>540</sup> Elementary Education (Special Services) Sub-Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.221.

display by the Girls' Life Brigade, a Cinema Show and more dancing. On the 6<sup>th</sup> there's another 'Children's Cinema Show' in the afternoon and, at 7 pm, another dance 'with Competitions and Spot Prizes'.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> September

During the summer holidays work has started on repairing the school roof at Metal Street.<sup>541</sup> The playgrounds of St. Paul's have also been resurfaced but the Head of the Mixed School is not impressed: 'Following rainfall twenty-seven pools of water were counted. The matter has been reported...'

Thirty Grangetown girls are not promoted. Two have been absent for most of the year with rheumatic fever, and another is 'very backward and nervy'. Twenty-seven children are not promoted at Albany Boys' twenty of whom are described as 'backward' and the other seven as 'very backward'. Two of the six pupils not promoted at Clarence Mixed are a brother and sister 'returned from evacuation'. Four girls are not promoted at Roath Girls', two are evacuees and another child's 'nerves are seriously affected by the Air Raids'.

Whitchurch Mixed now has 262 local children and just thirty-three evacuees. Only thirteen evacuees remain in Whitchurch Girls', four in Llysfaen and two in Tongwynlais.

Cardiff's schools are sent a Circular asking them to list their surplus furniture so as 'to equip schools where furniture has been lost through enemy action'.

Grangetown Boys' receives a book entitled 'Meet the U.S. Army'.<sup>542</sup>

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Roath Infants' admits four year old Yanine Leonie, a Belgian refugee living at 21 Fair oak Road.

Alan Kenealy, of 32 Vachell Road, is the last of the evacuees for whom details exist to return to Ely Mixed.<sup>543</sup>

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> September

On the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of the war the Head of St. Monica's Infants' records 'Today being a National Day of Prayer the children were taken to St. Michael's Church for a service at 9.30'. At Radnor Boys' too 'there was a short service this morning by the whole school'.

Cardiff's Elementary Education (School Attendance) Sub-Committee declines 'an application to allow Florent Vermeesch to remain in attendance at the Rhydyphenau Junior School, instead of being transferred to a Senior School'.<sup>544</sup>

#### 8<sup>th</sup> September

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<sup>541</sup> Metal Street Boys'.

<sup>542</sup> Herbert Thompson Infants'.

<sup>543</sup> Ely Mixed Admissions Register.

<sup>544</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.224.

The Oral School for the Deaf finally re-opens at Westgate Street.

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton `Application has been made to City Hall that Hot Dinners may be commenced as soon as possible as some children have to come a long distance'.

9<sup>th</sup> September

Twenty Radnor girls attend the `Dig for Victory' exhibition in the City Hall as do twenty girls from Grangetown, twenty seniors from Hywel Dda and Form 3 of Gladstone Girls'.

'To celebrate the capitulation of Italy the school closed at 4 pm' records the Head of St. Alban's Mixed.

The main Allied landings begin at Salerno in Italy. Mussolini has been overthrown and the new Italian Government has signed an armistice, but Hitler is determined to retain the country and German forces offer determined opposition.<sup>545</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> September

The sale of goods raised for the Harvest Festival services at Radnor Girls' raises £7. 5. 0. for Cardiff Royal Infirmary which, as far as the Head was concerned, was `most creditable'.

At Court Girls' `Captain Maurice J. Edwards accompanied by Mrs. Edwards paid his first visit to the school under the British Ship Adoption Society's scheme. The Headmistress and Head prefect welcomed him on behalf of the school. The Captain gave a very fine address and presented the school with photographs of his Canadian-built ship *SS Fort Altabasca* and a group of the ship's officers'. [Unfortunately, we are not told what has happened to Captain Paulsen and the *SS Broompark*...]

14<sup>th</sup> September

Heathfield House re-opens. `This year the Howard Gardens children are occupying the Biology Laboratory and the classroom nearest to it on the middle floor'.

15<sup>th</sup> September

`Nurse Howells examined the whole school for lice and scabies. As a result twenty-four children were excluded' records the Head of Kitchener. Two days later `At 3.30 pm the children who had won prizes at the `Holiday at Home' Sports on Wednesday August 4<sup>th</sup> were presented with Saving Stamps'.

18<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday. Thirty children from St. Alban's Mixed, accompanied by two teachers, attend `a Concert given by the London Symphony Orchestra in the *New Theatre*'. Twenty senior girls from Gladstone also attend the morning

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<sup>545</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.130.

concert as do thirty boys from St. Illtyd's.<sup>546</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> September

The Head of Tongwynlais records 'Parties of children were organised under the supervision of two teachers to pick blackberries for jam making at the Domestic Centre. A permit for sugar had been obtained from the Ministry of Food for this purpose. The jam to be used for the School Feeding Scheme'.

Lansdowne Infants' receives notice from the 'Ministry of Works and Planning about the removal of the School railings'.

23<sup>rd</sup> September

'A letter was received from the Welsh Board of Health, stating that the Department's Inspector...has reported that special cash allowances are being made to householders who are caring for evacuated children certified to be suffering from persistent enuresis [bedwetting]; they therefore request to be furnished with a list of the cases in which such payments are being made, indicating what steps have been taken to deal with the child's complaint, the measure of success (if any) achieved, and whether the Medical Officer of Health is of the opinion that a continuation of the special payment is warranted...'<sup>547</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of St. Monica's Mixed notes that he has 'sent in to the Director of Education forty-eight clothing coupons from the sale of goods from school materials'.

'I am afraid that impetigo is beginning to attack the little ones once again. Two boys were sent home today' records the Head of Whitchurch Boys'.

'British War Relief Society.- A letter from the Head Mistress of Radnor Road Girls' School enclosing a cutting from *The Times* newspaper, Trenton, USA, expressing appreciation for the receipt of a letter from a pupil of the Radnor Road School, acknowledging gifts received from the Trenton branch of the Society, was read to the Committee'.<sup>548</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> October

A Circular informs Cardiff's schools that 'there will be Sound Tests – Public Warning Signals – on the first Monday of each month, commencing 4<sup>th</sup> October, at 11 am'.<sup>549</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October

At Radnor Girls' where there are 283 savers, the half-yearly War Savings total is £1,027. 16. 0. and seventy-five pupils are eligible for supplementary clothing coupons. Next day the Head records that 'Two girls have received

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<sup>546</sup> *History of the House*, p.61.

<sup>547</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*.

<sup>548</sup> Education Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.244.

<sup>549</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

letters from merchant seamen acknowledging the receipt of knitted socks sent to the Merchant Navy when we were without a ship'.

6<sup>th</sup> October

'A few children are excluded with dirty heads and two cases of scabies' notes the Head of Clarence Infants'.

At St. Fagan's the funeral is held at St. Mary's Church of the Right Honourable Lord Plymouth P.C. of St. Fagan's Castle. The Headmaster attends the service and the schoolchildren 'lined up outside school as the cortege passed'.

'The Seager Baseball Shield was presented to the boys for the second year running' records the Head of St Francis' Mixed.

11<sup>th</sup> October

A school canteen opens at St. Mary's in Canton and ninety-seven junior children and thirty-nine infants have hot dinners. The Head of the Infants' records that thirty-six pupils have paid for their meals, three are entitled to free ones and they all 'enjoyed the meal thoroughly'.

12<sup>th</sup> October

Four officials from the Education Committee visit Hawthorn Infants' to discuss 'the return of the use of the Private Room and Classroom now being used by the ARP Authorities as a First Aid Post'.

13<sup>th</sup> October

At Radnor Boys' 'Forms 3 and 4 visited the National Museum of Wales this morning to view the Stalingrad Sword of Honour and other interesting exhibits'. So too did the senior class from Llanishen and four classes from Severn Girls'.

Specially designed in honour of the Russian defenders of that city, it was displayed for two days at the Museum and 30,000 people queued to see the sword which Churchill would later present to Stalin at the Tehran Conference.<sup>550</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> October

The Director of Education informs the Head of Hawthorn Infants' that she now has permission to use her private room 'during school hours'.

19<sup>th</sup> October

Consideration of an application from the Headmaster of Cardiff High for Boys 'for the installation of a miniature rifle range in a part of the school workshop' is deferred by the Secondary Education Committee pending an inspection of the premises.<sup>551</sup>

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<sup>550</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.109.

<sup>551</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.19.

20<sup>th</sup> October

Captain Edwards, accompanied by his wife and son, visits Court Girls' again 'to wish the girls goodbye before leaving to join his new ship *Ocean Gypsy*'.

21<sup>st</sup> October

Cardiff District Council's Chief Billeting and Welfare Officer reports 'there are seventeen unaccompanied school-children in the Council's district whose parents have not communicated with them since they were received into the district some three years ago; that, as directed, he had communicated with the appropriate Evacuating Authority and, as a result, has succeeded in establishing contact with the parents, in some cases after considerable correspondence with the Authority concerned'.

23<sup>rd</sup> October

The Board of Education informs Cardiff's Director of Education that, given the circumstances, it 'would raise no objection to the re-employment of superannuated teachers who are suitable and capable of rendering efficient service' provided that such appointments are for no more than six months in the first instance and any renewal be subject to HMI approval.<sup>552</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> October

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton 'School Dinners continue very successfully. Numbers continue good and the meal itself is substantial and well served; the unpopular dish is the Friday fish meal; steps have been taken to make an alteration as it is a cause of considerable waste'.

Miss Wolfson, a teacher at Gladstone Infants', is detained in the Isolation Hospital as a diphtheria carrier.

Miss Hetty Hughes retires from St. Paul's Infants'. She has been the Headmistress there since May 1914.

28<sup>th</sup> October

At a meeting of Cardiff's Elementary Education (School Canteens) Sub-Committee the Director reports the receipt of an Administrative Memorandum from the Board of Education 'informing the Committee that arrangements had been made...for supplies of Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Ferrous Sulphate Tablets to be available for school children under five in full-time attendance at Public Elementary and Nursery Schools...The School Medical Officer reported that Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice is already being issued to children in War-Time Nurseries, and it was decided...to arrange for the supply of Ferrous Sulphate Tablets to be administered to selected children in attendance at the War-Time Nurseries'.<sup>553</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> November

Standards 1, 2, 3 & 4 and Form 3 of Metal Street Boys' return to their own school, though 'Forms 1 & 2 are remaining at Adamsdown for a few days'.

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<sup>552</sup> Higher Education Committee, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.19.

<sup>553</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.7.

A Wartime Nursery opens at Ninian Infants' and ten children are admitted.

At Kitchener 'The school bell was rung this morning after a lapse of some years'.

Miss Parry, HMI, inspects St. Cuthbert's. Since September 1939 numbers have fallen from 190 to 153. As well as the Headmistress there is 'a male certified teacher in charge of the senior class, and four women teachers, three of whom are uncertificated who have had long teaching experience...Steady progress in English is being made, but this subject still requires particular attention, especially oral work, as the 'natural' speech of many pupils is careless and incorrect. About thirty pupils are of foreign extraction, and some of these are bilingual. It is satisfactory to note the marked progress of these particular pupils in the command of spoken and written English...[and] that the low attendance which has prevailed to some extent since the war began has greatly improved recently...'

5<sup>th</sup> November

At Tongwynlais 'the attendance in Standard 1 and Infant section has been seriously affected owing to illness during the past two weeks. In addition to colds there are cases of chicken pox, impetigo and scabies'.

For the first time in four years Religious Inspections are held at De La Salle and St. Illtyd's.<sup>554</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> November

The girls of Metal Street return to their own school.

11<sup>th</sup> November

'A short service for Armistice Day was held with the whole school at 10.45 am. The two minutes silence was observed. Poppies...were sold...to the pupils' records the Head of Roath Girls'.

At Gladstone Boys' 'Sixty forms are issued to boys for twenty extra clothing coupons. Over fifty of these were for boys wearing over size five and a half shoes'.

12<sup>th</sup> November

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton the 'Fish dinner was changed today; children very satisfied and ate with more relish'.

The timetable is suspended in the afternoon at Severn Girls' 'owing to the visit of Captain Catterson MBE and other officers of our 'Adopted Ship''.

15<sup>th</sup> November

'The school canteen was opened today in the Church Hall. The number of children fed was sixty and the charge for dinners was 1/6 per week or 4d. for

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<sup>554</sup> *History of the House*, p.61.

a single meal' records the Head of Radyr.

16<sup>th</sup> November

The Headmistress of Ninian Infants' is absent in the morning 'in order to attend the City Law Courts as a witness in the local War Savings Embezzlement case'.

18<sup>th</sup> November

The Clerk of Cardiff District Council's Evacuation & Welfare Committee reports that a total of £26. 15. 3. has been allocated 'for the Christmas entertainment of evacuee school-children'. Furthermore, 'Col. Gerald T. Bruce, Chairman of the Lord Mayor's National Air-Raid Distress Fund (Wales Region) has intimated that the Ministry of Health has made arrangements with the Ministry of Food for an extra ration of tea, sugar, milk, margarine and jam to be released for parties held between 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1943, and 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1944...'

19<sup>th</sup> November

Three children are excluded with scabies and another three for 'dirty heads' at Radnor Girls'.

Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee agrees to hire the Swansea Street Mission Hall 'to provide urgent temporary accommodation for certain scholars of the Moorland Road Infants' School...'<sup>555</sup>

Cardiff Education's Finance Committee again sanctions the expenditure of 1/- per head 'towards the expenses of Christmas Treats for all Evacuee children from the Cardiff Area in Reception Areas...'<sup>556</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> November

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' warns his pupils 'against joining older boy 'gangs' – this 'ugly monster' again showing its head'.

23<sup>rd</sup> November

A Circular informs Cardiff's schools that there's to be another Book Drive from 2<sup>nd</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of December.<sup>557</sup>

The annual collection for the Royal Infirmary raises £10 at Roath Boys'.

25<sup>th</sup> November

At St. Patrick's Mixed 'the senior girls, with Miss McGinty, attended the 'Make Do & Mend' Exhibition in the Electricity Showrooms, the Hayes'. So too do thirty girls from St. Alban's Mixed. Fifty Allensbank girls attend the 'Art for the People' Exhibition at the National Museum.

26<sup>th</sup> November

Some six weeks after school meals were introduced at St. Mary's in Canton

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<sup>555</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.29.

<sup>556</sup> Ibid, p.30.

<sup>557</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

the Head of the Infants' observes that the 'childrens' table manners are improving'.

Cardiff's Education Committee resolves to send congratulations and best wishes 'to Mr. James A. Gibby, an Assistant Master at the St. Francis RC School, on the honour he has received in being mentioned in despatches for distinguished service with the Royal Navy'.<sup>558</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> November

The hours change again at Radyr where 'from today the morning and afternoon sessions will be from 9.30-12.30 and 1.45 - 4.15 pm'.

28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November

President Roosevelt of the USA, Stalin of the USSR and Winston Churchill meet for the first time at Teheran in Iran to discuss the conduct of the war.<sup>559</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> November

St. Patrick's is closed all day 'as there were no fires, owing to the shortage of coal'.<sup>560</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> December

For the first time ever, a married woman starts teaching at Gladstone Infants' as a 'Temporary Supply'.

3<sup>rd</sup> December

Some pupils of Cardiff High for Boys start being taught at No.8, Wordsworth Avenue.<sup>561</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> December

The Board of Education approves a scheme for the restoration of the seven classrooms on the ground floor of Howard Gardens High School.<sup>562</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> December

At Metal Street Infants' 'The Children's Nativity Play was held in the school at 3 pm. A very large number of parents and friends were present'.

21<sup>st</sup> December

Mr. David Williams, *Abbeywood*, Ninian Road, presents fifty-seven pupils in Roath Girls' 'whose parents are in the Armed Forces with a Christmas Gift'.

22<sup>nd</sup> December

At Hawthorn Mixed 'Pat Hanna of Standard 4 took the School's Infirmary Collection, £18. 6. 0. – a record – to the Infirmary Chapel and presented it to

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<sup>558</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.37.

<sup>559</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.134.

<sup>560</sup> St. Patrick's Infants'.

<sup>561</sup> Secondary Schools Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> January 1944. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.57.

<sup>562</sup> General Education (War Emergency) Sub-Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> December 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.47.; See also Higher Education Committee, 10 September 1943. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1942-43, p.232.

the Lady Mayoress'. St. Alban's Infants' forwards £2.10. 0. and Severn Girls' £60. 11. 6.<sup>563</sup> In all a record sum of £1,119. 0. 4. has been collected by schools for the Royal Infirmary and the total raised since 1903 when the scheme started now amounts to £14,664. 9. 7.<sup>564</sup>

A Christmas party is held at the School for the Deaf: 'A Christmas tree with presents was provided by Mr. & Mrs. Enniks, Tynant, Llanishen, and a tea, complete with jellies and cakes of all sorts was made possible by the united efforts of parents and the three staff. Keith Wheeler's grandmother provided each child with a shining new 3d bit. Pastor Hyde took over the role of Father Christmas and filled it very ably. The children were delighted with their toys, paints, crayons and the painting books provided by Mr. Abberley, father of one of our children, and a representative of Messrs. Lyons'.

23<sup>rd</sup> December

The Head of Gladstone Infants' records her thanks to her staff for making sure that the children's Christmas Party and other festivities go on despite the war.

Roath Girls' sends 195 articles to the British Ship Adoption Society, 'Comforts for 'Our' ship', and another parcel is sent to Prisoners of War.

At Radnor Girls' `Concerts and parties have been given. The senior girls gave a very entertaining rendering of *Cinderella*. Other items included *The Pied Piper* rendered by Standard 2 who sang beautifully, and the *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* – artistes very good. `Waxworks' that moved caused great amusement and included our Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, and *Popeye the Sailor*. A collection was taken and forwarded to:

Prisoners of War Fund	£5. 0. 0.
St. Dunstan's Blind Institute	£2. 0. 0.
Our Ship	£1. 5. 0.

A splendid parcel of knitted woollies and gifts was forwarded to `Our Ship', *M.S. Bradford City*.'

## 1944

10<sup>th</sup> January

During the holidays the railings of Clarence Mixed have been removed for salvage.

Mr. L.G. Roberts starts back at Albany Boys' 'having been on loan to the Technical College' and Miss Kearns returns to St. Cuthbert's from the Reception Area where she's been working since September 1942.<sup>565</sup>

Hawthorn Infants' receives `gifts and sweets from America for distribution among suitable children'.

At Whitchurch Mixed `Miss Morley, USA Liason Officer, Office of War

<sup>563</sup> St. Alban's, 10<sup>th</sup> December, Severn Road Girls', 7<sup>th</sup> December 1943.

<sup>564</sup> School Management Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 1944. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.80.

<sup>565</sup> See entry for 14<sup>th</sup> September 1942.

Information, visited the school in the company of Mr. Prys-Jones'.

`160 children of the school together with eight of the staff visited the Pantomime in the evening – a very successful and enjoyable treat' records the Head of Kitchener.

12<sup>th</sup> January

At St. Mary's Infants', Canton, the `Children who, through illness, had not shared in the Christmas Party, received their portions today to enjoy at home'.

14<sup>th</sup> January

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' records the `attendance is again unsatisfactory – still cases of illness, and too much freedom allowed regarding pantomime performances. If I had my way, I would `tighten up' matters in this direction – more power should be given to the Attendance Officer'.

Mr. F.M. Timberlake, a teacher at Lansdowne Boys', is transferred to Cathays High School. He is replaced by Mrs. Nora Parkin. [Prior to the war the staff had been all male, now there are four men and five women teachers.<sup>566</sup>]

17<sup>th</sup> January

A Wartime Nursery Class opens at Court Infants' with eight children.<sup>567</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> January

`A programme of films was given this afternoon by the Ministry of Information from 3.50 to 4.10. The films shown dealt with life in the USA and South Africa and Wales, Safety First, Digging for Victory, Cameramen at War. The show was keenly enjoyed by the children and, in my opinion, was of educational value' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

In the evening 'in the Neath Street Hall, the St. Alban's Mothers' Union entertained the girls to a Party, Cinema Show and a display of conjuring'.<sup>568</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> January

At Roath Girls' 'Three members of 'Our' ship, *M.V. Depa...* visited the school. Although our visitors were Dutchmen they were able to make themselves understood and seemed to follow our conversation. A very pleasant time was had by all'.

20<sup>th</sup> January

`Dr. Anderson visited this morning to give the Schick Test for diptheria' records the Head of Hywel Dda Infants'.

A conference arranged by the Board of Education at Glamorgan County Hall to discuss the `Emergency Recruitment and Training of Teachers' decides `to ask local education authorities to survey their areas and report on suitable

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<sup>566</sup> Based on staffing information supplied on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1938 & 1943.

<sup>567</sup> Court Road Infants'.

<sup>568</sup> St. Alban's Mixed.

accommodation that may be available for Training Centres'.<sup>569</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> January

`Captain Gwyn Jones, RA, Eighth Army, gave a talk to the school, illustrated by a film entitled `*Combined Operations*'. This film was followed by a second... `*X marks the Spot*', a most interesting educational film dealing with Ordnance map reading' records Mr. Thomas C. Lloyd, the Acting Head of Cathays High for Boys'.

At Severn Girls' `Captain Catterson MBE paid a surprise visit to the school and presented a silver cup `*The Empire Sidney*' cup to the school'.

24<sup>th</sup> January

The Head of Gladstone Boys' records that from today the school canteen will only serve dinners to the children from Gladstone because the children at 'St. Monica's and Cathays National School have a Canteen provided for them at the Dalton Street Hall'. The Head of the Mixed School at St. Monica's is not impressed: 'The place is rather small in my opinion...'

At Greenhill the `Cooking of meals for the school resumed on the premises. Dinners were also sent to Birchgrove School'.

`Gifts for children received from America were distributed in Forms 1 & 2' at Heathfield House.

25<sup>th</sup> January

Glamorgan Education's Secondary Committee receives the following resolution submitted by the Glamorgan Higher Education Association (NUT):-  
`That this Association deplores the regulation of the Glamorgan Education Committee which compels female teachers to resign upon marriage during the present emergency'.<sup>570</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> January

Miss Parry, HMI, visits Birchgrove Infants' 'to inspect the hut fitted out for serving dinners to children'.

27<sup>th</sup> January

`A member of the WVS took away seventy-two toys made by children in the Handicraft Centre for Nursery Schools' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

31<sup>st</sup> January

Mr. V.G. Sederman returns from `special teaching duties with the forces at Cardiff Technical College' to Cathays High for Boys'.<sup>571</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> February

`Rumney Nursery was opened today. Ten children had enrolled – three

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<sup>569</sup> Education Committee, 28<sup>th</sup> January 1944. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.76.

<sup>570</sup> GRO, Glamorgan, *Secondary Education*.

<sup>571</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 1<sup>st</sup> September 1946.

babies and seven toddlers...This Nursery opens from 7am to 7 pm and for the present the Nursery Nurses are doing shift work, 7am - 3pm and 11am – 7pm'.<sup>572</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> February

Two more children with scabies are excluded from Clarence Infants'.

3<sup>rd</sup> February

Children under five are given orange juice and cod liver oil for the first time at Tongwynlais.

7<sup>th</sup> February

Cardiff's schools revert to their original, 9 o'clock start and the Head of Clarence Mixed notes 'In spite of the dark, wet morning a good percentage of the children were in time for the opening of school'.

17<sup>th</sup> February

'Miss Ceridwen Evans (Welsh Teacher) is absent this morning. She has been informed that her brother in the RAF is missing' records the Head of Albany Boys'.

A gas-fired hot cupboard is delivered to Tongwynlais 'to be utilised for warming food and crockery in respect of mid-day meals'.

Cardiff Education's (Re-Organisation of Schools) Sub-Committee meets to consider an abstract of the main clauses of the new Education Bill and decides to defer consideration of a Health Committee suggestion that 'as many as possible of the war-time nurseries should be converted into permanent nursery schools after the war...'<sup>573</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> February

At Grangetown 'Two girls, accompanied by Miss Warren, went to the City Hall this morning, to hand to the Lord Mayor £8. 5. 1. collected for the Aid to Russia Fund'.

25<sup>th</sup> February

Six girls from Radnor Road attend the 'Red Army Day celebration at the *Capital* Cinema'.

1<sup>st</sup> March

At Gladstone Infants' 'St.David's Day was celebrated in the usual manner and in spite of the appalling conditions existing through the canteen being held in our school, our little pupils were grand indeed for the short time'. Three sailors from 'Our Ship' attend the celebrations at Roath Girls' and present the school with the Dutch Flag.

'The Director and Miss Phillips expressed grateful thanks to all members of

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<sup>572</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>573</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.88.

this staff who took part in the opening of the Shadow Kitchen at Gabalfa School in connection with the Civil Defence Exercise held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1944. A copy of the Report of the Ministry of Food's Umpires, as presented to the Senior Regional Commissioner (Sir Gerald Breese) was enclosed' reports the Head of Birchgrove Infants'. The staff of Court Girls' had also taken part in the exercise, spending two hours at the Shadow Kitchen at St. Patrick's Hall.<sup>574</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> March

Three classes from Heathfield House attend 'the Children's Conference on Poland'.

6<sup>th</sup> March

Fifty-eight girls from Herbert Thompson, accompanied by two teachers, set off for the Camp School at Porthcawl.

At Whitchurch Mixed 'A lecturer from Messrs Birds, Birmingham, attended and gave the girls of forms 2 & 3 a demonstration of War-time Cookery during the afternoon session'.

13<sup>th</sup> March

Schools receive a Circular about 'coal for schools during the South Wales coal strike'. There are to be no fires lit in Staff Rooms.<sup>575</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> March

Grangetown Continuation School records the 'Results of Examinations, attendance etc.' since September last. Though the average attendance has only been 44.6%, four students have won free places at the Technical College and a further seven free places at the Junior Evening Institute.

17<sup>th</sup> March

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton 'A very substantial contribution of chocolate, sent from our Friends in the USA, was distributed this afternoon; the children appreciated the gift and letters of thanks were written by Class 1 and sent to City Hall to be posted to the kind donors'.

At Whitchurch Mixed 'Chaplain Reiff of the US Army kindly attended this afternoon to speak to the children about the Middle West of America. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Hirshfeld and a Red Indian. The children were assembled in the Hall and enjoyed a pleasant and instructive talk'.

24<sup>th</sup> March

The Headmistress of Radnor Girls' records 'An alert last evening lasted one and a quarter hours. One or two children are rather unnerved'.

Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee confirms the action of its Chairman 'in agreeing, as a matter of urgency, to a request received by the

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<sup>574</sup> Court Road Girls', 21<sup>st</sup> February 1944.

<sup>575</sup> Canton Girls' & St. Francis' Mixed.

Town Clerk for the use of the bombed site of the Marlborough Road School by the American Forces' and recommends 'that a rental at the rate of £15 per annum be charged for the use of this site'.<sup>576</sup> [Four months later the Finance Committee agrees 'to accept the offer of the War Office to pay a rental at the rate of £5 per annum...'<sup>577</sup>]

28<sup>th</sup> March

At Metal Street 'The attendance this morning was low due to an air raid warning during the night'.<sup>578</sup> It's the same story at St. Mary's Junior Mixed in Bute Terrace and at Hywel Dda Infants'.

No one realises it, but this would prove to be Cardiff's very last 'Red Alert'. There have been 585 of them since June 1940.<sup>579</sup>

130lbs of honey, a gift from Princess Elizabeth, is distributed to the children in the twelve Wartime Nurseries.<sup>580</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> March

There is a holiday in the afternoon to celebrate the visit to Cardiff of the King and Queen and Princess Elizabeth, so meals are served at Gladstone at 11 am instead of 12. It is the first time the Princess has come to Cardiff.<sup>581</sup>

At Whitchurch Mixed 'the use of the school hall was granted to the American Forces... for a Concert organised by the USO'.

3<sup>rd</sup> April

The Head of Roath Boys' notes that 'Double Summer Time was brought into operation today. As schools open at 9 am, this means 7 am solar time which is somewhat early for schoolchildren'.

5<sup>th</sup> April

Having spent a week in Bangor for 'the Course on the United Nations' Miss Hawkes returns to Gladstone Girls'.

6<sup>th</sup> April

At Cathays High 'as a result of a collection from the boys a sum of £9 was sent to the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund. This makes a total of £19 sent to this fund during the year...'

10<sup>th</sup> April

There's another evening Concert for American troops at Whitchurch Mixed.

15<sup>th</sup> April

Miss M. Meredith Jones, a teacher at Cardiff High for Girls, marries an officer

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<sup>576</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.114.

<sup>577</sup> *Ibid*, p.233.

<sup>578</sup> Metal Street Boys'.

<sup>579</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.44 & *The Cardiff Story*, p.230.

<sup>580</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>581</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

of the Czech Army. Subsequently she's allowed to continue teaching at the school 'in a temporary capacity'.<sup>582</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> April

The Head of Roath Boys' reports that there has been 'No central heating in school this week. The Caretaker says that his supervisors have instructed him not to light the fires. It is really too cold in school without heating. Temperature is about 56° F'.

Miss Wolfson returns to Gladstone Infants' after being excluded for six months as a diphtheria carrier.

19<sup>th</sup> April

Two pupils are sent home from Whitchurch Boys', one has scabies and the other impetigo.

21<sup>st</sup> April

At St. Fagan's 'A meeting was held in the Junior Room to promote interest in the forthcoming 'Salute the Soldier' Week. Two framed Certificates presented to the village in connection with previous special War Savings Campaigns were unveiled by the Chairman of the Cardiff Rural District Committee, John Phillips Esq.'

24<sup>th</sup> April

Sixteen girls from Whitchurch High go on a fortnight's holiday to the Llandinam Holiday Home in mid Wales.<sup>583</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> April

A Collection at Radnor Girls' raises £2. 15. 0. for the 'Cigarette Fund'.

Captain West of the *Errington Court*, accompanied by his wife and another officer, visits Herbert Thompson Girls'.

At Albany Boys' 'I regret to have to report Mr. T. Profit for neglect of duty – for two occasions. I have found him in the staffroom leaving his class without supervision. Despite my warning on the first occasion, the offence was repeated this afternoon...'

American troops are entertained to 'a melodrama' in the evening at Whitchurch Mixed.

27<sup>th</sup> April

For the second day running the Head of Tongwynlais reports that the meals delivered to his school have been 'unsatisfactory'.

28<sup>th</sup> April

Clifford James, a pupil at Tredegarville, is accidentally drowned in the

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<sup>582</sup> Secondary Schools Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> May 1944. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.145.

<sup>583</sup> GRO, Glamorgan, *Secondary Education*, 20<sup>th</sup> June 1944.

Canal.<sup>584</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> April

At a Committee Meeting of the NUT (Glamorgan) Higher Education Section `a letter was received from the Director of Education, Glamorgan, stating that the Education Committee had decided to take no action on the Association's request for the withdrawal of the Regulation requiring women teachers to resign on marriage'.<sup>585</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> May

Thirty girls from Gladstone return after a fortnight's holiday at Porthcawl: `They enjoyed their visit to the seaside, and all seemed to be better for it'.<sup>586</sup>

Cardiff's schools receive the annual request for details of `Border Children', or children living outside the City's boundaries, and `Children from the Cardiff Public Assistance Committee's Homes or other Charitable Institutions in attendance...'.<sup>587</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> May

A special ceremony is held at Grangetown Boys' to honour a former pupil, Sergeant Engineer Norris of the RAF, who has been awarded `the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal for piloting a damaged `plane'. The Headmistress elaborates: `In spite of being wounded himself, and the Pilot injured and unconscious, Sergeant Norris succeeded in bringing the burning `plane and the wounded crew safely back to this country after a raid on Dusseldorf'. He is presented with a suitably inscribed framed photograph of himself which he donates to the school and, to celebrate the event, the school closes for the afternoon session.<sup>588</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> May

Cardiff Education's Special Services Committee considers the costs of administering vitamins to children under five. The Director informs them that there are 1,712 children under five in the City's fifty one Infant Schools, that initial expenditure on beakers and tea spoons will amount to over £90 and that the annual costs for wages to helpers, orange juice and cod liver oil and soap powder will be £1,365. The Committee recommends that representations be made to the Board of Education `urging that the expenditure in respect of this service should rank for 100% grant, and not 50% as intimated...'.<sup>589</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> May

Last week saw Whitchurch Boys' `Salute the Soldier'. The school had started off by aiming at a target of £300 but this was exceeded on the very first day. The final total is £1,206. 15. 6. - `a wonderful effort'. St. Fagan's raises £400.

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<sup>584</sup> See entry for 9<sup>th</sup> May 1944.

<sup>585</sup> GRO, *Glamorgan NUT, Higher Education Minutes*.

<sup>586</sup> See also entry for 17<sup>th</sup> April 1944.

<sup>587</sup> Birchgrove Infants'.

<sup>588</sup> Grangetown Boys' & Grangetown Girls'.

<sup>589</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, pp.140-1.

`Mrs. Gaskell, County Organiser of the Glamorgan Prisoners of War Fund addressed the school this afternoon on her work' notes the Head of Lansdowne Girls'.

9<sup>th</sup> May

Cardiff Education's School Management Committee accepts, subject to approval, an application made by Mr. Thomas Williams, Handicraft Teacher, to continue teaching `for the duration of the present hostilities' despite the fact that he had his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of March.<sup>590</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> May

The Headmistress of Heathfield House is visited by Mr. Thomas, an LEA Inspector. Numbers have been rising at the school and last December `notice had been given...that...the two rooms now used by the Howard Gardens girls would not be available for them after midsummer'. Reluctantly, she agrees to allow them the use of the Biology laboratory for another year but refuses to cede a second room.

15<sup>th</sup> May

'There was an air raid alarm at 2 am last night. Many children are absent this morning' records the Head of Roath Boys'. It's the same across the city.<sup>591</sup>

Six year old Olive Jones, a pupil at Clarence Infants', is sent to the Sanitorium suffering from `nasal diptheria'.

[Adolf Eichman, SS architect of the Holocaust, starts the mass deportation of Hungarian Jews. Up to now Hungary has succeeded in protecting them. In a matter of weeks, however, 200,000 will be murdered, most at Auschwitz...](#)<sup>592</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> May

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular informing them of a 25% increase in the pay of uncertificated teachers.<sup>593</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> May

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton the `School has been so intensely cold during the week – quite unfit for small children – that the Caretaker has been asked to restart the heating'. The Head of Roath Boys' complains again to the Director about the low temperatures in his school.

19<sup>th</sup> May

`Miss Phillips, Inspector of Schools, came to make enquiries as to the possibility of girls of thirteen entering at secondary school to be trained for the Teaching profession' records the Head of St. Peter's.

Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee receives a communication

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<sup>590</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.143.

<sup>591</sup> See, for example, Albany Road Boys', Metal Street Mixed & St. Mary's Junior Mixed, Bute Terrace.

<sup>592</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, pp.197-8,244.

<sup>593</sup> Lansdowne Road Infants'.

from the Town Clerk `stating that the Corporation Estates Committee were unable to agree to the proposal of the Education Committee for the transfer or lease of the Insole Court property for use as an emergency Training Centre for Teachers immediately upon the cessation of the present hostilities. The Director reported that officials of the Board of Education had recently inspected a military camp in Cardiff with a view to its suitability...'

The same Committee turns down an application from a Mr. Jones `to be allowed to cultivate a plot of ground as an allotment at the Cardiff High Schools' playing-fields, Harlequins Ground [as] The Director reported that it is the intention of the pupils of the High Schools, under the supervision of the school staff, to develop the whole of the available land for cultivation as school allotments'.<sup>594</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> May

At Albany Road `Miss Parry, HMI, paid a visit with reference to the installation of `washing up' facilities in connection with the School Canteen'.<sup>595</sup>

Two teachers from Court Girls' leave school at 2.45 'to attend a Sports meeting at Grangetown School in connection with 'Holidays at Home''.

24<sup>th</sup> May

The School for the Deaf `assembled to mark Empire Day dismissing at 11 am. The Daisy was worn by each child'.

At Cathays High `The school was visited by three inmates of St. Dunstan's who have been blinded during the war. They were escorted by officers from St. Dunstan's and of the Royal Ordnance Factory, Llanishen, whose guests they were. They expressed their great pleasure at the beautiful singing and patriotic recitations. One man returned thanks to the boys by a speech in Welsh'. Following a collection £5. 12. 5. is sent to the Overseas League Tobacco Fund.<sup>596</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> May

A Circular informs schools that Cardiff's 'Salute the Soldier' Week is to be held from 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> June. The City's target is £3,000,000.<sup>597</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> June

American troops enter Rome.<sup>598</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> June

Metal Street Infants' records a Circular regarding `The Recruitment of Staffs under the Emergency Scheme for the Training of Teachers'.

6<sup>th</sup> June

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<sup>594</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, pp.160-1.

<sup>595</sup> Albany Road Boys'.

<sup>596</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 24<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May.

<sup>597</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>598</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.132.

At St. Mary's in Canton: 'News received of commencement of European Invasion'. The three Departments 'assembled for prayer for Victory and Peace'.<sup>599</sup> The Head of Roath Boys' records "D Day". The Allies invaded Europe this morning. Normandy was the place of landing'.

Some of the American troops involved in the invasion had sailed from Cardiff.

By D Day, 78% of the supplies for US forces were passing through the docks of South Wales and there were American bases scattered throughout the area. At the end of May 1944 the open space on the east side of the Queen Alexandra Dock in Cardiff, known as the 'Prairie' began to fill up with 'vessels and craft of infinite variety in an almost unending stream; guns, tanks, vehicles, bombs, shells...and then, the men themselves'.

An invasion convoy assembled in the Bristol Channel and, to ensure secrecy, Barry Island was closed for a week.

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June the first ships began to leave Cardiff for the Normandy landings only to be put on standby next day as bad weather and gales threatened the timing of the invasion. 'After a twenty-four hour delay, conditions improved and every ship sailed to the minute...On 6<sup>th</sup> June, just thirty hours after sailing from Cardiff, men and equipment were being unloaded on to the Normandy beaches'.<sup>600</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> June

At St. Alban's Mixed 'At four o'clock in the afternoon the children were assembled in the Playground, and addressed on the importance of the War News – Capture of Rome, Opening of Second Front. School was dismissed at 4.15 pm after the singing of 'God Save the King!'"

Two girls at Whitchurch Mixed are excluded 'on account of verminous heads'.

9<sup>th</sup> June

'Miss Hore took twenty-four children to Allensbank Girls' School at 2.30 pm for a rehearsal of a 'Salute the Soldier' programme' records the Head of Hawthorn Mixed.

Cardiff Education's Special Services Committee receives a report from the Board of Education 'giving statistics for a day in February, 1944, of Public Elementary and Secondary School Pupils receiving School Meals and Milk...in the area of each LEA...The Committee noted the following information in respect of Cardiff:

Public Elementary		Secondary (Provided & Aided)		Secondary (Direct Grant)	
Milk	Dinners	Milk	Dinners	Milk	Dinners
95.7%	12%	49.1%	31.3%	49.4%	26.9%

<sup>599</sup> St. Mary's Infants'.

<sup>600</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, pp.120-21.

Amongst the decisions taken, the Director is 'instructed to arrange for meetings of parents to be held in the schools where the number of children partaking of meals is small and that the Chairman of the Committee...be invited to address these Parents' Meetings'.<sup>601</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> June

At Herbert Thompson 'fifty of the senior boys visited the Military Exhibition at Dumfries Place this morning'.

Cardiff's School Management Committee is told that, on the recommendation of the Board of Education 'a survey had been taken with regard to scholars over thirteen years of age in attendance at the Elementary Schools who may be suitable recruits for the teaching profession and whose parents are agreeable for them to continue their education up to the age of eighteen. As a result of this enquiry the Committee noted that 107 children wished to be considered in this connection...'<sup>602</sup>

Hitler launches the first of his 'Terror Weapons', the V1, on Britain. The main target is London. It soon becomes known as 'The Doodlebug'. These unmanned rockets fly with a distinctive droning noise and people soon learn that the danger comes when they run out of fuel and the noise suddenly stops as the 'flying bomb' hurtles to the ground.<sup>603</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> June

Ten year old James Cownie, a pupil at Roath Boys', is killed by a bus.

17<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff's 'Salute the Soldier Week' ends. St. Mary's Infants' in Canton raises £135 whilst Hywel Dda Infants' raises £169. 11. 6. Splott Infants', set a target of £75, collects £252. 11. 0. St. Alban's Mixed raises £259. 5. 8., Albany Boys' £274. 4. 0. and Radnor Infants' £341. 14. 0. The infants of St. Monica's raise £350, those of Baden Powell £366. 4. 6. The boys at Herbert Thompson, asked to raise £100, collect £370. 14. 10. Metal Street Infants' collects £381. 14. 6. and Lansdowne Infants' £403. Marlborough Infants' raises £406. 4. 6. Allensbank Infants' makes £432. 10. 0., over four times its target. Moorland Boys' collects £432. 15. 6., Birchgrove Mixed £438 and Clarence Infants' £519. 19. 6. The children of Stacey Infants' collect £521. 16. 0., those of Severn Girls' £585. 15. 6. Moorland Infants' raises £586, St. Paul's Mixed £600. 17. 0. £729. 13. 0. is collected at Radnor Girls' and £739. 2. 6. from Gladstone Boys'. Roath Boys' raises £1,109. 4. 6. whilst the girls of Heathfield House raise £1,233. 17. 2. Gladstone Infants', where the target was £300, raises £1,350. Lansdowne Boys' raises £1,547. 10. 0. and Roath Girls' collects £1,580. 16. 6. Cathays High for Boys', asked to raise £1,000, collects £2,531. 11. 0. but the pupils of Allensbank Girls' manage to raise no less than

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<sup>601</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.184.

<sup>602</sup> Ibid, p.187.

<sup>603</sup> Charles Whiting, *Britain under Fire* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books, 1999), p.154.

£2,863.<sup>604</sup>

In all, Cardiff's school children collect £78,159. 19. 8. an average of £2. 10. 5. per pupil.<sup>605</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' 'warned the children about the dangers of stone throwing and pea shooting'.

23<sup>rd</sup> June

News is received at Cathays High for Boys' that an ex-pupil, Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Gilbert, has won the Distinguished Flying Cross.

26<sup>th</sup> June

The first 'flying bomb' evacuee from London is admitted to Roath Boys' and also to Herbert Thompson Infants.<sup>606</sup> Three others from London and one from Birmingham arrive at Lansdowne Boys'.<sup>607</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> June

154 Heathfield House girls go to Lisvane and the Heath 'for agricultural work'.

28<sup>th</sup> June

The School Company of the Army Cadet Force of Cathays High for Boys' is inspected. Begun in 1943 there are forty-two members who train on Wednesday evenings and practice firing on Saturday afternoons 'on the miniature range'.<sup>608</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> July

Peter Elias, a pupil at Grangetown Boys', is in hospital in Bridgend. He had been at Porthcawl Camp School when he was taken ill with meningitis.

Another four evacuees arrive at Lansdowne Boys'.<sup>609</sup>

Following some queries about the costs of immunisation, the School Medical Officer reports 'that 130 cases of diphtheria occurred amongst school children in the year 1943, and of this number fifty-four had been immunised against diphtheria. Six deaths occurred amongst children who were not immunised but no deaths in respect of immunised children. The incidence of diphtheria in Cardiff is now definitely lower than it has been for some years and this can reasonably be attributed to immunisation...'<sup>610</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> July

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<sup>604</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 16<sup>th</sup> June 1944 & *Ymlaen!*, *The Magazine of the Cathays High for Boys'*, Vol.2, No.1, Summer Term, 1945, p.4. This, the first and only war-time issue, and other volumes are held at Cathays High School.

<sup>605</sup> Roath Park Boys'.

<sup>606</sup> Roath Park Boys' & Herbert Thompson Infants' Admissions Registers.

<sup>607</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>608</sup> Cathays High for Boys' & *Ymlaen!*, Vol.2, No.1, p.24.

<sup>609</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>610</sup> School Attendance Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.208.

A party of boys from Cathays High, accompanied by four teachers, 'went out for a days harvest-work at the request of the War Agricultural Committee'. The next day they go again.

8<sup>th</sup> July

The Clerk of Cardiff District Council's Evacuation & Welfare Committee reports 'that Mr. Lewis, of the Welsh Board of Health, called yesterday morning, and stated it was proposed to evacuate 400 unaccompanied children from London to the Council's district on Tuesday next, the 11<sup>th</sup>, and...the number of unaccompanied children could not, unfortunately, be reduced, but that it was possible that the Committee might be asked to receive two further parties of 400 each, in a few days after the provision of billets for the first contingent...'

'The Clerk stated that, as from the first pay-day in the week commencing on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1944, the weekly rates of billeting allowances for unaccompanied children have been increased and are as follows:-

Under 5 years	10/6 a week
5 years & under 10	11/6 "
10 years & under 12	12/- "
12 years & under 14	13/- "
14 years & under 16	14/- "
16 years	16/6 "
17 years and over	17/6 "

12<sup>th</sup> July

103 Elementary scholars, thirty-nine boys and sixty-four girls, sit the examinations to qualify for transfer to Secondary Schools 'in order to meet the problem of the supply of teachers'. They sit a two-hour Arithmetic paper, a two-hour English one and an hour's test of General Knowledge. [Twenty-nine will obtain 150 marks or over and be 'recommended for consideration as suitable entrants to the High Schools...'<sup>611</sup>]

14<sup>th</sup> July

At Birchgrove they note a Circular about warning the children 'about damage to private gardens and allotments'<sup>612</sup>.

At 5.45 pm 577 evacuees and their escorts arrive at Cardiff Central Station for billeting in Cardiff Rural District. Contrary to the information previously given by the Welsh Board of Health, none of the evacuees are unaccompanied children but all are mothers with children. Sixteen are billeted in houses and the remainder, temporarily, at the following Rest Centres:

Ararat Chapel, Whitchurch	125
Bethel Chapel, Whitchurch	87
Methodist Chapel, Whitchurch	96

<sup>611</sup> Education Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> July 1944. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, pp.237

<sup>612</sup> Birchgrove Infants'.

Beulah Chapel, Rhiwbina	99
Baptist Chapel, Rhiwbina	80
Bethesda Chapel, Tongwynlais	<u>50</u>
	<u>537</u>

At Whitchurch Mixed `School was closed at the end of the morning session so that preparations could be made for the reception of evacuees from London. 593 mothers and young children received tea and were medically inspected'. This was a Friday and on the Saturday and Sunday the school opens to feed the evacuees. On the Monday it closes at noon `so that our children could receive their dinners before evacuated mothers and children came for their meals: as they attend here for dinner and tea, school is closed for the afternoon session'.

16<sup>th</sup> July

Grangetown Boys' receives the sad news that Peter Elias has died.

17<sup>th</sup> July

Hawthorn Mixed closes at 3.55 `so that refreshments could be provided' for about 100 evacuated children from London. Evacuees are also taken in at Clarence Mixed and Herbert Thompson.<sup>613</sup>

Cardiff's Head Teachers are requested to attend a meeting in the afternoon at the Technical College, to be addressed by Dr. Sessions, about Sex Education.<sup>614</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> July

Hawthorn Mixed admits another forty-five London evacuees and over the next two days a further nineteen arrive. At the Infants' they admit ten from Twickenham and another five come the next day. Ten more are admitted to Roath Boys' where another six will enrol tomorrow.<sup>615</sup>

Gladstone Boys' holds its annual Sports Day at Heath Park.

19<sup>th</sup> July

At Severn Girls' the `children of Standard 1 who had won the *Captain Catterson Cup* three months in succession were entertained to tea and cakes by the Captain and Mrs. Catterson'.

The Head of Albany Infants' records 'Received fifty-one Beakers, fifty-one Tea Spoons, one Tea Towel and one Dish Cloth in connection with the giving of Vitamins to children under five years old in full time attendance at Elementary Schools'. A week later the same school 'Received fifty-six Bottles of Orange Juice and eight Bottles of Cod Liver Oil (orange juice, enough for a month, cod liver oil, three months) in connection with the giving of Vitamins'.<sup>616</sup>

<sup>613</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys' & Infants' Admissions Registers.

<sup>614</sup> Grangetown Boys'.

<sup>615</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>616</sup> Albany Road Infants', 25<sup>th</sup> July 1944.

Miss Dinham, an Albany Girls' teacher, 'is absent today owing to ill-health'.

20<sup>th</sup> July

'News has been received this morning of the sudden death of Miss Dinham, a greatly respected member of the staff'.

21<sup>st</sup> July

At Allensbank Girls' 'Mrs. Sheasby, owing to the long absence from Cardiff or a nearby port of Captain Sheasby, presented the ship's bell sent by the Captain and officers of our ship *Normanville*'.

'The Director reported that he had received an Airgraph letter from Mr. L.D. Jones, Headmaster of the Forest High School, Johannesburg, stating that he was forwarding...a cheque for £1,000 collected by the pupils of his school for the relief of Cardiff children who have suffered as a result of enemy action...'

'It was reported to the Committee that up to the week ended the 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1944, a total of 551 evacuees had been admitted into the Cardiff Schools and that there was a likelihood of this number being increased in the near future'.<sup>617</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> July

Malcolm Lucas is admitted to Gladstone Boys'. He is the eleventh evacuee from London and the Home Counties to be taken in this month.<sup>618</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' warns his pupils 'about making bombs'.

26<sup>th</sup> July

At Roath Boys' the Head reports that during June and July eighteen 'unofficial' evacuees from London were admitted to his school and that since the 17<sup>th</sup> of July another twenty-eight have arrived 'officially'.

28<sup>th</sup> July

The Wartime Nursery at Court Infants' is 'discontinued' and fifteen of the children there are transferred to the one at Ninian Infants'.

Miss Ellen Connor, who has taught at St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton since April 1900, retires.

The Military Authorities finally release the Lady Margaret High School building.<sup>619</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> August

The Head of St. Paul's Mixed records 'In connection with the 'Holidays at Home' scheme Sports were held at Curran's Field, children from this school,

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<sup>617</sup> Education Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, pp.237-8.

<sup>618</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>619</sup> Sites & Buildings Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.264.

Grangetown Council and Ninian Park taking part'.

16<sup>th</sup> August

Cardiff District Council is told that the Welsh Board of Health is not willing to approve the Council's request for Golf Club Houses to be requisitioned for billeting evacuees.

25<sup>th</sup> August

American troops liberate Paris.<sup>620</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> August

'The school was used this afternoon for the reception of evacuees. 238 unaccompanied children from Maidstone, Kent, chiefly, were given a meal, medically inspected and billeted' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

1<sup>st</sup> September

One of the two boys not promoted at Tredegarville 'has been evacuated for three years, during which time he did not attend school'. At Lansdowne Boys' nineteen pupils are not promoted. One has been absent from school for a long time with illness and the other eighteen are all described as 'dull and backward'.

3<sup>rd</sup> September

British troops liberate Brussels.<sup>621</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> September

The Head of Gladstone Boys' records that 'twenty-three 'Flying Bomb' evacuees were admitted this week (twelve others were admitted prior to the Summer Holidays). Mr. John D. Williams BA (Flight Lieutenant RAF) a former member of the staff was killed in London in August by a Flying Bomb'.

St. Fagan's admits three evacuees and three children privately evacuated from Walthamstow and one from Battersea start at Clarence Mixed. Llanishen takes in six as does Lansdowne Infants'. A further eight from London and the Home Counties are admitted to Lansdowne Boys'.<sup>622</sup> Eight are also admitted to Herbert Thompson Boys and eight more go to the Infants'. One, Barbara Hatton, returns to London the same day and three more will return within the week.<sup>623</sup> Ten evacuees are admitted at Tongwynlais and Albany Boys' takes eleven. Sixteen evacuees, most from London, enter Hawthorn Mixed. At Roath Boys' another batch of seventeen Londoners is admitted. The school now has a total of 395 boys on its books, fifty-one of whom are 'official evacuees', and as a result it is 'very full'. Of the eighty new children who start at Gladstone Infants', twenty are evacuees. Twenty-six from 'Maidstone, London and other places' start at Radyr and another twenty-eight 'from the London area' enter Whitchurch Boys'. The next day more will arrive.

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<sup>620</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.25.

<sup>621</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>622</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>623</sup> Herbert Thompson Infants' Admissions Register.

Mary Crome, an evacuated teacher from London, begins teaching at Severn Girls'.

7<sup>th</sup> September

A party of twenty senior Gladstone boys and Form 3 from the Girls' attend a 'Dig for Victory' Exhibition at the City Hall in the morning as do twenty girls from Allensbank, Grangetown and St. Peter's where 'The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was awarded to Eileen Leahy and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Kathleen Crimmins for original Poster Designs; four girls were highly commended, and certificates were granted'.

'Thirty evacuees have been admitted this week' records the Head of Allensbank Girls'. Three more will arrive in the next few days.

8<sup>th</sup> September

Cardiff Education's Special Services Committee is told that the number of School Meals supplied since the start of the scheme is 1,485,389.<sup>624</sup>

The first V2 rocket lands, without any warning at all, on London. These rockets are the World's first ballistic missiles.<sup>625</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> September

Gladstone Infants' records that from today all children under five years of age are to be given a daily supply of cod liver oil and orange juice. The Head observes that 'the children drank happily from their individual mugs'. At Allensbank fifty-four children are given the vitamins and at Splott ninety children are eligible although there are 'eight refusals'.

12<sup>th</sup> September

Miss Pascoe, a teacher from London, begins working at Radyr and two evacuees from Kent arrive at Llanederyn.

14<sup>th</sup> September

Fifty-eight girls from Heathfield House 'went on agricultural work'. They go again the next day.

The Head of Albany Boys' complains 'Most of the boys admitted to Standard 1B are unable to read, many not even knowing their sounds'. The reason given why one of the pupils there is not promoted is that he's had 'no Infant school'.

18<sup>th</sup> September

The 'Black Out' is removed from Gladstone Boys'. Nevertheless, at Stacey Infants' they note a 'Circular about Mustard Gas Warnings'.

The Headmistress at Gladstone records 'Twenty-seven girls from London or the Greater London Area have been admitted since September 1<sup>st</sup>'. Three more evacuees are admitted to Lansdowne Boys'.<sup>626</sup>

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<sup>624</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.242.

<sup>625</sup> Whiting, *Britain under Fire*, p.178.

<sup>626</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys' Admissions Register.

At St. Illtyd's the ground floor of the 1929 wing has been 'almost completely restored, making available four new class rooms, dining room and kitchen, and also restoring to its proper purpose the College library, which had been used as a class-room since the school was bombed'.<sup>627</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> September

'Twenty-two girls of Maidstone Junior Technical School attended today with one teacher, Miss Hannah Saddler. These girls will work as a separate class' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

20<sup>th</sup> September

Two brothers and their sister from London are admitted to St. Mary's Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace.

Mrs. Stanley, a teacher at Moorland Infants', is absent for a week because her husband is home from the Merchant Navy.

The Director reports to the Sites & Buildings Committee that 'pending the erection of a prefabricated two-classroom suite at the Canton High School...it would be necessary to provide temporary accommodation on account of the increased number of pupils in attendance' at the Girls' School. The Committee agrees to recommend 'the acceptance of the offer of the Officers of the Llandaff Road Baptist Church to use their primary department room...'<sup>628</sup>

Cardiff Education's Finance Committee instructs the Director to inform Mr. George Thomas of Roath Boys' 'that, with the exception of meetings of the Executive of the National Union of Teachers, future applications for leave of absence in respect of other meetings of the Union cannot be considered unless supported by the General Secretary of the NUT'.<sup>629</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> September

At Lansdowne Girls' 'A display of the film entitled '*When we build again*' was given to the senior girls this afternoon (presented by Messrs Cadbury & Co.)'.

There are now 1,620 evacuees billeted in Cardiff Rural District. Of these, 575 are unaccompanied children, 590 are accompanied, 386 are mothers and sixty nine are other adults. The Clerk of the Council's Evacuation & Welfare Committee points out that there are twenty-five unaccompanied Birmingham children still billeted in the District and 'in view of the fact that Birmingham is believed to be now a Reception Area' he proposes to ask the Welsh Board of Health 'whether the time has not arrived when these children should be returned to their parents or, if this is not practicable, billets found for them in Birmingham'.

25<sup>th</sup> September

Amongst the new intake of 104 pupils at Roath Boys', twenty are evacuees.

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<sup>627</sup> *History of the House*, pp.64-5.

<sup>628</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.264.

<sup>629</sup> *Ibid.*

Three more Londoners are admitted to Clarence Mixed.

The Military release Maindy Council School.<sup>630</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> September

`Mrs. Smith, visitor for Cardiff Evacuees' visits Ynyslwyd Central Mixed in the Cynon Valley.<sup>631</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> September

This last year the boys at Cathays High have raised £3,053. 6. 0. for National Savings.<sup>632</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> October

The Head of Albany Boys' forwards the names of five pupils who are described as `mentally retarded' to the School Medical Officer.

5<sup>th</sup> October

A boy is excluded from St. Mary's Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace as he `was found to have some bad sores behind the ear'.

11<sup>th</sup> October

'Geoffrey Parker, a cripple boy, was brought to school by his father and slipped on the wet floor. He was in great pain and was taken by ambulance to the City Lodge...The bone was badly fractured' records the Head of Herbert Thompson Infants'.

13<sup>th</sup> October

An Ely Mixed girl who stole a teacher's watch receives 'two strokes of the cane on each hand in front of the whole school'.<sup>633</sup>

`The City Engineer reported that the survey of the Lady Margaret High School for Girls had been completed and that the Bill of Dilapidations in respect of damage done to the property during the period of requisitioning by the Military Authorities amounted to £3,966. 16. 2...'<sup>634</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> October

Cardiff's Joint Health and Education (Medical Services) Sub-Committee notes that `the Health Committee had appointed an Orthoptist and the necessary equipment is in the process of being obtained, and it is hoped to start the work in Cardiff in December, 1944. The Committee recommended that the scheme should operate for school children, and that the cost to the two Committees be charged on a ratio basis'.<sup>635</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> October

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<sup>630</sup> Sites & Buildings Committee, 13<sup>th</sup> October 1944. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.294.

<sup>631</sup> Ynyslwyd Central Mixed.

<sup>632</sup> *Ymlaen!*, 1945, p.4.

<sup>633</sup> Ely Mixed Punishment Book.

<sup>634</sup> Sites & Buildings Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.294.

<sup>635</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1943-44, p.295.

At Gladstone the 'A.R.P. duties in piloting pupils across the School Square as preparatory measures for possible Raids cease this morning. We revert to the pre-war arrangement of 'Policeman on Duty' at 9, 12, 2 and 4 o'clock'.<sup>636</sup>

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee receives a Ministry of Health Circular 'intimating that, except as regards certain areas affected by enemy shell fire across the English Channel, no further organised parties will be sent, for the time being, from any Evacuation Area, and outlining the steps to be taken to terminate reception arrangements under the Government Evacuation Scheme, and to bring about the return of evacuees to their homes in an orderly manner...'

Another Ministry of Health Circular states 'that arrangements should now be made for the return to their homes (normally in organised and escorted parties) of unaccompanied children...'

23<sup>rd</sup> October

The boys of St. Illtyd's attend a mass 'for the repose of the souls of the officers and men of *HMS Charybdis*, which went down off the French coast a year ago to-day'. It had been one of their adopted ships and 569 men out of just over 600 had been lost. The boys are not to know it but this month another of their ships, *HMS Whitaker*, has also been sunk.<sup>637</sup>

The school canteen used by Radnor pupils is transferred from Llandaff Road Baptist Chapel to the Infant School's corridor.<sup>638</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> October

Miss Pascoe, the evacuee teacher at Radyr, returns to London. When the school re-opens after the half term holiday her place is taken by another London teacher, Miss Griffiths.<sup>639</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> November

Thirty-two girls from Radnor Road are medically examined prior to their going to the Porthcawl Camp School: 'mostly fit but the Nurse will see a few again on Friday'.

7<sup>th</sup> November

At a meeting of Glamorgan's Secondary Education Sub-Committee, following representations from 'a joint deputation from the Association of Headmasters, the Glamorgan Higher Education Association (NUT), and the Association of Assistant Mistresses...The Sub-Committee also gave further consideration to the letter, dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1944, received from the Board of Education, stating that the Board 'are concerned to learn that women teachers in Glamorgan secondary schools are still being dismissed on marriage at a time when all available teachers are needed to enable the educational services in England and Wales to be maintained'. After a lengthy discussion, the Sub-Committee

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<sup>636</sup> Gladstone Infants'.

<sup>637</sup> *The Illtydian*, Vol.17, No.1, Christmas 1944, pp.25,29.; *Ibid*, Vol.18, No.1, Christmas 1945, p.34.

<sup>638</sup> Radnor Road Girls' & Infants'.

<sup>639</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> October 1944.

decided to recommend that no woman be required to resign her appointment as a teacher in the Authority's secondary schools, by reason only of marriage'.<sup>640</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> November

A Windsor-Clive teacher is given the week off owing to her son being home on leave from the Navy'.

17<sup>th</sup> November

'A number of boys and staff suffered from diarrhoea after eating pie in the School Canteen yesterday' reports the Head of Albany Boys'.

20<sup>th</sup> November

Following their fortnight at Porthcawl the Radnor girls return, or at least some do: 'One case in Sanitorium – diphtheria carrier. Many have sore throats. Nurse has come at my request to examine the girls. Sixteen exclusions – tonsillitis and very bad colds'.

23<sup>rd</sup> November

A Circular informs Cardiff's schools that there will be another 'Book Drive' from 2<sup>nd</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of December.<sup>641</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> November

Seven evacuee children who have been staying in Cardiff Rural District return to Birmingham.<sup>642</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> November

The Head of Whitchurch Mixed records the 'Official return of Birmingham evacuees: two returned from this school'.

[The gas chambers at Auschwitz are used for the last time. Since May 1942 over 2,000,000 Jews and others have been murdered there...](#)<sup>643</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> November

Mrs. Jones, the evacuee teacher who arrived at Llysfaen in December 1940, returns to Birmingham.

30<sup>th</sup> November

Mr. White from the Ministry of Supply visits Albany and addressed the boys on the necessity for Paper Salvage'.

[3<sup>rd</sup> December](#)

[Britain's 'Home Guard' is disbanded.](#)<sup>644</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> December

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<sup>640</sup> GRO, Glamorgan, *Secondary Education*.

<sup>641</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>642</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1944.

<sup>643</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, pp.210,100.

<sup>644</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.25.

At Radnor Girls' 'Our second contribution is being taken today to the wounded soldiers at the City Lodge, cigarettes (300) and apples'.

6<sup>th</sup> December

213 children from Maidstone together with seven from Reigate leave Cardiff Rural District.<sup>645</sup>

'The school was used before school hours today for the assembly of Maidstone children who returned home. Thirteen elementary children in this school returned. Miss Sadler returned to Maidstone in charge of the fifteen Junior Tech. Girls who were here' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed.

13<sup>th</sup> December

The total collected during the year for the Infirmary at Radnor Girls' is £25. 0. 3. and 'a sale held on Friday last sponsored by staff and scholars realised £15 for Toc H Cardiff Burma House'.

19<sup>th</sup> December

St. Peter's sends 'the sum of £30 to the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross Fund. This was the result of the combined effort of the school children with the Girls' Club, which took the form of a Nativity Play'.

20<sup>th</sup> December

Roath Infants' holds its Christmas Party 'and the toys from America were distributed'. At the School for the Deaf 'the school party was held today and as the 'black out' has been eased it was kept on until after lighting-up time and Father Christmas attended'.

21<sup>st</sup> December

David Piper, the twentieth of the thirty-four evacuees from London and the Home Counties admitted to Gladstone Boys' since July 1944 returns home.<sup>646</sup>

Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee is told that five children from Birmingham and eight from Maidstone are still billeted in the District as 'for various reasons, they cannot yet return home'.

22<sup>nd</sup> December

After working for seven weeks at Radyr, Miss Griffiths returns to London. After the Christmas holidays she will be replaced by Mrs. Lillie.<sup>647</sup> Peter Cox, an evacuee at Cardiff High for Boys since September returns to London.<sup>648</sup>

## 1945

8<sup>th</sup> January

Another London evacuee is admitted to Clarence Mixed.

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<sup>645</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1944.

<sup>646</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>647</sup> See entry for 15<sup>th</sup> January 1945.

<sup>648</sup> GRO, E/Sec 65, *Cardiff High for Boys Address Book, 1943-46*.

170 Kitchener children 'together with eight of the staff attended the evening performance of the Pantomime – a very successful and enjoyable outing'.

9<sup>th</sup> January

Evacuee Yvonne Thomas returns from Brecon to St. Mary's Junior Mixed, Bute Terrace.

10<sup>th</sup> January

Cardiff's schools are 'instructed to report to the School Medical Officer all authentic cases of children suffering from jaundice and dysentery'.<sup>649</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> January

Thirty senior boys from Herbert Thompson 'visited Curran's Munitions Factory this afternoon'.

16<sup>th</sup> January

When Heathfield House re-opens the 'Howard Gardens children have vacated the classroom they were occupying on the middle floor, but are still retaining the use of the Biology Laboratory'.

17<sup>th</sup> January

The Red Army liberates Warsaw.<sup>650</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> January

Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Sub-Committee recommends 'that the City Engineer be instructed to arrange for the immediate removal of the blackout material, etc., from the schools, where this is no longer required, and to invite tenders for the purchase of the materials removed'.<sup>651</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> January

'Mr. Le Loux, representative of the Reception Committee, Young People of Occupied Countries', addresses about a hundred of the girls at Heathfield House.

25<sup>th</sup> January

Albany Infants' records 'School closed owing to severe snowstorm – the worst in South Wales for fifty years. No children came to school'. It was the same story at Birchgrove Infants', Moorland Road, Severn Road, Tongwynlais and Viriamu Boys'. The Head of Marlborough Infants' reports two and a half feet of snow has fallen. At St. Peter's the account is more graphic: 'The snow was so deep that all traffic was paralysed and children could not get through it, people were almost waist deep in it, so that only three of the staff arrived at school...'

All Cardiff schools are forced to close and the city relies on the American Army and its machinery to clear the main roads.<sup>652</sup>

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<sup>649</sup> Radnor Road Boys'.

<sup>650</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.26.

<sup>651</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.85.

<sup>652</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.118.

27<sup>th</sup> January

Russian soldiers liberate Auschwitz and are sickened by what they find there...<sup>653</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> January

Court Boys' cannot be re-opened because the lavatories are frozen and the temperature in the classrooms is only 36 degrees. Twenty-six of the boys had turned up for school and all the staff, including Mrs. Evans who 'walked from Rhiwbina'. Though conditions are still poor five of the remaining eight Wartime Nurseries remain open.<sup>654</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> January

A sudden thaw sets in making conditions very bad. Only one child turns up at Marlborough Infants' and at the Infants' at Birchgrove, Bute Terrace, and Lansdowne, and none at all make it to Kitchener or Radnor Infants' or St. Cuthbert's or St. Peter's Girls' or Tredegarville. At Grangetown Boys' the Head sends a letter to the Director 'informing him that the roof was leaking badly flooding four classrooms in this Department and four in the Girls', that the lavatories were unusable and that the lack of coal made proper heating impossible'.

31<sup>st</sup> January

For the third day running no children turn up at St. Francis' Infants'.

2<sup>nd</sup> February

Many schools re-open but less than 20% of the children at Moorland Infants' turn up and just 23% of the children at St. Alban's Infants'. Only 26% of the girls at St. Peter's arrive for school and 28% of the pupils at Baden Powell Infants' and St. Paul's Mixed. At Clarence Mixed, too, only 28% of the pupils attend and the school 'is very damp – the walls are streaming with moisture'. At Herbert Thompson Boys' attendance is 36%. At Lansdowne Infants' the figure is 38%. At Radnor Girls' 39% turn up but they have to be sent home 'owing to poor heating and our inability to dry the floors, walls and ceilings after the flooding of two classrooms and the corridor'. Only 50% of the girls turn up at Court Road and the lavatories are closed because of a burst pipe, but lessons continue.

4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February

Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill meet at Yalta in Russia to discuss the final defeat of Germany and plan for the defeat of Japan.<sup>655</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> February

'Radio Officer J.S. Bishop visited the school this afternoon and talked to the senior lads in connection with the Ship Adoption Scheme' records the Head of Grangetown Boys'.

9<sup>th</sup> February

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<sup>653</sup> Gilbert, *Atlas of the Holocaust*, p.217.

<sup>654</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>655</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.188.

Two cases of pneumonia are reported at Clarence Infants’.

10<sup>th</sup> February

A new piano, costing fifty-nine Guineas, is delivered to Llysfaen.

12<sup>th</sup> February

The Fire Service empty the water tank in the playground of St. Alban’s Mixed prior to dismantling it.

The Head of Ninian Infants’ receives news from the Director ‘that HRH Princess Elizabeth had made a further gift of honey to the Nursery School children’.

13<sup>th</sup> February

‘The Lady Reardon Smith Silver Cup for War Savings’ is presented to the girls of Howell’s by Lady Reardon Smith herself, accompanied by her husband, the Lord Mayor and several other dignitaries.<sup>656</sup>

Cardiff Rural District’s Evacuation & Welfare Committee sanctions the payment of £3 to Mrs. C.T. Darch, *Inglenook*, Greenclose, Whitchurch, for sterilising and reconditioning ‘two hair mattresses soiled by a child evacuee’.

The Committee also receives a ‘letter from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, expressing appreciation of the warm-hearted and generous treatment given to the Birmingham children...’<sup>657</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> February

The Head of Radnor Boys’ records ‘The school nurse examined all the boys this morning owing to the prevalence of scabies and ringworm in certain schools. Three boys went home suffering from scabies’.

‘The extension ladder belonging to the Fire Fighting Apparatus’ is stolen after school hours from Lansdowne Infants’.

26<sup>th</sup> February

At St. Alban’s Mixed ‘£30. 1. 3. has been collected, in one week, by the children for the Poor Missions Fund’.

Audrey Newman is the twenty-fifth and final evacuee to be admitted to Herbert Thompson Infants’.<sup>658</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> March

‘Mr. T.J. Thomas, serving with HM Forces, and home from Egypt’ puts in an unexpected appearance at Whitchurch Mixed’s Eisteddfod. Mr. W.F. Ware returns to Cathays High for Boys from the RAF.

2<sup>nd</sup> March

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<sup>656</sup> *Howell’s*, No.19, September 1945, p.11.

<sup>657</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*.

<sup>658</sup> Herbert Thompson Infants’ Admissions Register.

Three evacuees sit the 'Metropolitan Board Entrance Examination' at Allensbank Girls'. Three more do so at Gladstone Girls'.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> March

At Herbert Thompson Boys' 'Captain and Mrs. F.B. Parker, Master of the SS *Clan Murdoch* (our adopted ship) visited the school today. He saw the boys at work and later addressed the school assembled in the Hall. He answered numerous questions from the boys. Captain Parker, OBE, and his wife were later entertained to tea by the staff'.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> March

Anne Skipper, aged six, is the last of forty-six evacuees from London to be admitted to Roath Infants' since July 1944.<sup>659</sup>

At Cardiff City Hall various Education sub-committees are sitting: The School Attendance Committee records 'Prize for Good Attendance.- The Committee recommended that a prize to the value of 10/6 be awarded to Audrey Pooley, of Windsor-Clive Girls' School, who has an unbroken record of more than six years' attendance at school'.

The School Management Committee is informed 'that the record grand total sum of £1,247. 17. 9. was collected' in 1944 for 'the Cardiff School Children's Infirmary Fund'.

'A request was received from the local branch of the WVS, asking for the help of the schools in the collection of furniture and household utensils to be used in the relief of bombed-out people in Dagenham, Kent. This town has been adopted by the Welsh Area of the WVS...under the Re-Homing Gifts Scheme, and the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1945, has been assigned for this collection...'

'A communication was received from the Divisional Officer of the Ministry of Food stating that the Regional Planning and Advisory Committee had agreed that each Local Authority may offer two prizes for the best essays on 'What I know and think about Rats', received from scholars in its own area, and asking the Authority to judge the essays received. The Committee regretted that they were unable to agree to this suggestion.<sup>660</sup>

#### 7<sup>th</sup> March

American troops begin to cross the Rhine.<sup>661</sup>

#### 9<sup>th</sup> March

Twenty-six evacuees at Roath Girls' are invited to the City Hall for 'a special tea and entertainment' as are evacuees at Crofts Street and Hywel Dda Juniors.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> March

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<sup>659</sup> Roath Park Infants' Admissions Register.

<sup>660</sup> School Management Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, pp.118,119-120.

<sup>661</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.26.

A 'Dining Hut' is opened at Moorland Road.<sup>662</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> March

St. Patrick's Mixed is among the twenty runners up for the 'Lady Reardon-Smith Cup awarded to the best Saving Group for its record in Saving Totals, membership etc'.

Six evacuees at Lansdowne Boys' 'left at 3.30 pm to attend a party given by the Lord Mayor at the City Hall'. Seven from Herbert Thompson Boys' also attend.

19<sup>th</sup> March

Clarence Mixed reports that 'Doreen Pullicino, 15 Patrick St., was accidently drowned in the Canal on Saturday afternoon'.

Mr. W. Thomas, Inspector, brings 'a projector and films on trial for a few weeks' to Albany Boys'.

21<sup>st</sup> March

The Head of Viriamu Jones records 'For the first time in my thirty years experience, it is a pleasure to record that this morning there was 100% attendance for the whole school'. He's so moved he writes to tell the Director.

23<sup>rd</sup> March

Cardiff's schools are informed that the monthly inspection of children's gas masks 'is now discontinued'.<sup>663</sup>

[British troops begin to cross the Rhine.](#)<sup>664</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> March

Captain and Mrs. Sheasby visit Allensbank Girls' in the afternoon. Two days later ten senior girls accompanied by the Headmistress and another teacher visit the *Normanville* at Barry Docks.

[The day sees the last V2 attack on London. In all 1,190 of them have been fired at Britain](#)<sup>665</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> March

Once again at Albany 'teachers and boys suffered from diarrhoea after eating the school dinners'.

29<sup>th</sup> March

[The last V1 falls on London. In all Hitler's V1 and V2 rockets have killed 6,184 British civilians and 2,917 servicemen and seriously injured 17,981 people.](#)<sup>666</sup>

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<sup>662</sup> Elementary Education Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.143.

<sup>663</sup> Radnor Road Boys'.

<sup>664</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.183.

<sup>665</sup> Whiting, *Britain under Fire*, pp.178,204.

<sup>666</sup> *Ibid*, pp.197,204.

10<sup>th</sup> April  
School meals start at St. Illtyd's.<sup>667</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> April  
One of the teachers at Splott Infants' is absent with dysentery.

16<sup>th</sup> April  
Cardiff's schools receive 'Bulletin No.1. Cardiff Anglo-Soviet Friendship Council Film Show'.<sup>668</sup>

[The Red Army launches its final assault on Berlin. Within two days Soviet troops will fight their way to the outskirts of the city.](#)<sup>669</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> April  
Mrs. Jenkins, a Llandaff City Mixed teacher, 'is absent on account of her husband being home on leave from Burma'.

Cardiff Education's (Re-Organisation of Schools) Sub-Committee is told there are Wartime Nurseries at Ninian Park, Viriamu Jones, Ferry Road, West Yard [Docks], Baden Powell, Wordsworth Avenue, Vatchell Road, Ely, Hywel Dda, Moorland Road, Rumney, Severn Road and Gabalfa.<sup>670</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> April  
At a meeting of Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee: 'A communication was received from the City Electrical Engineer stating that a certain amount of trouble is continually occurring due to interference with the lighting and heating installations in school air raid shelters, and suggesting that they be disconnected and removed and put into store for other use as and when required...the Committee decided to recommend that, subject to the approval of the Ministries of Education and Home Security, this equipment be dismantled at an estimated cost of £1,000'.<sup>671</sup>

'Blankets and all the equipment for the Rest Centre' are removed from Ely Infants'.

30<sup>th</sup> April  
'The air is filled with rumours of the capitulation of Germany. A Circular from the Education Office announces the formation of a Children's Choir in readiness for VE Day' records the Head of Gladstone Girls'.

At St. Peter's the 'Window cleaners removed some of the net protective covering from the windows'.

[Adolf Hitler commits suicide.](#)<sup>672</sup>

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<sup>667</sup> *The Illtydian*, Vol.17, No.3, Midsummer 1945, p.171.

<sup>668</sup> Radnor Road Girls'.

<sup>669</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.184.

<sup>670</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.166.

<sup>671</sup> *Ibid*, p.178

<sup>672</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.183.

1<sup>st</sup> May

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular about 'V Day' celebrations: 'If feasible, a service is to be held in the schools at 11 am consisting of the Welsh National Anthem, Hymn, Bible Reading, Short Address, Prayer, Closing Hymn and National Anthem – after which schools will be closed for the day'.<sup>673</sup>

At Lansdowne Girls' sixteen senior girls attended at the Reardon Smith Theatre to take part in a Schools' Choir practice for a Broadcast Flash on 'VE' Day'. Sixteen pupils from Radnor Girls' also attend the practice and the Head explains it's for a 'BBC Flash to take place two hours after the 'V Day' announcement'. Twenty Heathfield House girls also take part as do sixteen girls from Canton and sixteen boys from Stacey where 'A new Union Jack was purchased today, the cost of which was borne by the School Funds'.

2<sup>nd</sup> May

A school canteen opens at Llysfaen.

[Berlin surrenders to the Red Army. More than 300,000 Soviet troops have been killed or wounded in the campaign.](#)<sup>674</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> May

Cardiff's schools are told that 'The day on which organised resistance in Europe ceases is to be known as V.E. Day. That day and the following day will be public holidays'.<sup>675</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> May

The Head of St. Monica's Mixed records 'Notice was given on the wireless at about 3 o'clock this afternoon that the Germans had surrendered and that the war was now at an end. A service was immediately arranged for the whole school. It was taken by the Rev. Beavan. Hymns and the National Anthems were sung and an address was given. Everyone is pleased that the war is over and that peace has been declared. VE (Victory in Europe) Day is fixed for tomorrow when celebrations will be general all over the country. The children will restart on Friday'.

8<sup>th</sup> May

'The end of hostilities in Europe after five years and eight months of war' records the Head of Albany Boys'. At Gladstone Infants' the sense of relief is more obvious - "[Peace in European Affairs' 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945!!](#) After six long winters followed by five long summers. School closed'. On the first page of a brand new Log the Head of Allensbank Boys' writes 'So passes the need for air-raid shelters and water-tanks on the school premises: so ends the long, long night. Now thanks we all our God'.<sup>676</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> May

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<sup>673</sup> Radnor Road Boys'.

<sup>674</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.185; Peter G. Tsouras, *The Great Patriotic War* (London: BCA, 1992), p.212.

<sup>675</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

<sup>676</sup> Sadly the Log prior to this is missing.

At Kitchener 'Only about fifty children attended and after telephone communication with the Director the school was closed for the day'. The same thing happens at Viriamu Jones Boys' where only 20% attend, at Lansdowne Infants' where the attendance is only 15% and at Allensbank Infants' where only twenty children turn up. Next door the Girls' also closes as does Birchgrove Mixed, Court Infants' and Grangetown Boys'. At Stacey Boys' 'Thirty-three boys were present this morning. The Headmistress of the Girls' School contacted the Director of Education, and reported the small number of children in school, and was instructed to close the school for the day. All members of staff were present. The Welsh Flag – *Y Ddraig Goch* – was purchased today and hoisted for the first time'.

11<sup>th</sup> May

206 out of 358 pupils turn up at Gladstone Boys'. There is a Thanksgiving Service and then the normal timetable resumes. At the Infants' next door the Head records that the 'School reassembled on a perfect sunny May morn. Children tired after fitting celebrations in Street Teas and home rejoicings... Only 162 pupils put in an appearance out of 332 on Roll, as it is a Friday'.

In every school attendance is down. At Moorland Boys', for example, only 20% turn up and at St. Paul's Infants' the figure is 24%. At St. Francis' Mixed it is 35% and at St. Alban's Mixed it's 38%. At St. Mary's Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace attendance is less than 40% and at Eleanor Street it is 'about 40%'.<sup>677</sup>

The Head of Roath Girls' records the programme for their Thanksgiving Service:

1. Welsh National Anthem
2. Opening Hymns - Jerusalem - Let Us Praise Famous Men
3. Biblical Readings - Leviticus XLIV - Revelation XX1
4. Address
5. Prayer - General Thanksgiving, particular Thanks for Loved Ones, People of Other Lands, Our Leaders, People of Conquered Lands.
6. Chant - Psalm CL
7. Closing Hymn - 'Now We Thank We All Our God'.
8. National Anthem.

At Stacey Boys' as well as hymns, psalms, the Lord's Prayer and others 'specially composed' for the ceremony, there is a 'Reading of *Victory Day* by John Bowler; One minute's silence in memory of 'Old Boys'; Reading extracts from Winston Churchill's speeches in 1940-41...[and] The service was concluded in the playground where the children of the three schools assembled under the flags and sang 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' and 'God Save the King', finishing off with three resounding cheers for the King and the Prime Minister – Winston Churchill'.

14<sup>th</sup> May

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<sup>677</sup> See also Baden Powell Infants', Grangetown Boys', Herbert Thompson Girls', Metal Street Mixed & Splott Infants' for other examples.

Mrs. M.G. McCarthy, an Albany Infants' teacher, 'is granted one week's leave of absence...as her son is home on leave from the British Liberation Army in Germany'.

18<sup>th</sup> May

Albert Hollis and Edwin and Mervyn Watkins are the last London evacuees to leave Lansdowne Boys'.<sup>678</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> May

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton `School re-opens today after the Whitsun Holidays. Attendance is poor:- return of parents after long absence in the Forces, children stay home to be with them; also, sickness accounts for poor attendance, not forgetting double summer time – children stay up late and are too tired to get up in time for school in the mornings'.

Jean Bloodworth, a Canton High pupil, attends Lansdowne Infants' 'for school practice'.

31<sup>st</sup> May

Radnor Girls' receives `from the Merchant Navy letters from our ship. Two extremely interesting ones this time. Girls should gain considerably from this correspondence as also from the American letters, a second batch of which were received yesterday'.

Captain West and his wife and three children visit Herbert Thompson Girls'.

5<sup>th</sup> June

Mr. George Thomas of Roath Boys' is given permission to be away from school for five weeks as he is contesting Cardiff Central for the Labour Party in the General Election.

7<sup>th</sup> June

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Cardiff's Education Committee, accompanied by the Director of Education, visit Windsor-Clive 'and presented the Cohen Cup – The National Trophy for Life-Saving – the Football Championship Cup and the Seager Cup to the school. This was a unique occasion as this was the first time any school in Cardiff had won the three trophies in one year. To mark this occasion the school was granted a half-day holiday'.

8<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff Education's Special Services Committee is told `School Meals Service...the total number of meals supplied since commencement of scheme = 2,163,298'.<sup>679</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff's School Management Committee is told that the Ministry of Education

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<sup>678</sup> Lansdowne Road Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>679</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.218.

is 'asking LEAs to grant facilities to teachers and educationalists serving with the Dominion and US Forces to visit schools and other educational institutions during the period they are awaiting their return home'.<sup>680</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> June

At Canton 'twenty-three senior girls were taken at 4 pm to see the captured German U-Boat'.

20<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff High School for Girls celebrates its Silver Jubilee.<sup>681</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> June

'Eight children evacuated from London and Kent returned with mothers and children this morning' records the Head of Whitchurch Mixed. At Radyr too 'The last of the evacuees left today'.

22<sup>nd</sup> June

Mrs. Crome, an evacuee teacher who has been working at Severn Girls' since September 1944, spends her last day at the school before returning to London.

Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee hears 'Removal of School Railings: Compensation.- The City Surveyor reported that the sum of £125. 5. 7. had been credited to the Education Committee under the Compensation (Defence) Act, 1939, in respect of railings removed from the various schools'.<sup>682</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> June

'Three children sat for the examination for Prospective Teachers' at St. Alban's Mixed.

After more than five years and nine months it's the last day at Gladstone Boys' for Dennis and Ronnie Debnam from Islington in London. They have been at the school since September 1939.<sup>683</sup>

At Aberdare Town Girls & Junior Mixed 'Nearly all the evacuees officially returned to their homes, those remaining being children whose parents cannot be traced or children lacking a clean bill of health'.<sup>684</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> June

The last five of the sixty-five evacuees who have come to Roath Boys' since June 1944 leave.<sup>685</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> June

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<sup>680</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.215.

<sup>681</sup> Hawthorn Mixed.

<sup>682</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.232.

<sup>683</sup> Gladstone Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>684</sup> GRO, E/A 8/8, Aberdare Town Girls' & Junior Mixed.

<sup>685</sup> Roath Park Boys' Admissions Register.

Jeannine and Auguste Ghys who have been living at 21 Fair oak Road leave Roath Infants' to return to Belgium.<sup>686</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> June

Mrs. Lillie, the London teacher who has been teaching at Radyr since January, returns home.

2<sup>nd</sup> July

At Heathfield House the CWB examinations begin with 'Higher Latin' and three classes 'went farming under the charge of Miss Healy and Miss Spillane'. Two days later a party of senior pupils from St. Illtyd's also go 'farming'.<sup>687</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> July

Many schools close for the day as they are being used for voting in the General Election. Because so many British troops are serving overseas, it will take three weeks before all the votes are counted and the results are known...<sup>688</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> July

Miss Wilson is absent from Heathfield House 'owing to the death of her brother in Singapore in 1942, now made known. She went to visit her widowed mother'.

11<sup>th</sup> July

A telephone is installed at Llysfaen.

13<sup>th</sup> July

The Head of Roath Girls' records 'Of the sixty-eight evacuees admitted to this school in July and September 1944 all have now returned to London except one pupil and she leaves at the end of July'.

Cardiff Education's Finance Committee decides 'to allow the Head Master of the Cardiff High School for Boys to purchase a swarm of bees and a scythe or shears at a cost not exceeding £5, for the school's food production society'.<sup>689</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> July

Over the weekend there has been a burglary at St. Mary's, Canton, and 'a number of Percussion Band instruments have been stolen'.<sup>690</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> July

At Radnor Road 'Sixteen boys who had formed part of the Schools' Choir at the City Hall on VE Day went to the City Hall this afternoon...for a special tea and entertainment' and so too did the rest of the 250 children who had

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<sup>686</sup> Roath Park Infants' Admissions Register.

<sup>687</sup> *The Illtydian*, Vol.17, No.3, p.175.

<sup>688</sup> L.C.B. Seaman, *Post-Victorian Britain, 1902 – 1951* (London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1979), p.415.

<sup>689</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.271.

<sup>690</sup> St. Mary's Infants'.

participated in the Victory Choir.<sup>691</sup>

‘Captain and Mrs. Sheasby visited the school. Our ship, *Normanville*, has been handed back to the French Government. Captain Sheasby presented his prize given for the best essay on Ships’ records the Head of Allensbank Girls’.

24<sup>th</sup> July

Mr. D.G. Scane, a teacher at Cardiff High for Boys’, is granted two days leave of absence ‘in order to attend a short course on Bee Keeping held at the University College, Cardiff’.<sup>692</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> July

At Windsor-Clive ‘Sergeant B. Mitchell, US Army, visited the school and spent the day in observation’.

Mr. George Thomas of Roath Boys’ is elected MP for Cardiff Central.

The Labour Party has won a stunning victory in the General Election, the first one for ten years. It’s a ‘Landslide’ win. They take 393 of the 640 seats in the House of Commons sweeping away Prime Minister Churchill. Britain’s new Premier is Clement Attlee.<sup>693</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> July

Peter Cripps from London spends his last day at Gladstone Boys’. He is the last ‘flying bomb’ evacuee to leave the school.<sup>694</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> August

The American bomber *Enola Gay* drops an Atomic Bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Around 50,000 people die immediately in the blast. Another 30,000 will die of radiation burns and a further 20,000 from the other effects of radiation.<sup>695</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> August

The Americans drop a second Atomic Bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. Between 25,000 and 30,000 people are killed and another 50,000 are seriously injured.<sup>696</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> August

Japan surrenders.<sup>697</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> August

The Head of Albany Boys’ writes ‘This day, known as ‘VJ’ Day was

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<sup>691</sup> *The Heather*, November 1945, p.28.

<sup>692</sup> Education Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.281.

<sup>693</sup> Seaman, *Post Victorian Britain*, p.415.

<sup>694</sup> Gladstone Boys’ Admissions Register.

<sup>695</sup> *The Times Atlas*, p.196.

<sup>696</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>697</sup> *Ibid.*, p.200.

announced by the Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, to be the end of the war with Japan. Peace has come after nearly six years of the most terrible war in the history of mankind. Most of the countries of the world have been involved. A new weapon of war, the 'atomic bomb' has been used. It is such a terrible method of destruction that it should banish war for ever'.

31<sup>st</sup> August

Mr. Saunders returns to Cathays High for Boys' after service with the RAF.

1<sup>st</sup> September

One of the pupils not promoted at Tredegarville has 'missed three years school through private evacuation'.<sup>698</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> September

Messrs Bernard Cummins and Thomas Morgan return to Windsor-Clive having been released from the Forces as is the case with Mr. David Henry of Court Boys'. At Whitchurch Mixed 'Mr. J.H. Thomas, released from War-time occupation with the Ministry of Supply, resumed his post and re-commenced teaching this morning'.

The girls of St. Peter's, having sent 'two cards of pressed wild flowers, one jar of chutney and six posters to the City Hall for the Cardiff Allotments and Schools' Horticultural Exhibition. Gained 1<sup>st</sup> prize for a Poster, 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the jar of chutney and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for the pressed flowers'.

Seven girls are not promoted at Gladstone, one is 'irregular and backward' and the other six 'very backward'.

10<sup>th</sup> September

Nine year old Colin Hunt, of 54 Rumney St., Cathays, whose father is in the Forces, is the last official evacuee to be admitted to Whitchurch Boys'. He's there for two months before being sent to a hostel in Monmouth.<sup>699</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> September

Mr. John Thomas rejoins the staff of Moorland Boys' having been released from the Forces.

14<sup>th</sup> September

For nine year old Stuart Mahrer this is his last day at Roath Boys'. Having been living at 91 Claude Road he is returning home to the Channel Islands.

17<sup>th</sup> September

At Lansdowne Boys' 'Miss Edith Rowlands lectured to the seniors on the treatment, prevention and abolition of Tuberculosis'.

18<sup>th</sup> September

After service as a 'government scientist' Mr. G.G. Yates returns to Cathays

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<sup>698</sup> See entry for 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1945.

<sup>699</sup> GRO, E/SE 64/2/3, Whitchurch Boys' Admissions Register, 1939-1945.

High for Boys’.

19<sup>th</sup> September

‘A Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held at 10.30 am this morning. Gifts of fruit, vegetables, flowers, bread etc. were brought by the children. In the afternoon the gifts were sent to Rookwood Hospital’ records the Head of Hawthorn Mixed.

20<sup>th</sup> September

Cardiff Rural District’s Chief Billeting and Welfare Officer reports ‘that the Helpers’ Hut, at the Annexe, *Fox and Hounds Hotel*, Whitchurch, has been closed-down, as directed, and the equipment loaned by various people has been returned to them. Further, that, during the period Mrs. Green acted as Official Helper, 1,000 garments have been repaired; approximately 1,000 garments, 200 pairs of shoes and 165 pairs of ‘Wellingtons’ obtained for evacuated children through the Clothing Scheme operated on behalf of thirty Evacuation Authorities; 376 garments re-made from cast-off clothing; and 200 pairs of socks and stockings knitted from wool supplied through the Women’s Voluntary Services’.<sup>700</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> September

At a meeting of Cardiff Education’s Finance Committee ‘The Director reported the receipt of a letter from the Head Teacher of the Splotlands Girls’ School stating that the Captain and crew of the School’s adopted ship *SS Empire Talisman* had presented them with a cheque for £16 and a shield in recognition of the services rendered to the men of the Merchant Navy during the War. It was noted that the interest from the cheque is to purchase a prize to be given annually to the scholar with the finest character...’<sup>701</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> September

At St. Fagan’s the Head notes ‘Information received that Kathleen Turke (Evacuee) is to be admitted to Penarth County School’. It appears she has no home to return to.

28<sup>th</sup> September

A party of sixty senior boys from Stacey Road visit the Mulberry Exhibition. The Head explains it is ‘an exhibition of the harbours for landing in Normandy on ‘D Day’’. Thirty boys from Herbert Thompson also attend.

Cardiff’s Education Committee receives ‘with pleasure, the following letter from the Belgian Minister of Education:

‘The Belgian schools are now closed and our boys and girls are on their return journey home.

Their five years stay in this country has been a mighty experience, the more so as they have lived it at the most plastic and formative stage of their development. The behaviour of your people during these five years of sweat, blood, toil and tears, as individuals and as citizens, will inspire them all

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<sup>700</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*.

<sup>701</sup> CCL, *Cardiff, Education*, 1944-45, p.309.

through their lives, and the atmosphere of endurance and discipline they have breathed here has transformed them into an elite of character and will. You have taught them, too, how to keep their faith in man, in spite of the storm of brutal force which was raging in the world around them.

For all these reasons, as well as for many others of a less general and more personal kind, I beg you to accept, on behalf of my Government, the expression of our feelings of deep gratitude.

May I ask you to convey this expression of gratitude to all the members of your staff who have collaborated in the success of our schools'.

`Government Evacuation Scheme.- The Committee received with pleasure letters from the London County Council and the Ilford Education Committee, expressing their appreciation and gratitude for the excellent arrangements made by this Authority for the reception of the children from their areas who were evacuated to this area'.<sup>702</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> September

Mrs. Thomas, a teacher at Whitchurch Girls' since 1930, leaves because her husband has been demobilized.

1<sup>st</sup> October

Mr. John Thomas returns to Herbert Thompson Boys' from the Army.

3<sup>rd</sup> October

The Headmistress of Radnor Girls' records `Frequent correspondence is being received from *MS Bradford City*. Another post came this morning again from Captain Dixon himself. The Captain is now on holiday'.

At St. Patrick's Mixed `Mr. T. Stevens, a POW in Japan, returned to England yesterday and paid a visit to the school'.

Thirty Moorland girls visit the Local Government Exhibition at the City Hall.

8<sup>th</sup> October

Mr. Morgan Morgan returns to Lansdowne Boys' 'after an absence of over four years due to military service'.

12<sup>th</sup> October

Cardiff's 'Thanksgiving Week' commences today. The target for the city is £3,000,000.<sup>703</sup> Moorland Infants' raises £187. 10. 6., St. Patrick's Mixed £250 and Radnor Infants' £390. Grangetown Girls' raises £452 and Severn Girls' £474. 18. 6. Radnor Girls' raises £516. 19. 6. and Heathfield House £583. 14. 0. Gladstone infants' raises over £600. Stacey Infants', set a target of £250, collects £900. The boys of Howard Gardens raise £1,003. 3. 0.<sup>704</sup> Roath Girls' total is £1,058. 8. 0., Lansdowne Boys' raises £1,106. 4. 6. but the children of Herbert Thompson Infants' collect no less than £1,149. 9. 0.

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<sup>702</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.309.

<sup>703</sup> Baden Powell Infants', 16<sup>th</sup> October 1945.

<sup>704</sup> GRO, E/HG Sec 24/77, Howard Gardens High School for Boys, *National Savings Association 1945*.

In all, £59,123. 18. 7. is raised by the schools of Cardiff.<sup>705</sup>

At Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee 'The Director reported the receipt of an application from the Head Mistress of the Howard Gardens High School for Girls for the removal of a blast wall in the playground in order to provide for the playing of Netball'.<sup>706</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> October

Mr. Vivian Phelps returns to Herbert Thompson Boys' following demobilization.

16<sup>th</sup> October

Radnor Girls' receives a 'letter stating that Captain Dixon is to be received by the King at an investiture at Buckingham Palace'.

19<sup>th</sup> October

At St. Patrick's Mixed 'The Senior Boys and Girls attended at Ninian Park Boys' School for singing practice for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> when a schools' choir will sing in the Castle grounds, to mark the end of Thanksgiving Week'. Thirty-five boys from Court Road also attend the rehearsal.

20<sup>th</sup> October

Two teachers from Grangetown Girls' accompany sixty pupils to the Castle Grounds where they 'formed part of the Children's Choir at the 'Raising of the Indicator Ceremony'.

22<sup>nd</sup> October

Captain and Mrs. Dixon visit Radnor Road: 'This gave great pleasure to the girls who presented a bunch of flowers to Mrs. Dixon and a photo wallet to the Captain. Photographs were taken and the Captain offered to give to the school a silver challenge cup for sport competition. The girls sang the Welsh National Anthem'.

25<sup>th</sup> October

'Inclement weather and inadequate footwear' badly affects attendance at Ely Infants'.

31<sup>st</sup> October

At St. Monica's Infants' the Head records 'School closed for four days, two for half-term and two deferred VJ holidays'.

7<sup>th</sup> November

At Splott Infants' Miss Vokes 'resumed duties after demobilization from the ATS in which she has served since 20<sup>th</sup> February 1942'. At Windsor-Clive, Mr. Howell Llewellyn Jones 'resumed duties on being demobilized'. At Grangetown Boys' Mr. Mullins returns from the Forces and Mr. Ivor Williams

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<sup>705</sup> Radnor Road Girls', 12<sup>th</sup> December 1945.

<sup>706</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1944-45, p.353.

leaves the RAF and returns to Hawthorn Mixed. Mr. Fred Penhallwrick returns to Llandaff City Mixed after service in the RAF since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1941. Mr. John Wickham returns to Eleanor Street after serving in the Forces since March 1941.

Whitchurch Boys' raises £925. 5. 0. for 'Thanksgiving Savings Week'.

8<sup>th</sup> November

Gladstone Infants' records the arrival of chocolates from the 'Optimism Club of Canada'. Lansdowne Infants' also notes the arrival of 120 bars of chocolate for distribution.

9<sup>th</sup> November

At Clarence Mixed 'Mrs. Marion Davies terminates her supply engagement here today – her husband is being demobilized next week'.

12<sup>th</sup> November

'Today the hours in all the Nurseries have been reduced from 7.30 am - 6.30 pm to 9 am - 5 pm. The Nurseries are retaining one assistant instead of two and her hours will be 8.30 am – 5.30 pm to allow for early arrivals and late goers'.<sup>707</sup>

Mr. Enoch Lewis returns to Whitchurch Boys' having been demobilized.

14<sup>th</sup> November

Cardiff's school children are given a holiday to celebrate the 'Victory Visit' of the King and Queen to Cardiff.<sup>708</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> November

Grangetown Boys' receives 'fifty-one copies of Form OC/4B for children qualifying for extra coupons for footwear'. Forty-nine Supplementary Clothing Coupons are also distributed at Allensbank Girls'.

26<sup>th</sup> November

At Kitchener 'Captain Thompson of the U.S. Army visited the school and held a consultation with every class teacher'.

'Dinners are inaugurated' at St. Francis' and sixty children begin having meals.<sup>709</sup>

27<sup>th</sup> November

There's a 'disturbance' at Radnor Girls' when the mother of one of the children in Miss Cowan's class bursts into the classroom and verbally insults the teacher 'attacking the Jewish race and Miss Cowan in particular'. The Caretaker has to be sent for.

30<sup>th</sup> November

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<sup>707</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>708</sup> Llanishen Mixed & Infants'.

<sup>709</sup> Numbers recorded by St. Francis' Infants'.

The Head of St. Mary's Juniors' in Canton again records her displeasure at the poor attendance. The 'average number on the Register is 277, and the average attendance is only 245. The attendance of many children is very unsatisfactory. Absences from school are persistent – some parents seem to take little interest in the education of their children'.

The girls of St. Peter's send £4. 5. 0. to the Infirmary Fund.

1<sup>st</sup> December

Mr. Douglas Thomas returns to Herbert Thompson Boys' following his demobilization. Consequently 'Mrs. Gertrude Williams terminates her duties in this school as a temporary supply teacher. She served loyally and faithfully for over four and a half years'.

3<sup>rd</sup> December

'Mr. W. Mordecai, returned from Military Service, resumed duties on the permanent staff' of Moorland Boys'. Mr. Wickham returns to Grangetown Boys'. Mr. Wright returns to St. Paul's Mixed after service in the RAF since August 1941.

At St. Mary's Infants' in Canton attendance is poor because of an epidemic of influenza and 'even the children present look lifeless and below par'.

7<sup>th</sup> December

'The cold weather at the beginning of the week and the very wet day today have caused a big drop in attendance. Bad colds and the difficulty of getting new shoes or old shoes repaired are the chief causes of absence' records the Head of Radnor Boys'.

At Birchgrove Infants' a 'Report on Miss Davies has been forwarded to the Director of Education at his request. Copy of report:

'Miss Davies was on the staff of Birchgrove Infants' School when I commenced duties as Head Teacher in January 1939. She is a very inefficient teacher and it has always been a problem fitting her in on the staff. Her discipline is poor, and her manner in speaking to the children is not sympathetic. She shouts frequently when teaching and this is not good for the children. She does her best but the results are very much below average. The number of children in her class is kept as low as possible and are never allowed to remain there long. The difficulty is increased by the fact that she has to share a room with another teacher who finds working in such circumstances very trying'.

10<sup>th</sup> December

The Head of Birchgrove Infants' and Miss Davies attend 'a meeting of the Education (Personal Reports Affecting Teachers) Sub-Committee. Miss Davies will retire from the profession at the end of March 1946 having completed forty years service as a Supplementary Teacher'.

Mr. C.G. Parry returns to Cathays High for Boys' after service with the Royal Artillery.

11<sup>th</sup> December

Mrs. Pugsley, a 'temporary teacher' at the Senior Mixed in Bute Terrace terminates duties as Mr. G. Salmon is returning tomorrow from the Forces.

12<sup>th</sup> December

The Head of Ninian Infants' sends a letter to the Director reporting a named boy of 4 North Clive Street 'for throwing two large fireworks into the Nursery bedroom. The previous day half a brick was thrown through the window and glass was scattered in every direction'.

19<sup>th</sup> December

At Grangetown Girls' 'Valerie Roach, one of the senior pupils, attended the King Edward V11 Hospital this afternoon, to present the purse containing the contribution (£35. 8. 0.) for the children's ward, to the Lady Mayoress'. The amount raised at Herbert Thompson Boys' is £9. 6. 0. and at Severn Girls' it's £46. 9. 4. In all £1,252 has been raised this year by the schools of Cardiff.<sup>710</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> December

Cardiff Rural District's Chief Billeting and Welfare Officer reports that 'the two unaccompanied children still billeted in the Council's district have each been given the sum of two shillings in respect of Christmas festivities...'<sup>711</sup>

Chocolates from Canada are given to the children of Roath Infants' before they leave for the Christmas holidays and Leonard Wikinson, the last but one evacuee from London at the school who has been living at 2a Bangor Street returns home.<sup>712</sup>

At Kitchener 'Mr. Jenkin Richards BSc terminates his engagement today on taking up his new appointment as lecturer at Wrexham Emergency Teacher Training College'.

## 1946

7<sup>th</sup> January

'Mr. Spear returned to duties after an absence of six years and five months, owing to the war' records the Head of St. Patrick's Mixed. At Baden Powell Infants' 'Miss Edith Lumley Jones resumes her duties after an absence of six years and three months due to War service'. At Metal Street Mixed 'Mr. Gordon Hinton resumed duty. He has been serving in the Royal Air Force since March 5<sup>th</sup> 1940'. Mr. F.G. Davies returns to St. Alban's Mixed after five and a half years in the RAF. Mr. J.E. Jones resumes duties at Severn Road Manual Centre having been demobilized after four and a half years service. At Whitchurch Mixed 'Mr. Aneurin Davies, demobilized from the Royal Air Force, resumed teaching this morning'. Mr. Gordon Cox rejoins the staff of Moorland Boys' after three years secondment to Howard Gardens High School.

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<sup>710</sup> Circular noted by Moorland Road Boys', 8<sup>th</sup> April 1946.

<sup>711</sup> GRO, *Cardiff RDC, Minutes*.

<sup>712</sup> Roath Park Infants' Admission Register.

Over the holiday considerable damage has been done to the Nursery at Ninian Infants' 'by boys throwing stones'.

9<sup>th</sup> January

At a meeting of Cardiff's Secondary Schools Committee the Director reports that Mr. H. Salmon had rejoined the staff of Howard Gardens High for Boys as of the 1<sup>st</sup> January and 'The Committee noted that Mr. Salmon, together with Messrs G.G. Davies (Howard Gardens), and Penry M. Rees (Cathays Boys)', had been prisoners of war in Japanese hands for three and a half years, and it was decided to extend to these teachers a hearty welcome upon their return home, and a sincere wish that they will soon be restored to normal health'.<sup>713</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> January

Mr. Danovitch is demobilized and returns to Viriamu Jones and Mr. Humphrey Sayce returns to Allensbank Boys'.

15<sup>th</sup> January

At Lansdowne Boys' 'The Senior School was addressed this morning by Colonel René L'Hôpital on 'Youth and the French Occupation'.

'Mr. GP Evans BSc and Mr. Roy Thomas BA, ex National Service Students, reported this afternoon for Teaching Practice' records the Head of Grangetown Boys'.

18<sup>th</sup> January

'The Director reported the receipt of a Ministry of Education Circular...with regard to the provision of additional Colleges for the Emergency Training of Teachers...with a view to establishing a third Emergency Training College for Wales, to be set up in the City, and they suggested that the Military Camp on the Heath Estate should be utilised for this purpose. The Committee unanimously decided to support the application of the Ministry of Education for the temporary transfer of this Military Camp for a period of four years...'<sup>714</sup>

21<sup>st</sup> January

Mr. J.E. Morris rejoins the staff of Moorland Boys' after Military Service.

25<sup>th</sup> January

Mr. Howell Watkins returns to Grangetown Boys' from the Forces.

28<sup>th</sup> January

At Radnor Boys' 'Mr.R.C.N. Evans recommenced duties here this morning having been demobilized'. Mr. David Lewis returns to Tredegarville after serving in the Forces since August 1941.

30<sup>th</sup> January

The pupils of Whitchurch Mixed give the first of three evening performances of

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<sup>713</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1945-46, p.74.

<sup>714</sup> Sites & Buildings Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1945-46, p.82.

Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*.

1<sup>st</sup> February

At Radnor Boys' 'Mr. H.H. Davis recommenced duties here this morning, having been released from military duties'. Mr. T.J. Thomas returns to Whitchurch Mixed and Mr. F. Wusteman to St. Illtyd's.<sup>715</sup>

Captain Parker of the *SS Clan Murdoch* visits Herbert Thompson Boys' again.

4<sup>th</sup> February

'Mrs. G.M. Samore is absent this afternoon and will return tomorrow afternoon – husband sailing to USA' records the Head of Lansdowne Boys'.

11<sup>th</sup> February

Mr. John E. Evans, a Radnor Boys' teacher, 'recommenced duties here today after demobilization'.

18<sup>th</sup> February

Mr. John P. Milburn, another Radnor Boys' teacher returns from the Forces, as does Mr. Merriman of Hywell Dda Mixed. Mr. A.L. Mends returns to Metal Street after six years service in the RAF. Consequently 'Mrs. Catherine Burdett resigned her temporary post after six years service during the war years. The Permanent Staff is now complete'. Messers F.M. Timberlake and W.J. Davies return to Lansdowne Boys' 'after their war-time appointments at Cathays High School and Radnor Road School respectively'. Consequently two married women teachers terminate their duties. Mr. Russell returns to Cathays High for Boys' after service as an Army Education Officer 'in Egypt and North Africa'.<sup>716</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February

Twenty-seven tins of cocoa powder with sugar and powdered milk sent from Canada are distributed among all the pupils at Roath Boys'. Each brings a 1lb jam jar to school to collect it.<sup>717</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> February

At Lansdowne Boys' 'Mrs. G.M. Samore is absent today. She has an appointment at the US Embassy in London'.

1<sup>st</sup> March

'A reorganisation of the school has been necessary' records the Head of Allensbank Infants' 'owing to the admission of thirty-three children from the colony of prefabricated houses at 'The Crystals'.

Mr. V.L. Jones returns to Windsor-Clive having been demobilized from the RAF. Mr. Cook returns to Cathays High for Boys' after service with the Army in

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<sup>715</sup> *The Illydian*, Vol.19, No.2, Easter 1946, p.96.

<sup>716</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 1<sup>st</sup> September 1946.

<sup>717</sup> Information supplied by ex-pupil John Lang, Roath, Cardiff, who can still remember the sheer delight of dipping his licked finger into the jar as he walked home; On the 6<sup>th</sup> February the same thing had happened at Gladstone Girls'.

India.<sup>718</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> March

Mr. Ivor Owen rejoins the staff of Moorland Boys'. Similarly, Mr. John Islwyn Thomas returns to Herbert Thompson Boys'.

'Mr. C. Collins has been appointed temporary supply as from today in place of Mr. J. Nelson who has been called up for military service' records the Head of St. Cuthbert's.

At Grangetown Boys' 'Dr. Sessions attended at 3.30 to give a lesson on Sex Hygiene to the senior boys (13+) whose parents had expressed their desire that their lads should receive such instruction'. He comes again the next afternoon.

12<sup>th</sup> March

St. Patrick's Infants' is forced to close at 11.40 'as a shelter near the school was being knocked down and the vibration and noise was most disturbing. A mantle from the gas bracket fell in one classroom'.

20<sup>th</sup> March

At Stacey Infants a 'gift of 14lbs of sweets was received and shared equally among the children'. The same happens at Splott Infants' where the head comments drily '14lb tin for distribution among 302 children'. They are a gift from the 'South African Voluntary Service'.

21<sup>st</sup> March

The final meeting of Cardiff Rural District's Evacuation & Welfare Committee is told that seven accompanied children, four mothers, three other adults and two unaccompanied children are still being billeted.

25<sup>th</sup> March

Cardiff's schools are told about the 'Appointment of Teachers to Posts of Special Responsibility. Applications are invited for appointments as First Assistants in Grade 4 and 5 schools. The allowance to be paid, over and above the Burnham Scales will be as follows – (a) men, £50 (b) women, £40'.<sup>719</sup>

Mrs. Samore is absent from Lansdowne Boys' in the afternoon 'suffering from the effects of vaccination'.

27<sup>th</sup> March

Radnor Boys' notes a Circular with the details of the capitation allowances for 1946-47:

Children aged 11+	10/- per head
Children aged 7-11	8/- per head
Infants	6/- per head.

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<sup>718</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 1<sup>st</sup> September 1946.

<sup>719</sup> Baden Powell Infants'.

29<sup>th</sup> March

`The Director reported the receipt of Circular 96 issued by the Ministry of Education, and it was noted that the Government had decided to make school milk free of charge in all grant-aided primary and secondary schools...in August next. The whole cost of this benefit will be borne by the Exchequer in accordance with the existing provision for the payment of 100% grant on the school milk service.

The permitted quantity of milk per pupil...will be maintained, so far as possible, at two-thirds of a pint per day...

It was also noted that the Government has decided to make school dinners free of charge to day pupils at the earliest possible date in all grant-aided primary and secondary schools, but this cannot be until school canteen facilities are sufficient to meet the expected demand, and for the present, therefore, parents' payments will continue...'

`The Director reported that it had been agreed to take over the eight Wartime Nurseries from the Welsh Board of Health as and from 1<sup>st</sup> April. The Committee agreed that a charge of 2/6 a week be made to parents in respect of each child attending...'<sup>720</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> March

Miss G. Mary Robinson, Headmistress of Severn Girls', is killed in a car crash.

1<sup>st</sup> April

`Today the Nurseries came directly under the LEA with the reduction of the Ministry of Health Grant. The fees are reduced from 5/- to 2/6 per week. The hours now are 9 – 4 and no Saturday session'.<sup>721</sup>

`Mr. Randall Davies resumed duties today after service in the RAF since July 1941' records the Head of Stacey Boys'. Mr. F.N. Rees returns to Cathays High for Boys' `after being a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese for several years'.<sup>722</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> April

Brothers Anthony and David Dawson of Woodgreen, London, are the last evacuees to be admitted to Herbert Thompson Boys'. [Four days later they return home, so presumably this was just a transit stop from somewhere else in Wales.<sup>723</sup>]

3<sup>rd</sup> April

Anthony Richards, an eight year old evacuee who has been at Greenhill Open Air School since November 1944, returns to London.<sup>724</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> April

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<sup>720</sup> Special Services Committee. CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1945-46, pp.156-7.

<sup>721</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

<sup>722</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 1<sup>st</sup> September 1946.

<sup>723</sup> Herbert Thompson Boys' Admissions Register.

<sup>724</sup> GRO, Greenhill Admissions Register.

The Head of Court Boys' attends a 'Committee Meeting at 3 o'clock on the 14+ Curriculum at Gladstone School'. [On the outbreak of war, plans to raise the school leaving age to fifteen had been suspended. This meeting shows that, in light of R.A. Butler's Education Act of 1944, the matter is now being planned for, though it won't be implemented until September 1947.<sup>725</sup>]

8<sup>th</sup> April

A Circular informs the schools of Cardiff that the Victory Celebrations 'for school children are to be held on Friday afternoon, 7<sup>th</sup> June, instead of 8<sup>th</sup> June, the day on which the official Victory Celebrations will be held'.<sup>726</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> April

'The Blast Walls erected during the war at various points around the school are in the process of demolition' records the Head of Tongwynlais.

Cardiff Education's Sites & Buildings Committee hears that the Ministry of Education has approved 'the proposed restoration of the first floor of the Canton High School, at an estimated cost of £8,850'. The Committee also instructs the City Surveyor and the Director of Education to report on the possibility of using the blitzed Marlborough Road School site 'for the purpose of erecting a Nursery and Infants' School...' [The new Infant School opened in September 1951, but the Nursery Unit had to wait until September 1998.<sup>727</sup>]

'The City Surveyor reported that the estimated cost of the demolition and clearance of 290 school shelters would be £22,000...'<sup>728</sup> [Which helps to explain why the shelters at Marlborough Road, for example, weren't demolished until August 1972 whilst the one behind the War-Time Nursery at Rumney Infants' is *still* there.<sup>729</sup>]

15<sup>th</sup> April

At Kitchener 'Mr. Frank Sheskonas resumed his duties after an absence of nearly five years in His Majesty's Forces'.

16<sup>th</sup> April

The Head of Stacey Boys' explains 'Ex-Service Teachers have been invited to a Complementary Dinner given by the NUT at the City Hall this evening and the School Choir...has been invited to supply the harmony at the function'.

18<sup>th</sup> April

A Bulletin is sent to all Cardiff schools about 'the Food Crisis'.<sup>730</sup>

The Head of Stacey Boys' records 'School was closed this afternoon for a fortnight's holiday for Easter. This is the first occasion on which the school has been closed for a fortnight at Easter'.

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<sup>725</sup> See 25<sup>th</sup> October 1939 in this book and, for example, Roath Park Boys', 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1947.

<sup>726</sup> Birchgrove Infants'.

<sup>727</sup> Marlborough Road Infants, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1951 & 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1998.

<sup>728</sup> CCL, Cardiff, *Education*, 1945-46, pp.174-5.

<sup>729</sup> Marlborough Juniors, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1972.

<sup>730</sup> Stacey Road Infants'.

7<sup>th</sup> May

At Clarence Mixed `Mr. Merlyn Richards returns to school duties after five and a half years' service in the Air Force'.

Mrs. Samore 'has terminated her duties in order to join her husband in the USA' records the Head of Lansdowne Boys'. [She is one of the 70,000 British 'GI Brides'.<sup>731</sup>]

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular warning them about the forthcoming Victory Celebrations: `Definite arrangements for the proposed celebrations to be deferred until the Council has come to a final settlement with regard to this matter'.<sup>732</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> May

At Whitchurch Boys' `The `blast walls' which were built for protection against air-attacks during the war have been removed during the Easter Vacation. The result is there is more room for playing in the playground and better lighting in the classrooms'.

10<sup>th</sup> May

Hawthorn Infants' notes a Bulletin including details about `Short Courses for teachers of sub-normal children'.

13<sup>th</sup> May

The Head of Whitchurch Boys' `discovered that four boys from this school had been smoking out of school hours. This called for my serious attention. I gave an important talk to the boys of the upper classes upon the injurious effects of smoking among juveniles'.

17<sup>th</sup> May

`Wordsworth Avenue Nursery has been closed today as the owners of the land are pressing to have their houses rebuilt. Some of the children are being admitted at Ferry Road, Moorland Road and Baden Powell Nurseries'.<sup>733</sup>

The Head of Court Boys' records `This morning I received a letter from Mr. W.F. Harvey, *Coniston*, Windemere Avenue informing me that his son, Mr. W.C. Harvey, formerly a member of this staff is now presumed by the Air Ministry to have been killed on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942. His death is deeply deplored by all the members of this staff'. [Colin Harvey had joined the staff on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1936]

23<sup>rd</sup> May

At Windsor-Clive `The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Cardiff together with a distinguished company visited the school and presented the trophies won during 1945:

a) National Life-Saving Trophy

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<sup>731</sup> Morgan, *City at War*, p.117.

<sup>732</sup> Birchgrove Infants'.

<sup>733</sup> Wartime Nurseries.

- b) Football League Championship
- c) Seager Cup [Baseball]
- d) Cricket Championship Cup

This is a record unequalled in the history of the Cardiff Schools...'

31<sup>st</sup> May

Lansdowne Girls' receives a Circular 'regarding Victory celebrations on June 7<sup>th</sup>, also a cheque for £13 and a permit for rationed goods'. At Radnor Girls' arrangements are made with *Luke's Confectioners*, Romilly Crescent, for the forthcoming Victory Tea. They 'will provide one buttered roll, one sausage roll, one iced cake, and one trifle per child'.

1<sup>st</sup> June

Mr. A.J. Rees returns to Cathays High for Boys' after service with the Royal Artillery in France, Belgium and Germany.<sup>734</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> June

Captain and Mrs. McCrachen visit Allensbank: 'The boys assembled in the hall and gave the Captain a rousing welcome. He told the boys that 'Our Ship' was the first British ship to enter Danzig after the release of Poland. They were welcomed with tremendous enthusiasm. Some of the leading citizens were entertained to dinner on board our ship. On the table, the ship's flag and the Union Jack (both made by a resident) were prominently displayed. These two flags were presented to the school by Captain McCrachen. The visit was enjoyed by all'.

Mr. Thomas Wilson returns to Greenhill having been demobilized.

7<sup>th</sup> June

Cardiff's schools celebrate 'Victory Celebration Day'. The children of St. Mary's in Canton assemble in Church at 9 o'clock for 'a Mass of Thanksgiving'.<sup>735</sup>

Roath Girls' has an assembly, sports and a fancy dress parade, followed by community singing and a tea. Gladstone Girls' also has a fancy dress parade for which 'three prizes were given for each class in Savings Stamps'. The School had experienced problems, however, for as the Head explains 'Great difficulty was experienced in getting Caterers. The staff volunteered to make the cakes if small portions of sugar and fat could be collected from the children...Enough cakes were made to give an individual allowance of five per child. The staff passed the whole of one evening in the Domestic Centre to carry out the work'.

Films are shown in the morning at Viriamu Jones and in the afternoon there is a Carnival: 'This was truly amazing, the parents did their part very well. A tea with ices followed, then the children were entertained by a conjuror'.

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<sup>734</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 1<sup>st</sup> September 1946.

<sup>735</sup> St. Mary's Infants'.

At Lansdowne the boys begin with a Thanksgiving Service and then 'a programme of games and competitions was taken in the playground, with an interval for the serving of ice-cream. In the afternoon further competitions were held, together with a Boxing Exhibition and a Fancy Dress parade. An excellent tea was provided at 3.15 pm...' At the Girls' 'In the morning a Fancy Dress parade was held and money prizes awarded. In the afternoon tea was dispensed to all the school, 1/- per head being granted for this purpose by the City Council. Mr. George Thomas MP visited the school and distributed the cards containing the King's Message to all the pupils'.

The Head of Marlborough Infants' records 'The day was devoted to the celebrating of Victory. During the morning session the children did suitable handwork - drawing of flags etc. and an hour was devoted to the singing of patriotic songs and items given by individual children and groups of children. A simple service of prayers and hymns was taken to begin the day. During the afternoon the tea provided by the Committee was greatly enjoyed by all'.

At Kitchener 'A Punch and Judy Show, Fancy Dress Competition, Sketches and an Impromptu Concert' are held. At Metal Street Mixed there's a ventriloquist, at Hywel Dda Infants' another conjuror.

At the School for the Deaf 'Victory was celebrated today. The children were taken in a special bus (provided by the staff) around the town and district to see the decorations and the countryside. Tea was served on returning to school at 4 pm. Parents and friends had rallied around depositing points at shops, and bringing gifts of food and money...The menu was as follows:-

Hard boiled eggs (coloured red and blue)

French roll and margarine

Chocolate finger biscuits

Ice cream sundaes

Soft drinks

The tables were laid with white cloths, silver doyleys, decorative souffle cases (inverted) as egg cups, sweet cases as salt cellars and a vase of red, white and blue flowers standing on a central square of cardboard. Real silver spoons had been lent for the children's use. Each table seated four children. Paper table napkins were also provided. The ice cream sundaes were served in pre-war cut glass sundae glasses.

After tea games were played and in conclusion each child was presented with a card bearing the King's message and a packet of *Malteezers*.

The senior children voted the arrangements similar to a hotel. The whole celebration was thoroughly enjoyed and the weather was perfect'.

18<sup>th</sup> June

Mr. Thomas Reynolds is demobilized and returns to Hywel Dda Mixed.

21<sup>st</sup> June

At Stacey Road 'A party of senior boys has left school to visit the Cardiff Health & Housing Exhibition at the City Hall this morning'.

28<sup>th</sup> June

The Head of Court Girls' records 'At 2.15 pm an experimental test in broadcasting Welsh was carried out. Standard 3 was the class selected, and they responded well. Miss Thomas HMI, Mrs. Parry Williams, Mr. Roberts and many BBC staff were present'.

Mr. Shaw returns to Cathays High for Boys' after service with the Army in Italy.<sup>736</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> July

At Whitchurch Mixed `Mr. W.H. Cooper returned after service with the RAF' and Mr. John A. Roberts returns to Herbert Thompson Boys'.

12<sup>th</sup> July

'The Mobile Film Unit of the Ministry of Information paid a visit to the school this afternoon. Among the films shown was 'A Ride with Uncle Joe' records the Head of Radyr.

29<sup>th</sup> July

William Smith, from Tooting in London, who was evacuated to Roath Infants' in September 1944 and who lives at 7 Pen-y-wain Road is still at the school. In September he will be transferred to the Boys' next door.<sup>737</sup> [Though only speculation, it seems likely that William was one of those evacuees whose parents or guardians had either been killed in the bombing or who had deserted their children. Whatever the case, his situation was by no means unique.]

Cardiff's schools receive a Circular telling them of 'Free Milk in Schools for all children' as of the coming academic year.<sup>738</sup>

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<sup>736</sup> Cathays High for Boys', 1<sup>st</sup> September 1946.

<sup>737</sup> Roath Park Infants' Admissions Register.

<sup>738</sup> Gladstone Boys'.

## Postscript

Whilst I have enjoyed the ready co-operation of the headteachers of Cardiff's schools and the staff of the Glamorgan Record Office, the shame is that the two are all so often estranged. Thus, of the ninety-one Cardiff Logs examined for this study, only thirty-four are as yet deposited with the GRO. It saddens me that so many school records appear to have disappeared completely whilst others all too often simply gather dust.

The very first Log I studied was literally lying, locked, beneath a metre or two of debris in a cupboard. At another school I arrived during a downpour and was duly led by the Head through an obstacle course of buckets and bowls which had been laid to catch the drips to a stock-cupboard awash with water from where he retrieved his Log: 'It's the same every time it rains' he told me. When I discovered, again locked, another Log, the Head warned me as I stood on a chair to delve into a cupboard: 'I must warn you, we've had mice in there'. In more than a few instances Heads and I have relied on those fonts of all wisdom, school secretaries, to remember where their records languished.

Given the indifference and neglect, the surprise is that so many Logs and other records *have* survived, not that many have disappeared.

The GRO, like other Record Offices, has hermetically sealed, bomb-proof vaults and a team of archivists and scientists dedicated to the preservation of the past. My hope is that this book may raise awareness that school records, especially when viewed *collectively*, can add to our knowledge and understanding of that past and as such they really need to be entrusted to the care of professionals working in secure environments for the benefit of this and future generations.

Schools for which I have been unable to find any records at all for this period:

Adamsdown Boys', Girls' & Infants'  
Baden Powell Mixed  
Canton C W Boys'  
Cathays C W Mixed & Infants'  
Cathays High for Girls'  
Fairwater Mixed & Infants'  
Llandaff City C W Infants'  
Llandaff North C W Mixed & Infants'  
Marlborough Road Boys'  
Ninian Park Boys' & Girls'  
Rhiwbina Boys', Girls' & Infants'<sup>739</sup>  
Rhydypenau Mixed & Infants'  
Rumney Mixed & Infants'  
School for Children with Defective Sight  
South Church Street Mixed & Infants'

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<sup>739</sup> The Logs of these schools were thrown away by a previous Head, the only instance I have come across of deliberate destruction.

St. David's RC Boys' & Girls'  
St. John's C W Boys', Girls' & Infants'  
St. Joseph's RC Mixed  
St. Peter's RC Boys' & Infants'  
St. Mary's Mission C W Boys', Girls' & Infants'  
Severn Road Boys' & Infants'  
Splott Road Boys' & Girls'  
Stacey Road Girls'  
Tredegarville C W Girls' & Infants'  
Viriamu Jones Girls' & Infants'  
Whitchurch High for Boys' & Girls'  
Windsor-Clive Girls' & Infants'