



# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

## Source 1

Civil Defence Measures.  
State of Public Opinion.

2. The War Cabinet had before them a Report by the Civil Defence Committee on the State of Public Opinion as regards Civil Defence Measures (W.P. (G.) (39) 159).

*The Secretary of State for Home Affairs* said that the members of the Civil Defence Committee were concerned at the increasing tendency, reflected in the Press, to regard the Government's policy in regard to Civil Defence measures as unnecessary and even to take the line that there would be no air raids and that the sooner life could return to normal the better. The Committee therefore

suggested that the hypothesis on which the Government's policy had been based, should be reviewed by the Chiefs of Staff, so that the Government could then announce that they had reviewed their Civil Defence Plans as a whole, and that an examination of all the factors involved led to the conclusion that there was no case for modifying the policy previously adopted.

They had also in mind that some Civil Defence plans, *e.g.*, the provision of hospital beds and fire-fighting arrangements, were based on a quantitative calculation as to the possible results of air raids, and that it might be useful to have an up-to-date calculation on these points.

*The Secretary of State for Air* said that the Air Staff agreed with the Report of the Civil Defence Committee. Nothing had yet happened to give any adequate grounds for modifying the assumptions made before the war. There had so far been no experience in dealing with heavy sustained air attacks on the scale previously envisaged, and, if attacks took place, there was no assurance that they could be completely prevented, especially if they took place at night. They fully realised that the precautions were a great burden on the country, but their existence might be one of the reasons why heavy attacks had not materialised, and it would, in their view, be a grave mistake to relax them. They considered it very important that steps should be taken to counter the spirit of false optimism, as suggested by the Civil Defence Committee, and that the Press should be induced not to give the impression that the defences were perfectly capable of dealing with the much heavier attacks which might yet eventuate.

*War Cabinet Minutes 121 (39) November 1939?*



# **SHELTERS** *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

## **Source 2**

FOR PRESS & BROADCAST.

Morrison Shelters in Recent Air Raids.

A report of Ministry of Home Security experts on 39 cases of bombing incidents in different parts of Britain covering all those for which full particulars are available in which Morrison shelters were involved shows how well they have stood up to severe tests of heavy bombing.

All the incidents were serious. Many of the incidents involved direct hits on the houses concerned a risk against which it was never claimed these shelters would afford protection. In all of them the houses in which shelters were placed were within the radius of damage by bombs; in 24 there was complete demolition of the house on the shelter.

A hundred and nineteen people were sheltering in these "Morrison's" and only four were killed. So that 115 out of 119 people were saved. Of these only 7 were seriously injured and 14 slightly injured while 94 escaped uninjured. The majority were able to leave their shelters unaided.

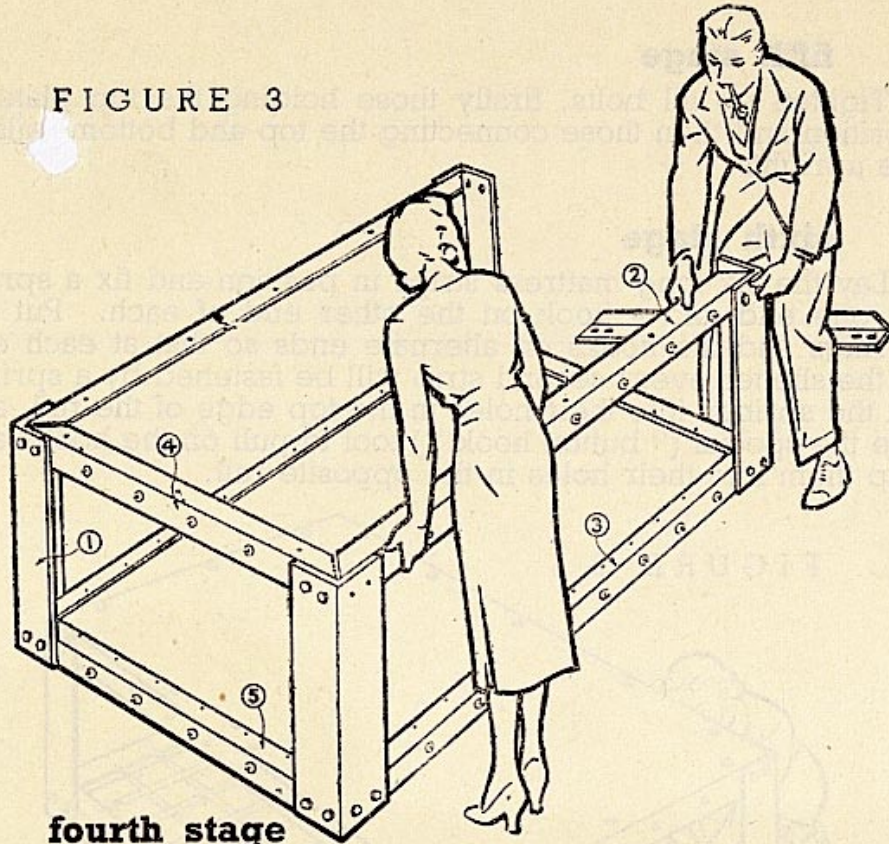
## ***Morrison Shelters in Recent Air Raids November 1939?***



# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

Source 2 (pg2)

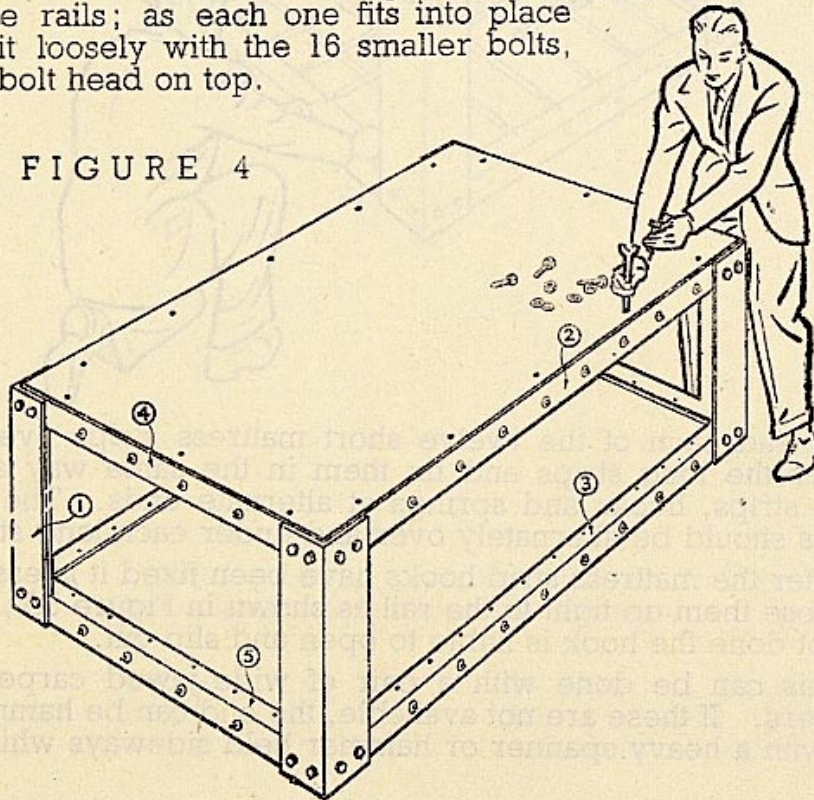
FIGURE 3



### fourth stage

Put the top plate on the shelter. Use the lever provided so as to make the holes in the top plate fit exactly over the holes in the rails; as each one fits into place bolt it loosely with the 16 smaller bolts, with bolt head on top.

FIGURE 4



*How to put up your Morrison shelter*



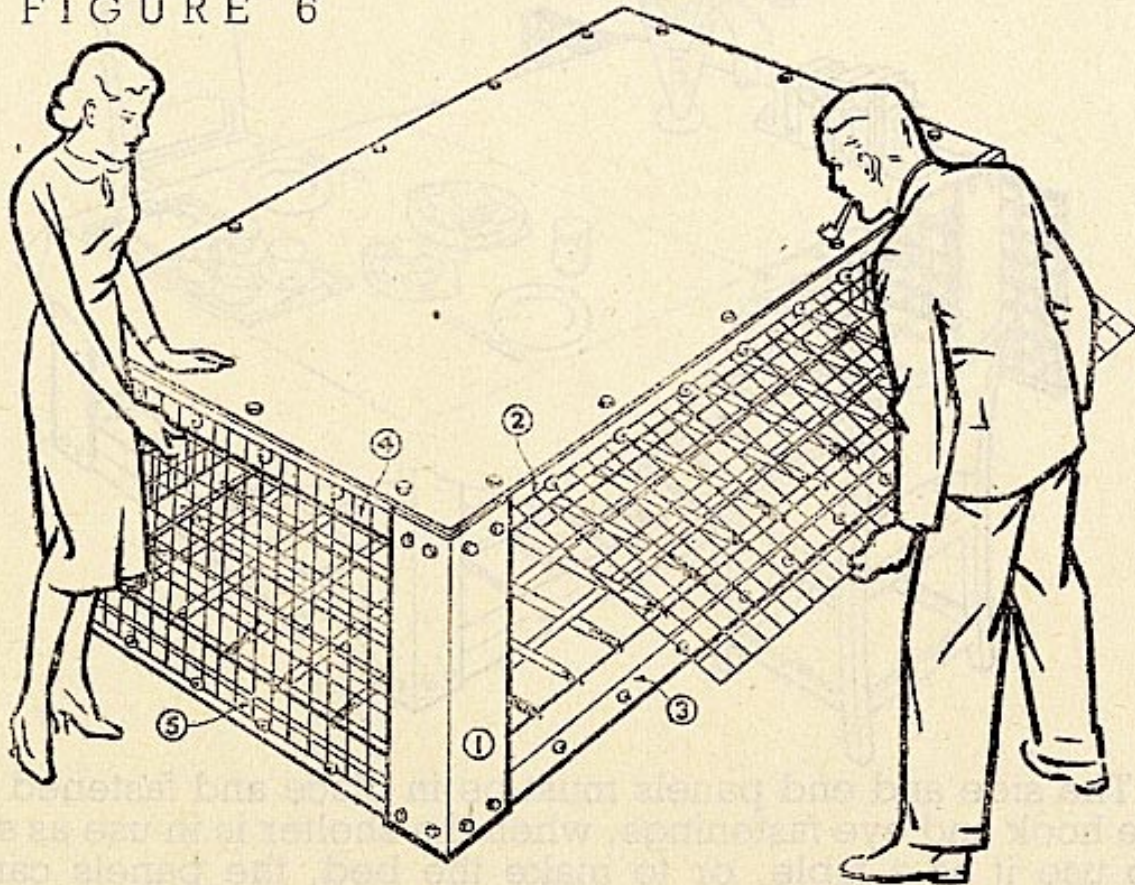
Source 2 (pg3)

## seventh stage

Put the side and end panels over the studs.

Get inside just before the last one is put into place, and fix the four hook-and-eye fastenings as shown in Figure 7. You

FIGURE 6



will notice in the illustration that the eyepiece is fastened to the last wire of the end covering; the hook-piece, however, is

*How to put up your Morrison shelter*

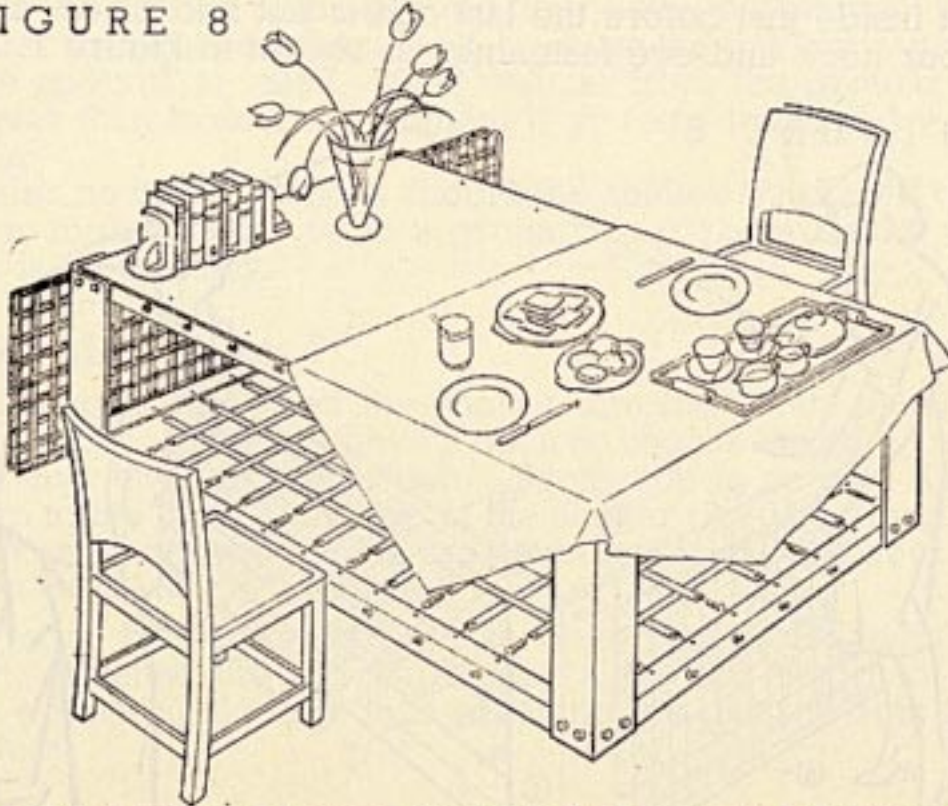


# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

Source 2 (pg4)

## How to Use the Shelter as a Table

FIGURE 8



The side and end panels must be in place and fastened with the hook and eye fastenings, when the shelter is in use as such. To use it as a table, or to make the bed, the panels can be removed.

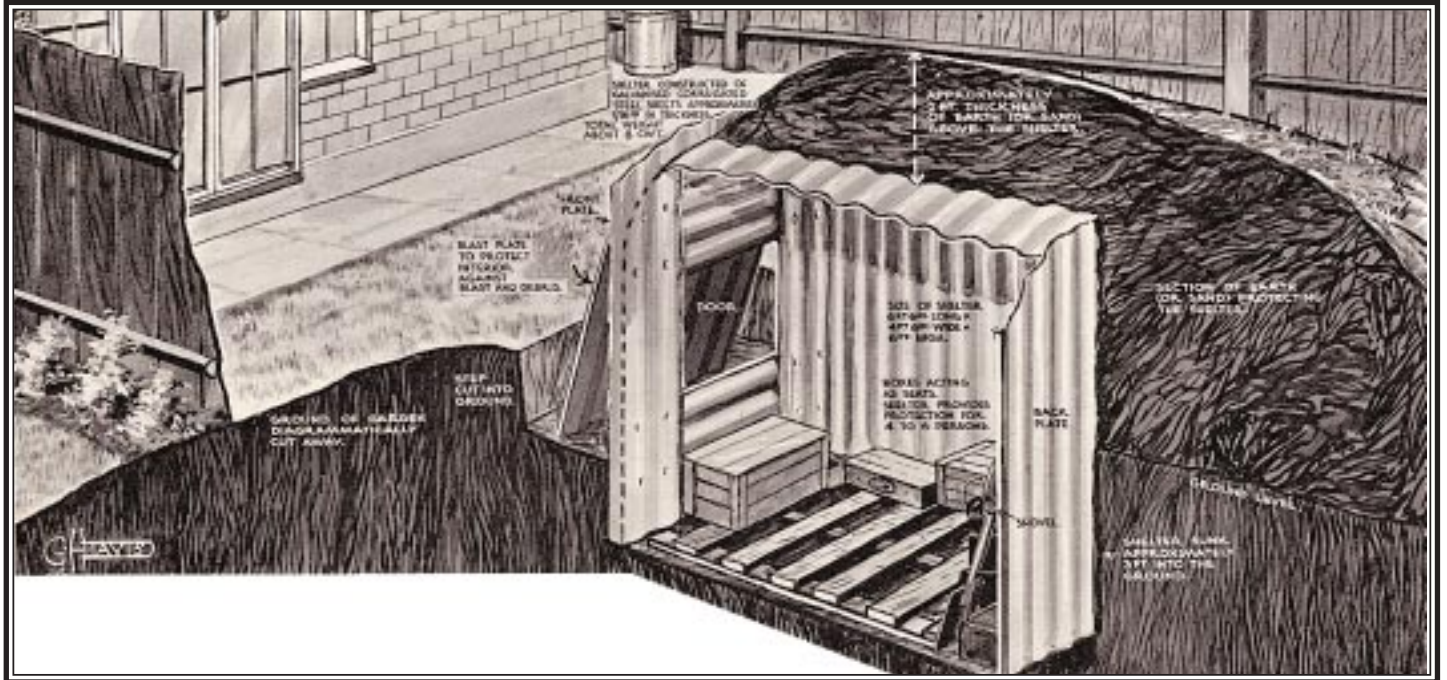
(25098.) 58985. Wt. 8557-P1069. 250,400. 4/41. A., P. & S., Ltd.

*How to put up your Morrison shelter*



# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

Source 3

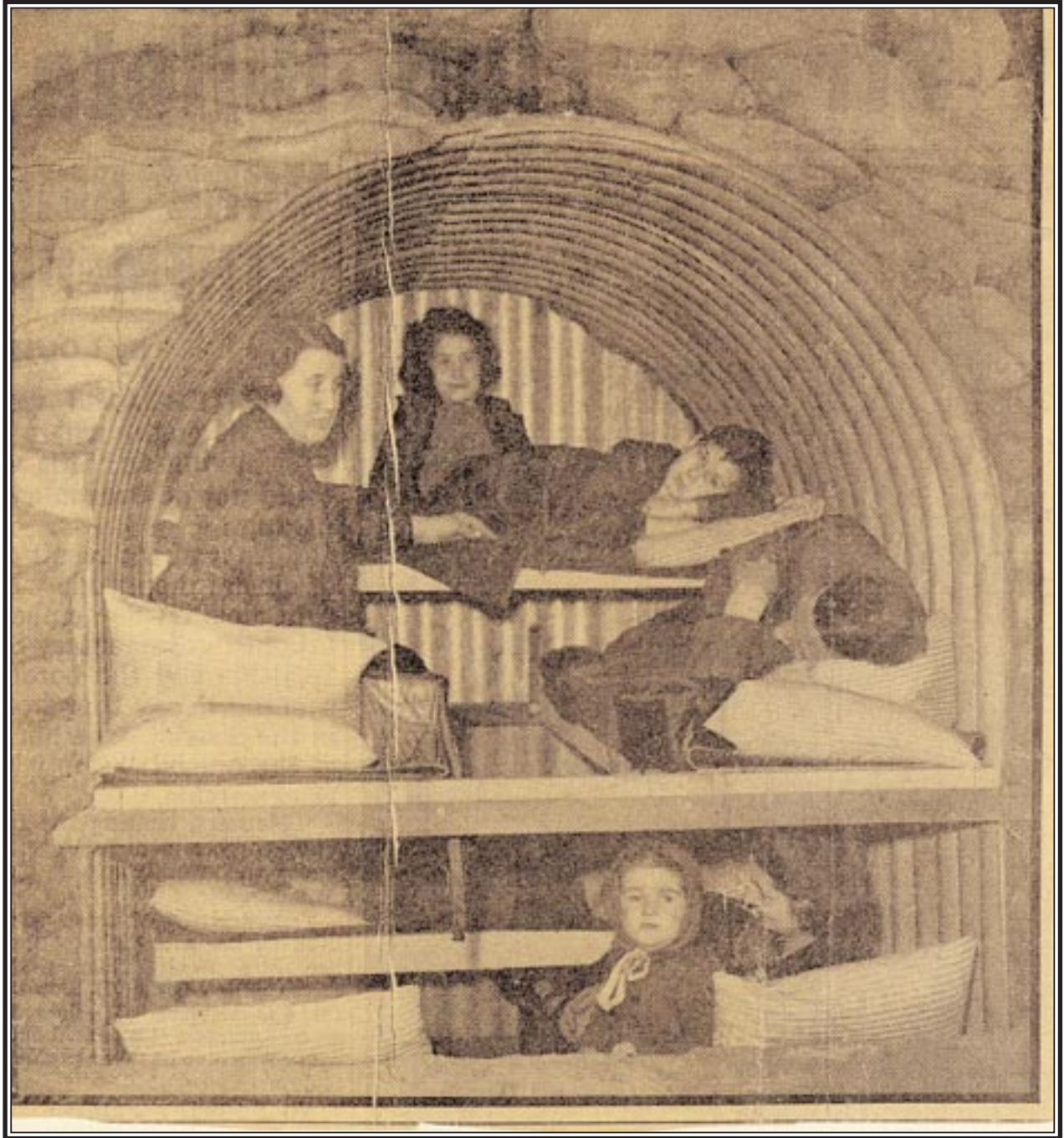


*Diagram of how to construct an Anderson Shelter*



# **SHELTERS** *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

*Source 3 (pg 2)*



*Photograph of inside an Anderson Shelter*



# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

Source 4

BOROUGH OF CAMBERWELL						
AIR RAID SHELTER ACCOMMODATION.						
PUBLIC SHELTERS.						
TYPE	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION		REMARKS.		
		Persons.		Day	Night	
Railway	Arch No. 309	Vyndham Road	170	140	<del>60</del>	75
Arches	" "	310 " "	170	140	<del>60</del>	72
	" "	319 Blucher Road	170	140	<del>60</del>	84
	" "	320 " "	170	140	<del>60</del>	84
	" "	322 " "	170	140	<del>60</del>	84
	" "	352 Gamberwell Station Road.	100	130	60	
	" "	353 " " "	100	95	54	
	" "	354 " " "	100	112	64	60
	" "	359 " " "	70	42	36	
	" "	359 " " "	70	42	36	24
	" "	183 Blenheim Grove	70		39	
	" "	185 " " "	70		39	
	" "	187 " " "	70		39	
	" "	188 " " "	70		39	
	" "	190 " " "	70		39	
	" "	191 " " "	70		39	
	" "	192 " " "	70		39	
	" "	224 " " "	<del>100</del>	130	<del>60</del>	72
	" "	99 Queens Road Station.	24		9	
	" "	104 " " "	140		66	72
	" "	110 " " "	140		66	72
	" "	118 " " "	140		66	90
	" "	119 " " "	160		70	90
	" "	123 " " "	<del>100</del>	150	70	90
	" "	839 Consort Road	150		70	90
	" "	852 Gordon Road	150		70	90
	" "	72 Old Kent Road	120		48	45
	" "	78 " " "	120		48	45
		Burbage Road	100		-	2 SHELTERS (ARCHES)
Railway	Lordship Lane Station		80		27	
Subways	Crystal Palace Parade		360		192	
Concrete	Albany Road Open Space		534			Not yet bunked.
Lined	Branswick Park, Open space		460			" " "
Trenches.	Downes Place Open Space		350			" " "
	Leyton Square Open Space		664			" " "
	Neste Street, Open Space		30			" " "
	Lomond Place Open Space		256			" " "
	Camberwell Green Open Space		438			" " "
	Addington Sq. Open Space		230			" " "
	Peckham Rye (Kings Arms)		486			" " "
	Peckham Rye (Newlands)		218			" " "
	Dulwich Park (Court Lane)		144			
	Dulwich Park (College Rd).		144			
Basements.	Tower Cinema Rye Lane		860		450	
	St. Marys Church, St. Marys Rd		<del>304</del> 442		201 <sup>24</sup>	Damaged, being repaired.
	133, Hill Street		490		310	COMPLETED
	All Saints Church, Davy St.		202		105	
	Central Library, Peckham Road.		54		-	Destroyed.

*Borough of Camberwell Air Raid Shelter Accommodation Public Shelters 28 August 1939*



# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

Source 4 (pg2)

AIR RAID SHELTER ACCOMMODATION.							
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.							
TYPE	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION		REMARKS.			
		Persons.			Day	Night	
Railway	Arch No. 309	Vyndham Road	170	110	<del>40</del>	73	
Arches	" "	310 " "	170	110	<del>40</del>	72	
	" "	319 Blucher Road	170	110	<del>40</del>	84	
	" "	320 " "	170	110	<del>40</del>	84	
	" "	322 " "	170	110	<del>40</del>	84	
	" "	352 Gamberwell Station Road.	100	130	60		
	" "	353 " " "	100	95	54		
	" "	354 " " "	100	112	<del>54</del>	40	
	" "	358 " " "	72	62	36		
	" "	359 " " "	72	62	<del>36</del>	86	
	" "	183 Blenheim Grove	70		39		
	" "	185 " "	70		39		
	" "	187 " "	70		39		
	" "	188 " "	70		39		
	" "	190 " "	70		39		
	" "	191 " "	70		39		
	" "	192 " "	70		39		
	" "	224 " "	<del>120</del>	130	<del>60</del>	72	
	" "	99 Queens Road Station.	84		9		
	" "	104 " "	110		<del>66</del>	72	
	" "	110 " "	110		<del>66</del>	72	
	" "	118 " "	160		<del>90</del>	90	
	" "	119 " "	160		<del>90</del>	90	
	" "	123 " "	<del>120</del>	130	<del>60</del>	90	
	" "	839 Consort Road	180		<del>90</del>	90	
	" "	852 Gordon Road	150		<del>75</del>	81	
	" "	72 Old Kent Road	120		<del>60</del>	45	
	" "	78 " " "	120		<del>60</del>	45	
		Burbage Road	100		-		2 SHELTERS (ARCHES)
Railway	Lordship Lane Station		80		27		
Subways	Crystal Palace Parade		360		132		
Concrete	Albany Road Open Space		534				Not yet bunked.
Lined	Brunswick Park, Open space	480					" " "
Trenches.	Downes Place Open Space	380					" " "
	Leyton Square Open Space	664					" " "
	Neate Street, Open Space	90					" " "
	Lomond Place Open Space	258					" " "
	Camberwell Green Open Space	438					" " "
	Addington Sq. Open Space	230					" " "
	Peckham Rye (Kings Arms)	486					" " "
	Peckham Rye (Newlands)	318					" " "
	Dulwich Park (Court Lane)	144					
	Dulwich Park (College Rd).	144					
Basements.	Tower Cinema Rye Lane		860	450			
	St. Marys Church, St. Marys Rd	324	442	<del>201</del> <sup>244</sup>			Damaged, being re-modelled.
	133, Hill Street		490	310			COMPLETED
	All Saints Church, Davey St. Peckham		202	105			
	Central Library, Peckham Road.		54	-			Destroyed.

Borough of Camberwell Air Raid Shelter Accommodation Public



# **SHELTERS** *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

*Source 4 (pg3)*



*Photograph showing public shelter having been hit by a bomb*



# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

Source 5

PAD/23 PA

23, Oktober 1940 *London*

The Ministry of security,  
MR. HERBERT MORRISON.

Dear Sir,

I belong to the small community which meets at every nightfall at the public shelter, in Leinster Square, W.2. On the 17th of September I was in the same shelter, which the H.E.-bomb honoured with its visit. And in spite of the shock (one was killed and two wounded inside, the shelter, one of 3 sisters in a room in a house opposite--one was killed, one wounded, one unhurt) I went there again, night after night. The reason: It was light the whole night through one could read and forget the nearness of danger,--there was always a shelter-marshal, which gave you the feeling after my earlier experience that in case of danger would always be a person at hand who would arrest at once any panic; or stop little nervous disputes with friendly tact.

WHEN IT RAINED THE WATER LEEKED THROUGH, BUT WE HOPED, THIS WOULD BE STOPPED.

It was damp and cold. One kind Warden brought a small electric stove which gave us the illusion, at least, of warming the place.

The benches are so high, narrow and agonising that I am sure, Hitler has--through some secret means--purposely devised it, thus to break our morale!

Since yesterday there is an order, to extinguish all the lights, except one small electric light---not enough to let one read, but enough to let one see the depressing surrounding, and wait for the next shell.

The Warden gives you as reason, that people want to sleep and would be disturbed.

There are (see the plan)--2 big shelter, with each 2 big rooms and eleven brilliant lights. After 11 o'clock the 4 brilliant lights in the rooms are extinguished and only the light in the Lav. and the cupboard stay on, and in each of those rooms is only the wretched little lamp burning.

*Letters and drawings from Jenny Fleming addressed to Herbert Morrison 23 October 1940 & 10 November 1940*



# SHELTERS *Why were so many shelters built during 1939-1941?*

Source 5 (pg2)

-- 4 --

Let me apologize for my bad spelling and writing.  
I am a good British subject, but unfortunately not a British-born one!

I am yours very faithfully

*Jenny Fleming*

(Mrs.) Jenny Fleming  
15, Leinster Square, W.2.  
BAYswater 0479.



TOO COLD AND WET!



TOO HIGH WITH A CUSHION!



TOO SAD WITH BARE WALLS!



TOO HARD WITHOUT A CUSHION!



TOO DARK WITH THE DIM LIGHT!

Letters and drawings from Jenny Fleming addressed to Herbert Morrison 23 October 1940 & 10 November 1940