



**LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY FACT SHEET NUMBER 4  
NOTABLE DATES CONNECTED WITH NEWCASTLE  
DURING WORLD WAR II**

1 September 1939	The first batch of 31,222 children from Newcastle schools was evacuated.
2 September 1939	A further batch of 12,818 mothers and children under school age was evacuated.
3 September 1939	War declared.
19 September 1939	<i>North Mail</i> amalgamated with <i>Newcastle Journal</i> because of war conditions.
26 September 1939	Lord Mayor's War Needs Fund inaugurated.
17 October 1939	Air-raid warning on Tyneside for 1hr.30 min. No enemy action.
20 November 1939	Canteen for Service men and women opened on Platform 8 at Central Station.
26 November 1939	Lecture by John Gielgud entitled "Shakespeare in Peace and War" at Theatre Royal, in aid of Lord Mayor's Red Cross Fund.
1 December 1939	Inspection of Civil Defence and A.R.P. arrangements.
18 December 1939	Newcastle War Savings Campaign inaugurated.
27 March 1940	Lord Mayor received a letter from the Polish Ambassador in London thanking the City for its kindness to Poles stranded here due to the War.
22 May 1940	Decision taken to cancel Race Week Fair.
11 June 1940	Decision taken to cancel Race Week holidays.

21 June 1940	Newcastle Voluntary Training Corps formed.
2 July 1940 13	Major air-raid in the late afternoon. In Newcastle and Jarrow people killed, 123 injured. Spillers factory was hit in an attempt to destroy the High Level Bridge.
7 July 1940	Second evacuation scheme inaugurated. 4,300 school children left by train.
18 July 1940	High explosive bombs dropped 3 killed, many injured and considerable damage inflicted including a hit on Heaton Secondary School.
15 August 1940	Mass attack on Tyneside in the middle of the day. North East fighter squadrons brought down 75 bombers without any losses to themselves.
13-16 September 1940	Relatively minor air raids in the Heaton area.
20 August 1940	Spitfire Fund inaugurated, to provide a Spitfire or Hurricane plane to be called "Newcastle upon Tyne".
8 October 1940	Newcastle's Communal Feeding Scheme inaugurated. Intended that the scheme would form the basis of the distribution of free meals to people made homeless by air raid action.
21 February 1941	Announced that Newcastle had made the largest contribution per head of population to British Red Cross and St. John "Penny-a-week" Fund during 1940.
15 March 1941	Services Cup Final held at St. James' Park.
9-10 April 1941	More than 50 bombers caused widespread damage. 300 troops were used to fight resulting fires. Homes were damaged as well as Cambridge Street School, Bell Terrace School and St. Michael's R.C. Church.
25 April 1941	Air raid at 9.45 p.m. 9 high explosive bombs, a shower of incendiaries and 1 parachute mine fell on Shields Road, Jesmond Vale, Heaton Park, Grace Street, Heaton Road, and Guildford Place. 47 people killed, 23 seriously injured, 47 slightly injured. 16 houses and shops demolished, 300 damaged.
May 1941	Emergency feeding and supply arrangements were made after several weeks of bombing.

- 18 June 1941 King and Queen toured Tyneside and visited shipyards and armament factories.
- 17 July 1941 Princess Royal visited H.Q. of Northumberland and Durham War Needs Fund.
- 25 July 1941 Grey Monument struck by lightning - head of statue destroyed.
- 29 July 1941 Gracie Fields visited Tyneside to entertain war workers.
- 16 August 1941 Spectacular war-time procession of units of the Services and their modern equipment.
- 1 September 1941 Air-raid 10 p.m. to midnight. 100 bombs fell on Shieldfield, Jesmond, Byker, St. Peter's, Walker and New Bridge Street Goods Station. The latter burned for a week. 50 killed, 71 seriously injured, 140 slightly injured and an estimated 1,000 people were made homeless.
- 7 November 1941 Prime Minister (Mr. Winston Churchill) paid a surprise visit to Tyneside and visited bombed areas and industrial concerns.
- 29 December 1941 Air-raid 8-9 p.m. 10 bombs fell on Holderness Road, Byker, Matthew Bank areas. 9 killed, 16 seriously injured, 64 slightly injured.
- 28 February 1942 Newcastle and Gosforth Warship Week inaugurated.
- 7 March 1942 In the BBC feature "Life over Here", North America heard the story of the founding and working of the Northumberland and Durham War Needs Fund, the largest organisation of its kind in Britain.
- 27 March 1942 The first wartime Day Nursery was opened at Ashfield House by Dame Sybil Thorndike.
- 28 May 1942 Whickham View School opened - the first elementary school in the country to have a swimming bath on the premises.
- 12 September 1942 A native of Newcastle, Pte. A.H. Wakenshaw (aged 28), 9th Bt. D.L.I. posthumously awarded V.C. for conspicuous gallantry.
- 18 September 1942 Re-appearance in city of horse-drawn cabs, owing to petrol shortage.
- 26 October 1942 General de Gaulle visited Newcastle.
- 15 November 1942 After being silent for 2 years, church bells were allowed to be rung to signal the British victory in the Battle of Egypt.

5 December 1942	Newcastle was first port in the country to provide a rest centre for Dutch seamen.
7 April 1943	King and Queen visited Tyneside and went to Byker and Heaton.
15 May 1943 inaugurated.	Newcastle and Gosforth “Wings for Victory” week
2 November 1943	Stalingrad Sword of Heroism on view at Laing Art Gallery.
12 April 1944	Newcastle and Gosforth “Salute the Soldier” week inaugurated.
28 August 1944	First large-scale lifting of coal from the open-cast seam on Town Moor.
3 October 1944	Royal Grammar School returned from evacuation in Penrith.
3 December 1944	Final parade of the Home Guard, following the “stand-down” order.
8 May 1945	Proclamation of the end of the war in Europe read by Lord Mayor in St. Nicholas’ Square, followed by bonfires and floodlighting of buildings.
13 May 1945	Victory parade.
23 June 1945	Race Week festival opened.
16 July 1945	German submarine U776 visited Newcastle Quayside.
15 August 1945 Cowhill.	Proclamation of the end of the war read by Lord Mayor in St. Nicholas’ Square. Lord Mayor lit a 100-ton bonfire on
26 August 1945	100,000 crowd watched Victory Parade.

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