

FORTROSE ACADEMY : 1939 - 45

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EXTRACTS FROM

THE RECTOR'S LOG BOOK

- 1 Sept. 1939 : On account of the government evacuation plans for certain cities and towns, the buses were withdrawn today from the local services and the Academy was closed at 1 pm to allow children to walk home. Some pupils have to go long distances. Teachers were working on plans connected with the lodgings for evacuees all afternoon. War has not yet been declared, but everything points to the outbreak of war in the next few days.
- 15 Sept. 1939 : School restarted on Monday with a very good attendance. The Secondary Roll is now 114 and the Primary is 93. The roll in the Secondary Department is the highest ever recorded. Some of the new names on the register are due to the arrival of children from the south. With the support of Fortrose parents, trenches have been dug in the school playground. Major Stirling of Fairbairn inspected the trenches yesterday.
- 29 Sept. 1939 : Two afternoons have been spent on building facings to the sides of the trenches. The boys of the two senior classes are engaged in this work.
- 13 Oct. 1939 : The ARP trenches have been completely walled-up and sandbagged, and the whole school including the staff were comfortably positioned in them for practice purposes today.
- 17 Nov. 1939 : The shelter trenches were inspected on Thursday by the Officer in charge of such work for the County. He was very pleased with the work.
- 8 Dec. 1939 : The Education Office was yesterday informed of the number of pupils in Fortrose Academy who were evacuated from other areas. The total number was 18 of whom 11 are still in attendance.
- 10 May, 1940 : In view of the invasion of the Low Countries today by the Germans, certain repairs were made to the shelter trenches by the senior boys. Instructions were given for Gas masks to be on view for inspection on Monday morning at the school.
- 17 May, 1940 : Miss Munro, teacher of Domestic Science, carried out a demonstration in Wartime Cookery to local housekeepers on Wednesday in the Cookery Room from 3 to 4pm. There were 17 ladies present together with the Senior Girls of the Secondary Department.
- 4 July, 1940 : The County Council stopped the spending of money on prizes on account of the war, and only prizes and medals presented by friends of the school were awarded.
- 30 Aug. 1940 : During the holidays, there was a cloudburst in the Cromarty area and the road via Newhall is still closed. As a result, pupils from that district have not been able to attend this week. The heavy rain in Fortrose during the day of the cloudburst destroyed a side of one of the trenches in the playground. The weight of water and sandbags caused some of the uprights to give way.