

Map of Second World War Bombs in Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen

Based on Research by Frank Porter

Note on Sources

The map shows the location of recorded bombs within the then Borough of Barnes throughout the war. Most occurred in either 1940 – 41 (Autumn to Spring) or the first half of 1944. The main sources are the Chief Fire Warden's Report and the annual bound volumes of Barnes rates payments (both held by Richmond Local Studies).

Fortunately the loss of life was small (apart from the two air-raid shelters that suffered direct hits). Information comes from air-raid wardens lists; these also show those injured but it is likely that many people with minor injuries are not listed. The warden's lists usually identified a bomb by the nearest house, but in many cases these houses received no great damage and remained inhabitable

Uninhabitable houses qualified for a specially low rates assessment and when house occupiers claimed this relief, it was recorded in the official rates books and that is the source of some specific supplementary bomb details. Note that only the rates books for 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1944-45 have been examined (as no bombs fell in the intervening period) so the dates for rates reductions are incomplete.

The numerous 1-kilo incendiary bombs were not documented in detail but were extensive with the heaviest attacks on 29 November 1940 and 20-24 February 1944. Where fire-bombs resulted in uninhabited houses (identified by rates records) an entry has been included on the map.

A few rebuilding comments are taken from sheets found when Local Studies were preparing planning applications for digitalisation – in due course a systematic examination of the digitalised records is planned.

Richmond Local Studies holds bomb maps for the rest of the London Borough of Richmond; the official records of Barnes and Mortlake have been lost – probably when the Borough of Barnes was incorporated into the London Borough of Richmond – hence the need to construct the current map.

A valuable summary of the wartime years can be found in [*Barnes and Mortlake Past*](#), edited by Maisie Brown, pages 135-137.

Corrections, comments, additional information and other offers of help are most welcome. (It would help if specific comments included the reference number of the bomb, shown in the bottom right-hand corner of the pop-up box.) Please contact Frank Porter at frank.jean@tiscali.co.uk