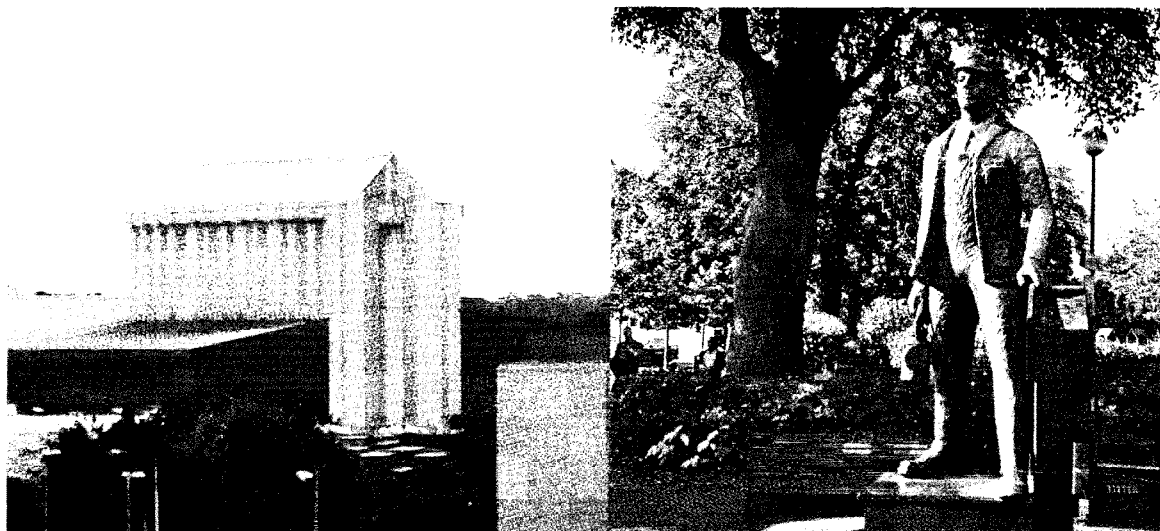


EASTLEIGH & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



AIR RAID SHELTERS IN THE BOROUGH OF EASTLEIGH



Paper 62

AIR RAID SHELTERS – AN OVERVIEW

Public Air-raid Shelters

There are many problems associated with researching these.

1. My memory is limited and assumptions usually incorrect.
2. The ten Public Air-raid Shelters were probably not used very frequently as people preferred to go home or did not know that they could use them, or may only have been allowed to use them at certain times.

I was told that early in the war a siren sounded whilst my mother was pushing me in my pram through Fleming Park. She ran home down Leigh Road, passing the public shelter in front of the hoardings where The Good Companions now stands, without considering making use of it.

3. It appears that the shelters were not publicised or signposted.

The Manager of the Co-op wrote to ask if he could let customers know where to go when the alarm sounded.

V/M.

This was the reply

11th June, 1940.

[92/426] Mr. S.W. Voss,
Managing Secretary,
The Eastleigh Co-operative Society Ltd.,
66-88, High St.,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Sir,

re:- Air Raid Precautions.

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, I know of no official instructions with regard to shopkeepers publishing notices informing their customers of the positions of the nearest shelters, but I certainly think it would be a good idea for you to publish such notices.

As you are aware, the idea of the public shelters is to cater for those people who are caught out shopping, and they are not supposed to be used for people living in the vicinity. I think the best way to word the notices would be:-
"In the event of an air raid, the nearest public shelter is...."
The positions of the shelters are as follows:-

		<u>Accom-</u> <u>modation.</u>
For your Central premises:	Leigh Road Recreation Ground.	1,200
" " Bishopstoke branch:	Bishopstoke " "	50
" " Bournemouth Road branch:	Workmens' Club Ground in Bournemouth Road, opposite Hursley Road.	50
" " Twyford Rd. branch:	Lawn Road Recreation Ground.	50
" " Derby Road branch:	Derby Road " "	50

Yours faithfully,

4. There were so many false-alarms that some people gave up going to shelters in daytime.
5. Many people wanted to see what was happening so did not go to a shelter in daytime.
6. Once the shelters were stripped and abandoned they were too dark to explore and being underground the layout was not obvious.

No one told me of the maze of tunnels which constituted the Recreation Ground shelters, or how small the tunnels and shelters were.

For most shelters, at best, I can only find the location. The accommodation numbers quoted seem highly optimistic.

Anderson Shelters.

These were supplied free on request before a closing date, to workers who were poor enough to pay into, or receive benefits from the compulsory National Insurance scheme. Extra corrugated iron extension sheets were available for large families. Householders usually erected the shelters themselves and so problems arose – flooding in particular.

Morrison Shelters.

Some people obtained these later in the War.

Private Shelters.

I only know of one, [Cranbury Road Shelter], but there were probably more.

Under the stairs.

This was usually the strongest part of the house, but usually had electrical wiring and gas pipes which one would have expected to be hazardous yet people often sheltered there.

Communal Shelters.

Although there were nearly 400 of these, hardly anyone knew that they were not for public use. Each shelter had a keyholder and spaces were allocated to families who could no longer obtain Anderson Shelters. However they had to apply for spaces.

Some plans of these shelters have turned up but seem to be about modifications rather than the original building. They do not match my memory with any accuracy.

I have made lists of those I have discovered, but apparently they were not all identical – however when I asked about them I did not think to obtain descriptions.

School Air Raid Shelters.

Lists of these exist because the caretakers were paid to sanitize them.

Company Air Raid Shelters.

The Railway, Cunliffe-Owens and Caustons definitely had them.

Air Raid Warden's Posts.

These were underground and contained cubicles so that wardens could work in shifts, but when they were destroyed, usually by closing the hole with the pre-cast concrete roof, no photographs were taken or drawings were made. The Wardens' Post under the Children's Playground on Grantham Green was filled with concrete once the hole was revealed. Others may remain in situ. They usually had wedge-shaped concrete entrances, but some Public Shelters had the same type of entrance.

The Control Centre.

This was under the Council Chambers, now part of "The Point". It was gas-proofed and the ceiling reinforced during the war. Later it was modified for use during a nuclear war.

Public Shelters.

The three Air Raid Shelters on the Recreation ground.

The basic structures were started in the form of trenches in 1938 and they were completed after the outbreak of war. I suspected that the project was kept moderately secret because I could find no mention of the shelters in the copies of the 1938 Eastleigh Weekly News and nothing in the Borough Surveyor's letter books for that year.

From the *Eastleigh Weekly News*, September 30th 1938.

**GARDEN TRENCHES
RECOMMENDED
BY A.R.P. AUTHORITIES**

ADDRESS TO CHAMBER OF TRADE

It was revealed by Lt.-Col. G. H. Sawyer, D.S.O., Assistant Chief Air Raid Warden for the Borough, that Eastleigh householders would be recommended to dig trenches in their own gardens for the needs of individual householders, when he spoke on local A.R.P. work at the first monthly luncheon this session of the Eastleigh and District Chamber of Trade, held at the "Home Tavern," on Monday.

Col. Sawyer said that a sample trench would be dug in the Recreation Ground for the guidance of residents.

In 1939 the following appears on page 369 the Council Minutes:

From the Council Minute Book – which is a large, heavy, loose-leaf, typewritten book.
[Ref: 69M72/DDC138]

Minute

7th March 1939

TRENCHES. RESOLVED that the 150 yards of trench already substantially dug be prepared and maintained in permanent form; that it be proposed to the County Council to add 300 yards; being 150 yards on each side of the War Memorial in the Leigh Road Recreation Ground.

Minute

9th March 1939

Cement "Tunnel" Shared between:-

Messrs P.M.Combes Ltd., Eastleigh.

Messrs Travis and Arnold, Eastleigh.

Mr. S. A. Ball, Eastleigh

Iron Castings: - Messrs Lankester & Sons Ltd., Southampton.

Concrete: The Blokcrete Co. Ltd., Southampton.

19th October 1939. Page 483.

16. PROGRESS REPORT. The Borough Engineer reported 15 Warden's posts almost completed. 66% of public trenches in Recreation Ground completed. Two shelters to hold 50 each completed, 2 under construction and 6 not yet completed.

The entrances to the two separate shelters west of the avenue, with which I was familiar, were neat and not claustrophobic. There was little sign of them above ground level. Gentle, paved slopes, perhaps about five feet wide, with concrete walls open to the sky led to the rectangular entrances to the tunnels, two or three feet under the grass.

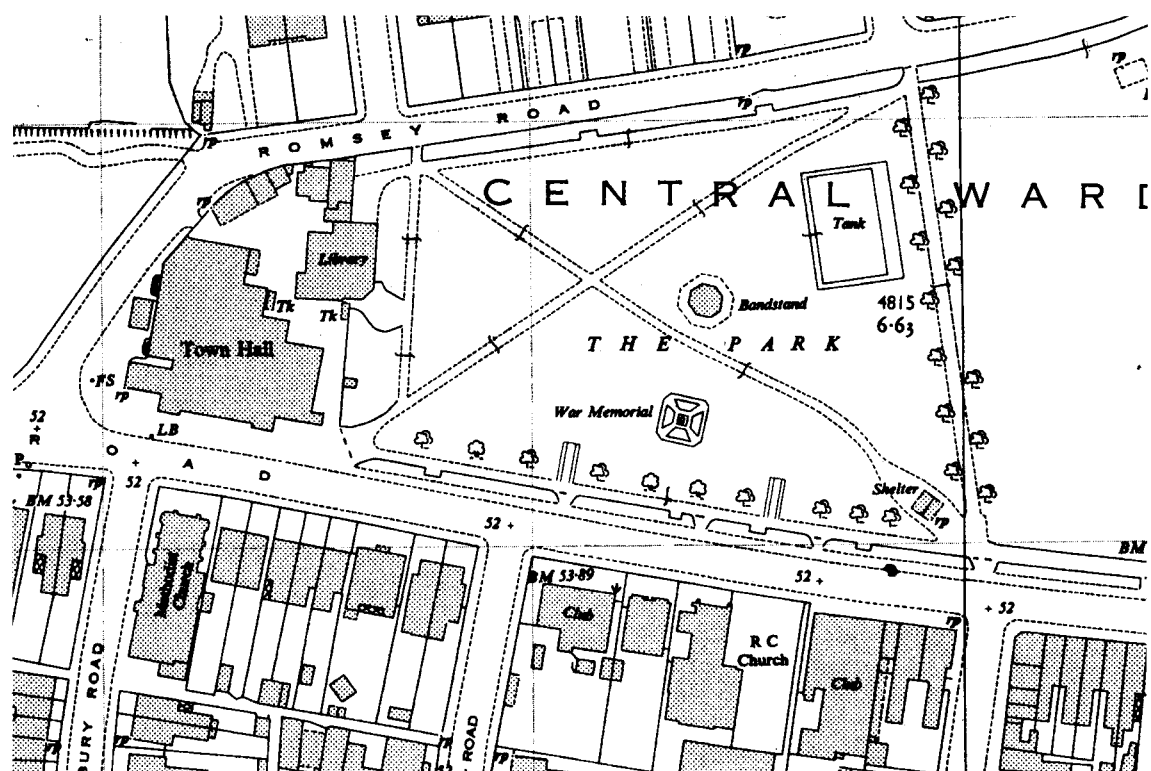
I did not venture far into the catacomb, but friends who liked an illicit smoke, discovered that they could make a full circuit back to the same entrance. There were trap-door escape hatches with ladders.

The shelters could reputedly house 1,200 people in total and were really intended for the use of shoppers during day-time raids. They could not have been used much, and they did not seem large enough to comfortably hold 1,200 people, or hold anyone at all comfortably.

There was a hillock of soil north of the football ground, but this was probably from the excavation of the Static Water Tank.

Nothing is revealed by aerial photographs because of the trees along the Southern edge of the Park.

The entrances to two of the shelters were mapped in the 1950s.

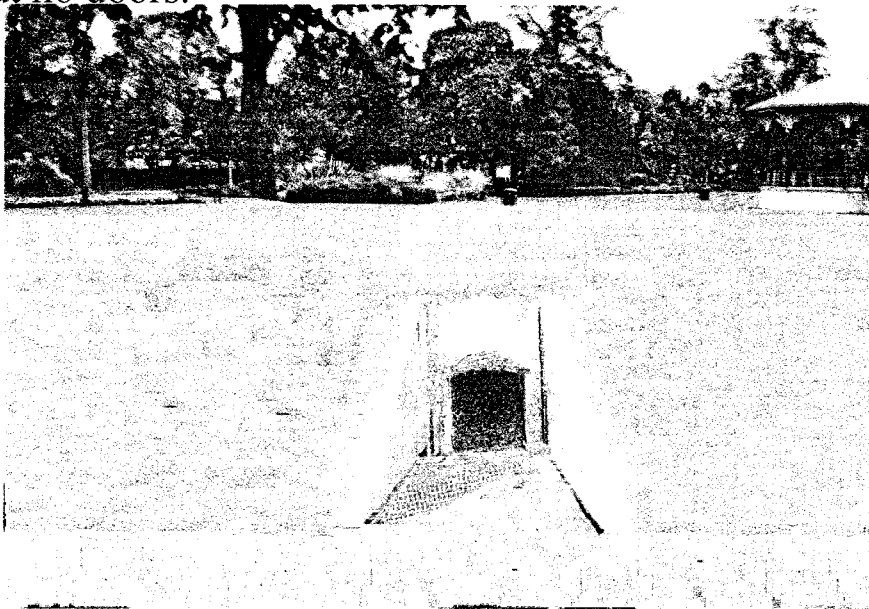


The sloping paved entrances to the shelters are marked in red.

The entrances, one opposite Holy Cross Church and the other opposite the Comrades' Club were to two separate shelters of similar design. The original plans have not yet been found if there were any.

The entrances had been closed with breeze-block walls and the slopes filled with soil possibly before 1960, but in August 1999 an underground survey was carried out for Eastleigh Borough Council by Patterson Reeves & Partners of Westleigh House, 85 Leigh Road. The Staff of this Company kindly gave me access to their drawings and photographs.

I was told that the shelters had wooden seats and that there were chemical toilets near some of the escape ladders. The toilets had curtains but no doors.

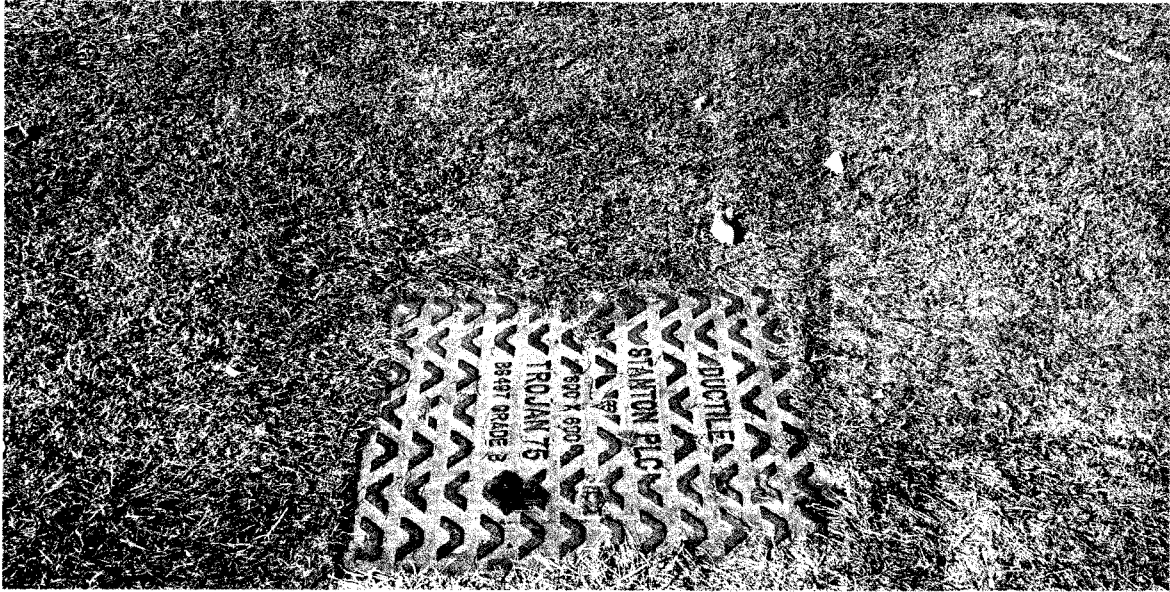


**This is my attempt to draw what I remember of the entrances to the shelters.
Western shelter from the south.**

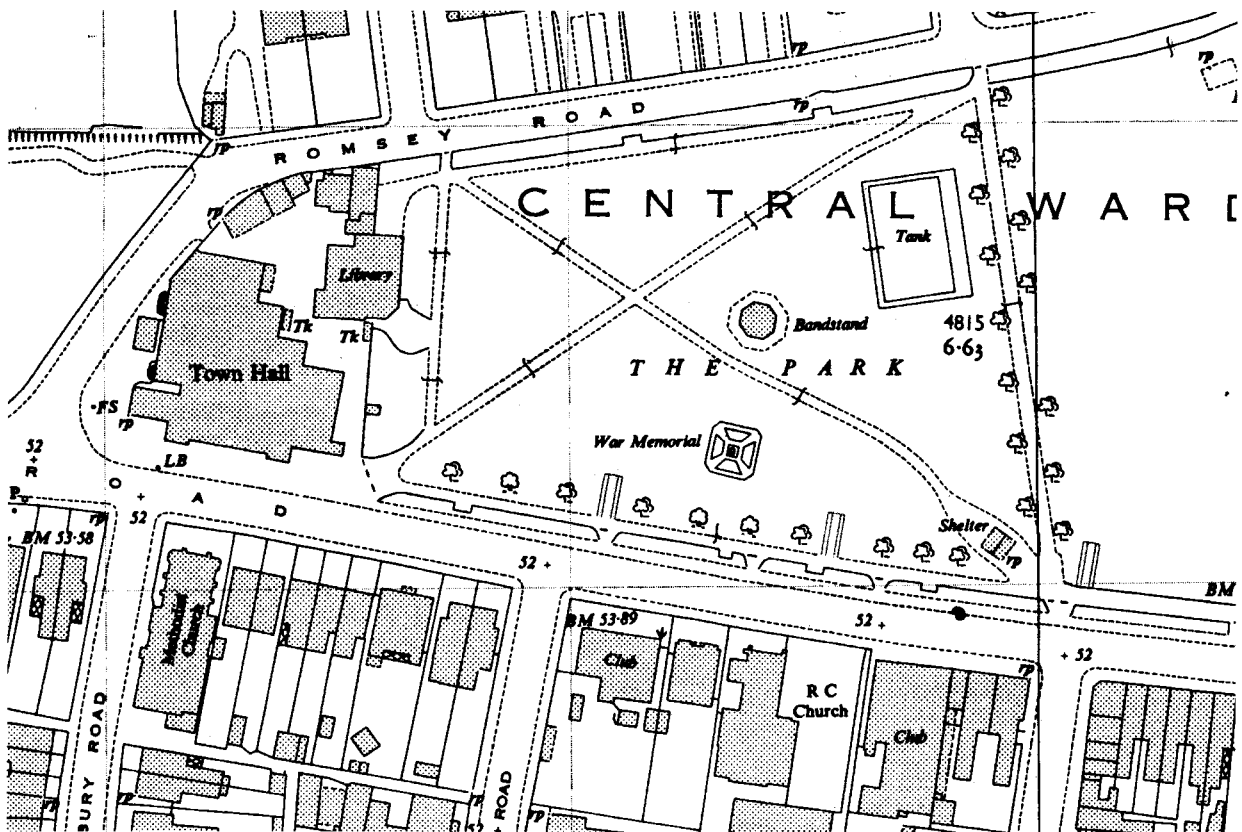


The position of the entrance shows up in the grass, looking south.

One of the vents through which access to the Western shelter could be made in 2012.



The entrance to Shelter 3, is thought to have been at an angle to, and east of, the avenue of horse-chestnut trees, near the hut with seats.



It has been difficult to find anyone who remembers it but part of it, stretching left of the entrance tunnel, towards the Old Institute building, was exposed and probably filled in when Safeways was constructed in 1982.

These shelters had their problems. TOWN CLERK.

[101/726] 2nd July, 1942.

TC/S/52-A.

Shelters.

In reply to your memorandum of the 30th ultimo, red lamps were placed outside the shelter entrances in the Park, but owing to the number of lamps lost and the very few (if any) persons using the shelters at night, it was not considered necessary to continue the practice.

The same thing applies to the electric bulbs in the shelters. So many of these were stolen that now arrangements have been made to keep a stock in the Wardens' Posts nearby, and immediately an "Alert" is sounded a Warden is detailed to fix the bulbs and remove them when the shelter is cleared.

If the Regional Shelter Officer considers it necessary to again light the entrances, I will do so.

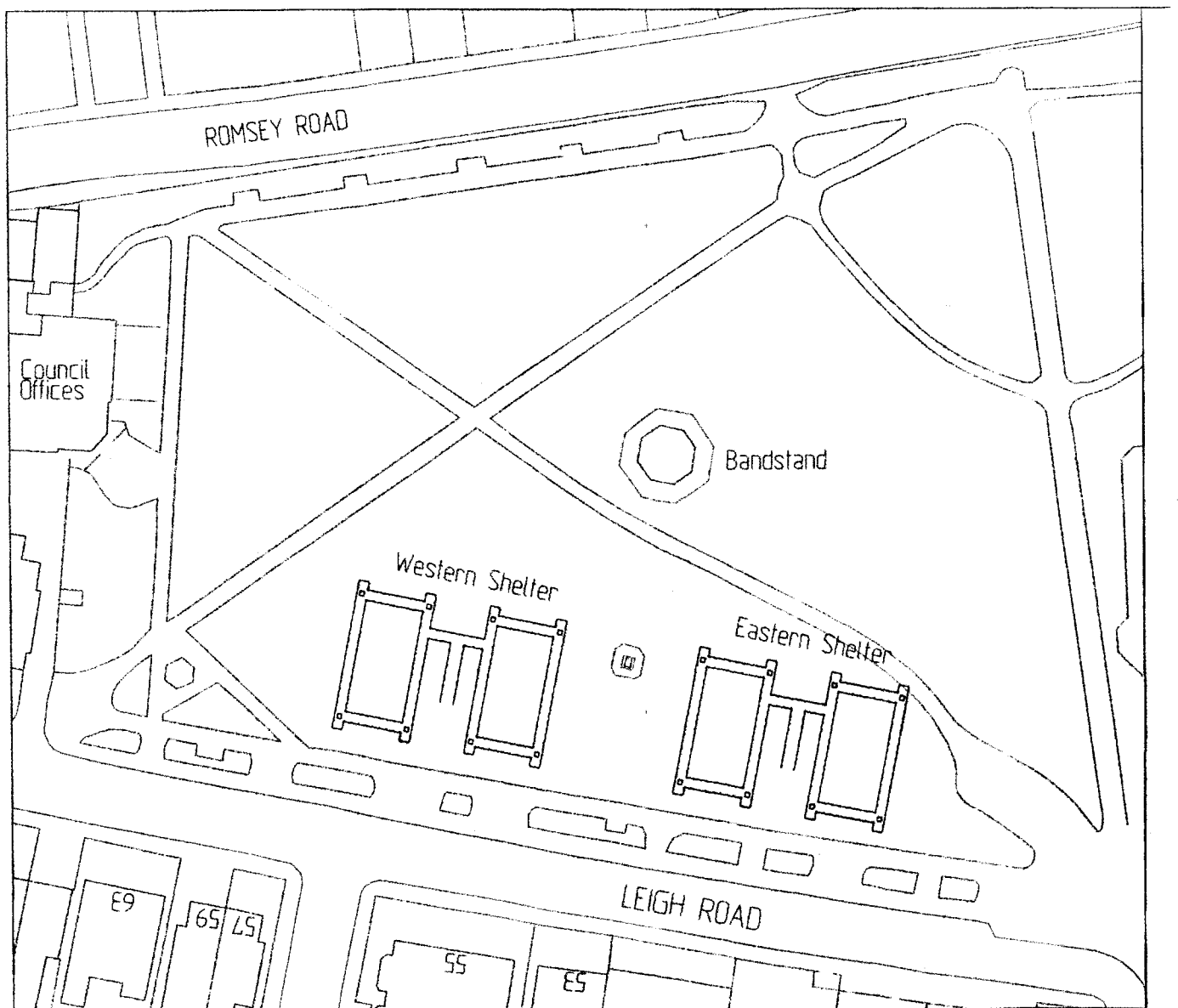
Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

The West and East shelters to the west of the Avenue through the Park.

The main points of historical interest in the 1999 Survey.

The chambers consist of three separate shelters along the south side of Leigh Road Park adjacent Leigh Road, two of which remain visible by means of venting covers within the parkland. The covers vary in construction from either ductile iron or concrete slab, some of which are buried. The third shelter, we are advised is located beneath hard landscaping recently constructed to the eastern end of the park.

Site Plan



The Eastern and Western shelters were almost identical.

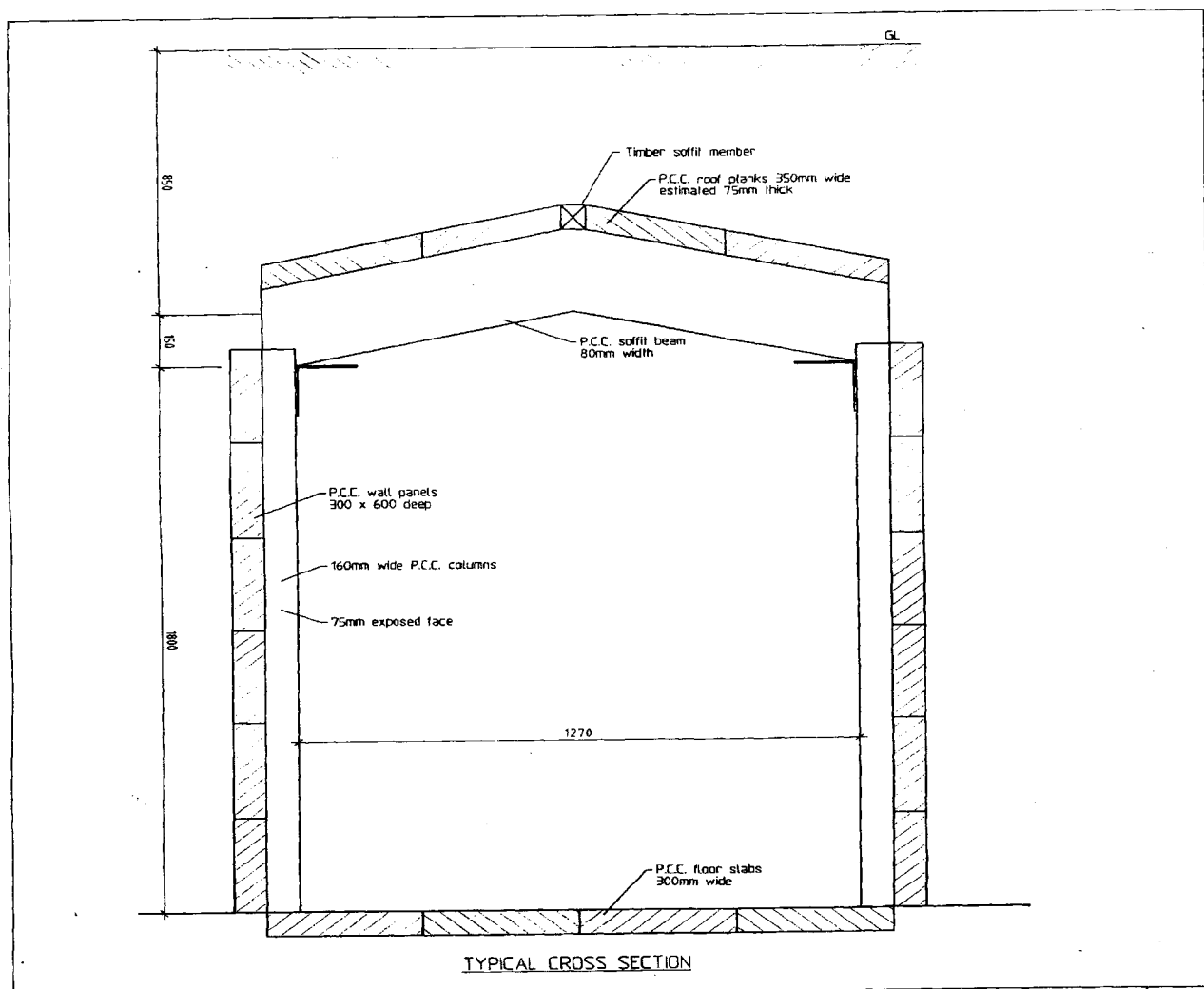
Construction.

The tunnels were constructed using a pre-cast concrete technique. This consists of pre-cast concrete posts and ridge head beams at approximately 1 metre centres supporting planks for the walls and roof.

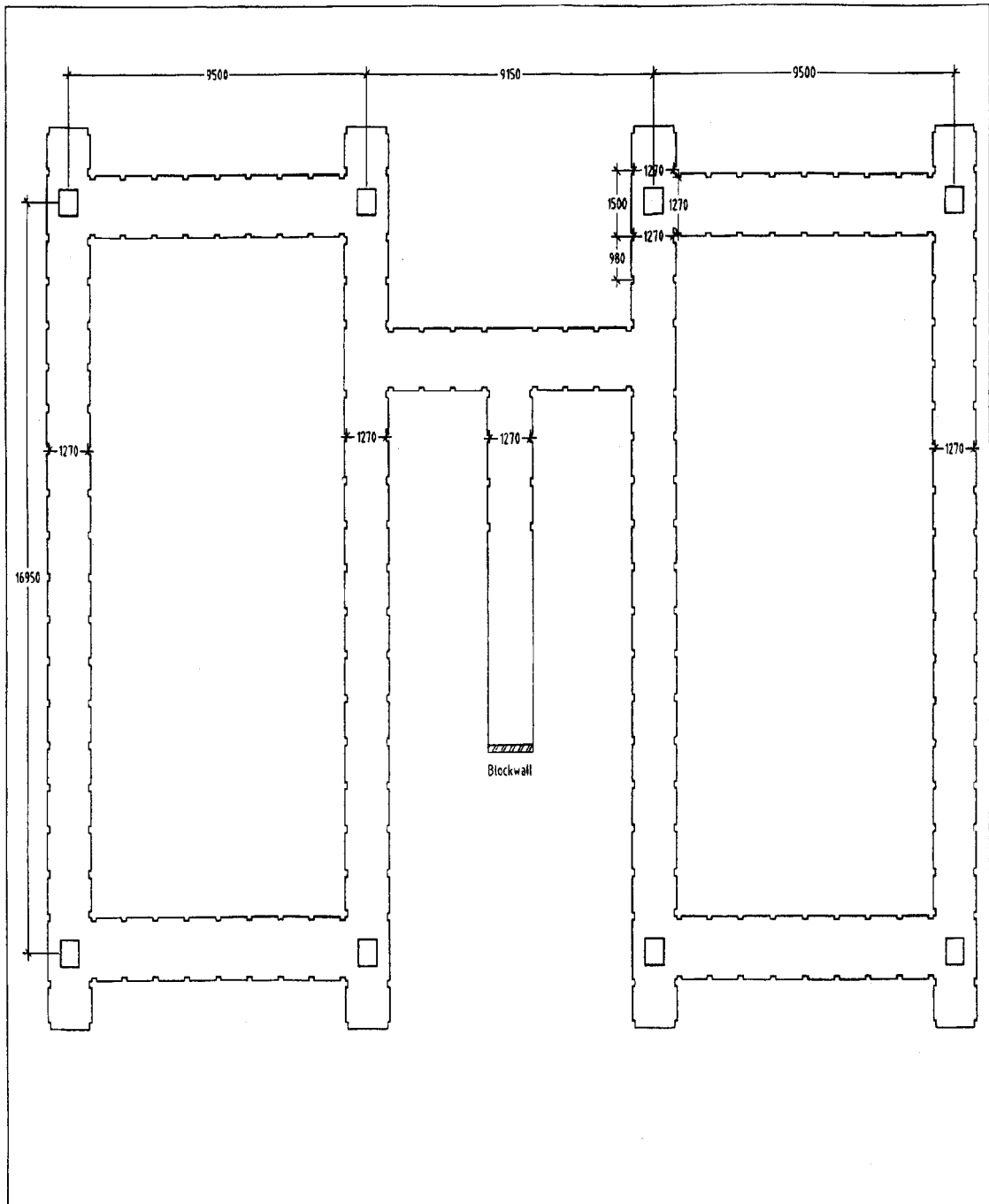
The floor consists of pre-cast concrete planks of approximately 1 metre length and approximately 300 mm wide.

It seems likely to me that construction was in feet and inches and the metric system not used.

The roof planks are approximately 1 metre length by 350 millimetres wide and are stepped between bays by approximately 60 millimetres. Close to the venting chambers and the corridor layout the spans widen to 1.5 metres.



Plan of a shelter.



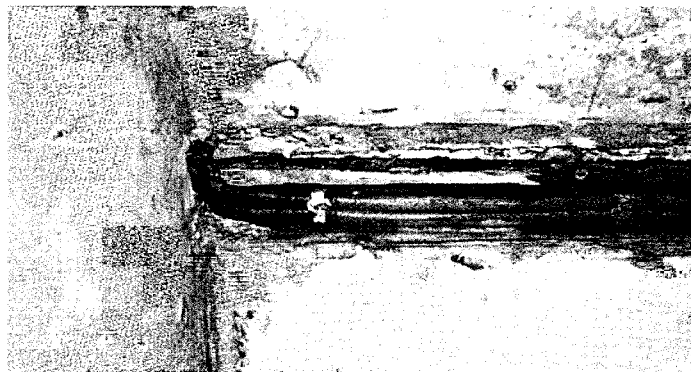
Steel framework

Within the shelter, but not attached to the concrete structure is a steel angle framework of 75mm x 75 mm x 4mm angle posts supporting a near continuous rail of 140mm x 100 mm x 5 mm angle rails. This framework was found to be covered with mainly surface-corrosion from moisture globules.

It is supposed that this framework was used as some sort of racking and bench support and does not contribute in any way to the stability of the shelter. It would be interesting to see if there is evidence of seating being attached to the frame.



The ridge in the chamber roof concealed a timber insert, much now rotted, to which was fixed the original electric lighting system.



Some cracks were found on the lower side of some roof-support beams and two roof panels were cracked in the Eastern Shelter..

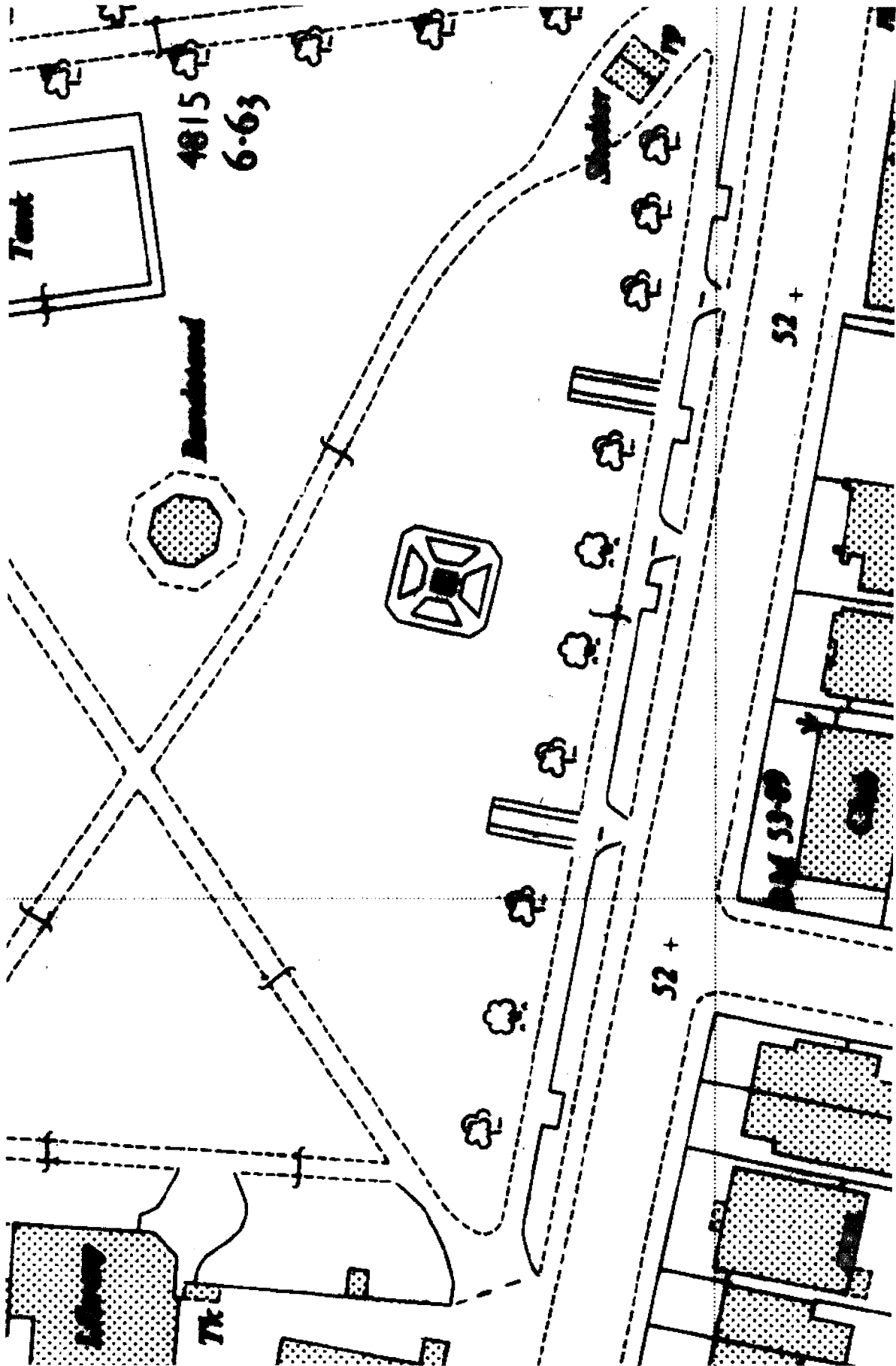
The original entrances, which are now buried had been closed by a concrete block end wall.

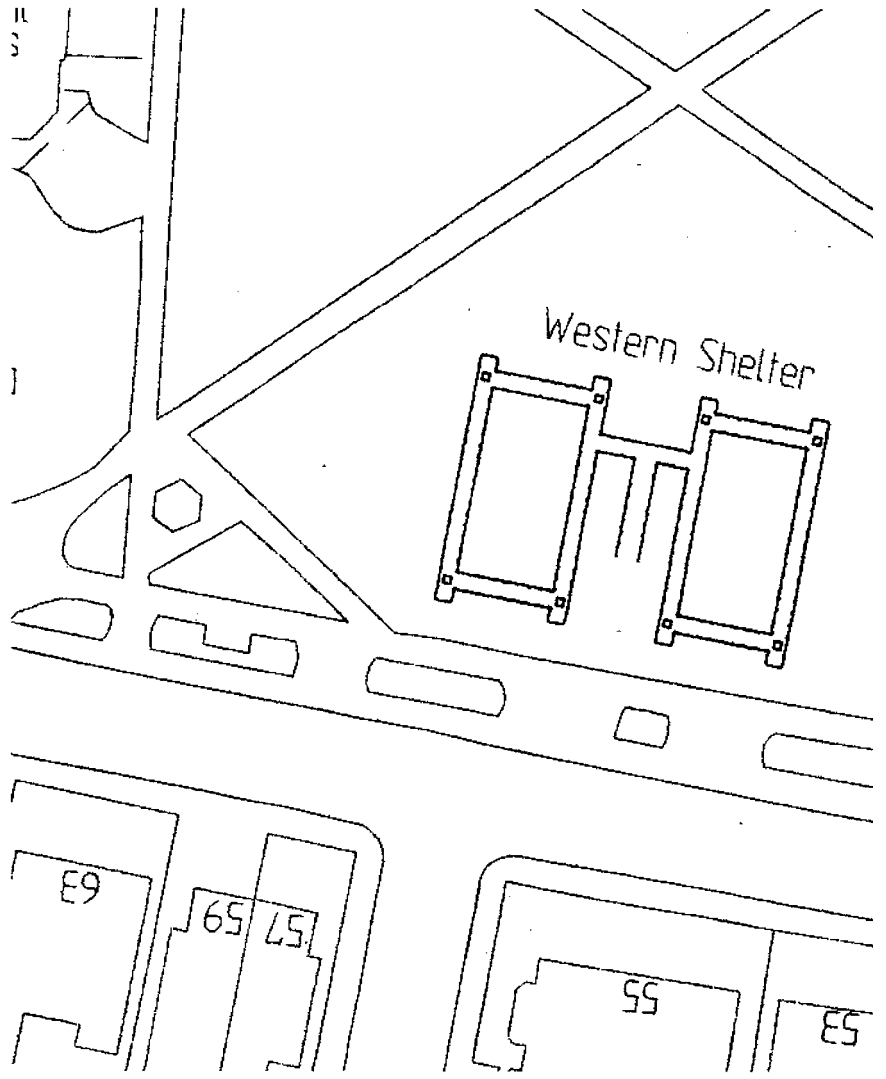
The floor-level within the shelters is approximately 2.8 metres below ground level. The ceilings of the shelters are approximately 800 mm below ground level.

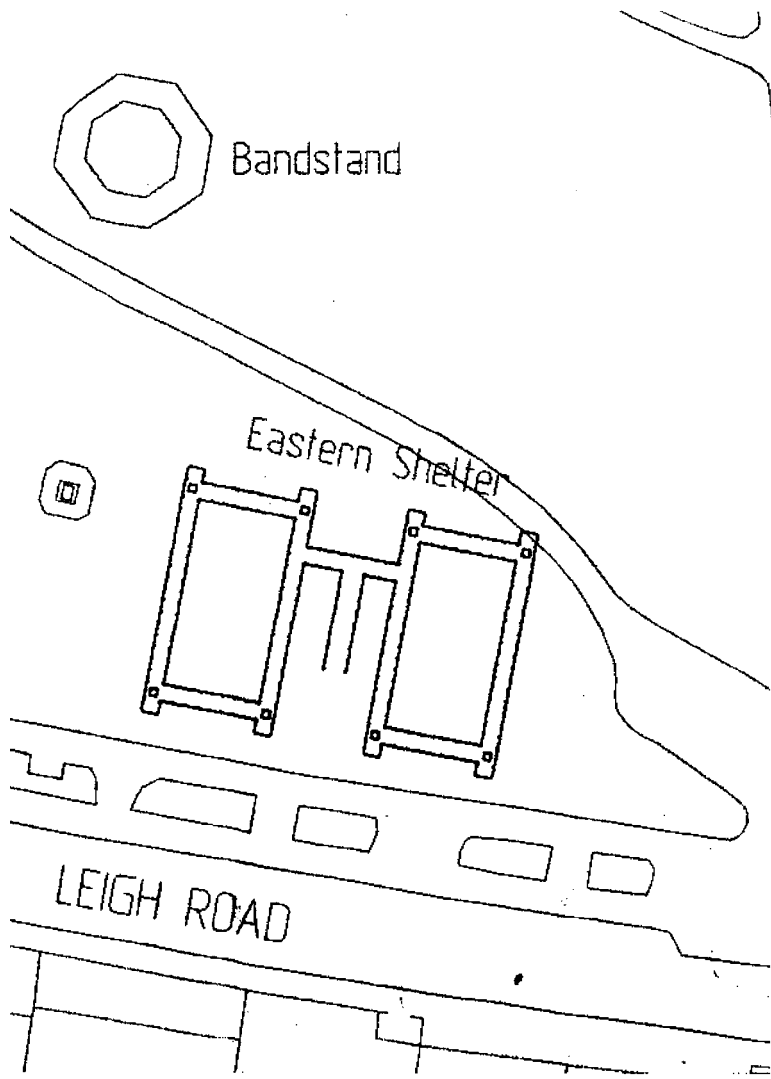
The pre-cast concrete construction was found to be in reasonable condition but should not be subjected to vehicle loads in excess of 28 tonnes.

1950 MAP

Note the more elaborate War Memorial

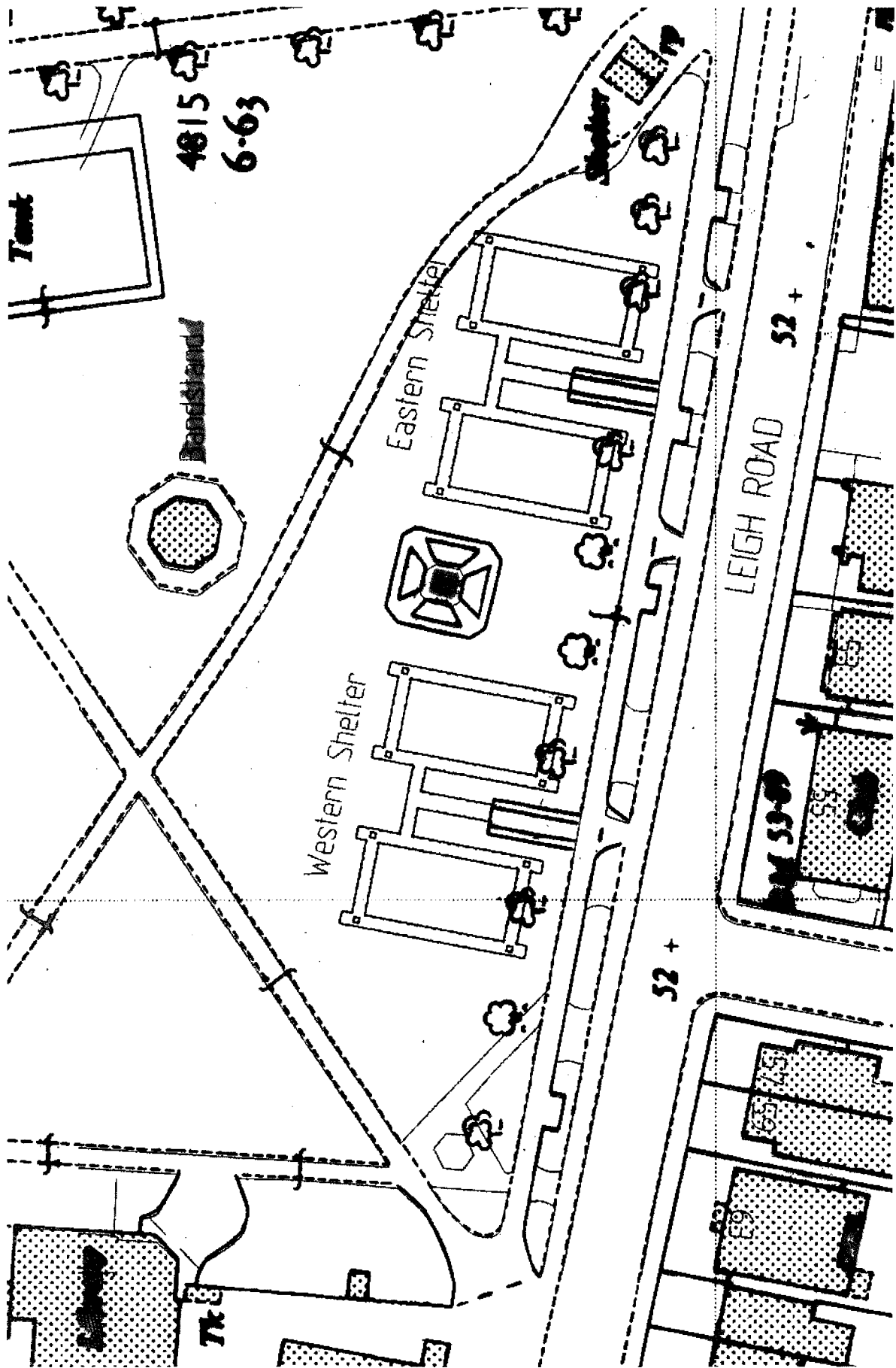






1999 MAP

COMPOSITE.



Recreation Ground – Western Air-raid Shelter.

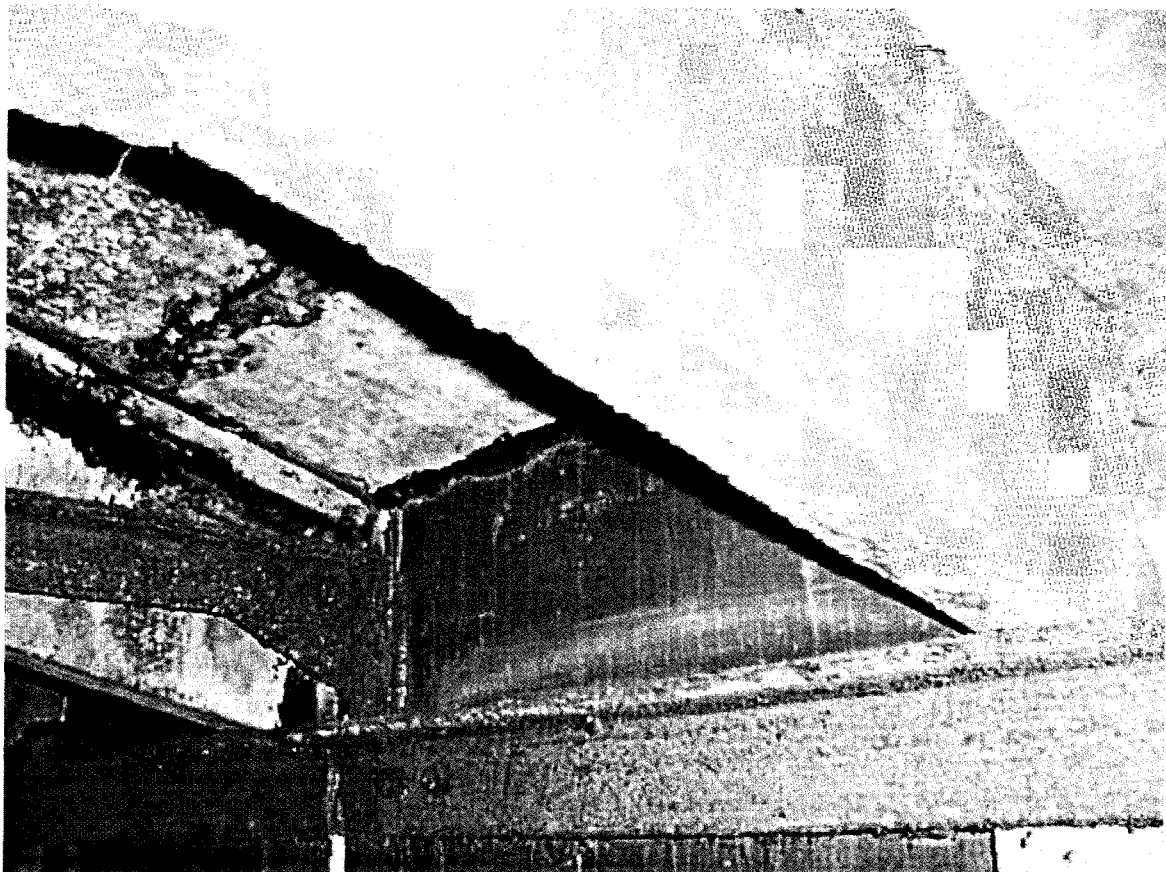
w1. General Chamber Construction.



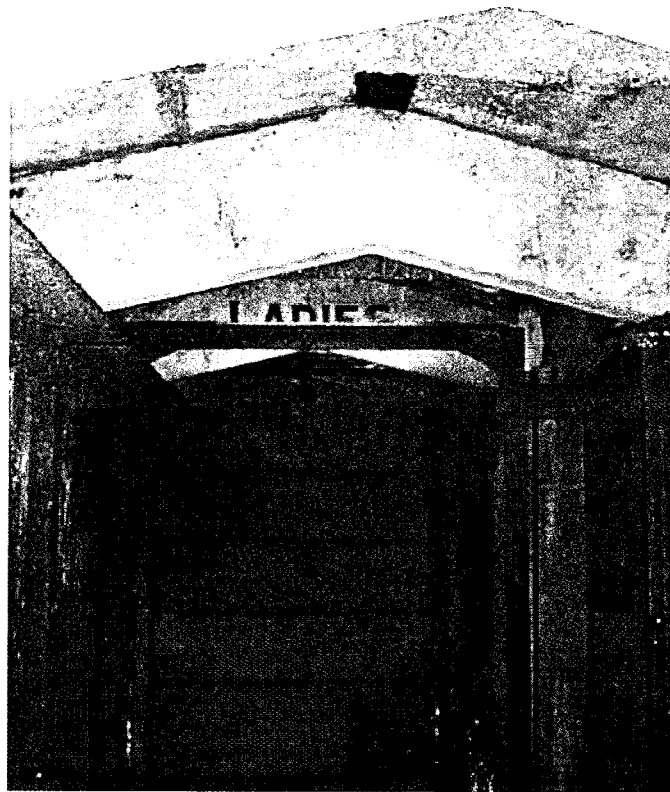
w2. Head Beam Construction.



w3. Roof Construction.



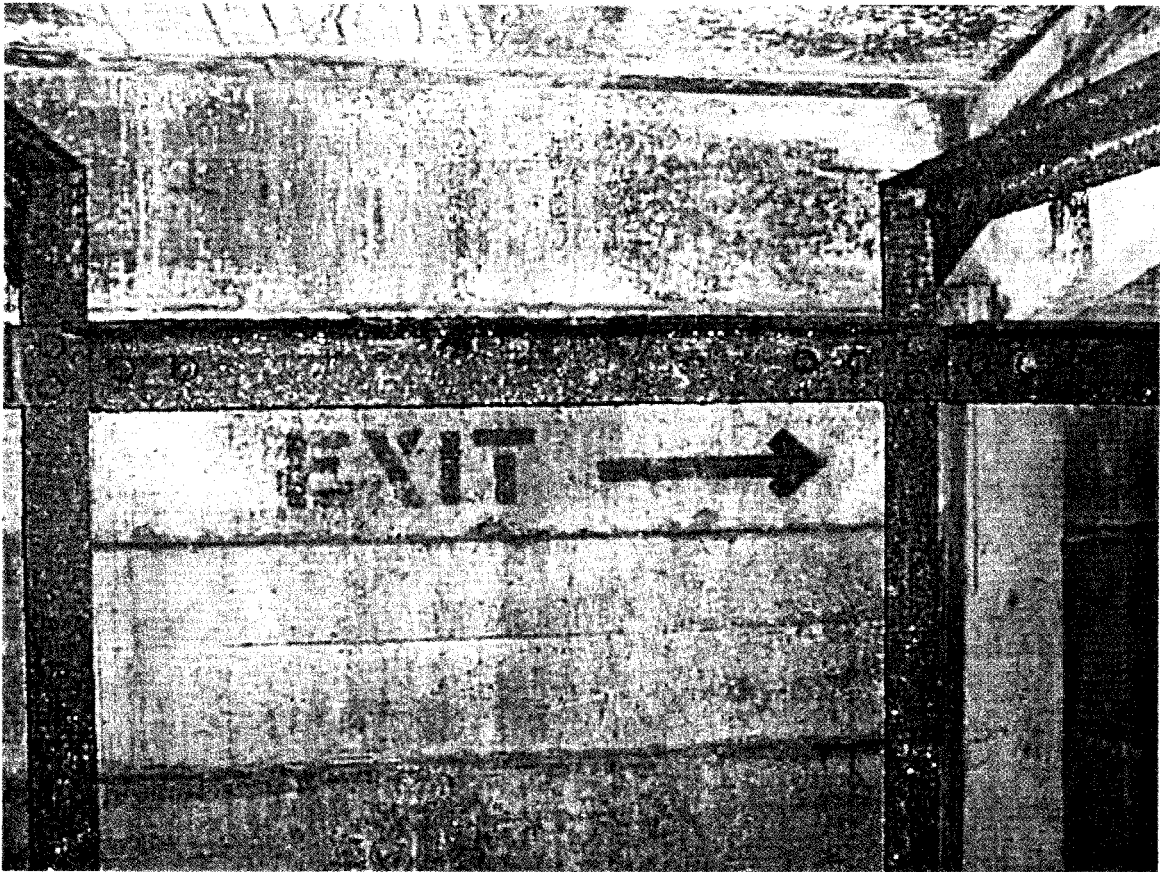
W3a. (not included in the report).



w4. Debris Below Vent Access.



w4a. (not included in the report).



w5. Steel Support.



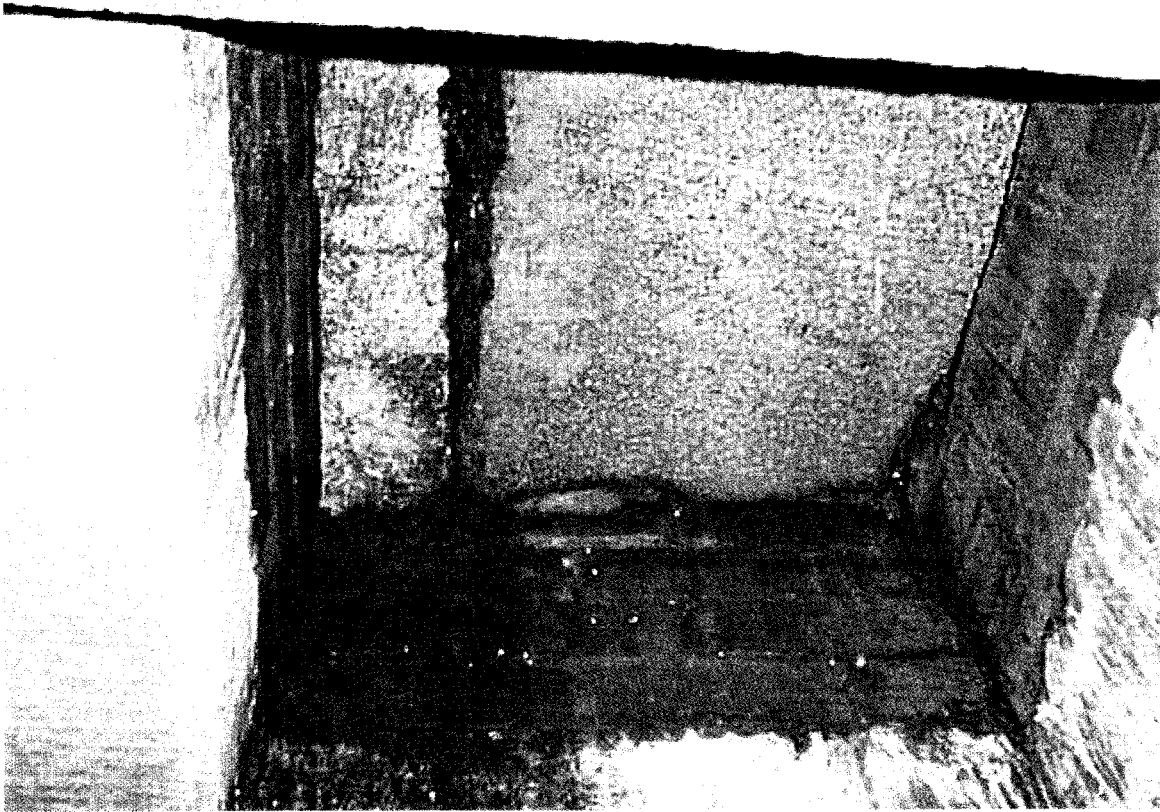
w5a. (not included in the report)



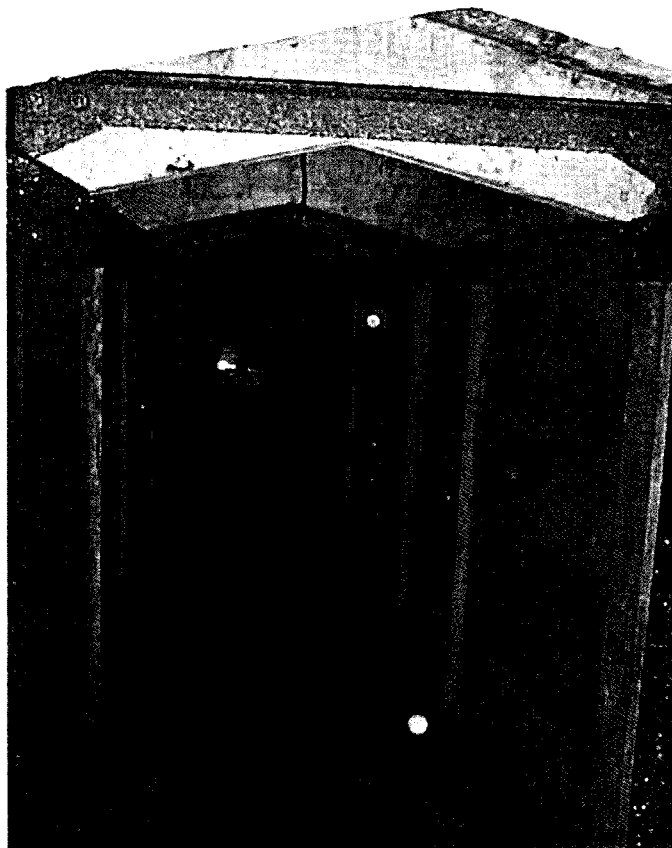
w5b. (not included in the report).



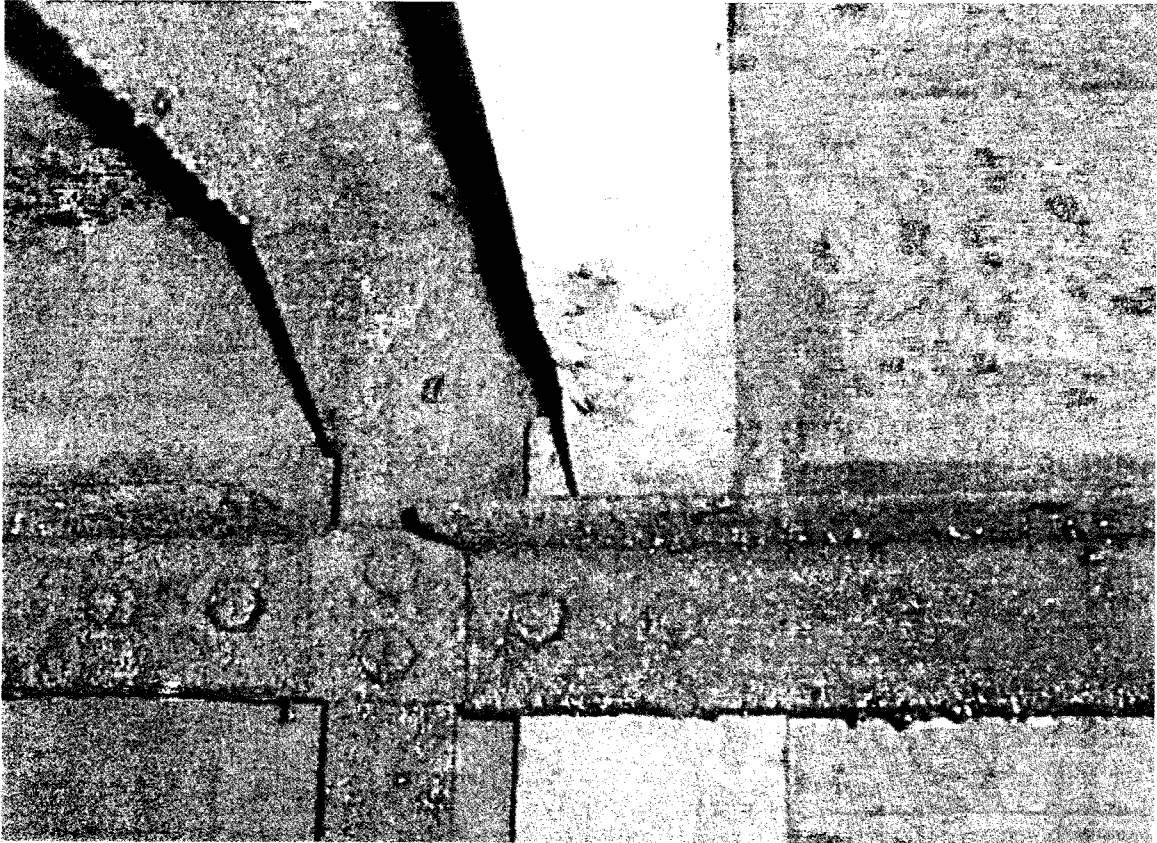
w6. Vent Construction.



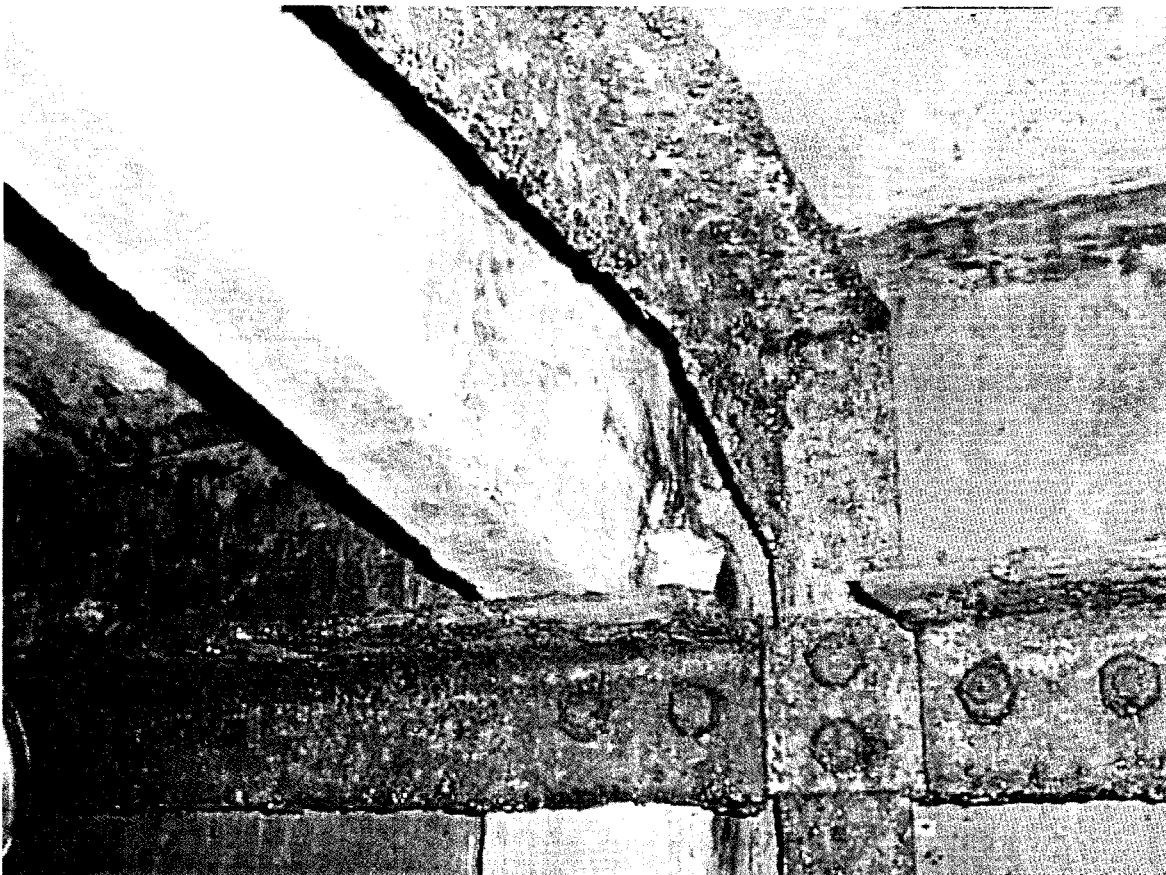
w6a. (not included in the report).



w7. Steel Framing.



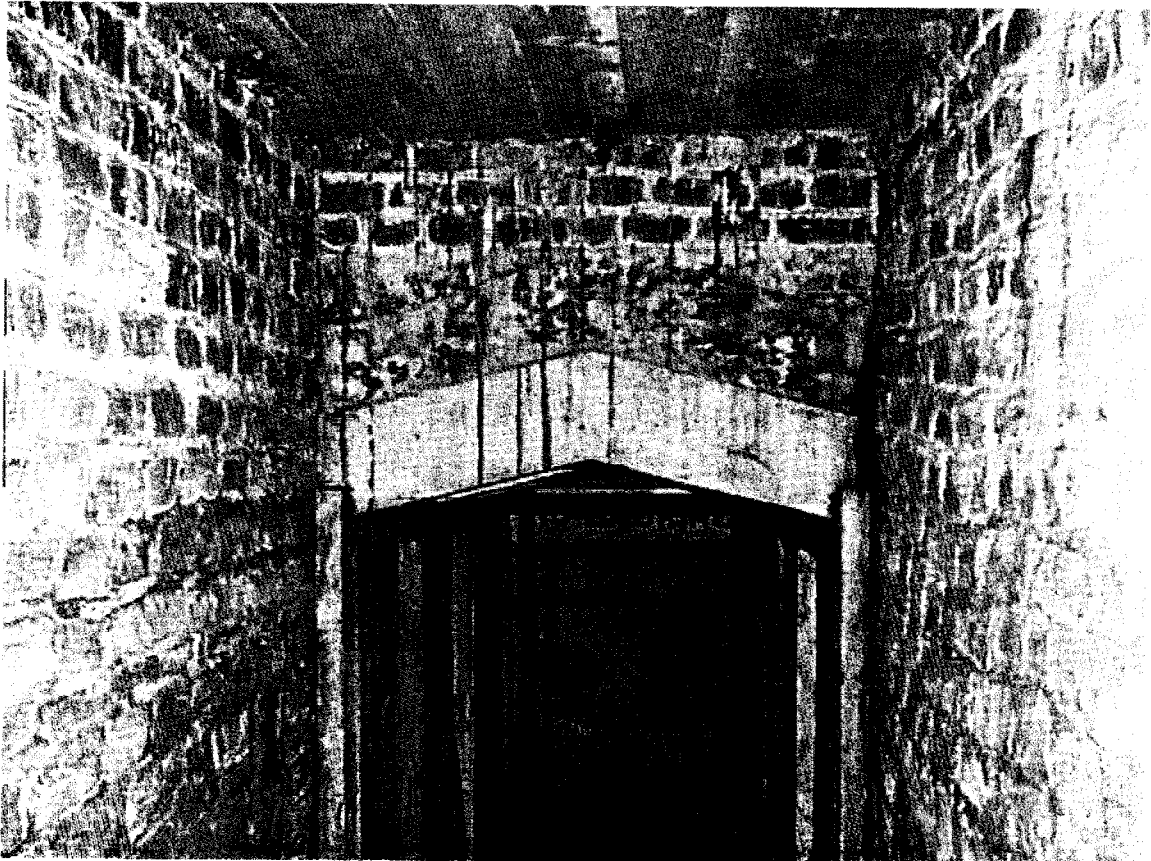
w8. Steel Framing.



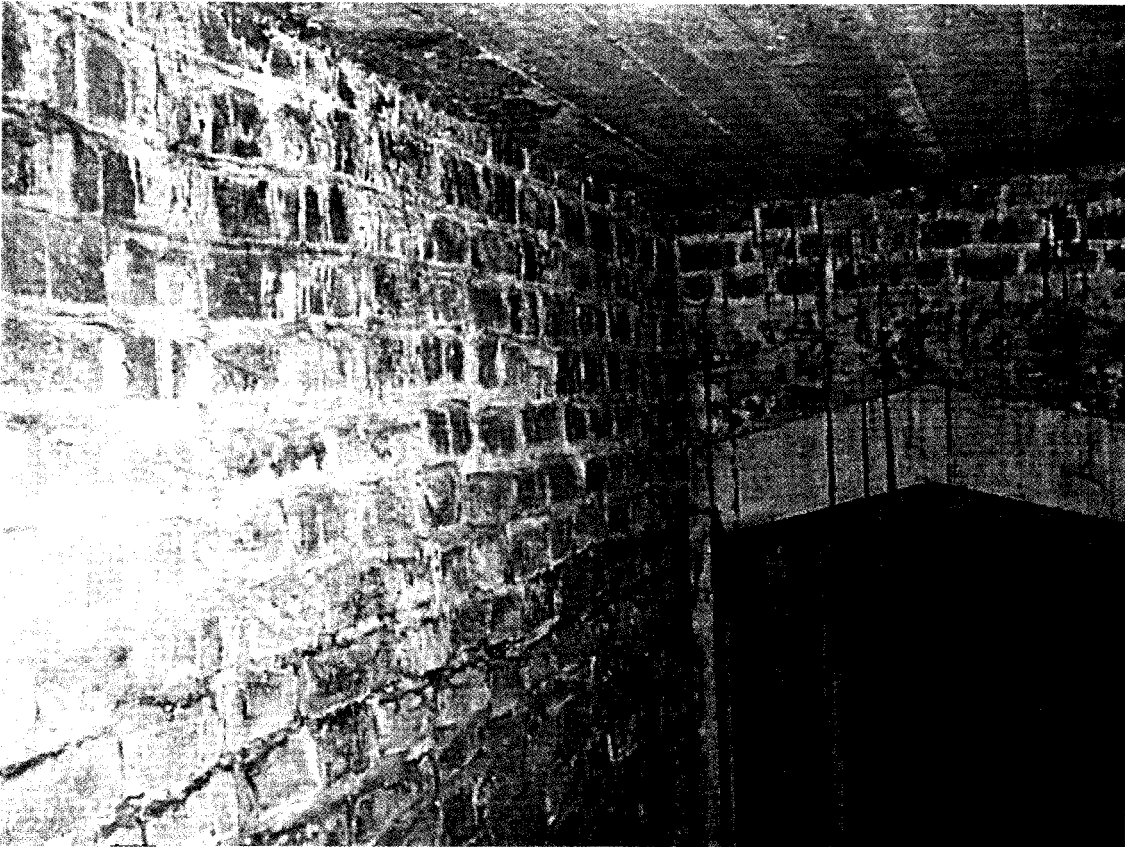
w8a. (not included in the report).



w9. Original Entrance.



w10. Original Entrance.

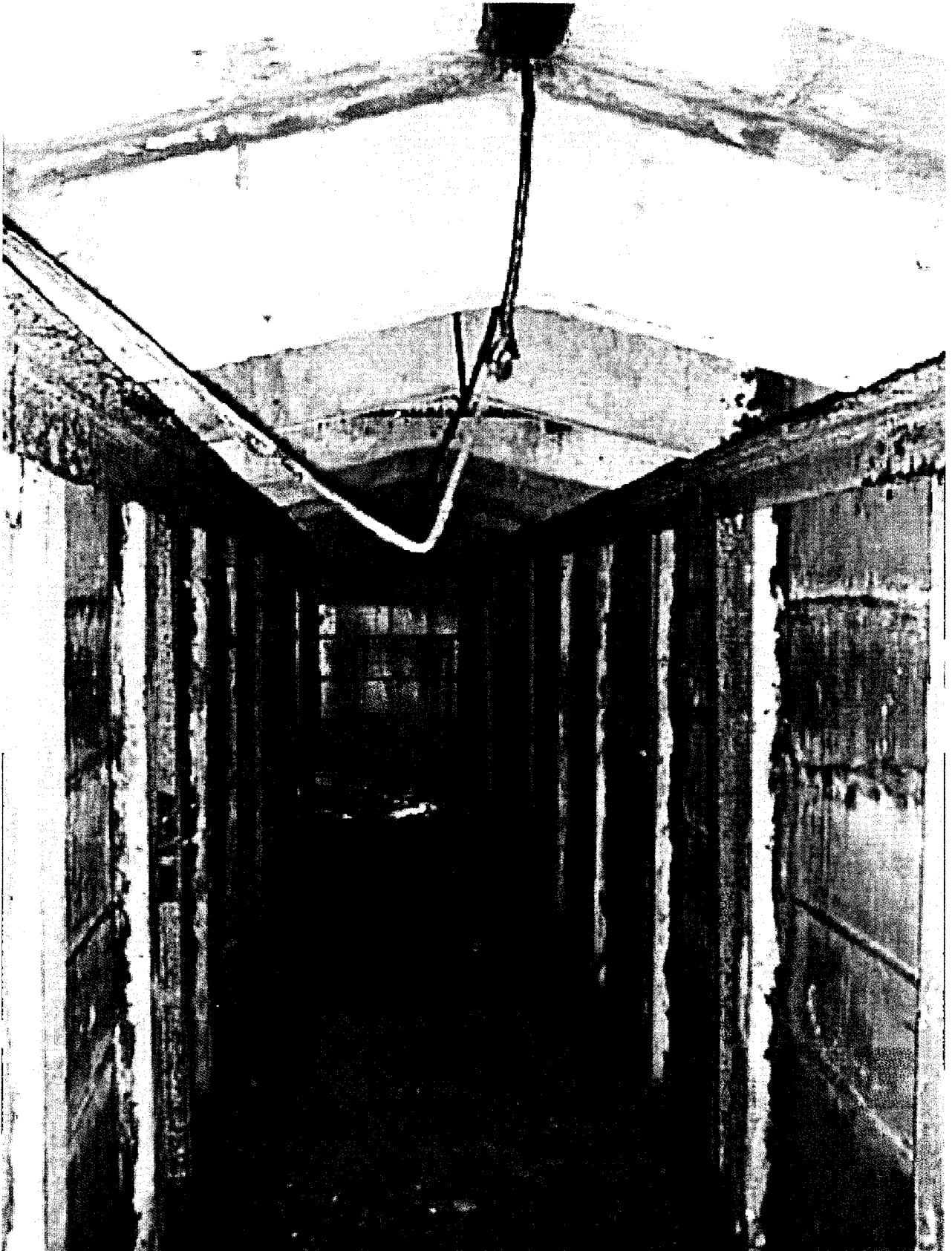


w11. Concrete Block to Original Entrance.



Recreation Ground – Eastern Air-raid Shelter.

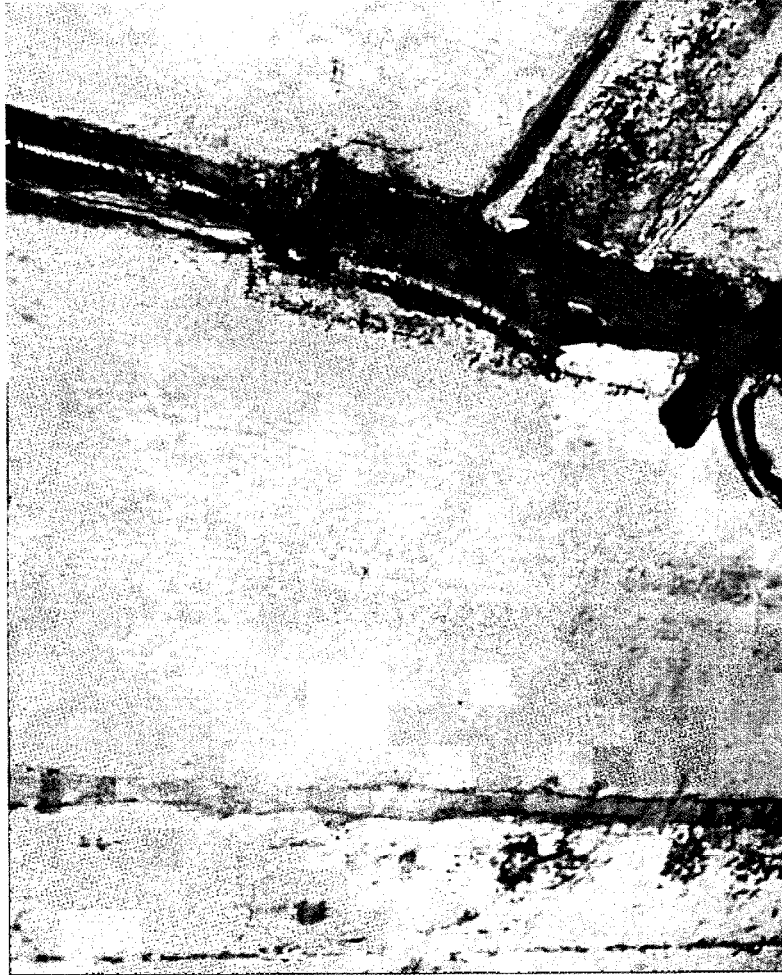
e1. General Chamber Construction.



e2. General View



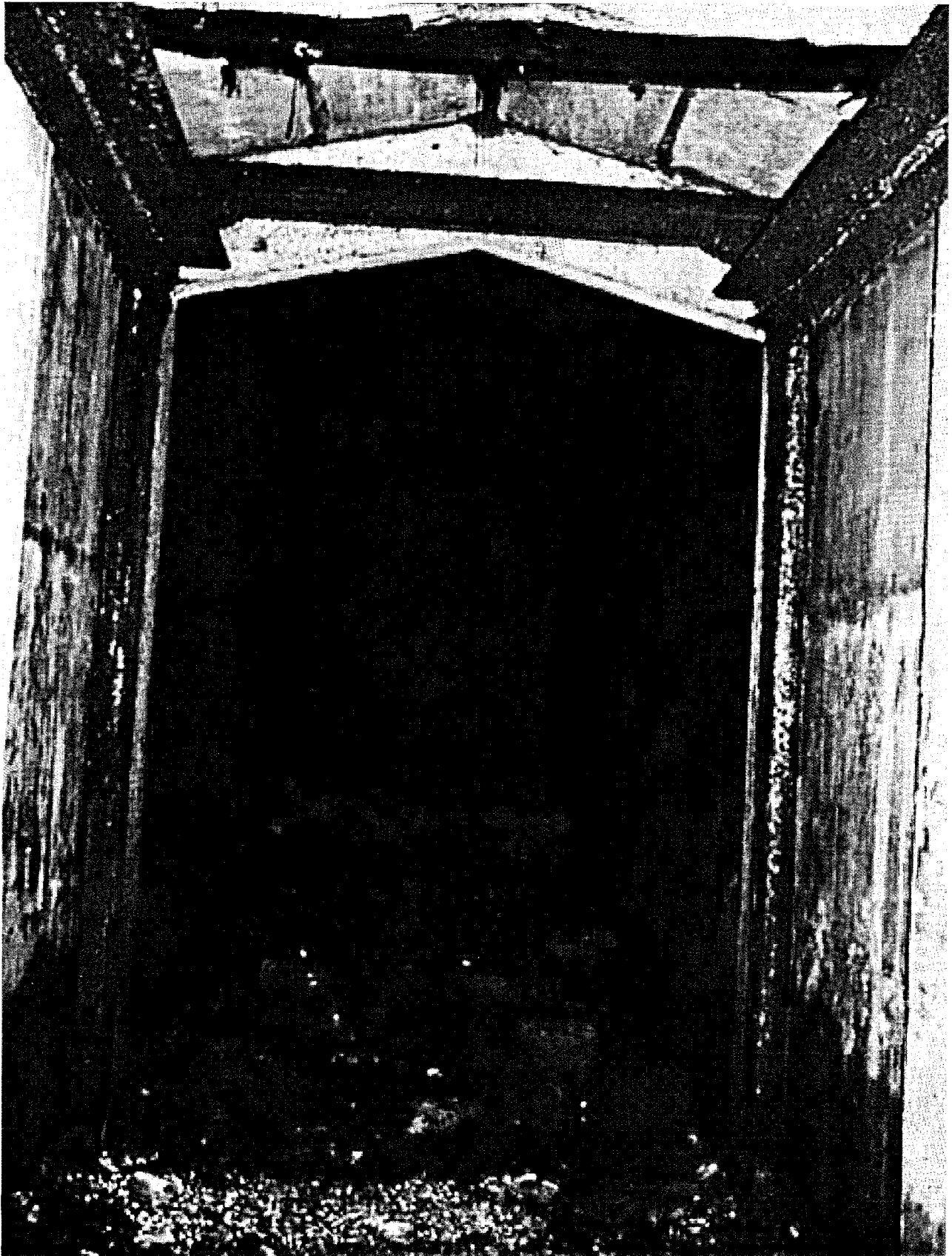
e3. Roof Soffit.



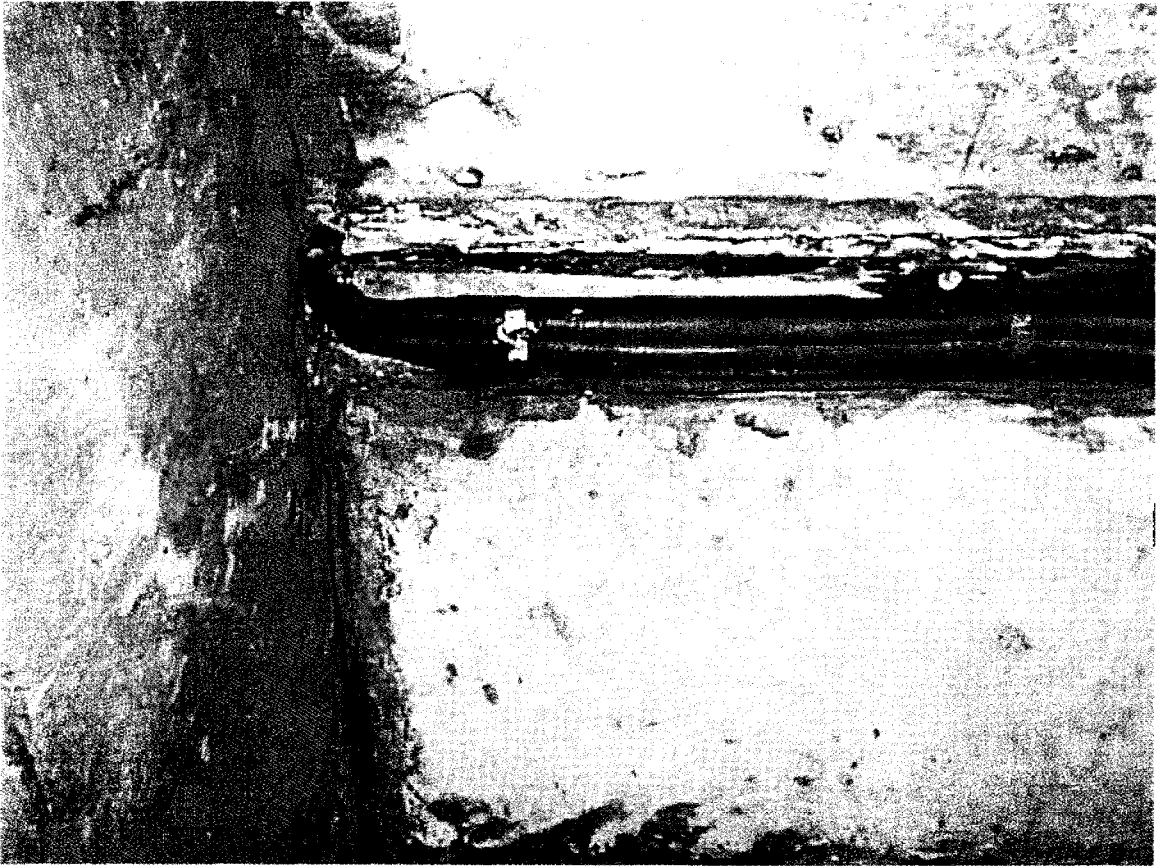
e4. Steel Frame.



e4a. (not included in the report)



e5. Timber Roof Insert.



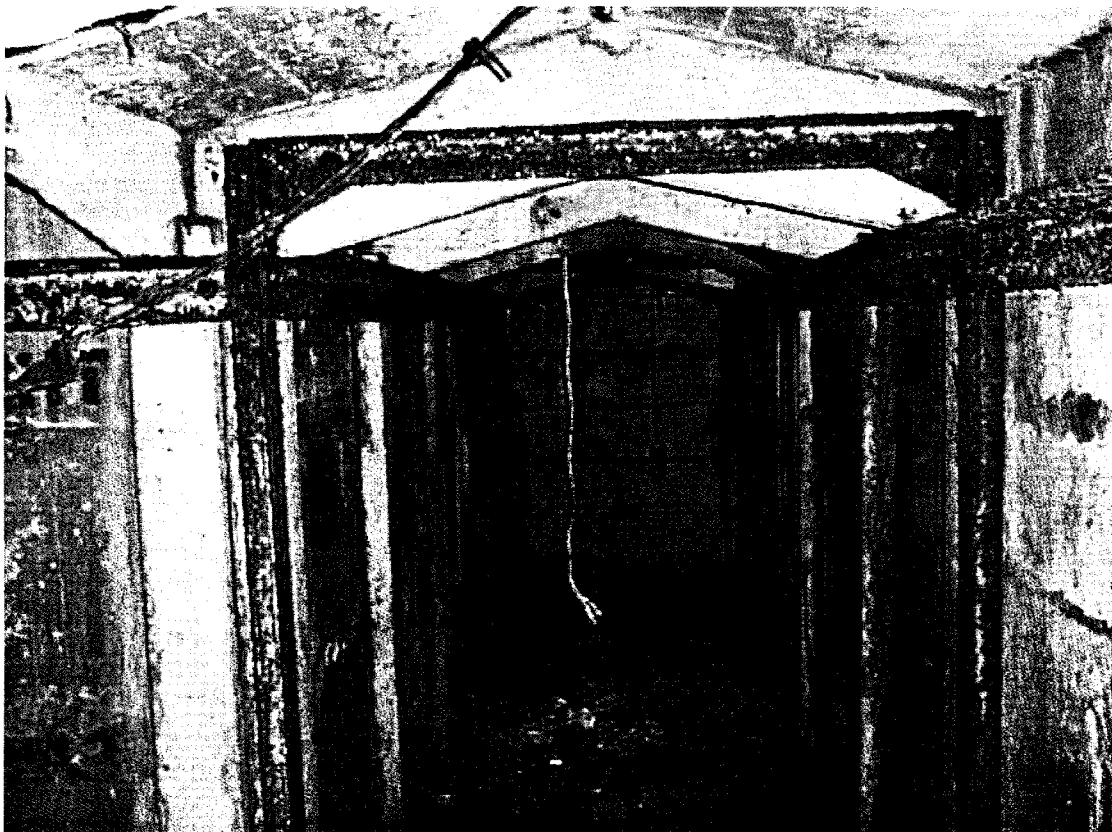
e6. Steelwork Frame Configuration.



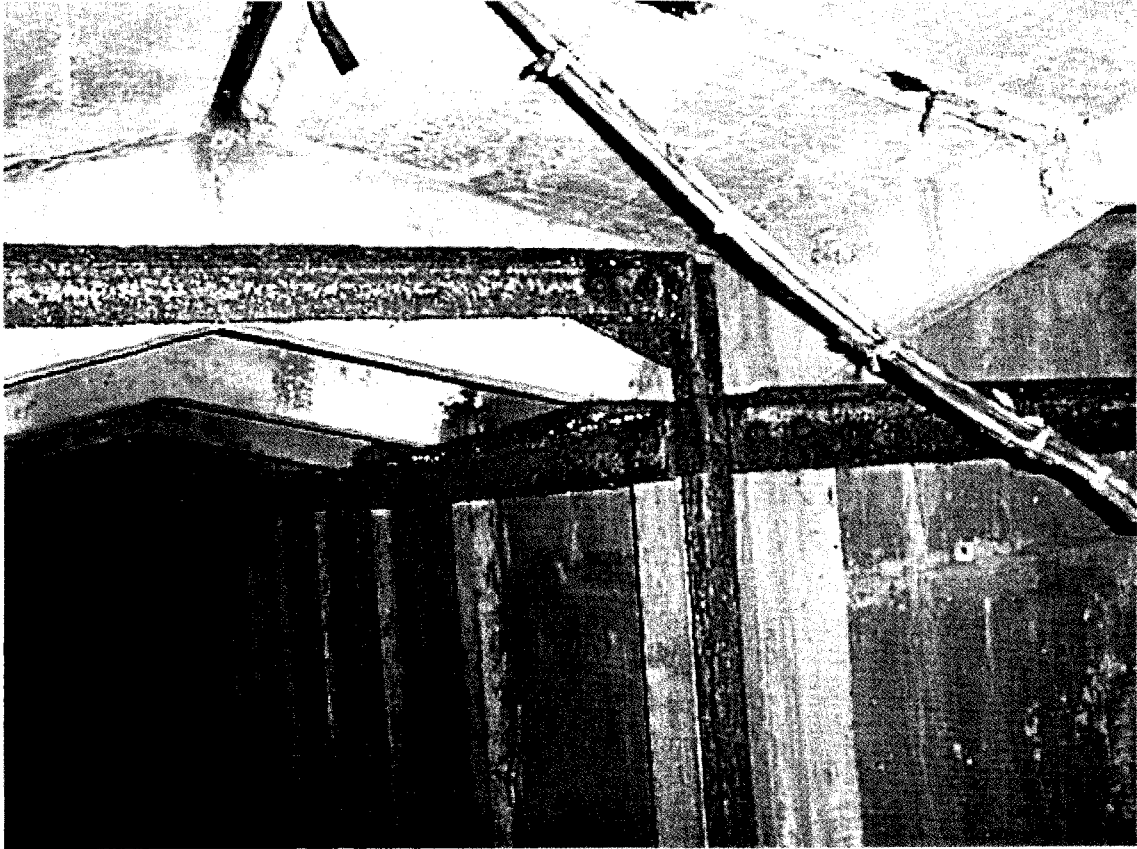
e7. View on original entry to Shelters.



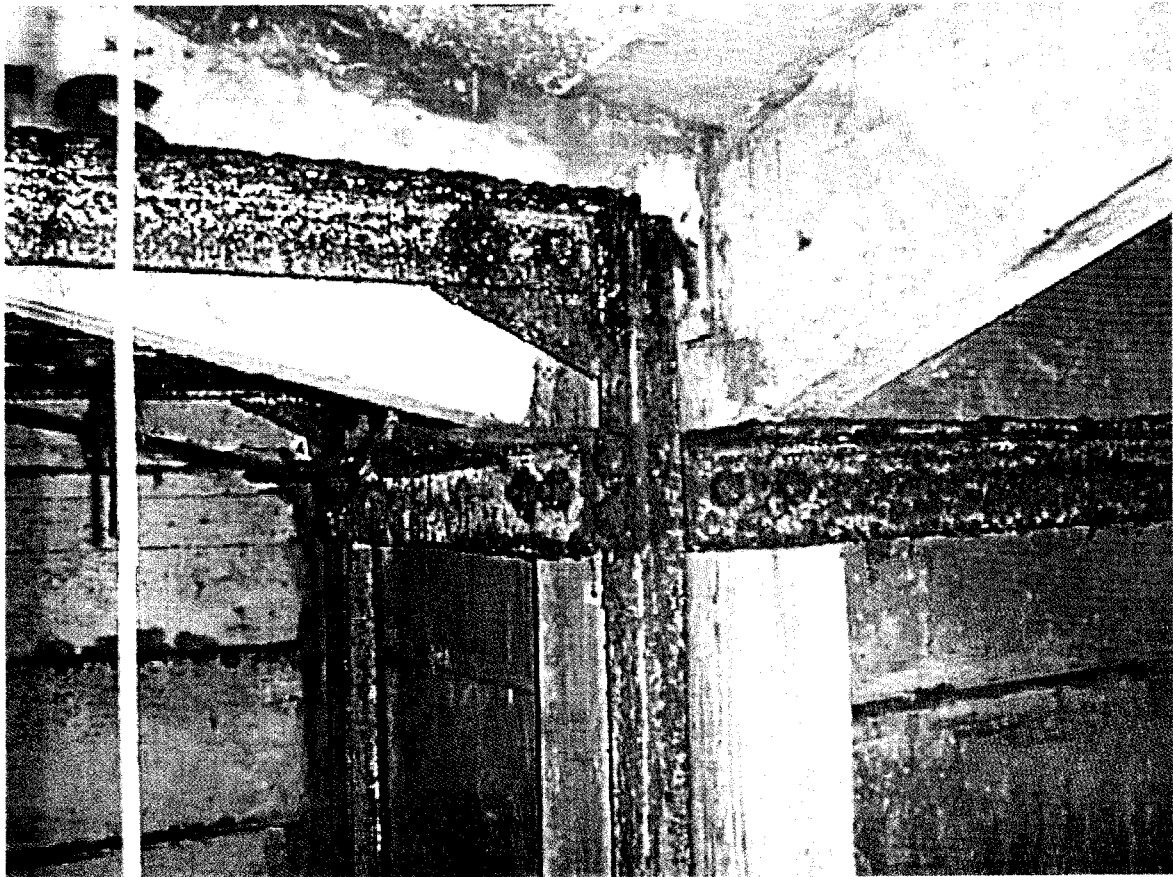
e8. Blocked up Entrance.



e9. Corner Detail.



e10. Steel Corner Frame.



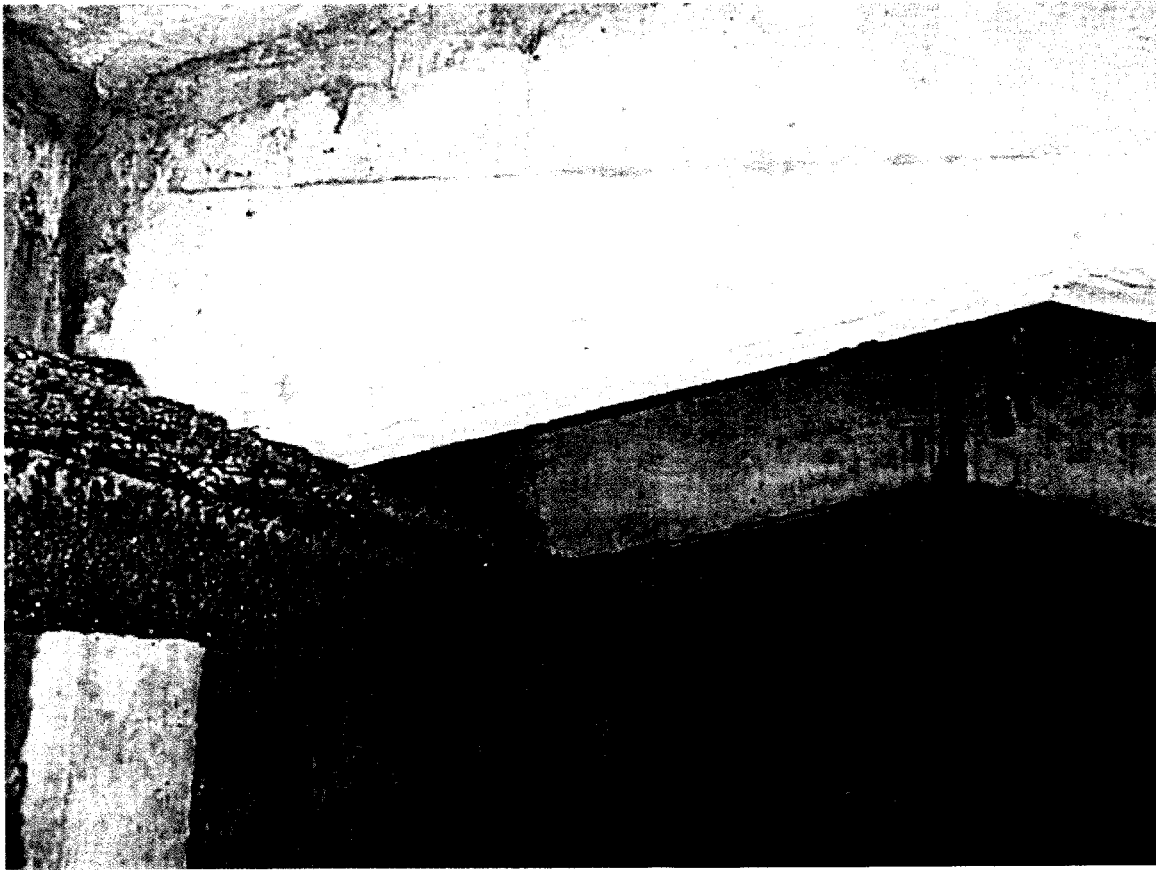
e11. Cracking to Head Beam.



e12. Corner of Toilet Section.



e12a. (not included in the report)



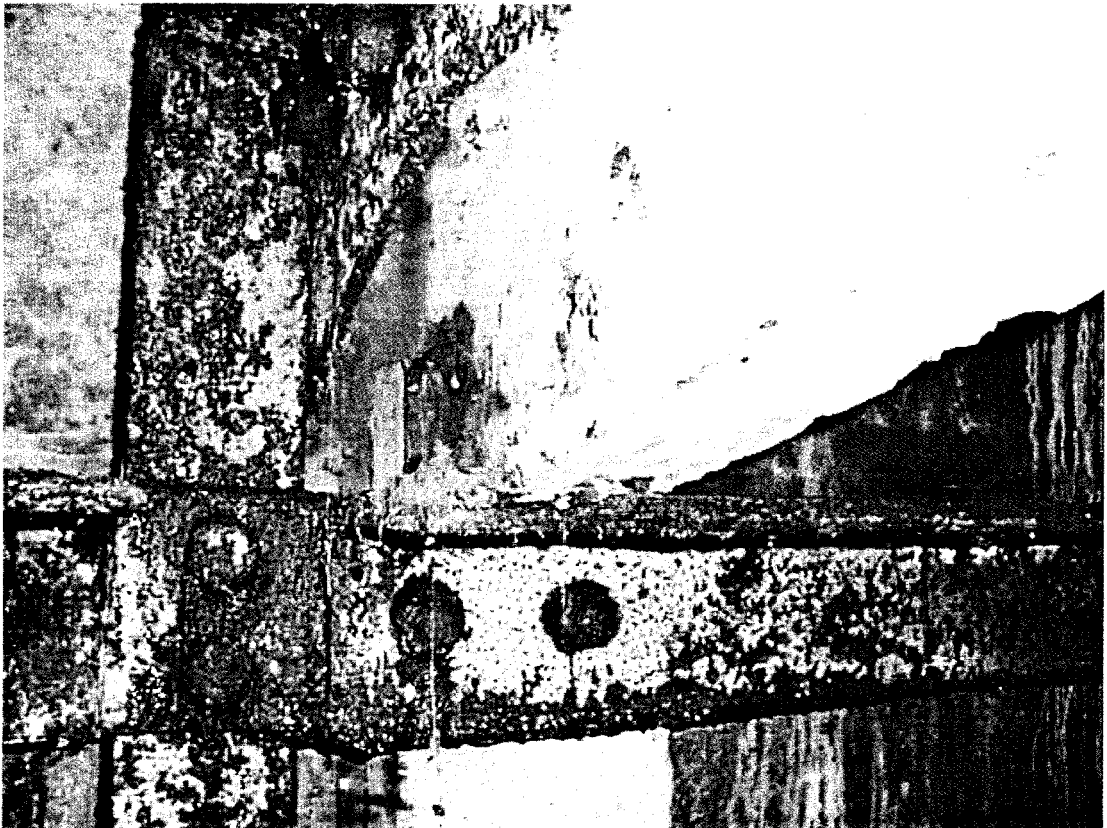
e13. Concrete Spalling – Corrosion of Reinforcement.



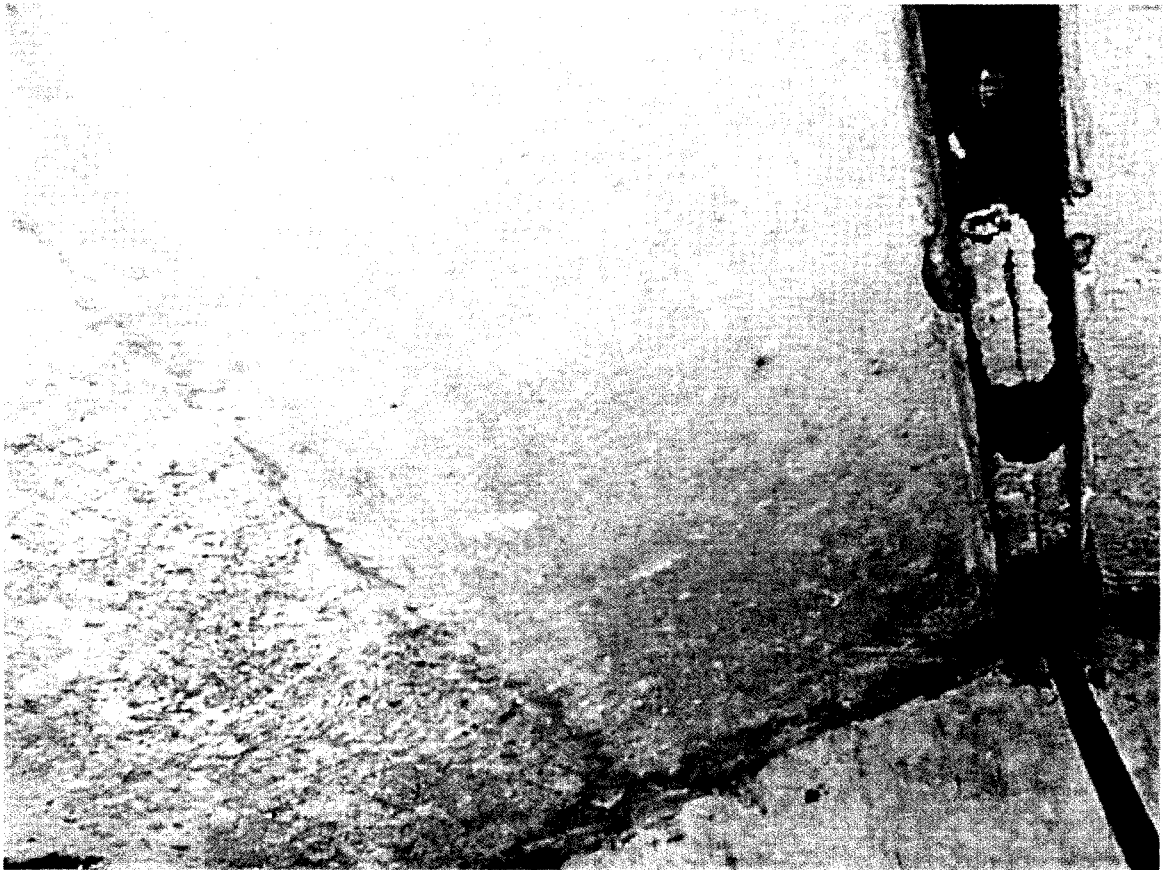
e14. Vent Access.



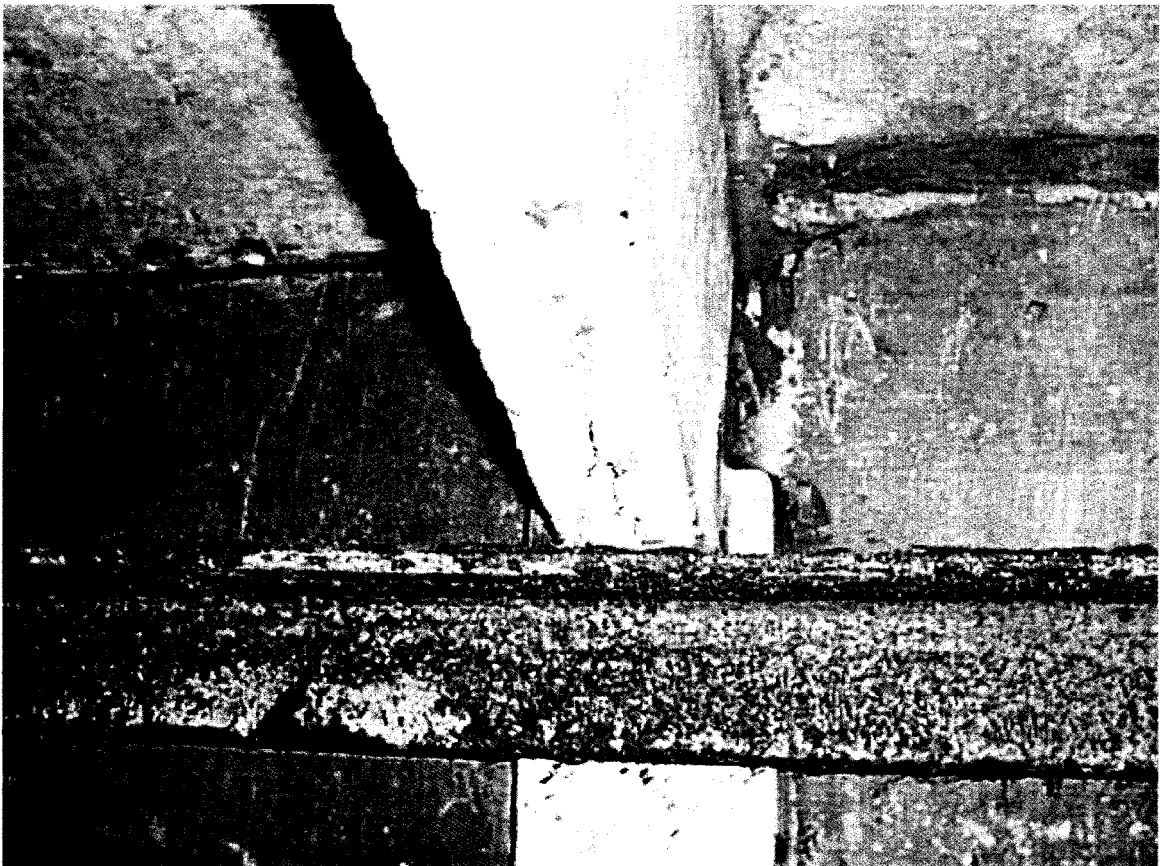
e15. Steel Frame Detail.



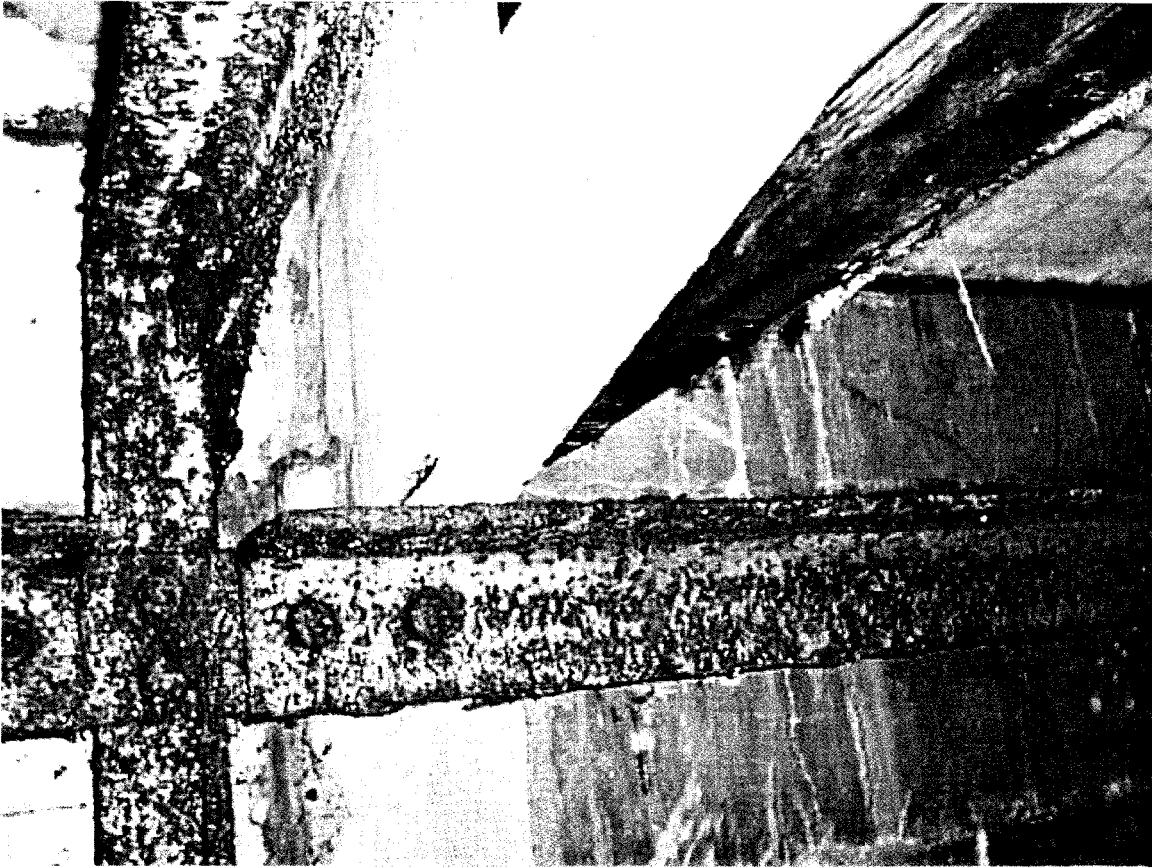
e15a. (not included in the report).



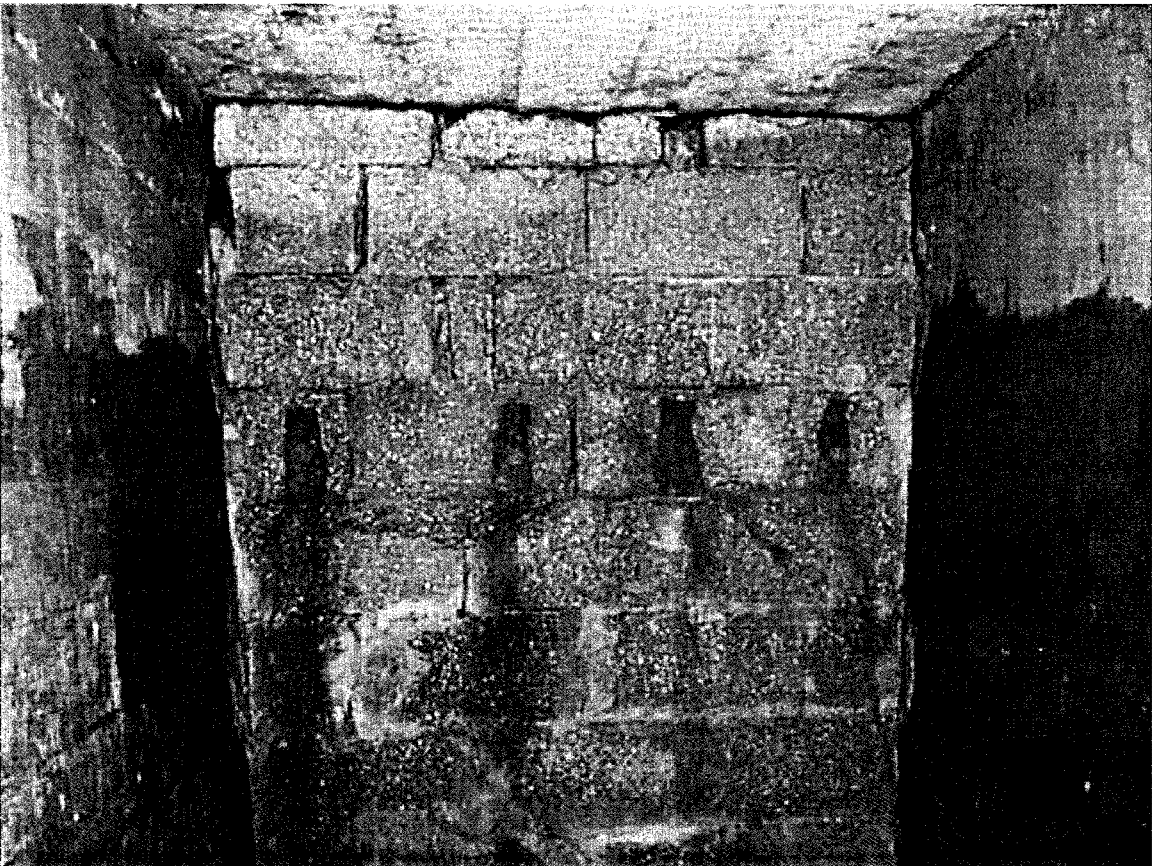
e16. Concrete Spalling of Reinforcement to Hood Beams.



e17. Concrete Spalling of Reinforcement to Hood Beams.



e18. Blockwork to Original Entrance.



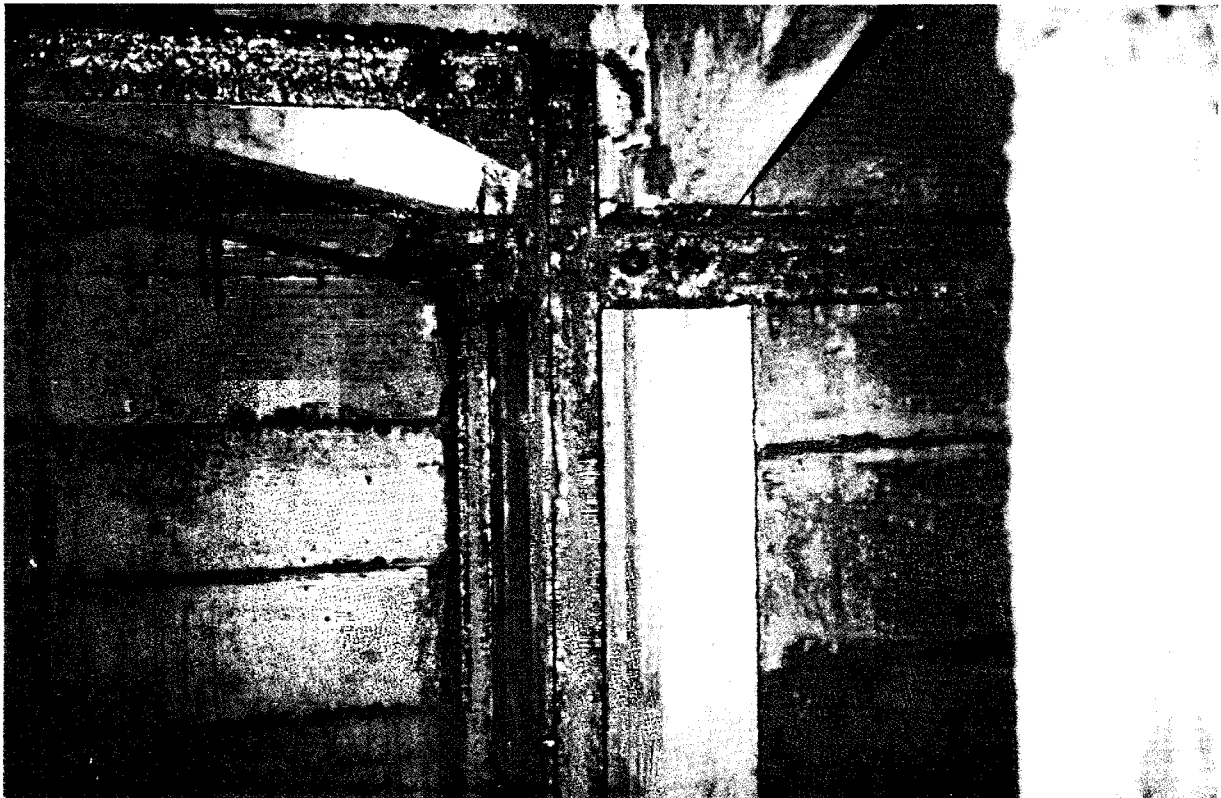
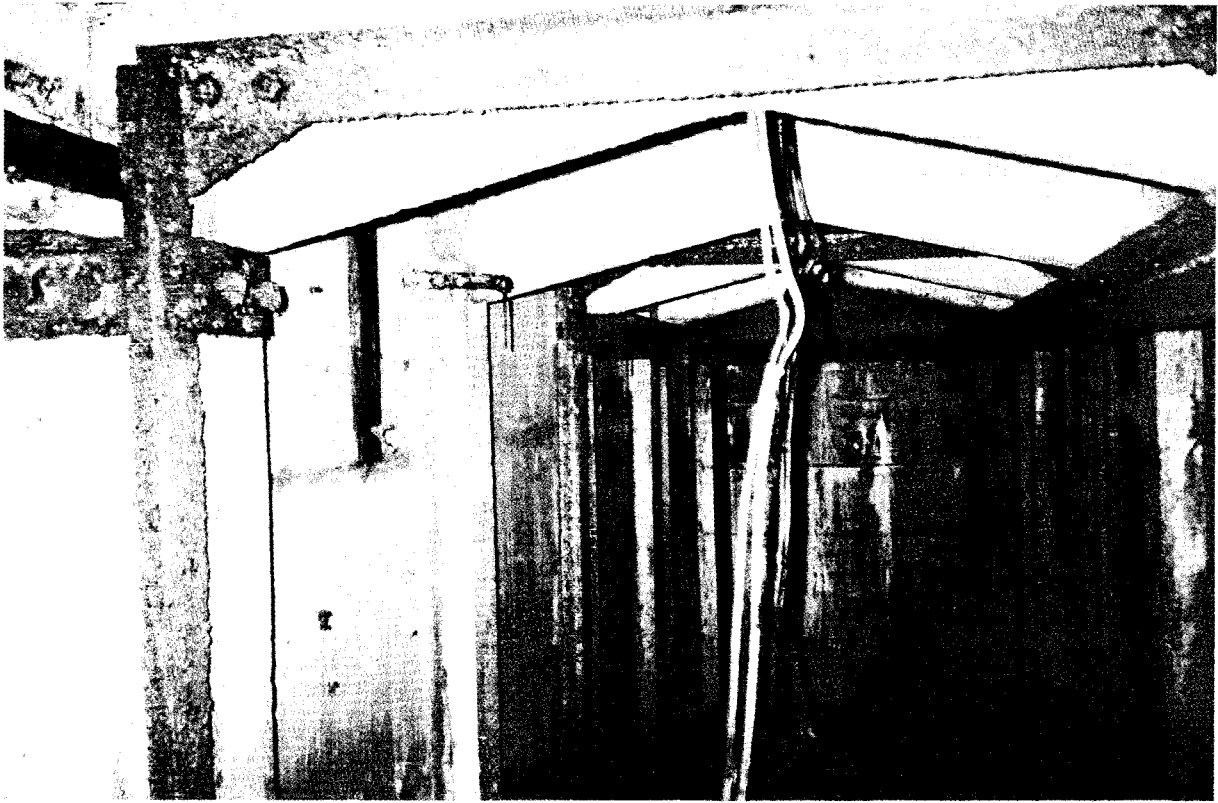
In addition to the digital photographs others were taken as snapshots on film. These are in no particular order and which shelter each was from is unknown.



No information found.



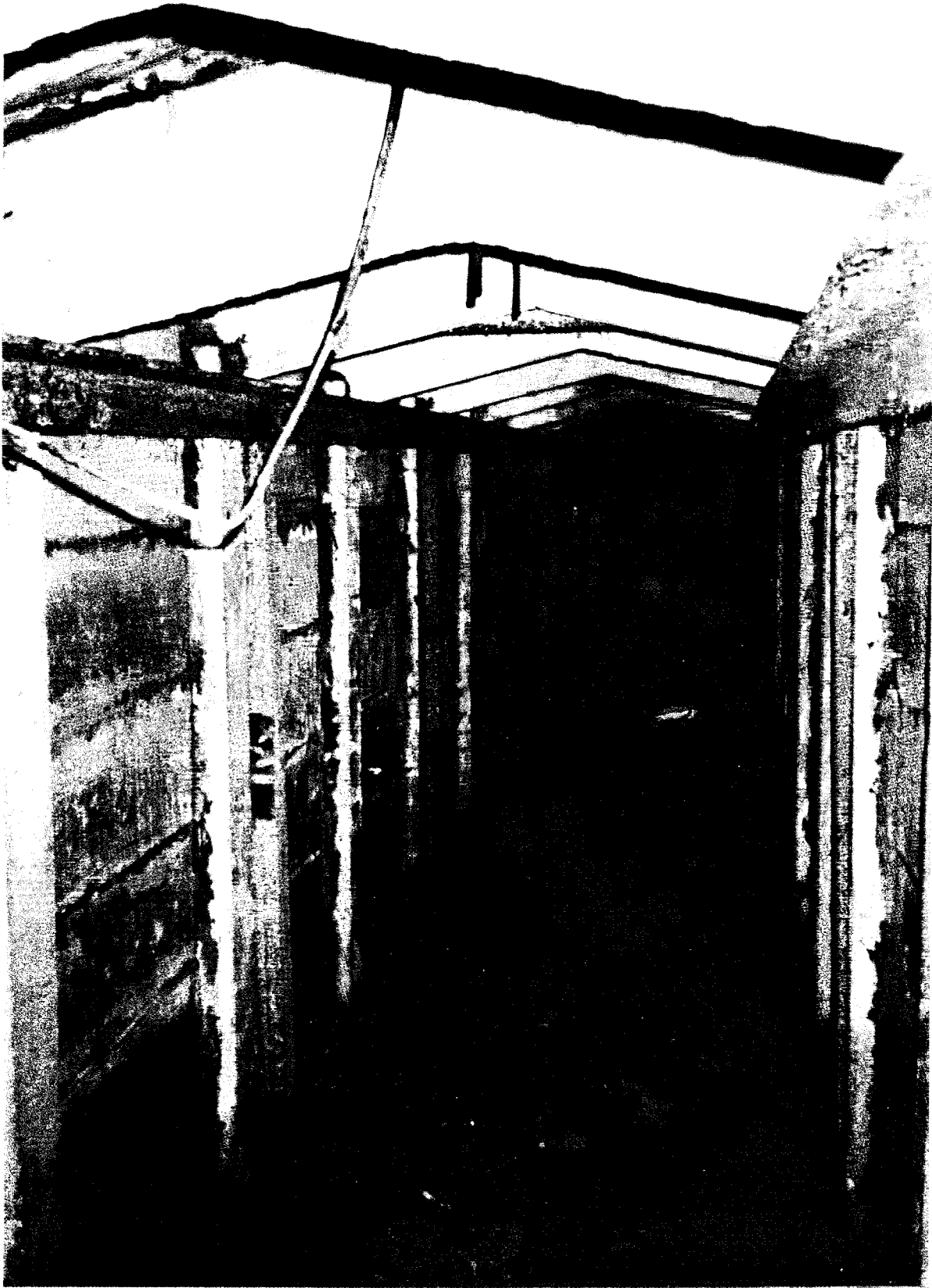
No information found.



No information found.



No information found.



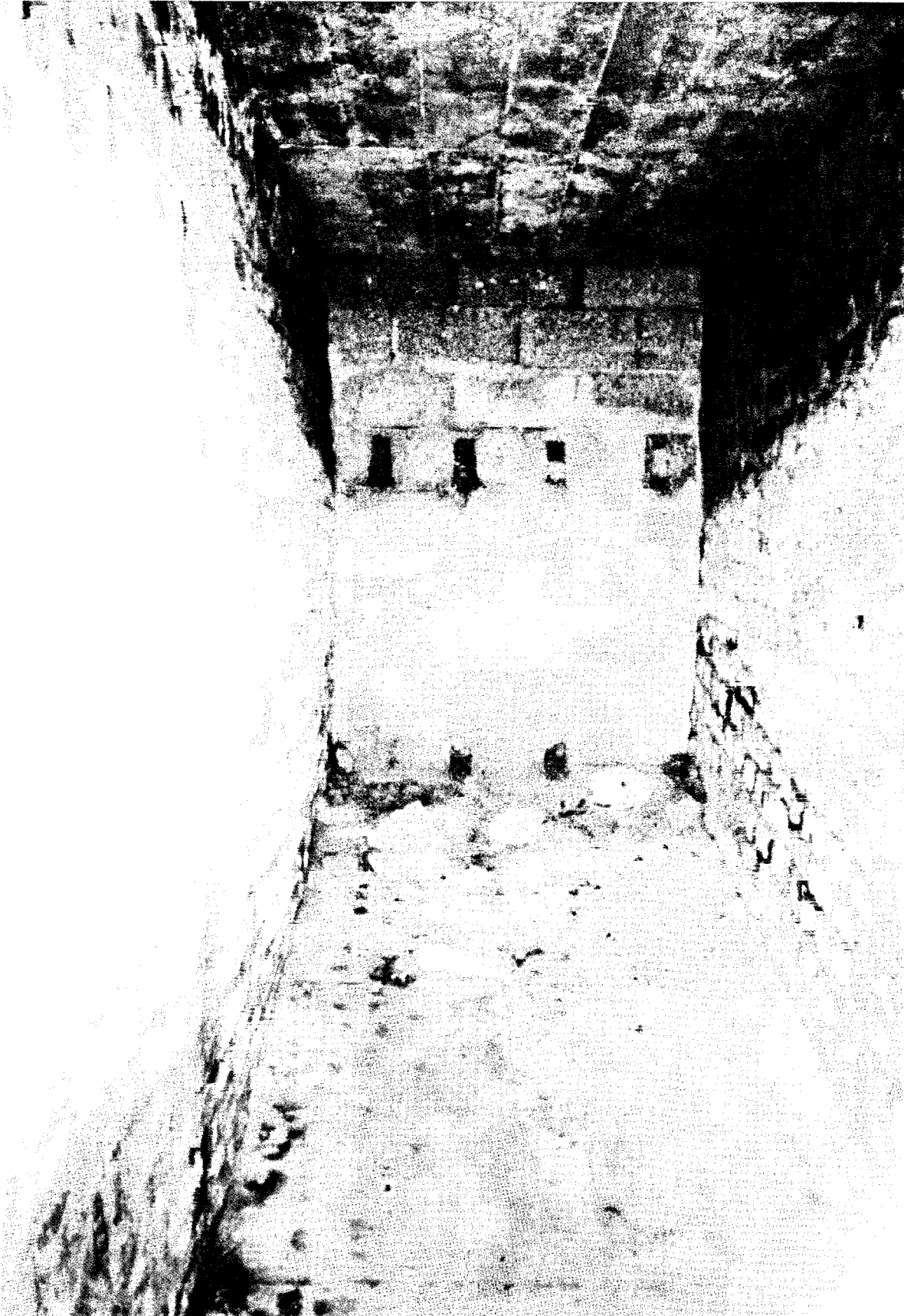
No information found.



No information found.



No information found.



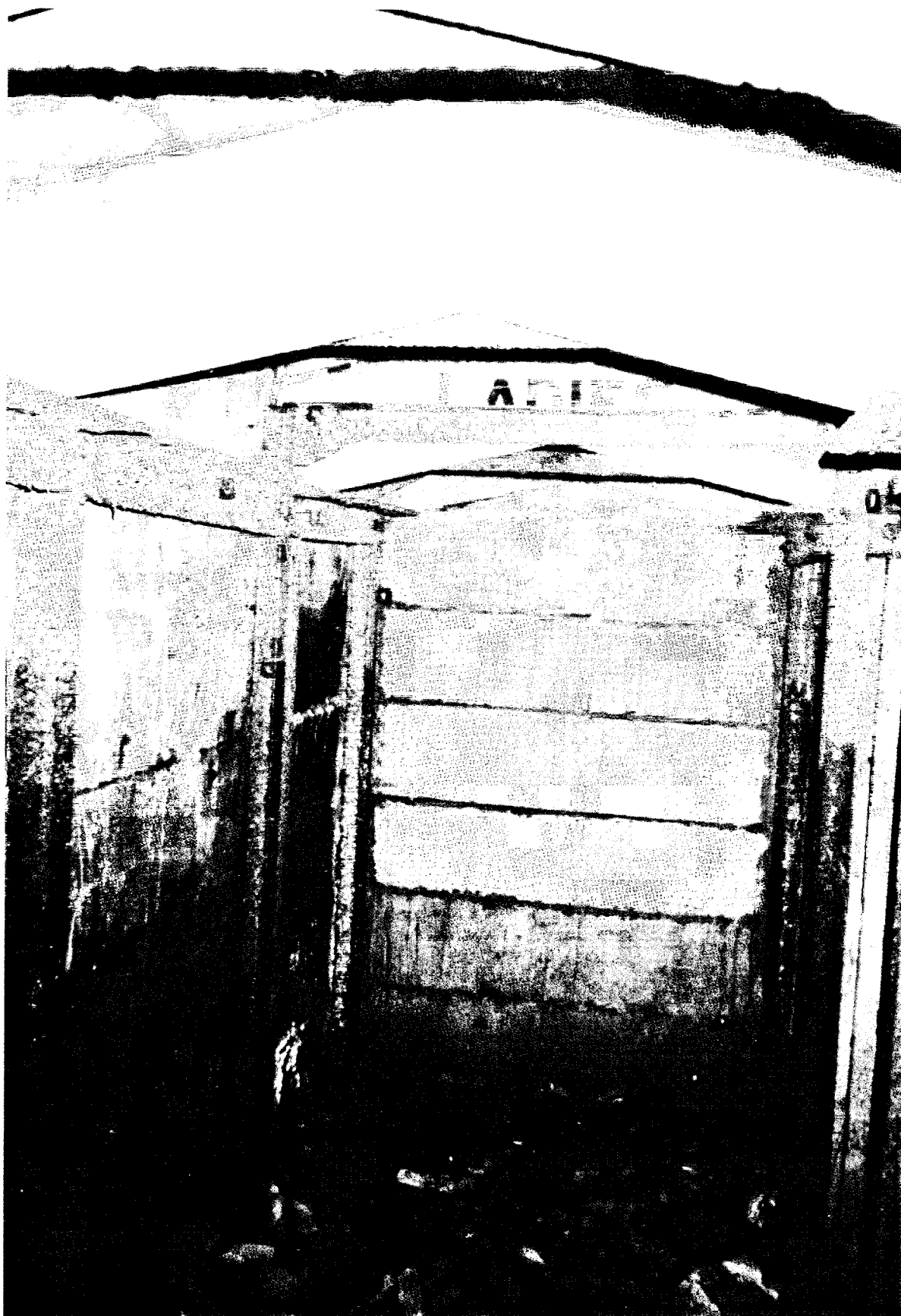
No information found.



No information found.



No information found.



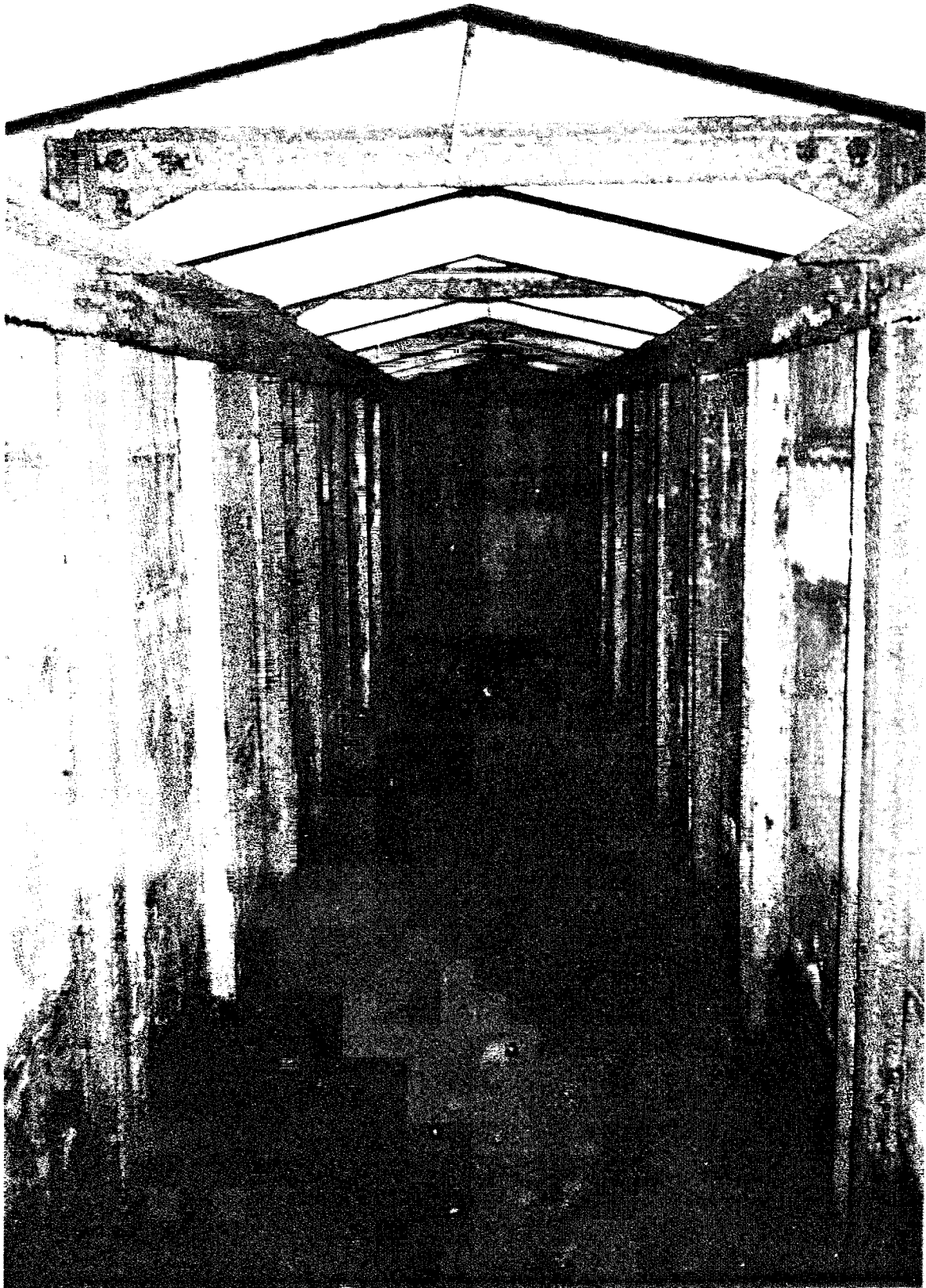
No information found.



No information found.



No information found.



The other seven Public Shelters.

4. Underground on site of 'Good Companions' in Leigh Road which was due to be built when the war intervened. (50 people) - It was in front of advertising hoardings. [90/170]
5. Underground – on the corner of Southampton Road and South Street (50 people) [90/200]
6. Underground - Chandlers Ford Central Club, Winchester Road, (50 people) [90/201]
7. Underground - land formerly owned by Jesson - between Market Street, High Street, Blenheim Road and Grantham Road. (50 people) [90/202] [90/219]. The entrance was opposite Nos. 7 and 9 Grantham Road. This was a popular shelter and even those who had Anderson shelters preferred to come to it because it contained a piano and there was community singing. It was in the form of a long, narrow passage running parallel to the backway above with an entrance like the warden's posts.
8. Underground at the Corner of Nutbeem and Grantham Roads.
9. The Factory mentioned below was 'Oddie Locknuts' at 114 Southampton Road.

20th May, 1940.

Capt. E. Jervis, M.C., (Retd.),
County Air Raid Precautions Officer,
Litton Lodge,
Clifton Road,
WINCHESTER.

Dear Sir,

Public shelters.

As you are aware, one of the sites for the ten 50-person shelters approved by the Ministry of Home Security could not be obtained, and when Mr. Sikes was here on Friday last, I showed him a basement under one of the factories in Southampton Road, which is capable of holding 200 people. He thought that this basement would make an excellent shelter, and I was directed to submit to you a plan of the proposal, together with an estimate. A rental suggested by the owners is £15 per annum.

I enclose a plan, together with an estimate, and shall be glad to receive your approval of same at your very earliest convenience.

Mr. Sikes also inspected the public shelters and raised the question of lighting and seating.

I am going into the question of seating, which will of necessity have to be in concrete, but with regard to the lighting, the original estimate for the three shelters on the recreation ground has now been increased by 20%, making a total cost of £145.10. Od. These shelters will hold 1,200 people, so that this cost falls well below that permitted by the Ministry of Home Security. I shall be glad of your approval.

Yours faithfully,

10. The following shelter was abandoned.

16th March, 1942.

Dear Sir,

Public Trench Shelter,
Junction of Leigh Road & Bournemouth Road.

Owing to the waterlogged condition of the ground (local springs) at the junction of Leigh Road and Bournemouth Road, it has been found impossible to keep the underground Trench Shelter (Home Office Pattern) free from water, in spite of lining with waterproofed concrete, etc.

The Electricity supply company refuses to connect up the wiring owing to the wet condition of the shelter, and the public are quite unable to use it as it is frequently filled up with water to a depth of three or four feet.

Would consent be given to the construction of a brick Surface Type shelter at this site in substitution for the existing unsatisfactory Trench shelter?

I estimate the cost of providing a shelter for 48 persons, similar to Hants County Design D.S.1/A/N/48.T to be £210.

Yours faithfully,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor *W*

The County Architect,
The Castle,
WINCHESTER.

Anderson Shelters.

War was declared on Sunday 3rd September 1939 but It must have been in the spring of 1938 that my mother had planted rows of vegetables on the fertile ground behind our pale maroon coloured corrugated iron coal-shed alongside our long creosoted wooden fence. All fairly new as the house was built in 1936.

To her annoyance, what grew were two or three concrete steps down into a space along one edge of which was some galvanised corrugated iron with a small rectangular hole in it with a door opening outwards, leading into a small tunnel in a mound of earth. It contained a wooden bunk and a little tortoise stove with a chimney and there were a couple of tubular air vents with see-saw caps to prevent water entering. It was an Anderson Air-raid shelter.

The steel work with which to build Anderson air raid shelters was given to those who requested it, free of charge, provided that their earnings made them compulsorily insurable under the National Insurance Scheme. (i.e. earning under £250 per annum.) Father was an engineer and his modified shelter was waterproof and not susceptible to flooding. The concrete structure is still buried there today ready for excavation by archaeologists.

However this offer of free parts with which to build a shelter expired on June 11th 1940. More of this later.

From the *Daily Express* June 1940.

***Shelters
must be up
by June 11***

IF you have an Anderson shelter and have not yet erected it and covered it with earth, you **MUST** do so before June 11—or give a good reason in writing to your local authority.

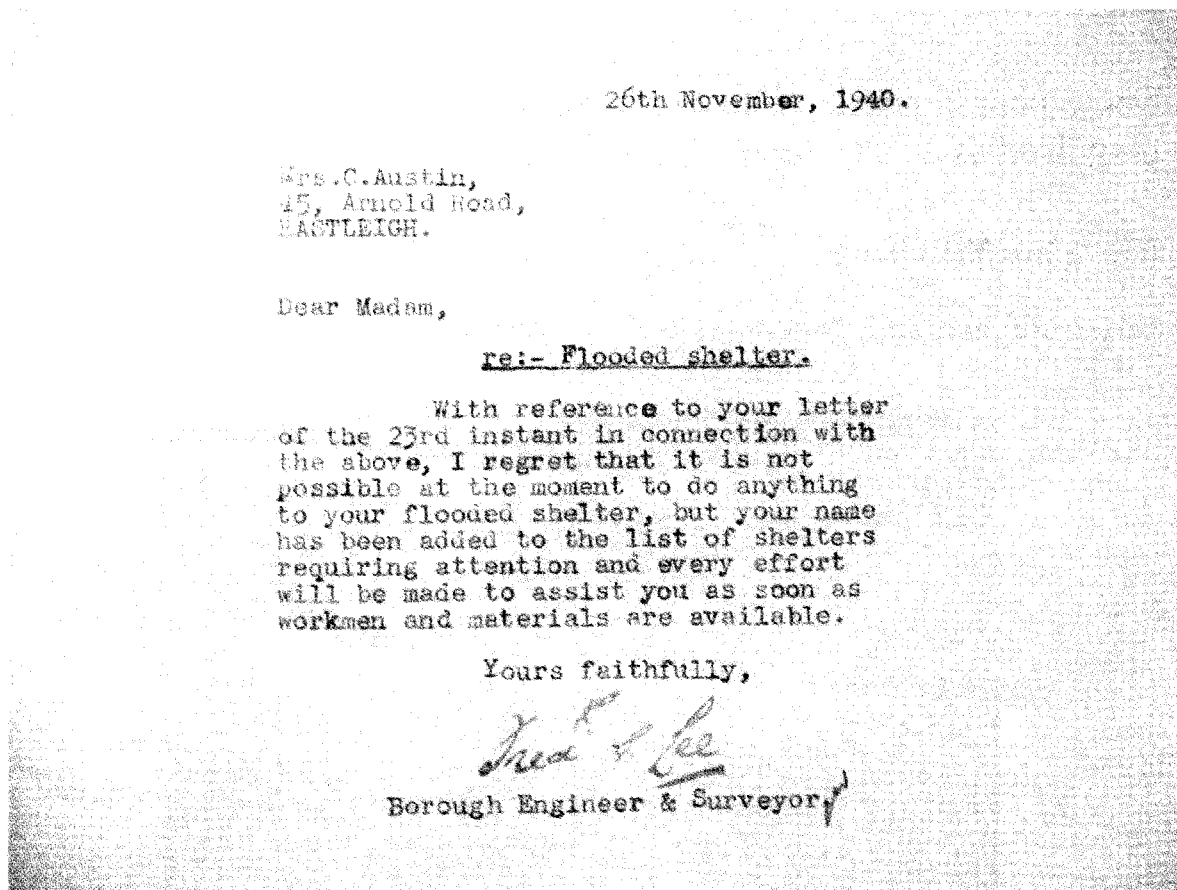
This order was announced last night by the Ministry of Home Security under a new Defence Regulation. Failure to comply with it renders you liable to substantial penalties.

If a householder is unable to erect the shelter himself, the local authority may help him if a good reason is given. If not, the shelter will be taken away and penalties may be imposed.

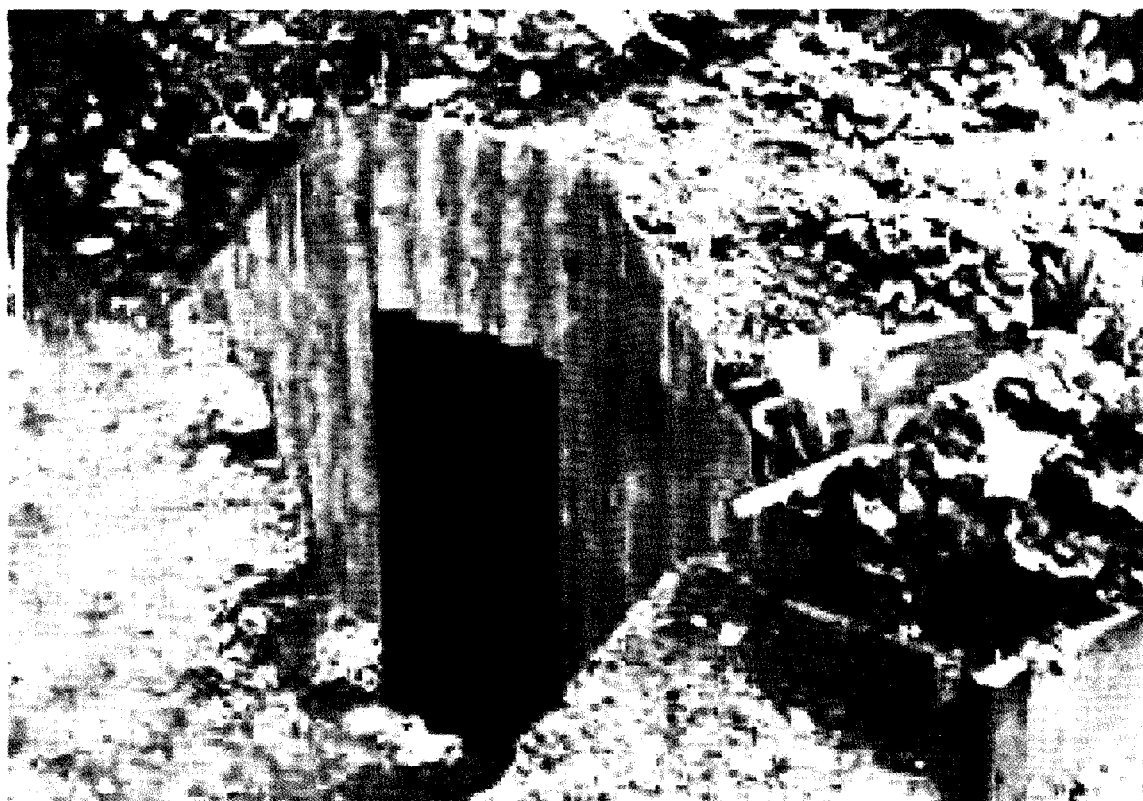
"Covering the shelter properly" means covering to a depth of 15ins. on top and 30ins. on sides and back.

The shelters composed of galvanised corrugated steel sheeting, straight for the sides and curved for the roof were partially underground and covered with a generous layer of earth. They were cramped and uncomfortable, but provided excellent blast protection unlike the concrete public shelters or later Communal Shelters.

My grandmother in Arnold Road had one, but hers soon became flooded. She wrote to the Borough Engineer about it in November 1940 and received this reply. [95/8]. Many others had the same problem.



An Anderson Shelter.



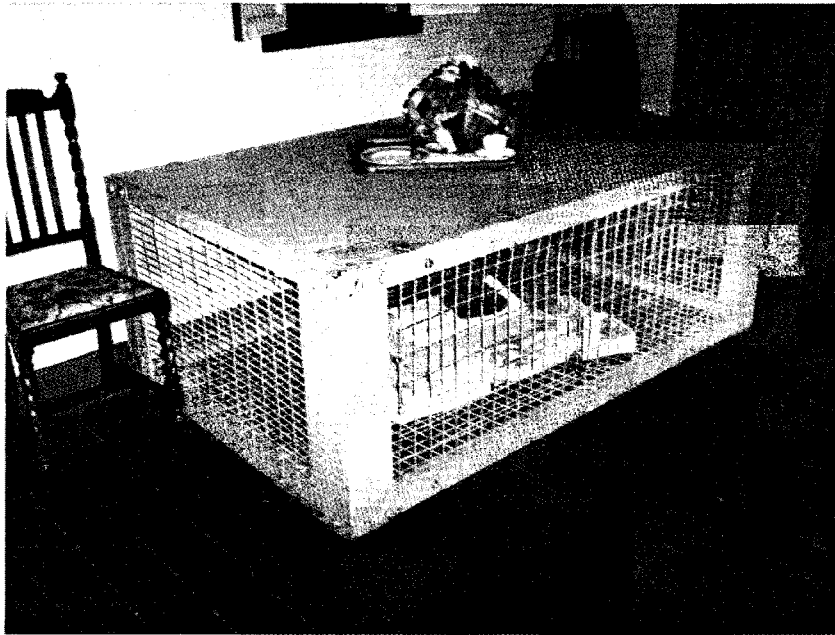
The Borough Engineer had to come up with something to pacify members of the public who had been tardy and “missed the boat” as far as obtaining Anderson Shelters was concerned. More of this , also later.

Some people managed to purchase an indoor shelter, which could be disguised as a large table. These were Morrison Shelters.

Morrison Shelters.

Indoor ‘Morrison’ shelters made of steel became available in 1941

Ordinary



Two-tier



These could be purchased from the Borough Council.

[103/235]

20th April, 1942.

Mr. J. Hancorn,
291, Hursley Road,
CHANDLER'S FORD.

Dear Sir,

re: - "Morrison" indoor shelter.

With reference to your call at this office regarding the above, I confirm that the size is 4' x 6'6" x 2'5" high, and the price is £7.-0. 0d. Delivery will be effected as soon as possible after receipt of your order.

I enclose the necessary application form should you wish to purchase a shelter.

Yours faithfully,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor *µ*

Privately built shelters existed. The only one I was told about was elaborate and shared by the inhabitants. of numbers 212 and 214. Cranbury Road.

Geoff Lowton wrote: *Our next door neighbours, Mr. & Mrs. Crocker had a large concrete shelter built mainly below ground level. It overlapped the adjoining garden belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Harrison. There was access from both gardens and enough sleeping accommodation for both their families, and ours as well when dad was away.*

However before this when people became aware that bombs actually fell on Eastleigh and killed people, the Borough Engineer's Department was inundated with requests for Anderson Shelters which it was impossible to supply.

Mr Lee therefore devised a scheme whereby shelters would be built all over the town – 390 in all, in which spaces could be allocated to those who requested Anderson Shelters but who were too late to obtain them.

Communal Shelters.

18th July, 1940.

[93/181]

A.L.Roberts, Esq.,
County Architect.
The Castle,
WINCHESTER.

Dear Sir,

Shelters.

I have now heard from the Ministry of Home Security that no further Anderson shelters are available for supply at the moment, and asking my council to consider the provision of alternative forms of shelter for the remaining householders in Eastleigh eligible for free shelter.

.... I enclose a plan, together with a specification and
.... scheduled tender received from a local builder for concrete block construction and 14" brickwork construction. Duplicate copies will be sent by the same post to the Regional Technical Adviser, Reading, for his approval to save time.

The residents in the area are without shelter and are getting very anxious.. During the last week or so life has not been worth living owing to the innumerable enquiries at my office regarding shelters, so will you please treat the matter as urgent.

Yours faithfully,



High Engineer & Surveyor



F. G. LEE
Engineer and Surveyor

The Borough Engineer promised that communal surface shelters would be built. Note that these were called Communal Shelters and not Public Shelters. Hundreds of these brick-built structures were erected in roads around the town. They had locked wooden doors, gas-curtains and electric light. They were only intended for the use of families to which places in them had been allocated. They were not, as I always assumed, for the use of those passing by.

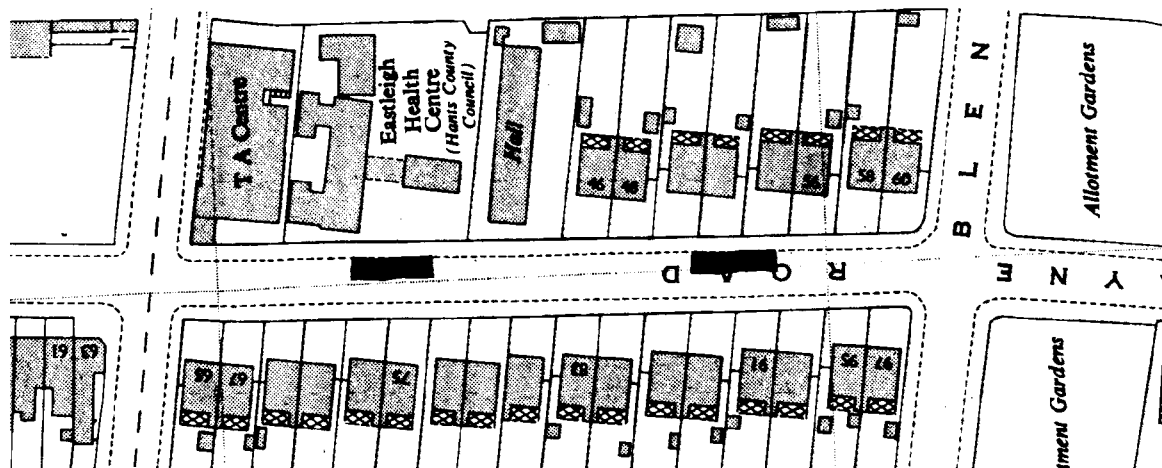
By the end of the war, when I was able to gain entry, they were just empty shells.

Almost no photographs of Communal shelters have been found, but drawings with instructions to modify existing shelters have recently been found in Eastleigh Museum. The shelters are not exactly as I remember them, but I only closely examined one of the 390 which were erected.



This modern photograph has had impressions of the two communal shelters in the block superimposed. The childhood memory is unlikely to be accurate.

Map of the second block of Chamberlayne Road showing the positions of the Communal Shelters.



They reputedly had locked gates and perhaps a gas-curtain at the entrance with bunks provided. The entrances were at the south end on the pavement side. I have found no evidence that anyone used these particular shelters in my block. Oil lamps with a bull's eye lens were placed outside the shelters or were incorporated in the corner of the brickwork.

There are two surviving sheets of plans for Domestic Communal shelters. One for type 2a shelters – which are cubicle type shelters, and the other for type 2b – which were corridor type shelters. They were drawn by Frederick G. Lee, the Borough Surveyor on 23rd July 1940.

The coloured plans show shelters to house 12, 24, 36 or 48 persons, but the elevations or sections are for just for a typical shelter. The plans we have appear to refer to modifications to existing shelters and not the original construction. Being approximately A1 in size they are difficult represent in this booklet. The sheet for type 2A has four plans and three sections and the sheet for type 2b has three plans and four sections. – Details from the drawings are reproduced on pages 68-75.



This photograph shows what seems to be a flat-roofed shelter opposite the bombed houses in Southampton Road near the end of York Road.

The locations of some Communal Shelters.

Some were condemned as unsafe, demolished and had to be re-built. These are some of the shelters noted.

They were numbered but I doubt if the numbers were displayed on the shelters. Those with the prefix B were in Bishopstoke. Those with the pre-fix N were in Northern Eastleigh. Those with the prefix C were in Chandler's Ford and those with the prefix S were in Southern Eastleigh. Members of the Public have assisted by telling me of the shelters near their homes.

B20 - Edward Avenue near 16 Longmead Avenue [96/213]
B21 - Edward Avenue Bishopstoke
B24 - Henry Road Bishopstoke
B25 - Drake Road Bishopstoke near numbers 8, 16, 23 and 32
B33 - Scotter Road near No. 15
B43 - West Horton Lane
B57 - Dutton Lane - near Nos. 41, 86, 88 and 90
B53 - Fair oak Road
C11 - 54 Shaftesbury Avenue
C24 - near 6 New Road, Fryern Hill - [96/199]
C25 - Fryern Close
C44 - Valley Road, Chandlers Ford - near 'Hillside' and "the Chalet"
C47 - Common Road, Chandlers Ford - near Hurstleigh
C49 - Common Road, Chandlers Ford
N1 - Mill Street - near No.7
N9 - Darwin Road - near Nos. 20 and 31
N12 - Outside 55 The Quadrangle [96/156]
N16 - Ruskin Road near No. 29 [101/665]
N22 - Maypole Villas Otterbourne
S5 - at the side of 36 Campbell Road
S8 - Campbell Road - near No.23
S10 - Doncaster Road - near No.123 [97/18}
S13 - Doncaster Road - near No. 77
S16 - Doncaster Road - near No. 18 or 4 or 33
S20 - Desborough Road - near No. 318
S22 - Southampton Road - near No. 278
S24 - Market Street near no. 293
S31 - Goldsmith Road - near No. 7
S41 - Locksley Road - near Nos. 38 and 56
S44 - Burns Close
S49 - Kipling Road - near No.68 [97/70]
S58 - Parnell Road - near No. 3
S64 - Tennyson Road - near No. 18
S67 - Grantham Road - near No. 36 [97/19]
S70 - Wilmer Road - near No. 32
S77 - Cranbury Road - near No. 155
S79 - Cranbury Road - near No. 103 [[95/454]
S92 - Desborough Road - near No. 48
S93 - Desborough Road - near No. 86 [97/21]
S96 - Desborough Road - near No. 175

S97 - Desborough Road - near 223
S100 - Desborough Road - near No. 244
S103 - Magpie Lane - near No. 37
S105 - The Crescent near No. 105
S108 - George Street
S119 - existed

The plan of the locations of these shelters, and their numbers, no longer exists, but there were two in my block of Chamberlayne Road, one outside 54 Chamberlayne Road and another outside the Clinic. I will try and list others (but I think that there were 390 altogether and the chance of locating them all is now miniscule.).

Others reported so far:

Newtown Road outside No. 79
George Street outside of the Off-licence
Cranbury Road near No. 142
Cranbury Road near No.102
Cranbury Road near No.172
Desborough Road, West side of north of a backway to Cranbury Road houses.
Market Street On the site of 249a [94/270]
Purkess Close C/F [95/82]
Chadwick Road - outside No. 36 [95/331]
Scott Road - outside No. 15 [95/341]
Parnell Road in front of No 14 [95/398]
Shakespeare Road in front of No. 29 [95/399]
Passfield Avenue in front of No. 171 [95/428]
In Tennyson Road - for No. 7 [96/54]
In the Quadrangle - for No 32 [96/55]
In Nelson Road - for No. 26 [96/57]
In St John's Road - for No. 20 [96/59]
In Dutton Lane - for No. 3 [96/84]
Market St./Derby Road for 235 Market St.
Cranbury Road - for No. 132
Shaftesbury Avenue & Ford Avenue Junction for No. 93 Shaftesbury Ave. [96/89]
Belmont Road C/F
Ruskin Road Near 12
Chamberlayne Road near No.187 [96/201]
Kingsway Opposite No.65 [96/4202]
Campbell Roads near No 77 [96/226]
Valley Road C/F Near Nos. 1,2 and 3
Hamilton Road Opposite No. 39 [96/271]
Mead Road [96/272]
West Horton Lane [96/297]
Shaftesbury Avenue for No. 47 [96/324]
Southampton Road Opposite No. 408
Desborough Road near No. 70 (Mrs Stephens)
Desborough Road, opposite No. 19 [96/380]
Shorts Road near No. 10
Kelvin Road - outside Nos. 5&7
Kelvin Road on the green in front of 1 Kelvin & 2 Tennyson Roads
Underground (Warden's Post?) west of Water Tank - Kelvin Road.

Land requisitioned for domestic surface shelters.

[95/84]

JHR/EMW.
6T/SNC/L.

7th December, 1940.

Assistant Regional Technical Adviser,
Ministry of Home Security,
Southern Regional Commissioner's Office,
Marlborough House,
Parkside Road,
R E A D I N G .


Dear Sir,

re:- Defence Regulations 1939.
Regulation 51. Requisitioning of sites.

In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, the following sites are required for, and each contain a domestic surface shelter:

1. Forecourt of 25, Shaftesbury Avenue, Chandler's Ford.
2. Part of building plot in Belmont Road, Chandler's Ford, on the north side of the house known as "Almeaton".
3. Vacant land at the junction of Twyford Road and Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, adjoining No. 25, Twyford Road.
4. Vacant land at the junction of Chestnut Avenue and Desborough Road, Eastleigh, adjoining No. 40, Chestnut Avenue.
5. Forecourt of shop premises at the junction of Spring Lane and Hamilton Road.

Yours faithfully,


Borough Engineer & Surveyor

There follows some correspondence about these shelters.

Explanation of Communal Shelters.

[96/33]

18th February, 1941.

Mr. G. M. Lovick,
189 Passfield Avenue,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Sir,

Re:- Communal Shelter.

In reply to your letter of the 15th instant, the communal shelters are for the exclusive use of the persons without Anderson shelters and are not intended for the general public who may be caught out in the street during a raid. Gates will be fixed as soon as possible and keys allocated to the householders entitled to share the shelters as soon as locks can be obtained from the manufacturers.

Yours faithfully,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

Trouble with the quality of workmanship.

[97/211]

15th May, 1941.

Messrs. Amos Danby & Sons,
42, Portsmouth Road,
WOOLSTON.

Dear Sir,

Re Domestic Surface Shelters.

Inspection of Domestic Surface Shelters erected by you at Chandler's Ford discloses that the following matters need attention before final payment can be made. Will you please arrange to do the required work as soon as possible.

The concrete roofs in many cases are not of the specified thickness at the apex, (Shelters Nos. C2, C3, C8, C13, C15, C16, C17, C61, C62, C64).

The blast walls are not high enough in front of some of the entrances and have been finished off with a course of headers only 9" in thickness: (C3, C4, C17).

Regarding your claim for overtime payments and for payments on account of increased labour costs I am unable to ascertain from your wages book the hours worked by each man or the rates at which any individual has been paid, and unless you can produce more satisfactory evidence of having made these payments I shall have no alternative but to strike them out of your final statement.

I return herewith your wages books and invoices for materials used. The documents should be retained by you ready for production if and when required at the next Local Government Audit.

Yours faithfully,

Fred G. Lee

3/502/1

Entitlement to use the shelters.

[97/243]

17th May, 1941.

Mr. F. Hayward,
276, Southampton Road,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Sir,

With reference to yours of the 27th ult., for your information I have received no applications for Shelters from either No. 274 or No. 276, Southampton Road.

In view of this fact, neither of these families have been included in the personnel sharing Shelter No. S.22, and no information that they are entitled to use same has been vouchsafed them.

My records show nineteen persons allocated to this Shelter, which, being intended to accommodate twenty four, should comfortably hold this number.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,



Borough Engineer and Surveyor

Shelter in Chamberlayne Road.

[97/361]

4th June, 1941.

Nurse Hybart,
Northbrook Health Centre,
Chamberlayne Road,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Madam,

re:- Key to surface shelter out-
side the Health Centre.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo but regret that I am unable to accede to your request.

The surface shelter in the highway in front of the Health Centre has been erected for use by the occupants of the houses in the vicinity who were not provided with Anderson shelters.

I would suggest that you speak to Doctor Cronk and enquire if it is not possible to erect a shelter in the grounds of the Health Centre to cater for visitors.

Yours faithfully,

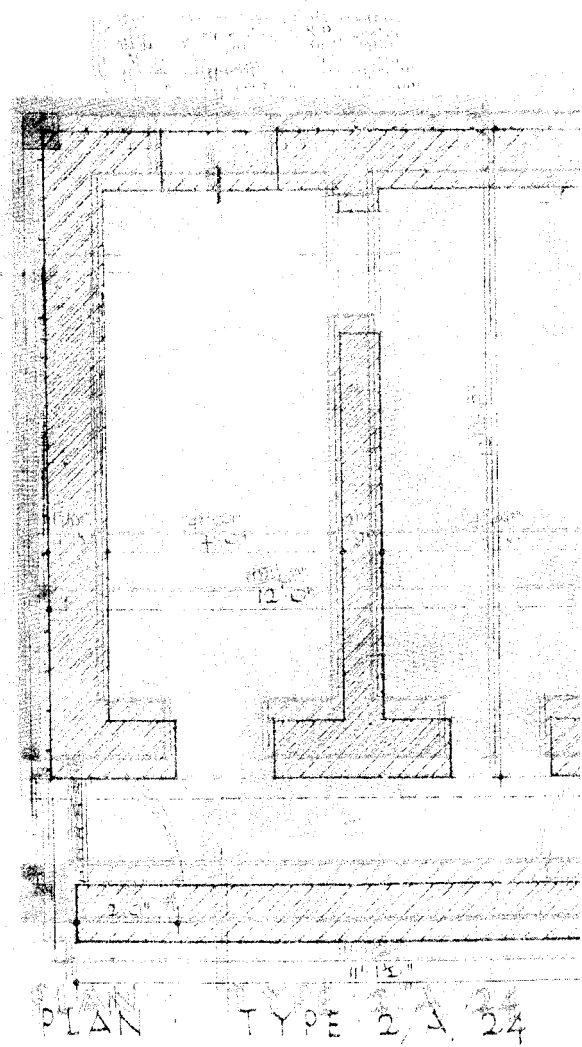

Borough Engineer & Surveyor

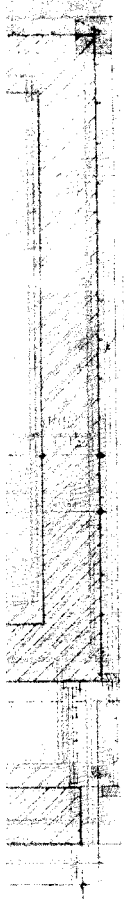
It was news to me that the Clinic was called the Northbrook Health Centre.

The following pages show the details of various types of Communal Shelters.

I

SHELTER TYPE 2A (a)

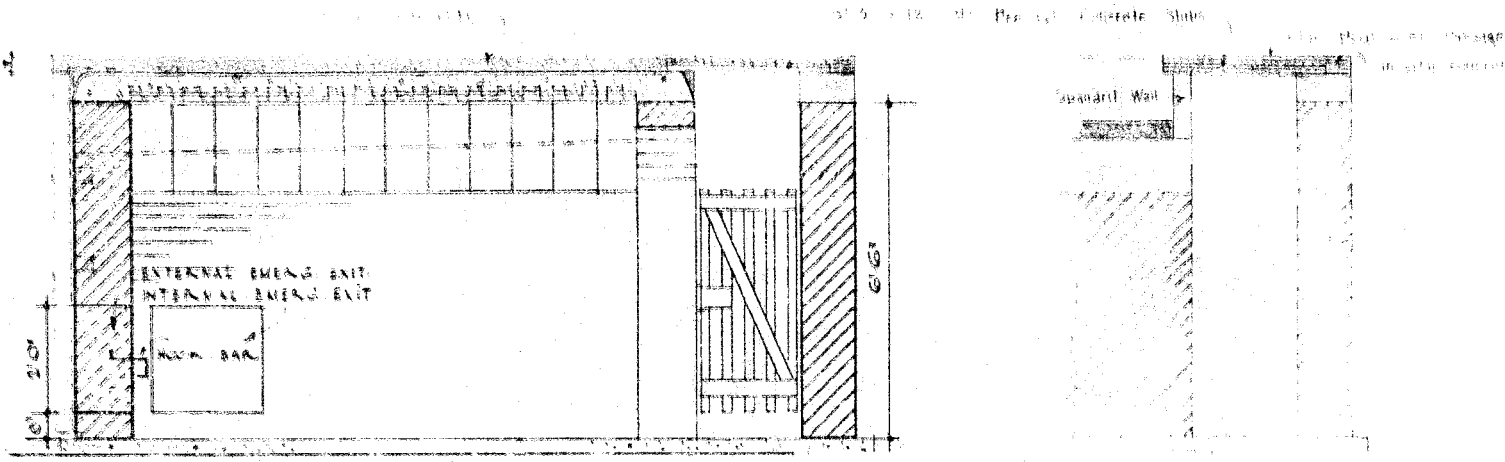




Technical drawing with descriptive text, likely detailing the shaft's specifications and manufacturing requirements. The text is partially obscured by the drawing's lines and hatching.

...the shaft is to be made of ...
...the diameter of the shaft is ...
...the length of the shaft is ...
...the shaft is to be finished to ...
...the shaft is to be ...

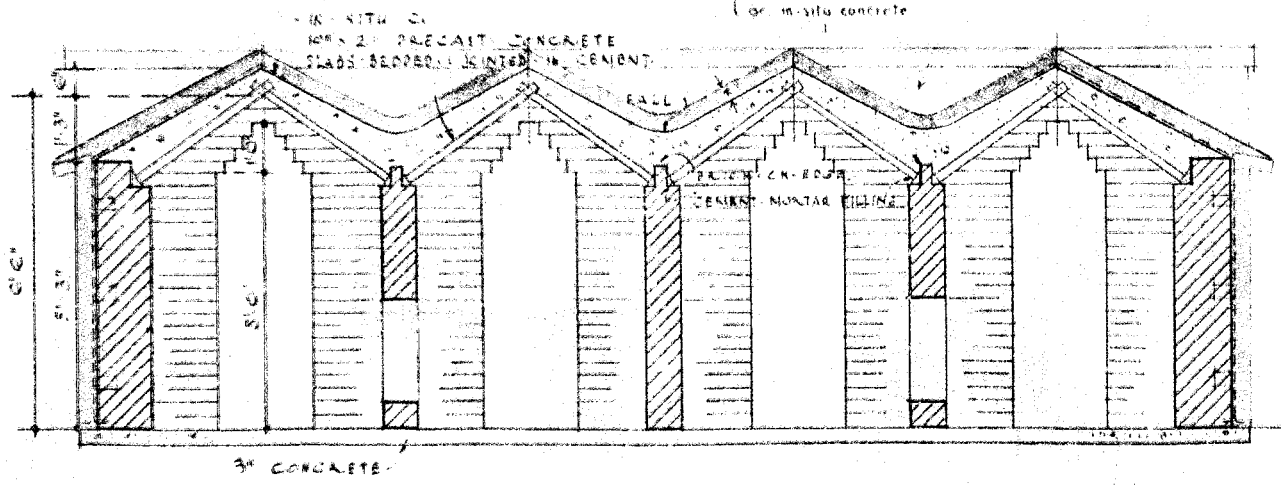
SHELTER TYPE 2A (b)



SECTION B-B

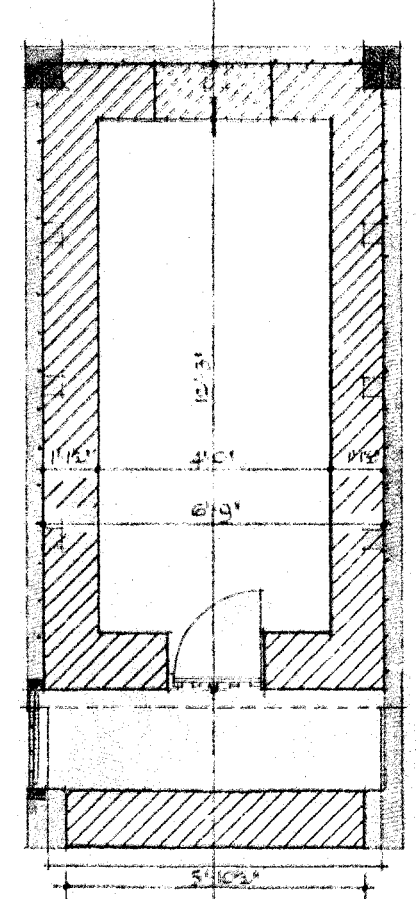
SECTION C-C

Spandrel formed with 4" externally rendered brickwork or in-situ concrete



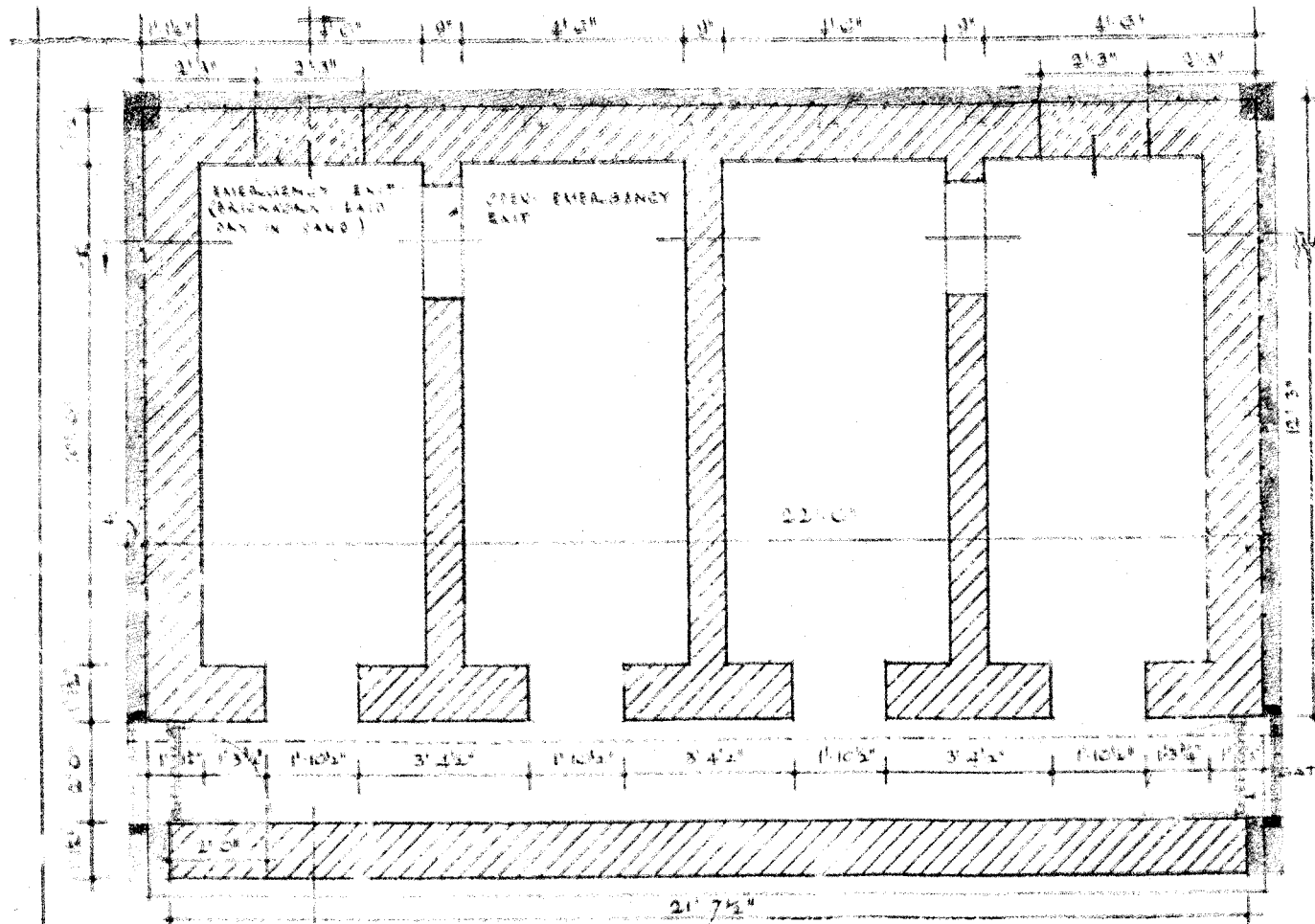
SECTION A-A

Increase dimensions of traverse walls with new brickwork carefully bonded to old or take down and completely rebuild to new sizes where existing wall is weak



PLAN TYPE 2/A/12

SHELTERS - TYPE 2A (c)



PLAN TYPE 2/A/48

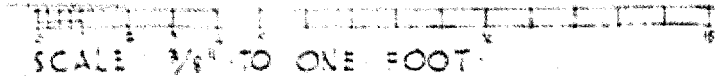
23 / 1240
 200K - 2810

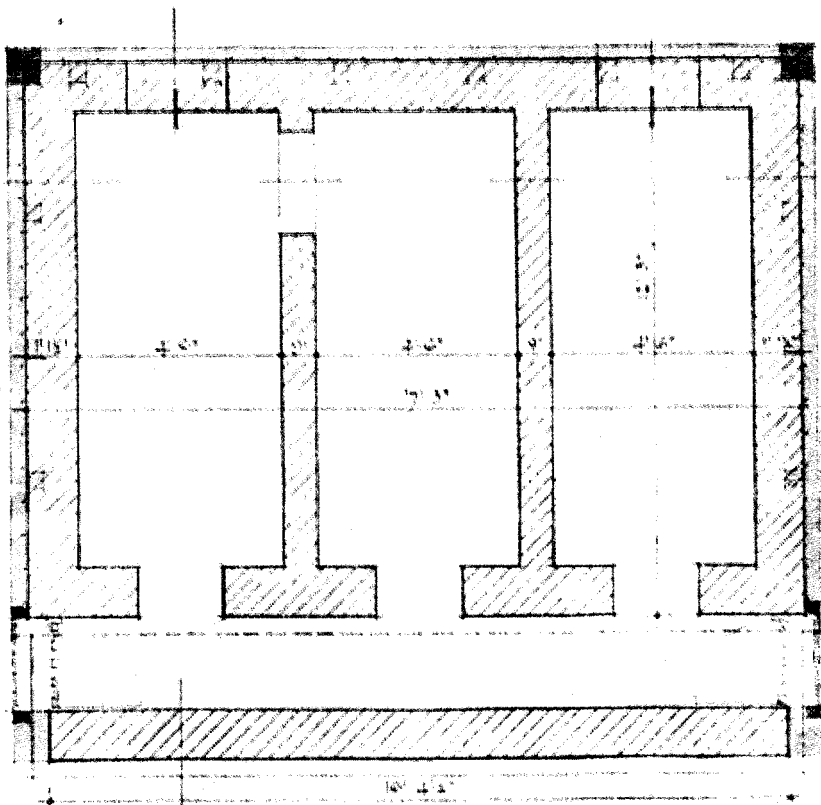
PLANS & SECTIONS

SHELTERS TYPE 2A (d)

Roofs: Heavy gable and roof to Foundation Support. Roofs of the
shelters shown with heavy 2" structural joists and heavy gable
rafters. See pages 24-26 for details of the 2" joists
and all other details shown here.

See also details and notes, pointing up existing conditions, in
sheet of 24 and give the details of existing conditions shown here.

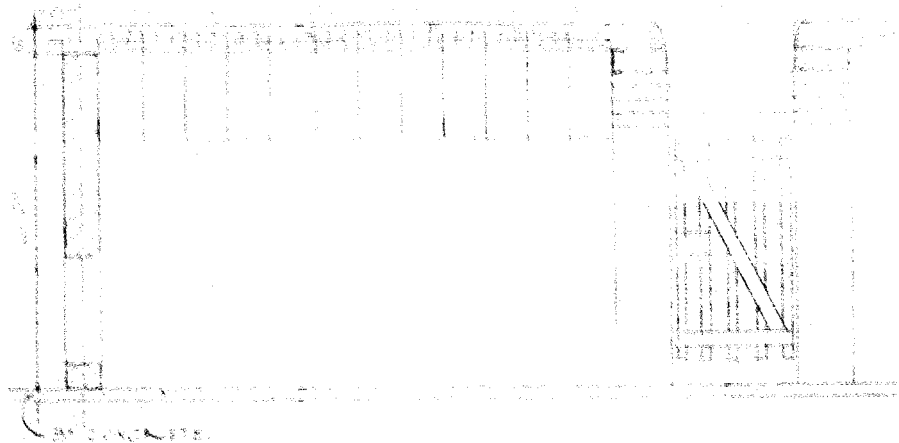




PLAN - TYPE 2, A, 36.

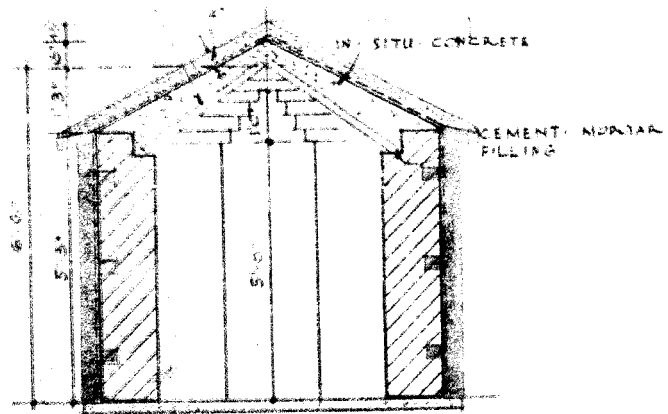
FR. ED. G. LEE, ARCHT. & ENGR.
 504 OUCHTERLUNGE BLDG.
 TONIC HALL, BOSTON

SHELTERS - TYPE 2B (a)



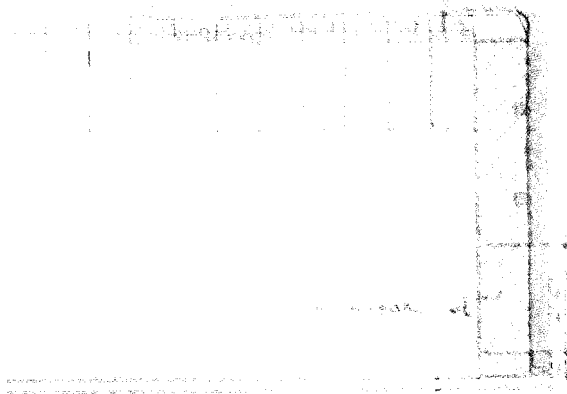
SECTION - B -

5/8" x 2" PRECAST CONCRETE SLABS
GROVED & JOINTED IN CEMENT

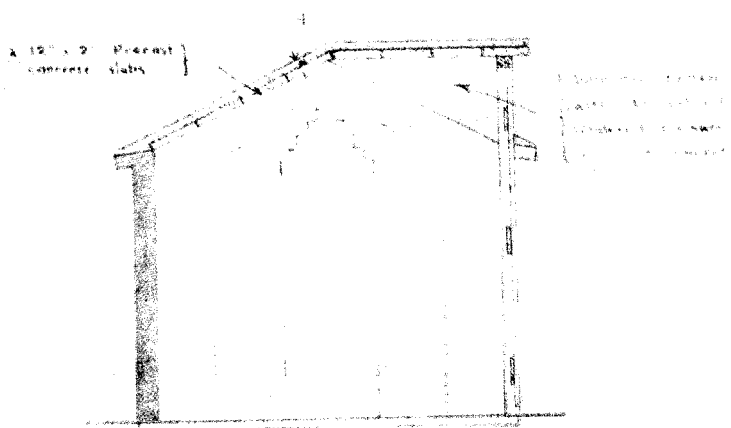


SECTION A-A

SECTION C-C

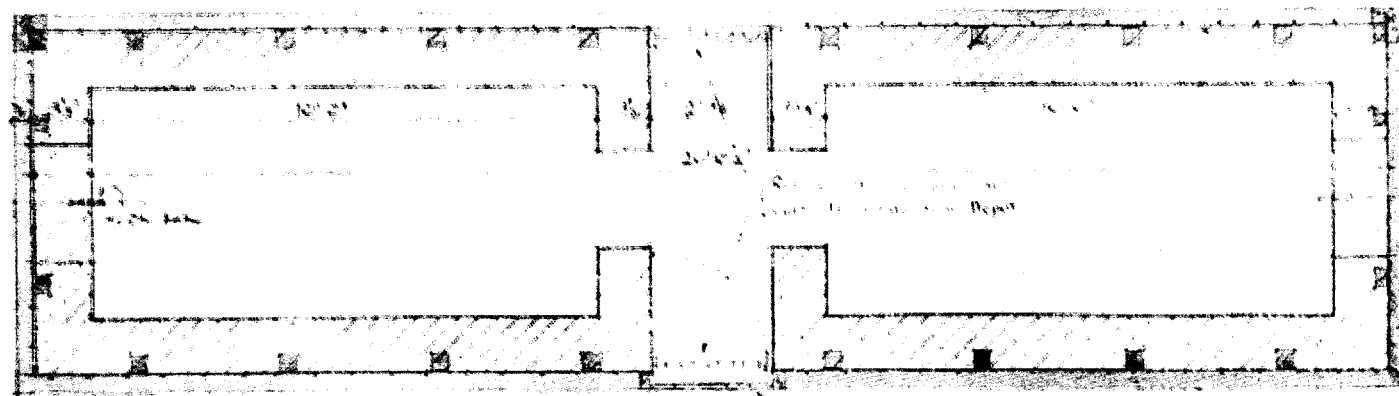


013



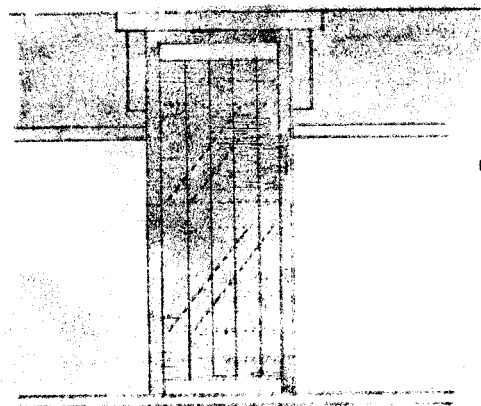
SECTION C-C

SHELTER TYPE 2B(b)



PLAN - TYPE 2B(b)

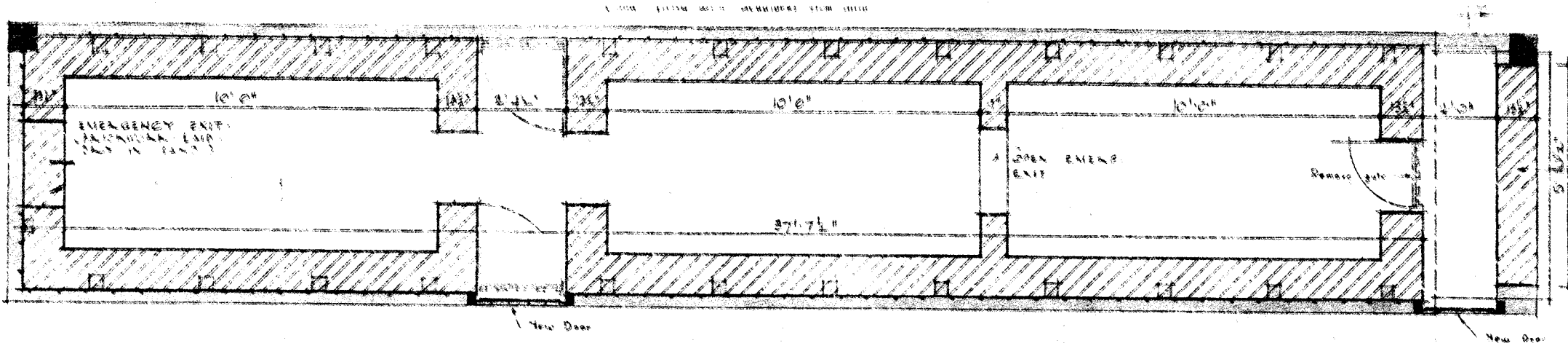
New 2" matched mortar and plaster
 and finish to 3/4" frame with
 1/2" gypsum board - finish existing walls
 1/2" gypsum board with deadweight resin shell



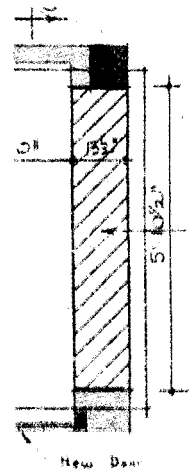
Rough out interior and exterior jointing of existing brickwork
 to a depth of 1 1/2" and point the
 interior in cement mortar (three to one).

ELEVATION AT ENTRANCE

SHELTER TYPE 2B (c)

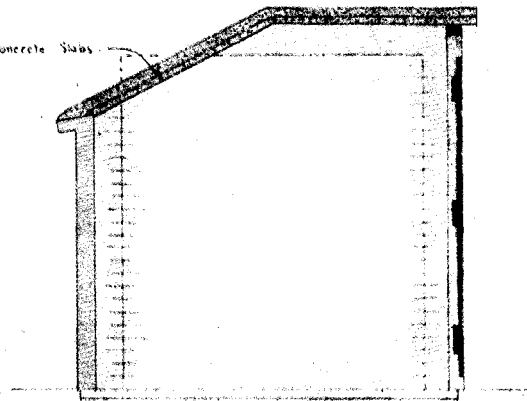


PLAN TYPE - 2/8/36



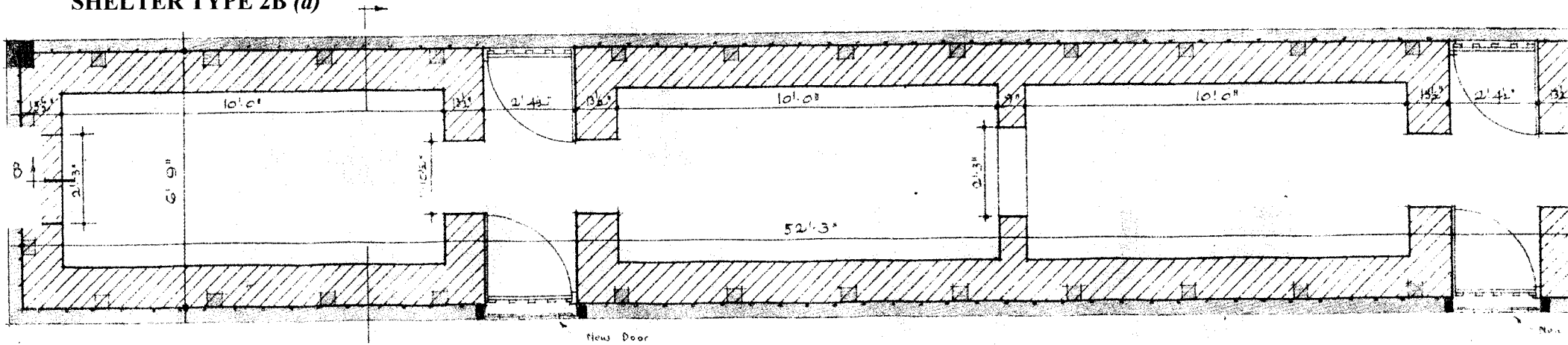
3' 3" x 12" x 2" Precast Concrete Slabs

Increase dimensions of traverse wall with new brickwork carefully bonded to old or take down and completely rebuild to new sizes where existing wall is weak

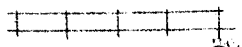
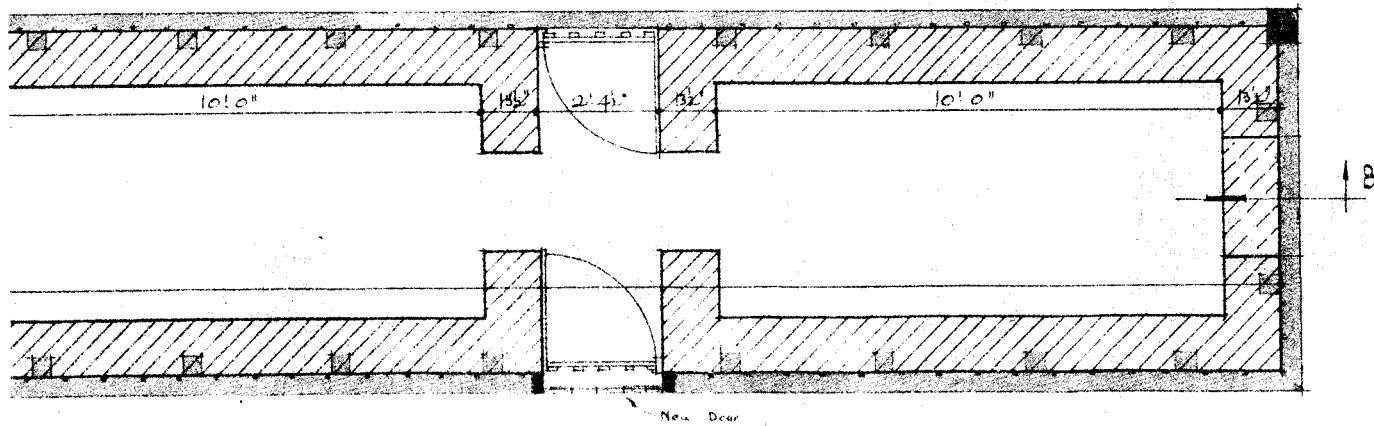
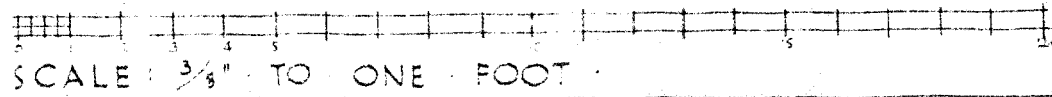


SECTION D-D

SHELTER TYPE 2B (d)



PLAN TYPE 2/B 48



Schools had shelters allocated to them.

Chamberlayne Road Boys' and Cranbury Road Girls' School Shelters were being built on 8th Dec 1939. There was one in the playground of the Boys' School and eight more in Nutbeem Road in front of Pirellis. There were two in the playground of Cranbury Road Girls' Schools and eight more on Grantham Green along Nutbeem Road. There were eight shelters west of Toynbee Road School. Chamberlayne Road Girls School used shelters behind the Police Station in Toynbee Road. The County High School shelters were on the Playing Field along Cranbury Road and those for Cherbourg Road School under the Chestnut trees along Derby Road. There were eight north of North End School.

E/A.

[97/154]

9th May, 1941.

W.Coates, Esq., M.A.,
County Education Officer,
The Education Officer,
The Castle,
WINCHESTER.

Dear Sir,

re:- Chandler's Ford Council School. ARP shelters.

Further to your letter of the 22nd March last and my reply of the 28th in connection with the above, I am pleased to inform you that I have now made arrangements with the respective caretakers of all the schools in the area to clean the shelters at a charge of 1/- per shelter per week, and give below a list showing the number of shelters at each school:-

Senior Boys' School,	Toynbee Road,	Eastleigh.	8
" Girls' "	Chamberlayne Road,	"	9
Junior Boys' "	" "	"	9
Junior Girls' "	Cranbury Road,	"	10
Mixed Junior "	Derby Road,	"	6
Mixed Junior "	The Crescent,	"	6
Mixed Junior "	Shakespeare Road,	"	6
Mixed Junior "	Bishopstoke.	"	6
Council "	King's Road, C/s. Ford.	"	4
County High "	Derby Road,	Eastleigh.	8
Domestic Centres,	Eastleigh.	"	1
			<u>73</u>

I trust that this arrangement will be satisfactory to your committee.

Yours faithfully,

J. B. Coates
Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

North End School Shelters.

[97/196]

Your ref:-
E/A.

14th May, 1941.

W. Coates, Esq., M.A.,
County Education Officer,
The Castle,
WINCHESTER.

Dear Sir,

re:- ARP School shelters.

Further to my letter of the 9th instant in connection with the above, will you please add the following to the list of schools shown therein:-

North End Senior School, Leigh
Road, Eastleigh. 8.

This will make the total number of shelters to be cleaned 81.

Yours faithfully,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

School Shelters were like very large Anderson shelters, being covered with earth and grass. They each had an escape hatch with an iron cover. A fixed ladder led up to the hatch.

A photograph of one of those in Toynbee Road has been found.

The girls were Rangers (Senior Girl Guides). Betty Anderson is emerging from the escape hatch on top



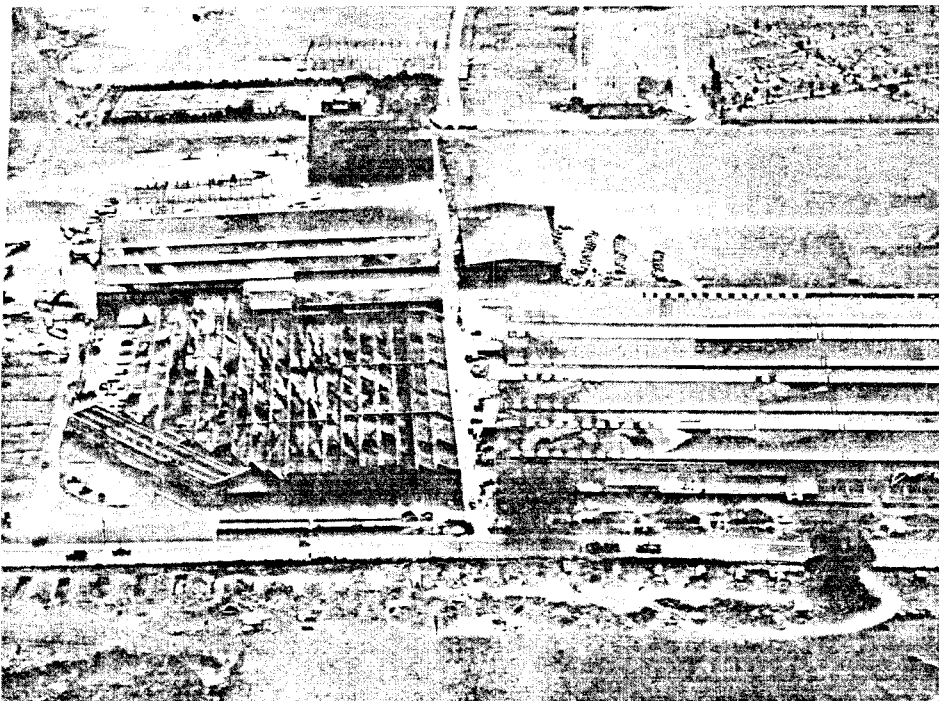
Companies had Shelters.

The only ones of which I have found pictures are:

The Railway – as the entrance to one was damaged by a bomb.



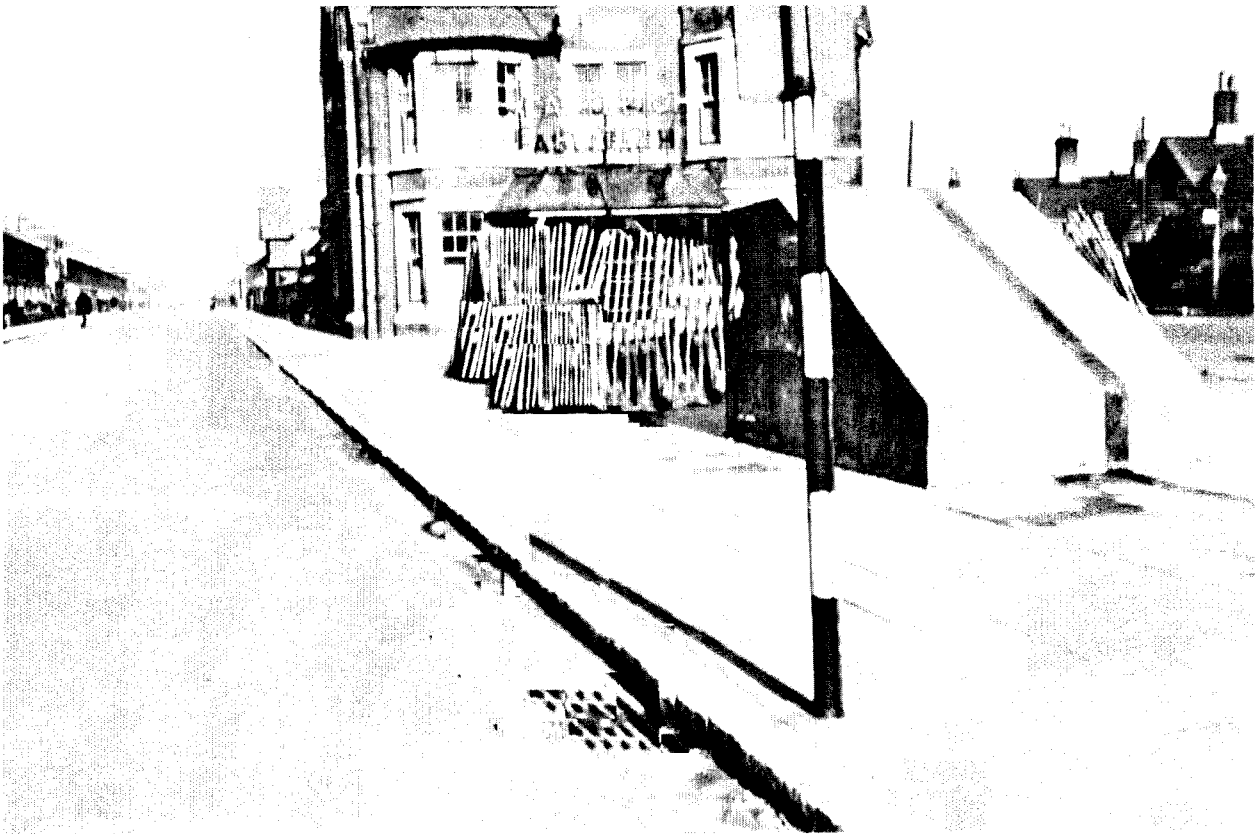
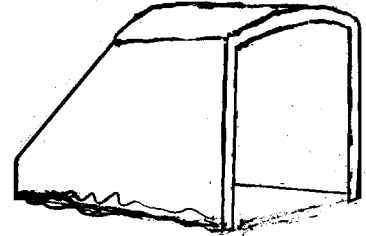
Cunliffe-Owens - was another. Shelters were of no use if the Air Raid warning was not sounded (as it was not on 11th September 1940). The shelters were accessed through tunnels under Wide Lane.



Air Raid Warden's Posts.

These were, in many cases, concrete entrances to underground cubicles. There were nine of them on an undated map in Hampshire Record Office. [69M72/M53]

1. North West corner of the Recreation Ground
2. North West Corner of Lawn Road Recreation Ground.
3. North West Corner of Grantham Green.
4. On the triangular piece of ground at the end of Kelvin Road
5. Perhaps In Chamberlayne Road Girls' School.
6. Edward Avenue Bishopstoke by path opposite the cemetery.
7. Opposite Allbrook School in Pitmore Road.
8. On verge of Fair oak Road, opposite end of Sandy Lane.
9. On triangle of land in front of the Eastleigh Hotel.



Entrance to the Warden's Post by the Eastleigh Hotel in Southampton Road.

There were fifteen Warden's Posts being built in October 1939.

Modifications. [92/3]

FGL/AEM.

30

~~28~~th March, 1940.

Capt. E. Jervis, M.C., (Retd.),
County Air Raid Precautions Officer,
Litton Lodge,
Clifton Road,
WINCHESTER.

Dear Sir,

Wardens' posts.

I have received numerous complaints that some of the entrances to the Wardens' posts in this area are being used as public conveniences, and to obviate this nuisance, I shall be glad if your committee will sanction the expenditure for bricking over the stairways and removing the door from the bottom to the top of the stairs. These entrances are at present protected with sandbags, and they are in a very bad condition.

I enclose a sketch showing the suggested work, *together with an estimate.*

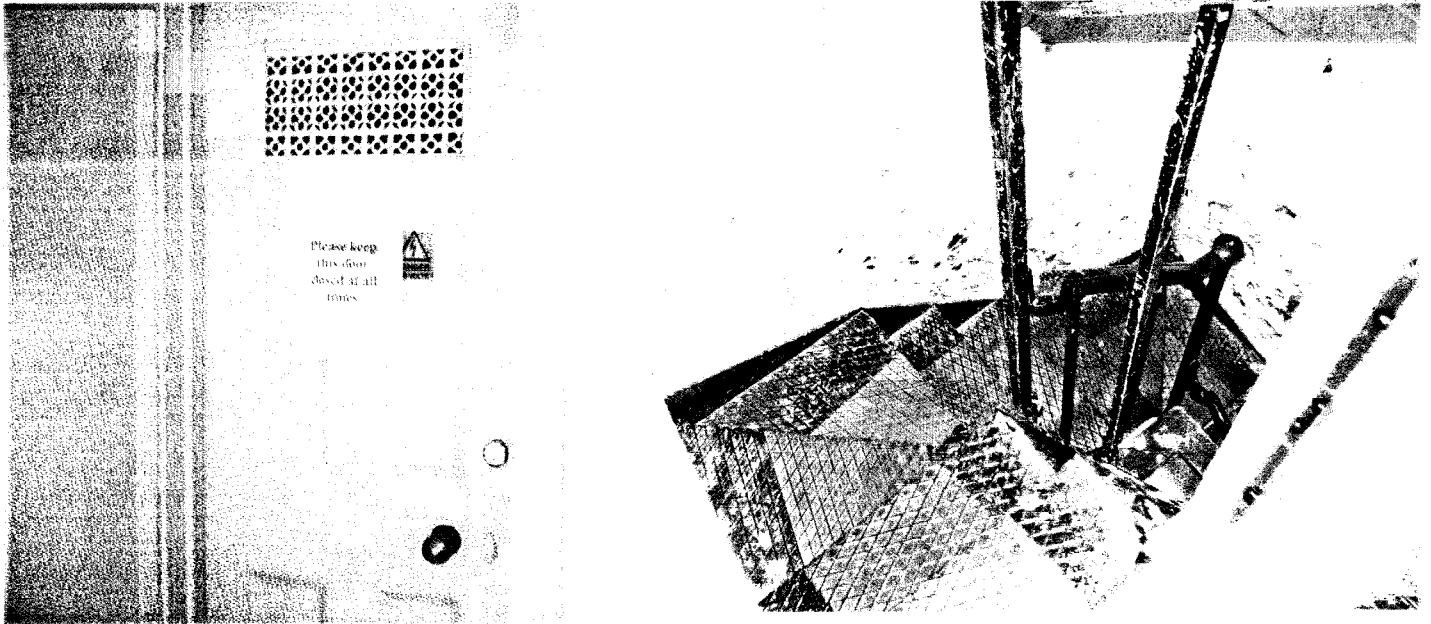
Yours faithfully,

Fred. H. Lee

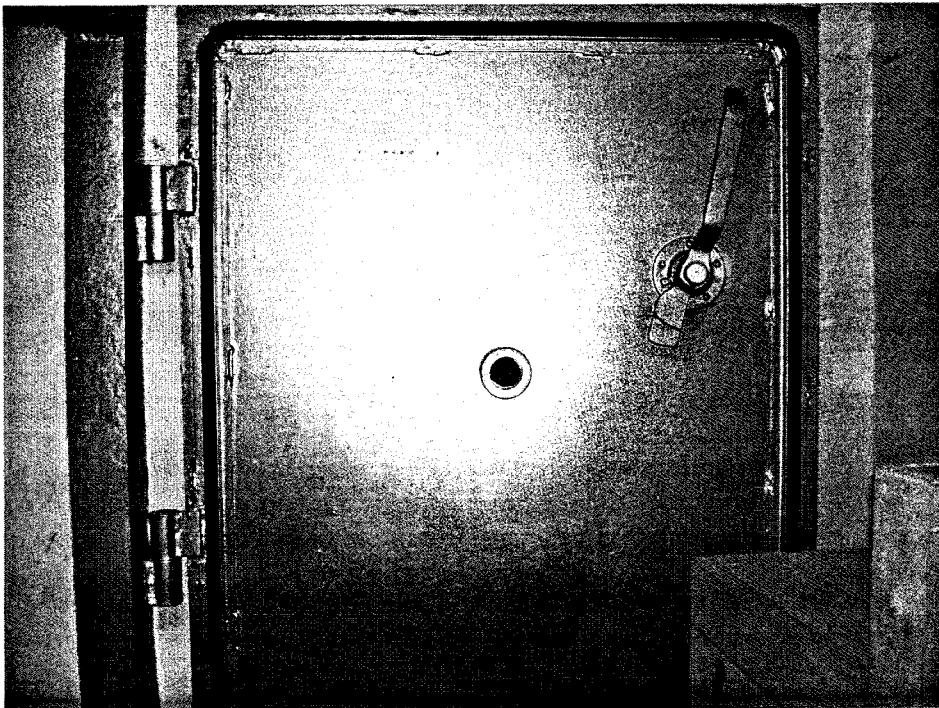
Borough Engineer & Surveyor *FL*

The underground Control Centre.

There is a narrow door just inside, and to the left of, the entrance to the Council Chamber, now beyond the porch of "The Point".



An iron staircase, two feet wide, begins at the doorway and after two steps there are landing steps made of triangular iron plates to turn right. There are three more steps down to another similar stepped landing to turn right again. There are three more steps to reach floor level.



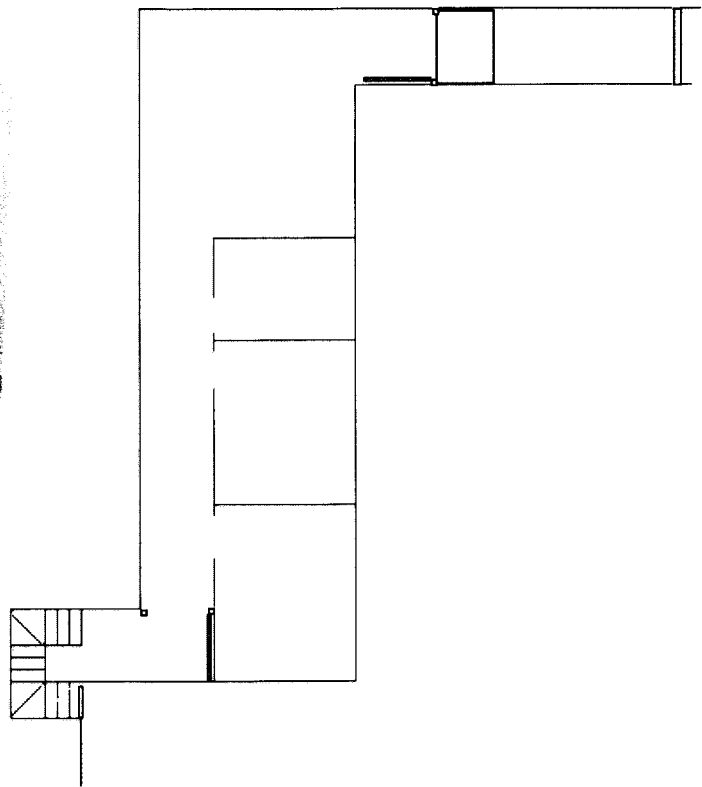
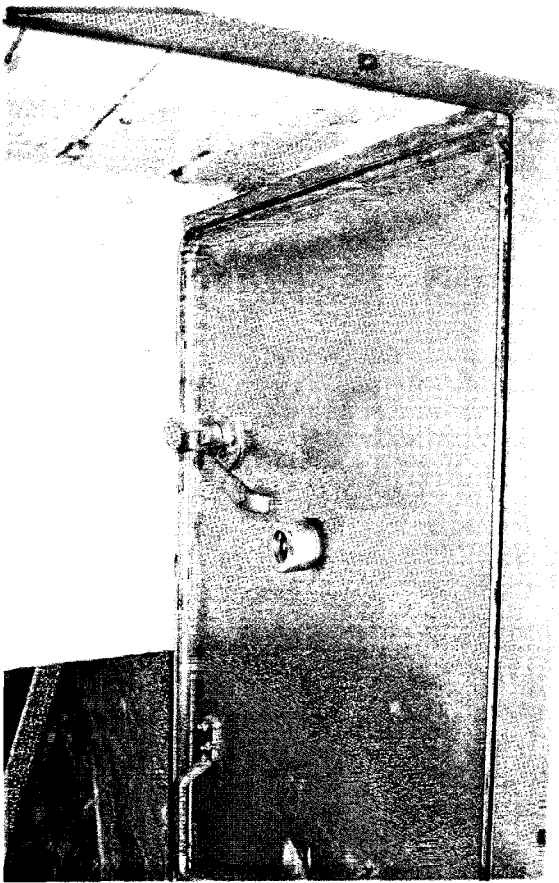
About seven feet ahead is a heavy steel door, with airtight seals ready to close the aperture to a corridor to the left which is about eighteen feet long and three feet wide. There are three rooms off this corridor to the right.



At the end of the corridor is a square room about twelve feet square, now used to store theatrical costumes. The ceiling height is about seven feet and there is evidence of reinforcing beams.



In the far corner there is a passage with an immediate step down. This doorway can be sealed using another heavy steel airtight door, which is open against the inner wall. There is reinforcement and about three feet of a much lower ceiling, perhaps where there is a structural wall above. The passage continues to a breeze-block wall which blocks the passage which reputedly led to an escape hatch a few feet away from the building. It may have come up in a small surface-shelter on the Recreation Ground.



The main control room originally had a large map on the wall showing the positions of the bombs which fell on the Town. This is now in Hampshire Record Office.

Any original decoration will have been lost when the 'bunker', as it has become known, was modified in the 1950s for use if we had a nuclear war. The steel airtight doors date from this period, but all the air purification and radiation protection devices remain in place. There are still no mains electrical points in the bunker and the unused lights run on direct current.

The end of shelters.

Council Minute 442 – 15th May 1945

442. AIR RAID SHELTER POLICY.—Our Chairman reported the receipt of Home Security Circular No. 43/45 dealing with the following matters:—

- (1) Demolition and Relinquishment of shelters after the appointed day ;
- (2) Surface shelters which obstruct traffic ;
- (3) Public basement shelters ;
- (4) Trench shelters in parks and recreation grounds ;
- (5) Individual domestic surface shelters constructed by local authorities ;
- (6) Anderson shelters—The general policy was to keep to a minimum the collection of Government-owned shelters and to this end, householders to whom shelters have been supplied free will be allowed to purchase them in situ. The price has been fixed at £1. There would be instances where householders would be unwilling to allow a shelter to remain and in such cases, they were encouraged themselves to do the work of dismantling the shelter and restoring the site, except where the shelter has been connected to a drain. Dismantling by an unskilled person in this type of case may result in damage to the drainage system and serious risk to health. Where the householder dismantles the shelter himself, he must store it on his own premises and he is under a statutory obligation to take reasonable care for the preservation of it until collected.
- (7) Morrison shelters—These were available for purchase where supplied to householders and the price had been fixed at £1 10s. Where a householder dismantled the shelter, the component parts should be carefully collected and so stored as not to deteriorate.

We have requested our Chairman to make a statement concerning the above at the Quarterly Meeting of the Council on 24/5/45.

Council Minute 469 - (5). 24th March 1945.

- (5) Arising out of item (f) of Paragraph (1), Minute 441, Councillor Marriott stated that the Civil Defence Organisation ceased to exist as from the appointed day, viz., 2nd May, 1945, and it was appropriate that there should be some reference to the activity of the personnel during the war years. As a background, he gave final figures showing that casualties in the Borough due to enemy action are:—Killed, 26 ; Seriously Injured, 24 ; Slightly Injured, 36 ; total, 86. After giving a brief outline of the history of the Civil Defence in Eastleigh, Councillor Marriott paid tribute to the keenness and devotion to duty of both whole-time and part-time personnel, and said that the Council would, he felt sure, wish to join him in expressing their best thanks and gratitude to all who had worked in the Borough in any form of Civil Defence.

Reference was also made to the fact that Anderson and Morrison shelters could be dismantled, except where connected to a drain, but, owing to the shortage of labour, they could not be collected at the present time except under unusual circumstances. As to shelter bunks, these were the property of the State, and must be preserved and returned in due course. As far as he knew, the public would not have the opportunity of buying them.

DEMOLITION OF SURFACE SHELTERS IN 1946

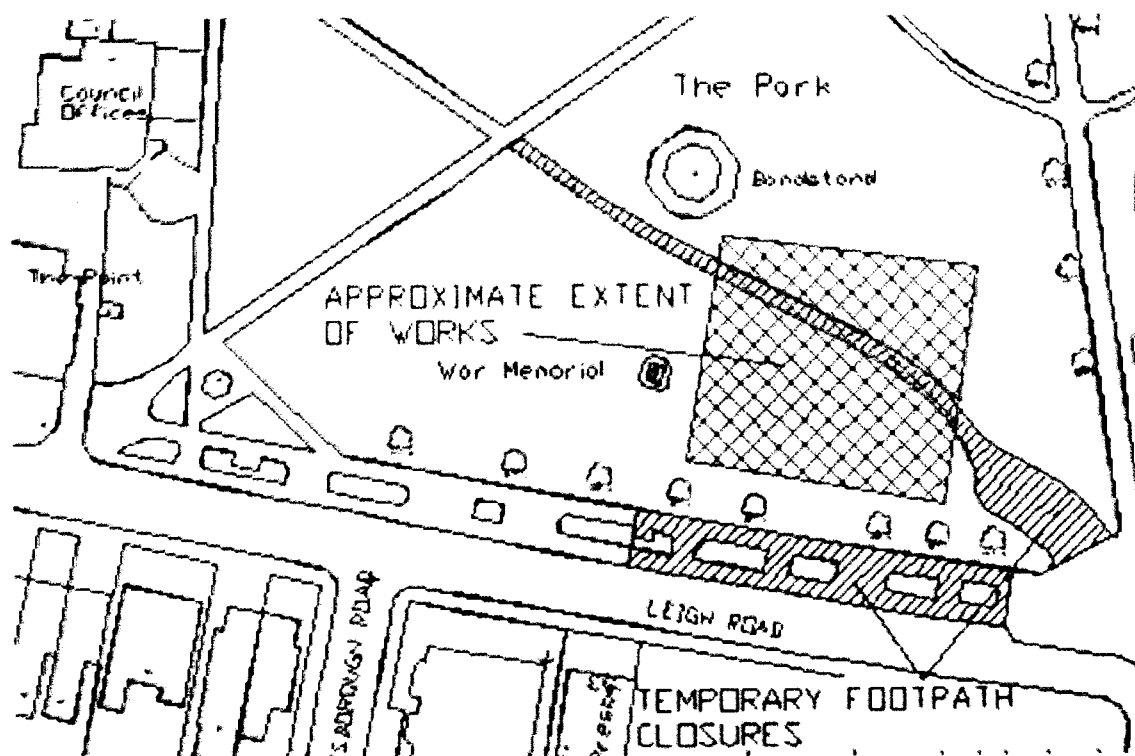
This was done with a ball and chain device.

From the Eastleigh Weekly News - 25th July 1946.

Good progress is being made with the demolition of those unsightly reminders of the war, the brick surface shelters in South Chandler's Ford. The inhabitants of the district, particularly those outside whose residence the shelters were built, are glad to see them disappear. In many cases they formed a dangerous obstruction to traffic. The novel machine which accomplishes the destruction so expeditiously has aroused the interest of old and young alike.

COMPACTING OF THE EASTERN RECREATION GROUND SHELTER IN 2003

In March 2003 most of the Eastern Shelter was uncovered and compacted because the ground bounced when there were fairground rides nearby. A skin was placed over the remains and the soil replaced. The Western Shelter is still intact and some of the escape hatches are visible, though the northern-most ones may have been cemented over.



Demolition of the Air-raid shelters in the Recreation Ground, East of the Avenue across the park in February 1983 when Safeways was built.





Historic shelters finally fall

HITLER couldn't do it . . . but work has now started to blitz part of Eastleigh's network of old air raid shelters beneath the town's Leigh Road recreation ground.

Just over 15 years ago, the shelters hit the headlines when seven teenagers lifted a manhole cover and climbed into the subterranean tunnels only to become trapped when a prankster sealed their exit.

Only an anonymous call to the police saved the four boys and three girls from being buried alive.

Now, work on significant plans to revitalise the park with a £700,000 project has signalled the end for part of the old air raid shelters, which helped keep town residents safe during the Second World War.

Built more than 60 years ago, the eastern section of the series of 6ft-by-4ft tunnels is being filled in owing to worries about their gradual deterioration.

Structural engineers who inspected the shelters advised that heavy vehicles should not be driven over

By **Steve Flux**
steve.flux@soton-echo.co.uk

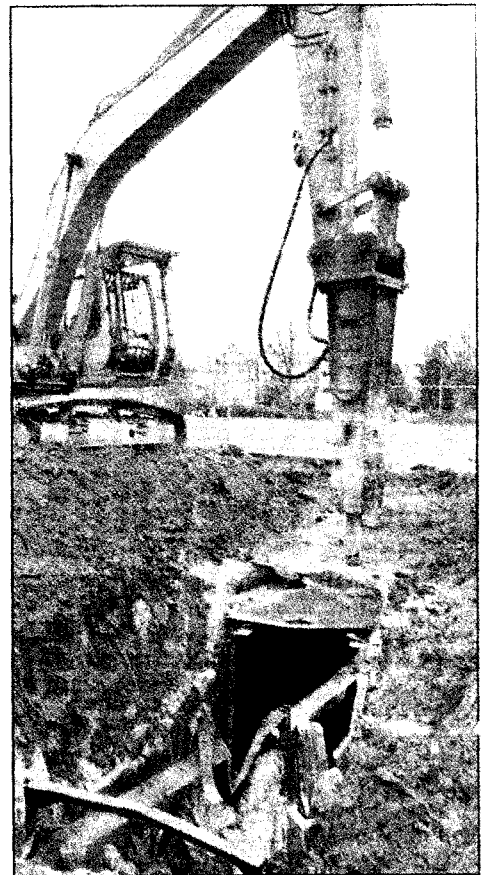
the tunnels – a situation which has meant the introduction of restrictions, particularly for heavy fair-ground equipment.

Civic chiefs are also unwilling to splash out on improvements, only to have to dig the ground up later to remove failing concrete.

But a section of the tunnels, between the war memorial and The Point, will be left untouched at present following interest expressed by English Heritage, which said that the shelters might be rare examples, nationally, of civil defence structures from the Second World War.

Work to fill in the eastern section is expected to be complete within three weeks. A council spokesman said: "To minimise disruption and damage, the contractors are carrying out the work in sections.

"As turf is removed above the shelters they will break through the concrete roof, fill in a section with hardcore and replace the turf before moving on to the next section."

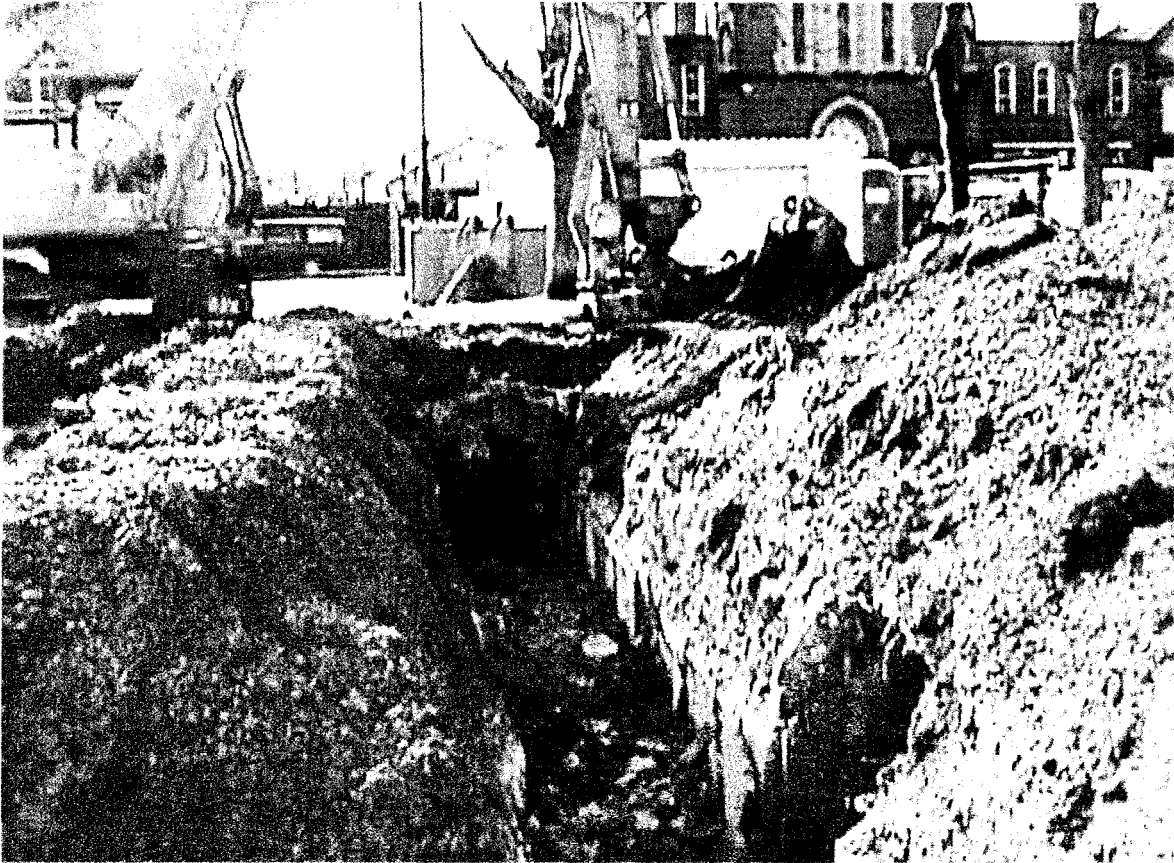


DOOMED: The old air raid shelters at Eastleigh being demolished.

Picture by Frank Riddle

DAILY ECHO MARCH 2003

The Easternmost Tunnel being destroyed.



From the Daily Echo – Monday March 31st 2003.



Bill vows to keep up battle to save shelters

AS a youngster Bill Luffman can remember using the subterranean tunnels underneath Eastleigh's Leigh Road recreation ground to shelter from Hitler's bombing raids.

Part of the old network of air raid shelters which helped keep residents of the town safe during the Second World War bit the dust earlier this month. But, now, the Eastleigh borough councillor, pictured left, is pledging to continue his campaign to preserve what is left of the shelters as part of the town's heritage. Cllr Luffman went on a trip down memory lane earlier this month when contractors started to fill in the eastern section of the 6ft x 4ft tunnels owing to worries about their deterioration.

Structural engineers who inspected the shelters advised that heavy vehicles should not be driven over the tunnels – a situation which meant the introduction of restrictions, particularly for heavy fairground equipment. Civic chiefs were also unwilling to splash out £700,000 on significant plans to revitalise the park only to have to

dig the ground up later to remove falling concrete.

But a section of the tunnels, between the war memorial and The Point, have been left untouched at present following interest expressed by English Heritage, which said that the shelters might be rare examples, nationally, of civil defence structures from the Second World War. Now, Cllr Luffman says: "We could open them up two to three times a year in conjunction with English Heritage under the supervision of the local history society, and made available to schools and interested parties. Much too much of Eastleigh's heritage has already been destroyed."

Speaking of his recent inspection visit to the old tunnels he said: "From what I could see they looked as good as they did back in the 1940s. They were dry and the concrete was sound."

"I was 13 in 1940 and used the shelters quite often. When we got a bit older we used to stand on the mound to watch the aerial dog-fights.