

SOUNDTRACK FOR A NEW JERUSALEM

THE SONGS THAT TOLD OUR STORY OF THE
PATH TOWARDS THE NHS



BY LILY MEADOW FOSTER AND TOLIVER MYERS
EDITED BY PETER DANIEL



THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

SOUNDTRACK FOR A NEW JERUSALEM:

THE SONGS THAT TOLD OUR STORY

"I WILL NOT CEASE FROM MENTAL FIGHT, NOR SHALL THE SWORD SLEEP IN MY HAND, TILL WE HAVE BUILT JERUSALEM, IN ENGLAND'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND."

William Blake's famous poem was first set to music in 1916 by Hubert Parry and rallied a nation shaken by the slaughter on the Somme, with the promise that England could one day see a heaven on earth. In 1945, Prime Minister Attlee would invoke this theme to create a Welfare State based on the Beveridge Report(1942), which had outlined a vision for a national health service that would slay the five giants: Want, Disease, Ignorance, Idleness, and Squalor. The latter left a bitter taste in many mouths.



William Beveridge set society the task of slaying the Five Giants –this underpinned the Welfare State

Royal College of Nursing

'AND WAS JERUSALEM BUILT HERE' 1948

On July 5th 1948 Aneurin Bevan's dream was realised, when the NHS opened its doors for the first time. However, the government realised that the resources they had would struggle to meet demand.

Aneurin Bevan launched the NHS to the press in a blaze of publicity. The Evening Standard declared it, 'A Free for All' service. Many saw the NHS as a symbol of the arrival of a New Jerusalem—a fairer more equal Britain.

However, Politicians were soon worried that they would not be able to meet demand. The NHS produced leaflets seeking to curb demand (as shown by the area on the 1948 leaflet shown below highlighted in the red box). It cautions an enthusiastic public that, 'no fairy wand was waved on July 5th.'



July 5th. 1948. was a notable occasion in our history. On that day the National Health Service started, the foundation of a comprehensive service for the entire community.



- ★ Doctors, nurses and the other workers in the service
- ★ The Government and the administrators
- ★ The Public



All have a part to play. Each should try to appreciate the others' difficulties.

The medical profession pledged itself at the start to do everything it could to make the service a success. But, and there is a very big "but" . . . The service cannot be a success unless the three parties concerned help to make it so:—



Remember no fairy wand was waved on July 5th to create new hospitals, new doctors and new nurses overnight



Did you notice that to many of the benefits promised in the Government leaflet describing the service a warning phrase was added — "as national resources allow"? This was added with good reason. It is vital that everyone should understand the facts and not expect miracles.

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Prime minister Lloyd George's had promised "Homes for heroes," but post war reality was a housing crisis you can hear in *My Old Man*, a song written from 1919 by Fred W. Leigh and Charles Collins, in which Marie Lloyd sang about doing a 'moonlight flit' -moving house after dark to avoid paying the rent.

ROLAND'S PIANOFORTE TUTOR THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
English Fingering No 1036. *Feldman's 6th Edition* *Continental Fingering*

DON'T BILLY BALLY ON THE WAY

(The "COCK LINNET" Song)

Written and Composed
by
*Charles Collins
and Fred. W. Leigh.*



Sung by
MISS MARIE LLOYD.

Copyright. LONDON, ENGLAND. Price 6^d net
B. FELDMAN & Co 125, 127, 129, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

My Old Man Said Follow the Van told of the precarious nature of many Londoners lives when times were hard and rent money short

Westminster Music Library

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Many music hall songs, and much of the comedy, were a comment on social conditions. They reflected working class life. Marie Lloyd's hit 'My Old Man Said Follow the Van, and Don't Dilly-Dally on the Way' was about doing a moonlight flit to avoid paying the rent. For the Seaby family with 12 people living in two rooms there was often



Arthur and Norah Seaby had twelve children Peter Daniel



13414 Sleaby, Arthur

Two rooms
first floor
unfurnished

3 Walham avenue

5s.
per week

George Wilbur
3 Walham avenue



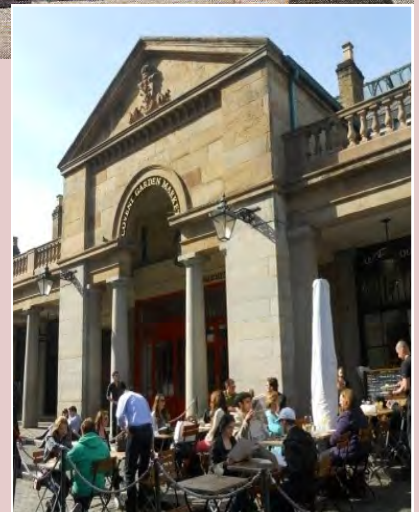
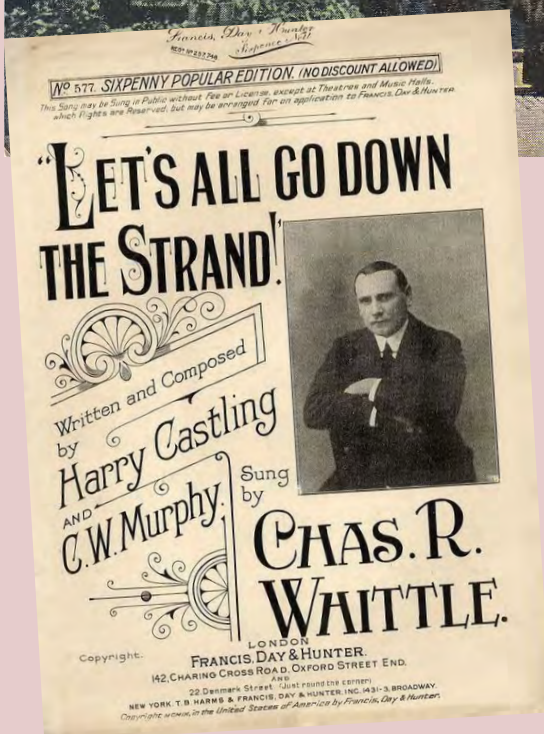
H&F archive

Walham Avenue was typical of London slum housing of the time-damp, poorly ventilated and overcrowded

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Music provided escapism and enhanced a community spirit emphasised by popular songs such as "Let's All Go Down the Strand (have a banana!)." Written in 1909 by Clarence Wainwright Murphy and Harry Castling, it celebrated the route to London's fruit and vegetable market, and home of Covent Garden's costermongers or barrow boys.



Covent Garden was once London's premier fruit and vegetable market. Today it is an entertainment hub

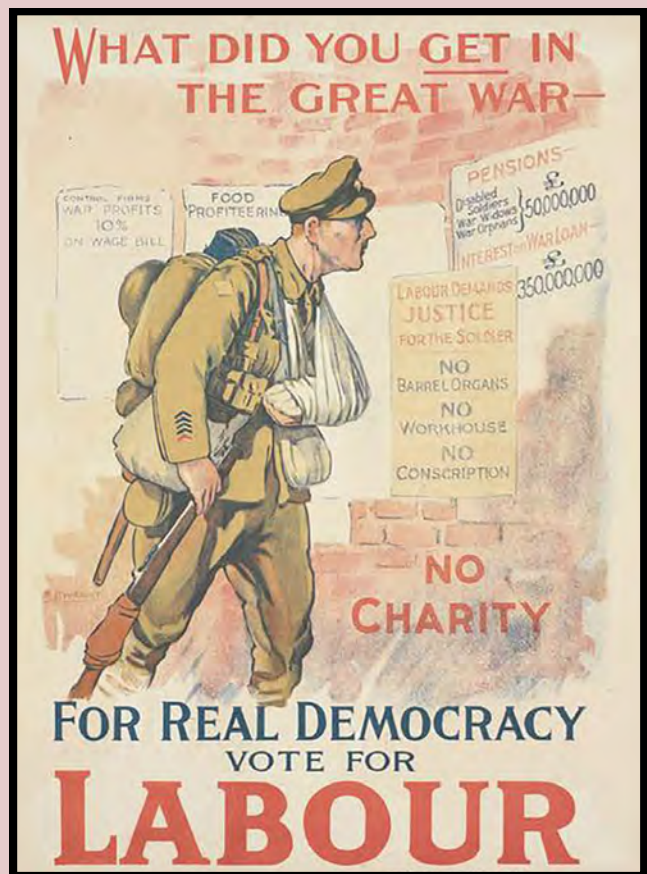
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Costers developed a strong sense of 'otherness' brought home by Flanagan and Allen's, 'All My Life I wanted to be a barrow boy' which celebrates working class camaraderie. Private Georgie Seaby returned to Covent Garden from the Somme with a silver plate in his skull. Georgie literally turned his 'back on all of high society'-to those who had promised 'homes for heroes' but left men like him crippled by war.



Georgie Seaby received a head wound during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and needed a metal plate inserted into his skull. Georgie never recovered from his wound and had periods where he was unable to work as he could not afford to have the specialist treatment that he needed.



WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF
THE GREAT WAR?"

Although the government promised to make Britain a "home fit for heroes," the planned economy was abandoned after World War One and with it attempts to raise the living standards of the poor.

A COSTER BROTHERHOOD: PEARLY KINGS

Before the NHS, hospital treatment was reserved for those that could pay for it. Costermongers had a custom of organising a whip-round to help those who had fallen on hard times. This 'brotherhood' can be seen in the Pearly Kings and Queen's, who decorated their clothes in pearls to raise money for charity, i.e. hospitals. In 1916, the year Georgie Seaby was wounded, they were raising money for hospitals for disabled soldiers.



Private George Seaby

DONKEY MARATHON.

The Queen Witnesses a Costers' Race at Richmond Horse Show.

ENTRIES FROM THE FRONT.

Cancelled last year on account of the war, the Richmond Royal Horse Show was held yesterday in aid of Queen Mary's Star and Garter Home for paralysed and disabled sailors and soldiers.

The Queen and Queen Alexandra spent nearly three hours at the show, and King Manoel and his Consort were also present.

Many features, of course, had to be dropped, notably the coaching Marathon, but this was replaced by a "costers' donkey Marathon."

This provided a good deal of amusement. Driven by pearly kings, escorted by their queens—wonderfully robed and crowned with magnificent feathers—whole families were crowded in some of the donkey carts.

Entries for the ordinary events were naturally fewer, but many had an interest quite their



Mrs. Hobart's Shetland pony Dazzler, which won a first prize.

own, having come from officers in the trenches, written in pencil.

Mr. Walter Winans took two prizes

During the afternoon the Queen visited a number of wounded soldiers who were being entertained at tea in a special marquee

The sale of nine horses, one donkey and two rabbits for the benefit of the fund realised £337 6s.

HENRY CROFT (1861 - 1930)

The Pearly Kings and Queens, who did so much for charity, have a history which stems from the story of a young boy named Henry Croft, who sewed pearly buttons onto his hat and coat in order to become more visible in the marketplace, where he was selling wares to help the poor.

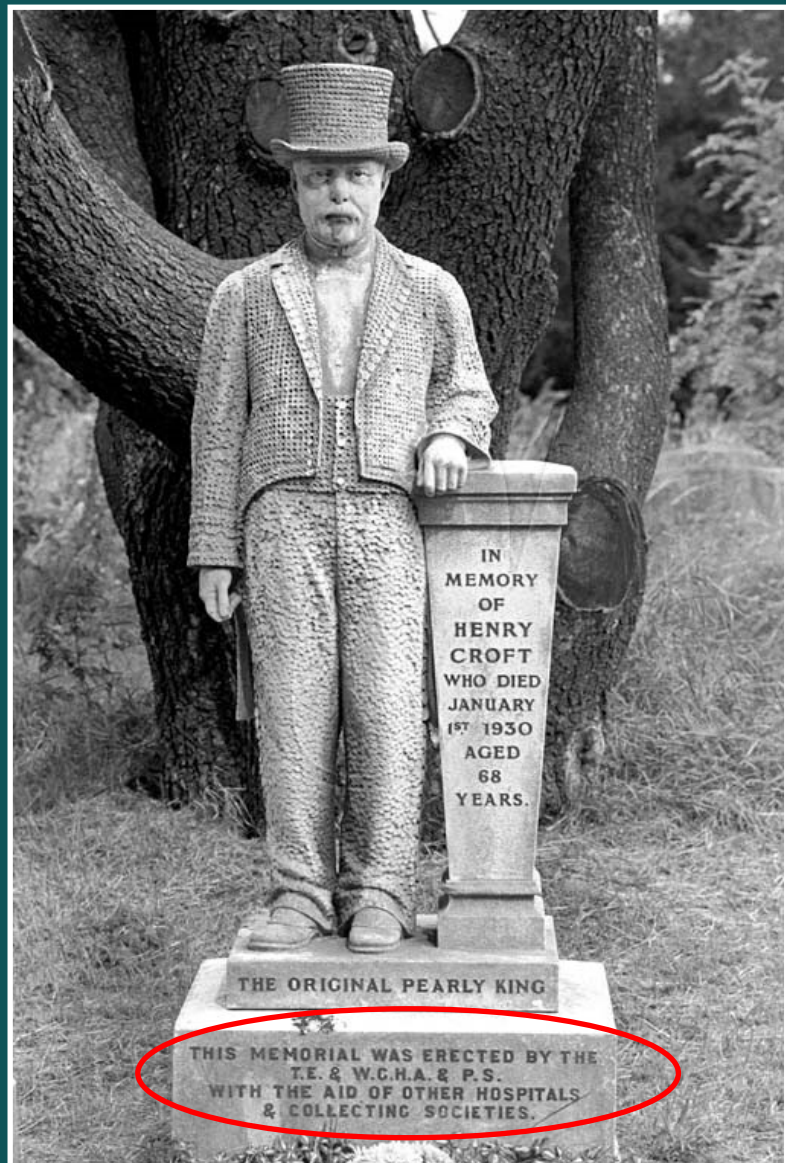
From just thirteen he swept the streets round London's market stalls

Those costermongers took to him, admiring his calls.

He wanted not to gain himself, but sought to help those others

Who when in need he'd give his love like they were all his brothers.

Anita Williams



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Lambeth Walk has become synonymous with the Pearly King and Queen's—who helped raise money to support the coster community. Released in 1937 for the musical *Me and My Girl* (lyrics by Douglas Furber and L. Arthur Rose and music by Noel Gay). The tune gave its name to a Cockney dance made popular in 1937 by Lupino Lane. It was all the rage as Joe and Dibs Seaby welcomed their daughter Patsy-Ann's birth in April 1938.

INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO DANCE
THE LAMBETH WALK

1. Partners stand side by side, gentlemen on right. Walk forward 8 steps (4 bars), swinging the arms Cockney fashion.
2. Link arms. Go round in circle, 8 steps, to left. On 3rd beat of 4th bar shout "Oi!" and give Cockney salute.
3. Side by side again. 2 steps forward 3 quick steps ditto. (1 and 2 and 1.2.3.) Repeat. (4 bars in all)
4. Face partner. Back 3 steps, close heels and ...
slap knees on 3rd beat of second bar.
5. Take 3 steps towards partner and salute on 3rd beat of 2nd bar, shouting "Oi!"

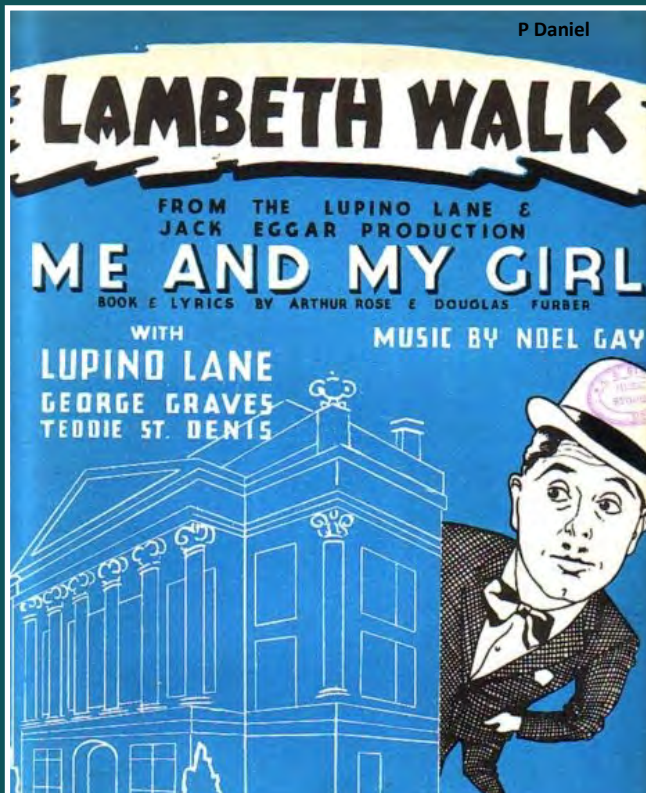
THEN REPEAT 1-5, omitting shout and salute as in 2 and 5.
N.B. When the words "Doin' the Lambeth Walk" occur in the chorus, these are sung by the dancers.

CINEPHONIC MUSIC CO., LTD.,
"Dean House," 2, 3 & 4, Dean Street, London, W.1.



Covent Garden Community Association

DOING THE LAMBETH WALK



Lambeth Walk music sheets
Westminster Music Library

When Patsy Ann was born in 1938 a cockney song 'The Lambeth Walk' was the hit song of the day. It came from the 1937 musical 'Me and My Girl' about a flash Cockney barrow boy who inherits an earldom but almost loses his Lambeth gal-his girl-



Costers like Joe were flashy dressers who made the most of life when times were good. Joe knew war was on the horizon, but as a coster his motto was: "Spend it while you've got, tomorrow you may die."

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On September 7th 1940, whilst this young family sheltered in terror from the Blitz, veterans shared trench-songs like Bombed Last Night to bolster spirits. Four years later, Hubert Gregg's Maybe it's Because I'm A Londoner summoned up London pride to overcome the terror of the V1 Doodlebug and V2 rocket attacks.



Patsy Ann outside 9 Radnor Walk. This was her nan Flo's house Peter Daniel



FIRST DAY OF THE BLITZ: SEPTEMBER 7TH 1940

Joe, Dibs, Patsy Ann and Dib's Mum Flo were living at **9, Radnor Walk, Chelsea**, when war broke out in 1939. On 7th September 1940, they spent 14 hours in a public shelter, whilst the Germans unleashed their first heavy raid on London. Joe's soldier cousin, Dick Seaby, wrote to the family immediately he heard of the raids on the wireless (radio).

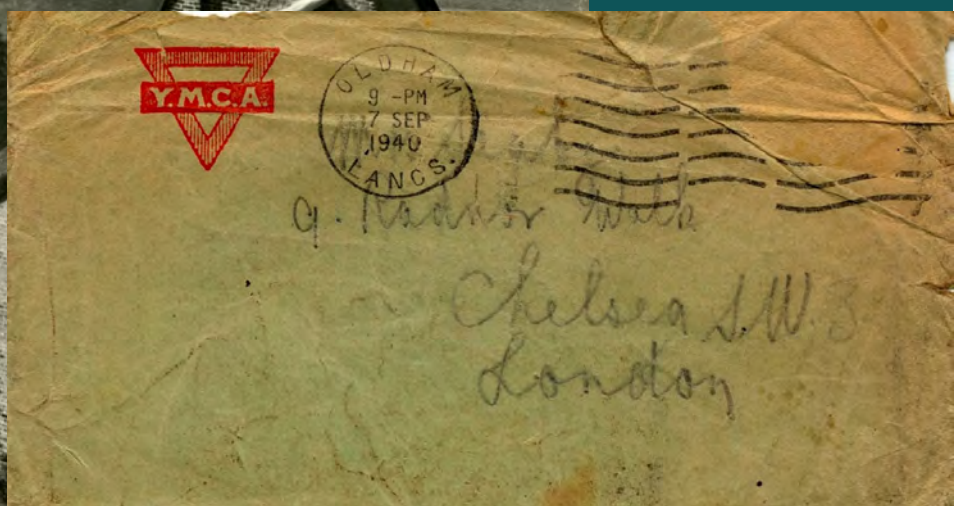


Joe, Dibs and Patsy Ann Seaby 1939. They lived at 9 Radnor Walk Chelsea during the Blitz

Peter Daniel



*The Seaby family
Canvey Island August
1939 P Daniel*

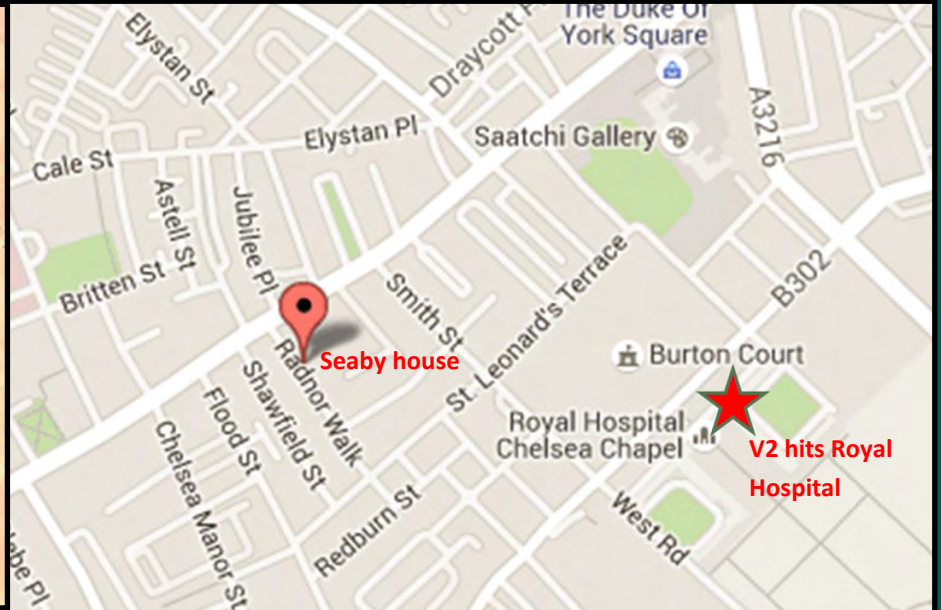
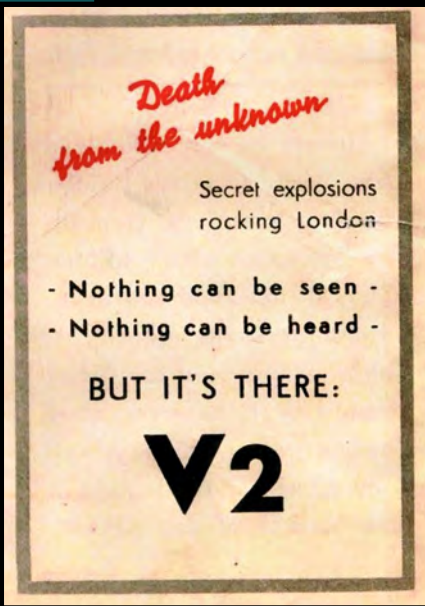


Chelsea was heavily bombed on September 7th, 1940 **Lots Road Power station was a frequent target** **K & C LSA**

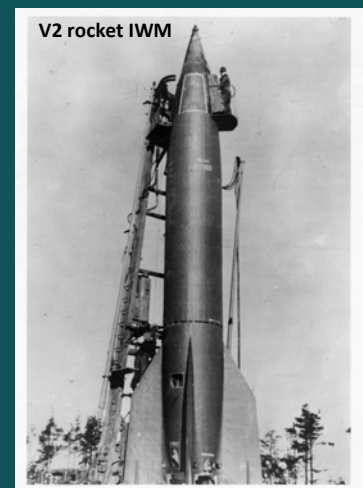
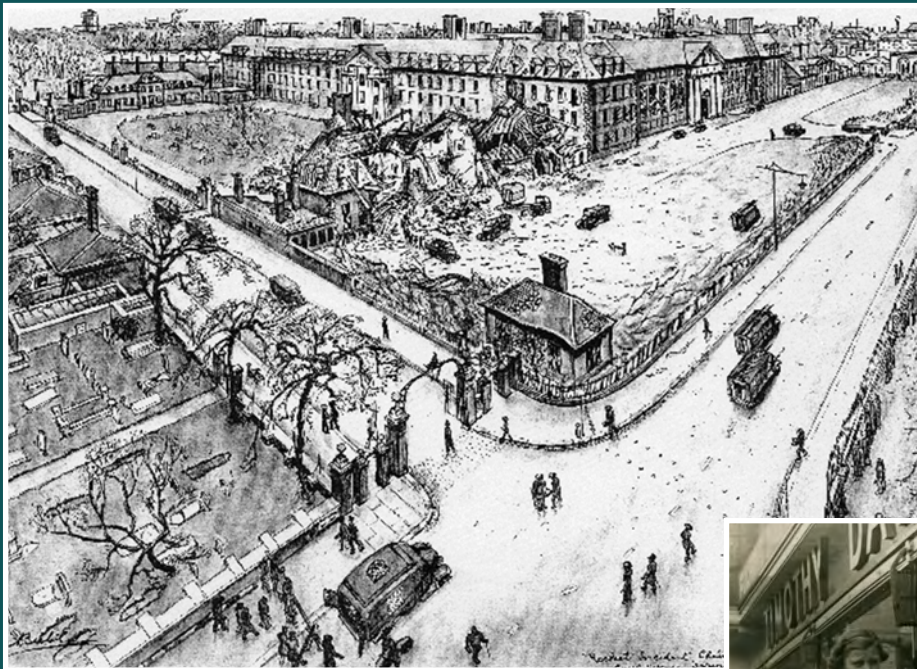
A NARROW ESCAPE: ROYAL HOSPITAL V2 3RD JAN 1945

"It was the 3rd January 1945 and I was walking with my mum (Dibs) to school (St Joseph's, Cadogan Street) when we saw a sudden flame in the sky, followed by a massive explosion. We had thrown ourselves into a doorway to escape the blast of what proved to be a V2 rocket falling on the Royal Hospital. As the dust and debris cleared, Mum started laughing. We'd sheltered from the blast in an undertakers doorway!"

Pat Daniel, nee Seaby June 2017



When the V2 attacks on London started the Germans played mind games with the Fusiliers in Italy by dropping propaganda leaflets like this warning London based soldiers about the attacks on their families back home.



The North East Wing took a direct hit from a V2 rocket; the wing was completely destroyed and many surrounding buildings were significantly damaged. Five people from the Royal Hospital lost their lives as a result of this attack and 19 others were injured.



P Daniel

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By then Private Joe Seaby was in Italy recovering from the horror of Anzio. He was in the same regiment, the Royal Fusiliers, as 2nd Lt Eric Walters, one of many men sacrificed to hold the Anzio beachhead. His son, Pink Floyd's Roger Walters sang about his death in the haunting 'When the Tigers Broke Free' (1982). The anguish of Anzio reflected in this song can be seen in the shell-shocked features of Joe Seaby.



Roger Walters was just five months old when his father, 2nd Lt Eric Walters died when the Royal Fusiliers were attacked by Tiger tanks at Anzio on February 18, 1944.



A British soldier of the 8th Army stands by a disabled German Tiger tank. Pink Floyd's Roger Walters lost his father at Anzio to one of these tanks.

Imperial War Museum

PRIVATE JOE SEABY AT SALERNO

Operation Avalanche' was the invasion of the Italian mainland near Salerno. Joe's ship carrying him and other member of the Royal Fusiliers sailed from Tripoli on 8 September. On the way to Salerno they heard Italy had surrendered and thought that the invasion would be an uncontested stroll onto the beach. But in reality, Germans had replaced the Italians in defence; thereby making things more difficult, not less.



Victor comic April 5th 1975 ran a cartoon that highlighted the bravery of the 8th Royal Fusiliers at the Salerno landings.

WAR SERVICE EMERGENCY GRANT 1944

P.O. 55 King's Rd
SW3

A.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS,
London Region,
30, Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

Ref: London 80288N

14/4 April '44

Dear Madam,

With reference to your application for a War Service Emergency Grant, I am pleased to inform you that it has been found possible to make a grant of £5.7.6 and a remittance for that amount is enclosed.

The account(s) submitted with your application is/are returned herewith.

Yours faithfully
A. Simpson
for Chief Regional Officer.

Mrs F.A. Seaby
9 Radnor Walk
Chelsea
SW3

At Christmas 1943 Patsy Ann Seaby became seriously ill with scarlet fever. With husband Joe fighting at Anzio, Patsy-Ann's mother, Dibs Seaby, struggled to pay the medical bills. In desperation she applied for a War Service Emergency grant.

A. N. NANDA, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M.

TELEPHONE: PLAINMAN 0990

£1.0.0 Red w/ Seaby
13/3/44
D. Townsend (Sec)

111. King's Road,
Chelsea, S.W.3
13.3.44

31 MAR 1944

Visits, attendances and medicine for
Patsy Ann Seaby:- £3-4-6 8/11 for
Scarlet Fever.

29.12.43	4-6	17.1.44	5-0
30.12.43	5-0	20.1.44	5-0
31.12.43	5-0	23.1.44	5-0
1.1.44	5-0	26.1.44	5-0
3.1.44	5-0	31.1.44	5-0
4.1.44	5-0	4.2.44	5-0
5.1.44	5-0	7.2.44	5-0
7.1.44	5-0	13.2.44	5-0
8.1.44	5-0	19.2.44	5-0
10.1.44	5-0	26.2.44	5-0
11.1.44	5-0	4.3.44	5-0
12.1.44	5-0	11.3.44	5-0
15.1.44	5-0		

£6-7-6 D. Townsend (Sec)

3-4-6

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Londoners celebrated VE Day, May 8th 1945 in the same way they had celebrated the end of the First World War, they went out into the street and sang Knees Up Mother Brown. Not recorded until 1938, by Bert Lee, Harris Weston and I. Taylor, "knees up" became cockney shorthand for a party.



Knees Up Mother Brown the song of VE Day in London May 8th 1945

Westminster Music Library

VICTORY IN EUROPE MAY 8TH 1945

Victory in Europe Day, (V-E Day) May 8, 1945 marked the surrender of Nazi Germany. Joe Seaby was still in Italy and didn't return until 1946.



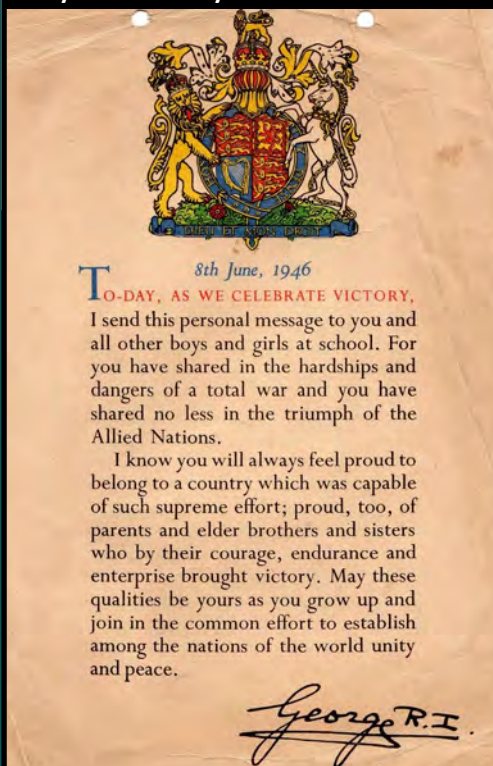
Seaby shop Fulham Road 1945



Dibs North End Road 1945



Patsy Ann's Victory certificate



Patsy Ann and friends
Radnor Walk 1945



The stall North End Road



Pictures P Daniel

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Two weeks before the NHS opened its doors on July 5th 1948, the SS Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks Essex. The Windrush generation arriving from the Caribbean would staff the hospitals of the new NHS. Aboard the ship was calypso singer Lord Kitchener, whose optimistic anthem 'London is the Place for Me' pointed towards a brighter future for all in England's green and pleasant land.



Lord Kitchener sang his calypso song to the BBC as he arrived on the Empire windrush in 1948. Udine Canoville came from St Martin to be a nurse in the new NHS

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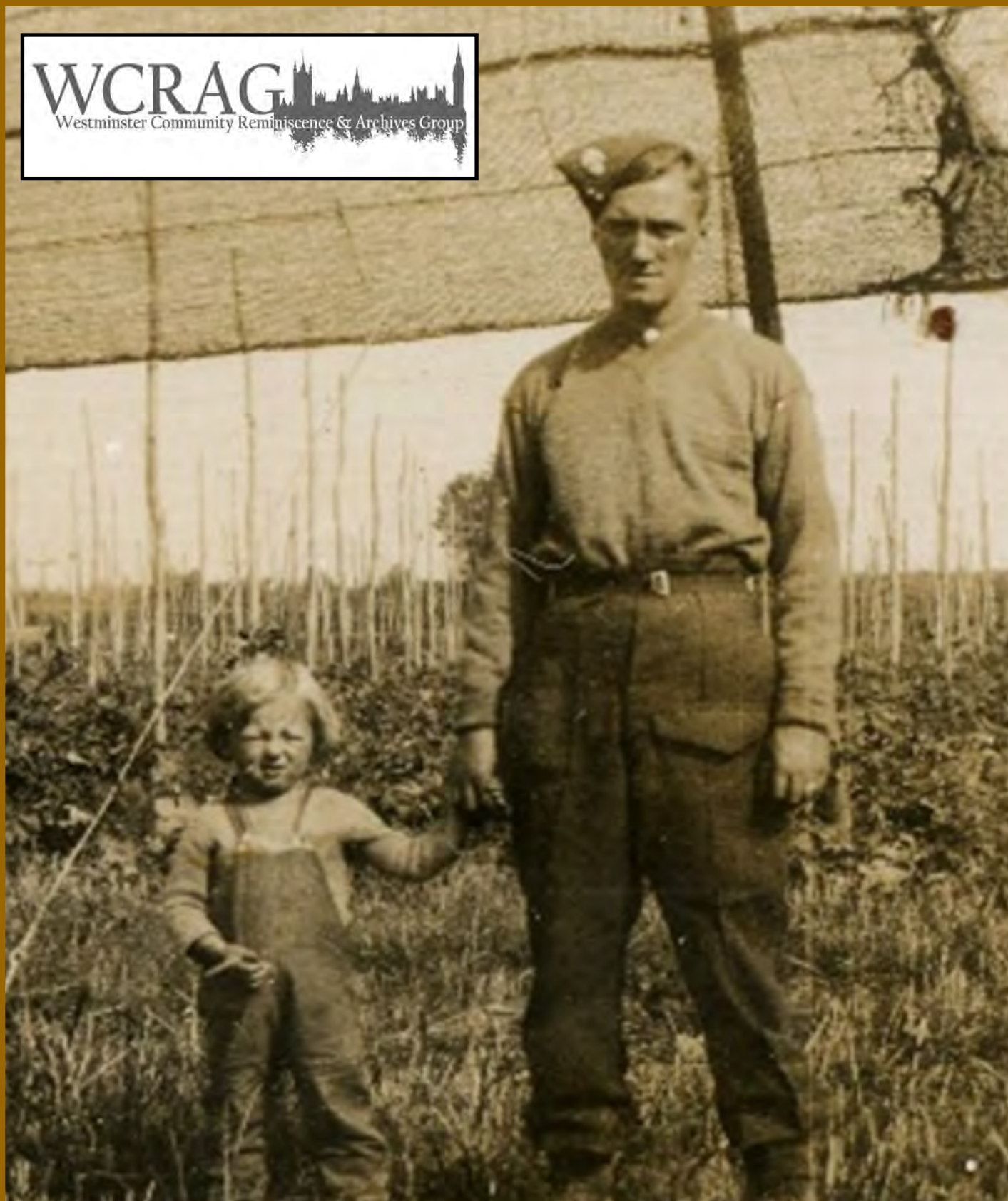
**"BUILD A BRIGHTER DAY WHERE WE SHARE THE SKY AND WE WALK
ON FIELDS OF GOLD."**

Patsy-Ann Daniel nee Seaby died from ovarian cancer on February 10th 2018. Fields of Gold was her favourite song and the original lyrics by Sting were adapted by musician Vince Burke for the Towards a New Jerusalem project. Vince's words above emphasise that what underpins the NHS is the strong sense of community that forged it.



In July 1942 Pte. Joe Seaby is given two weeks embarkation leave before leaving for an unknown destination overseas. He decided to go on a big family holiday to East Peckham Hop Farm, near Tonbridge, Kent. For many years poor London families would take a paid holiday harvesting the hops needed to make beer.





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2019

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