Richard Wright

Richard Wright

He was Lt Cdr RNJ Wright RN (born 1931), a Queen’s Messenger and author of two books, one on Chinese coins and another on the Chinese Steamship Navy. And the stepdad of Pip Farquharson for 45 years.

He started at St Edmunds School, Kesgrave, Ipswich (affectionately known as “Mrs Marshall’s” school) in Sept 1939. He actually writes in his diary, “Mrs Marshalls having been evacuated there from Ipswich” and seems he went to her school at Drakestone House from May 1940 for another year.



Exerts from Richard’s diaries whilst a pupil at Mrs Marshalls school housed at Drakestone House during the war in 1940.

1939 May - Fell off swing - in bed for ages with cut to head
June - Dad promoted Paymaster Captain. Already working at Shotley.
19 July. Moved to Ipswich. Stayed at White Horse Inn, then to 'Tunbricane' in Belstead Road.
September, to day school at Mrs Marshall's. Probably saw Arthur Ransome's former yacht "Nancy Blackett" this autumn. **THE WAR started**

1940 May. I was prudently evacuated to stay with Uncle Kenneth & Aunt Molly at 'Paddicks' in Sidmouth
4 June. With McLaughlin to Stinchcombe , Mrs Marshall's having been evacuated there from Ipswich. (Not far from Evelyn Waugh's Piers Court.) Food frightful - mostly slices of dubious galantine, and sliced raw cabbage. ? Chicken Pox

15th September - Peak of Battle of Britain

25 September. Bombing of Bristol aircraft works while we were passing by car, a string of bombs across the road ahead, while enroute to Stinchcombe from Sidmouth.
Back to Ipswich (by train) for Christmas

1941 January. By school train from Ipswich to Stinchcome. (Mr Ridley). Not allowed to see bomb damage in London (which all the others enjoyed. (!)) Measles that term
31 March. Removed from Mrs Marshall's. Visited Bedstone Court (Orwell Park School) and was enrolled there. Lovely place, in Shropshire near Bucknell

1942 Jan. Whooping Cough/Bronchitis at 'Tumbricane'. Missed winter term. Uncle K died.
March. Moved house to Sidmouth to stay with Aunt Mollie in lieu of evacuees.
(Stayed again one night at White Horse, Ipswich, for last time).
May. Bombing at Exeter. Unable to catch train to school that day.

Thanks to Pip Farquharson for supplying this information about his stepdad.

Drakestone House