

# **ANOTHER UNUSUAL AIR RAID SHELTER!**

by

Keith Hopkinson



February 2021

(N.B. Reference also needs first to be made to the **Serendipity** Section of this website, under **WW11**, where a similar Air Raid Shelter is mentioned)

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Further to the article on the unusual air raid shelter in Rosemary Hill Road, in nearby Knighton Road there is another similar air raid shelter.

The accompanying house, the first to be built in Knighton Road, was completed in 1939 on the eve of war. The house was designed and lived in by Major Oakley, a Birmingham City architect. With war looming, he had an air raid shelter built at the bottom of the garden.

The shelter is a substantial concrete and steel construction originally with railings guarding the entrance. Descending a flight of concrete stairs and turning left through a wooden door, the main area is a large room over 7 feet in height at the centre. There was a heating stove at the far end with a chimney to the outside and electric light supplied from the house (the wartime bulb is still in place). On the right-hand side there is a thick toughened glass porthole at head height that allowed the occupant to view the house from the shelter - presumably to see if the house had survived the air raid!

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(Researchers beware! The Major is not what he seems.)

## Author's Photographs



