CHAPTER THREE - THE WAR YEARS

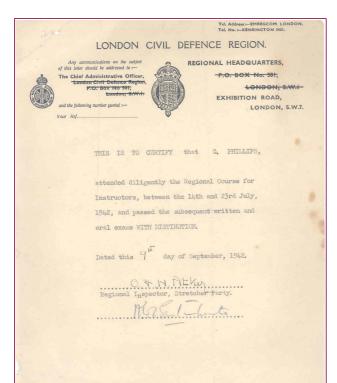
Gordon continued as Organist and Choirmaster at All Saints, Ennismore Gardens until 1940, but during the remainder of the war years his musical activities seem to have halted.



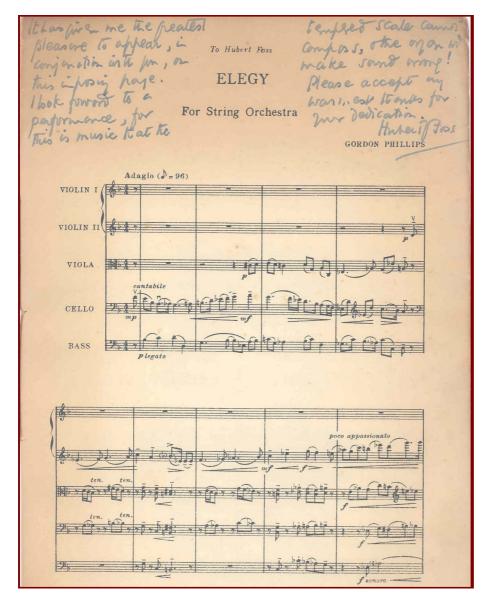
However, he was busy in other spheres and from July 14th to July 23rd 1942 he attended a regional course for Instructors in the London Civil Defence. On 10th September 1942 he received a certificate for proficiency, which entitled him to carry out Local Air Raid Precautions Training.

At this period he was living at 14, Cheniston Gardens, W8.

With the air raids and indiscriminate bombing that took place at that time, it must have been a frightening place to live in. However, he managed to keep up some piano playing by playing in canteens and ballrooms to entertain the troops and the Home Guard and also the Red Cross personnel. Kathleen Cozens could recall these pleasurable evenings.







There seems to be no of record what Gordon was doing in 1946, except for the publication by Alfred Lengwick and Co. Ltd. of his "Elegy for String Orchestra", so he must have been studying orchestral instruments durina the war years. This could have been to fill the gap left by the separation from his wife in 1942 or 1943.

He learnt to play the clarinet and, to some extent, the flute. The "Elegy" was scored for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello and Bass, and began and ended in D minor, with a middle Tranquillo section in F minor, followed by a short, slightly quicker section in C major, before returning to the original tempo and D

minor key.

The "Elegy" was dedicated to Hubert Foss, the first manager and musical editor of Oxford University Press. Foss was an authority on music and wrote books on the subject, as well as being the editor of the journal "Music Lover". He died in London in 1953 at the early age of fifty four.

After the war, Gordon became a music copyist as a way of earning money, and his manuscript writing became as clear as a printed copy.

In 1946 he became Lecturer in Advanced Piano Playing and Composition at the City Literary Institute, Stukely Street, WC2, where he remained until 1958. The nearest underground station was Holborn. Although many students attended the classes during this period, the only one who made contact after his death was Mrs. Joyce Little of Romford.