

## 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.



*Kathleen Cozens Garden 1963*

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.

Tel. Address - EMBECOM, LONDON.  
Tel. No. - KENSINGTON 3011.

**LONDON CIVIL DEFENCE REGION.**

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to -  
The Chief Administrative Officer,  
London Civil Defence Region,  
P.O. Box 710 301,  
Kensington, S.W.7.



**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS,**  
P.O. BOX No. 501,  
LONDON, S.W.7  
EXHIBITION ROAD,  
LONDON, S.W.7.

and the following number quoted -  
Your Ref. \_\_\_\_\_


THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **G. PHILLIPS,**

attended diligently the Regional Course for Instructors, between the 14th and 23rd July, 1942, and passed the subsequent written and oral exams **WITH DISTINCTION.**

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1942.

.....**G. F. H. FLEW**.....  
Regional Inspector, Stretcher Party.  
.....**M. S. I. L. E.**.....

208/7/71  
No. 111

  
The Royal Borough of Kensington.

**AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**  
CERTIFICATE TO INSTRUCTOR (L.A.R.P.)

This is to Certify that G. Phillips Esq. of  
14, Cheniston Gardens, W.8.

has attended a course of instruction to become an Instructor (L.A.R.P.) in Local Air Raid Precautions, conducted under the authority of The Royal Borough of Kensington in accordance with the scheme approved by the Home Office, and has passed an examination of proficiency entitling him/her to carry out LOCAL AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS TRAINING in accordance with that scheme, as the Home Office may from time to time lay down.

J. Webb  
Town Clerk

Town Hall,  
Kensington, W.8.

10. September 1942

*It has given me the greatest pleasure to appear, in conjunction with you, on this important page. I look forward to a performance, for this is music that the simplest scale cannot compass, & the organ will make sound wrong! Please accept my warmest thanks for your dedication. Hubert Foss*

To Hubert Foss  
**ELEGY**  
 For String Orchestra

GORDON PHILLIPS

There seems to be no record of 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 during 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.