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ANNOUNCED IN TONIGHT'S "LONDON GAZETTE"

WAR DAMAGE REPAIRS

The War Damage Commission issues in the "London Gazette" tonight (Friday, April 10) notices which affect the following areas:-

The COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS, with the exception of the Harton Ward,

The BOROUGH OF ALTRINCHAM: An area comprised by the hereditaments known as Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17, Davenport Road, and Nos. 16 to 26 (inclusive) Dale Square,

The BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE: An area comprised by the hereditaments known as No. 1 Church Square (including outbuildings and premises abutting on Church Street), Nos. 2, 3 and 4, Church Square, Nos. 65 and 67, Church Street, and Nos. 6 and 7, Church Lane,

Plans of the Altrincham and Basingstoke areas may be inspected at the local Town Halls,

The notices are issued under Section 7(2) of the War Damage Act, 1941, whereby provision is made for securing that the making of payments by the Commission in respect of war damage shall have regard to the public interest.

The publication of the notices in the "Gazette" is, therefore, of great importance to all those with interests in war damaged property, and particularly to those professionally concerned with work on such properties, since upon them must, in practice, fall the responsibility, on behalf of their clients, for seeing that the requirements of the Act are complied with.

The effect of the notices is that any person proposing to execute works for the repair of war damage, other than temporary works, in the South Shields area where the total ultimate cost will be more than £100, or in the named Altrincham and Basingstoke areas any such work at all, must first inform the Commission.

That body in its turn will consult the appropriate Local and Planning Authorities to ascertain whether the carrying out of the proposed works would conform with their intentions regarding re-planning and other public interests.

The condition laid down regarding notification will be strictly enforced, and the incurring of a larger expenditure in South Shields than that named, or the carrying out of any work at all in the two Altrincham and Basingstoke areas, without prior notification to the Commission will render the person doing such works liable to forfeit the right to repayment by the Commission. If, therefore, there is a doubt whether the figure named will be exceeded, the proposed work should be notified to the Commission.

Power is given to the Commission in such cases to impose requirements as to the nature of works, the materials to be used, and the time for their execution, and it may change a cost of works payment into a value (or total loss) payment in those cases where restoration of a building would be contrary to the public interest.

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In the case of buildings which have been totally destroyed the Commission is already empowered by the Act, without the previous publication of notices in the "Gazette", to attach conditions to the payments made, in order that the public interest may be observed.

In this notice a "hereditament" means either a hereditament as appearing in the rating valuation list, or, in the case of a hereditament which is exempt from rating and does not appear in that list, the hereditament so exempted, provided that where there is more than one occupation of a single building, the hereditament shall be the building.

The powers conferred upon the Commission by the Act are exercisable only in direct relation to war damage, and the action which it has now notified is not to be confused with any steps which may be taken with regard to "reconstruction areas" as recommended in the Uthwatt Report, or with any measures decided upon by the authorities responsible for short or long term planning.

WAR DAMAGE COMMISSION