

JOHN HILL

---

## Fresh From Munich Skies

Neville took flight from his housing scheme  
To meet a fellow planner. A piece of paper signed  
On that optimistic Munich ride  
The wind blew colder in those times  
Snow falls so much deeper when you're only five  
Draughty sash windows screwed down for security  
Ice on the inside, steals breath to the pane  
Traffic-island prefabs with little to declare  
The yearly queue for the Weoley Co-op divi'  
At a ring of shops, known only as 'The Square'  
More practical as transport is afforded

Counting heavy-loaded sacks for your mom  
As they rumble into the coalhouse one-by-one  
Draping last-night's Mail to start an open fire  
Creating backdraught, if all goes to the wire  
Bottles of Corona pop delivered door-to-door  
Dandelion & Burdock, Limeade, Ginger Beer  
Beano and The Dandy, soon become Dan Dare  
The stars shone so much brighter in those times  
Maintained open spaces, prefabrication gone  
Civic pride aims high to be applauded  
As Chamberlain had worked tirelessly to provide  
Fresh from Munich skies

---

### Notes

Neville Chamberlain became Prime Minister and leader of a coalition government. He had previously served as MP for Ladywood, Birmingham - championing so many public services. Weoley Castle Estate being a prime example of development to aid city slum-clearance. The trip to Munich was an attempt to avert world war II. His 'Peace For Our Time' policy had majority backing in the House. This was short lived and soon fell out of favour.

In 1935, Neville Chamberlain opened Birmingham's 10,000th council dwelling at 30, Hopstone Road on the Weoley Castle Estate. (Wikipedia)

My great-grandfather's youngest brother, was Farm Bailiff of farmland taken over.  
Edward Hill res. Weoley Park Farm (1901 census).

---

© John Hill

9th May 2023