

CITY OF MANCHESTER PLAN

ABRIDGED EDITION

By

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PREFACE

by the Lord Mayor of Manchester
ALDERMAN W. P. JACKSON, J.P.

WHEN THE POST-WAR PLANNING of Manchester was begun about two years ago the intention was to present the proposals to the Town Planning and Buildings Committee, and subsequently to the City Council, in a series of reports supported by plans. But as the City Surveyor proceeded with his task it became increasingly evident that the problems of planning and reconstruction in Manchester were so interrelated that it would be wiser and more informative to prepare and present the Plan as a whole. Accordingly, this course was adopted, and in this book Mr. Nicholas has developed his ideas for the future of Manchester.

To-day our country is at the beginning of the great transition from war to peace, and all thinking people will wish to inquire about the sort of world to be built for posterity. The extent to which the Civic Authorities will be able to remodel Manchester as a fairer city with greatly improved living and working conditions will depend ultimately upon the interest, determination and wishes of the citizens, to whom I commend this book for careful study.

Lord Mayor's Office, Manchester.
May, 1945.

W. P. JACKSON,
Lord Mayor.

by the Chairman of the Town Planning and Buildings Committee
COUNCILLOR OTTIWELL LODGE

IN AUGUST, 1941, Lord Reith addressed the Manchester and District Regional Planning Committee, of which Manchester is a constituent authority, and advised the preparation of a provisional plan for redevelopment. He suggested that those responsible should not consider themselves bound by existing legislation, but that they should plan boldly and comprehensively. This was, indeed, a challenge, and an inducement to tackle the multifarious problems which beset us on all sides according to modern conceptions of planning.

Mr. Nicholas has approached each problem with no preconceived ideas and no prejudices. He has examined with great thoroughness all available information, and where this was not sufficient he has made his own investigations. Yet it has been ever present in his mind that the health and happiness of our citizens must be his ultimate concern. Here is no attempt to revolutionise the face of the city, but rather to shape it into a satisfactory pattern—largely conforming to the present layout, but giving us the opportunity we need to improve its efficiency and its standing as a regional centre.

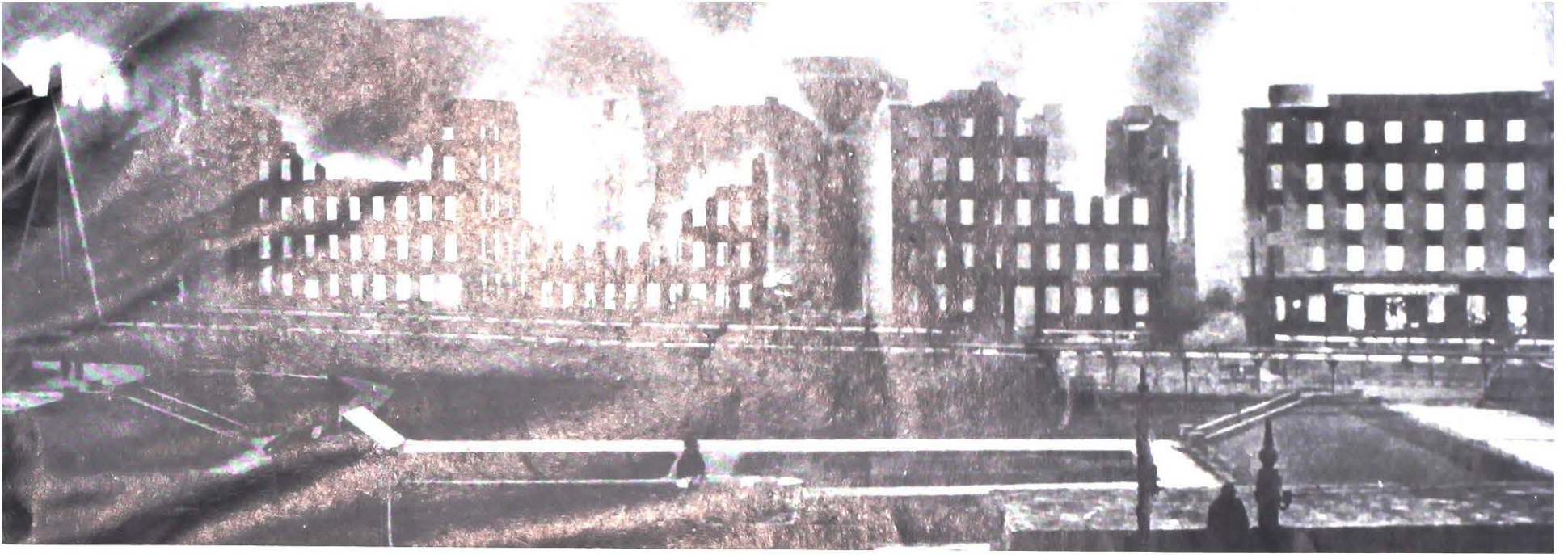
Any constructive comment will receive the most careful attention from the Town Planning and Buildings Committee when they proceed to a detailed consideration of the proposals, to which, by the very nature of the book, they are not committed in any way at this stage.

Even to the casual reader it will be manifest that a tremendous amount of work has gone into the preparation of this Plan, not only in the sifting of all available information about this great city and the manner in which Manchester came to be what it is to-day, but also in original research into matters which have perhaps not received the prominence which their importance demands in earlier planning proposals.

The untiring enthusiasm and energy of the whole of Mr. Nicholas's planning team has been most marked throughout this period of unspectacular but unavoidable hard work. I am glad to have this opportunity of paying a public tribute to the small body of men and women, ably led by Mr. Nicholas, who have made the publication of this book possible.

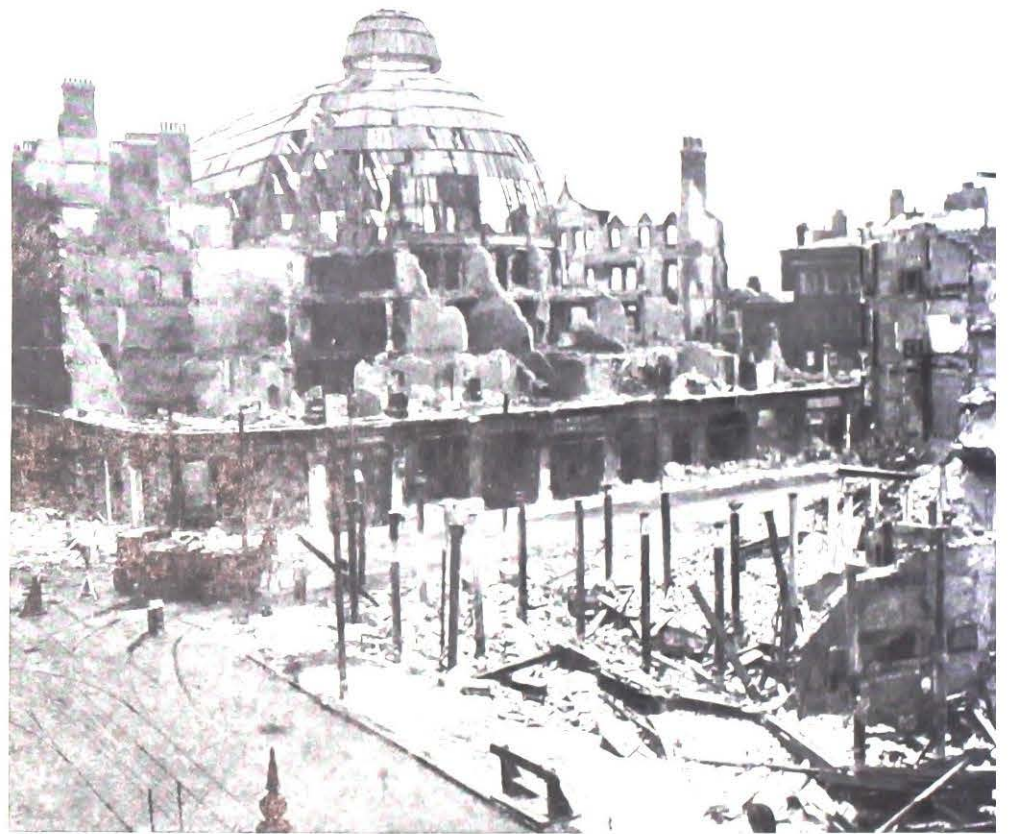
May, 1945.

OTTIWELL LODGE.



BLITZ 1940

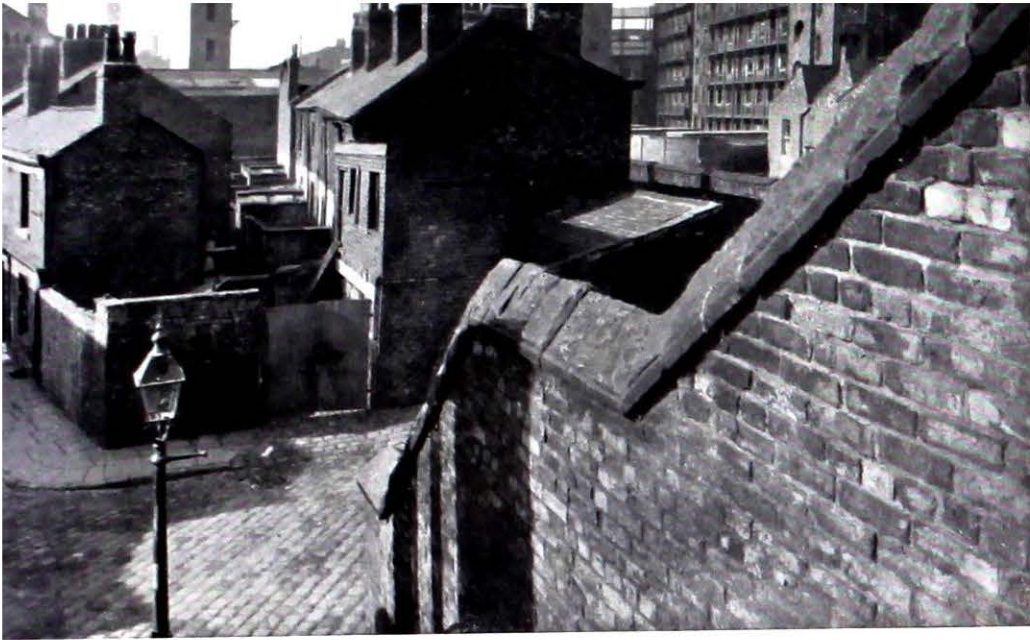
1. Piccadilly in flames on the night of December 23rd.
2. The corner of St. Mary's Gate and Deansgate.
3. The Free Trade Hall, once the home of the Hallé Orchestra.



Here, in Piccadilly, St. Mary's Gate, Peter Street—in many places throughout the city—there is the opportunity for rebuilding; for designing structures that will be worthy of our city.

When we build again, let us take full advantage of this opportunity.





1

PROBLEMS OF REDEVELOPMENT

The long-term plan will provide for the “thinning-out”, zoning and rebuilding of the densely built inner areas.

1. Congested, obsolescent dwellings hemmed in by industrial and other buildings. The low standard of living conditions typified here must be dealt with at an early stage of the redevelopment programme.
2. The corner “pub” and small shops (which are usually converted houses) are invariably cramped, inconvenient and unsightly. Neighbourhood centres with their pleasant, spacious atmosphere will provide a marked contrast with shopping streets of this nature.
3. Industrial buildings and warehouses are inextricably mixed up with rows of small houses, and are serious obstacles in the path of large-scale redevelopment. The heavy traffic, noise and atmospheric pollution commonly associated with these buildings render them highly undesirable neighbours for the homes of the people.



2

