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## EXETER – THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Peter Thomas*

**REPRINT**

This exciting new book comprises over 300 photographs from the nationally renowned Isca Collection of photographs owned by the author, Peter Thomas. These powerful images provide a poignant reminder of Exeter as it was in the decades following the bombing of the city in the Second World War.

Pure nostalgia, the photographs included also remind us just how much the city has changed, and how much has been lost to so-called planning and development over that time. The author, himself a native Exonian, has written passionately about this loss, while carefully selecting photographs that he knows will provide his readers with glimpses of the city they too will treasure and enjoy.

Here is a book that is an evocative reminder for all those who were there, and a marvellous heirloom for those who remain.



**Peter Thomas** might well be dubbed Exeter's honorary historian as for over many years he has contributed to countless events, exhibitions and publications associated with the city's past. As a photographer he has produced a considerable number of illustrated books on Exeter and Devon based on his own photographs, but it is as an historian and collector of photographs that he is best known, not least for his establishment of the Isca Collection. Peter lives in Exeter.

#### THE ISCA COLLECTION

The Isca Photographic Collection is an irreplaceable archive covering the City of Exeter. Founded in 1974 the nucleus of the collection comprises 42,000 photographic images. Based largely on the work of Henry Wyke whose studio was based in Exeter until the mid-1970s, the collection has since been greatly expanded and is now recognised by many national bodies as being of unique regional and national importance.

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*By 1979, Exeter High Street had been banned to cars, with buses only allowed, and had been narrowed by fifty per cent in its upper part leading to Sidwell Street.*



*VJ Day in Exwick.*



The bombing of Exeter on 4 May 1942 left much of the city devastated



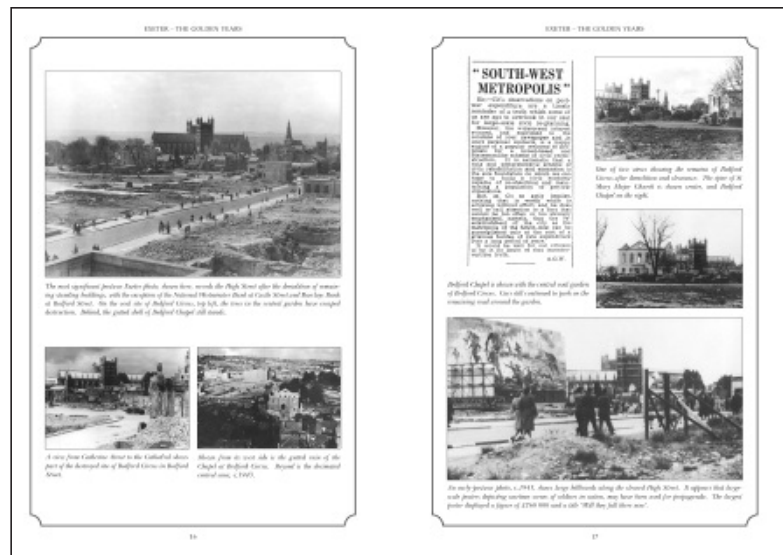
*The elegant central location of Dix's Field had received severe damage to its nineteenth-century terraces on the west and east side, with many buildings being gutted.*



*This photo taken from High Street towards Southernhay across the top of Princesshay shows the temporary post-war shops, left, and, behind, the spire of Southernhay Congregational Church.*



*On VJ Day (Allied Victory over Japan) 15 August 1945 Exeter's floodlit High Street filled with hundreds of people of all ages to dance the night away. This scene is outside Colsons' department store.*



Example of a double page spread.

