

Eda Von Heemstra

In the late summer of 1939 a pretty young Dutch-Irish girl called Eda Von Heemstra was hastily evacuated from a boarding school in Kent by her mother, who feared that south-east England would soon become a target for the German Luftwaffe. She was by no means the only child to be evacuated in anticipation of the German bombing campaign. Indeed, she was one of the few able to take refuge by the simple expedient of going home.

Home, however, was Arnhem in Holland where the fighting proved to be more intense and dangerous. A few years later Arnhem was pounded into rubble. The girl survived, and in 1948 she was able to return to England to pursue her acting career. Like many gorgeous young actresses, she gave herself a remarkable stage name: Audrey Hepburn. She would go on to win an Oscar and become one of the most iconic symbols of English beauty and style.

