

BATTLE
OF
BRITAIN



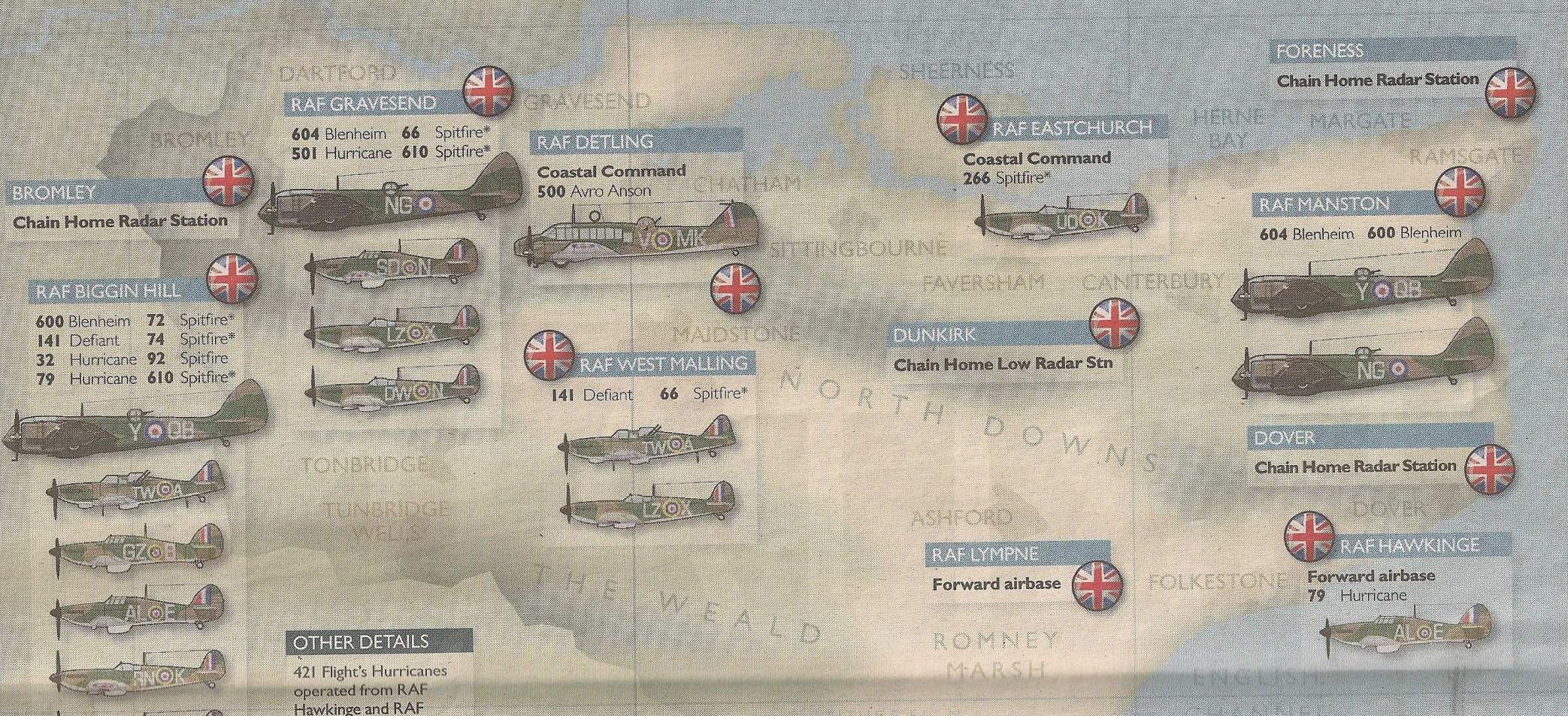
70TH ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT

JULY 2010

A KM GROUP PUBLICATION

50p WHERE SOLD

COUNTY'S KEY ROLE IN THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN



BROMLEY
Chain Home Radar Station

RAF BIGGIN HILL
600 Blenheim 72 Spitfire*
141 Defiant 74 Spitfire*
32 Hurricane 92 Spitfire*
79 Hurricane 610 Spitfire*

RAF GRAVESEND
604 Blenheim 66 Spitfire*
501 Hurricane 610 Spitfire*

RAF DETLING
Coastal Command
500 Avro Anson

RAF EASTCHURCH
Coastal Command
266 Spitfire*

FORENESS
Chain Home Radar Station

RAF MANSTON
604 Blenheim 600 Blenheim

RAF WEST MALLING
141 Defiant 66 Spitfire*

DUNKIRK
Chain Home Low Radar Stn


DOVER
Chain Home Radar Station

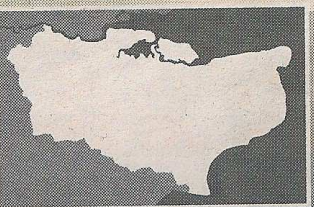
RAF LYMPNE
Forward airbase

RAF HAWKINGE
Forward airbase
79 Hurricane

OTHER DETAILS

421 Flight's Hurricanes operated from RAF Hawkinge and RAF West Malling during the conflict
* These squadrons saw duty in Dunkirk prior to the Battle of Britain

 **THE LUFTWAFFE**
Messerschmitt ME 109



Kent's airbases and squadrons

Graphics: James Norris

RADAR proved crucial factor

BY ROBIN BROOKS

Anyone walking along the cliffs at Dover or along the level wind-swept Romney Marsh, in particular Lydd, cannot fail to notice the large upright slabs of concrete.

These are known as Sound Mirrors and are relics of the first British early warning system in defence of an enemy attack. At one time they all had a microphone in the front facing into the bowl.

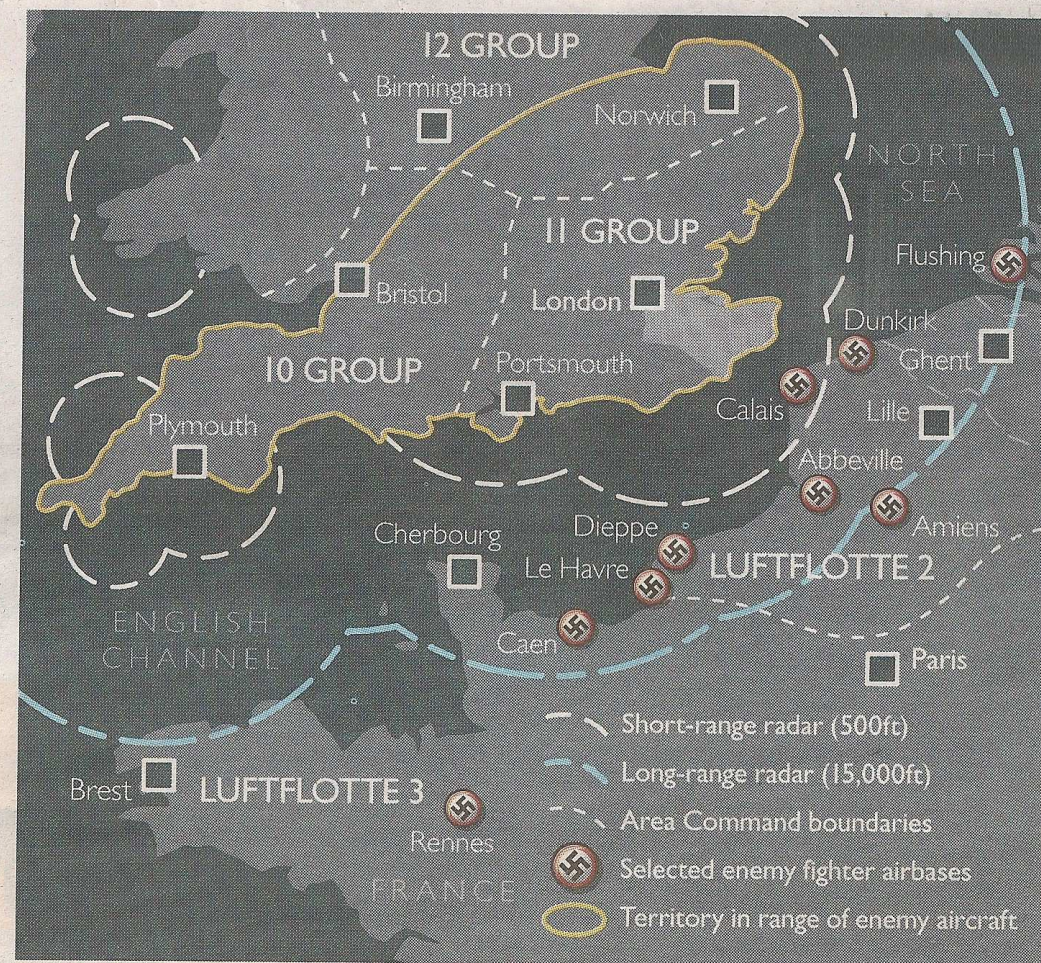
These have now disappeared but under ideal conditions these giants were capable of picking up aero engine noises a little over eight miles away. Primitive in the least, it was all we had in 1934 to give the country prior warning of an enemy attack from the Continent.

Concerned about the lack of a plausible early warning should another and more mechanical war begin, the Air Ministry instigated a series of experiments into what they termed 'a death ray system of detection'. Leading the experiments was Robert Watson-Watt, superintendent of the National Physical Laboratory's Radio Research Establishment. He produced a scientific document titled Detection and Location of Aircraft by Radio Methods

which was submitted to the Air Ministry in 1935. Experiments with radio signals were authorised, the results of which showed that if a radio signal was sent out and hit a solid object, it would bounce and could be received back via a receiver which if linked to a cathode ray tube, would appear as a bright dot.

With this success a team was gathered and based at the Radio Research Station at Orfordness on the Suffolk coast. Thus, RDF or Radio Direction Finding was born and progress began to find suitable areas upon which to site the transmitters and receivers. Rapidly becoming known as RADAR, the four stations planned initially were at Canewdon and Great Bromley in Essex and Dover and Dunkirk in Kent. These were the first of a chain of such stations which came to be called appropriately Chain Home Stations. These were handed over to the RAF in May 1937, none too soon for the expected war.

The next year saw an intense building programme begin to establish a cohesive system of early warning. Experiments had shown that low flying aircraft could sometimes slip under the radar beam



and remain undetected. To counteract this, stations known as Chain Home Low Stations were built. When the Battle of Britain began on the July 10, 1940, 21 operational Chain Home and Chain Home Low stations were in operation. Those in Kent were at Dover, Dunkirk and Foreness and in Sussex at Rye, Poling, Beachy Head, Pevensey, Truleigh and Fairlight, near Hastings.

Radio masts were built across the county. These emitted radio waves which would bounce off approaching aircraft providing a means of pinpointing incoming danger. The Germans discounted the importance of the masts, and were operating at a disadvantage against opposition who also were able to intercept enemy radio traffic - a crucial factor in how the Battle of Britain was won.

SIR HUGH DOWDING, COMMANDER NO11 GROUP, FIGHTER COMMAND PLACED GREAT FAITH IN RADAR

OUR FINEST HOUR

Fighter boys



...survive to tell three different stories but each had one aim: 'Get him or he'll get you'

BY ALLAN WILLETT
Lord Lieutenant of Kent

EVOCATIVE photographs and eyewitness accounts in this KM Group supplement reveal that our frontline county was never more in the thick of it than during the Battle of Britain.

In this 70th anniversary year the Lieutenancy of Kent will embark on a poignant journey.

On July 19 and 20, we will be laying wreaths during a tour of Kent airfields that bore the brunt of the Luftwaffe's attempts to destroy the RAF. West Malling, Manston, Detling, Eastchurch, Rochester, Gravesend, Lympne, Hawkinge – their names are a roll of honour.

Accompanying the Lieutenancy party will be one of the last of The Few and one of today's pilots decorated for bravery in Afghanistan – demonstrating that the spirit of those who fought and won the Battle of Britain lives on in today's Royal Air Force.

The tour will end at the memorial at Capel. It is important we never forget the huge significance of the great air battle that made the eventual Second World War victory possible.

This young pilot snatched a catnap between raids during the Battle of Britain. Fully clothed, with his flying log and map tucked in his boot, he was ready to scramble whenever the call came.

From July 1940, day after day, week after week, month after month, the RAF fighter boys fought the Luftwaffe in what was the most decisive air battle in history.

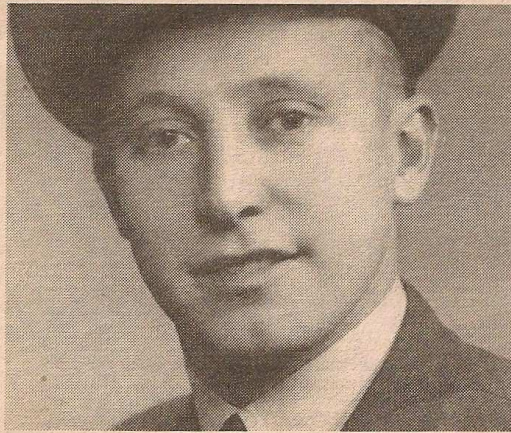
Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering thought he would have command of the Kent skies within a week.

Four months later and despite the Luftwaffe's greater numbers, the RAF reigned supreme in their Spitfires and Hurricanes.

On the ground the people of Kent rallied – nursing the casualties, working in fields and factories, putting out fires, clearing bombed towns and cities.

For our tomorrows, so many gave their todays.

The long, hot summer of 1940 was recorded in the Kent Messenger and several front pages have been reproduced in this supplement, together with stories and pictures of bomb damage and how people fought to carry on with everyday life. They all have a unique story to tell and one we should never forget.



Fit Lt Jimmy Corbin - page 4



Wg Cmdr Peter Ayerst - page 6



Wg Cmdr Bob Foster - page 7

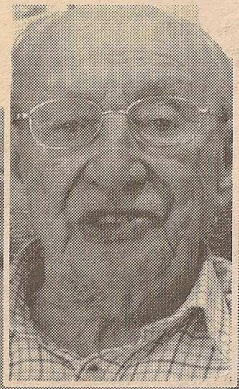


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THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN WAS THE MOST DECISIVE AIR BATTLE IN HISTORY AND FOUGHT OUT OVER KENT

Jimmy Corbin in the cockpit of a Spitfire
Picture: The History Press



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have time to be scared.
Your main focus was on
ensuring your survival.
There's no point in
being a dead hero.

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IT WAS meant to give the people of Maidstone a thrill – 18 Spitfires roaring at rooftop height across the town. The excitement of the spectacle would serve to reassure that these daring young pilots would protect the townsfolk during Britain's darkest hours.

What Jimmy Corbin hadn't realised when he had suggested to his commanding officer that they "beat up" Maidstone, was that the very same day Mill Street had been extensively bombed. Instead of being thrilled the locals were terrified.

"We were transferring from Gravesend to West Malling at the time," said Jimmy at his home in Bearsted.

"I lived in Bower Street, Maidstone and just wanted to give the people a bit of a shoot-up."

By co-incidence Jeanne, the girl he was eventually to marry, witnessed the Mill Street bombing and thinks she probably did see those Spitfires zooming.

Battle of Britain pilot Flt Lt Jimmy Corbin joined the RAF in late 1938.

He was taught to fly in Miles Magister trainers at Rochester Airport under Vic Arnold, and did his basic training in Chatham, before moving on to an operational training unit near Chester.

"I had always wanted to fly," he said. "My schoolboy hero was Sir Alan Cobham, the flying ace who ran his own flying circus.

"Being a sergeant pilot I was paid a fortune for those days. An ordinary squaddie in the army received 1s 6d a day. We were paid 13s 6d. a day."

His training complete, Jimmy joined his first combat unit – 66 Squadron – at Gravesend. The airfield was roughly where part of the Riverview Park Estate has been built.

The squadron patrolled much of Kent and the coast. Jimmy soon realised that

the tight formation flying which was then standard, restricted visibility for all but the pilot of the leading aircraft. He made his complaint known and later a much more open formation was adopted.

He said: "My nickname was Binder because I always had something to say. My colleagues said I found everything a bind, so the name stuck. I have never been afraid to speak my mind."

Jimmy's most frightening experience was being jumped by 30 or more Messerschmitt 109s from behind. He said: "A pilot always wants to get above and behind his enemy.

"The only thing was to take evasive action with what was known as a 'split arse turn'. It meant climbing steeply and turning to one side or the other."

Experience

Because he was a relatively raw pilot at the start of the Battle of Britain, Jimmy, together with 20 or 30 other pilots, was posted to Accrington to gain experience. He wasn't posted back until midway through October.

It was a posting he believes saved his life. Had he remained over Kent, he might well have been shot down.

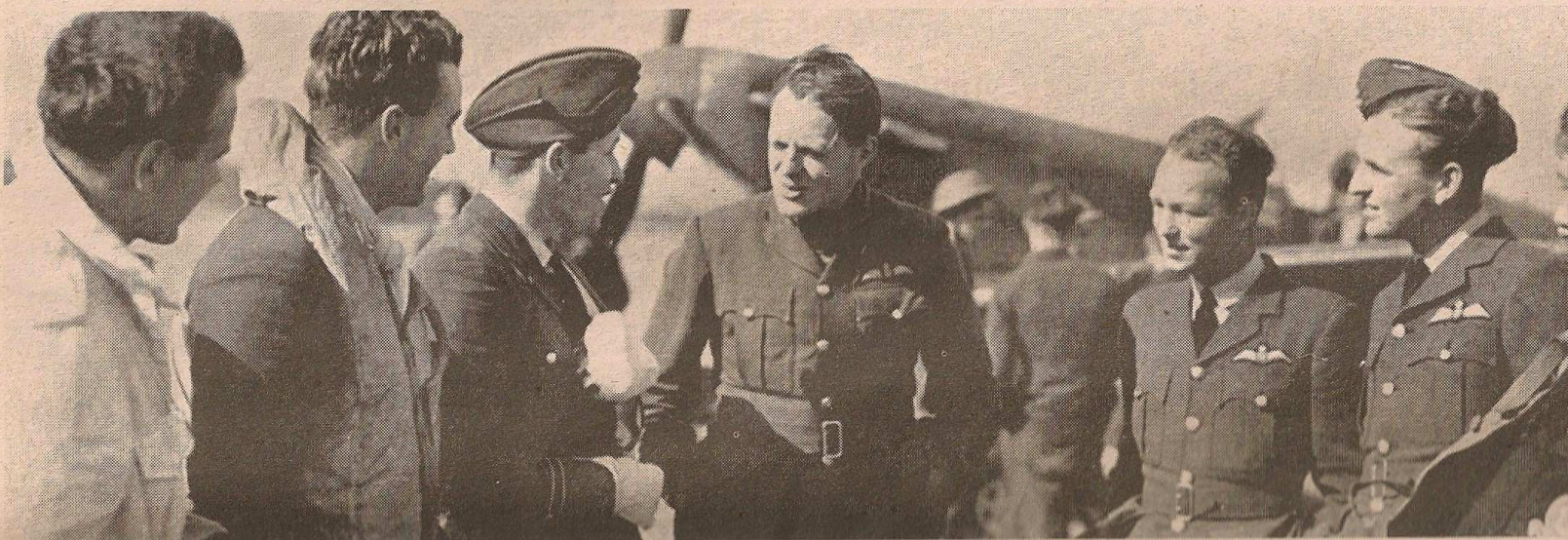
Although the Battle of Britain came to an official end on October 31, 1940, 66 Squadron was kept busy attacking bombers blitzing London, whose flight path was across Kent. Although he shot at and hit many aircraft it was difficult to claim a kill.

He said: "You had to be 100 per cent certain you hit the enemy plane, and you had to witness either the pilot baling out or the aircraft hitting the ground. Usually you couldn't hang around.

"Sometimes there would be up to 70 planes

BEATING UP WAS COMMON PRACTICE: TO FLY AS LOW AS POSSIBLE

Let's beat up Maidstone!



No 66 Squadron at Gravesend, in October 1940

Like many boys of his era, Jimmy Corbin was brought up on a diet of books and magazines featuring flying aces of the First World War. When he was 12, he heard Sir Alan Cobham's Flying Circus was coming to town, so he begged his father to go.

With the 3d tram fare he made his way to Mangravet where people had already gathered in a field to watch the show. A Gloster Gamecock came buzzing over - and Jimmy was mesmerised.

It was joined by more pre-1925 aeroplanes and the stunts began with wing-walking and loop the loops, then Sir Alan let his plane dive to the ground before pulling up just in time for it to level out in front of the crowd. Jimmy remembers one of the wings tilted to one side. On the tip was a wire which the pilot used to hook a handkerchief on the ground.

Jimmy was 'in awe' and from that day on he vowed he would become a pilot whatever it took.

Flt Lt Corbin DFC, who will be 93 next month, said: "I was as good as any rich kid. Being wealthy didn't make you a good pilot. My mind was made up."

At 17, he went to the RAF recruitment office at Chatham but was deemed too young. At his next interview, age 22, the Wing Commander looked up from his desk and said: "Well, Corbin, there's nothing particularly right with you, but there's nothing particularly wrong with you either."

Jimmy knew he was in.

around you," he said. "Then after taking evasive action it would seem you were the only one in the sky.

"You didn't really have time to be scared. Your main focus was on ensuring your survival; there's no point in being a dead hero.

"Of course there was a danger of collision, and sometimes that did happen."

Jimmy is sure of one kill.

That was in March 1941 when his squadron was in the West Country. They were scrambled to look for a Heinkel that had been bombing Liverpool and was headed down the Cornish coast.

"I shot at it and know I hit it the second time," he said. "I also know I killed the rear gunner. The aircraft dived but went into sea fog so I never saw it crash. That meant I couldn't claim it.

"But a few years ago I got a letter from a Canadian pilot who had become friendly with a German pilot. The German told him he had been the sole survivor of a Heinkel that had been shot down over Cornwall. It could only have been the one I hit."

After the war, Jimmy went back to Colyer Road School, Northfleet, where he had been in teacher training before joining the RAF. He intended staying only a year, but remained there for 30 years. He later transferred to Maidstone Technical School which he had attended as a boy.

Jimmy became a keen golfer and is a member of Bearsted Golf Club – although now, at 92, he prefers to stay nearer the bar than the green.

■ Mr Corbin has been nominated to receive the Freedom of the Borough of Maidstone.



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Peter Ayerst, inset and below.
Main picture: Above the clouds
flying in formation with his
squadron

WHEN the Messerschmitt 109 he was chasing disappeared into the clouds above northern France, Peter Ayerst throttled back, turned the Hurricane, and headed

for home. Little did he realise he was about to set off the first air battle of the Second World War.

"As I was returning to our base at Rouvres I could see nine aircraft coming up in line astern below me," he said. "I thought they were from our No. 1 Squadron but when I got closer I could see they had bloody great black crosses on them

Heroes

that went to hell and back





"I gave a quick squirt at the snap on the tail end – don't know whether I hit him or not – and went flat out for home. "Unbeknown to me, they had seen my Hurricane and had turned and were chasing me. There were 27 of them by then, I hadn't seen the other 18.

"Without realising it I took them through a French fighter patrol and the French pilots went for them, shooting down nine 109s. It was officially the first air encounter of the war."

Having escaped the Messerschmitts, Peter, from Beckenham, found an airfield at Nancy and landed.

As he was taxiing away from the landing strip the Hurricane stopped. It had run out of fuel.

He spent the night at Nancy, flying back to Rouvres next day. When he arrived

the senior aircraft engineer pointed out that the tailplane was full of bullet holes.

Technically, Peter cannot claim to be a Battle of Britain pilot. Strict rules governing such claims insist you have to be on active service between July 10 and October 31, 1940.

By then he was involved in training. The pilots who had gone to France in the initial stages of the war were the only ones with real combat experience against the Luftwaffe, experience that had to be passed on.

"But I did shoot down a Heinkel bomber during that period," he said. "Although we were training we did quite a few standard patrols.

"It was August 7, 1940. I was at an airbase near Chester. We heard some explosions, looked up and saw this Heinkel being shot at by anti-aircraft fire. We got three Spitfires started up, went up and I got him. He made quite a good wheels-up crash landing and the crew were taken prisoner."

After several months training Peter was selected to go to North Africa where he was operational throughout the El Alamein campaign.

His most lucky escape was when he crash landed his Hurricane in a desert minefield having been shot up from the ground. "I was losing control and weaving around," he said.

"I saw this track and crash landed. "I got out of the aircraft and lay flat on the ground for fear of being seen and shot. When it got dark I started to walk in the general direction of our troops.

"A vehicle came up fast. I thought it was the Germans and was resigned to becoming a prisoner. Then I heard an Australian voice call: 'Is there anybody there?' They'd seen me come down but couldn't drive out until it got dark.

"I jumped in and they drove off at a hell of a speed. They told me if I'd come down anywhere else I would have blown up because it was a minefield."

June 1944 saw Peter patrolling the Channel in a Spitfire of the Baroda Squadron, named after a wealthy Maharaja who funded it. Their aim was to prevent the Luftwaffe attacking the Normandy invasion forces.

Six days after D-Day he had the satisfaction of shooting down a Messerschmitt 20 miles east of the North Foreland. His log book shows that the pilot baled out.

Peter was later involved in escorting bomber squadrons. Twice he was called upon to escort a Dakota carrying George VI when he visited troops during the liberation of Europe.

As the war drew towards its close, Peter had just one more conquest to make. He met his wife-to-be, Betty, at The Three Compasses in Canterbury where she was barmaid. They were married on June 5 at the Church of the Holy Cross, Canterbury. After the war the couple ran the pub but the flying bug took hold and Peter rejoined the RAF, later becoming a test pilot at Castle Bromwich.

Peter, 89, left the RAF as a Wing Commander. For his wartime service he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

THEY TOLD ME IF I'D COME DOWN ANYWHERE ELSE I WOULD HAVE BLOWN UP, BECAUSE IT WAS A MINEFIELD

Many gather to remember

The Few

THE RAF remains close to Wg Cmdr Bob Foster's heart and he is always in demand at flying days and forces' events.

He said: "It used to be just the boys meeting up at reunions but now, it is wives and families, too. In fact, there were 50 of us the other week and just 13 veterans."

Many of the remaining 'Few' will be getting back together at the national memorial at Capel-Le-Ferne, near Folkestone, on Sunday July 11 in the annual tribute to those who fought in the skies during the battle.

The memorial, paid for by public subscription, was unveiled by the late Queen Mother in 1993.

The Memorial Wall was added in 2005 and lists on black granite tablets nearly 3,000 names of the aircrew who fought in the battle.

Well over 500 died during those few months and almost 800 more did not see the end of the war.

The list includes every man known to have qualified for the 1939-45 Star with Battle of Britain Clasp.

To be included they had to have made one authorised operational flight with one of

OUR WALL

Here inscribed the names of friends we knew

Young men with whom we often flew.

Scrambled to many angels high,

They knew that they or friends might die.

Many were very scarcely trained

And many badly burnt or maimed.

Behind each name a story lies

Of bravery in summer skies;

Though many brave unwritten tales

Were simply told in vapour trails.

Many now lie in sacred graves

And many rest beneath the waves.

Outnumbered every day they flew,

Remembered here as just 'The Few'.

the 71 'designated units' under the control of Fighter Command between July 10 and October 31 1940. There are less than 100 left of those who received the honour and around 20 are expected to attend this year's anniversary tribute together with nearly 120 friends and relatives.

The youngest is 89 and the oldest William L B Walker, aged 97, will read out his poem Our Wall as he does every year.

Prince Michael of Kent, patron of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, which looks after the site, will be attending the tribute and he will be joined by the most senior figure in the Royal Air Force, Sir Stephen Dalton.

The parade will begin at 1.30pm and will be followed by a fly-past by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Spitfire and Hurricane.

After a commemorative service the memorial flight will return at 3pm, this time accompanied by the Lancaster.

The event, which is free, will end at 4pm with a Sunset ceremony and music from the RAF Central Band.

"The Battle of Britain was, for this country, arguably the most important battle of the 20th century," said Group Captain Patrick Tootal, secretary of the memorial trust

"This year, on the 70th anniversary of the battle, we are hoping for a particularly large attendance by those who would like to show their respects to those who died and their



Earlier this year saw the launch of a £650,000 appeal to add an education centre at the memorial site.

Grp Capt Tootal said that originally the trust was aiming for £2.5m but decided that in the tough economic climate they had to opt for a more phased and realistic approach.

The first 'basic building blocks' of the plan will include a cinema, study centre and a mock up of a dispersal hut showing aircrew at readiness. Later it is hoped they will be able to add Spitfire and Hurricane flight simulators.

"People will be able to come here to study or learn more about the Battle of Britain, particularly young people," said Grp Capt Tootal.

"The prime objective is to show the significance of the battle, not only to the nation but to the world.

"The battle ensured Europe remained free and we want to tell that story."

Wg Cmdr Bob Foster is a member of the trust.

He said: "Many of my good friends and comrades gave their lives in the struggle for victory and they must not be forgotten.

To this end an education centre will enable future generations to understand the fighter pilots gave their lives."

Would you like crash pilot's ear, Sir?

As Pilot Officer Bob Foster's Hurricane trundled to an unceremonious halt at Gatwick, after its engine died, he was met by an airman, pointing to a ME110 burning on the side of the field.

"Did you shoot it down?" he asked.

Bob said he could not say for sure.

"I just wondered Sir, because it blew up and I have the chap's ear, if you would like it."

Bob declined gracefully.

It had been an eventful day. The 605 Squadron diary for September 27, 1940 recorded: 'Great Day for the Squadron'.

Bob remembers that the ME110s were flying in one of their infamous defensive circles – either lost or waiting for bombers to escort. 605 went up and shot down about six of them and several 'limped home badly mauled'. This unit never flew again in the Battle.

Just before his aborted landing, Bob had sent fire into an ME110 and was lining up for another burst when 'there was an almighty bang' and his engine blew up.

Glycol was pouring from the Merlin but as the Hurricane was not burning, Bob decided to stay with it for a bit longer.

He turned off the petrol, turned on the oxygen and looked for a field to land. Although the engine had stopped, the wheels and flaps came down.

He later heard a German had 'claimed' him as he saw Bob fall away.

That day the squadron claimed three 110s destroyed, one probable and two

Pilot Officer Bob Foster was the first Spitfire pilot to knock out an enemy aircraft in Australia. He destroyed a Japanese Dinah light bomber (allied codeword for Mitsubishi Ki-46) but his modesty prevailed. He said:

"The action was really a great piece of luck. I was hero of the hour and this bit of excitement caused all sorts of interest.

"My face was soon all over the newspapers in Australia and at home.

"It must have lasted more than the 15 minutes of fame everyone should be allotted according to Andy Warhol."

damaged. "We were all pretty pleased with ourselves," said Bob, 90.

Next day, while Bob was on his way back to RAF Croydon his squadron was scrambled again where from 25,000ft they bounced some ME109s. As soon as he was back he had to return to the air – in fact he flew four times, twice in combat.

He said: "Psychiatrists and psychologists were in short supply and counselling unknown, or we might have been grounded due to combat stress. Instead, a few pints in the pub did the trick."

That day he had to jump out of the bath to chase five Ju88s south. The squadron shot down one, helped bring down three and watched another crash at Winchelsea.

Was he ever frightened? Bob said: Well, yes we did get anxious but in 605 there was never any thought that we were going

to lose the fight."

October 7 was a particularly eventful day.

"Messerschmitts were all over London," said Bob. By 10am, 605's Jock Muirhead had to bale out near Dartford. On the same day Viktor Molders (brother of Werner) was shot down at Guestling to become a Pow. In the afternoon we were off again. We found a group of 15 ME109s but failed to see another 40 or more 109s above and behind. We got the warning 'Break, break, break' and scattered."

Bob added: "When you got the instruction you never argued. Charles English, my No 2, must have been slow in breaking as his Hurricane was hit badly. He did not make it back and fell at Brasted.

"I went down as fast as I could then pulled out, looked around, but it seemed nothing had happened.

"Then ahead of me, for some unearthly reason, a 109 was peacefully going home. After checking the sky, I closed in, sat behind him, lined his silhouette in my gunsight and shot him down.

"It was extraordinary. He must have been one of the bunch that attacked us, made a shot and figured he was done.

"Perhaps he was a bomb-carrier and having dropped his bomb, was going home for tea. His mind could not have been on the job.

"You can never relax when you are in action; that does not work. This chap had and paid the price."



STRESS? COUNSELLING WAS UNKNOWN, BUT A FEW PINTS IN THE PUB GENERALLY DID THE TRICK

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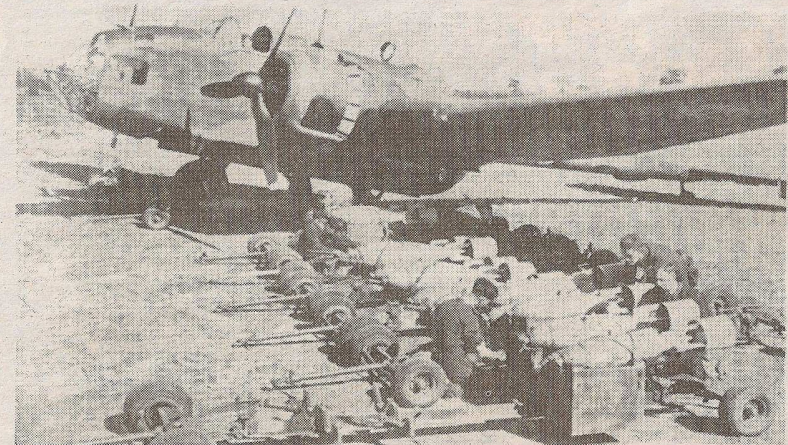
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THE BEGINNING OF A RAID.—Bombing raids are carried out on enemy troop concentrations and lines of communication from this Bomber Station in England. Aircraft being loaded with bombs ready for a raid.

HOP-PICKING PLANS REST ON WAR SITUATION

MINISTRY'S REPLY TO FARMERS' ANXIETY OVER HARVESTING

KENT hop-growers whose farms are in restricted areas are getting anxious about picking. In many places there is not enough local labour to get in the crop and farmers fear that war restrictions may prevent London hop-pickers from entering the areas to gather the harvest.

movement of hop-pickers in defence areas is under active consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture and the military authorities, who are also in touch with Lord Cornwallis (chairman of the Kent War Agricultural Committee).

MINISTRY'S ATTITUDE The Ministry of Home Security has stated that it would be premature to give a definite undertaking that the normal hop-picking arrangements would be practicable, but adds that "if possible" interference with these arrangements will be avoided.

OTHER QUESTIONS IN VIEW Other questions which will have to be considered in connection with hop-picking this year will be the footing and existing arrangements of the pickers who move from London into Kent, and the black-out. The footness of pickers for lighting centres is notorious and the whole lighting arrangements in camps will have to receive careful

Pacifist's Refusal To Appear Before Medical Board BENCH ORDER POLICE TO TAKE HIM THERE

CHARGED with failing to submit himself to medical examination in Maidstone in accordance with a written notice as a person liable to be called up for service under the National Service Armed Forces Act, John Boyd Brent, described as a freelance journalist of The Daily Worker, was taken to a court on Wednesday.

ACCUSED OF BEING A "GERMAN SPY" "Purely Imaginary Rumour" Led To Rag & Bone Man's Suicide

BECAUSE he had been accused of being a German spy, Thomas Sawyer, a rag and bone merchant, of Mount Zion, Tunbridge Wells, took his life by throwing himself into a pond at Fordehouse.

"Go-To-It" Jam Makers

HOW much jam can ten busy women make in an evening? The answer is provided by the Maidstone Women's Institute. On Friday ten members made no fewer than 83 pounds of jam. On Monday they made another 47 pounds.

Overwhelmed By Successful Advertising!

THE "Kent Messenger's" powerful "pulling power" as an advertising media was alluded to in "Advertisers' Weekly," a journal devoted exclusively to the interests of advertisers.

SHARE OF £1,000,000 FORTUNE FOR KENT ARMY PRIVATE WORKING-CLASS FAMILY'S WINDFALL FROM AMERICA

THE postman mounted the steps of a block of working-class flats in King Street, Maidstone, and thrust through Mrs. Alice Hills' door a letter which bore an American stamp.

Nothing unusual in that, for Mrs. Hills has relatives in America and receives letters from them. So she was in no hurry to open the letter, and went on cooking breakfast for her family.

But this letter was different, and when she did open it, to use her own words, "It made me shake so much that it was five minutes before I could pull myself together."

It was from the British Consul in Michigan and it contained the amazing information that Mrs. Hills' husband, Private Fred Mills, of the East Surrey Regiment, had inherited under a \$4,000,000 dollar will left by his father, Mr. John Hills, 84-year-old Maidstone ex-Police Constable, who died in May at his home, Harvard Avenue, Dearborn, U.S.A.

Mr. John Hills was a widower, and he left his £1,000,000 fortune to be shared equally among his six children.

In the small living room of her flat, Mrs. Hills talked to a "Kent Messenger" reporter of the change which the news had wrought in her life.

she was born in a humble home in Sheeps Place, Stone Street, Maidstone, where her mother had lived for 40 years, and where she was married here married life. Then the Corporation pulled down the house under a clearance scheme and Mr. and Mrs. Hills moved to King Street, flats.

Mrs. Hills has always worked hard, sometimes in factories, and she was on munitions in the last war. There was the struggle of bringing up a family of seven boys and girls, five of whom are now grown up. Her husband is a steady man but often they had a job to make ends meet.

A DREAM COMING TRUE Mrs. Hills always longed to live in the country where she could have a bigger house and a garden and now her dreams are to come true.

"By next Christmas," she said, "we hope to be far away from Maidstone. We want to take a little 'gap' somewhere or at the back, where I can keep chickens and look after them."



WHILE SHE WAITS for further news of her husband's fortune, Mrs. Alice Hills carries on preparing the mid-day meal.

QUIET COURAGE WILL SEE THE PEOPLE THROUGH, SAYS BISHOP

"I COULD almost find it in my heart to say 'Thank God for the war' if it has taught us Christians how to become united and work together."

The secret of courage was trust in God reinforced by prayer, and as England stood up as the last bulwark in Europe against pagan aggression they needed that same indomitable courage which possessed the early Christians.

NON-WAR WORKERS OF COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF Far-Reaching Resolution To Be Moved

IT is expected that a far-reaching resolution will be moved at the quarterly meeting of the Kent County Council next Wednesday.

MINISTRY OF FOOD REGISTER NOW FOR COOKING

READERS FURNISH BRITISH REFUGEES' COTTAGE

Help Comes Within Two Hours Of "Kent Messenger" Appeal

RECENTLY the "Kent Messenger" published an appeal on this page for furniture for a small cottage for two British refugees from France who had reached this country without money or belongings.

The Kent Council of Social Service, on behalf of whom we made the appeal, informs us that the cottage was "furnished" within two hours of the appearance of the appeal.

Soon the refugees' cottage was completely furnished with beds, sheets, blankets, a table, carpets, pots and pans — everything needed, in fact, for them to set up a new home.

BOY KILLED BY SOLDIER'S RIFLE

THE accidental discharge of a soldier's rifle at Herhill, near Faversham, on Monday morning caused the death of William Walter Charles Hunt, aged 14, a glazier's apprentice of The Stables, Mount Ephraim.

HOW FORTUNE WAS BUILT

Mr. John Hills once served in the Maidstone Borough Police Force and later he and his wife kept a small shop as booties. One of their daughters went to America and married there.

Private Fred Mills is 44 and Mrs. Hills is 40. They were met by the former with the Maidstone Corporation engaged on road work. He joined the Army voluntarily about six months ago.

Frank Arthur Boniface, another Director, states that Mr. Mills "What would you do if I took hold of your rifle? and then took hold of the barrel."

The Coroner recorded a verdict of "Accidental death," and expressed sympathy with the family.

Pacifist's Refusal To Appear Before Medical Board

BENCH ORDER POLICE TO TAKE HIM THERE

CHARGED with failing to submit himself to medical examination in Maidstone in accordance with a written notice as a person liable to be called up for service under the National Service Armed Forces Act, John Boyd Brent, described as a free-lance journalist, of The Oaks, Lougham, Colchester, and formerly of Tuxbridge Wells, appeared before the magistrates at Maidstone on Tuesday.

Brent said that he pleaded guilty on grounds of conscience.

Mr. W. H. Day, on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, said that Brent was born on May 12th, 1910, and when the King came for his age group to register he registered himself as conscientious objector. The Act came into force on September 22nd last year and under that Brent was liable to be medically examined.

APPEAL DISMISSED

He had been before the Regional Conscientious Objector Tribunal and before the Court of Appeal and both dismissed his application to be registered as a conscientious objector. Therefore Brent was liable to be medically examined.

Brent said Mr. Day had one opportunity of coming before the Medical Board in March and another on June 1st, but he had failed to attend to be examined.

Mr. Day said that the Court had the power to fine Brent, but the Minister of Labour did not desire that course at all; he desired the man to go before the Medical Board.

Asked if he had any questions to ask, Brent said "I have no intention of voluntarily acquiescing in any medical examination or joining the Army itself, but from that there is no question about the charge or my position in regard to it."

BENCH GRANT ORDER FOR POLICE TO ACT

The Mayor (Alderman Sir Gerrard Tyndall-Drake) said the Bench made the necessary order as requested by Mr. Day, that Brent should be kept in custody and taken by the Police to appear before the Medical Board the next day.

ACCUSED OF BEING A "GERMAN SPY"

"Purely Imaginary Rumour" Led To Rag & Bone Man's Suicide

BECAUSE he had been accused of being a German spy, Thomas Sawyer, a rag and bone merchant, of Mount Zion, Tuxbridge Wells, took his life by throwing himself into a pond at Fordingham.

Recorditz a verdict of "suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed," the Coroner (Mr. J. H. Soady), at the inquest on Wednesday said the man had taken his life through worrying over a "purely imaginary rumour."



A "Kent Messenger" reporter with his barrow of aluminium ware, collected from Gravesend housewives.

RUSSIAN INVENTOR HELPING BRITAIN

Arrested With Family On Sunday Visit To Sevenoaks

THREE Russian people who paid a Sunday visit to Sevenoaks for some time ago, spent four hours under detention at the Police Station instead, because their foreign accent attracted the attention of a police officer, who arrested them when he found out that they were aliens who had come into a protected area without a permit.

This story was disclosed at Sevenoaks Police Court on Friday last week, when Mr. Victor Dybowski, C.M.G., stated to be a distinguished inventor, his wife Mrs. Claudine Dybowski, and their daughter, Miss Miliza Dybowski, of Whitehall Court, London, E.W.1, pleaded guilty to the offence. It was stated that they had been misinformed about the Defence Order and the case was dismissed on payment of 4s. costs each.

Supt. Moloney said the defendants were led away by information given to them by someone in the hotel where they had been staying in London, and in consequence they came down to Sevenoaks for a little fresh air and to have a look round. The police were satisfied that this explanation was

truth. When defendants arrived they were arrested, brought to the Police Station and bailed out.

WORKING ON WAR INVENTIONS

Mr. S. B. Pocock, for defendants, said they had been living in this country since 1915. Mr. Dybowski had been working very hard on some inventions for the British Government, and as a little relaxation he decided to come down with his wife and daughter on a motor coach trip to Sevenoaks on this Sunday afternoon and re-visit Kneke, which he knew.

Mr. Dybowski was a somewhat distinguished inventor, and in the last war he was awarded £5,000 by the Royal Commission on Inventions for his inventions in connection with the Vickers-Mann gun, and for these reasons he was also made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

He was again very busy, working for the British Government on a certain invention. Mr. Pocock produced a letter from the Personal Assistant to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff in support of his statement

household treasures battered and broken

of Mrs. Hills knew that her husband's family in America had money, and old Mrs. Hills often sent her gifts, but it was never realised that they were as wealthy as the will has proved.

HOW FORTUNE WAS BUILT

Mr. John Hills once served in the Maidstone Borough Police Force and later he and his wife kept a snuff shop at Sodinge. One of their daughters went to America and married there. She invited her father and she went to join her and they sailed to America, where they prospered. Both were shrewd business people and Mrs. Hills specialised in hand buying snuff near towns and reaping the reward when building expansion took place.

Private Fred Mills is 54 and Mrs. Mills is 45. Mr. Mills was for four years a fireman with the Maidstone Corporation engaged on road work. He joined the Army voluntarily about six months ago.

The will is to be read on August 15th, and Mr. Hills hoped to get leave from the Army to put his affairs in order.

THE accidental discharge of a soldier's rifle at Herringhill, near Faversham, on Monday morning caused the death of William Walter Charles Neale, aged 16, a glazier's apprentice, of The Stables, Mount Ephraim. The rifle was being held at the time by Driver Oliver Edward Mann, of the R.A.S.C.

At the inquest at Faversham on Wednesday Mann stated the driver giving the corporal the number of his rifle he thought he would clean it. He got the rifle out of the lorry and pulled the bolt back, causing it to be cocked. He then pulled the trigger and there was a discharge which struck Neale, who was standing close by.

In reply to the Coroner (Mr. T. B. Bishop), witness said he loaded the rifle the night before and should have unloaded it in the morning, but forgot to do so.

Frank Arthur Boniface, another Driver, stated that Neale said, "What would you do if I took hold of your rifle and then took hold of the barrel."

The Coroner recorded a verdict of "Accidental death," and expressed sympathy with both the father of the dead boy and Driver Mann.

HAVE YOU ANY ALUMINIUM, MUM?

"Kent Messenger" Man's Adventures With His Junk Barrow

"HAVE you any aluminium, Mum?" With that question I called on hundreds of Gravesend housewives this week in the role of a wandering junk man, writes a member of the "Kent Messenger" reporting staff at Gravesend.

I was astounded not only at the response but at the spirit with which everyone responded.

EVERY LITTLE HELPS

For example, a lady whom we will call Mrs. Brown answered my knock at one house: "We've come to see whether you have any aluminium to spare," I asked.

"Yes," she replied, smiling, "I have only an old saucepan, but I suppose every little helps." Back she went to the kitchen and there was a clatter of pans. Then the good lady appeared bearing not only a saucepan, but a frying pan as well. Some of the things were old and sooty, others were almost brand new. "I did not really intend to give you this," she said, "but you might as well take it. We must do all we can, and a Spitfire is more use at the moment than a pan. Those boys are giving everything they have for us."

Skywards just at that moment, a fighter streaked through some clouds.

Mrs. Jones, a few houses away, adopted a pretence because she had no aluminium to give. She had a pair of iron bed frames if they were any use! One of the surprising things was the amount of salvagable metal people were willing to give. Had my barrow been a lorry I could have collected bed frames, lengths of copper and brass galore. A box of razor blades was offered as well as a huge model cannon made of cast iron, and a van load of empty paint tins.

One wonderful old lady in an old-fashioned gown with a lacy throat-tight neckline, after giving me all her aluminium, begged me to take two Georgian teapots, which although they required electro-plating, were beautifully worked and quite valuable. They were given her as a silver wedding present. She wanted me to take a bright copper umbrella stand and some ornaments, as well.

THE REASON FOR THE CHOPPER

So that everything given me could never be used again, except as scrap, I carried with me a huge chopper with a spiked head. It was heart-breaking enough for me to have to wreck any usable utensil, but it was much worse for the owners to see their household treasures battered and broken

before their eyes.

At one house I was told that there was no aluminium. I turned away, but was called back. "Have a minute," the lady of the house said, "I'll let you have my tin saucepan." The manner in which she said "my tin saucepan," told me that there was to be the parting of the ways for two old friends.

Then I made a mistake. "I'll hit it with my chopper, so that it can't be used again," I said.

I gave the saucepan a lusty wallop. "Oh, my poor saucepan," wailed its former owner.

One lady staggered me by bringing out a complete set of saucepans—practically new. She dumped them in the barrow. "I can use 'em to replace them, but it's worth it," she said.

WELL SHOW THOSE JERRIES!

People will give anything if they think that it is one in the eye for Hitler. It was mainly that that inspired such overpowering generosity. Time and again I was told, "Here you are, take it all; we'll show those Jerries yet." Twice someone behind an armful of aluminium said, "I should think this ought to make a wing tip, and I hope it flies over Germany."

The menfolk were open-handed to a degree, and while the wife snoped around her shelves, one man pattered into the garage, emerging with cylinder cases, and bits of wire. Another handed over an aluminium-coated car jack in good working order. A third, whose hobby is an aquarium, gave me all the aluminium pans he uses to laze water in and out of glass tanks.

Housewives were particularly generous with the kitchen ware when their wives were out.

A NOISY JOB

It never seemed to take long before the barrow was full and overflowing, and I had to make repeated trips to and from the dump. I have rarely heard a worse din than a barrow-load of aluminium. Still the noise served as a good advertisement.

Apart from minor catastrophes such as when it began to rain while my rascals were being beneath at least 50 coffee pots, and when I missed my letter of authority at the very moment when it was demanded by a suspicious person, the job was rather good fun, and rattling in the right adjective, too.

Should Lord Desverbrook suggest another such salvage scheme, even if it is for old boots, I think I would go round with my barrow again.

R.P.

MINISTRY OF FOOD



REGISTER NOW FOR COOKING FATS

FROM next Monday, July 22nd, Margarine and Cooking Fats will be rationed. You must now fill in the particulars on the 'Cooking Fats' page of your Ration Book, and also inside the front cover. Then take the Book to a retailer *immediately* for registration.

BUTTER & MARGARINE

With the coupons marked 'BUTTER & MARGARINE' you will be able to buy a total weekly ration of 6 oz. You can buy *all* butter or *all* margarine, or some of each. *If you are registered for butter you need not register for margarine, as you will use the same coupons as for butter.*

COOKING FATS (or extra Margarine)

With the coupons marked 'COOKING FATS' you can buy 2 oz. per week of lard or compound lard, or, if you wish, 2 oz. of margarine. (This is in addition to any margarine you buy with your 'Butter & Margarine' coupons.) Dripping and suet are not to be rationed at present.

TEA

Tea is now rationed (2 oz. per week). You may buy from any shop you like—no registration is necessary. To avoid small quantities you may buy one week in advance. Make sure that your shopkeeper takes the coupons from the first page of SPARE Coupons (coloured buff) next to the SUGAR page.

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, 67, WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

MONEY IN OLD NEWSPAPERS

THEIR'S money in your old newspapers and magazines.

The "Kent Messenger" pays a penny for 3lbs. of newspapers (price controlled by Ministry of Supply), a penny for 3lbs. of magazines and periodicals, and a penny for bits of other waste paper, envelopes, card-board, etc.—all spot cash.

All waste should be separately banded, according to the classification above named, and securely tied and delivered to any of the following depots:

Maidstone: Buck's Garage, Easting Road (adjacent Maidstone Bus Station).

Ashford: 66, High Street.

Canterbury: 43, High Street.

Chatham: 46, High Street.

Gravesend: 23, Stone Street.

Sevenoaks: 81 and 81a, High Street.

Distinctions: Mrs. Wiley, The Red Shop, 54, Canterbury Street.

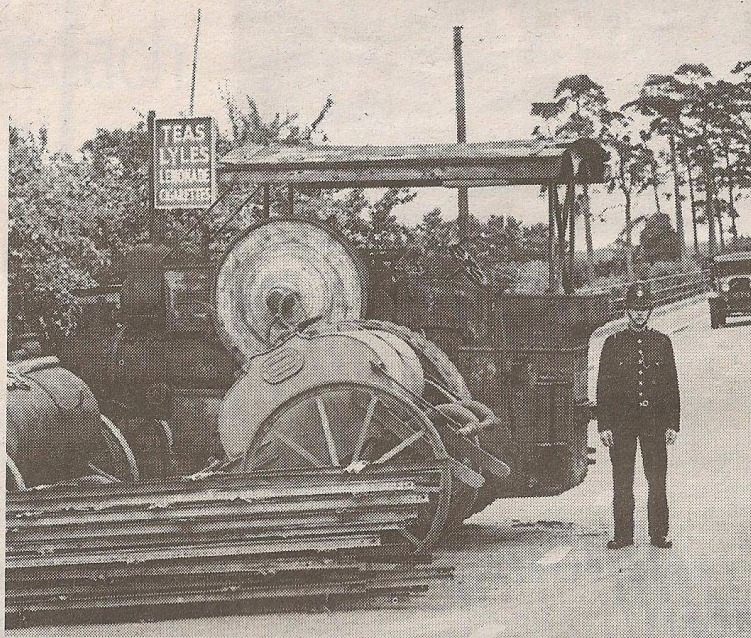
If you cannot deliver we can arrange collection from reasonable distances.

When waste is collected by us, prices will be: Newspapers 1d. for 3lbs.; Periodicals, etc. 1d. for 3lbs.; other waste 1d. for 3lbs.



Camouflaging County Hall in Maidstone

PD231479



A road barricade at East Peckham was made up of a steam roller, water carts and railway track

PD1697335

Efforts are doubled to produce more fighter planes

With the end of the First World War, most airfields that had served during this period were abandoned.

However, with the rumblings of another world conflict sounding, the RAF began an expansion scheme to build new and update existing airfields in the county.

Likewise Britain's aircraft industry began doubling its efforts to produce monoplane fighters and bombers to compete with what the government saw as a numerically superior German war machine.

The RAF still had obsolete biplane fighters but Sydney Camm's Hawker Hurricane, was being produced as quickly as possible together with the Supermarine Spitfire designed by Reginald Mitchell. It was none too soon.

In Kent, many small civil airfields were requisitioned by the military during this expansion period. Some were already operational by the time war broke out but others, such as West Malling, were still in the process of being built.

All of the airfields were grass surfaced but as more powerful and heavier aircraft were developed, so the need arose for concrete or tarmac runways.

These were slow in coming and even when the Second World War ended Detling, Hawkinge, Lympne and Gravesend still had no such facilities.

KENT PREPARES

for the battle of its life



...and despite the looming threat of attack, locals at Ashford Cricket Club tried to keep up soldiers' spirits at a home match

PD1697269

THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED 38 MILLION GAS MASKS BUT BY JUNE 1940, FEW BOTHERED TO CARRY THEM

facility.

By September 1939, Kent saw the fighter airfields of Biggin Hill, Manston, Hawkinge and Gravesend fully operational. Lympe, although built, was classed only as an emergency airfield and was to join Fighter Command some time later.

Detling and Eastchurch were Coastal Command airfields.

Rochester was the home of Short Brothers, the first aircraft manufacturing company in the UK. On the land airfield they were producing the Stirling bomber, the first four engined bomber for the RAF.

Along the esplanade on the River Medway, the Sunderland flying boat was under production.

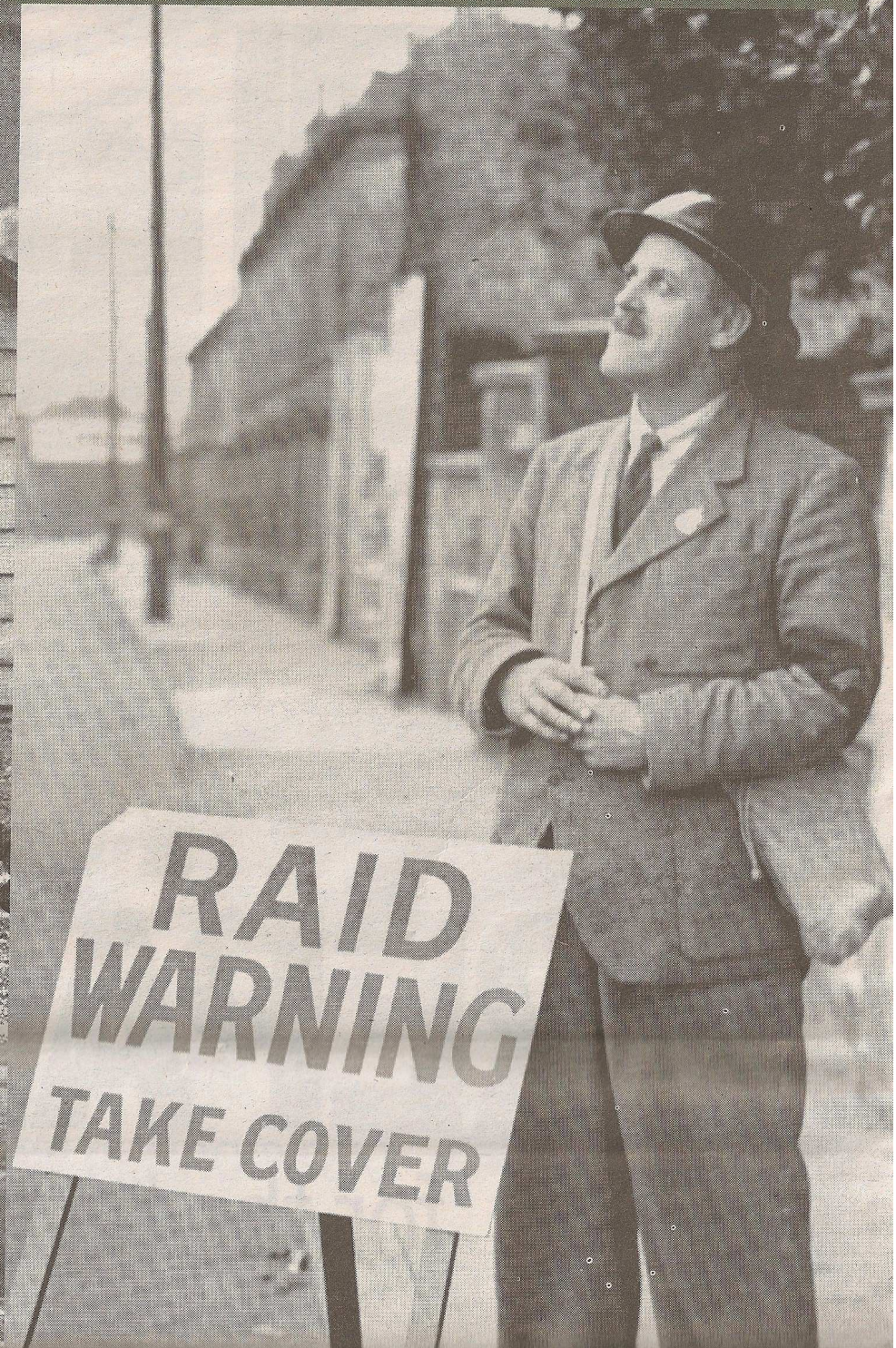
Nationalities of aircrew in battle

UK 2,341
Poland 145
New Zealand 127
Canada 112
Czechoslovakia 88
Australia 32
Belgium 28
South Africa 25
France 13
Eire 10
Southern Rhodesia 3
Barbados 1, Jamaica 1, Newfoundland 1

ANDERSON SHELTERS WERE GIVEN FREE TO THE LESS WELL OFF. MEN WHO EARNED MORE THAN £5 A WEEK COULD BUY ONE FOR £7



Rochester's Grand Hotel warden post PD1697484





Rochester's Grand Hotel warden post PD1697484



The Coastal Command airfield at Detling



An air raid warden putting out a warning sign on his patch in Canterbury

PD800522

DURING THE BLACKOUT, A MAN WAS FINED 10 SHILLINGS FOR LIGHTING A MATCH TO FIND HIS FALSE TEETH

NEWS FROM HOME!

Send the County Paper to Kent Friends Abroad.
 Period Orders (Prepaid) may be sent to "Kent Messenger" Offices at the following scale rates:
 3 mths. 6 mths. 12 mths.
 CANADA & NEWFOUNDLAND 3/10 7/7 15/2
 AND ALL PLACES ABROAD.

Kent Messenger



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TWO PENCE No. 7,012

INLAND POSTAGE 11d.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24, 1940

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 Registered as a Newspaper.

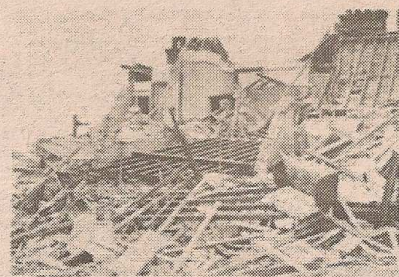
TWO PENCE

NAZI RAIDERS DROP BOMBS ON RESIDENTIAL AREA

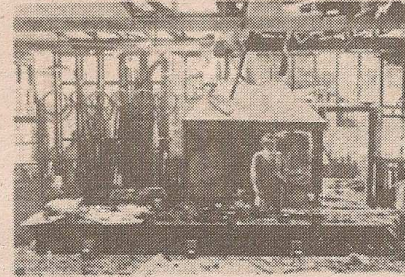


ONE OF TWO HUGE CRATERS made in a road at Northfleet, where a lamp post was uprooted.

THE MAIN BLOCK of the Central School, Northfleet, damaged by a direct hit. No children were at the school, although their specially built shelters escaped.



NO ONE WAS HURT when three houses were completely demolished in Northfleet. The occupants were safe in their shelters.



THE BURNT-OUT INTERIOR of the metalwork shop at Northfleet Central School.



THE FRONTS WERE BLOWN COMPLETELY OUT of these two houses. Furniture was smashed, and that in the upper stories crashed through the ceilings.

MORALE OF PEOPLE WITHSTANDS ORDEAL

A.R.P. Workers' Splendid Efforts In Big Test

ALTHOUGH Nazi planes last week-end swooped over and dropped bombs on a number of districts in the South-Eastern region, causing damage to residential areas and a number of casualties, the people's morale withstood the ordeal and the A.R.P. services did splendid work. Here are stories of the raids.

ONE OF THE MANY DOWN

How he saw a German gunner who had leapt out of the bomber which came down was described by Platoon Commander E. F. Talbot, of the Home Guard, Maidstone. The German, he said, had slipped off his perch and was making towards the railway when surrounded. He put up his hands and surrendered without resistance. After ascertaining that the man was not wounded, Mr. Talbot said to him "Spitfire get you. Spitfire good," to which the German replied "no, Messerschmitt better." The French Constable disarmed the German, who was taken in a car to a Police Station. Mr. Talbot said the German, who was a

although practically everything else in the room had suffered.

TRAFFIC MACHINE-GUNNED
 After an attack enemy planes made off towards the east of a town. One Rev. low over a Country Club and watchers thought it would strike the roof.

Traffic along a road is stated to have been machine-gunned, and bullets fell in gardens of houses in the village.

SKYDIVERED HIS WIFE

There was a remarkable coincidence at one village during Sunday's air attack. A young woman and her child passing along the village street were given shelter in the cottage which was wrecked by a bomb, she had come from Portsmouth to stay, in order to be near her husband, who is on duty in the district. He was unaware that she had arrived, and when he rushed to help extricate people from the wrecked dwellings, the first person he got out he found to be his own wife!

A woman was entering home alone when she was killed instantly by a bomb which exploded close to her car as she was within a few yards of reaching her house. The wrecked car ran across the common and plunged into a hedge.

V.C. FOR KENT AIRMAN

Heroic Bombing Raid Exploit

Flt.-Lieut. R. A. B. Learoyd

It was announced on Saturday that the V.C. had been awarded to Acting Flight-Lieut. Roderick Alastair Brook Learoyd, son of Major and Mrs. M.



County's Airman V.C. Of Last War

Capt. J. B. McCudden

JAMES BYFORD MCCUDDEN was Kent's airman V.C. of the last war and he served with such distinction that he became known as the leading British airman. Born at Chillingham, he joined the R.F.C. as a mechanic in May, 1915. He was given a commission in January, 1917, and subsequently won every decoration for valour open to British Army officers. Some of them he won twice over.

He was awarded the V.C. on April 2nd, 1918, for "conspicuous bravery, exceptional perseverance and a very high devotion to duty." At that time McCudden, now a captain, had accounted for 24 enemy aircraft, 16 of which had been destroyed behind the Allied lines. On two occasions he destroyed four two-seater enemy aircraft on the same day. On the last occasion the four enemy machines were accounted for in an hour and a half.

A PINE PATROL LEADER

Captain McCudden had been on 78 offensive patrols with the squadron with which he was then serving, heavy always as the leader. On at least 30 occasions, whilst with the same squadron, he had crossed the enemy lines alone either in pursuit or in quest of an enemy aircraft. "As a patrol leader," stated the official announcement at the time, "he has at

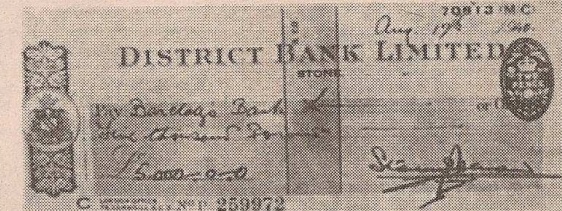
COUNTY SPITFIRE FUND: £5,000 GIFT

Kent Man's Fine Example

THANKS to a prominent man's generosity, Kent's own Spitfire, with the White Horse emblazoned on its fuselage, will be tearing through the skies in pursuit of a German bomber much sooner than was expected.

On Friday last the Association of

out of bed to answer the telephone at midnight after a busy day. At first he did not grasp what Mr. Johnson was driving at. "But I was wide awake in a moment when he told me he was sending me a cheque for £5,000 for a Spitfire," said Lord Cornwallis. "I don't mind how many people ring me up at midnight to tell me the same thing," said Lord Cornwallis with a laugh. "In fact



Men of Kent and Kentish Men launched an appeal in the county Press, signed by the Marquis Camden, the Lord Lieutenant, and Lord Cornwallis, President of the Association.

I will forgive them if they ring me up at 3 a.m.

ONE ROAD RAISER £2 6s. 8d.

As the result of a house-to-house collection in her road, Mrs. E. E. Jones, of Bullers Avenue, Horse Bay, has obtained £2 6s. 8d.

...AND SO IT SHALL COME TO PASS

AN incident, which seems almost prophetic, happened during an air raid in the South Eastern Region this week.

A piece of sheet-iron entered a village church and struck the Bible which lay open upon the reading desk. The spittler punctured verse 18 in the 17th chapter of Jeremiah. This is how the verse reads:

"Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded; let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed; bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction."

BETWEEN BITES

Pilot's Dinner Was Still Hot After Bringing Down Raider

A SERGEANT pilot of the R.A.F., who is billeted in a town close to his station, was sitting down to midday dinner one day when he was recalled to duty. An enemy bomber had been sighted.

The landlady was sympathetic. "Never mind," she said, "I'll keep your dinner for you."

"Don't bother," he said jokingly, "I'll be back before it has time to get cold." He was. The enemy plane was disposed of in less than ten minutes.

£25,000 DOWN

man who was taken in a car to a Police Station.

Mr. Talbot said the German, who was a gunner, was dressed in brown dungarees and ordinary blue flying kit. He was about 5ft 10, and had with him a revolver, jacket, knife, and an iron ration of some chocolate in a tin.

WAR FINISHED FOR ME

When a Messerschmitt 109 came down only the undercarriage and propeller appeared damaged, but villagers said its engine spluttered badly as it lost height.

Home Guard men rushed to the spot, and found the pilot's parachute had not been used. This led to an intensive search, but more than 12 hours elapsed before the pilot, a dark-haired youngster of about 22, was apprehended by the Home Guard. He spoke good English, and apparently hoped to make for the coast in the hope of getting a small boat.

"The war is finished for me now," he remarked on his way to County Police headquarters.

He had a small compass with him and ran rations for two days. Apparently he had been under the impression he would be captured if captured.

CRUCIFIX LEFT UNHARMED

An ex-Corporal of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, who also served in the last war in the Royal Irish Rifles, was shot in his house, his wife being at work as he stood in his front room looking through the kitchen into the garden as a German plane swoop low over the garden, machine-gunning as it dropped a bomb.

He was hit by debris and knocked down and received cuts and bruises. The house was badly damaged, but in one of the ruined bedrooms a large mother-of-pearl crucifix, sent from France by his soldier son, was hanging unharmed, although the picture on either side of it were broken.

A smaller crucifix was also undamaged.

...of who was within a few yards of reaching her house. The wrecked car ran across the woman and plunged into a hedge.

DIRECT HIT ON VILLAGE CHURCH

Seven houses fell in the afternoon on a village in Kent, one making a direct hit on the church, and two others falling in the churchyard.

Much damage was caused to the church roof, all windows were blown out, and the interior was a mass of wreckage.

Services are being held in the vicarage. Next door, across churchyard and "pull-in" is the village inn. Only windows were shattered there.

"THAT'S IN MY GARDEN"

"That's in my garden," remarked a man working in a town in Kent during a raid on Sunday when he watched a German bomber falling after it had been shot down by a fighter. He went home and found his joking remark was quite right. His wife and small son, who were watching the bomber come down in flames were blown into the house through the open back door.

When a German bomber was shot down by a British fighter in a Kent village on Sunday, land girls billeted there, made a collection towards the bomber crew, the crew of eight, some who bled in the spot. Over £20 was raised.

HE FELT INSULTED

With a blazing German bomber down by his house and with machine gun bullets in the air exploding all around, a man working in his garden in a Kent village attempted to get to his house to see how his wife and small son were faring by making a detour on a later.

Later, he said, he felt most insulted when a party of Tommy's went to arrest him as one of the crew of the fallen plane—particularly as he happened to be wearing a straw hat.

Two signs on all sides, the rear of cannon and the tail of machine gun bullets, together with descending parachutes of men who had "baled out" were but a few of the existing incidents which broke the quiet of the countryside in East Kent on Sunday. Columns of smoke arising from many machines already brought down in flames and the whine of still more falling to earth also contributed to a spectacle which all who saw it agreed they would not have missed for anything.

Girl's Gallant Act

Awarded Medal For Rescue Of British Airman

A HEROINE of the Kent coast is Miss Peggy Prince, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Prince, The Cabin, Dymchurch, who has been awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal. Early on Wednesday morning last week she had paddled a 10ft. canoe miles in the Channel and rescued a sergeant of the R.A.F. whose machine had been forced down on the water.

Here is an account of the incident given by Miss Prince to a representative of the "Kent Messenger":—

"It was about 8.30 in the morning when soldiers hammered on the door and asked for a boat. I went to the sea wall with them and with glasses, saw an airplane on the water and what appeared to be men swimming about. Two soldiers helped me get the canoe launched and one of them came with me. I paddled around for some time. The airplane had then sunk and no one could be seen, so we returned to the shore. We had just landed when a report came from an observer on the wall that men could be seen swimming a little farther out than we had been.

WENT TO RESCUE ALONE

"A Hurricane swooped over the spot and as we went to push out again I realised that if I found anyone there would not be room for three in the canoe, so I told the soldier to let me go alone. I went as quickly as I could, working like a snake, to the spot where the Hurricane continued to swoop. I should never have found it but for the good work of that pilot. Then I saw someone hanging from a tree, and I saw waves and made straight for him. I got hold of his arm, but have not pulled for some time. By the strength of desperation the sergeant managed to heave himself aboard over the top of me as I fell in, but I could not help smiling at his remark, 'I've never felt so washed up in all my life, and you put my coat over him as he tumbled down.'"

Leuroyd, of New Romney, for a daring attack on the Dortmund-Emms Canal the previous Monday night.

Acting Flight Lieut. Leuroyd, who is a member of a squadron of Hampden Bombers, broadcast anonymously the story of his exploits in the B.B.C. programme on Monday evening last.

On Monday night, August 12th, he was detailed to attack special objectives on the Dortmund-Emms Canal, involving risks of which he was well aware, having attacked the same objective previously.

Passing through a lane of intense anti-aircraft defences and practically point-blank fire, flying as low as 150 feet, his machine was repeatedly hit and parts torn away. He pressed the attack through blinding searchlights and his bombs found their mark on the aqueduct.

In his own report the V.C. says, "As we ran up the canal after dropping the bombs, the searchlights were switched on and I had to fly blind on the navigator's instructions. The light anti-aircraft fire was intense and we had two hits, one on the starboard wing top and one through the starboard flap. They put the hydraulic gear out of action. After bombing our target we set course for home. The undercarriage which would not operate automatically, responded to the emergency handle."

Flight Lieut. Leuroyd is 27. He was born at Folkestone and educated at Hydeley House, Hastings, and Wellington College. Before joining the R.A.F. in 1936, he was engaged in the motor industry in Folkestone. Last week he was appointed personal assistant to Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham.

At his home Major and Mrs. Leuroyd had been flooded with congratulations, and his mother is particularly delighted at the cable received from her brothers in the Argentine who had heard of the award by radio. When he telephoned his mother about his new appointment he said nothing about the award or of his latest exploit which earned it.

...of an enemy aircraft.

"A patrol leader," stated the official announcement at the time, "has at all times shown the utmost gallantry and skill, not only in the manner in which he has attacked and destroyed the enemy, but in the way he has during several aerial fights protected the crew members of his flight, thus keeping down their casualties to a minimum."

McClelland was killed at the age of 28 when about to leave Margate to take over a new R.A.P. squadron. This was in July, 1940, when a direct opponent was the German bomber. They had three starts, but each time the fight was broken off without either man being able to claim an advantage.

MOTORISTS AND LIFTS TO SERVING MEN

COMPLAINTS have been made that motorists, especially men drivers alone in their cars, will not stop to help by soldiers and airmen seeking a lift.

In fairness to motorists it should be said that few of them would deliberately deny a lift to a man in uniform, and most motorists are only too anxious to give the hospitality of their cars to men on short leave and others who want to get to London or somewhere else quickly.

In cases in which cars have not stopped to give a lift, it can safely be said that it was because the drivers were not going to London or any distance likely to be of use to a serving man, but were within a few hundred yards of their own homes or businesses.

"Conchies"—An Archbishop's View

To the Editor of the "Kent Messenger":

IN view of the present tendency of municipal bodies and school governors dismissing employees for no other reason than that they are conscientious objectors, I should be grateful if you would bring to the attention of all people of goodwill in Kent the wise words on this subject of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

As Mr. H. G. Wells has rightly warned us, "After a world storm of war, more horrible than any war has ever been, Germany may be defeated and stamped out by victors become as lust as ruthless as their enemies."

FRUSTRATION OF STATE ACTION

The Archbishop writes as follows:—"Several public bodies have lately passed resolutions terminating the employment of any persons working for them who have pleaded conscientious objections to military service. I regard this as utterly deplorable and in the deepest sense unpatriotic. We are fighting for freedom and freedom of conscience as its most vital and sensitive element. The State has recognised the

the Lord Lieutenant, and Lord Cornwallis, President of the Association, for subscriptions to a fund to buy one or more Spitfires.

At midnight the same day, Mr. Stanley Johnson, of Bearsted, rang up Lord Cornwallis and said he was forwarding a cheque for £5,000 to buy the first plane.

On Sunday came the big air raid and a Spitfire was forced landing in the garden. The pilot was taken to Faversham, Lord Cornwallis's home, and was put to bed.

When the pilot awoke, Lord Cornwallis was able to tell him that he had the money to buy him a new plane!

"The pilot was a great fellow," Lord Cornwallis said in the "Kent Messenger." Only a few days before he had received the D.F.C. at the hands of the King and that very day he had shot down two German planes. He had a long sleep and when he awoke and we were having a meal it was a great privilege for me on behalf of the county to be able to tell him that I had the money to be able to buy him a new plane.

"He told me what a great encouragement it was to him and his fellow pilots to know that the people of Kent were taking such a keen interest in helping to equip the Air Force. He was in high spirits when my son drove him back to his airfield that evening.

"But we must not stand still at one place, or even two or three, not until our Knights of the Air go forth to battle in the skies in a whole squadron bearing the rampant White Horse of Kent," declared Lord Cornwallis.

A SPLENDID GESTURE

Speaking of Mr. Stanley Johnson's splendid gesture in giving the £5,000 for the first plane, Lord Cornwallis said he was sleepy and a bit grumpy when he was called

As the result of a house-to-house collection in her road, Mrs. E. B. Jones, of Bullers Avenue, Harve Bay, has obtained £2 2s. 0d. for the "Spitfire" Fund, inaugurated by the County Association.

There are less than 20 houses in the road, and not only did the residents respond generously, but many of them also included subscriptions in the name of their pets.

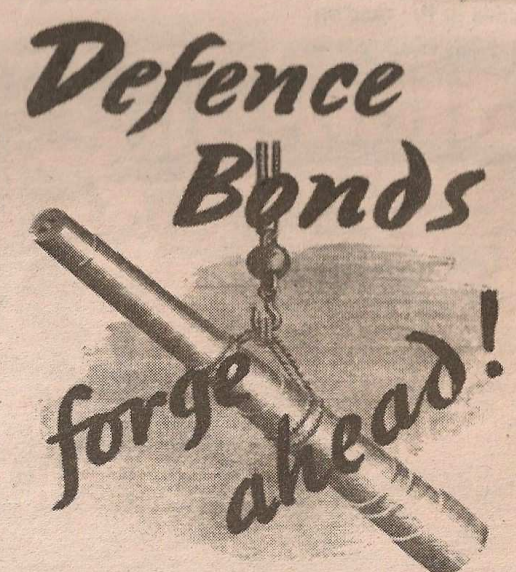
First List of Subscribers

On Page 3

£25,000 DOWN

Folkestone Rate Collection

A STATEMENT as to the rate collection in Folkestone was made by the Borough Treasurer (Mr. H. A. Neason) at a meeting on the Special Committee recently. Mr. Neason told the members that in the current year the rate collection was down by £25,000 as compared with last year.



Money is needed to forge the weapons of war. Every pound that flows in from the sale of Defence Bonds increases the flow of molten steel from the crucibles and blast furnaces. Guns, shells, tanks, ships and planes will cost the nation less if we pay as we go.

Put every pound you can spare into Defence Bonds. Defence Bonds are issued at £5 each and begin to earn interest at 3% from date of purchase. What better security could you have in time of war — your own safety depends upon the rapid equipment of our ever-increasing forces.

Buy 3% Defence Bonds

Save regularly week by week. Go to a Post Office or your Bank and put your money into Defence Bonds, Savings Certificates or National War Bonds; or deposit your savings in the Post Office or Trustee Savings Banks. Join a Savings Group and make others join with you.

Issued by The National Savings Committee, London

MISS PEGGY PRINCE

County Alderman's Tribute To Thanet People

It is a message to the people of Thanet, Alderman E. S. Oak-Rhind, C.C., chairman of the Kent Civil Defence Emergency Committee, says:

"During this last week I have seen much of the Kent air attack on Kent and the gallant 'counters' put up by our people — the incomparable boys of the Royal Air Force down to the rank and file of our own A.R.P. services.

May I say one word also to those in Thanet who are 'standing by' her in this hour of trial?

"Any words that I can write will prove inadequate for the thanks I wish to show throughout all the towns and villages of Kent and it is the spirit of all that is best in England — steadfast, uncompromising and ready to render all help required.

"I could wish that in this country of ours there was some decoration that could be presented on our great day of victory to those who stood by — who never flinched."



HOME GUARD VOLUNTEERS

Home Guard On The Alert

There When Parachutists Descended—They Were "Ours"

HOME Guard Volunteers showed their devotion when the pilot and navigator of a Coastal Command bomber had to bade out on their way back from a night raid on Germany.

The pilot came down 250 yards away from the place where his aircraft had crashed. He began to walk along the road in the moonlight.

Suddenly there was a sharp challenge. Advancing "to be recognised," the pilot saw a "Parasbat" rifle at the ready. The pilot explained who he was, and asked to be taken in the local police station. There he found his sergeant navigator, who had been "created" almost as he touched the ground.

A telephone call to the air station settled all difficulties, and the two airmen departed — after being warmly thanked by the Home Guard for having enlightened their dull duties.

The Home Guard were so quick on the scene that they almost seemed to be underneath the airmen as they drifted down.

KENT PRISONERS OF WAR

FOLLOWING are among the latest lists of British prisoners of war in enemy hands, as received from a German source:—

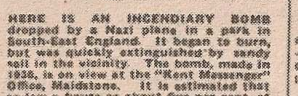
GOVE, Percy, 811, a Union Street, Faversham.
HOCK, George Henry, 87, Hythe Road, Milton, near Brixingworth.
ADAMS, Walter, 21, Ellington Road, Ramsgate.

ALFRED, William John, 10, Oxford Street, Broomfield.
BARTHP, Leslie, 150, Heath Lane, Dartford.
LEITCHFORD, Roger, 12, Barnham Road, Dartford.

LASTER, Jack, Redwaver Cottages, Staplehurst.
MAY, Thomas, Bull Inn, Nunton.
WYNN, Walter John, 14, Jeffrey Street, Chislehurst.

NEWALL, Cyril, 87, Canterbury Road, Folkestone.
CHESAMER, Lionel James, 20, Garden Cottage, Leigh, Thurbridge Wells.
FOADE, Frederick George, 8, Suffolk Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea.

BRANCH, Charles, 233, Willow Road, Dartford.
GODFREY, Hedley John, 58, Hythe Road, Folkestone.
CHESAMER, (JOHNSTON), William John Edward, Market Hill, Edinbridge.
KENT SOLDIERS' APPEAL.
A dozen or more Kent men serving with the R.E.s in some lonely spot in another county appeal to readers for a dark hour. Many of them have fought in Norway and France.



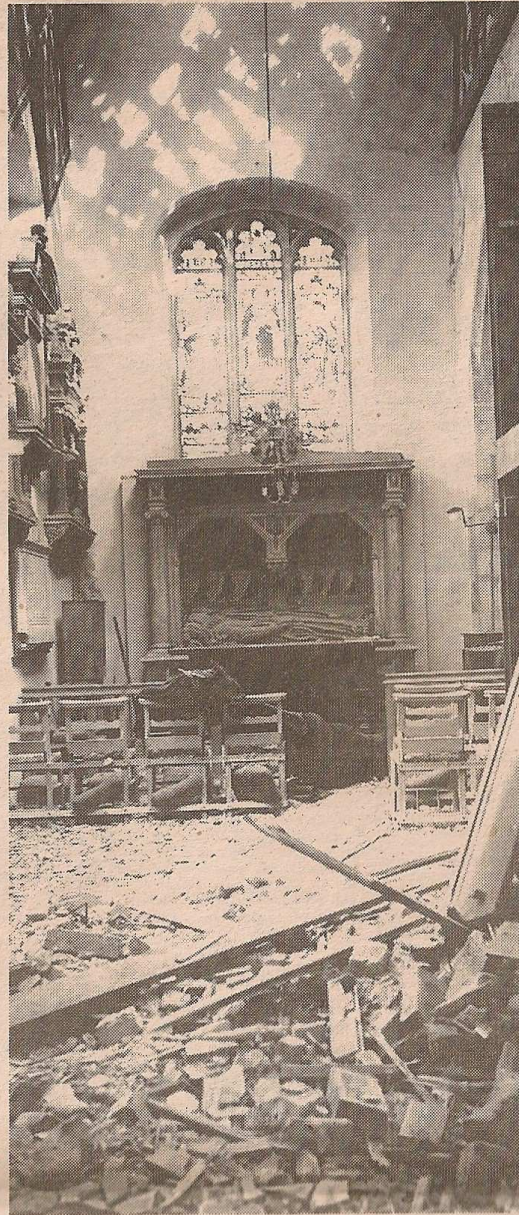
HERE IS AN INCENDIARY BOMB dropped by a Nazi plane in the South-East England. It began to burn, but was quickly extinguished by sandy soil in the vicinity. The bomb, made in 1938, is on view at the "Kent Messenger" Office, Maidstone. It is estimated that as low a figure as about five per cent. of incendiary bombs dropped actually come in contact with valuable property.

BATTLE BEGINS IN EARNEST

Luftwaffe presses home the attack

The second phase of the battle from August 8-23 saw the Luftwaffe carry out major attacks on the airfields. Eastchurch, Detling and West Malling all suffered heavy and constant bombing yet all remained operational despite severe damage and loss of life.

Biggin Hill, under constant bombardment, saw the operations room re-located to a large mansion just outside the airfield perimeter. Manston suffered daily attacks during August yet somehow managed to hold on. Winston Churchill visited Manston after several attacks and seeing the state of the airfield ordered several RAF Construction Units to rush there and get it back in order. West Malling, a satellite airfield to Biggin Hill and Kenley in Surrey, saw three attacks before it was fully open. The Luftwaffe had somehow mistaken it for Biggin Hill. As this second phase of the battle ended, Dowding wondered how on earth the airfields could sustain further damage without capitulating. Towns across Kent did not go unscathed with the Medway Towns and North Kent suffering substantial bombing attacks.



Lynsted Church was badly damaged

L121551



This building in Rock Avenue, Gillingham was destroyed during a raid

PD1697344

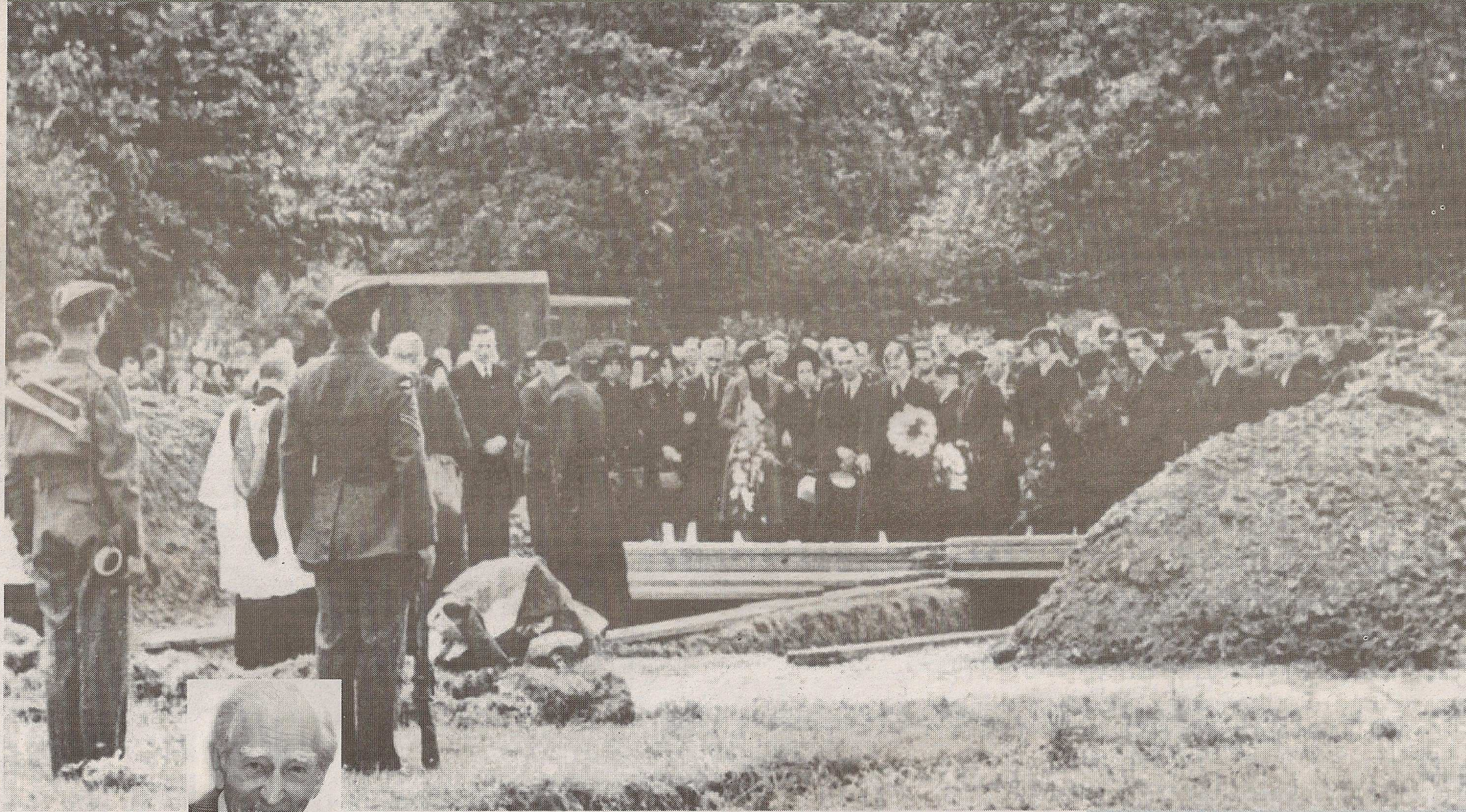
Terror

from the skies

Windows were lost in a row of fairly new homes in Northfleet when a bomb exploded in the road on August 23, 1940 PD1697461



BATTLE BEGINS IN EARNEST



Inset: Leading Aircraftman David King. Above: A mass funeral was held at Maidstone Cemetery after the raid on Detling RAF station. The Commonwealth War Graves at the cemetery contains many of the victims who died in the attack

Bus depot

On August 13, 1940 at 16.05hrs Detling, an important Coastal Command base was subjected to a devastating attack by Ju87s and Me109s.

The Stukas shrieked down with deadly accuracy, leaving 67 dead and 94 injured. No air raid warning was sounded and there were more casualties at Detling than at any other RAF station during the Battle of Britain.

Leading Aircraftman David King, of Sandling Road, Maidstone, worked in the Operations Room and says the reason that no warning was given was that the only two phone lines were engaged.

As the Stukas spread death and devastation, he was on his way to Detling on the bus. He said: "I was due in the ops room at 22.00 hours. I had been to Maidstone in the morning and had noticed six Blenheims lined up along the perimeter fence. When I was coming back I noticed that where they had been was a pile of engines and metal. Nearly every building had been destroyed or damaged.

"How did this happen without warning? The system of air raid warnings was that air raid yellows were phoned over whenever enemy aircraft could pose a threat and a red when an attack appeared imminent.

"In reality we would get a yellow when enemy aircraft were in the Channel and a red when they approached the coast.

"The CO realised that for everyone to run to the shelters whenever the warning was red wasted precious time and so he arranged for the Observer Corps in Maidstone to phone when there was a definite threat. That day they tried to call several times – but found the phone lines engaged. The observers could see approaching aircraft but were powerless to warn us of the raid."

Casualty Clearing Officer Wallace Beale,

67 dead and 94 injured during the devastating raid on RAF Detling airfield. Leading aircraftman David King explains why there was no warning

a Maidstone undertaker, sped to the airfield with units of the Civil Defence. The scene they found would have made many a weaker man ill. Of the 67 killed, many needed only 5ft coffins reserved for unidentified remains.

A fleet of ambulances took the injured to Preston Hall hospital as clearance of the airfield began. Such was the efficiency that a temporary operations room was back on air next morning.

One of the pilots from No. 500 (County of Kent) Auxiliary Squadron, then based at Detling, was Squadron Leader Paine.

He was coming back from a daylight raid in his Anson and prophesied the raid. He spoke to historian Robin Brooks of his premonition.

"We were heading back to the airfield when I said to my co-pilot 'Detling is going to catch a packet today'. As we approached the Kent coast the cloud increased. I looked ahead and saw there was something strange about the airfield. "Scars of yellow earth all over the grass. Then the hangars, good God! They looked like badly damaged kitchen collanders. It was unbelievable. We flew over and around the landing area judging where to put down. The ops room had obviously taken a huge hit and I knew that no one could have survived that. When we did eventually land and stop, I rushed to the scene where the ops room had been to find so many bodies lying around. This was real war and it was horrible."

took direct hit

Gillingham was hit badly on August 27, 1940. The bus station was bombed but staff braved the flames to save some of the buses. As the picture shows, very little was left to salvage. Margaret Court, then nine-year-old Margaret Collins, lived in Beresford Road, just behind the bus station.

She was in an air raid shelter with her mother and brothers when the bombs fell.

"It was the worst night of the war for me," said grandmother Margaret who still lives in Gillingham, "and something I'll never forget." Her family's house was damaged and – even worse – her favourite sweet shop was destroyed.

L118710



DORNIER Do 17

Version / first built DO 17Z-2 / 1939
Function / crew Bomber / four crew
Engine complement Two BMW Bramo 323P 'Fafnir'
Dimensions 59ft span, 54ft length
Max speed / range 265mph / 745 miles
Armament Six 7.9mm guns,
1,000kg bomb complement

BOULTON PAUL DEFIANT

Version / first built Mk.1 / 1938
Function / crew Fighter / two crew
Engine complement Rolls Royce Merlin III
Dimensions 40ft span, 36ft length
Max speed / range 304mph / 465 miles
Armament Four 7.7mm guns

HEINKEL HE-111

Version / first built HE-11 P-4 / 1939
Function / crew Bomber / four crew
Engine complement Two Daimler-Benz DB601A-1
Dimensions 73ft span, 54ft length
Max speed / range 270mph / 1,212 miles
Armament Six 7.9mm guns,



BAT BRIT



TLE
F
AIN

BRISTOL BLENHEIM

Version / first built Mk.IV / 1937
Function / crew Fighter bomber / three crew
Engine complement Two Bristol Mercury VIII
Dimensions 57ft span, 40ft length
Max speed / range 266mph / 1,050 miles
Armament Two 7.7mm guns,
bomb complement

JUNKERS Ju 88

Version / first built Ju 88A-4 / 1939
Function / crew Bomber / Four crew
Engine complement Two Junkers Jumo 211J-1
Dimensions 60ft span, 47ft length
Max speed / range 292mph / 1,700 miles
Armament Five 7.9mm guns,
2,000kg bomb complement

HAWKER HURRICANE

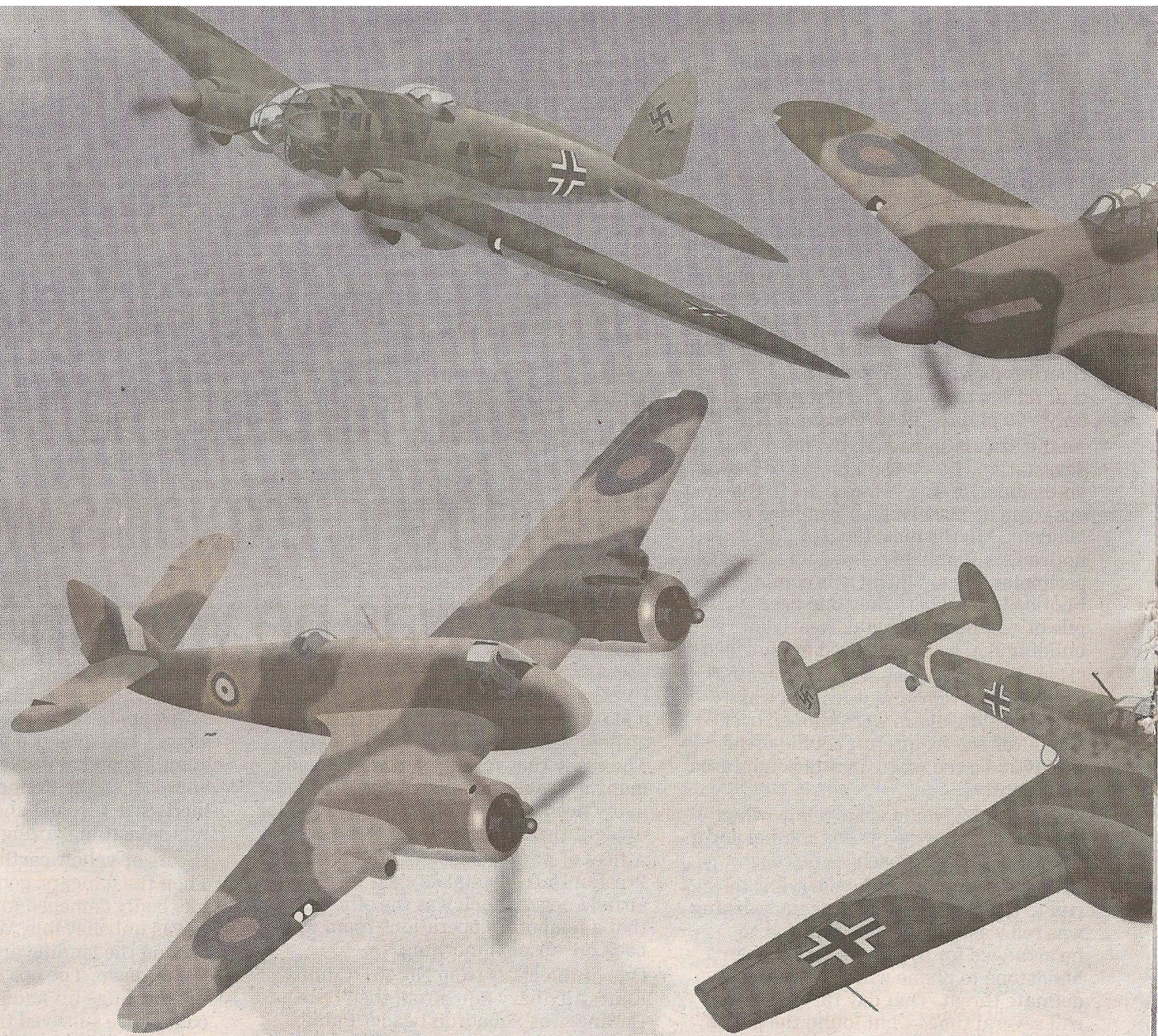
Version / first built Mk1 / 1937
Function / crew Fighter / single crew
Engine complement 1030hp Rolls Royce Merlin III
Dimensions 40ft span, 32ft length
Max speed / range 316mph / 600 miles
Armament Eight 7.7mm guns

BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER

Version / first built Mk.1a / 1938
Function / crew Fighter bomber / two crew
Engine complement Two Bristol Hercules III or XI
Dimensions 58ft span, 42ft length
Max speed / range 320mph / 1,400 miles
Armament Six 7.7mm guns, four 20mm cannon, bomb complement

JUNKERS Ju87 STUKA

Version / first built Ju87B-2 / 1939
Function / crew Dive bomber / two crew
Engine complement Junkers Jumo 211Da
Dimensions 49ft span, 38ft length
Max speed / range 195mph / 199 miles
Armament Three 7.9mm guns, 700kg bomb complement



Graphics: James Norris

"NEVER IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN CONFLICT WAS SO MUCH OWED BY SO MANY TO SO FEW. ALL OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO THE FIGHT!"



MESSERSCHMITT Me 109

Version / first built BF 109-E / 1939

Function / crew Fighter / single crew

Engine complement Daimler-Benz DB601Aa

Dimensions 33ft span, 29ft length

Max speed / range 348mph / 410 miles

Armament Two 7.9mm guns,
two 20mm cannon

SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE

Version / first built Mk1a / 1938

Function / crew Fighter / single crew

Engine complement 1750hp Rolls Royce Merlin

Dimensions 37ft span, 30ft length

Max speed / range 346mph / 630 miles

Armament Six 7.7mm guns

MESSERSCHMITT ME 110

Version / first built BF 110C-4 / 1939

Function / crew Fighter / two crew

Engine complement Two Daimler-Benz DB601A-1

Dimensions 54ft span, 40ft length

Max speed / range 349mph / 540 miles

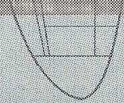
Armament Five 7.9mm guns,
two 20mm cannon

OUR PILOTS, WHOSE BRILLIANT ACTIONS WE SEE WITH OUR OWN EYES DAY AFTER DAY" - WINSTON CHURCHILL ON AUGUST 20, 1940



SPITFIRES

coveted by the Germans



The Few: Winston Churchill's speech to the House of Commons August 20, 1940

The gratitude of every home in our Island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of the World War by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. All hearts go out to the fighter pilots, whose brilliant actions we see with our own eyes day after day; but we must never forget that all the time, night after night, month after month, our bomber squadrons travel far into Germany, find their targets in the darkness by the highest navigational skill, aim their attacks, often under the heaviest fire, often with serious loss, with deliberate careful discrimination, and inflict shattering blows upon the whole of the technical and war-making structure of the Nazi power. On no part of the Royal Air Force does the weight of the war fall more heavily than on the daylight bombers, who will play an invaluable part in the case of invasion and whose unflinching zeal it has been necessary in the meanwhile on numerous occasions to restrain.

It is interesting to study the comparative strengths of the RAF and the Luftwaffe during 1940. With the Battle of Britain deemed as having begun on July 10 and finished on October 31, 1940, those four months saw many differences of opinion.

The strength of Fighter Command stood at 46 squadrons of fighters each squadron with around 12 aircraft. Thus 500 plus fighters with 60 per cent Hurricanes and 40 per cent Spitfires together with a few obsolete Gloster Gladiator biplanes, Bristol Blenheim twin engined aircraft and Boulton Paul Defiant turret fighters, were on strength.

This was not taking into consideration aircraft serviceability problems.

The Luftwaffe on the other hand had more than 900 Messerschmitt 109 and 110 fighters and was in all respects, numerically superior.

What was not superior was the quality and determination of the pilots and the performance of their aircraft.

However, to achieve his objective of forcing the RAF from the skies, Goering assembled three huge air fleets of fighters and bombers.

Luftflotte 2 commanded by Feldmarschall Albert Kesselring in Holland and Belgium, Luftflotte 3 commanded by Feldmarshall Hugo Sperrle in Northern France and Luftflotte 5 commanded by General Hans-Jurgen Stumpfe in Norway and Denmark.

The first two totalled 900 Messerschmitt 109s and 110s, 875 Heinkel IIIIs, Junkers 88s and Dornier 17 bombers plus 300 Junkers 87 Stuka divisions with 123 bombers and 34 Me 110s in the smaller Luftflotte 5.

It was the Hawker Hurricane that was to equip most squadrons during the Battle of Britain. Air Ministry specification F5/34 was taken up by Hawkers and a design began.

The Hurricane was equipped with eight .303 machine guns in the wings. Powered by a Rolls-Royce Merlin II or III engine, it was capable of a cruising speed of 230 mph, an initial rate of climb of 2,420ft/min, a service ceiling of 34,000ft and range of 600 miles. Built of fabric, wood and metal, it could endure tremendous

When asked by Reichmarschall Hermann Goering, the chief of the Luftwaffe, what was needed to hasten a German victory in the skies above south-east England, General Adolf Galland, the charismatic leader of Jagdgeschwader 26, replied 'a squadron of Spitfires, Herr Reichmarshall'. Aviation historian **Robin Brooks** compares the two air powers.

punishment as any bullets hitting the fuselage would pass through the fabric.

The Supermarine Spitfire was a metal aircraft and did not suffer punishment so easily. Powered by a Rolls-Royce Merlin II or III, the cruising speed was 280mph with an initial rate of climb of 2,530ft/min. A service ceiling of 34,000ft and a maximum range of 575 miles saw the Spitfire gradually replace the Hurricane in the defensive role after the Battle of Britain. It was to become the iconic picture of a fighter aircraft and was to overshadow the Hurricane in appeal.

Obsolete

The other rather obsolete fighters that equipped some squadrons during the battle were the Gladiator, the Blenheim and the Defiant.

With the Gladiator being a biplane and powered by a Bristol Mercury engine, it was largely replaced by the monoplane fighters after early 1940. The Blenheim was a twin-engined bomber that was adapted to become a fighter. Used mainly in the night fighting role, it pioneered airborne radar which led to later aircraft such as the Beaufighter becoming a deadly night fighter.

For the Defiant, its downfall was that it had no forward firing guns, all fire-power was concentrated in a turret behind the pilot. It achieved fame during the Dunkirk operation shooting down many enemy

aircraft. However when the enemy pilots realised that the turret could not fire down or behind, they shot at the belly and many aircraft and lives were lost in this way. For the Luftwaffe, the equivalent fighter to the Hurricane and Spitfire was the Messerschmitt 109. Described as 'one of the finest single-seat fighters in the world' during the period 1939/40, it was not available in sufficient numbers during the battle to change the course of history.

While it was a worthy opponent, it suffered from a lack of range and pilot training. With a cruising speed of 298mph, and a ceiling of 36,000ft, its time over the UK having flown from one of the German held airfields in France, Holland or Belgium was limited. Many pilots turned for home too soon for fear of running out of fuel.

The other main fighter was the Messerschmitt 110, a twin-engined aircraft named 'the destroyer'. It was far from that and although intended to be a long-range escort fighter to clear the path for bomber formations, it suffered severe losses caused by its limited manoeuvrability.

After October 1940 it should have been withdrawn from service over the UK but shortage of fighters for the Luftwaffe necessitated its continuation as a fighter. With a cruising speed of 285mph it became an easy target for the RAF. The ability of the RAF fighter pilots, the quality of the aircraft and a determination to save a nation standing alone served to thwart the Nazi invasion plans.

THE LUFTWAFFE WAS NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR BUT BRITISH STRENGTH CAME IN QUALITY AND DETERMINATION

NEWS FROM HOME!

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TWOPENCE

BRITISH HUMOUR BOMB-PROOF AGAINST WILD NAZI RAIDS

R.A.F. STRAFE JERRY **MACHINE GUN FALLS ON BED** **AIRMAN AGED 47 CAUGHT**

THOUSANDS of people throughout Kent on Sunday saw R.A.F. fighter planes smash wave after wave of enemy planes in the most terrific air battle of the war. For most of the day, planes roared incessantly overhead, and at frequent intervals loud whining noises heralded the end of German machines as they crashed to their doom.

Several scores were brought down in Kent, and the countryside became literally littered with their wreckage. Many others, writes one of our correspondents, were sent crashing into the sea, while others with smoke pouring from them made for home. The tactics of our Spitfires and Hurricanes, he adds, were brilliant, and they were able to manoeuvre and avoid the enemy fighters so as to attack the bombers direct. Equally brilliant was the work of the A.A. batteries.

Over the South Eastern area, the Germans again dropped bombs with wanton indiscriminate. Many of the bombs fell in widely separated districts far removed from any military object. Reports from the residential areas which suffered most are given below.

Actress Captures Pilot... Souvenir Hunters Killed... Homeless Woman's First Question: "Where's My Knitting."

HIS PARACHUTE WAS FAULTY: NAZI BREAKS BOTH LEGS

A Nazi aviator almost literally "caught" a Nazi pilot as he fell out of the clouds during Sunday's air battle.

Hearing a long, ripping noise, she saw a German falling from the sky. The fabric of his parachute was obviously torn. When the man struck the ground, his legs crashed with the impact and his head crashed on to grass.

He remained conscious, groaned and held up one arm in a gesture of surrender. In broken English he explained that he had fallen from a Dornier 17 and that this was his first flight over England.

The actress removed the German's flying helmet while others cut the fastenings of his parachute gear. He repeatedly murmured "Gut, gut" (good) as they worked.

Within three minutes of the man's touching ground, the ambulance squad, Home Guard and police had arrived, and while one of the biggest air battles of the war raged overhead, set the man's broken legs in splints. While he was being treated, he watched apprehensively another German bomber flaming downwards.

NAZI PILOT'S CUP OF TEA AT RECTORY

When a German pilot bailed out of his crippled machine he landed near a church. One of the first on the scene was the pastor, who took the German to the Rectory. The pilot was given a cup of tea, and later the Rectory gave him a new shirt because his was sootied in blood from his wounds.

WHEN A BOMBER DIVED,

WELL, THIS IS ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT

"It might have been worse," laughed a woman whose house had been shattered by a bomb.

"We are alive and that's something. Then the house was not worth anything. It ought to have been pulled down long ago."

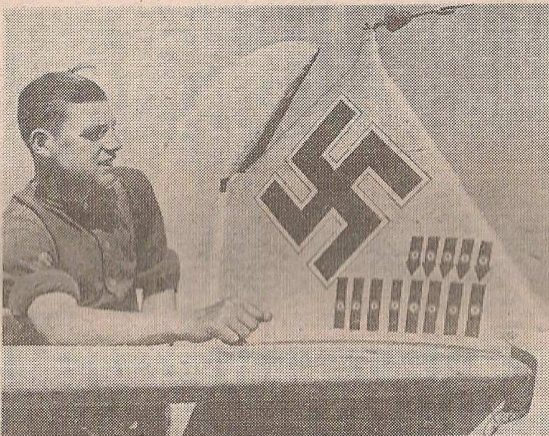
"And the furniture was not paid for, so you see we can still keep smiling."

BOMB A FEW YARDS FROM A TOWN HALL

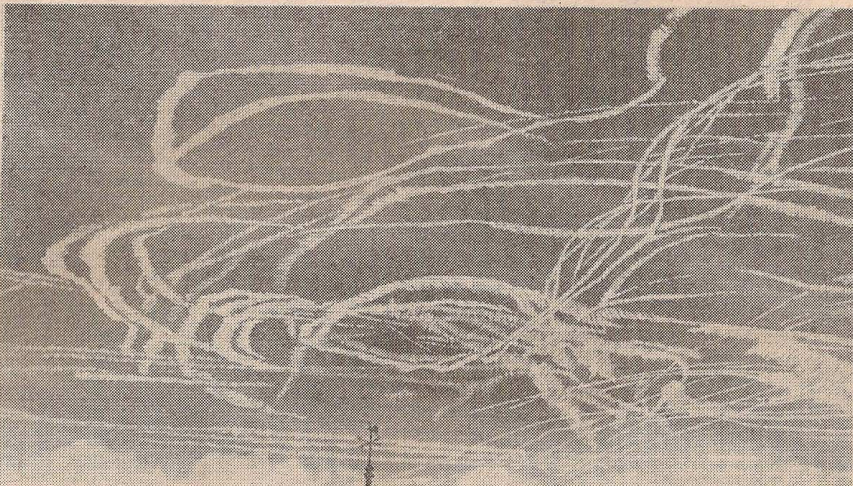
Another South-East town experienced its longest daylight raid of the war on Friday. Taking advantage of the low-lying cloud, enemy planes in small numbers flew over the area at regular intervals for many hours. A large number of bombs were dropped indiscriminately. Some of those fell in the main street only a few yards from the Town Hall. The municipal building escaped damage, but adjoining property was not so fortunate. Among the buildings extensively damaged were a Church Army hostel, a printing works and a number of shops.

The bombs which fell in the main thoroughfare caused some damage to gas and water mains, and bus traffic had to be diverted by way of side streets and the public was warned of smoking in the vicinity.

Smart work, however, by workmen from the utility companies, prevented any serious interruption of services.



THIRTEEN IS UNLUCKY!—The pilot of this Messerschmitt 109 claims that he has shot down 11 British and 2 French machines. He has painted 13 tricoloured circles on the tail of his 'plane' — that's what he thinks!



HOW THEY WERE TURNED BACK!—This photograph, taken on Wednesday, shows how Nazi raiders were turned back by defending forces over a town in Kent.

WOMAN FINDS MACHINE GUN ON HER BED

After Fighter Plane Had Crashed On Building

One man was killed and another injured in Sunday's great air battles when a fighter crashed in flames on to a building and exploded. The building, a timber and brick structure, was completely burnt out and the force of the explosion scattered wreckage over a wide area.

The roofs of several cottages in the vicinity were damaged, but a small general shop some 40 yards away was partially wrecked.

The occupant, Mrs. Margaret Nolan, a widow, had a remarkable escape from injury. "I was in the shop," she told a reporter, "and the first I heard was a terrific crash. I dashed into my living room and it was in flames. The wheel of the plane was burning there and a young man threw it into the street, or the piece would have been burnt down."

"I found the machine gun on my bed upstairs."

"Pieces of machinery crashed through the shop window close to me, and a piece of the petrol tank flew past my head. Indeed, things were flying all round me, but I never got a scratch."

Mrs. Nolan is still carrying on in her little business despite shattered windows and gaping holes in the walls.

PLANE HIT BY A.A. FIRE

Midnight Crash On House

COWS LICK UNEXPLODED BOMBS

During another raid, some unexploded bombs rolled from a wrecked machine across a field and grazing cows were seen to walk up within two minutes of the crash and begin licking the bombs.

BOMB CAUSES "SNOW STORM" OF CHALK

Three Inches Deep Over Wide Area

A number of casualties were caused in an inland town on Wednesday morning when a large H.E. bomb was dropped in a residential part.

The soil in this district is of chalk and over a wide area every street was covered by a white powder to a depth of from one to three inches.

The scenes next morning were reminiscent of those following a snow storm. Hundreds of householders were to be seen clearing away the white deposit with brooms and shovels.

The crater is of gigantic proportions. People were blown from their beds, and rescue parties found many of them sitting in a dazed condition among the debris.

Some bombs were also dropped near a hospital, some way away, but these caused little or no damage.

About the same time a large number of heavy H.E. bombs were dropped in a residential part of a neighbouring town.

AIRMAN, AGED 47, CAUGHT

PUBS, CLUBS, TO CLOSE 10 p.m.

Cinemas Also NEW ORDER

BY an Order of the Regional Commissioner, by virtue of his powers under the Defence Regulations, all public houses, clubs, cinemas and restaurants must close by 10 o'clock at night on and after this Saturday, September 21st.

The area covered by the Order comprises the whole of Kent and Sussex, with the exception of the Metropolitan area.

The premises mentioned in the order must close at 10 o'clock at night and remain closed until half-an-hour before sunrise the next morning.

If he deems it advisable in the public interest, or for reasons of national safety, the Chief of Police in any district has power to order the premises mentioned under the order to close at 9 o'clock at night.

The premises included in the order are public houses and "off" licences, licensed clubs, premises licensed for billiards, the public performance of stage plays, cinematograph exhibitions, music or dancing, premises which may be used for a club, whether licensed or not, restaurants, canteens or refreshment houses, whether licensed or not, and premises used for the purpose of any public performance, exhibition, amusement, games or sport.

The Right Place For It

A incendiary bomb fell down the chimney of a house and burnt itself out in the fire grate.

BOMBS ON CEMETERY: TOMBSTONES HURLED IN AIR

Some 20 incendiary bombs fell in a disused cemetery and tombstones were blown yards into the air and scattered over a wide area.

Another bomb demolished a house and debris fell on to a garden shelter containing a number of people, including women and children. Help was, however, quickly forthcoming and all the occupants were rescued little the worse for their alarming experience.

In another part of this town a herbaceous stove was demolished by a heavy bomb. The owner, who usually sleeps on the premises, had taken shelter elsewhere on this particular night.

INCENDIARY BOMBS ON SCHOOL

Between 40 and 60 incendiary bombs fell on a residential school, but the 160 boys were sleeping in their shelters and no one was hurt.

One fell on the school itself and another

Into A Duck Pond

When a German bomber dived out of the clouds and dropped a bomb on a farm, a farm labourer threw it—into a duck pond!

"Himmy," he said afterwards, "I didn't come up again until it was all quiet."

The bomb set fire to a barn, destroying a



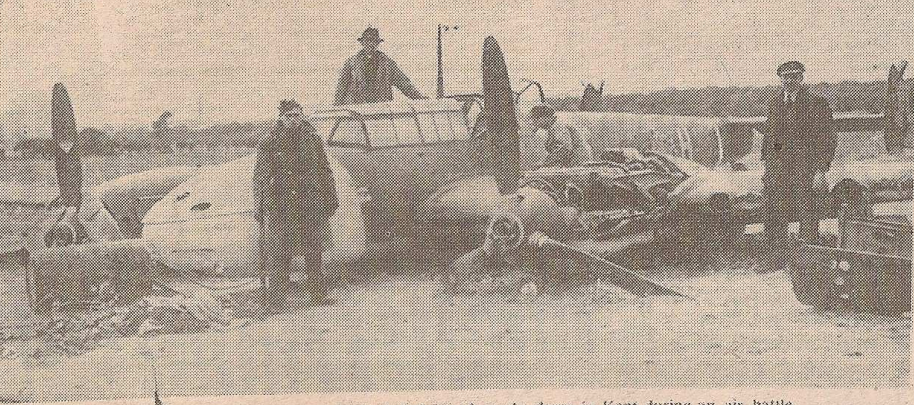
FAMOUS CRICKET CAPTAIN IN A NEW ROLE. — Mr. A. P. F. Chapman, the former captain of England and Kent, is now O.C. of a Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen. He helps load up in the mornings, and also takes round a van himself.

stock of seeds and fertilizer.

Another farm worker, when he looked round after the bomb had fallen, saw a cart he was in charge of still there, but the horse had bolted and was halfway up the lane.

The farmer's wife, who was walking along the lane, carrying a white umbrella, threw the umbrella over a hedge, as she thought it might invite a burst of machine gun fire.

Then she lay in a ditch until the bomber had disappeared into the clouds again.



MORNING JUNK!—A Messerschmitt 110 fighter brought down in Kent during an air battle.

done and works and households suffered little inconvenience.

COUNCILLOR'S ESCAPE

Later Finds His House Struck By Incendiary Bomb

The proprietor of the printing works, a local councillor, had a lucky escape. He was sheltering in the building when the bomb fell outside and he escaped with nothing worse than a few scratches.

By the irony of fate, however, when he reached his home situated in another part of the district, he found that this had been damaged by an incendiary bomb.

A number of bombs were dropped in the residential part of the district and caused some damage to property.

MURDEROUS ATTACK ON UNDEFENDED TOWN

Hospital Hit

A lone Nazi raider made a murderous attack on an undefended South East town on Thursday evening, causing casualties among the employees of a firm of wholesale provision merchants whose warehouse received a direct hit.

The raider distributed high explosive and incendiary bombs in a line across the town. The hospital received four high explosives, one demolishing the out-patients department, and while nobody in the building was hurt an 11-years-old boy walking by the building at the time sustained injuries from which he died later.

A maid had a narrow escape when a bomb dropped close to a house in which she was the only occupant, for it collapsed about her. She was taken from the wreckage with abrasions.

Another high explosive bomb dropped outside the Roman Catholic Church, damaging the Presbytery, while another hit a garage housing ambulances.

INN DAMAGED

But Pianist Struck Up Popular Airs

A twin engine enemy bomber dropped a cargo of high explosives and incendiaries on an inland town.

Three houses were totally wrecked and about 50 others made untenable.

The incendiaries set fire to a number of houses, but these were soon under control.

Among those who were trapped were Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Raffie.

Highest praise is due to the residents who endured an air raid quite recently. There was not a sign of fear or panic.

A well known inn suffered considerable damage and practically all the windows on one side were blown in. Here again it was quickly business as usual and the landlord and customers turned to in the work of clearing up and a pianist started popping air in the club room.

"SHAKE BROTHER!"

New Zealanders Fete R.A.F. Pilots

WHEN New Zealanders gathered around a loud speaker in an hotel heard that 145 German planes had been brought down in Sunday's air battle, they danced gleefully and led cheers for the "Boys of the R.A.F."

A few minutes later three air pilots entered. The New Zealanders made a concerted rush towards them and jostled each other for several minutes to shake the hands of the air pilots in congratulation.

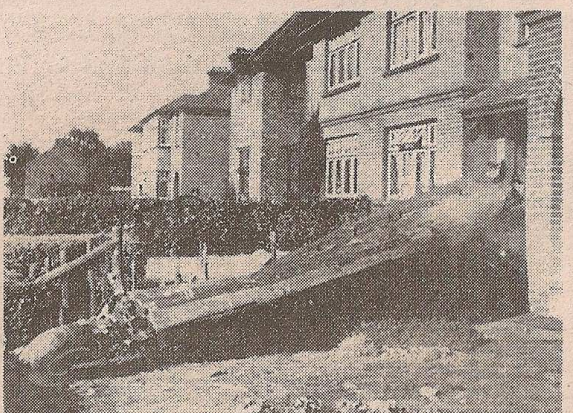
Bomb's Freak Journey

QUEER stories are told of bombs and their action.

How is this for one which fell last Friday morning.

A time bomb fell through the roof of one of a pair of houses, went through the dividing wall, through the ceiling, cut its way through a dining room table and buried itself in the concrete floor of the room, taking the carpet with it.

But the remarkable thing about it was that on the table stood a vase of flowers which was not disturbed.



PART OF THE WRECKAGE of a Junkers 88 bomber, which fell on houses in a Kent town, after being shot down by anti-aircraft gunners.

CURIOSITY KILLED TWO PEOPLE

How dangerous it is to approach a plane immediately after it has crashed was demonstrated on Sunday when a Messerschmitt fell in a field near a Kent village. People were flocking about the machine when its gun exploded and one person was killed outright and several persons were injured.

THEY HAVE DOUBLE GRUDGE AGAINST HITLER

Potato Patch Bombed: Soot Over Mother's Carpet

Mr. and Mrs. G. Turner, who live in a South Eastern town, have a double grudge against Hitler and his murder bombers.

On Saturday morning shortly before five the air clear sounded. Nazi planes, unable to penetrate the barrage on their way to London, had to turn back.

They vented their spite by dropping bombs indiscriminately on the town, demolishing and damaging several houses in a residential area far removed from any military objective.

One heavy calibre bomb dropped in the back garden of the Turners' house, making a huge crater. When Mr. Turner crawled from his shelter he found all his potatoes were hopelessly buried.

Mrs. Turner went indoors and found everything intact, but the explosion had dislodged a lot of soot which fell all over her front room carpet!

BOOK SHE WAS READING CUT IN TWO

A woman invalid had a narrow escape in a South-East town when

Contrary to her doctor's repeated warnings, she was reading by a window during a raid, and a fragment from a shell flew through the window and cut her book in halves. She was unhurt, but miser.

In the same town during the night another woman was saved from serious injury when sleeping by an open window door in which a piece of shell was deeply embedded which otherwise must have struck her. It is to be allowed to remain as a souvenir.

casualties were successfully tackled by A.P.F. workers using stirrup pumps when a Junkers 88 plane, making towards London, was hit by anti-aircraft fire over a South-Eastern town on Tuesday night, and breaking into pieces in mid-air crashed on to a residential area on the outskirts of the town.

As the machine came down incendiary bombs and burning parts of the machine were scattered over a wide area, setting fire to many houses.

The fire was promptly tackled with stirrup pumps by Warden, members of the Home Guard and civilians. Women supplied the water in baths and buckets while the men kept the pumps going.

"It was undoubtedly the stirrup pumps which saved the situation," said a member of the Home Guard. "They proved their worth and there can be no doubt about the efficiency of this little bit of apparatus. The womenfolk were wonderful."

The majority of people in the district were in their shelters and dug-outs when, to use the words of one of them "We heard a terrific noise. It was like a tornado sweeping through a jungle. I never want to hear anything like it again. I looked out of my shelter and saw an exhibition of fireworks in the air as the plane came down."

Mrs. Bridgland, aged 70, an invalid, was trapped in her house.

Another woman, Mrs. Pett, rushed out of her house and fell down a deep hole. She was rescued and taken to hospital suffering from shock.

The dead bodies of four German airmen, the entire crew of the bomber, were recovered from the wreckage.

The house of a Mr. Joseph Farrow was rendered uninhabitable.

A wing of the German plane fell on the roof of a school. Panels fell in council house gardens, pieces of the rudder in a farm.

NAZI PLANE CRASHES ON HOUSE: CHILD KILLED

Vera May Daw, a girl aged four, was killed on Sunday when a Messerschmitt 100 crashed on to the house. Her mother was seriously injured and her father slightly injured.



A COLOURED PICTURE of the Madonna and Child, and a framed text remained on a wall when a cottage was completely wrecked by a

bating out from his stricken machine, he was found to be wearing everyday dress except for knee breeches.

both were quickly put out. Others fell on the cottages in which the boys lived and five homes were completely burnt out.

THE PROBLEM OF SLEEPLESSNESS OVERCOME!

Easy Sleep—Easy Awakening

THE 6 'ASPRO' WAY

Sleep gets broken up nowadays. Millions have to take it in short snatches. They need to make the most of what they can get. How to drop smoothly off and yet be fresh and alert on awakening has puzzled many. 'ASPRO' PROVIDES THE ANSWER. It brings easy, refreshing sleep without any doping after-effects. There is no heaviness or nervy feeling on awakening for 'ASPRO' tablets do not work that way.

Refreshed not Doped!

'ASPRO' the Wonderful NERVE SEDATIVE—IT DOES NOT DOPE OR DEPRESS

The demand for 'ASPRO' is growing every day. People are realising more than ever the public service it renders in times of stress. 'ASPRO' soothes the nerves, banishes pain and irritability and renders a hundred-and-one services in every household and every first-aid cabinet.

'ASPRO' BRINGS GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

Dear Sirs, Keston, Stamford, Lincoln.

On July 31st I had been unwell and depressed the whole of the day. I felt hot and miserable. All I wanted to do was lie down. I suffer quite a lot with my chest. I could hardly breathe. My head was bad and I was feeling fed up. I could not stand it any longer. I had to send to the little shop for some aspirin. As it happened she had not got any so sent me 'ASPRO'. Well, I did not know what to do about taking them, but I thought here goes, so I took tablets. I had not had them long before I felt my head clearing, and I could breathe hoarse better. Well, I can tell you I was thunder-struck—I was delighted and felt so much happier. I took 3 more before I went to bed and I slept the whole night through, a thing I have not done for weeks and weeks. I got up this morning with no headache and could breathe properly. In fact I do not feel like the usual woman. I am so pleased with the results that I shall take them now regularly and especially before going to bed. It is wonderful to get a good night's rest and wake up no frailer. I am truly grateful to the woman for sending me 'ASPRO'. No more ordinary aspirin for me now.

MRS. CROSS.

'ASPRO' IN FIRST-AID SHELTER

Dear Sirs—I intend to use 'ASPRO' in my first aid shelter. From personal experience I know they are excellent and, above all, they are British.

M. B. V.

DOCTOR PRESCRIBES 'ASPRO' FOR INSOMNIA

Dear Sirs,—We find 'ASPRO' extraordinarily useful—especially in cases of sleeplessness in very old people.—Yours sincerely,

M. B. B. CHIR.

(Name and address withheld for professional reasons.)

TRY 'ASPRO' FOR

INFLUENZA	COLDS	RHEUMATISM
HEADACHES	LUMBAGO	ALCOHOLIC
TIREDNESS	BRUISES	STIFF EFFECTS
OR INSOMNIA	NEURITIS	POINTEUR
NEURALGIA	HAY FEVER	TO WOMEN
SCIATICA	NERVE SHOCK	MALARIA
GOUT	TOOTHACHE	ASTHMA

ALL LEADING CHEMISTS AND STORES STOCK AND DISPLAY 'ASPRO'

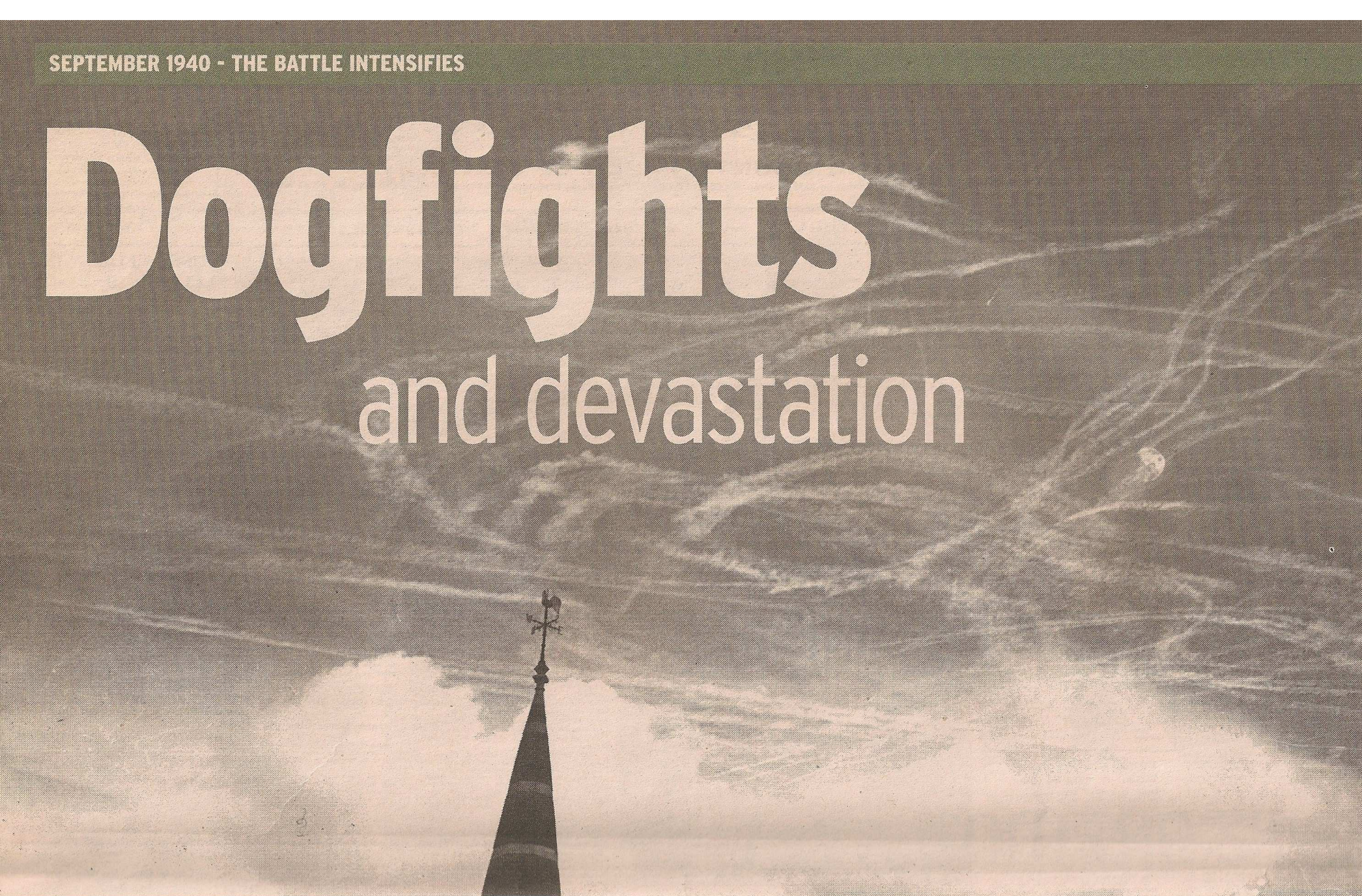
CHANGABLE WEATHER IS SPREADING CHILLS! BANISH THEM IN ONE NIGHT with ASPRO

PRICES WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL

SEPTEMBER 1940 - THE BATTLE INTENSIFIES

Dogfights

and devastation



A photograph by the Kent Messenger's E H Jeffery shows heavy dogfights left vapour trails over St Francis Church, Maidstone

PD169738

Lull before storm of the Blitz

ONE year on from the start of the war, September 6 and 7 were unusually quiet. What was not known at that time was that the Luftwaffe and the German High Command were about to change their policy. Having seen no diminishing of the RAF fighters in the sky, something that Reichsmarschall Goering had promised Hitler, their tactics turned to night bombing of the cities and towns in the country. This took the heat off the airfields and ground and air crews allowing Fighter Command to regroup and repair much of the damage. This much-needed respite was to be at the expense of the citizens of London. The fourth phase lasting from September 7 to 30 saw major attacks on the capital, towns and the cities. The Blitz proper had begun although the airfields were still subject to the occasional raid. The County Town suffered badly and locals would walk in to town to check the casualty lists posted at the Town Hall.



Casualty lists outside Maidstone Town Hall after raids made grim reading in September

PD230071



A crashed aircraft in Maidstone

PD1456205

BATTLE OF BRITAIN DAY: SEPTEMBER 15 - WHEN GERMANY STARTED TO TARGET THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

VAPOUR TRAILS ABOVE AND DESTRUCTION ON THE GROUND

How dangerous it is to approach a plane immediately after it has crashed was demonstrated when a Messerschmitt fell in a field near a Kent village. People were flocking about the machine when its gun exploded and one person was killed outright and several persons were injured, one fatally

KENT MESSENGER, SEPTEMBER 21, 1940





ABOVE: It was too dangerous to pick hops in the open so Marden farmers brought hops into the village so pickers could be near air raid shelters

PD800635

RIGHT: The Luftwaffe targeted the Maidstone West-Paddock Wood railway line near the bottom of Lower Fant Road, Maidstone, on September 13, 1940

PD226109

BROWSE THE KM GROUP'S COLLECTION OF WARTIME PHOTOS AT WWW.KENTONLINE.CO.UK



NEWS FROM HOME!

Send the County Paper to Kent Friends Abroad. Period Orders (Prepaid) may be sent to "Kent Messenger" Offices at the following inclusive rates:

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SATURDAY, OCT. 5, 1940

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TWO PENCE

WOMEN'S HEROISM AS BOMBS FALL IN MAIDSTONE

Public House Demolished By Time Bomb: Box Factory Struck: Museum Damaged

CHURCH TOWER SPLIT BY EXPLOSION

PURSUING their deliberate murder attacks by air, German bombers caused many casualties, some fatal, during air raids over the South-Eastern area during the last week.

The severest occurred at Maidstone on Friday last week. Time and oil bombs, in addition to high explosive and incendiary, were used by the enemy in his vicious assaults, and although considerable havoc was caused to residential and shopping areas, the Nazis failed completely to disturb the morale of the people.

Outstanding incidents of the raids were:

A church tower at Maidstone which had previously been struck by lightning and later damaged by a gale, was cracked almost from top to bottom by a bomb which fell a few yards away.

A time bomb crashed through the roof of the Foresters' Arms, Maidstone, and slightly injured a customer and buried itself in the floor of the saloon bar. When it exploded it completely demolished the inn and damaged nearby premises.

In another town, a burning Nazi plane, rapidly losing height, narrowly missed a police court while a case was being heard.

Another time bomb fell in a church and the Vicar, who declined to leave, collected his own food and letters at distant places rather than tradesmen and postmen should run unnecessary risks.

Reports of the air raids at Maidstone as sent in by "Kent Messenger" reporters are given below:

CHURCH TOWER CRACKED AT MAIDSTONE

Bomb Falls Only Few Feet Away From Base

OVER 50 bombs were dropped during a raid on Maidstone on Friday last week. There were many casualties, some fatal.

The bombs fell in different parts of the town, some with devastating effect. Two bombs fell by a public garden, one

A WARNING AND AN APPEAL

"PLEASE do not lean on the window—it's not there," read a notice outside a shop after the bombing raid on Maidstone on Friday.

A notice displayed on the shutters of a stationer's shop in another Kent town which was recently damaged by enemy aircraft reads:

"Here we suffer grief and pain, it often has been said. Though our pane is broken, we're very far from dead."

We shall not suffer either if you come in to buy. So keep the Radio listening, and soldiers never die.

greenhouses, was almost knocked down, all windows over a wide area were blown to pieces, and many houses in what is known as a square were damaged.

One of the cycles from the ice cream depot was hurled on to the 25 feet high roof of the garage.

There were several casualties, and the injured included two A.F.S. men, who were stationed in the garage next to the bombed building.

Mr. A. Patman, who lives in a house opposite, related a graphic description of the bombing to a reporter.

"I was having some biscuits and cheese with my wife when I heard a whistling sound getting nearer every moment," he said. "I glanced my wife and put her beneath the sink in the scullery. I stood over her. Then there was a loud explosion, and the house rocked. Everything seemed to fall over, and glass fell everywhere. Yet mirrors in the house were not touched, and a china clock which fell into the fender was undamaged."

FIRST TIME HE DID NOT GO TO SHELTER

Boot Repairer Killed

"An aged man, one-legged, who kept a boot repairing shop on the other side of the road was killed by blast. He always took cover in the public air raid shelter when the sirens went, but on this occasion he had a customer in the shop. The customer was injured."

"Five hundred gallons of oil in the garage and a petrol pump caught fire, but A.F.S. men soon had the outbreak under control."

Although the bomb played great havoc with property, a brick-built surface public air raid shelter was scarcely damaged. The roof was raised slightly.

People seeking its protection were unharmed and they helped to tend injured people taken there temporarily.

A dog and cat in the back part of a public house which was blown down were still alive when found.

LICENSEE'S WIFE JUST ESCAPES

Left Shattered Bedroom In Nick Of Time

large machine room—formerly a skating rink—when the bomb struck the building at the north end and brought down part of the roof.

John Fleisher, a "spotter," was blown off the roof into a tree but was not hurt.

"I said 'How the whistle quack,'" he explained, "but before we could do anything it had me up in the air."

Cuts from different parts of the factory who got to the air raid shelters all escaped injury.

In another part of the town blast from three bombs shattered the shop windows of practically the whole of the street. The writers were pined up with glass like heavy ice.

STAFF CANTEN ON FIRE

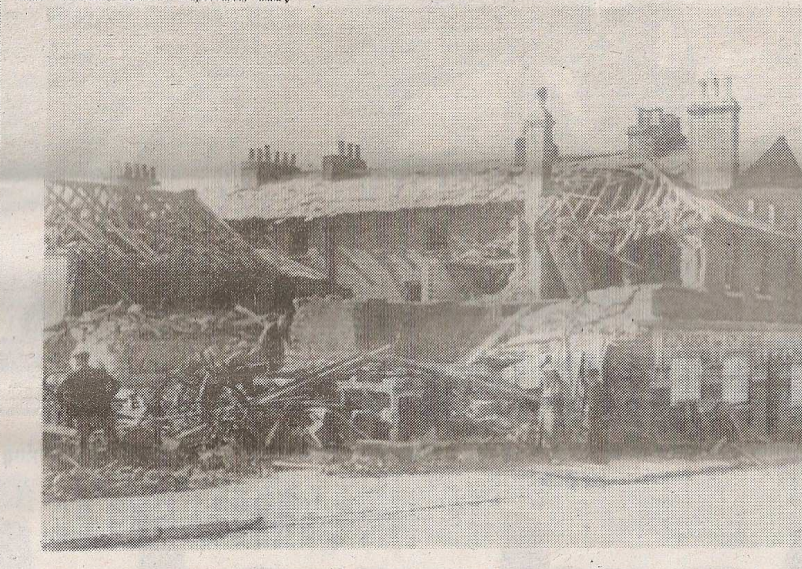
Education Chief Helps Fire Fighters

The chairman of an Education Committee helped firefighters when the staff's canteen was set on fire by a bomb at the Committee's headquarters.

Miss Withers, canteen supervisor, and



A MUSEUM GATEWAY damaged by a bomb which fell in a South East town.



A WRECKED PUBLIC HOUSE and an adjoining garage.

Blocks LINE OR HALF-TONE For Printers and Newspapers Maidstone Photo Engravers STATION ROAD, MAIDSTONE Phone: 2686

Two Brave Maidstone Women Daughter's Sacrifice To Save Mother

TWO Maidstone women were among the heroines of air raids on the town.

Hearing bombs falling, a daughter raced from the back of a house to where her 80-year-old mother was sitting in a front room.

She had just thrown herself over her mother to protect her when a bomb fell outside in the street.

Broken glass badly cut her about the face and neck and it is feared she will be permanently disfigured.

Her mother was unhurt.

Another heroine was a young mother who, hearing the crash of bombs, and caught unaware in the street, lifted her baby out of the open, placed it on a pavement and shielded it with her body.

Both escaped unhurt. She returned home to find her house in ruins.

A POOR RESULT Two hundred incendiary bombs fell in one rural locality—swart over dead sheep!

RAJAH HAWKS! Lord Rajah, broadcasting at 5.15 pm on Sunday, said that fire at Gravesend and Tilbury were blazing furiously. We failed to notice them.

JOINT SALVAGE WORK Margate's Borough Surveyor was most instructed to confer with the Surveyors of Ramsgate and Broadstairs with a view to mutual arrangements for salvaging property and removing debris.

BOMBS AS COLLECTING BOWL Margate's Borough Surveyor was most instructed to confer with the Surveyors of Ramsgate and Broadstairs with a view to mutual arrangements for salvaging property and removing debris.

ABOUT 800 Anderson shelters have been removed from Margate and sent to other districts on the authority of the Regional Commissioner. The Town Clerk of Hythe wrote to the Council recently asking if they had any Anderson shelters for disposal and was informed that there were no more to spare.

THIS DOG KNOWS A little brown dog which is often seen near a North Kent A.F.S. soon knows that when the guns open up or the siren sounds, he must seek shelter.

Whenever there is firing, even in the distance, or the siren begins to wail, the dog speeds home as fast as he can.

He evidently knows, too, the difference between the "alert" and "raiders passed," for when the latter is sounding the dog comes back quite unafraid.

PULLING THE ROPE Mr. O. Search, of Wingham Road, Gravesend, lives next door to a deaf and dumb couple.

At night the husband ties a rope round his waist and one end hangs out the bedroom window.

If there is an air raid alarm, Mr. Search or his wife pull the rope and the couple then kneel down to "passed."

main, uprooted a garden fence and set light to it, plastered the front of one house, No. 14, with oil, and smashed the windows.

Part of the fence was hurled over the house into the back garden. Water from the burst main put out the fire.

Mrs. Nissen, wife of a tea stall keeper in another part of the town, had left No. 14 on a shopping. Her two children were at their grandmother's. A heavy piece of kerastone went through the window and lodged on the mantelpiece. That room had always been used as the family shelter.

Mr. Robert Gilling, a painter and decorator, aged about 64, who was distemping a bedroom at Mr. H. Harford's, next door, had just left to go to a nearby farm. He was found injured a few paces from the front gate.

He died on the way to hospital. Mrs. Gilling and a son live on the west side of the town.

Fragments of the incendiary bomb were dug out of a cavity not more than 4ft. across by men who went to repair the broken water main on Saturday morning.

REFUGEE INVALID KILLED

Table Saves Woman

A high explosive bomb exploded with devastating effect at the bottom of a short road connecting two others. It fell in the back garden of a corner house which was badly shattered from back to front.

From the houses on either side of that short road and many more in a longer road across the bottom of this one, the blast of this single bomb took heavy toll. Roads

Continued On Page 3

NOPE! A large graphic advertisement with the word 'NOPE!' in large, bold, stylized letters, surrounded by decorative elements.

From Base

OVER 50 bombs were dropped during a raid on Maidstone on Friday last week.

There were many casualties, some fatal.

The bombs fell in different parts of the town, some with devastating effect.

Two bombs fell by a public garden, one dropping almost directly on a church.

The picturesque entrance gates of the public gardens were badly damaged, and the adjoining gardener's cottage, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Middlestone, was reduced to a pile of rubble. Mrs. Middlestone was buried beneath the debris, but was rescued some hours later. She is, happily, expected to live.

Two gates of the nearby museum were damaged, one being over the reading room, which, however, was undamaged at the time. Part of the other gate fell on a shelter, but this was undamaged.

The bomb which fell beside the church made a large crater which was quite 20ft. across at the foot of the tower, and shrubs and trees were uprooted and iron railings twisted and bent into fantastic shapes.

The church tower suffered most. It was split practically from top to bottom, the large crack passing vertically through one side of the church clock.

All the windows of the tower and others in other parts of the church were shattered and great pieces of masonry are piled about the church doors.

BOMB THROUGH BRIDGE

A bomb fell clean through a bridge and exploded in the river below, while another fell a few yards away from the bridge on to some scaffolding on a river bank. The water was partially shattered and the interior of a nearby cottage was partially wrecked. The occupants were unharmed.

Windows in a factory on the other side of the river were shattered.

A bomb also fell on the tow path the other side of the bridge, demolishing a wall and making a large crater. Later two bombs exploded, one on either side of the river, and a door with suffered some damage.

A crater was caused by a bomb which fell in a garden yard. Five windows were overthrown. No one was hurt, but Porter A. Parker had a narrow escape. He was about 30 yards away from where the bomb exploded, and having to raise his arms to throw himself down by a nearby wall, which was badly damaged.

Museum Damage Superficial

A lot of the contents of the museum were shaken down by the explosions and broken but generally the damage to the building itself was superficial.

In a room opposite the museum windows were blown in and roofs badly damaged. In one of them, occupied by 82-year-old Mrs. M. A. Hart, bricks and mortar came through the roof into the sitting room.

"I never moved so fast in all my life," Mrs. Hart told a reporter, "but even now old Sister has not frightened me."

BIG STORES HIT BY INCENDIARY Girls Safely In Shelter

Fortunately all the girls were out of the building when an incendiary bomb fell through the roof of a big store in a main shopping street. Immediately clothing, hats and toys in the floor of the store caught light and in a few minutes a big fire was blazing.

Two fire engines were promptly on the scene and had the fire under control in about 15 minutes. Considerable damage was done to the store and to stock.

Another bomb fell in a main street and landed on the edge of the pavement outside a restaurant owned by a well-known firm. The bomb caused a large crater from which water bubbled from a fractured main. There was a strong smell of gas which indicated that a gas main had been hit.

ICE-CREAM DEPOT DEMOLISHED Two A./S. Men Among Casualties

Devastating damage was done when a heavy bomb fell on an ice cream firm's depot in a working class area.

The depot was blasted out, a large garage was destroyed, and a large garage was destroyed, and a large garage was destroyed.

public house which was blown down were still alive when found.

LICENSEE'S WIFE JUST ESCAPES

Left Shattered Bedroom In Nick Of Time

Mrs. Payne, wife of the licensee of the public house, had a lucky escape. She had just left a bedroom when it was demolished.

Mr. R. B. McCoy, a butcher, was working in his shop when the plate glass window was blown in with terrific force. Pieces of glass flew everywhere. A customer, Mrs. Burman, received cuts, and glass embedded itself in a wall and in joints of meat. Mr. McCoy was cut by flying glass and got his wrist badly injured when endeavouring to get to the cellar to turn off escaping gas. The meat was destroyed.

Mrs. McCoy was in the rear of the house, and a door crashed on to her. She was

Miss Curd, a cook, were in the canteen, when they heard the bomb whistling down. They dashed into another room in the nick of time.

The canteen, a wooden building, was soon ablaze, but the staff's own fire brigade, under Mr. Randall and Mr. A. J. Berger, prevented the flames from reaching the dining room, a larger structure adjoining. A.F.S. men, quickly on the scene, then got the fire under control.

Much of the equipment in the canteen was saved by the firemen, who acquitted themselves splendidly.

Food in the canteen was cooked. A pub-

A WRECKED PUBLIC HOUSE and an adjoining garage.

photographer, was on her knees polishing the hall floor, when a bomb fell in the back garden. Doors were blown off and glass crashed into the house, but, owing to her position near the ground, Mrs. Jeffery was unscathed.

When she looked out of the window she found that the back garden had practically disappeared and in its place was a deep crater about 30 feet wide.

Mrs. Thompson heard a lorry draw up outside her house as the bombs began to fall and she opened the front door to invite the driver in to take shelter. The force of an explosion lifted the man bodily over the fence into the front garden, while Mrs. Thompson was blown back into the hall.

DEVASTATION IN WORKING-CLASS DISTRICT

Many Injured Through Flying Glass

Much destruction was caused over a wide area in a working-class part of the town. Here the raiders passed over a number of streets lying at right angles to a main thoroughfare.

Bombs were dropped at half-a-dozen points. In three long streets scarcely a house escaped damage. Where the bombs struck, whole houses were demolished, roofs and upper stories were ripped off chimneys. Window sills and doors were blown out. In many houses the story was one of cracked walls, broken ceilings, splintered doors and shattered roofs above. Scarcely a pane of glass remained whole.

One bomb dropped near a chapel, blew the leaded window lights into chimneys, and scattered tiles from the sanctuary roof.

There were heavy casualties, including fatal ones, in this area. Many people were injured by flying glass.

KERSTONE LANDS ON MANTELPIECE

In a new road, a cube-shaped, of semi-detached villas, the first bomb dropped in the raid, an incendiary, burst itself in the footpath before exploding. It broke a water

"Filled With Admiration" At Maidstone's A.R.P. Services

COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO THE MAYOR

County Hall, Maidstone, 30th September, 1948.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I hope you will allow me to say how closely I share with you the distress which you must feel at the disaster from which Maidstone suffered last week.

I was in Maidstone at the time and was filled with admiration not only for the way in which the various Air Raid Precautions Services functioned, but also for the calm and courageous manner in which the people of the borough accepted the situation.

I am very glad to feel that our County Mobile Reserve was able to give you some help at a moment of real difficulty.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) EDWARD HARDY,

Chairman of the Kent County Council.

Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake, His Worship The Mayor of Maidstone.

severely bruised. The living part of the premises was covered with dust, glass and debris. There were gaping holes in the roof and walls.

Mr. A. McCoy, father of Mr. R. McCoy, was severely wounded while trying to reach his own shop. He was rushed to hospital in a private car.

Similar damage was done to the hardware shop next door owned by Mr. A. J. Sator. Sensing danger, Mrs. Sator sent her children down to the cellar, but she was caught upstairs as the bomb exploded. She could see nothing because of clouds of dust, and she had to feel her way downstairs.

As for Mr. Sator, he was waiting for her at the cellar flap when the bomb dropped. Kettles tied to the ceiling and pieces of hardware showered down upon him, and his head was cut.

An oil tank containing 25 gallons of oil was hurled 30 yards from the yard into the scullery. Not a drop was spilled!

ding, in fact, was done to a niece, while a large quantity of eggs to water-glass were hard-boiled!

Several other bombs fell close to the office buildings, while the roof of a reference library was damaged by blast.

One bomb fell close to an underground shelter in which 150 of the staff were taking cover. They were shaken, but there were no injuries.

BOMBS ON A NEW ESTATE

Housewife Killed While Cleaning Door Knocker

A large number of houses on a new estate about a mile from the centre of the town were rendered uninhabitable by high explosive bombs which fell mostly in gardens. There were some casualties, of which two proved fatal.

One of the two was Mrs. T. Matthews, whose husband is a reader on the staff of a newspaper. She was fatally injured while cleaning her front-door knocker.

A little girl was in a small shelter when a bomb burst just outside. All she suffered was a scratched leg.

Mrs. E. Jeffery, whose husband is a Press

ROOF SPOTTER BLOWN INTO TREE

Bomb On Box Printing Factory

The second bomb in this locality fell on a box printing factory. Four of the staff of employees were unable to escape. They included Vera Carter, Bob Fuller and Miss Turner, one of four sisters employed at the works.

There were 70 employees at work in a

WAS MIXING CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

A woman in the same road was mixing some Christmas puddings and had some eggs standing by when the bombs fell. After the raid she found that three or four paint brushes were stuck in the pudding mixture and the eggs had completely disappeared.

In the same road a white cat was asleep in a box when a bomb fell within a few yards of it. The cat disappeared. When it returned five hours later—it was a black cat!



A WOMAN was busily engaged making Christmas puddings when a bomb fell in the garden and made this huge crater. She was unhurt, but the Christmas puddings completely disappeared.

HOPE! FAITH! CONFIDENCE!

In Times of Stress

Times of stress put a heavy strain on us all. Nerves get frayed—sleep gets broken up and then just will not come when the opportunity occurs. NOW the quick, safe and certain help that 'ASPRO' gives fulfils a great human need. For 'ASPRO' steadies and soothes the jaded nerves and you know again the restfulness of sound sleep. There is no nervous or "hang-over" on awakening for 'ASPRO' does not dope or depress. Worries and uncertainties fade away—the horizon becomes brighter and troubles which appeared overwhelming are faced with renewed hope, faith and confidence. The help that 'ASPRO' gives goes further. It banishes pain and dispels a multitude of petty ills. Millions of people have proved it. So keep a packet of 'ASPRO' tablets handy. You will find that in any emergency



DOES NOT HURT
DOES NOT INJURE

ASPRO

CALMS & COMFORTS

RHEUMATIC PAIN WENT—FOR GOOD SLEEPS "AS SOUND AS SOUND CAN BE"

Dear Sirs, 25 Mable Parade, Brighton.

Reading 'ASPRO' all that further, but I must write you as I should be eternally grateful to you after my past experience. I developed a fever in the night, and I seemed to be driving the whole of my life, and I felt it most for rheumatism, developed from a severe cold from swimming in very cold water. Well, yesterday I took 2 'ASPRO' tablets after every meal. I slept throughout the whole of last night and woke a changed being. You see, I realize now for the first time, that when I had to pain returning, I had done the trick, and I got about from the house again.

"ASPRO" for ever.

Thank you again and again. I shall always recommend it now to the same condition, and I express my gratitude to you very gratefully.

Yours sincerely,
BENA MIDDLETON (Mrs.).

Dear Sirs, 25 Lockfield Road, New, London, E.S.

Once again I feel that it is my duty to write and let you know that I still stick to your old motto, "ASPRO". Owing to the present conditions in the country due to the war, I feel rather nervous, all my nerves are in a state of "I have not been able to sleep for weeks." When I feel like this, how do I know they say "KEEP ON ASPRO" and I sleep. My answer is "Two 'ASPRO' tablets and I sleep as sound as sound can be." They say "Just give 'ASPRO'." However, I just persuaded a friend to try for himself and gave her two on a regular basis. She said she saw the effect on the bed, and told me it was the first time I could be so sure that THAT WAS MY TRICK. Well, I was very pleased that I had been helped, if people only just realize that there is nothing to be gained from "ASPRO" and I was sure they would not be so slow to take it. I would not be without them if it was my last experience.

I remain, Yours sincerely,
Mrs. CROSS.

ALL LEADING CHEMISTS & STORES STOCK & DISPLAY 'ASPRO'

TRY 'ASPRO' FOR

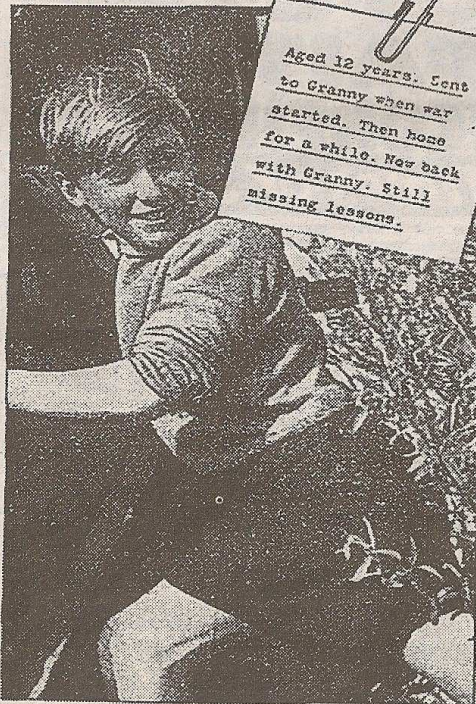
INFLUENZA	COLDS	RHEUMATISM
HEADACHES	LUMBAGO	ALCOHOLIC
SLEEPLESSNESS	IRRITABILITY	AFTER EFFECTS
OR INSOMNIA	NEURITIS	OF WOMEN
NEURALGIA	HAY FEVER	MAJOR
SCIATICA	NERVE SHOCK	ASTHMA
GOUT	TOOTHACHE	

Made in England by ASPRO LTD., Slough, Bucks. Telephone: Slough 3285

PRICES WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL



Meet Donald...



Aged 12 years. Sent to Granny when war started. Then home for a while. Now back with Granny. Still missing lessons.

But he's never missed a day of health training

Granny doesn't hold a teacher's diploma! But she carries on the job of health teaching with Don. She's the first to say what a simple job it is. The Lifebuoy habit is learned so easily. And remembered so well. That's why, wherever they are, children wash regularly with Lifebuoy, because the habit comes so naturally. And, though extra playtime has meant more health risks, Lifebuoy has dealt with dirt and the germs it carries.

Lifebuoy protection is as sure as it is simple. So mothers, and guardians, go on teaching the Lifebuoy habit, and using Lifebuoy themselves for house cleaning too. The clean Lifebuoy smell gives confidence, for it tells of health work well done!

Lifebuoy

THE HEALTH FRIEND

A LEVER PRODUCT

Darkkest hours



Locals make their way through the rubble of the destroyed buildings in Mill Street, Maidstone

PD1697457

DO YOU RECOGNISE ANYONE IN THESE PHOTOS? CONTACT LESLEY BELLEW AT lbellew@thekmgroun.co.uk

SCENES OF DEVASTATION



A Kent Messenger photographer had a lucky escape when he captured this bomb exploding in a residential street in October 1940

PD1537644

Dr Hewett Johnson sheltering in a nearby passage had a narrow escape when a bomb damaged the Deanery at Canterbury Cathedral

PD1697293



A naval officer driving this car escaped unhurt when bombs landed in Mill Street Maidstone one morning in October 1940

PD1206082

A woman was busily engaged making Christmas puddings when a bomb fell in the garden. She was unhurt but the Christmas puddings completely disappeared.

KENT MESSENGER OCTOBER 5, 1940

BROWSE OUR HUGE ARCHIVE OF LOCAL WARTIME PHOTOGRAPHS AT WWW.KENTONLINE.CO.UK

DARK DAYS ACROSS COUNTY



Another heroine was a young mother who, hearing the crash of bombs, and caught unawares in the street, lifted her baby out of the pram, placed it on a pavement and shielded it with her body. Both escaped unhurt.

KENT MESSENGER OCTOBER 5, 1940

HER TEETH ARE "WHITE LIES"

Make a note of this, After 5—! Your teeth look lovely and white. But they're white lies. If only you could see the unpleasant tartar behind them. You ought to use Solidox!

Ordinary brushing won't move tartar, and *cannot* move it once it has taken hold. What a risk! For tartar can weaken gums and so encourage serious teeth troubles.

Use Solidox! It's safe on delicate enamel, yet keeps teeth brilliantly white and *tartar-free*. Solidox is the *only* toothpaste that loosens and removes tartar, because it's the only toothpaste containing the anti-tartar ingredient Ricinusulphate. So use Solidox—and keep your teeth as healthy as they seem. Healthy teeth are a big aid towards a healthy body... towards keeping really fit, and ready for any emergency!

The dentist's mirror tells the truth...



Tartar!

... the cause of dental trouble


COVERED BY BRITISH PATENT NO. 229342

DOY JOHN KNIP 6^D BIG TUBE



SOLIDOX
 RICINOSULPHATE TOOTHPASTE
 SOL 26-782-68 JOHN KNIGHT LIMITED, LONDON, E.C.16

2 TABLETS OF PHENSIC
 QUICKLY RELIEVE
 HEADACHES, RHEUMATISM,
 NEURITIS, LUMBAGO




You needn't have so ache or a pain if you heed this wonderful
 advice. Get some Phensic and take 2 tablets right away—with
 some water. Relief will quickly come. The pain will go—
 and you'll be bright and cheerful. Phensic will not harm your
 heart. It is PURE, POWERFUL and SAFE.

Prices: 3/-, 6/-, 1/3, 5/- & 5/-

Phensic
 Brand
 The Quick Tonic Pick-me-up

THE FUNNIEST, FASTEST, FURIOUS, FUN FILM OF ALL
 TIME — IS AT THE
RITZ
 MAIDSTONE
 ALL NEXT WEEK — COMMENCING JANUARY 11th

SALEM STUDIOS presents
WILL HAY
 IN
The BLACK SHEEP of WHITEHALL
 With
 JOHN MILLS and BASIL SYDNEY
 Directed by
 Produced by
 MICHAEL BALCON BASIL DEARREN and WILL HAY



WILL HAY DOES "HAY"-WIRE AS
 COLLEGE HEAD • DETECTIVE
 TICKET COLLECTOR • HOSPITAL MATRON



A resident of Ross Street, Rochester, inspects the remains of his home after a raid

PD1697485

ACROSS THE CHANNEL THE NEW MARK OF SPITFIRE CAUSED LUFTWAFFE PROBLEMS

DARK DAYS ACROSS COUNTY



Bomb damage to homes in Rochester Street, Rochester

PD 1697476

Further Battle of Britain reading

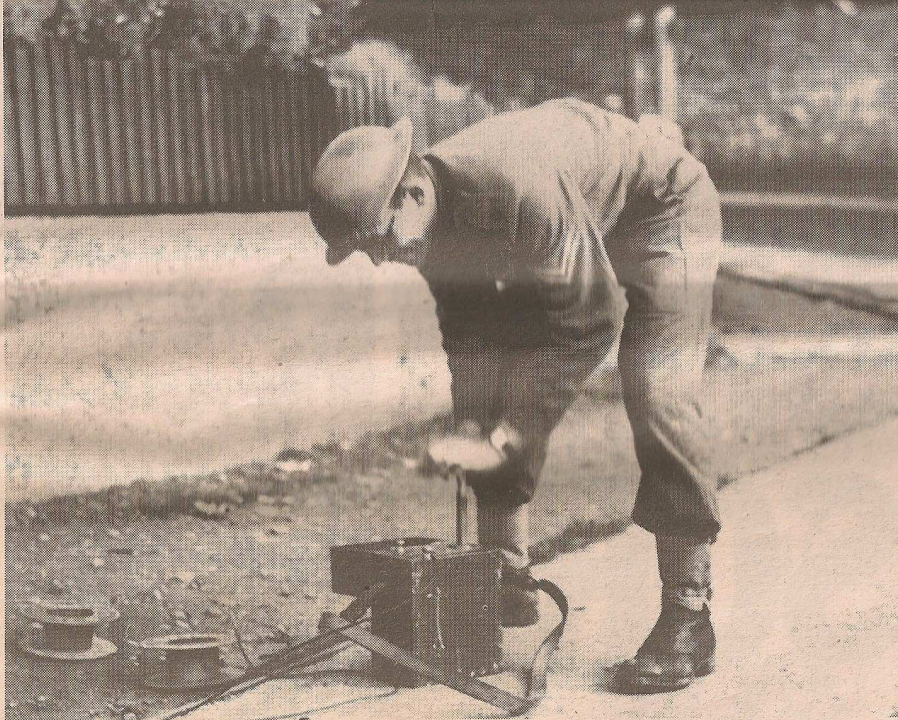
**Kent & the Battle of Britain,
The Long Hot Summer of 1940**
by Robin J. Brooks.

Aviation History www.countrysidebooks.co.uk

Jimmy Corbin, Last of the Ten Fighter Boys,
www.historypress.co.uk

Spirit of the Blue
Peter Ayerst - A Fighter Pilot's Story.
By Hugh Thomas, www.thehistorypress.co.uk

**Tally Ho! From the Battle of Britain
to the Defence of Darwin,**
by Wing Commander RW Foster DFC AE
with Norman Franks.
Published by Grub Street.



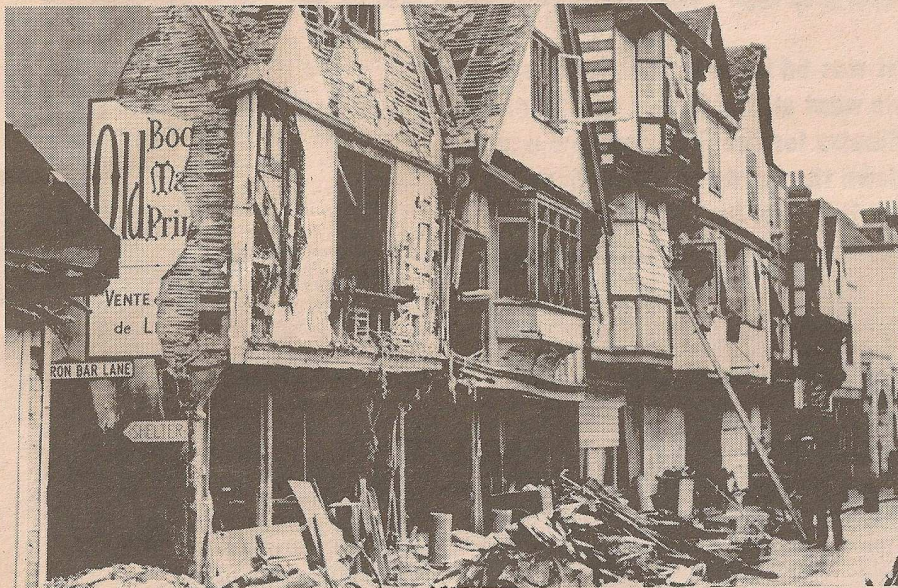
A soldier carries out a controlled explosion in Moncktons Avenue, Maidstone

PD1697448



The 13th century arches of Lydd Church
blasted by German bombs


PD608547



Although the worst damage in Canterbury occurred in 1942, bombs fell on Burgate in October 1940. Iron bar Lane is left

PD1702453

RED GLOW OVER LONDON COULD BE SEEN FROM KENT



MACKESON'S Milk STOUT

DOES YOU DOUBLE GOOD

NOW, more than ever before, you need the *double* goodness of Mackeson's Milk Stout. A Mackeson's puts new heart, new energy into you. Each bottle contains the energising carbohydrates of pure dairy milk as well as malt, hops and yeast. You get the energy of stout *plus* the energy of milk. That's why doctors say Mackeson's does you *double good*. Have a Mackeson's today and keep those wartime troubles at arm's length!

At all Whitbread houses* and off-licences and at leading retailers everywhere.*

PICTURE PALACES OFFERED LIGHT RELIEF

It didn't matter where you were, the danger was everywhere

"THERE was a draught, a fierce draught. It felt like your face was being cut off. When a bomb was falling, even if you were in the air raid shelter, you could feel it. You would touch your face afterwards, to see if it was still there."

Jo Allen, from East Peckham, put her hands up to her face, reliving the terror of life during the Battle of Britain.

Mrs Allen was 17 in August 1940. She said: "Not that much happened for the first year of the war. It was not until the Blitz in September 1940 when it all started in London.

"My sister Kit went in the Land Army and I got called up for war work.

"I went to Surrey Docks. We used to assemble Jeeps for the Yanks.

"We did everything - pack radar towers, take apart Norton motorbikes to be sent abroad. You name it and we packed it up! I also had to register to take my turn on fire watching, in case the incendiary bombs came.



Jo Allen and her beloved sister Kit on the beach at Ramsgate during the war

"If there was fire we would have to run and find a warden to help put out the fire. Everyone had to help and we all had to have a bucket of water outside our front door. "The German bombers started daylight raids on the timber yards and the bombs fell on Brunswick Yard. Several people were killed. It was terrible, all during the day. "The house I live in now, in The Freehold, was blasted in the war. It didn't matter where you were in the south of England. There was danger everywhere."

Phone 1436 **MAJESTIC CINEMA** Phone 1456
SEVENOAKS
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th FOR SIX DAYS
 RETAINED FOR A SECOND MAMMOTH WEEK

CLARK GABLE
 LESLIE OLIVIA VIVIEN
HOWARD ★ DeHAVILLAND ★ LEIGH
GONE WITH THE WIND
 IN GLORIOUS TECHNICOLOR
 Showing at 2 p.m. and 8.30 on Weekdays (2 performances only)
 Sunday at 4 p.m. (one performance)
 Seats available at all prices
 Exactly as presented at its West-End Performance

WARDONA SNODLAND
 Tel. 84212

Sunday, June 25th
 Lloyd Nolan & Constance Moore in **BUY ME THAT TOWN** ©
 Also Bela Lugosi & Joan Barclay in **BLACK DRAGONS** ©

MONDAY, JUNE 26th — THREE DAYS
 IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS REQUESTS

Dangerous Moonlight
 Introducing the Famous and Lovely "Warsaw Concerto"
 with ANTON WALBROOK & SALLY GREY
 Also Leon Errol & Lupe Velez in
MEXICAN SPITFIRE SEES A GHOST ©

THURSDAY, JUNE 29th — THREE DAYS
CARY GRANT & LARRAINE DAY
 in
MR. LUCKY
 Also Ann Shirley & Ray Gulegar in **FOUR JACKS & A JILL** ©

It was not all bad, like the bombing, and we were always going to dances and cinema, says Jo Allen. "I loved Dangerous Moonlight with Anton Walbrook.

"It was very romantic. He was a Polish pilot who had been blinded and kept playing the Warsaw Concerto on the piano.

"Caravan with Loretta Young was another good film. I used to like her. "It was only 6d to go to the pictures, so we went all the time. Well, except the week after war was declared when they closed all the picture palaces and we all had to carry gas masks around with us. "And we used to love the sixpenny hops. "One of the dances advertised in the KM was 2/6d for a couple or 1/6d if you went on your own. That was the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone. It was posh there.

"We couldn't afford that sort of money, so we would go to the church hall.

"I loved all the music - White Cliffs of Dover, Moonlight Serenade, I'm in Heaven. I still know all the words. We did have lovely times as well as sad times.

"I also saw Frank Sinatra at the cinema for first time - he was a young, skinny thing. It was the first time I had heard his voice.

He sang: "With a Song in my Heart" and I couldn't sleep that night, I was still singing. I wrote down the words with the girls while we were meant to be packing up parts for prefabs going to Cherbourg. We had all this paper and were trying to remember the words.

"When the foreman came round we had to put something on top to hide it. Goodness knows what they thought when they opened the packaging in France.

"My friend Pat Bygraves, was there. She was Max's sister. They all lived around Surrey Docks. Their sister Lily was older and was going to marry a Yank. We all went to the Astoria to watch the newsreels and there was a piece on her about going to America. She never went

SILVER SCREENS and sixpenny hops

'It was 6d to go to the pictures, so we went all the time. I saw Frank Sinatra for the first time and wrote down the words of With a Song in My Heart on the packaging for prefabs that were going to Cherbourg'

in the end - she married someone else. "Max Bygraves wasn't famous then. He was in the RAF and Blossom, who he married, was in the WAAF. He got involved with the entertainment side in the forces. It was good because he used to give Pat the left-over make-up! "Sometimes we all had to sleep under the arches at London Bridge for safety. We were in number 61 arch. "Max would come round singing with the Pioneer Corps. They used to sing Bye Bye Blues and Begin the Begin. He was a nice singer. So was Tommy Steele. After

the war, I used to live next door to his grandmother, Mrs Hicks. "Tommy's dad, Darbo, was a tic tac man at the horse races. When they had a victory procession in Bermondsey, Darbo went as Churchill. "He always looked like him, wearing the same sort of hat with an umbrella over his arm." The last time I saw Pat Bygraves was at Harlow's Farm, in East Peckham, on the corner of Bullen Lane. "My family went hop picking every year. My mother only missed one year's hopping in her lifetime and that was when I was born. I was underweight so we had to stay at home in Tower Bridge Road, in Bermondsey. "Even during the war I was at Harlow's for a week with my friend, Ivy. It was lovely and quiet. I didn't see any dogfights or bombs then." Mrs Allen and her family enjoyed life in East Peckham so much that they eventually moved to the village.

MAX BYGRAVES CAME ROUND SINGING WITH THE PIONEER CORPS WHEN WERE SHELTERING IN ARCH 61

HOW THE SPITFIRE FUND WAS BORN



Bob Stanford-Tuck - accredited with shooting down 29 enemy aircraft

Pd415611

29 enemy

A forced landing in 1940 led to the take off of the County of Kent Squadron. The renowned pilot Bob Stanford-Tuck was attacking a formation of Ju-88s in August when his Spitfire was hit and he came down near Lord Cornwallis's home at Plovers, Horsmonden.

Stanford-Tuck was put up for the night and when he awoke Lord Cornwallis told him he had received a cheque for £5,000 from Stanley Johnson, from Bearsted.

In a Kent Messenger front page report at the time, Lord Cornwallis said: "The pilot was a grand fellow. Only a few days before he had received the DFC at the hands of the King and that very day had shot down two German planes.

"He told me what great encouragement it was to him and his fellow pilots to know the people of Kent were taking such a keen interest in helping to equip the air force."

Lord Cornwallis added: "But we must not stand still at one plane or even two or three; not until our Knights of the air go forth to battle in the skies in a whole squadron bearing the rampant White Horse of Kent."

Speaking of Mr Johnson's gesture, Lord Cornwallis said he was a bit grumpy when he had to get out of bed to answer the telephone at midnight. "But I was wide awake when he told me he was sending me a cheque for £5,000 for a new plane.

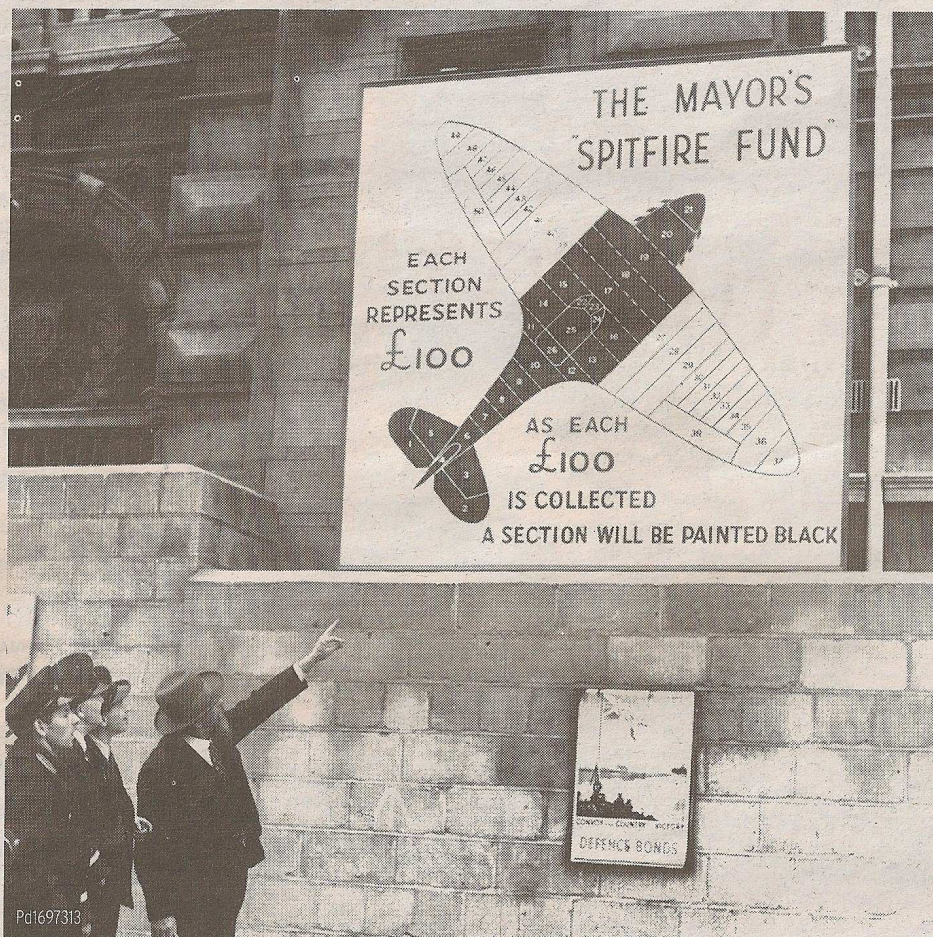
"I don't mind how many people ring me at midnight to tell me the same thing. In fact I will forgive them if they ring me up at 3am."

In a short space of time £29,000 was collected for the Kent County Spitfire Fund. This bought three Spitfires which were named Man of Kent, Kentish Man and Fair Maid of Kent.

Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft, wrote to Lord Cornwallis: "The nation's thanks are due in full measure for their magnificent contribution to the strength of the Royal Air Force."

By the following year the fund had reached £100,000 and Kent became the first county to have a gift squadron.

Aerial ace's lucky gift



Pd1697313

29 enemy aircraft shot down in action

Bob Stanford-Tuck is accredited with shooting down 29 enemy aircraft.

He first saw action during the evacuation of Dunkirk, during which he chalked up the first of his many aerial victories.

A few days after coming down in Horsmonden, his Spitfire was again badly damaged in combat and he glided 15 miles before crash landing.

Now flying Hurricanes, Stanford-Tuck was shot down into the sea and was eventually picked up by a Gravesend coal barge.

He later took command of the Biggin Hill Wing and was back flying Spitfires.

It was during one of these missions in 1942 that he was hit by ground fire and forced to crash-land near Boulogne.

He made numerous attempts to escape and eventually succeeded just before the end of the war in 1945.

That year he married Joyce.

He retired from the RAF in 1949 and went on to work in the aeronautics industry until 1953 when he, Joyce and their two sons settled in Eastry, near Dover, and took up mushroom farming.

In retirement they moved to Sandwich Bay in the 1970s. He died in 1987, aged 70.

A memorial plaque to honour his courage and achievements was unveiled at St Clement's Church, Sandwich, in 2008.

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Simply answer the following question:

Which anniversary is the Battle of Britain commemorating this year?

A: 50th B: 60th C: 70th

To enter please send your entry, with your answer and your name, address and telephone number on a postcard to Battle of Britain competition, Promotions Department, KM Group, Medway House, Sir Thomas Longley Road, Medway City Estate, Strood, Rochester, ME2 4DU. Alternatively email your answer to www.competitions@thekmgroup.co.uk Please remember to include your name and full postal address. Closing date for entries is July 31, 2010.

RULES This competition is not open to employees (and immediate families) of the KM Group or any other company associated with it. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with the rules will be disqualified. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries lost or damaged. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The decision of the judges, as appointed by the KM Group, is final. Only one entry per person. Entries must be received by noon on month XX and the name(s) of the winner(s) will be published in this newspaper. Entrants' details may be used for marketing purposes and entry to this competition indicates your acceptance unless you clearly state otherwise on your entry. There is no cash alternative to the prize. For additional terms and conditions, visit www.kentonline.co.uk/terms

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