

Havoc at Heysham from Enemy Bombs in March 1941 : Daylight Alert on



Two people were killed when enemy bombs struck this house



Sightseers inspect the house from which nine escaped uninjured.

Easter Monday

AS the enemy widened his scope of his night air raids against this country the Midlands, West Riding and Industrial Lancashire shared the rigours of the almost nightly blitzed areas of London and Merseyside, and reference to our North West Diary of that period shows that this part of the North West did not escape his attention, unfortunately with fatal results in the shape of civilian casualties.

AGAIN it was Heysham which had to bear the brunt of the attack in this area and considerable damage to life and property resulted from the attentions of a lone raider who dropped several high explosive bombs in the Heysham area on the night of March 20th, 1941. Some idea of the extent and scope of the damage inflicted can be gained from the photographs of these houses in the "on Avenue" district. Doubtless the raider's objective was again the Harbour but once more his aim was bad and civilian lives and homes paid toll. When this house was struck two people were killed. Pictures — the extent of the bomb damage back and front.

Nine Escaped Uninjured

IN the other picture a crowd of sightseers on the morning after gaze at another adjoining house from which nine people had miraculously escaped from injuries. Here also is the splintered sacred gable end of another of the houses which suffered damage in this raid.

Heysham Guns In Action

FOR some weeks after this visitation this part of the North West "listened nightly to the wails of "Moaning minnie," as the sirens had become dubbed. On one occasion Orange-over-Stands was the target for a shower of incendiary bombs which did considerable material damage to property in the neighbourhood fortunately without casualties. This was the prelude to a full scale raid on Barrow-in-Furness which suffered on two successive nights. On both occasions the heavy anti-aircraft batteries at Heysham were in action and the blast of their guns shook the foundations of property in Morecambe, Heysham and Lancaster. Two or three nights after visiting Barrow the Luftwaffe extended their beat to Be fast which also got a nasty packet. Returning enem



Wreckage at the rear of the house where casualties occurred.

planes again came within range of Heysham guns which opened up on them without, however, scoring a hit.

Easter Monday "Alert"

ABOUT this time Giant Axe Field, Lancaster's famous sports arena was no longer available for the annual children's William Smith Festival on Easter Monday so the authorities transferred the event to Barton Road and here is a picture of the crowd on that occasion. Incidentally the Nazis could not even let the youngsters celebrate in peace. There was a daylight alert whilst the event was in progress and spectators sought shelter under the hedge bottoms. The alert lasted some 30 minutes and was occasioned by the advent of a single enemy plane which was, however, shot down by British fighters in the neighbourhood of Silloth, Cumberland.



Before the "Alert" at Barton Road, Lancaster, William Smith Easter Festival, Easter Monday, March 1941.

Women Had To Register

AT this time, too, women had to register for national service and here are several of them photographed outside the local Employment Exchange prior to registering.



Mr. W. J. Garnett (High Sheriff of Lancashire) opening Garstang's War Weapons Week

Overton And Middleton Weapons Week

WAR Weapons Weeks were by now busily under weigh and one of the first local authorities to organise these events, after Lancaster and Morecambe, was the Lancaster Rural District Council. Overton and Middleton are both situated in this area and both vie with one another in their efforts to raise the war effort to prosecute the war. At Overton there was a grand parade in which the Home Guard took part as pictured here, and the school kiddies also marched in the procession carrying saving posters. Some of these youngsters will have grown into quite self possessed young ladies by now.



Overton Home Guard march in War Weapons Week Procession.

THE Overton and Middleton effort was actually opened at Middleton Institute by the then Deputy Mayor of Morecambe and Heysham, the late Coun. Fred Clayton, who is here photographed with officials at the opening ceremony. At Gar-

stang the proceedings were inaugurated by Mr. W. J. Garnett, High Sheriff of Lancashire, and not even the rain could dampen the ardour of the crowd.



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Bomb scarred gable end of a Heysham house

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Women wait to Register for National Service



Schoolchildren of Overton carried Saving Posters.

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