

EASTLEIGH & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Paper 69

The Air-raid of 8th October 1940.

This short booklet has been produced because the raid is mentioned in each of the three booklets about Factory bombings.

I have deliberately refrained from producing a continuous narrative of the raid as the chronology would be conjecture. Instead, the incomplete evidence alone is presented.

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9. Letters of thanks to Dr. R. R. Garrett and his A.R.P. team and to Captain S. W. Rolfe and his Air-raid Wardens.
10. Letters of thanks to the Members of the Rescue Service and to Captain Russell and his Bomb-disposal Squad.
11. Letter about repairs to houses in Market Street after a miraculous unexploded bomb.
12. The Royal Air Force casualties at the Airport and graves.

The newspaper reports and incident reports were deliberately confusing and understated as part of censorship. It is thought that the attacks began over Salisbury and the planes flew in from the West.

The Raid of Tuesday 8th October 1940.

NAZI 'PLANES MACHINE GUN TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Many People Injured Some Fatally

TWO SHOPS AND A STORE DESTROYED BY FIRE

GERMAN 'planes made a low flying attack in a south coast area late yesterday evening. They machine-gunned towns and villages, and dropped some bombs. There were a number of casualties, some fatal, and damage was caused to residential property.

In a town in the area shops, including a Co-operative store were struck by bombs, and two men lost their lives in another building which was damaged.

Children playing football on a piece of waste ground were machine-gunned, but they escaped injury.

In the same town bombs of the delayed action type were safely removed by a bomb-disposal squad.

Three German bombers "hedge-hopping" over trees came out of the clouds, and in one village swooped down to little more than 100 feet before they opened fire with their machine-guns.

CASUALTIES

Numerous high-explosive bombs were dropped on a south coast town, some of them being of the delayed action type. Damage to property included the destruction by fire of two shops and a store. Casualties were mostly minor and due to machine-gun bullet wounds, but two of them were fatal.

The planes sneaked in and were so low that they only just missed the housetops.

They opened fire on children playing football on waste ground. "We threw ourselves flat on the ground as teacher told us, and no one was hurt," said a little boy, who came running along afterwards holding tightly his football.

Many people in the streets also had the presence of mind to fall flat. Hearing the noise of bullets falling on the roofs, many householders went out to see what was happening when the planes had passed overhead, and were met with a hail of bullets from the rear gunners. Scrambling back to shelter was only a matter of seconds.

Part from the Southern Daily
Echo. 9th October 1940.

Two bombs dropped on the Co-operative Society's premises, the second of the delayed action type, causing a sheet of flame which could be seen for a great distance around. Luckily, the staff had already left. Within a matter of seconds two shops were burning fiercely. So efficient was the work of the regular fire brigade and the A.F.S., that the flames were under control within an hour, and extinguished. Although surrounded on one side with debris, the butchery department next to one of the demolished shops was carrying on business as usual this morning.

TWO MEN KILLED

Two other bombs were dropped on offices where two men lost their lives.

A bomb disposal squad safely removed the delayed action bombs.

On the occasion of the evening's visit by the "Luftwaffe", when the town was machine-gunned and bombed in 1940 from roof height, bullets penetrated the Mayor's Parlour and Town Clerk's Office. It is understood the resulting holes in the ceiling of the Mayor's Parlour have been enclosed in an aluminium frame, while beneath, on the wall, a plate gives particulars concerning the incident.

Pirelli Canteen near Dew Lane was damaged; 2 slight casualties.

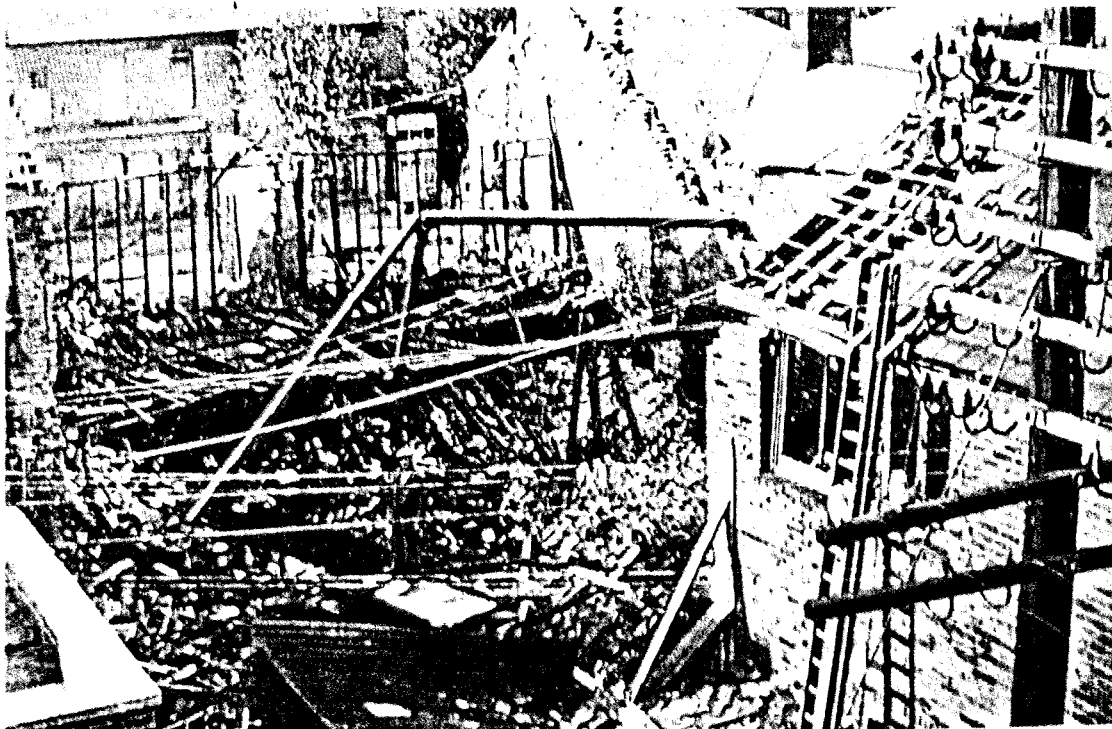
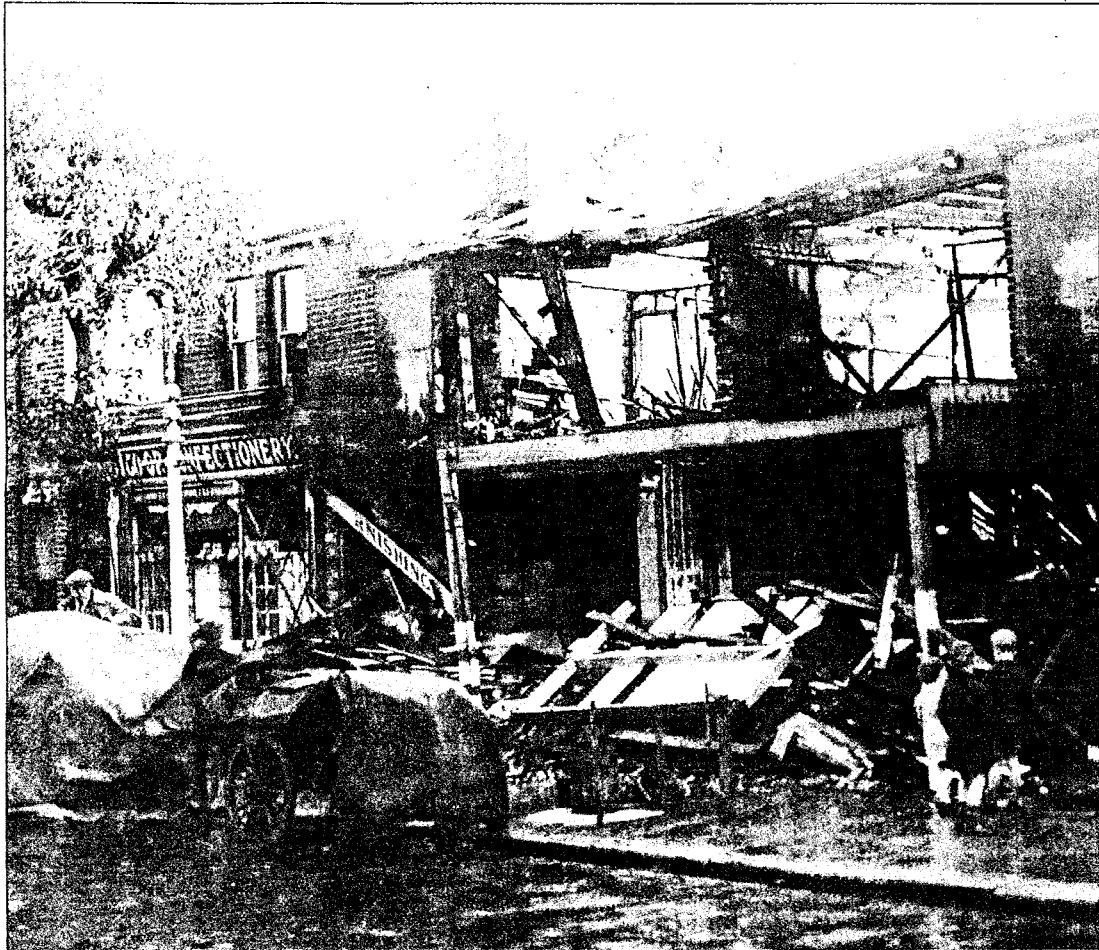
The Running Sheds at the Locomotive works were bombed killing two men, Frederick Hayes and Alfred Rendle. Two others were wounded.

Some Co-op buildings in High Street were bombed and destroyed by fire.

There were many unexploded bombs, the most spectacular of which went through the front window of Mr Arthur Wilkins' house at 180 Market Street, through the side wall into No. 182 and landed on a bed. Another was at 174 Market Street.

Many more unexploded bombs were at the Airport. Two RAF personnel were killed there and four injured, one of whom died later.

The Co-op after the bombing.



Bombing of Co-op in High Street.

[99/48 & 99/49]

B/S

24th October 1940

Dear Sir,

I have to report to you that on Tuesday the 8th instant the following commodities were destroyed at the Central Stores of the Eastleigh Co-operative Society in High Street, Eastleigh, by reason of Enemy action.

25½ cwt. of Grocery Sugar.
1 cwt. of Icing Sugar (Bakery)
3,028½ lbs of Tea
20 doz. Ideal Large Size Tins of Milk
16 " " Small " " " "
28 " Cow & Gate Full Cream Large Size Tins of Milk
16 " " " " " Small " " " "
24 " Nestles " " Large " " " "
24 " " " " " " " " " "

In regard to the tins of milk certificates were issued on the 10th instant, to be produced to wholesalers for the replacement of stocks.

I enclose herewith copy of report made by the Borough Council Meat and Food Inspector on the Salvage of certain damaged goods.

The containers of the destroyed milk will be handed over to the local authority's Salvage Scheme.

With regard to the Grocery Sugar an additional 1½ cwt. has been badly damaged, but the Managing Secretary of the Eastleigh Co-operative Society informs me that after careful sorting over they estimate that they can boil down the remainder and make between 56 and 84 lbs. of syrup for use in the Bakery.

In addition to the above and the commodities mentioned in the enclosed report, a great deal of other stocks, Tinned Fruits, Breakfast Cereals, Cordials, Matches, and even a recently purchased stock of Xmas Crackers were destroyed.

Is there any means of these being replaced please.

Yours faithfully,

Divisional Food Officer,
Rotherfield Grange,
61, Bath Road,
READING.

Incident reports.

No mention is made of an Air Raid Warning having been sounded, though after 177 false alarms would it have mattered?

		TIME OF INCIDENT:—		about 1845/8	
3. 1939	Eastleigh	Market St & High St.	Jewish bombs dropped.		
2006	"	Market St	Further heavy bombs reported as follows: 135, 150 & 192 Market Street.		
2021	"	Market St etc.	Complete list as follows: 133, 135, 146, 150, 194 and from "Market Street" 60 & "Stoughton" High St. & "Greenhill Road"		
2100	"	Seaborough Rd.	additional W.B. near Seaborough Rd. forming a large area of destruction.		

		TIME OF INCIDENT:—		1840/8					
3. 1939	Eastleigh	Bomb	<p>2 J.A. 00 after the other town bombing and was accordingly. 3 HE in Centre of Market Street caused a slight explosion. Being made as found.</p> <p>Area in close vicinity caused a collection of debris, a slight explosion. Bomb in Market Street caused some damage to buildings.</p> <p>Centre of town market square. 2 W.B. reported in highly populated area in town, 7 of which were later removed by 200 + one cannot be located. One was carried to hospital & released. 15 reported out of which 7 are known in hospital.</p> <p>Total casualties: 2 killed male, 2 male + 1 female (Wife) seriously and 12 male + 3 female slightly injured, 200 + one cannot be located. 1 in hospital in 24 hours. In A.R. report: all were in hospital & serious cases.</p>			3	me	me	15
7-10-40				Situation Report-0600/9					
3. 1939	Eastleigh	Bomb and Airport	<p>Further report 2 HE in ground built at 1115 pm in road.</p> <p>3 W.B. heading towards shore.</p> <p>17 " " at Airport.</p> <p>All Classification (C).</p> <p>Kenyon's Eastleigh Police Station. Home Eastleigh 8/12/42 1040 at 1720 J.A. 00 confirmed by police. Classification C.</p> <p>2 W.B. in Eastleigh area making report from airport of with exception of one which cannot be traced.</p>			+	22	+	1

The raid is assumed to have covered more ground than Eastleigh itself as the Newspaper Report mentions fatalities from machine gun bullets. It is uncertain which waste-ground was mentioned.

When gathering memories around seventy years after the event, dates and times were not known so it is uncertain whether this is the raid referred to.

It is the machine-gunning which appears to be most memorable.

Mr. Frank Meaton had to lay in the gutter in Bishopstoke Road to avoid the bullets,

Mrs. J. Kitchen, then Joan Bartlett, was in the Fish and Chip Shop in High Street, near Derby Road, when a bullet pierced the plate-glass window. The plane was flying so low that the pilot could be seen.

Choirboys from All Saints' Church were aimed at on their way home after Choir Practice.

It seems that the planes flew along the North-South Roads (Market Street, High Street, Desborough Road, Cranbury Road and Chamberlayne Road strafing gardens, roofs and roads as bullet damage was remembered.

The number of bombs and amount of machine-gunning seem too much for just three planes to achieve.'

Letters of Condolence.

[94/213]

12th October, 1940.

Mr. J. Rendle,
1 Cherbourg Road,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Mr. Rendle,

I have been directed by my Council to convey to you and your family their deepest sympathy in your bereavement.

The Minister of Health also asks me to express the deep sympathy of His Majesty's Government with you in your loss.

It is my earnest hope that throughout the hazardous days which lie ahead, you and your family may be protected from the wanton brutality of an enemy whose dastardly methods are only equalled by the degree of insanity which conceives them.

Yours truly,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

[94/214]

Mrs. D. Hayes,
6 Winchester Terrace,
Oakmount Road,
CHANDLER'S FORD.

Dear Mrs. Hayes,

I have been directed by my Council to convey to you and your family their deepest sympathy in your bereavement.

The Minister of Health also asks me to express the deep sympathy of His Majesty's Government with you in your loss.

It is my earnest hope that throughout the hazardous days which lie ahead, you and your family may be protected from the wanton brutality of an enemy whose dastardly methods are only equalled by the degree of insanity which conceives them.

Yours truly,

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Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

Letters of appreciation.

[94/216]

11th October, 1940.

Capt. J. Cripps,
Fire Station,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Capt. Cripps,

I have been directed by my Council to convey to you and the whole of the members of the Fire Service their appreciation and thanks for the good work done during the air raid in the town on Tuesday last.

The efficient manner in which each particular service did their work helped greatly to minimise further dangers and the Council are convinced that if other incidents unfortunately occur in this area the whole of the Fire Service personnel will continue in the same prompt manner and with the same keenness that they have shewn in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor,
Superintendent.

[94/217]

Mr. C. E. James,
Director of Casualty Services,
Red House,
Romsey Road,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Mr. James,

I have been directed by the Council to convey to you and the whole of the members of the A.R.P. service under your control their appreciation and thanks for the good work done during the air raid in the town on Tuesday last.

The efficient manner in which each particular service did their work helped greatly to minimise further dangers and the Council are convinced that if other incidents unfortunately occur in this area the whole of the A.R.P. personnel will continue to give their services in the same prompt manner and with the same keenness that they have shewn in the past.

Yours sincerely,

[94/219]

12th October, 1940.

Dr. R. R. Garrett,
The Cottage,
Romsey Road,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Dr. Garrett,

I have been directed by the Council to convey to you and the whole of the members of the A.R.P. service under your control their appreciation and thanks for the good work done during the air raid in the town on Tuesday last.

The efficient manner in which each particular service did their work helped greatly to minimise further dangers, and the Council are convinced that if other incidents unfortunately occur in this area the whole of the A.R.P. personnel will continue to give their services in the same prompt manner and with the same keenness that they have shown in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

[94/219]

Capt. S. W. Rolfe,
Chief Warden,
Red House,
Romsey Road,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Capt. Rolfe,

I have been directed by the Council to convey to you and the whole of the members of the A.R.P. service under your control their appreciation and thanks for the good work done during the air raid in the town on Tuesday last.

The efficient manner in which each particular service did their work helped greatly to minimise further dangers, and the Council are convinced that if other incidents unfortunately occur in this area the whole of the A.R.P. personnel will continue to give their services in the same prompt manner and with the same keenness that they have shown in the past.

Yours sincerely,

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Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

[94/220]

12th October, 1940.

To the Members of the A.R.P. Rescue Service.

Dear Sirs,

I have been directed by the Council to convey to you their appreciation and thanks for the good work done during the air raid in the town on Tuesday last.

The efficient manner in which each particular service did their work helped greatly to minimise further dangers, and the Council are convinced that if other incidents unfortunately occur in this area the whole of the A.R.P. personnel will continue to give their services in the same prompt manner and with the same keenness that they have shown in the past.

Yours sincerely,

[94/236]

15th October, 1940.

Captain Russell,
Bomb Disposal Squad,
Southampton Garrison,
SOUTHAMPTON.

Dear Sir,

I have been directed by my council to convey to you and the members of the Bomb Disposal Squad engaged at the incident in Eastleigh on Tuesday last, their appreciation for the very efficient manner in which the unexploded bombs that dropped in the area were rendered harmless.

Had it not been for your prompt action, conditions in the borough might have been a thousand times worse than they were, and on behalf of the council I thank you and your staff for the splendid way in which your work was done.

Yours truly,

Unexploded bomb at 180 and 182 Market Street.

There were many unexploded bombs, the most spectacular of which went through the front window of Mr Arthur Wilkins' house at 180 Market Street, through the side wall into No. 182 and landed on a bed.

2nd November, 1940.

Mr. J. Connock,
1, Factory Road,
EASTLEIGH.

Dear Sir,

re:- 182. Market Street.

With reference to the damage caused by enemy action to 182, Market Street, owned by Mrs. Dominy, I understand that a bomb has damaged the party wall between Nos. 180 and 182. Mr. Wilkins, the owner of No. 180, has authorised me to make good the damage to that property.

It will also be necessary to do some repairs to No. 182. Will you please therefore fill in the enclosed authorisation and return to me at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

The RAF personnel killed on 8th October 1940.

Leading Aircraftsman, Stanley BLAYLOCK, 54286, 924/30 Balloon Squadron., Royal Air Force, Aged 21. Son of Ernest and Bertha Blaylock, of Burnley. Buried at Haggate Baptist Chapelyard, Lancashire Grave Ref. Sec. 28. Grave 15.

Aircraftsman 1st Class, Garfield Maurice PRING, 549818, 924 Balloon Squadron, Royal Air Force. Buried at North Stoneham.

Injured and died on 10th October 1940.

Aircraftsman 2nd Class, Frederick Henry GREENING, 1260370, 924 Balloon Squadron., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, aged 27. Son of John and Emma Greening of Islington, London. Buried at North Stoneham.

War Graves at North Stoneham.

