

# RAME PENINSULA HISTORY GROUP

## Summary/Collection of wartime bombings in the Rame Peninsula and other information 1939 - -1945

1. Table of known bombings
2. Selection of stories/recollections and information on specific incidents
3. Map and Images - bomb sites with photographic evidence
4. Local defences Ack Ack, Searchlights, Radar Stations, Decoys,
5. References - more reading and websites.
6. Perspective - a summary of what Plymouth and Cornwall endured.

### 1. Chronological table of recorded 'bombings' in RAME PENINSULA

Entries 'highlighted' in yellow have articles following main table of bombings.

Words underlined in table appear as originally spelt (inc 'incendary' which remains unchanged throughout) Queries are bracketed thus: (???---???)

DATE	TIME	LOCATION 1	LOCATION 2	DETAILS
1939 September		London		War declared on Germany
1940				
30 6 1940		Antony	nr Maryfield Church	
6 7 1940		Mt Edgcumbe		2 bombs dropped no casualties
10 7 1940		Millbrook		Ron Davies shot in shoulder, gunned down by low flying German bombers at Millbrook quayside
19 7 1940		Plymouth Sound		mines laid by Germans
21 7 1940		Crafthole		2 HE bombs landed
23 7 1940		<u>nr. Kingsand</u>		1 magnetic mine landed
30 7 1940		<u>Scardson Fort</u>	Antony	4 bombs Antony Estate cottage damaged
	2315	Tregantle		explosions fire engines attend
	2322	Antony	144/625765	bomb dropped Mr Wolson's House top of Antony Hill - no damage (???should be Wolson House - owner Mr Bolger???)
	1040	Whitsand		craters, 12' x 4' deep, found between Sharrow Pt and H. Tregantle
10 8 1940		Crafthole		2 x parachute mines cause considerable damage to all houses small number of minor injuries
15 8 1940	2233	Crafthole		1 x HE bomb 4 casualties house damage
17 8 1940		Crafthole		mine dropped 20 yds S off New Inn (now Finnygook) Crafthole (8th fairway on golf course) 30/40 fowl killed + 1 dog, roof damage, crater 9' x 4' deep Report in 'Cornish Times' 1 wk later
20 8 1940		Westminster		<b>Churchill's Speech ' Never in the field of human conflict.....'</b>
27.8.1940		Downderry/Whitsands		bombs dropped at night bungalow on fire and destroyed at D Derry
	0140	Millbrook		5 x HE bombs dropped at Millbrook (clay pit??)
	0910			5 craters later found at Inswork Fm
	0400	Rame		3 x incendaries reports of windows broken
	0600			ARP reports 50 incendaries and 11 HE bombs
	0600			Reports now total 200 Incendary bombs fallen in Rame area
	0600			Report of crater 20 x 15 Rame Barton,

			another 20 x 15 15yds from Trehill Farm (windows in, uninhabitable)
	0443	Polhawn Whitsands	report of bombs fallen
		Nr Kingsands	Fifteen bombs and one magnetic mine were reported near Kingsand;
31 8 1940	1255	Polhawn Whitsands	report from Capt Barker, Hd of Civil Defence resided at Cliff Hse D'port Hill Kingsand, 2 x HE bombs + 50 incendiary bombs
	2304	Mt Edgcumbe	report of bombs over Mt E
26 9 1940	2327	Maker	2 bombs dropped nr Balloon site no casualties See image below.
	2110	Rame Farm Rame	Haystack Fire (??)
		<u>Barton Farm</u> Rame	Incendiary bombs no damage
	2100	Penmillard Farm Rame	IBs no damage
	2220	Rame Head	CG report 6 x HE bombs on cliffs
28 9 1940		Cawsand Bay	15 HE bombs and 11 land mines dropped
29.9.1940		Penlee Point	250 small incendiaries, somewhat inexplicably, fell in the sea off Penlee Point. Same incident as above??
22 10 1940		Rame Head same Incident	Parachute landmine exploded on descent off Rame Hd Late in the evening, a parachute mine exploded just off Rame Head, causing slight damage to glass in the vicinity.
	2350	<u>Kingsands</u>	Mine fell in sea 50 yards offshore, broken windows
25 10 1940		Penlee Pt (off)	RN Patrol Service trawler Lord Inchcape sunk by mine <b>May be loss reported below???</b>
25 11 1940			Post raid on Bristol, Dornier 17 hit Plym. barrage balloon No. 64/11. crew baled out, 1 in Cawsand Bay, 3 nr Millbrook. Plane crashes off Penlee Pt. Sgt Bersey takes crew into custody 1 crew member landed nr Silver Terrace Southdown
	2245		report crash site 1 1/4 mile S of Kingsand (in field above Penlee Woods - next morning site raided for bits by local kids (SM))
27 11 1940		Penlee Pt (off)	RN Patrol Service trawler 'ELK' sunk by mine <b>May be loss reported above??</b>
27 11 1940		Plymouth	1st major attack on city
		South Down Millbrook	Incendiaries dropped on Southdown
<b>1941</b>			
22 2 1941		Foss Farm Millbrook	an un-exploded Ack Ack shell landed
20 3 1941		<u>Kingsands</u>	report of 2 x parachute mines dropped????
		Mt Edgcumbe	1 x HE bomb landed in front of house
<b>The Five Night Blitz</b>			<b>Plymouth and all surrounding areas.....</b>
21 3 1941		Mt Edgcumbe	Incendiaries hit main house - burnt down and gutted
		Hoe Lake Cawsand Bay	1 x HE nr balloon site 41 above cottage
23 3 1941		<u>Entacombe Farm</u> Mt E	1 x 50kg UXB
		Home Farm Mt E	1 x 50kg UXB
24 3 1941		Millbrook	3 x 250kg UXB la
		Southdown Brickworks	1 x 50kg UXB
			More bombs were dropped during the evening in marshland at St. John's Creek. (same as above?)
29 3 1941		Stone Farm Millbrook	1 x 50kg bomb dropped
1 4 1941		Freathy Cliffs Whitsands	bombs fell at Freathy Cliff and Higher Tregantle Farm, but caused little damage.
22 4 1941		Mt Edgcumbe	farms on fire at Mt E.
		Cremyll Mt Edgcumbe	2 x HE bombs KILL TWO in bomb shelter, 10 houses damaged, 1 x HE bomb on Cremyll Road, 1 x HE bomb on Cremyll Arms 3(Dead = Mr Crowther, Mr Lewis Howard (Cremyll Ferry) and Mr Tucker) 2 died immediately, 1 later Liskeard Hospital

POSS. RECORDING OF DATES PROBLEM 21.3.1941 AND 21.4.1941  
CONTEMPORARY REPORTS SUGGEST BOTH EVENTS OCCURED  
DURING SAME NIGHT (T Carne)

30 4 1941	0200	South Lodge	<u>Mt Edgcumbe</u>	1 x parachute mine landed did not explode (???South Lodge = Picklecombe Lodge???)
5 5 1941	2335	Armada Rd	<u>Cawsands</u>	1 x SC 250kg UXB landed at <u>Penleen</u> Armada Rd Cawsand. The Woottons evacuated to the Bound, The Lulys went to Millbrook
6 5 1941		Penlee Point	Rame	more than 120 high explosives and hundreds of incendiary bombs being dropped. Incidents ranged right across Cornwall. (con't) Only 6 persons suffered slight injuries when 3 houses were damaged by blast and splinters
7 5 1941		Penhill Farm	Millbrook	1 x SC 250kg UXB (???Penhill Farm not recognised???)
		Cawsand		two bombs demolished two houses causing minor damage to others, two people being slightly injured (Armada Road)
27 5 1941		Top Pennel Wood	Kingsand	1 x 50kg UXB defused BDS (???Pennel Wood = Penlee Wood???)
28 5 1941		Freathy Farm	Tregantle	3 x 50kg bombs landed - failed to explode defused BDS Cottage damaged also t. wires damaged no casualties
29 5 1941		Cremyll	<u>Mt Edgcumbe</u>	2 x 50 kg bombs landed nr Balloon site failed to explode defused BDS
<b>Jun 1941</b>		<b>Berlin</b>		<b>Russian offensive begins - now far fewer bombing raids</b>
5 7 1941	0105	Cremyll	<u>Mt Edgcumbe</u>	1 x 500kg bomb (poss 2?) landed on RAF Balloon site (1 UXB) defused BDS
12 10 1941	0230	Rame Peninsula	/Crafthole	sharp air raid' 4 bombs dropped damaged road and water mains no casualties
	1933	Blerrick Camp		stick of bombs dropped' 3 exploded 1 un exploded defused BDS
6 12 1941		Whitsands Bay		Spitfire engaged and sank bomber
<b>8.12.1941</b>		<b>Westminster</b>		<b>War declared on Japan</b>
16 12 1941		Blerrick Camp		4 bombs landed demolished Armoury guardroom and officer's mess
<b>1942</b>				
10 2 1942	(poss 1943??)	Millbrook Lake		4 x pot bombs landed no damage (???Pot Bomb???)
26 4 1942		Rame Head		sharp raid 3 bombs dropped on Rame Head no damage
<b>1943</b>				
13 2 1943		Cremyll	Home Farm	1 x SC 500kg landed failed to explode defused by BDS
25 6 1943		Tregantle	Sharrow Point	unexploded Ack Ack shell from Rame landed
9 8 1943		Crafthole	St Anne's Farm	unexploded Ack Ack shell from Rame landed
10 8 1943		Whitsands	Freathy	Chalet owner and tenants fined for blackout offences
13 8 1943	<b>FRIDAY!!!</b>	Mt Edgcumbe		Incendiary bombs rained down on Mt E.
		Mt Edgcumbe	Barnpool	Incendiary bombs rained down on Mt E.
		Mt Edgcumbe	Beech Wood	1 x 50kg UXB defused by BDS
16 11 1943		<u>Fodder (Forder?)</u>	Nr Cawsand	2 persons injured
		Rame Gun Site		unexploded Ack Ack shell from Rame landed
<b>1944</b>				
30 4 1944		Cremyll		10 x 1500kg Fritz X armour piercing bombs landed no damage
		Whitsand		2 German survivors from downed Dornier Do 217 came ashore and were captured
	0344	<u>Kingsands</u>	Ply Breakwater	bombs seen falling in vicinity of BW.
5 1944				last air raids - German forces now entirely defensive
<b>1945</b>				
<b>30 4 1945</b>		<b>Berlin</b>		<b>Hitler commits suicide</b>
<b>8 8 1945</b>		<b>Hiroshima</b>		<b>1st Atomic Bomb dropped in 'anger'</b>

## 2. Selection of stories/recollections and information on specific incidents

Included in the following, are excerpts from various publications - a compendium of local stories. ☒

The next time I went to Kingsand was at the beginning of the War when Plymouth was being bombed. We rented a two-roomed cottage opposite the Wesleyan chapel in The Green, it was called 'The Shanty'. I lived there with my mum, grandma and sister, who was about eighteen months old. The rent for this cottage was a mighty 2/6d (12½p) a week. When the air raids came we would go across the road and shelter under the steps of the Chapel where a couple of benches had been put along the wall of the tunnel like space. It was very cold and damp. At the top of the Green was the police station and the 'Rising Sun Inn'. Facing the Green were two big houses which were bombed one night. Then we were all evacuated to the Congregational Church for a week or so, while they dealt with an unexploded bomb. When we were settled in our corner in the Church, grandma realised we had no money or ration books, so, as my aunt lived behind The Shanty (we shared the same courtyard and toilet), I was able to go through her house and in the back door of ours to collect everything we needed. The police and A.R.P.s wouldn't let me go in our front door. NB The Pencarrow's were one family 'bombed out'.

23.7.1940 Mine landed near Kingsand

Possibly the mine which landed in 'Bargy' (the small rocky bay to the south of Cawsand Beach). SM recall bomb landing with very strange 'sound of creaking' All family sheltering in 'Savoy Cafe' Cawsand. Bomb finally explodes blowing Teddy Glasspool backwards into house.

### The Bomb On The Green (20.3.1941?)

There were two houses on the Green and a small cottage attached to one side of our house. Mr and Mrs Greaves lived next door to us. My grandfather owned our house and his name was James Nancarrow. My father became ill with multiple sclerosis in 1936 and we came to live in the village about 1937. My mother ran our house on the Green - called Gwandalen - as a guesthouse.

When War came we had several service men billeted on us. When the siren sounded we all took cover in the dining room at the side of the house and there we remained until the all clear was sounded. We were all in this shelter when the bomb fell - except my father who was in bed.

Mercifully his room was not destroyed and we were able to bring him down stairs. We all spent the remainder of the night at Captain Barker's house.

This house had the air raid siren on it. It now belongs to the Heasman family. Norr Rock belonged to the nuns in those days and was called St Margaret's Rest Home. The morning after the bombing the nuns asked their reverend mother if our party could use the house now that we were bombed out. This request was granted and my parents and their various guests and servicemen spent two weeks or so in the house with the nuns.

### Norr Rock Unexploded Bomb

Then once again we went to Norr Rock which mother ran as a small hotel for several years. It was discovered after the bombing that there was an unexploded bomb under the houses. No one was allowed into the area and what was left of the house was also considered unsafe. But one amusing story is that mother and Christine Crutchley, who worked for her, crept in and brought out buckets of preserved eggs which they had put down some time before. A mere unexploded bomb was not going to be allowed to destroy those eggs.

### Wartime Experiences

My parents then sent me to one of my aunts in Salcombe together with two other evacuees from London, where we all attended the local school.

In 1943, Salcombe was heavily bombed and my parents thought it best for me to return to Cremyll and attend St Dunstons in Plymouth, once more using the old steam ferries. The nightly bombing of Plymouth still continued and before going down to the air-raid shelter situated behind the high limestone rocks in the Yard, we used to stand at the Yard entrance, my parents, Gran Mashford, holding tightly to her case of valuables and me in my 'Siren Suit' watching Plymouth burn. One night, we could actually see the firemen with their hoses putting out the fires on the Devonport Guild Hall. I remember waking up one morning looking out of the window to see a huge barrage balloon which had broken loose during the night. It reminded me of an elephant sitting there until the soldiers and ATS girls arrived to tow it away and deflate it.

#### **Come Friendly Bomb And Get Us Out Of School**

I was born at Algoma in the Green in 1934. We moved to Market Street when I was six months old and my mother lives there still.  
I went to school in Garrett Street when Miss Johnson was headmistress. At high tide we played in the little schoolyard where the Gasks now have their garden.  
At mid or low tide our playground was the beach. Later we were all moved up to the school at Fourlanesend.  
It was wartime and during the blitzing of Plymouth we often had to take to the air raid shelter at the end of the lane between the school and the schoolhouse.  
It was built of brick in the shape of a Nissen hut and earth covered. Light was provided by hurricane lamps and we sat on wooden benches.  
If we were there when it was time to go home we'd be sent home any way, even though the 'all clear' hadn't sounded.  
If we heard enemy planes going over we'd hide in the hollow trees at Watergate, now long felled.

#### **Trehill Farm 27 8 1940**

During the war, we had many bombing raids and we could see Plymouth and Devonport being blitzed.  
During one night, the farm was hit by many incendiary bombs and the farmhouse received many hits. The roof and windows were destroyed and we had to move out to the cottage whilst repairs were carried out. It seemed that life became more and more busy as season followed season.  
As soon as the farmhouse was repaired, we were all able to move back and not long afterwards my second son Adrian was born. Harvest time came around too quickly

#### **Edgcumbe House 20 3 1940**

On March 20<sup>th</sup> 1940, Plymouth was heavily bombed. Some bombs landed in the grounds, around the house, damaging the water supply and putting the telephones out of action. Therefore, when several incendiary bombs were dropped directly onto the house the following night, there was little that could be done to save it. Fortunately, the Earl was in London at the time.  
I do not think a lot was saved, but we did hear later that the gold dinner service and all the silver, which was only used on very rare occasions, was found to be undamaged in the large steel safe. We only had what we stood up in! That was the end of Mount Edgcumbe House as we knew it, leaving only the shell. It has now been rebuilt, but it is only about one third of its original size and now belongs jointly to Cornwall County Council and Plymouth City Council.

#### **The Orangery Mt Edgcumbe April 1943**

In April 1941 severe damage was sustained by the Orangery when a bomb demolished the NE corner. Almost half the front and most of the rear portion of the building were destroyed. Temporary repair work was carried out, but full reconstruction was not put in hand until the early 1960s, when it was undertaken by Mr. Adrian Gilbert Scott. Detailed records of this work, funded by the War Damages Commission are held at the Public Record Office . A description of the work done and the way the rear portion was demolished are contained in a large envelope file (PRO IR37/417)

#### **A Wartime Tale Armada Road Bomb 7 5 1941**

During the war, 1939-45, my father was an A.R.P. warden for the villages. One night, when Plymouth was being heavily blitzed, the sirens went early in the evening and my father was told that bombs had fallen in Cawsand and he had orders to give what help he could.  
On arrival, he found that the cottage housing 'Darkie' Jones and his sister (Lucy), had been hit and almost demolished, but they were both unhurt.  
His mother had been in the bath at the time of the bomb drop and had to be rescued from the 'tub'. The neighbours Hender, Theodore and Queen Cox were also evacuated  
Another bomb had had landed close by and hadn't exploded, so local people were evacuated. My father eventually took old Mr Brown back with him to Kingsand, so that he could stay with Mrs Avery, his sister, who lived in Endsleigh, opposite Mr Honey's shop in Fore Street.  
On arrival there, Mr Brown said "Goodnight Mr 'ill, thank you for helping me. I feel so safe now", and in he went. "Goodnight" said my father and went home to supper. Some three hours later, the air-raid warning went again and, almost at once, a stick of bombs fell on Kingsand.  
The first fell in the stream behind the bakery and mud, clumps of grass and stones were splattered all over Fore Street.  
Another fell in The Green and destroyed the houses facing down the road, whilst another fell in the 'Fields'. As my father was checking out matters, old Mr Brown staggered out from Mrs Avery's and said "'ello, Mr 'ill. If you are looking for another bomb, it is in Mrs Avery's courtyard and I 'ave just climbed out of the 'ole." All the residents were very lucky; the bomb had clipped the archway whilst falling and the detonator had been damaged so that it could not explode when it landed in the courtyard. Nobody was injured by the bombs but the houses were totally destroyed and the people moved out to a safer place. The middle house of the row was a guest house owned by Mrs Nancarrow. John Chesterfield was evacuated from the house next to the 'Riser'  
The loss of business, even in wartime was serious, but, over the next few months, Mrs Nancarrow was able to buy St Margaret's Nursing Home on the Cleeve, with help from her friends, and eventually transformed it into the Norr Rock Hotel.

The Unexploded bomb in Endleigh, Fore Street, Kingsand.

Sally Mayhew recalls the bomb laying in the garden and the story circulated that the bomb did not explode because it had been mis-wired. It was also understood to have been made not in Germany, but another country under Nazi control -a possible case of deliberate sabotage to disable the bomb???

#### **The Germans Have Landed! 25 11 1940**

The residents of South Down, Kingsand and Maker were awakened by an alarming noise on the night of 24<sup>th</sup> November 1940, according to a report in the Western Morning News. The noise was caused by an aircraft hitting the ground about 150 yards short of Rame Head and then bursting into flames. Mr W.T. Crawford of Millbrook, the senior Air Raid warden, was called and he dashed up to Rame Head to investigate. There he met up with Mr A. Grylls, who was Captain of the Millbrook Steamboat Company, who had taken charge of an armed German Luftwaffe officer, (apparently landed on sewer pipe Kingsand) even though Mr Grylls was only armed with a broomstick! Mr J. Berry then arrived armed with a sporting gun and he disarmed the German and took him down to the police station in Millbrook. Mr Crawford then returned to Southdown to find that Mr Cullis was attending to another German, a wireless operator who had sprained his ankle. The prisoner was somewhat anxious as he appeared to believe that he was to be shot at any moment. The German offered Mr Cullis his gloves as a gesture of thanks but the police were adamant that this would be quite wrong and took them away with the prisoner. By now it was apparent that these 18 to 20 year old Germans were part of the crew of the crashed plane, a Dornier 17 ( a Flying Pencil) and that the other members of the crew would have to be rounded up. Two of these men were also caught and taken to Millbrook Police Station.

The residents of a house in Silver Street, Southdown were abruptly awakened by the sound of loud hammering at their door followed instantly by the sound of a pistol shot. Mr F. Tipper, on hearing this noise grabbed his sporting gun while Mr G. Fairbrother climbed out of the rear window to raise the alarm and summon more help, using the phone owned by Mr J. Sharp. The German was then taken off to the police station. Piercing together the stories told by the Germans, it appeared that they had been bombing another part of England when their aircraft had been damaged and that they were limping back, hopefully, to their base. In fact, they first asked whether they had reached Brest!

Villagers examining the hole in the ground and the crashed plane heard cries coming from out at sea. Mr Tom Forsyth and Mr Horace Bennet ran for their boat in the pitch dark, hauled it into the water and pulled away into the darkness aiming for the cries of distress. They found a German airman kept afloat by his life jacket, but still encumbered by his parachute, With great difficulty, while still one hundred yards out from the shore, they got him into the boat only to discover that it was rapidly filling with water as the bung was missing from the bottom. Undaunted, Mr Bennett stopped the hole with his thumb, as Mr Forsyth sculled away, and was able to continue whilst keeping one foot over the hole until the half water logged boat and the prisoner were safely back on shore.

#### **Fore Street Kingsand**

My dear mother (now long gone) told of a bomb/mine that fell adjacent to her house (Strathdene) opposite the shop, (then run by Honeys) in Fore Street. It landed on the opposite side of the road in the yard of the house as you turn up to 'The Rising Sun'. It did not explode and was defused by the Bomb disposal Squad. My mother with others, was evacuated and went to live temporarily with relatives - the Burlaces - on the Cleave next to the cafe. and they then returned home. The bomb/mine was eventually defused and they returned home. Steve Radley  
????????? Possible dates: 27.3.1940 27.8.1940 20.3.1941 ??????????

#### **Hoe Lake Bomb - (Five Night blitz) 21.3.1940**

A very large crater was the result of an apparent 'off-loading of a stick of bombs on the way home' between Dark Trees and Hoe Lake Cottage. The crater was so large that it had to be 'filled in' because of the safety to cattle. There was another bomb dropped in the woods on the landward side of the path - 'same' area. Anne Halliwell.

**A Schoolboy's view of World War 2**     **John Salisbury**     **I was only 6 years old living in Rose Cottage, Higher Anderton.....**

Heavy Guns and Pill Boxes. Metal poles protruded from the sand on the beaches. On one occasion a Barrage Balloon broke free and deflated. The cable tangled in the tree canopy and one end dangled to within a few feet of the ground which had a steep slope, we attached a cross member on the cable, this made a dangerous but fabulous swing.

From 'WW2 People's War' - an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC.  
The archive can be found at [bbc.co.uk/ww2pe](http://bbc.co.uk/ww2pe).

**Barrage Balloon 'downs' bomber 24.11.1940**

After dropping 10 SC 50 on Bristol aircraft flew into balloon barrage site 64/11 at Plymouth Harbour having becoming lost due to British Meacon countermeasures (St. Malo beacon was being Meaconed by Templecombe).  
Crashed on Penlee Point, Cornwall at 22.40 hrs. One crew killed, four missing

**Wartime Reminiscences from 'The Diary of a Cornish Maid,' Edna Thomas nee Carter (From Rame Heritage website)**

Even during the air raids, she, (Edna's mother in law) would take her cycle lamp and go to bed upstairs and not stay with us downstairs on mattresses under the big strong farmhouse table for protection. It used to frighten me somewhat especially when the sirens use to go off and yet another air raid was on the way as every window had to be blacked out. She use to drive our old horse a big shire called Warrior to collect swill for the pigs from the various forts and different barrage balloon camps as Elliott had a contract with them. We fed quite a number of pigs from this source and owing to the shortage of fodder it came in very handy.

**Bay View House Garrett Street date uncertain**

Michael Thomas recalls being fast asleep in his grandfather's (Samuel Edward Hancock) house when the bomb fell on the very northern edge of Cawsand Beach. The back wall and rear yard roof were demolished, windows smashed and ceilings were down throughout the house. He was evacuated to Wynburn (named after Winifred and Bernard Doney) Staying there with sons Geoffrey and Ron Doney for about seven weeks. Michaels grandfather remained in Bay View 'No Jerry is going to move me from my bed!!!  
His parents also remained in BVC. The rear wall still retain the repair detail - shown in the change of stonework

**Cremyll - its wartime importance**

In its own right Cremyll played an important role in the war. Both as a 'launching' point for the American troops who were bound for France, but also as an oil storage depot. Thus there were the following tanks: to store oil: Barnpool Lower - Cremyll  
Balancing Tank 1 x 40 ton, Cremyll 2 x 5000 gallon diesel tanks, and Barnpool 1 x 900 gal. Diesel tank.

One Cremyll tank was very close to the obelisk just west of Cremyll, the other some 200 metres further SW  
ref: <http://www.atlantikwall.co.uk/oldsite/atlantikwall/england/plym-fuel-depot02/html/page04.htm>

#### More Memories:

The girl's school in Garrett Street Cawsand (now the Old School House), had to close as there was no air raid shelter and so moved up to Fourlanes End. The shelter there was up between the school and the HM house. There was a balloon site in the field opposite the school. Ocean Waves on the Bound, Cawsand, had been an un-safe structure for years in the 1930s. much loved of kids for the adventure games and as a 'den'. Fresh winkles from the beach were regularly cooked and consumed there. Archie Pitt, Gracie filed's's husband, had the building demolished. Gracie did not know about the demolition and never returned to the village afterwards with her husband. The house was sold to Mrs Brown from Looe, but with the building of RAF Mountbatten, she considered Cawsand too dangerous and moved back to Looe. Dusty Miller, bombed out of Plymouth, became the next owner and later in the war the house became a billet for US soldiers. Bill Soloman died in 2014 at the age of 95. He was the last surviving US occupant of Ocean Waves' A plaque on the front wall of the house commemorates the soldier's occupancy.

Farmer's tales from Rame August 1940 - 25th November 1940

Rex Carne of Rame Barton was not having a good war, in fact by as early as November 1940 he had had more than enough of the whole wretched business. Things started off badly when the wool, which in common with thousands of other farmers he had been hoarding in anticipation of a healthy profit as demand increased during the late 1930s, was suddenly requisitioned by the government at knockdown prices. Some of his best fields were also taken for an anti-aircraft site and the whole place was crawling with the military.

Then in August 1940 a bomb destroyed a linney in the farmyard and in September a land mine fell by parachute in the field to the west of the Barton and failed to explode causing Rex and his family to evacuate the house, at much inconvenience, during the night time until the BDS exploded it in situ. (Exactly why they only evacuated at night is uncertain).

The final straw came shortly afterwards when a high explosive bomb fell in a field adjacent to where his cows were grazing causing two of them to abort the calves they were carrying.

Rex could be described as being a 'bit of a rough handful'. His education had been seriously curtailed by the various demands of his father's business activities and he was very explicit as to what he would do to any German if

ever he should be lucky enough to come across one. On 25 November 1940 his wishes were granted. A bomber was shot down over Penlee and the crew bailed out, one of whom was unfortunate enough to land in the field by Rame Church Battery where Rex was spreading dung. The man spoke good English and when Rex approached him he immediately offered to surrender.

Rex was not interested. "Surrender is it, mister bugger? I'll give 'ee surrender! I lost two good calves last week because of you buggers. I'll give 'ee bleddy surrender!" And would undoubtedly have run the man through with his manure fork had not two gunners from the Battery arrived and took him into protective custody.

Trawler sunk by mine off Penlee Point. (two close dates in above table 25th October and 25th November 1940)

Rex's brother Roy recalled how early one morning in July 1940 when he had been checking up on some ewes that had been lambing in Watch House field above Penlee Point, he noticed a trawler that was just coming into the Sound. He was reflecting upon how peaceful the scene appeared when there was a great blinding flash of light followed by a roaring explosion. After he had blinked with the shock the trawler had completely disappeared leaving a widening circle of turbulent water and falling debris. It had been the victim of a magnetic mine which had been laid by a bomber during the previous night.

Roy Carne brother of Rex Carne both farmers from Rame (source: Tony Carne)



Cremyll Tower, Mount Edgcombe.



Mt Edgcombe House awaiting re-build after bombing



The Green Kingsand - pre World War Two. Houses to the right of the 'Rising Sun' were destroyed by bombs - date unknown??

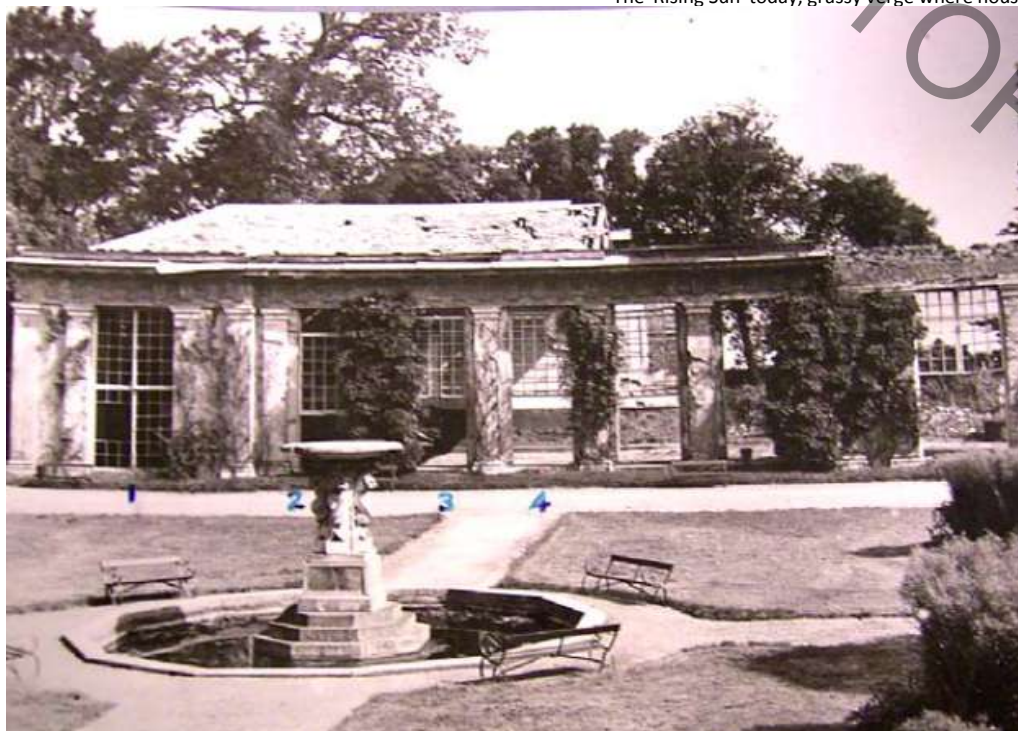


The 'Rising Sun' today, grassy verge where houses once stood



Armada Road

bombed houses (see below)



The Orangery, Mt Edgcombe post April 1941 War damage to the roof – Photos copyright to Dermot P. Fitzgerald, "Sunbeam", Derriford, Crownhill, Plymouth



HMS Torbay, with Breakwater, Breakwater Fort and Cawsand Bsy in background. Note the Barrage balloon and defensive barrier in water.

TOFER 2942

# Plymouth-Devonport

## Befestigungsanlagen, äußerer Abschnitt West (A)

GB 16 2 bc

Nur für den Einsatzgebrauch

Bild Nr. F 1058a/40/596 v

Aufnahme vom 28. 11. 40.

Länge (westl. Grenze): Von 4° 06' 30" bis 4° 12' 30"  
Breite: Von 50° 19' bis 50° 19' 30"  
Zeilhöhe über NN: 30—110 m

LfL Kdo. 3 Januar 1942

Karte 1:100000

OBJEKT 36 c

Malsstab etwa: 1:22000



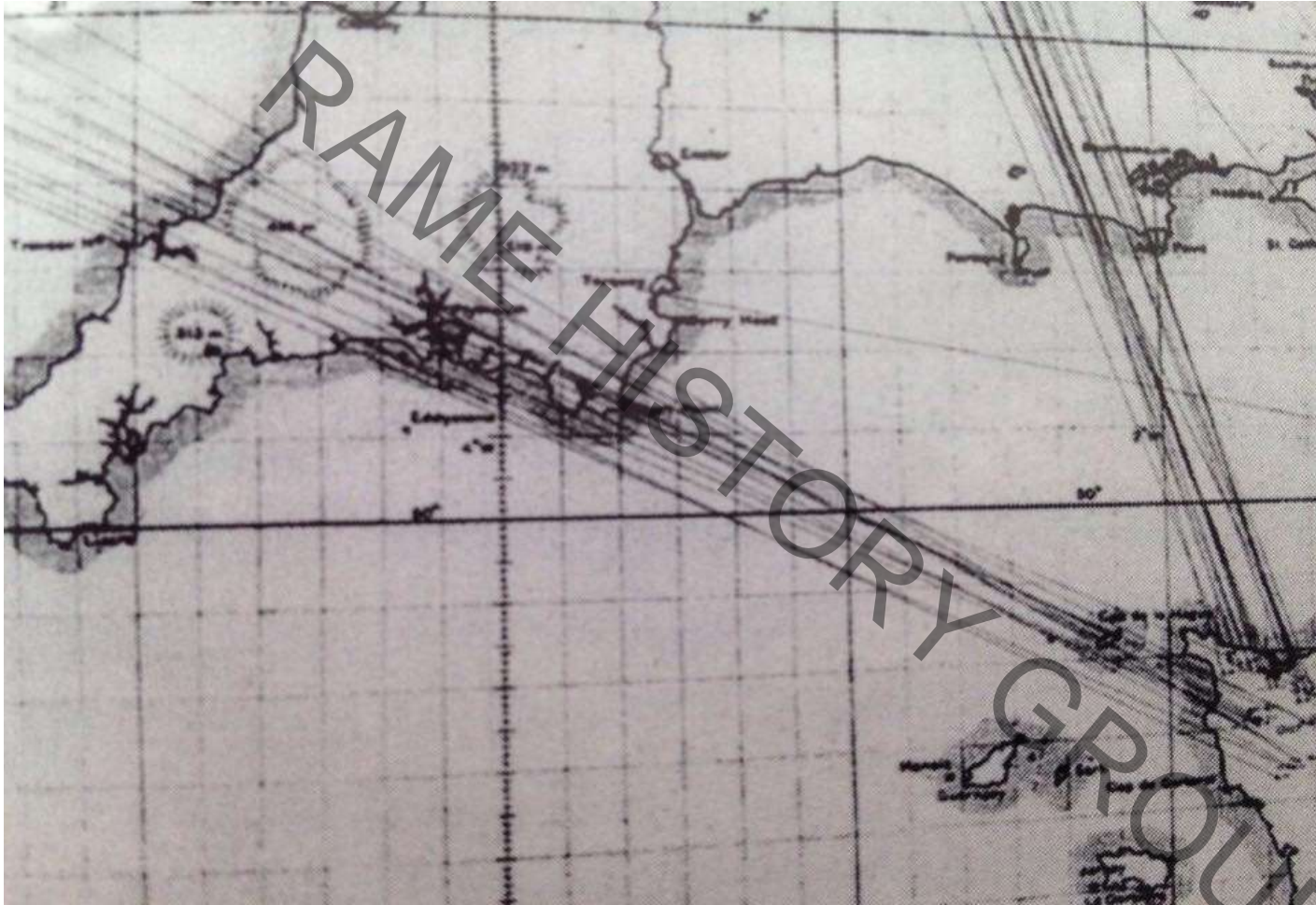
GB 16 2 Plymouth-Devonport Befestigungsanlagen, äußerer Abschnitt West (A)

- ① Batterie Rame Church  
1. 5 Unterkunftsgebäude etwa 375 qm
- ② Batterie Penlee  
2. 10 Unterkunftsgebäude etwa 400 qm  
3. 3 Geschützstellungen

GB 16 3 Befestigungsanlagen, mittlerer Abschnitt West (A)

Luftwaffe aerial map showing defences on Rame Peninsula

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015



Planned tracks for V1 rocket bombs - they did not materialise, London became their target.

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

#### 4. Local defences Ack Ack, Searchlights, Radar Stations, Decoys,

##### THE DEFENCES

###### RA Ack Ack defence units:

	Location	Grid Ref.	Guns: no. x size	
1	Rame	SX436493	4 x 3.7	3.7 static/mobile guns
2	Higher Tregantle	SX405529	4 x 3.7	
		SX395529		all built by Sept 1940
3	Maker Barracks	Sx438514	4 x 3.7	
4	Penlee	SX441489		
5	Picklecombe	SX449514	1 x 40	



Known popularly as "ack-ack", guns available ranged from the pintle-mounted .303 machine-guns, through to 20mm cannon, the 40mm Bofors and the 3.7-inch QF, which was the primary heavy anti-aircraft gun, the equivalent of the German 88mm, with a slightly larger calibre of 94mm



A heavy anti-aircraft battery. This shows the typical layout of four 3.7 inch gun emplacements arranged in a horse-shoe layout with the command centre set slightly back. An accommodation block and football pitch are visible as parchmarks.  
© English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography 106G/UK/865 6465-7

Maker Battery

Heavy batteries normally contained four 3.7 inch guns capable of shooting down aircraft flying at more than 3,000 feet

RAMPTON HISTORY GROUP 2015

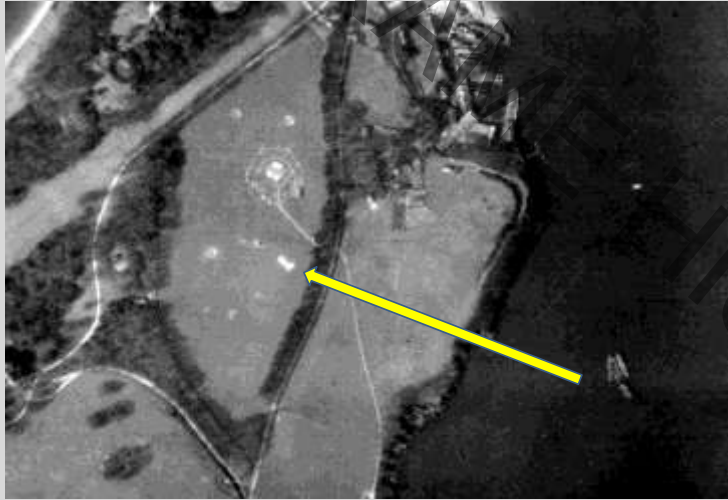
**Static Balloon Sites:**

60' x 30' up to 10000ft

Antony Park, Cremyll, Empacombe, various locations - inc Maker and Rame

On local farms: Mt Edgcumbe Park, Fourlanesend, Ninney Farm, Penlee and Insworke (Rame Heritage website Rame Pen. Colyn Thomas)

They were simply large balloons tethered to fixed moorings on the ground.



A barrage balloon hovers over Mount Edgcumbe: it is visible as a small white shape near the centre of the photograph. Its mooring base lies in the field below. © English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography: NLA/31/5007

**Floating Balloon Barrage Vessels -** Used as an anchor for a barrage Balloon at Plymouth

Part of the Plymouth Command Balloon Barrage were the trawlers - Alessie, Black Joke, Forsetti, Muriel Stevens, Pas De Loupe li, Revive, Snowfinch, Vigilant,

All At Plymouth but precise deployment uncertain

**90cm Searchlights:**

various locations inc Maker and Rame



WORLD WAR II HISTORY GROUP 2015

#### Radar Station:

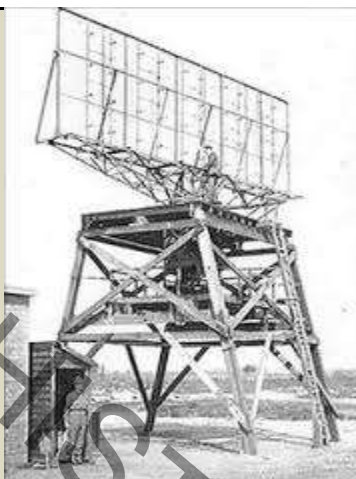
Rame Head (Chain Home Low)

SX 44 NW 74

The name refers to CHL's ability to detect aircraft flying at altitudes below the capabilities of the original Chain Home radars, where most CHL radars were co-located. CHL could reliably detect aircraft flying as low as 500 feet (150 m).

Aerial photography from 1992 shows the remnants of a concrete plinth abutting a chapel.

The technical RAF personnel were billeted in huts on Rame Head, the WAF lived in Cawsand House Garrett knicknamed 'the Waffery'



Not the Rame Head Installation, but typical of its type.

#### Downderry Chain Home High Installation

[CH systems would often detect larger formations while still over France,](#) offering invaluable early warning of an impending raid.

The radar sets, otherwise known as AMES Type 1 (Air Ministry Experimental Station), consisted of fixed cable array antennae slung between three or four 360 ft (110 m) steel towers

The remains of this installation are present and can be found on the East side of the village. One of the bunkers has been converted into a residential garage, the other is accessible from the road but is hard to find in summer since the path is extremely overgrown



Downderry c 1950s partially demolished radar station

2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP

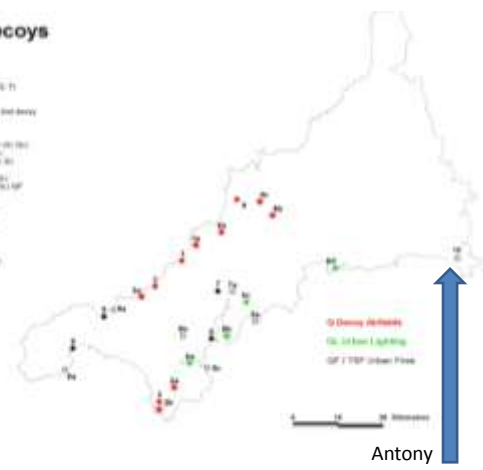
### DECOY SITES

Confuse and trick the German bombers into releasing their pay load over open ground. An array of lights and structures built to do just that. There was one very near to the Rame Peninsula across the Lhyner near Antony Decoy sites were, by their nature, temporary and peripheral features in the landscape and have left little trace. This photo from 1942 shows the Starfish decoy at Erth Hill, Antony, one of several urban decoys built around Plymouth. © English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography: FNO/29/8/OTU/6/12



#### WWII decoys

- 01. Newquay RAF
- 02. Plymouth (RAF)
- 03. Plymouth (RAF)
- 04. Plymouth (RAF)
- 05. Plymouth (RAF)
- 06. Plymouth (RAF)
- 07. Plymouth (RAF)
- 08. Plymouth (RAF)
- 09. Plymouth (RAF)
- 10. Plymouth (RAF)
- 11. Plymouth (RAF)
- 12. Plymouth (RAF)
- 13. Plymouth (RAF)
- 14. Plymouth (RAF)
- 15. Plymouth (RAF)
- 16. Plymouth (RAF)
- 17. Plymouth (RAF)
- 18. Plymouth (RAF)
- 19. Plymouth (RAF)
- 20. Plymouth (RAF)
- 21. Plymouth (RAF)
- 22. Plymouth (RAF)
- 23. Plymouth (RAF)
- 24. Plymouth (RAF)
- 25. Plymouth (RAF)
- 26. Plymouth (RAF)
- 27. Plymouth (RAF)
- 28. Plymouth (RAF)
- 29. Plymouth (RAF)
- 30. Plymouth (RAF)
- 31. Plymouth (RAF)
- 32. Plymouth (RAF)
- 33. Plymouth (RAF)
- 34. Plymouth (RAF)
- 35. Plymouth (RAF)
- 36. Plymouth (RAF)
- 37. Plymouth (RAF)
- 38. Plymouth (RAF)
- 39. Plymouth (RAF)
- 40. Plymouth (RAF)
- 41. Plymouth (RAF)
- 42. Plymouth (RAF)
- 43. Plymouth (RAF)
- 44. Plymouth (RAF)
- 45. Plymouth (RAF)
- 46. Plymouth (RAF)
- 47. Plymouth (RAF)
- 48. Plymouth (RAF)
- 49. Plymouth (RAF)
- 50. Plymouth (RAF)

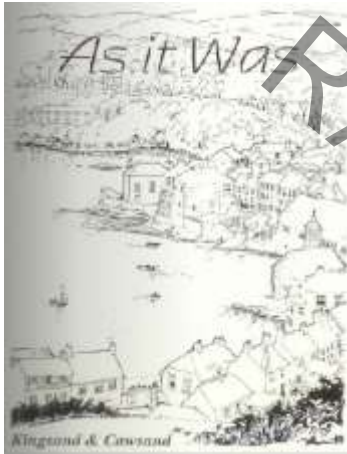


Decoy sites in Cornwall:  
<http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/flyingpast/air.html>

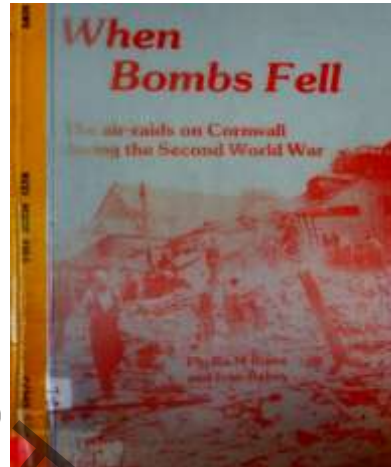


Decoy site now. Field well ploughed and cropped  
Note: field surrounds remain heavily 'pockmarked'.  
(Google Earth April 2015)

### More references to turn to:



Edited by Jill and Glyn Warwick  
Together with the unstinting work of the project team :-  
Paul Buet, Rick Dewhurst, Ann Helliwell, Peter Smee,  
Pat Williams, Anna and Tony Zammit  
Roy Sullivan, Kath Taylor,  
  
Published by Maker with Rame W.I.  
Printed by Liskeard Printing Company May 2000



**In Addition:** On 2nd May 1945, Police Supt. R.B.Ivey completed a carefully compiled 24 page document which recorded every air raid on Cornwall.  
For some 42 years a faded carbon copy of this document has been among the private papers of the co-author of this book, Mrs Phyllis M Rowe of St. Austell.  
As Phyllis Trehwella she was secretary to Major George.H. Johnstone, the County Air Raid Precautions Controller during those exciting and exacting days.

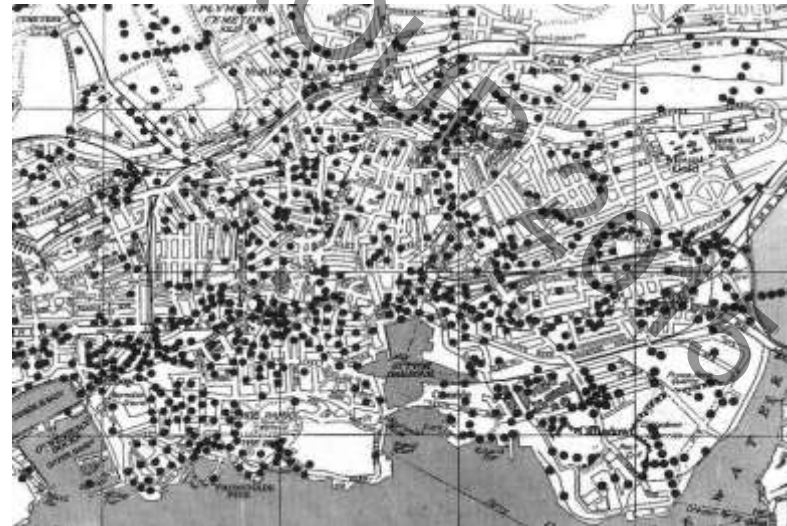
**Also:** "When Bombs Fell" - The air-raids on Cornwall during WW2 : Part 1 - Introduction, Preface & Index.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/87/a8345487.shtml>

Also: [www.rameheritage.co.uk](http://www.rameheritage.co.uk) - many local reminiscences and quality images

[http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/flyingpast/images/PDF\\_downloads/DefendedCornwall.pdf](http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/flyingpast/images/PDF_downloads/DefendedCornwall.pdf)

### **IN PERSPECTIVE in its own way the bombings in Rame were terrifying but:**

For Plymouth, the first bomb fell on July 6th 1940. There were 604 alerts  
The last bomb fell at Prince Rock on April 30th 1944  
The last alert was on May 30th 1944 -that was the 604th alert.  
Bombs dropped on 59 occasions  
1,172 people were killed  
2,177 people were injured, 1,092 of them seriously  
7 people remained missing  
11 A.R.P. Wardens were killed, 7 men 4 women  
3,754 houses were destroyed  
18,398 houses seriously damaged  
49,950 houses slightly damaged  
All the shops in the City Centre were destroyed and  
Marks and Spencers, remained the only shop left in Fore Street, Devonport.



Plymouth City Centre - bomb distribution

### And finally, the statistics for all of Cornwall

Total number of raids on Cornwall 420

Total Bombs dropped: 19,275

3,391 (high explosive)

15,720 (incendiaries inc - phosphorous, firepot, oil, magnesium etc).

131 (various anti-personnel types).

32 (parachute mines).

1 (FX 1400 kg)

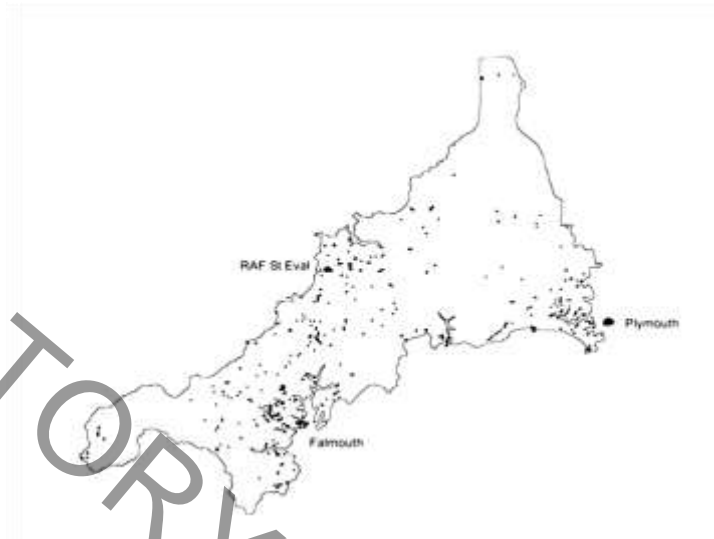
Unexploded bombs (excluding those in Liskeard Police Division) 230

Civilian Casualties:

137 killed;

248 injured and detained in hospital;

421 minor injuries.



<http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/flyingpast/air.html>

Distribution of bombs in Cornwall 1939 - 1945

If you any memories or images from the bombings, please contact us - we would love to include them here.

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015

RAME HISTORY GROUP 2015