

# GUERNSEY SUFFERS FIRST AIR RAID

## 25 KILLED — 33 INJURED

### Policeman and Ambulance Driver Among the Fatalities

### WEIGHBRIDGE "SQUARE" CENTRE OF WRECKAGE

The lines of produce vans and lorries that extended along the White Rock yesterday afternoon now lie in a smoking shambles. Here and there a van has been left untouched, but the majority of the lorries have been reduced to smouldering wrecks by incendiary bullets of high explosive bombs.

Along the wall at the White Rock men lay who were never to get up again. Through all this chaos the Police, Auxiliary Fire Service, Ambulances and many voluntary helpers carried on gallant work with the casualties.

#### WRECKAGE AT WHITE ROCK

This morning the wreck of the White Rock Weighbridge seemed even worse. The whole of the square formed by the Clock Tower, White Hart Hotel, Royal Hotel and the breakerwater have been badly wrecked.

For almost an hour the White Rock was subjected to incessant bombardment, and beside the ruined chassis of five lorries, the bomb craters tell the tale of the intensity of the onslaught.

### 'PRESS' REPORTER'S EXPERIENCE

An "Evening Press" reporter, who watched the raid, recounts his impressions:—

"I was walking home through the Lower Garniers," he writes, "when the drone of planes thudded through the still air. Approaching from an Easterly direction were three German planes which I identified as the Dominie 'Flying Pencils'—the bombing and reconnaissance planes.

"Suddenly there was a clatter of machine-guns and as I watched a spiral of smoke was emitted from the leader of the formation. A shrill whistle followed—then an explosion.

#### TAKE COVER

"It was the first air raid that Guernsey has experienced.

"Reactions were mainly the same. Take cover at all costs!

People, I among them, dashed into the houses of strangers. A small group huddled in the corner of a by-lane. The gasping breaths of the seven people crouched there were drowned by the intermittent explosion of bombs.

#### PRODUCE LINE DISSOLVED

"I went outside and looked over the wall towards the Harbour. As I watched a return visit was made and the middle of the produce line dissolved in flame. A thick pall of smoke drifted slowly over the Town.

#### A HOUSE WALL HIT

"Three times I started to make my way home but the German machines were back before I had taken many steps. I saw the windows of a house bulge and fall. The wall bent, then slowly and agonisingly resumed its proper position.

"Another look at the Harbour. The whole view was obscured by smoke. Order had turned into chaos, and still the planes were shrieking down over their objectives.

"Fifty minutes seemed like the same number of hours. At last it ended. The planes disappeared towards the East and Guernsey came slowly to life once more.

"The raid, however, had taken toll of 23 lives and another 33 had been injured, besides those who suffered minor casualties.

"One of the first to be killed was P.C. C. Bougourd, who, although off duty, had rallied to the call and was attending to a casualty near the Weighbridge when machine-gun bullets mowed him down.

"His best friend, P.C. Archie Tardif, was only a few yards away from him when he died.

a specially prepared dug-out from which they emerged at the "All-Over" to find their house practically demolished. A bomb had fallen on the garden wall bordering the road, the explosion causing the roof of the dwelling to fall in, and the glass of all the windows to fall out.

A peculiarity of the force of this explosion is to be seen in its effect on the group of trees among which the house is situated. The direct upward blast has shown the branches from their trunks in the form of a complete circle through which the forlorn ruins of a once happy home gaze upward at the sky from which came its destruction.

We are informed by the Deputy Harbour-Master that no damage whatever was done to St. Sampson's Harbour, and there were no casualties in that district.

#### DRIVER OF MOTOR AMBULANCE KILLED

A tragic "exhibit" of the air raid was stationed in the junction of the road in front of St. James' Church, and near to the pavement in St. James' Street, this morning.

The stout metal panels of the rear of the ambulance were riddled with about 150 bullet-holes, and the glass of one of the windows was shattered almost into powdered glass and fell into a mass on the road.

Inside the Ambulance everything was disordered, pointing to the terrible experience of those who were in it. Mr. Joe Way, the driver, is amongst those killed.

#### AMONG THE DEAD

The toll of the raid includes the name of Mr. John W. Mahy, of Le Parc, Vale, one of the esteemed Committee members of the Guernsey Growers' Association and a popular carrier of the Northport parcels. He was on the White Rock attending to his duties, when he received fatal wounds.

Mr. Mahy, who was 49 years of age, married Miss Julia Louise Bichard, of La Rochelle, Vale, whom he leaves with two children to mourn his loss.

#### HOW SOME SPENT THE NIGHT

Many town people went out to their relatives in the country to spend the night in what they felt were places of greater safety. Many families could not induce themselves to retire to bed and spent the night in their day-rooms chatting and dozing.

#### THE GASMETERS

Unnecessary concern has been caused to people living in the Bonce neighbourhood who are under the impression that if a bomb was dropped on the gasometers of the Guernsey Gas Light Company Ltd., it would cause a tremendous explosion.

We are informed that this would not be so, and that no explosion other than that of the bomb itself would take place. It is stated that a mixture of several parts of air to one part of this gas is needed to cause an explosion, and though escaping gas would burn the conflagration would be no worse than that made by any other building of similar size.

### LIST OF FATALITIES

The total killed number 25. They are:—  
H. G. LE CHEMINANT, Trenwith, Rouge Huis Avenue.  
J. W. MAHY, Le Parc, Vale.  
SAMUEL DE JAUSSEBAND, 95, Victoria Road.  
JOHN WASHINGTON WALKER, Clos de Mesnil, Vauvert.  
GEORGE EDWARD BREHAUT, La Gironette, St. Saviour's.  
BASIL THOMAS ANQUETIL, 17, Mill Street.  
JOHN R. RENOUF, Bellis, Bailiff's Cross, St. Andrew's.  
CECIL GAUDION NORMAN, Le Ruette, St. Saviour's.  
GERALD ALFRED HEAUME, Petit Axé, Vale.  
FRANK LE PAGE, Millmount, Cas-tel, and two of his sons.  
CHARLES STITCHMAN.  
FREDERICK GILMOUR, La Rocque, Cobo.  
HENRY INGROUILLE, 60, Merryvale, L'Islet.  
JOSEPH WAY, Pollet Street.  
P.C. CLIFFORD BOUGOURD, Les Capelles.  
JOHN E. SARRE, Mandley Beach, Collings Road.  
WALTER SARRE, Les Sablons, St. Peter's.

HAROLD HOBBS, son of Coxswain Hobbs, of the Guernsey lifeboat. The lifeboat was on its way to Jersey, and in the open sea, when it was machine-gunned.

Favourite Café, Walter Blondel Ltd., and Mr. R. Gray, where 12 feet out of an 18-foot x 10-foot frontage has been obliterated.

FRANK DE GARIS (son of Jurat A. de Garis), King's Mills, Castel.  
One man, a sailor, is still unidentified. He was clean shaven, aged 35 to 38, well built, wearing white shirt, grey flannel trousers, and had £30 on his person.

But it is on approaching the open space where the Pollet and Esplanade meet that one notes the commencement of the devastation in its worst form. Here every pane of glass has been shattered as it caught the full force of the explosion, the visible roll of which is now the temporarily-stopped crater in the roadway.

#### THE INJURED

Another woman, unidentified, about 5 feet 5 inches tall, with brown hair, wearing green coat, green plaid dress, coloured brooch, and blue stockings.

G. GALLIENNE, shoulder and another fracture.  
E. W. SEBIRE, arm and shoulder.  
S. HOCKEY, back and thigh.  
E. LE PAGE, arm injuries and foot amputated.  
H. J. E. MAHY, hand and leg.  
F. BOSTROM, leg.  
A. SARRE, injured in the back.  
M. MARDUET, leg injury.  
E. G. ABBOTT, stomach.  
E. LE PAGE, arm injuries and foot abdomen.

ROBERT SHIELDS COOKE, shoulder and abdomen; of 25, Colleague-st., Southampton, seaman on a Railway Companies' cargo-boat.  
STAFF-SERGEANT PORTER, R.A.O.C., Nottingham.  
CECIL LE PAGE, 8, Park Street.  
JOHN MAHY, aged 24, of Springhurst, Marais, Vale, shrapnel wounds.

GERALD ERNEST PAGE, aged 33, a fireman from ss. Sherringham, fractured arm and leg.  
ALBERT LAMBOTTE, 40, of Foote Carré, L'Islet, both legs injured.  
W. GILLINGHAM, harbour watchman, left hand and stomach.  
PETER LE FEUVRE, New Road, St. Sampson's, foot.  
WILLIAM SPURDLE, of the G.W.R. staff, stomach.

MISS LE POIDEVIN, both legs.  
MRS. NORA BRIARD, of Beaumont, Jersey. Her husband also injured.  
WALTER LE PAGE, Hounet, St. Sampson's.  
LIONEL TAYLOR, Homestead, Bouet, of St. John Ambulance Brigade, injuries to arm and chest.  
WILLIAM NICOLLE, Beaulieu, Route Militaire, leg.  
CECIL ROUSSEL, Rocher, Vale, leg.  
ARCHIE SAUVIDENT, Jemeries, St. Saviour's, head.  
STEPHEN NOYON, Hougue du Moulin, Vale, right leg and hand.  
HENRY CHARLES FERBRACHE, Sans Ennuï, Chêne, Forest, abdomen.

STANLEY STOCKEY, 7, Grosses Hougues, St. Sampson's.  
E. T. BAILEY and G. BAILEY, head and face.  
G. ROBILLLIARD, leg and shoulders.

### THE DAMAGED AREA

On a tour of inspection of the damaged area of the town this morning, the first thing noticed was the comparatively slight damage done to those shops which had taken the precautionary measure of pasting strips of paper across their windows. This inexpensive but effective means of preventing flying splinters of glass should be copied by all those who possess any appreciable frontage to their shops.

Passing down the Pollet it was seen that most of the damage in this street was confined to the "old" or narrow part where the force of the explosions were more confined.

Here the large single sheet of plate glass forming the window of the lexicon library had been completely demolished, whilst opposite, in Mr. Pant's entrance way, one side of three windows was entirely wrecked and the other side left intact.

Others who suffered badly were "Banquet's", one large pane of glass partly demolished; and Bank's, Brownsey Ltd., where the upper panes of the fine curved window, which is a distinctive feature of this corner building, have completely disappeared.

Two large glass windows have also been broken to fragments in each of the following establishments: the

Perhaps the most pathetic sight of all, however, was that of an old friend to all Guernsensemén who will remember his cheery face welcoming them back to their native isle or wishing them farewell. May it not be long before the clock at St. John's Weighbridge takes up its tale of the passing hours. Today it stands derelict, its twisted arms pointing sadly to 2½ minutes to 7 o'clock—the hour at which destruction swept swiftly down upon it from out of the clear blue sky of a summer day.

Hard by this sad sentinel of a past era, stands the funeral pile of what were, at this time yesterday, two, three or more fine motor-cars. The number of bodies here immolated is impossible to estimate now, so mangled and twisted are the remains.

Again, within a few feet of this holocaust, are the remains of a giant telephone pole, splintered and wrecked, its very surface scorched to an unusual whiteness by the blast that tore a 3-foot crater in the Upper Walk of the White Rock and forced the massive granite coping of the sea-wall out of its setting by as much as 12 inches for a considerable length.

The White Rock itself is a shambles of burnt-out lorries, their scorched chip baskets tilted dejectedly in the heaps which spilled their contents upon the roadway. Still burning, wood, rubber and vegetables unite in raising an odour that revolts as one thinks of the meanings waste it represents.

The sheds that house the great Fruit Export Co., Ltd., as well as many other undertakings in the same line of business have suffered only so far as their windows, but to their rear, at the Cambridge Berth, lies the scene of a still greater destruction.

Here the giant sheds used for the storage of goods from potatoes to buck-wheat, and from potatoes to pills, have been utterly laid waste. The fire brigade, with nearly 24 hours' continuous work upon this burning mass of cargo beneath the dangerous shifting roof of unstable corrugated-iron sheets—was still hard at work upon their job of extinguishing the raging fire. Sea-water poured upon the steaming debris, but it will be long before a new building can arise. Phonix-like from these ruins.

#### SHOPS CLOSING AT 6

We understand that a number of shops are closing at 6 p.m. to-day. This includes the Stationery and Advertising Departments of the Guernsey Press Co., Ltd.

#### EXPORT STOPPED

An official announcement by Mr. A. M. Drake, the Statist's Controller for Horticulture, states that all exports of tomatoes and other horticultural produce is now stopped.

#### FLOUR CONTROL OFFICE

We are informed to-day that the flour control, which was at Messrs. J. F. G. Williams' office, Esplanade, has been temporarily removed to St. Peter's and all enquiries with reference to flour should be made there.