

of some importance and character with gardens running to a good size . . . ' After WWI the Woldingham Camp site offered 'pleasing residences of modest size within easy reach of regular train services to London and Brighton' and was called Woldingham Garden Village. In 1991, 250 passengers daily started their journeys by train there; Upper Warlingham's figure was 800. In 1886 and 1887 there were two special trains each weekend through the summer to Marden Park (Woldingham), carrying children on Sunday School outings and the like.

Freight yards ceased operating at the stations shown: Upper Warlingham (May 1964); Caterham & Whyteleafe (Sept 1964).

Material for this article was taken from **Spence** (1952) *The Caterham Railway*, Oakwood Press; **Knight** (1986) *Railways of South East England*, Ian Allan Ltd; **Skuse** (1987) *A History of Whyteleafe*, The Bourne Society; **Jackson** (1999) *The Railway in Surrey*, Atlantic Transport.

Compiled by Peter Skuse

RECOLLECTIONS 1939-1945

by Mrs Mary C Bright (née Gomme)

DURING WORLD WAR II my parents, sister and myself were living in Chaldon Road, Caterham on the Hill. Our cottage was in a row of four, just past Hiltons' bakery and shop. Several incidents happened during the war in which our family were involved.

1st September 1940 at Addison Road—

Firstly during a daylight raid during the Battle of Britain on 1st September 1940, my grandparents and their newly married grand-daughter were killed, and a daughter injured. They lived in Addison Road, Caterham, close to Kenley airfield.

The 'Roll of Honour' compiled by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists all the civilian war dead and the section for Caterham & Warlingham contains entries for my grandparents, William & Elizabeth Gomme and their granddaughter Evelyn Allen.

4th November 1940 at the shops near the Clifton Arms, Chaldon Road, Caterham—

On this day we had finished school (Council School at bottom of Chaldon Road) and I was walking to my home in Chaldon Road. When a raid started, my memory is vague relating to the events of that horrible day, but I do

remember being in Mrs Chapman's shelter, her house was one of a row near to the shops. A lad from my class in school was killed in the raid.

According to the 'Roll of Honour' for Caterham & Warlingham the following were either killed in that raid or died from their injuries later—

Geoffrey Charman age 7

Matthais E Medwin, age 47, shopkeeper

Ernest Hallpike, age 38.

The following account of the raid has been extracted from *The Way They Were – the Bourne Society Book of Days*—

'A solo bomber dropped bombs in Chaldon Road where several shops and houses were damaged. Whilst going to the aid of some children, a local tradesman was killed and other people injured. The enemy also opened fire with a machine gun on some children just leaving the council school. Two of the boys were seriously injured and one of them died in hospital.

(*Weekly Press & County Post*)'

16th June 1944 – The first Doodlebug in Caterham—

My sister and I were preparing for school on this particular morning; mother was combing Pauline's hair. We were all standing close to the window in the sitting room, which had the view of the back garden. I have in my memory the vision of a low plane passing over the fences.

This Doodlebug crashed between Heath Road and Chaldon Road, very close to our house. We were taken to the Caterham Emergency Hospital in St Lawrence's Hospital. Mother was in the hospital with blast injuries, Pauline and I suffered cuts to the face. It was thought at first my sister would lose an eye, luckily that did not happen. We were all hospitalised for about 10-14 days.

There was unfortunately a fatality that morning, Richard Percival age 39 from Roffes Lane. He was on his way to work when the Doodlebug fell.

On our discharge from hospital, a worried father took Pauline and me, to friends in Elm Grove, Caterham. However whilst awaiting Mother being released from hospital, a further bomb dropped close by in Matlock Road. Dad then took us children to our aunt's in Fittleworth, West Sussex. At last we felt safe!

Our row of terrace cottages was at first condemned, as war damage and the adjoining row of house were later demolished. But our terrace survived and they are now well over 100 years old.

The following report of the doodlebug has been extracted from *The Way They Were – the Bourne Society Book of Days*—

'First appearance of the German pilotless rocket glider in this area today, In all about a dozen came over this way, the first crashing about 08:10 in Caterham on the Hill.'

(*War Diary 2nd Canadian AGRA at Moyle House, Caterham*)

The following extract has been taken from *Bourne Doodlebugs* by Peter & Iris Flint—

'Other flying bombs fell in Tatsfield and Chaldon Road, Caterham, near the junction with Heath Road. Here Surrey police report a factory being in a dangerous condition and 12 houses damaged. 100 others needed minor repairs, the figures were later revised to a total of 294 when the Mont of the blast was realised. It had carried as far as the Caterham station area, a mile away.

A final count of the casualties from the bomb in Chaldon Road reached 20 adults; at least one death and 10 children.

The bomb came from a batch of 33 launched from the St Omer-Dieppe region of France, only half of which found their way through to Greater London.'

BOURNE SOCIETY WEBSITE

The Bourne Society's website may be visited at—

www.bourne-society.org.uk

Emails may be sent to the Society at bournesociety@beeb.net

'THOSE FLAMING THINGS'

by Gordon Newall

IN 1984 THE *Croydon Advertiser* invited readers to give their experiences during Doodlebug Summer. I wrote mine down but could not remember the date and I, in turn, invited readers' responses. Two such letters were sent to me and are reproduced below—

Caterham, Surrey

2nd July, 1984

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to your letter in our Local Paper on June 29th. The Doodlebug which fell near the printers and Heath Road corner fell on Friday 16th, 1944 at about 7.45 a.m.

My two daughters at that time were aged eleven and eight years old and I was getting them ready for school. We had been in the shelter all night and heard and saw these 'flaming' things going over. When this Doodlebug fell soldiers from the common came to our aid and kindly neighbours took myself and children in. There were a lot of casualties and we were taken to St Lawrence's Hospital where I stayed three weeks with my children. It was a very frightening experience hearing these bombs passing over, more were dropped in the area. Our house was too badly damaged to live in for quite a few months. Four houses adjoining us were demolished. My husband who worked in St Lawrence's Hospital, lived for three months in an Anderson Shelter with Mr Smith who at that time lived (in) Heath Road. The children and myself went to stay with my sister in Sussex. We still live in the same house, nearly 50 years we've been here.

My Husband's parents and his niece were killed in the bombing in Addison Rd, Caterham on September 3rd 1940,* so we had our share of sadness at that time too,

Yours truly,

(Mrs) Grace Gomme

*Two of RAF Kenley's Squadrons, No 253 and No 616, were in action that day.