

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES
26th June 1941

Newspaper article of the South Coast Raid.

FATAL CASUALTIES IN SOUTH COAST RAID

School and Working-Class Homes Demolished

Powerful bombs which were dropped on the outskirts of a South Coast town early on Sunday morning killed a number of persons and injured others.

The raid was the most serious the district has experienced.

Most of the casualties resulted from a bomb which made a direct hit on a house, while others rendered homeless were cared for in a cinema.

Troops went into action with the local Civil Defence services to free people trapped in the ruins. Among tragic incidents one of the most poignant was when an N.C.O. helping with the rescue work came across the bodies of his wife and child, who only recently had obtained billets in the neighbourhood.

There were examples of great courage both on the part of the rescued and rescuers.

One A.R.P. warden had an amazing escape whilst patrolling the streets. One of the bombs, falling only a comparatively short distance away, flung him bodily up a passage.

A street of working-class homes suffered severely, and it was here that most of the casualties were caused. One person had a remarkable escape by taking refuge under a table after the first bomb had exploded. Though the house was almost destroyed she was unhurt.

A strongly-built elementary school was demolished by one bomb, and the elderly caretaker and his wife were buried in the debris. Their son helped to extricate them, and they were removed to hospital. Their injuries were not grave.

A nearby church sustained roof damage and shattered windows, but the main structure was not affected. Services on Sunday were held in the open on the vicarage lawn owing to the amount of debris that had fallen in the church.