

Watson Road at around 4.00am killing 9 people, including two babies, four children and three adults. The four houses involved in the bombing were all demolished in the explosion - the two benches on Westcott common are dedicated to those who lost their lives in the attack. Ironically two of the children who were killed had been evacuated from London to the safety of the countryside! The graveyard to the south of Logmore Lane bears a poignant reminder of these personal losses.

Milton Court was established as an official ARP post and had fire protection in the form of strategically located stirrup pumps and a "500" trailer fire pump. A fire station was built on the edge of the lake and the two fire crews were trained by expert fire fighters. The fire pump itself caught light on Friday 7 February 1941 when petrol being fed into the pump's tank was ignited by a heating lamp nearby. The fire which had to be extinguished by Dorking Fire Brigade caused permanent damage to the pump and hose.

Plane Crashes

On the 24 February 1944 a German Dornier 217 plane crashed into one of the gardens in Parsonage Lane (in the vicinity of No 23) after being shot down by a pursuing Mosquito plane. The German plane was carrying three 1100lb bombs and four 110lb incendiaries - fortunately none of which exploded. Two of the German crew members were killed in the crash, while the other two parachuted to safety, landing near Wotton church - both were captured.

Another plane crashed in the grounds of the Landbarn sewage treatment works, near to the railway in late October 1940 having been shot down by a Me 109 plane. The Canadian pilot baled out safely.

HMS Westcott

In the tradition of the time Westcott village adopted its namesake the Royal Navy destroyer HMS Westcott, and the villagers used to send gift parcels to the sailors. It is known that on one occasion the sailors requested a football in one of their gift parcels and this was given by the children of the Sunday School. HMS Westcott was a 'W' class long range escort, modified destroyer, pennant number D47, named after GB Westcott RN who had been Captain of HMS Impregnable at the battle of 'The Glorious First of June' in 1794. HMS Westcott was launched on 14 February 1918 and commissioned in April of that year. She had a speed of 34 knots and was manned by about 150 sailors and 8 officers.



HMS Westcott

During the war she evacuated troops from Norway, and escorted convoys from Australia and Kola inlet, and to Malta. She was also part of the escort force for the Normandy landings. On 2 February 1942 she rammed and sank the German 'U' boat U581 stopping to pick up survivors afterwards. In November that year HMS Westcott assisted in the sinking of two Vichy French submarines, the Argonaute and Acteon, during Operation Tidal Wave. She is also known to have assisted in the sinking of a fourth submarine. Her Captain, Commander Brockett-Pugh was awarded the DSO and 10 DSOs while members of the crew received two DSCs, nine DSMs and 20 DMMs mentioned in dispatches. HMS Westcott was paid off for scrap in January 1946 and towed to Campbeltown for breaking up, having steamed approximately 200,000 miles. A picture of the ship and accompanying history can be seen in the main bar area of the Hut.

Evacuees

Westcott received and befriended many children from London and other areas during the war. The evacuees arrived at Dorking railway station from London and were taken to the Dorking Halls for their meals.