Painting of a wrecked barrage balloon at North Dulwich Station by A M Weston

1 Albrighton Road, Dog Kennel Hill, Wheatland House Shelter SE22. The plaque is set on the wall of the Community Centre in Albrighton Road. It commemorates the 29 people killed on 9th September 1940 by two high explosive bombs which simultaneously exploded on an air raid shelter killing all within. So great was the tragedy that the King and Queen visited the scene two days later when bodies were still being removed.

2 Quorn Road, Dog Kennel Hill, Goldwell House SE22. The plaque is set in the stretcher railings close to the junction with Quorn Road and Dog Kennel Hill. Less than a week after the air raid in nearby Albrighton Road, a bomb exploded on Goldwell House killing 6 people on 15th September 1940. The Civil Defence mortuary stretchers from WW2 continue to be used as fences.

3 Melbourne Grove, Lytcott Grove, Playfield Crescent SE22. Two separate incidents are commemorated by the plaque on the corner of Lytcott Grove and Melbourne Grove. On 16th September 1940, 9 people were killed by a bomb and on 17th January 1943, 11 people were killed by parachute mines in a raid in retaliation for the bombing of Berlin.

4 Woodwarde Road SE22. The plaque is on the railings of Dulwich Library and commemorates the 3 people killed on 24th September 1940.

5 Dovercourt Road SE22. The plaque is on the railings of Alleyn's School at the junction with Dovercourt Road and commemorates the 4 people, all from one family, who were killed on 19th October 1940.

6 Burbage Road SE21 & SE24. The plaque at the junction of Burbage Road and Turney Road commemorates the 4 people killed by a bomb on 17th April 1941 and the 4 killed by a V1 flying bomb on 22nd June 1944.

7 Rosendale Road & Lovelace Road SE21. The plaque on the railings at the junction of both roads commemorates the 4 people killed in Rosendale Road on 23rd June 1944 and the 2 people killed in Lovelace Road on 1st August 1944, all by V1 flying bombs.

8 Park Hall Road SE21. The plaque is on the green at the junction of Park Hall Road and Ildersley Grove and commemorates the 3 people killed on 4th July 1944 by a V1 flying bomb.

9 Wood Vale SE23. The plaque is close to the junction with Lordship Lane where 14 people were killed on 6th July 1944 by a V1 flying bomb.

10 Lordship Lane SE22. The plaque is fixed to the wall of the chemist's shop at the junction of Lordship Lane and Shawbury Road and commemorates the 23 people killed while shopping on 5th August 1944 by a V1 flying bomb.

11 Friern Road & Etherow Street SE22. The plaque is sited on the green at the junction of Friern Road and Lordship Lane and commemorates the 24 people killed on 1st November 1944 by a V2 rocket.

12 Court Lane SE21. The plaque is on the railings in Court Lane opposite Dovercourt Road and commemorates the 7 people killed on 6th January 1945 by a V2 rocket.

Dulwich

WORLD WAR 2 AIR RAIDS TRAIL

Visiting the 12 Commemorative Plaques to Victims

It is a fading memory of how much Dulwich was affected by World War 2. Bombed houses have long since been repaired or replaced, shelters which populated streets, gardens and parks have long ago been removed. The scars have healed to such an extent that seemingly all traces of the devastation which took place have disappeared. It is, however, important for future generations that we remind ourselves just how much the population suffered at the time. Over 500 high explosive bombs and countless incendiaries were dropped on Dulwich. They were followed by 35 V1 flying bombs and 3 V2 rockets.

As will be noted from the dates of the fatalities, with the exception of one of the raids on Lytcott Grove, the incidents occurred in two phases. The first was during the London Blitz which began on 7th September 1940 and for ninety-one days there was continuous bombing.

Thereafter attacks were less frequent although there were still air raids in 1942. The bombing of Lytcott Grove on 17th of January 1943 was part of the reprisal for the British bombing of Berlin the day before. The second phase of attacks on London, was the indiscriminate bombing by what were first called 'pilotless planes', later called flying bombs, or by the RAF nicknamed 'Doodlebugs' - V1 rockets standing for Vergeltungswaffe - (Retaliation weapon) which began in June 1944. These were later followed by the even deadlier V2 rocket in September 1944. The final bomb which exploded in Dulwich was a V1 on 4th March 1945, only two months before the end of the war in Europe.

The official record issued by Camberwell Borough Council (of which Dulwich comprised roughly a third of its area and population) noted that only 403 homes out of a total of 40,104 in the borough escaped damage and a very large number received damage on several occasions. In September 1944 14,000 houses in the borough had their roofs off and 4,000 men were still employed on major war damage repairs in May 1945. The cost of the repairs was in excess of £10 million (in 1945).

There was also the human cost; in deaths, injuries and the pain of losing loved ones which should not go unremembered. The twelve plaques selected were chosen on the basis of recording places where there was a multiple loss of life. There were numerous others where individuals were killed or wounded.

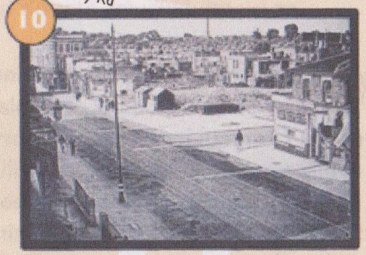
The plaques were, where possible, unveiled by survivors or descendents of those killed on the nearest date to the incident. Each plaque bears the names and ages of those killed, together with the date of the incident.

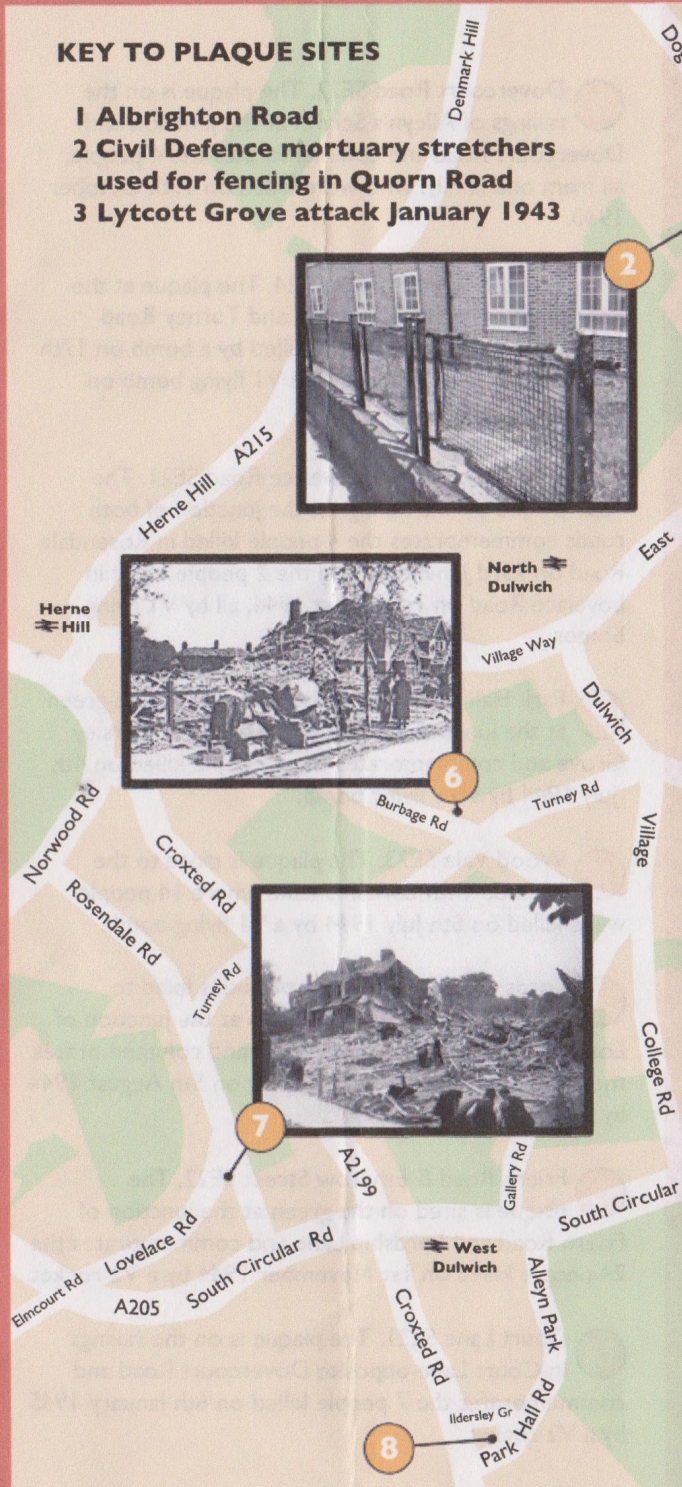
This leaflet is published by The Dulwich Society which arranged the installation of the World War 2 Memorial plaques in its 50th year. Further information is available on the website www.dulwichsociety.com
Photographs courtesy of the Southwark Art Collection.

Funded by Southwark Council

KEY TO PLAQUE SITES

1 Albrighton Road
2 Civil Defence mortuary stretchers used for fencing in Quorn Road
3 Lytcott Grove attack January 1943





4 Woodwarde Road
5 Dovercourt Road
6 Devastation in Burbage Road June 1944
7 Lovelace Road attack August 1944
8 Park Hall Road
9 Wood Vale
10 Cleared site of the Lordship Lane V1 explosion on the Co-operative Stores 1944
11 Friern Road
12 Court Lane