

ROY BEADLE

A **doodlebug** landed on Bury Farm. It exploded in trees, so left only a tiny indentation in the ground. The **crater** was small, 18" wide by 9" deep. I'd left school by then.

The Folly and New Bridge were showered with **incendiary bombs**. As kids we used to collect the metal fins. As we wanted them for spills and kept them on the mantelpiece.

A lot of the bombs landed on open fields as they'd missed their targets. I got a complete German incendiary bomb, pulled it out of the ground as a kid. A policeman made it safe. He took the bottom off and removed the mechanism. I've still got it and want to give it to a museum.

When I was at school, I saw a **dogfight** over Wheathampstead. A Heinkel plane crashed at Gustard Wood, shot down by another plane.

There was a **searchlight** in House Lane, and **fire watch** in Gustard Wood. My brother Bob was in the ARP (**Air Raid Patrol**) and patrolled the village at night. Cecily Odell was in the WVS **Red Cross**.

In 1935 I remember they gave King George V's Jubilee mugs to the children, also in 1937 coronation mugs.

Parades: My brother Bob got an old fashioned bath chair pulled by a pony and dressed up as a nurse. My dad always did a cart up for a parade. He polished the brass and plaited the horses' manes.

There were **gramophones** with cylinder records and a glass needle. They played songs like 'Don't go down the mine, Daddy'.

I had a good life as a child. Can't complain.

[Roy was born in 1929. This information was provided by Ruth Jeavons, December 2024]