

Unexploded Bomb, Bath Road, Follow On

by Christine Bury

The question posed in EMHT's August newsletter re more information about the unexploded WWII bomb on Bath Road resulted in several emails.

From Hilary Campbell

A quick check on the 1939 Register on Find My Past confirms that at that time the houses in Bath Road were numbered 1,3,5,7 etc. – perhaps the original builders expected to fill in the millpond at some stage to build down the other side of the road?

From Trevor Davies

I am pretty sure that the bombed cottages were today's 7 and 8. From the North:

Block of 2 houses **Now 1,2 Then 1,3**

Block of 4 houses **Now 3,4,5,6 Then 5,7,9,11**

Block of 4 house, the most northern two were destroyed by the bomb

Now 7,8 Then 13,15

From Julia Oakley

Originally the houses at the Sailing Club end of Bath Road were numbered 2, 4, 6 etc. Later when the houses at the top / Main Road end were built they were numbered 1, 3, 5 etc. Eventually, in the 1960s?, all the houses in Bath Road were renumbered consecutively 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 etc starting from the top / Main Road end.

From Gordon Braddock

Alfred Thomas MORGAN (born Fareham 8th December 1894), his wife Clara (born Gessing, Norfolk 5th March 1890) and son Jack Victor (born Fareham 25th July 1924) all inhabited 13 Bath Road at the time of the September 1939 Register. Two other inhabitants were blanked out for that address. Most likely, the two erased residents were Joan, Jack V Morgan's twin sister, and Clare F Morgan, his much younger sister. When the register is published fully all will be revealed. Of course the register was taken three years before the bomb was dropped so inhabitants may well have changed.



Press cutting found behind framed photograph of the unexploded bomb being lifted on to a lorry

The other bombed house, then 11 Bath Road, was uninhabited in September 1939. At number 15, almost unscathed, were the TEE family: Gladys (born Portsmouth 2nd December 1914), her husband, George J (born Havant RD, 3rd August 1913) and Brenda A M REEVES, (born Emsworth 19th June 1896, a spinster). Last in the block of four terraced houses at 17 Bath Road the DOLING family dwelled: Charles Samuel Beverley (born locally 11th July 1907), Olivia Jeanette (born South Stoneham 18th January 1906), son Paul Charles (born Gosport 20th January 1935) and one other blanked out, probably a sibling of Paul's.

The enquiry from Helen Price which led to this research stated that her grandparents, Clara and Alfred Thomas Morgan moved to St James Road. It is understood that the bombed residents initially sheltered in the school in Washington Road. To where they then moved and when they began to dwell at 1 St James Road is not known. Records do show that grandmother Clara died in November 1975 and grandfather Alfred Thomas in June 1977, both at number 1 St James Road.