

RAMC College, Millbank.
Queen Alexandria Military Hospital "QA".

Bomb Damage photographs taken on September 16th 1940.
Presented in a lecture to the Friends of Millbank.
26th May 2023.

Adrian M K Thomas
Visiting Professor
Canterbury Christ Church University.
Friday, 16 June 2023

In the Battle of Britain the key date was on Sunday September 15th 1940. This day came to be known as Battle of Britain Day.

Battle of Britain Day, 15th September 1940

<https://www.manstonhistory.org.uk/battle-of-britain-day-15th-september-1940/#:~:text=Although%20fighting%20continued%20in%20the,decisive%20defeat%20for%20the%20Luftwaffe>

The "hour of destiny" was September 15th, a date thereafter commemorated as "Battle of Britain Day". The title has been disputed; Alfred Price, for one, says that September 15th "has singularly little to commend it.....the day when the British victory claim was furthest from the truth....." Yet, forgetting the "numbers game", it is hard to dispute Churchill's verdict that it was, in fact, "the crux of the Battle of Britain". He made that judgment in the light of his knowledge of what happened to Operation SEALION - which was, of course, from beginning to end, what the Battle of Britain was really about. The Official History sums up with clarity:
"If 15th August showed the German High Command that air supremacy was not to be won within a brief space, 15th September went far to convince them that it would not be won at all."

John Terraine The Right of the Line Hodder & Stoughton 1985 pp210-211
<http://www.battleofbritain1940.net/0041.html>

Following the Battle of Britain Day there were bomb damage photographs taken at Millbank on September 16th 1940. The photographs were taken by Sgt. Ernest Raymond Hutchinson, RAMC (1916-1992). Ernest Raymond Hutchinson ("Hutch") was a remarkable man. In 1940 he was a radiographer in the RAMC.

Hutchinson was a therapy radiographer at the Velindre Hospital in Cardiff. This is the Velindre Cancer Centre which is a specialist facility caring for cancer patients in Whitchurch, Cardiff, Wales.

In 1959-1960 Hutchinson was President of the Society of Radiographers.

Ernest Raymond Hutchinson (Ray / Hutch) was the first Secretary General of the ISRRT.
<https://www.isrrt.org/history-isrrt>

It was at the World Congress in Montreal in 1962 that Earnest Raymond Hutchinson (Hutch) was elected as the Secretary General and Treasurer of the ISRRT, a position that he held until the Madrid Congress in 1973.

The photographs:

Image.	Comments.
1	Bomb damage.
2	Bomb damage.
3	Bomb crater filled with water.
4	Bomb damage and bath 1.
5	Bomb damage.
6	Bomb damage.
7	Major Littlejohn, RAMC.
8	Presumably NAAFI van. (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes)
9	Destroyed Ambulance 1.
10	Bomb crater filled with water.
11	Bomb crater filled with water. Side wall of Tate Gallery with bomb damage.
12	Destroyed Ambulance 2.
13	Sgt. Nancy Fitzroy, Pharmacist. Need biographical details. Sgt. Nancy Davies, MSR. (Member of the Society of Radiographers). Need biographical details. Sgt. A.A. Barnett, Pharmacist. Need biographical details.
14	Bomb damage.
15	Anne Asser, FANY. (FANY: The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps), founded in 1907.) Capt. Blair. Who is this Blair? Need biographical details. Maj. Garland. Need biographical details. Sgt. Davies. Need biographical details.
16	Bomb damage and bath 2. Repeat.
17	Bomb damage.
18	Hutchinson on left, and unidentified corporal (which regiment from badges?).
19	Hutchinson on left, and unidentified private (no regimental badges).

These photographs were obtained by Miss Marion Frank, past-President of the Society of Radiographers) following the death of Hutchinson in 1992. Marion Frank gave them to me, with other materials relating to Hutchinson. At some point I want to write about Hutchinson and would not wish for these images to be published until then, although I am very happy for them to appear on the Friends of Millbank website, and Hutchinson would have wanted them to appear there.
