


City that Walks on Water Southend Stories



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| Title: | <u>Campbell Road bombing 1941</u> |
| Date: | 4 th Feb 1941 |
| Location: | Campbell Road, Southend-on-Sea |
| Image: |  |
| Headline: | |
| Fact 1 | On the evening of Tuesday February the 4th 1941 a Luftwaffe bomber dropped a 'large high explosive bomb' onto Westcliff-on-Sea. The crater the bomb made was 'approximately 70 feet wide by 30 feet deep'. |
| Fact 2 | It has been speculated that the target for this bomb was the nearby Telephone Exchange or the Electricity Works which was sited where St Helen's School is now. |
| Fact 3 | What followed was a 3-day operation to rescue the injured, recover the dead, repair the damage to water, gas and electricity services to Westcliff and make sure everyone in the area was accounted for. |
| Fact 4 | 24 Rescue Parties were sent out, over 100 locally billeted troops were offered and sent to help with the search and rescue effort, and all available local police were sent to the scene. |

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| Fact 5 | A local rescued woman, Mrs Warren told reporters, “My father had gone out with a friend, and mother and myself and baby and two London evacuees, Herbert Cook aged 12 and his sister, Nita were in a room together with our dog, Peggy, another, a black spaniel and two birds. When the bomb fell, the noise was awful and the whole house seemed to collapse like a pack of cards. We were all trapped, and it was terrible with the clouds of dust and darkness. |
| Fact 6 | The heroism of those civilians and soldiers who volunteered in the Search and Rescue Operation was mentioned by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill and summaries in newspapers of the time. According to the Police report 8 people were killed and 9 injured. |
| Close: | Don't bother looking for Campbell Road on modern maps as it was never rebuilt, and the area is now taken up by the buildings and grounds of Milton Hall School. |
| Author: | AD |