



Tower Creameries, Mitcham

The incident report by the ARP regional officer at the time recalls that, at 2238h on 16th April 1941, the Tower Creameries factory 'received a direct hit by a parachute mine, was completely demolished and gutted by fire.

No work was in progress at the time but unfortunately a Home Guard detachment composed of employees was on duty in the building and it is feared that many of them, together with some firewatchers, lost their lives.

The building caught fire after the explosion, the margarine burning furiously and the intense heat, added to which were ammonia fumes from the plant, caused much distress and exhaustion to members of the A.R.P.' The incident report continued: 'Ten separate incidents were reported on the night of 16th April in a raid that lasted from 2200h to 0500h and the ARP services were at times fully extended.

At 0230h seven HE bombs fell in the area bounded by Park Avenue and Hill Road, Mitcham. Twenty houses were demolished a further 50 were badly damaged. Nine people, including the local ARP Post Warden, were killed and 17 injured'.

15 members of the Home Guard were killed and some of them buried with a Commonwealth War Grave in London Road Cemetery.

A Home Guard memorial at Tower Creameries was unveiled by Colonel Barber, Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey, in 1962. The plaque, unveiled at the newly rebuilt creamery in 1962, commemorates 15 members of "B" Company, 57th Surrey Home Guard (Mitcham) killed when a German parachute mine hit the old creamery building near Mitcham Common on 16th April 1941.

In 2012 it was relocated to The Meadows Housing Estate following the demolition of the old factory.







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