

THE V-2 ROCKET IN THE BASILDON AREA

The V-Rockets - the V1 and V2 - were ground-to-ground rockets that were used by the Germans against the Allies toward the end of World War II. The "V" stands for the German word "Vergeltungswaffe", which means "reprisal weapon". The Germans were able to pursue their rocket programs from an early date due to a loophole in the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed at the end of World War I. Although the treaty-imposed restrictions on the production of artillery and other types of weapons by the Germans, there were no restrictions on rocket research and production.

The V2 was the world's first ballistic missile. It was 46 feet (14 metres) tall, 5 feet 4 inches (1.6 metres) in diameter, and it was propelled by a liquid-fuel engine. The engine burned for about 60 seconds, lifting the rocket to a height of about 52 miles.



The engine would then shut off and the missile would fall to its target on a ballistic path determined by the pull of gravity. It had a maximum range of about 225 miles (362 km) and carried a 2,000-pound warhead, which was capable of destroying a large building. It took about five minutes for the missile to travel its maximum range. Since the V2 had to fly a long distance with some degree of accuracy, it required a guidance system for pointing it in the right direction and shutting off the engine at the proper time. This was achieved through the use of what is called an inertial guidance system, a system in which a stabilized platform remains fixed in space regardless of how the vehicle moves around it. This stabilized platform allows for measuring the position or acceleration of the vehicle, since the platform remains pointed in one direction and the changes in the vehicle can be measured compared to the stable platform. In the middle of the rocket exhaust were four vanes that were used to deflect the thrust and steer the rocket, based upon commands from the guidance system, until engine cut-off.

The V-2 also had a radio transmission system that could relay information about the missile's performance to the

ground, but there was no communication from the ground to the rocket during flight. Unlike the V1, which flew relatively slowly and at low altitude, the V2 slammed into the ground at 4,000 miles per hour without warning, except for a double sonic boom shortly before impact. Targets could not be pinpointed with precision, due to inaccuracies in positioning the missiles at launch and in timing the engine cut-off, so the missiles would fall anywhere within a wide area of the intended target.

Since there was no defence against such a weapon, the Allies concentrated on attacking the fixed launch sites, many of which were located in the Pas de Calais region of France, and they were very successful in destroying the sites. However, the Germans also launched the V2s from mobile sites and the Allies were seldom able to locate and attack these. The Germans often launched V2s from city streets, hoping that they would be hidden from view by surrounding buildings. This could have disastrous consequences if the rockets were located by the Allies, resulting in catastrophic explosions in population centres. It took a German mobile rocket crew about two hours to erect and prepare a group of three missiles for launch.

The V2 was first launched successfully in October, 1942, and it was first used in combat in an attack on London on September 7, 1944. From this time until March of 1945, more than 1,100 V-2s fell in southern England, most around London and Norwich, causing about 2,700 deaths and over twice that many injuries. Another 2,000 of the missiles were fired at targets on the European continent, primarily Antwerp, Belgium, which had been re-captured by the Allies and had become an important Allied port. London was actually hit by 517 V2s and 1,265 of the missiles hit Antwerp.

At the height of their production, 700 V-2s per month were being built, most under very harsh conditions by slave labourers from concentration camps. A total of about 10,000 V-2s were made. The Germans were making plans to launch V-2s from submarines against the United States, but they were never successful, due to technical

difficulties. Shortly after the war ended, the United States was successful in launching captured V-2s from submarines. The most deadly V2 attack of the war occurred on December 16, 1944, when a V2 struck the Rex Theatre in Antwerp, Belgium, killing 567 people (296 of these being servicemen) and wounding an additional 291 people.

The most deadly V2 attack in Britain happened on November 25, 1944 at New Cross Road, where a V2 destroyed a Woolworth's department store and surrounding stores killing 160 people and seriously injuring 120. The final V-2 attacks of the war occurred on March 27, 1945 - one on Antwerp, which killed 27 people, and one on England, which seriously injured 23 and killed Ivy Mildred Millichamp, the last person to be killed in Britain by enemy action during World War II. A total of about 7,000 people were killed by V2 rockets during the war.



The destruction of the Woolworth's department store and other stores in New Cross Road South London.

Despite the great damage caused by the V2s, they were actually considered to be a failure as a weapon due to their poor accuracy, great expense and relatively small warhead size. Each V-2 cost 20 times more money to manufacture than a V1, and yet their warheads were almost the same size. The greatest value of the V2 was realized after the war, when captured V-2s were used by the United States and the former Soviet Union to begin their own missile and space programs.



A V2 Rocket being transported to a launch area

September 1944

By order of the Reichsführer SS, the date of the initial employment of the A-4 was set for September 5, 1944. Two officers are provided with the necessary authority to bring the two groups North and South into action. Leader of Group North is Major Mertin, Leader of Group South is Major Schulz. Shortage of time and the problems of

bringing a new weapon into action, as well as the uncertainty of activities at the front, will hinder these plans. The staff of the supply platoon was divided. Oberst zum Eschenhoff remains in Group North, Major Jester is transferred to Group South for the supply task.

Group South receives a greater number of vehicles, for the transport platoon 899. In another meeting Major Mertin is charged with the task to determine the transfer of the units of the former Harko 191 and Gen. Kdo. LXV. A.K. to the A-4 troop.

On Saturday, September 2, Battery 444 travelled to Euskirchen with orders to proceed south to attack Paris. On Sunday, September 3, Battery 485 moves into Den Haag (The Hague) to set up operations against London. The influential suburb of Wassenaar is chosen as the first launching location.

Wednesday September 06 09.00 hours and 09.40 hours - Battery 444, St. Vith, 18 km southeast of Malmédy (Belgium), rocket misfire. Both rockets came up to full power, lifted a few feet and then set back down on firing table, still vertical, when engines cut off. The intended target for each rocket was Paris. Battery 444 also suffered its first combat losses this same day when the unit was attacked by partisans.

On Thursday, September 7, Battery 444 moves to a new Site (17 miles southeast of former Site) near Houffalize (Belgium). It was a place between Baraque de Fraiture et Houffalize, in an area (very little village, only a few houses) called Petites Tailles. This is about 3 km south of Baraque de Fraiture. Meanwhile Battery 2/485 in Wassenaar experienced a storm that uprooted trees (one tree fell on the test tent). Also problems with the new ground equipment delayed the launches.

The campaign of 'Terror' starts.

September 08, (+/-18.35 hours) - Battery 2./485, Wassenaar, crossroads of Lijsterlaan / Schouwweg, V-2 rocket fired, impacted either Chiswick (3 dead, 7 seriously injured. 7 Houses demolished) or Epping, Essex (fell in Parndon Wood. Slight damage to two cottages). The launches on September 8th from Wassenaar lifted off simultaneously and were performed using the I-Gerät. However, confusing radio signals were transmitted during the launches and the reactions of the enemy observed.

On Saturday, September 9, the RAF located the first launching Sites in Wassenaar and attacked. A heated battle ensued with anti-aircraft batteries. Later that night, troops of Battery 1/485 set up operations in the Wassenaar area near The Hague. Group North is reorganized: Major Mertin is charged with special tasks. Major von Ploetz now is leader of Group North. Oberst Hohmann is again leader of Battery 485.

Sunday September 10, (+/-21.25 hours) - Battery 1/485, Wassenaar, Beukenhorst, V-2 rocket fired, impacted Fambridge, Essex disintegrating before impact. Slight damage to buildings on two farms.

Tuesday September 12, (08.14 hours) - Battery 1/485 or Battery 2/485, Duindigt, V-2 rocket fired, impacted Dagenham. Fell in school grounds. Two surface shelters demolished; one wing of a school destroyed by fire. Twelve people were injured.

Tuesday September 12, (17.50 hours) - Battery 1/485 or Battery 2/485 (Site Unknown), V-2 rocket fired, impacted Paglesham, Essex. Fell on marshland. Slight damage to farm building.

Wednesday September 13, (11.05 hours) - Battery 1/485 or Battery 2/485, Duindigt, V-2 rocket fired, impacted North Sea in mouth of River Blackwater, Essex.

On the 15th intensive air activities over Group North (The Hague) by RAF resulted in losses, both in men and material. The air activities force the V-2 troops to change positions. Replacement launch sites south of Den Haag were determined.

One prepared, but unused launch site was even destroyed. Battery 444 arrived at Walcheren from Stavelot, Belgium (via Germany) and set up operations against London. Group South begins launching against Lille.

Friday September 15, (22.33 hours) - Battery 1/485 or Battery 2/485, Wassenaar, V-2 rocket fired, impacted over a farm field at Noak Hill, near Romford, Essex disintegrating before impact.

General Kammler had travelled to Walcheren and was present when the first launches were performed against London. However, the preparations for the next round of launches were hampered by intensive air activities. The supply line was interrupted for 12 or more hours due to the bombings of the road Bergen op Zoom/Middelburg between 19.00 and 20.00 hours.

Saturday September 16, (+/- 07.00 hours) - Battery 444, Walcheren, Serooskerke, Vrederust, V-2 rocket fired, impacted East Ham. Direct hit on houses. Six people killed and fifteen seriously injured. Four Houses demolished. Pieces of the rocket remains were taken to the East Ham Police Station.



Direct hit on houses in East Ham

Sunday September 17, (13.02 hours) - Battery 485, (location unknown), V-2 rocket fired, impacted Hockley, Essex. Fell on open ground among brambles. Three people seriously injured.

Just after noon on September 17, 1944, 12 Spitfires of No. 229 Squadron RAF took off from their base at Coltishall. Their mission was to scan a stretch of the Dutch coast looking for evidence of rocket activity. While patrolling at 12,000 feet over North Holland, they witnessed a V-2 rising in the distance at terrific speed. The rocket impacted several minutes later in greater London at Coulsdon. The Spitfires were too far away to discern the exact location from which the rocket had been fired. They could only report the

general location, which was near the coast, possibly The Hague. Battery 444 launched their final rocket of the day that evening, which came down at Adelaide Road, Brockley, Lewisham, killing 14 people and injuring another 41 people.

Later that evening, 27 Lancaster bombers and five Mosquito's, acting on a tip from the Dutch underground, attacked the surrounding area near Beukenhorst between Raaphorstlaan and Eikenhorstlaan. The attack took place between 18.38 hrs and 18.48 hrs. 169 tons of Brisant high explosive bombs, and twenty-four 250-pound marker-bombs were dropped. Sighted visually, the target was well marked, and the attack was concentrated with many bombs falling directly on target. These heavily wooded areas southeast of Wassenaar were suspected as V-2 supply depots but in fact were not.

Very intensive enemy air activity around Nijmegen and Arnhem during the start of Operation Market Garden. Allied paratrooper landings near the command post of SB.2 near Nijmegen. After September 18-19 there were no V-2 troops near The Hague. Because of the Allied invasion of Operation "Market Garden," both the 1/485 and 2/485 moved to positions in the area Burgsteinfurt – Münster-Coesfeld with the new target area Belgian and northern French industrial area, while Battery 444 moved overnight to Dordrecht and supply site Blasig to east of Utrecht, then to Rijs in Gaasterland. Command post of SB.2 and Group North move to Darfeld.

The V2 Land based impact sites:

Country	City	Launches
Belgium	Antwerp	1610
	Luttich	27
	Hasselt	13
	Tournai	9
	Mons	3
	Diest	2
France	Lille	25
	Paris	22
	Tourcoing	19
	Arras	6
	Cambrai	4
England	London	1358
	Norwich/Ipswich	44
Germany	Remagen	11
Holland	Maastricht	19

The Billericay War Diaries record almost all of the impact sites throughout the campaign. However, can anyone say what was purposely targeted?

Technical data: Unlike the V1, the V-2's speed and trajectory made it practically invulnerable to anti-aircraft guns and fighters, as it dropped from an altitude of 100–110 km (62–68 miles) at up three times the speed of sound.

Weight: 12500 kg (27600 lb)

Length: 14m (46 ft)

Diameter: 1.65m (5ft 5in)

Warhead: 1000 kg (2200 lb) Amatol

Range: 320 km (200 miles)

Speed: 5760 km/hour (3580 mph)

INCIDENT No. 676 - NORTHLANDS DRIVE PITSEA

The German Launch record:

Saturday October 07, (08.48 hours) - Battery 2/485, Den Haag, Bloemendaal, The Netherlands, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 0850 hours.

Reported time: 0905 hours.

Map Reference: MP 181 072 Northlands Drive Pitsea Essex.

Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as L.R.R.)

Damage: Three houses completely demolished

Thirty-eight seriously damaged.

Four hundred and thirty-two slightly damaged.

Sixty people made homeless.

Debris and blast damage over a radius of two to three miles.

Four women and one child seriously injured.

Seven men, nineteen women and nineteen children slightly injured.

One Heifer and two calves injured.

Action: Rescue and Ambulance services sent immediately.

Mobile Canteen and another from County dispatched.

Telephone Manager informed.

Vet nary Services arranged for injured animals.

Information and Rest Centre in operation.

Casualties treated at Mobile First Aid Post.

INCIDENT No. 678 - SHOTGATE FARM LONDON ROAD RAWRETH

The German Launch record:

Thursday October 12 1944 (10.50 hours) - Battery 2/485, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 10.55 hours.

Reported time: 11.05 hours.

Map Reference: MR 219 115

Shotgate Farm London Road Rawreth on the border between Billericay and Rayleigh Urban District Council's.

Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as Long-Range Rocket)

Damage: One male seriously injured.

One male and four females slightly injured.

One child slightly injured.

Action: Rescue party and Ambulance dispatched to scene.

Public Utility Services advised.

Mobile canteen dispatched.

Billericay Officer advised.

First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 679 - CHURCH STREET NOAK HILL GREAT BURSTEAD

The German Launch record:

Friday October 13 1944 (06.40 hours) - Battery 2/485, V-2 rocket fired.

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 06.55 hours.
Reported time: 07.13 hours.
Map Reference: Airburst over Church Street Noak Hill Great Burstead.
Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as Long-Range Rocket)
Damage: Blast felt over a large area and some metal fragments found.
Action: County notified.

INCIDENT No. 681 - FELMORES FARM NEVENDON**The German Launch record:**

Monday October 23 1944 (14.05 hours) - Battery 2/485, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 14.15 hours.
Reported time: 14.46 hours.
Map Reference: MR 178 086
Felmores Farm approximately 300 yards from South Nevendon Junior School Burnt Mills Road Nevendon.
Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as Long-Range Rocket)
Damage: Minor damage to twelve properties. Two casualties (one male and one female) suffered severe shock. and four casualties suffered minor shock including two females.
Crater size 70' x 20'
Action: Rescue party, Ambulances attended.
Clerk, Hospital and Rest Centre Officer advised.
Casualties treated at Pitsea First Aid Post.

INCIDENT No. 682 - WESTLEY HALL FARM LANGDON HILLS**The German Launch record:**

Tuesday October 24 1944 (00.22 hours) - Battery 2/485, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 00.30 hours.
Reported time: 01.54 hours.
Map Reference: Approximately 200 yards east of Westley Hall Farm and 150 yards south of Lee Chapel Lane Langdon Hills.
Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as Long-Range Rocket.)
Damage: Extensive superficial damage to Houses on Kingston Hill – Lee Chapel Lane.
Eight minor casualties and some people made homeless.
Action: Rescue party, Ambulances attended.
Clerk, Hospital and Rest Centre Officer advised.
Casualties treated at Laindon First Aid Post.
W.V.S. advised and asked to send a tea bar.
Homeless accommodated with neighbours.
Repair party sent at dawn.

INCIDENT No. 685 - SHOTGATE SEWAGE WORKS**The German Launch record:**

Wednesday October 25 1944 (12.35 hours) - Battery 444, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 12.45 hours.
Reported time: 12.52 hours.
Map Reference: MP 216 126
A field southwest of Shotgate Sewage Works Farm. Essex.
Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as L.R.R.)
Damage: Slight damage to property.
Some damage to Pumping Station.
Two slight casualties, one male and one child burned by handling pieces of metal from the missile.
Crater size 24' x 8'

Action: Wardens and Police on site.
Medical services arrived from Rayleigh.
Dr. Bateman treated casualties on the spot.
Ambulance, Rescue party arrived from Barleylands and Wickford.

INCIDENT No. 686 - VOWLER ROAD LANGDON HILLS

The German Launch record:

Monday November 13 1944 (22.11 hours) - Battery 444, Site 168), V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 22.20 hours.

Reported time: 22.38 hours.

Map Reference: MP 123 066

Vowler Road Langdon Hills Essex.

Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as L.R.R.)

Damage: Four or Five houses completely demolished

Six houses seriously damaged.

Two hundred and fifty houses slightly damaged.

Overhead power and telephone cables brought down.

Approximately sixty people made homeless.

Crater 38' x 20'.

One woman killed.

Six women, one man and one child seriously injured.

Fifteen women, thirteen men and six children slightly injured.

Action: Mobile Unit with Dr. Campbell attending.

Rescue and Ambulance services sent immediately.

Trapped people released.

Casualties sent to hospital and to First Aid Posts.

Rest Centre opened at the Senior School in Laindon.

Military assisted with searchlights.

Mobile Canteen and Tea Bar opened by W.V. S.

Public utility services notified.

First Aid repairs effected, and other services attended.

Information and Rest Centre in operation.

Wardens, Police and Fire Services attending.

Messages conveyed to Billericay Hospital by the attending authorities.

INCIDENT No. 688 - WAVERLEY ROAD LAINDON

The German Launch record:

Tuesday November 21 1944 (15.10 hours) - Battery 444, Loosduinen Site 18), V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 15.25 hours.

Reported time: 15.47 hours.

Map Reference: MP 139 090

Waverley Road Laindon (Rosedene Dunbar Road)

Description: W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as L.R.R.)

Damage: Slight Fire.

Considerable blast damage.

Overhead Electric Cables and Gas Mains damaged.

Two houses demolished.

One hundred properties suffered minor damage.

Approximately twenty people made homeless.

Two women seriously injured.

One male seriously injured.

Two women slightly injured.

Action: Fire Brigade attended to the fire.

Ambulance, Repair Party, Wardens and Police attended.

Casualties treated at First Aid Post and sent home or to hospital.

Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. and Public Utility Services notified.

Homeless people accommodated.
First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 690 - DUST SHOOT BOWERS GIFFORD MARSHES

The German Launch record:

November 23 1944 (20.08 hours) - Battery 444 (Site 94), V-2 rocket fired.

Thursday
The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 20.15 hours.

Reported time: 21.05 hours.

Map Reference: MP 195 033

Dust Shoot Bowers Gifford Marshes.

Description: Suspected W.A.S.P. Rocket Bomb (later described as L.R.R.)

Damage: Damage to Overhead Electric Cables.

No other damage or casualties.

Damage to Reclamation Offices and workshop.

Action: Police and National Fire Service on the spot.

Electric Light Company informed of the damage to cables.

INCIDENT No. 691 - MILL HILL WOOD BILLERICAY

The German Launch record:

Sunday November 26 1944 (13.50 hours) - Battery 444, Loosduinen Site 18), V-2 rocket fired.

The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 14.00 hours.

Reported time: 14.03 hours.

Map Reference: MR 117 151

Mill Hill Wood Billericay

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Damage to property.

One house seriously damaged and minor damage to others.

One female and one male person seriously injured.

Two females and a child slightly injured.

Action: Wardens, Fire Brigade, Rescue services and Ambulance attended.

Messengers on the spot.

Dr. Bowesman attended to casualties conveyed to hospital.

First Aid repairs effected.

Mr. Cousins Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. and Public Utility Services advised.

INCIDENT No. 692 - WHITES FARM BARLEYLANDS ROAD

The German Launch record:

Friday Dec. 01 1944 (13.00 hours) - Battery 444, Wassenaar (Site 74 Duindigt-Rennbahn), V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 13.06 hours.

Reported time: 13.08 hours.

Map Reference: MR 143 100

Whites (Jackson's) Farm Barleylands Road.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Damage to approx. 50 properties including farm outhouses.

Minor casualties.

Crater size 25' x 15'

One female and one male person slightly injured.

One calf injured.

Action: Spearhead service of Rescue Party and one Ambulance sent.

Clerk, A.A. Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. Mr. Ledden and Electricity Company advised.

Casualties treated at home for shock by Dr. Chowadary.

Wardens, Police and National Fire Service on the spot.

INCIDENT No. 693 (Not recorded) - RETTENDON (AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

Tuesday Dec. 05 1944 (22.26 hours) - Battery 444, Wassenaar (Site 74 Duindigt-Rennbahn), V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: Not recorded.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: Rettendon.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Two farm buildings slightly damaged.
Rocket disintegrated before impact (Airburst)
Action: None recorded.

INCIDENT No. 693 - SUGDEN AVENUE WICKFORD

The German Launch record:

Sunday Dec. 03 1944 (12.27 hours) - Battery 444, Wassenaar (Site 74 Duindigt-Rennbahn), V-2 rocket fired. **The Billericay War Diary:**

Occurrence time: 12.34 hours.
Reported time: 12.53 hours.
Map Reference: MR 175 120
Sugden Avenue Wickford.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Two houses demolished.
Four houses seriously damaged.
One hundred and fifty houses suffered minor damage.
Forty people made homeless.
Branksome Avenue Wickford blocked.
Gas Main damaged also Overhead telephone wires damaged.
Crater size 35' x 10'
Three female, five male and eight children seriously injured.
Seven female, four male and four children slightly injured.
Action: Rescue and ambulance services dispatched.
National Fire Service on spot and small fire extinguished.
Clerk, Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. Telephone and Gas Company advised.
Rest Centre opened at Wickford Senior School and about twenty homeless people accommodated there.
Incident enquiry point opened.

INCIDENT No. 694 - GREAT BURSTEAD (AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

Wednesday Dec. 06 1944 (02.28 hours) - Battery 444, Wassenaar (Site 74 Duindigt-Rennbahn), V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 02.30 hours.
Reported time: 04.15 hours.
Map Reference: Over Great Burstead.
Description: Suspected Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: One Cow injured at Salmons Farm Little Burstead.
Parts of the Rocket scattered over a wide area.
No reports of other damage or casualties.
Action: Vet. Surgeon called by owner of the Cow.

INCIDENT No. 695 - BOWERS GIFFORD MARSHES (GOLF COURSE)

The German Launch record:

Wednesday December 06 1944 (02.28 hours) - Battery 444, Den Haag, Scheveningen), V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 02.30 hours.
Reported time: 04.15 hours.
Map Reference: MR 190 055
Bowers Gifford Marshes (Golf Course).

Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Slight damage but no casualties.
 Crater size 80' x 5'
Action: First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 698 (Not recorded) - NOAK HILL BILLERICAY (AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

December 21 1944 (01.35 hours) - Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Blomendaal, V-2 rocket fired.

Thursday
The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: Not recorded.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: Noak Hill Billericay (airburst).
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: No damage reported, or casualties reported.
Action: None recorded.

INCIDENT No. 698 - BURNT MILLS ROAD NEVENDON

The German Launch record:

Wednesday December 20 1944 (19.56 hours) - Battery 444, Wassenaar Duindigt), V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 20.05 hours.
Reported time: 20.40 hours.
Map Reference: MR 180 088
 Burnt Mills Road Nevendon.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Fire - One Bungalow destroyed by fire.
 One house demolished.
 One house badly damaged.
 One hundred houses suffered minor damage.
 Damage to electric and telephone cables.
 Road blocked.
 Crater size 40' x 15'
 One female seriously injured.
 Four females and four children slightly injured.
 Ambulance Driver Kershaw injured his ankle whilst performing his duties.
Action: National Fire Service extinguished fire.
 All other services attended.
 Casualties conveyed to hospital or treated at First aid Post and sent to Rest Centre or friends.
 Public Utility Services advised as well as Clerk's Co-ordinating Officer, Rest Centre Officer, Hospital, District Surveyor.
 First Aid repairs effected.
 Approximately fourteen people accommodated at Rest Centre.

INCIDENT No. 699 - CASTLEDON ROAD DOWNHAM WICKFORD

The German Launch record:

December 21 1944 (04.35 hours) - Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Blomendaal, V-2 rocket fired.

Thursday
The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 04.45 hours.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: MR 159 116 (Crays Hill vicinity)
 Castledon Road Downham Wickford (in vicinity of) Footpath 500 yards east of Church Road Ramsden Bellhouse.
Description: Suspected Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: Slight damage to nineteen houses and church in Church Road Ramsden Bellhouse.
 Debris found in London Road Wickford.
 Crater size 16' x 5'
 No casualties reported.

Action: County advised at 0935 hours.
Further message with correct details sent at 17.45 hours.
First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 700 - RAMSDEN HEATH (AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

Wednesday December 27 1944 - Not available.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 02.50 hours.
Reported time: 05.15 hours.
Map Reference: MR 108 158 - 108 459 - 108 150 - 108 149 - 108 168 - 108 157 – 108 154 – 108 168.
Pieces found at Fremnells Downham MR 168 157.
Description: Suspected Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: Turbine found in field at the rear of Banfield's Orchard.
Venturi tube 300 yards west of Turbine MR 150 149.
Search for crater at Banfields house being made.
Slight damage to Oak Hall and greenhouses.
Crater size 23' x 6' located in 40-acre wood MR 108 145/150.
Action: Wardens made an extensive search.
First Aid repairs effected to damaged house.

INCIDENT No. 701 - FIELD SOUTHEAST OF SHOTGATE

The German Launch record:

Friday December 29 1944 (23.18 hours) Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Blomendaal V-2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 23.25 hours.
Reported time: 23.45 hours.
Map Reference: Half a mile southeast of Shotgate P.G. in a field.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: One woman suffered slight injury.
First report of damage to property included six shops, one garage and about one hundred and thirty dwellings.
This figure was later revised to one hundred and forty-seven dwellings.
Electric Cables damaged.
Crater size 31' x 11'
Action: Wardens, Ambulance, Messenger and National Fire Service attended.
Clerk, Rest Centre Officer, Electric Company and LNER Railway notified.
First Aid repairs effected.
Mobile canteen fed workmen and old people.
Two cases of shock but patients refused treatment.

INCIDENT No. 702 - COX GREEN RAMSDEN HEATH

The German Launch record:

Sunday December 31 1944 (00.29 hours) Battery 1/485 Site 78 Loosduinen Blomendaal V-2 Rocket fired.

The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 00.36 hours.
Reported time: 01.00 hours.
Map Reference: MR 163 144.
500 yards east of Cox Green Ramsden Heath.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: No casualties.
Approximately seventy-eight houses and other properties slightly damaged.
Crater size 44' x 15'
Action: Wardens, Ambulance, Police and National Fire Service attended.
Ambulance and Rescue services also attended.
First Aid repairs effected. Chelmsford PWC also on the spot.

INCIDENT No. 703 - BASILDON DRIVE LAINDON.

The German Launch record:

Monday January 01 1945 (01.50 hours) Battery 1/485 SITE 78 Loosduinen Blomendaal V-2 Rocket fired.

The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 02.05 hours.

Reported time: 02.40 hours.

Map Reference: MR 127 082.

Basildon Drive Laindon.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: One woman seriously injured.

Three male and seven females slightly injured.

Drains, Gas and Electricity damage.

Extensive damage to property.

Slight damage to St. Nicholas Church which is an historical building.

About two hundred and fifty houses affected.

Action: Police, Wardens, National Fire Service, Ambulance and Rescue Services on the spot. One bed-ridden invalid taken to hospital.

Casualties treated on the spot or at the First Aid post and then sent home.

Clerk, Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. and Utility Services advised.

Rest Centre opened. First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 704 - BROOK HILL RAMSDEN HEATH (AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

Tuesday January 02 1945 (18.45 hours) Battery 444 Wassenaar Rennbahn V-2 Rocket fired.

The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 18.54 hours.

Reported time: 18.57 hours.

Map Reference: Brook Hill Ramsden Heath Wickford.

Description: Suspected Long-Range Rocket.

Damage: Damage to overhead telephone wires.

No crater found (Airburst)

Ten houses in the vicinity of Runwell Road suffered roof damage.

No casualties reported but pieces of the LRR found over a wide area.

Action: Wardens searched for crater.

First Aid repairs effected.

Public Utility Company Informed of damage to telephone wires.

INCIDENT No. 705 - BROWNS AVENUE RUNWELL

The German Launch record:

Thursday January 04 1945 (15.30 hours) Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Site 78, V-2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 15.43 hours.

Reported time: 16.06 hours.

Map Reference: MR 204 134.

Chelmsford Rural District.

One hundred yards southwest of Browns Avenue Runwell in a ploughed field.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Casualties and blast damage to about seventy-seven properties. (One Farmhouse, two shops and seventy-four houses).

Eight females and two males seriously injured.

Action: Spearhead services of Ambulance and Rescue Party sent.

Casualties treated at Wickford First Aid Post and sent home.

Chelmsford RDC responsible for First Aid repairs.

INCIDENT No. 706 - JUNCTION OF BARLEYLANDS ROAD AND A.129 (AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

Friday January 05 1945 (14.07 hours) Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Site 19, V-2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 14.10 hours.

Reported time: 14.18 hours.
Map Reference: Junction of Barleylands Road and the A129.
Description: Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: Airburst - no casualties of damage reported.
Action: Spearhead services of Ambulance and Rescue Party sent.

INCIDENT No. 707 - BASILDON NEW RECTORY CHURCH HALL

The German Launch record:

Tuesday January 09 1945 (17.57 hours) Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Site 19, V-2 Rocket fired.

The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 18.04 hours.
Reported time: 18.09 hours.
Map Reference: MR 161 089
 Basildon Area.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Minor casualties.
 Basildon New Rectory Church Hall and two other properties seriously damaged.
 Thirty-nine other properties sustained minor damage.
 Some people rendered homeless.
 Two small fires at two homes.
 Two male and six females and three children slightly injured.
Action: Wardens, Police, National Fire Service, Ambulance, Rescue Party and Mobile First Aid services in the spot.
 Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. Vet. Surgeon notified
 Clerk, A.A. Vange, Water, Telephone and Gas Companies notified.
 Homeless accommodated with friends.
 Casualties treated on the spot and at Wickford First Aid Post.
 First Aid repairs effected.
 Basildon First aid Point operated despite accommodation facilities being very difficult.

INCIDENT No. 708 (Not recorded) – EAST HORNDON.

The German Launch record:

Saturday 20 January 1945 (16.00 hours) - Battery 1/485 Site 78 Loosduinen, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: Not recorded.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: East Horndon area fell on main roadway.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Slight damage to property.
Action: None recorded in Billericay war Diary.

INCIDENT No. 708 - SNAILS HALL FARM SOUTH GREEN BILLERICAY.

The German Launch record:

Friday January 12 1945 (10.50 hours) Battery 444 Scheveningen Site 97. V-2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 10.55 hours.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: MR 131 122
 Snails Hall Farm South Green Billericay.
Description: Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: No reported casualties.
 Superficial blast damage to about eighty homes.
 One property demolished.
 Rocket fell into a field.
Action: Ambulance and Rescue Services sent as spearhead.
 Wardens, National Fire Service and Clerk present.
 A.A. Vange, Rest Centre Officer, Hospital and W.V.S. advised.
 First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 710 (Not recorded) - NOAK HILL AREA

The German Launch record:

Sunday January 21 1945 (15.42 hours) Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Site 442. V-2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: Not recorded.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: Noak Hill (fell into a Meadow).
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Two people injured.
Slight damage to houses and farm building.
Action: Not recorded.

INCIDENT No. 710 – LAINDON (AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

Sunday January 21 1945 (14.19 hours) Battery 1/485 Loosduinen Site 78. V-2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 14.20 hours.
Reported time: 16.25 hours.
Map Reference: Not recorded (Airburst)
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: No reported casualties.
Pieces of sheet metal found at Laindon.
Slight damage to property.
Action: Wardens and Police investigated.

INCIDENT No. 711 - FOBGING FARM LEE WOOTEN LANE.

The German Launch record:

Wednesday January 25 1945 (08.28 hours) Battery 444 (site unknown). V-2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 08.35 hours.
Reported time: 08.50 hours.
Map Reference: MR. 144 059
Lee Wooten Lane, Lee Chapel (Fobbing Farm).
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Damage to Farm and outbuildings.
Superficial damage to about twelve other properties.
Broken windows reported over a radius of two mile.
No casualties.
Crater size 23' x 10'
Action: Rescue and Ambulance services sent as spearhead.
Police, Wardens and National Fire Service on the spot.
First Aid repairs effected.
Clerk, W.V.S, Food Office and A.A. advised.

INCIDENT No. 712 - LITTLE BROMFORDS FARM NEVENDON ROAD

The German Launch record:

Saturday January 27 1945 (02.09 hours) Battery 3/485 (site unknown). V-2 Rocket fired.

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 02.18 hours.
Reported time: 02.56 hours.
Map Reference: MR. 183 106
Little Bromfords Farm Nevendon Road Wickford.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Three women slightly injured.
Some homeless persons.
Nevendon Road B.1011 blocked.

The

Telephone, Water and Electrical services damaged.
About forty properties damaged in the immediate vicinity.
Fair amount of superficial damage to isolated properties.

Action: Rescue Service sent as spearhead.
Rest Centre opened.
Casualties treated by Sister in charge of Mobile Unit on the spot at Rest Centre.
Clerk's Department, Mr. Griggs, District Surveyor, Public Utility Services informed also A.A. Vange.
First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 713 (Not recorded) – RETTENDON (PROBABLE AIRBURST)

The German Launch record:

Sunday February 04 (23.50 hours) Battery 3/485 Reg. 3/902 Den Haag, V2 Rocket fired.

The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: Not recorded.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: Impact Rettendon.
Description: Not recorded.
Damage: Not recorded.
Action: Not recorded.

INCIDENT No. 713 - DOLLYMANS FARM RAWRETH

The German Launch record:

Monday January 29 1945 Not recorded.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 09.24 hours.
Reported time: 10.22 hours.
Map Reference: MR. 215 108
Dollyman's Farm Rawreth.
Description: Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: One female slightly injured.
Some damage to a number of properties at Shotgate.
Action: Casualty treated by Mobile First Aid post staff.
First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 714 - LANGDALES FARM PARK LANE RAMSDEN HEATH

The German Launch record:

Tuesday February 06 (09.47 hours) Battery 1/485 Art. Reg. 1/902 Den Haag, V2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 09.50 hours.
Reported time: 09.52 hours.
Map Reference: Chelmsford Rural District Council. 350 yards East Northeast of Langdales Farm Park Lane Ramsden Heath.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Three minor casualties (one woman and two children).
Sixty-Five properties damaged including one Inn, One farm building, One Grocers and One Public Garage.
Action: Rescue and Ambulance Service sent out.
The Rescue man treated the children for cuts on the spot.
Dr. Bowesman subsequently called in a private capacity.
First Aid repairs effected by Chelmsford RDC.
Clerk, Rest Centre Office, A.A. Vange informed.
Police and Wardens on the spot.

INCIDENT No. 715 - FRIERNS FARM BASILDON.**The German Launch record:**

Saturday February 10 1945 - Not recorded.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 00.30 hours.

Reported time: 01.09 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 171 086.

Frierns Farm Basildon

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: One male slight casualty.

Small amount of damage of a minor nature.

Craylands School suffered window and slight damage to roof.

Action: Rescue and Ambulance Service despatched at once.

Clerk, Rest Centre Office, A.A. Vange informed.

INCIDENT No. 716 - FANTON CHASE SHOTGATE.**The German Launch record:**

Saturday February 10 1945 (11.25 hours) Battery 3/485 (Art. Reg. 3/902) Den Haag, V2 Rocket Fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 11.25 hours.

Reported time: 11.30 hours.

Map Reference: MR.206 114

Fanton Chase Shotgun.

Fifteen yards Northeast of Railway Line and 100 yards Southeast of Bridge over Double Gate Lane.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Telephone Lines down on Railway.

Railway Line partially blocked by debris.

One male person slightly injured.

Action: Rescue and Ambulance Service despatched at once.

Clerk, Rest Centre Office, A.A. Vange informed.

INCIDENT No. 717 - KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE SOUTH GREEN BILLERICAY**The German Launch record:**

Saturday February 17 1945 - Not recorded.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 20.25 hours.

Reported time: 20.35 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 134 117.

Kings Head PH, South Green Billericay

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: One woman killed.

Three male and four females and three children seriously injured.

Four males, ten females and nine children slightly injured.

Widespread damage to properties and some houses demolished.

Fifteen houses seriously damaged and forty-two suffered minor damage.

Electricity and Telephone cables down in Southend Road.

About thirty people made homeless.

Gas mains disrupted.

Also damage to two Farm buildings, Waterworks Pumping Station, two licensed premises and One Factory.

Action: Casualties taken to both Billericay and Runwell Hospitals or treated by Mobile First Aid Post on the spot.

Fatal casualty taken to Billericay Hospital Mortuary.

Rest Centre Office, A.A. Mobile Searchlight assisted.

W.V.S. Mobile Canteen and Tea Bar in operation.

Rescue, Ambulance, Wardens, Police, National Fire Service attended.

Clerk, A.A. Vange, W.V.S. Rest Centre Office and Public Utility Services notified.

INCIDENT No. 718 - DUNTON CHURCH AREA

The German Launch record:

Saturday February 17 1945 - Not recorded.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 00.55 hours.

Reported time: 02.14 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 100 070

Half a mile west of Dunton Church (Billericay Area).

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Very Slight damage to Church Farm buildings and cottage.

Fragments of Rocket found in Church Road.

No casualties recorded.

Action: Police and Wardens on the spot.

INCIDENT No. 720 - LONDON ROAD WICKFORD (AIRBURST).

The German Launch record:

Sunday February 18 1945 – (08.02 hours) Battery 3/485 (art. Reg. 3/902) Den Haag, V2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 08.12 hours.

Reported time: 08.35 hours.

Map Reference: Vicinity of London Road Wickford (Airburst).

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Roof damage to about fourteen properties in Lorraine Avenue Wickford.

One casualty caused when a woman was blown off her bicycle through the force of the explosion.

No other casualties recorded.

Action: Casualty treated at Pitsea First Aid Post and sent home.

First Aid repairs effected.

Wardens and National Fire Service on the spot.

INCIDENT No. 721 - ELIZABETH DRIVE LAINDON.

The German Launch record:

Monday February 19 1945 – (22.53 hours) Battery 3/485 (art. Reg. 3/902) Den Haag, V2 Rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary

Occurrence time: 22.56 hours.

Reported time: 23.10 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 130 068.

Elizabeth Drive Laindon

Description: Long-Range Rocket.

Damage: One male and one female seriously injured.

Seven women, four men and two children slightly injured.

One Bungalow demolished.

Approximately twenty other Bungalows badly damaged.

Many others suffered minor damage.

LMS Signal Box Badly damaged.

People made homeless. Gas and Water Mains disrupted.

Action: Rescue, Ambulance, National Fire Service, Police, Wardens, Messenger Services on the spot.

Clerk, A.A. Vange, Hospital, Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. Public Services notified.

Rest Centre opened, Mobile Canteen and Emergency Mobile Kitchen in operation.

Two casualties taken to hospital remainder treated by Mobile Laindon First aid Posts and sent home or to rest centre. Information Bureau opened.

First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 722 - VANGE CREEK

The German Launch record:

Monday February 26 1945 – (23.03 hours) Battery 3/485 (art. Reg. 3/902) Den Haag, V2 Rocket fired.

The

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 23.04 hours.

Reported time: 23.33 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 182 043.

On Marsh Vange Creek 200 yards East of Government Wharf.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Slight damage to the office of the Land Reclamation Company.

Action: Police on the spot.

INCIDENT No. 723 - SHOULDER HALL INGATESTONE.

The German Launch record:

Tuesday Feb. 27 1945 (10.46 hours) - Battery 1./485 (Art. Reg. 1./902), Den Haag, Statenkwartier, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 10.50 hours.

Reported time: 11.15 hours.

Map Reference: In fields 200 yards Northwest of Shoulder Hall Ingatestone. Chelmsford RDC.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Damage to Stricklands Farm, The Glen and Buckwyns Estate Billericay area.

Damage to Shoulder Hall in Central area.

Telephone Wires down.

Action: Ambulance and Rescue Services dispatched.

Wardens, National Fire Service and Police on the spot.

Clerk, A.A. Telephone Exchange Billericay notified.

First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 724 - GARDINERS LANE

The German Launch record:

Thursday March 01 1945 (01.03 hours) - Battery 1/485 (Art. Reg. 1/902), Den Haag, Statenkwartier, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 01.01 hours.

Reported time: 01.29 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 164 108.

Gardiner's Lane halfway between London Road and Borwich Lane West side.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Crater size 31' x 8'

Two women and one man slightly hurt, also 1 child.

House severely damaged.

Damage to other properties including school and shops.

Telephone wires down

Action: One casualty treated at Wickford First Aid Post and sent home.

One casualty treated on the spot for slight shock.

Clerk, A.A. Vange, W.V.S. Electricity Company, Telephone Exchange and Gas Company informed.

First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 725 - BENFLEET AVENUE WICKFORD

The German Launch record:

Thursday March 01 1945 (16.04 hours) - Battery 3/485 (Art. Reg. 3/902), Den Haag, Statenkwartier, V-2 rocket Fired

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 16.10 hours.

Reported time: 16.26 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 200 108.

Benfleet Avenue Wickford.

Description: Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: Crater size 38' x 8'
 One woman suffered shock.
 Houses damaged.
Action: Ambulance and Rescue Services sent.
 One casualty treated on the spot for slight shock.
 Clerk, A.A. Vange notified.
 First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 726 - BOWERS GIFFORD MARSHES

The

German Launch record:

Tuesday

March 06 1945 (12.25 hours) - Battery 1/485 (Art. Reg. 1/902), Den Haag, Statenkwartier, V-2 rocket fired. **The**

Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 12.32 hours.
Reported time: 12.53 hours.
Map Reference: MR. 193 032.
 Bowers Gifford Marshes.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Crater size 37' x 8' Small gas fire.
Action: Clerk and Essex Rivers Catchment Board advised.

INCIDENT No. 727 - DUNTON DRIVE

The German Launch record:

Thursday March 08 1945 (20.12 hours) - Battery 1/485 (Art. Reg. 1/902), Den Haag, Statenkwartier, V-2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 20.20 hours.
Reported time: 20.36 hours.
Map Reference: MR. 113 072.
 Dunton Drive.
Description: Long-Range Rocket.
Damage: Crater size 38' x 8'
 One male, one female and one child seriously injured.
 One male, four female and two children slightly injured.
 Widespread damage to property.
 Railway line damaged also Telegraph wires, Electric cables and Gas Mains damaged.
Action: Three casualties taken to hospital and the remainder treated at the First Aid Post and sent home.
 Railway Company notified also Clerk, Public Utility Services.
 Wardens, Police, Ambulances, National Fire Service on the spot.
 First Aid repairs effected.
 Normal service on LMS Railway by 05.50 hours on Friday 09 March 1945.

INCIDENT No. 728 (Not recorded) - RAWRETH

The German Launch record:

Saturday March 10 1945 (04.18 hours) - Battery 1/485 (Art. Reg. 1/902), Den Haag, Statenkwartier, V2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: Not recorded.
Reported time: Not recorded.
Map Reference: MR. 213 108.
 Rawreth.
Description: Long Range Rocket.
Damage: Crater size 47' x 13'
 No casualties or other damage recorded.
Action: None recorded.

INCIDENT No. 728 - CENTRAL DRIVE PITSEA.

The German Launch record:

Friday March 09 1945 (04.00 hours) - Battery 3/485 (Art. Reg. 3/902), Den Haag, V2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 04.10 hours.

Reported time: 04.30 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 179 076

Central Drive Pitsea.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: One male and one female killed.

One male and one female seriously injured.

Three male, ten females and two children slightly injured.

Two properties demolished and ten seriously damaged.

About one hundred other properties suffered slight damage.

Small fires started.

Action: Trapped people released by Rescue Services.

Fatal casualties taken to Mortuary.

Two casualties conveyed to hospital, others treated by fixed and mobile First aid Posts.

Clerk, A.A. Vange, Hospital, Rest Centre Officer, W.V.S. notified.

Wardens, Police, Ambulances, National Fire Service on the spot.

Military Searchlight gave assistance.

Rest Centre and Information Bureau opened.

W.V.S. manned mobile canteen and served emergency meals provided from British restaurants.

Mr. Seaman contacted regarding Coal situation.

Fire extinguished by National Fire Service. First Aid repairs effected.

INCIDENT No. 729 - NEW RECTORY BASILDON

The German Launch record:

Friday March 16 1945 (23.05 hours) - Battery 1/485 (Art. Reg. 1/902), Den Haag, Statenkwartier, V2 rocket fired.

The Billericay War Diary:

Occurrence time: 23.05 hours.

Reported time: 23.44 hours.

Map Reference: MR. 159 091/092

New Rectory Basildon.

Description: Long Range Rocket.

Damage: Shock casualties.

About forty properties suffered damage.

Five people made homeless and accommodated with friends.

Crater alongside that caused on January 09 1945.

Telephone wires damaged.

Seven women and one child suffered slight injury.

Action: Ambulance and Rescue Services sent.

Clerk, A.A. Vange, Hospital and W.V.S. notified.

Casualties treated on the spot.

First Aid repairs effected.

Public Utility Companies informed of damaged to telephone wires.

Basildon Borough Heritage Society
December 2024.

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