

Please find enclosed a link to Ashridge House, Little Gaddesden, Herts.

<http://www.berkhamsted.co.uk/localhistoryashridgethehospital.htm> A very important place for me and many other residents of the Aylesbury area. I was born there in 1943 as was my sister in 1945, two of the 2,700 children born there. A long way from our home in Whitchurch.

My mother was from Wandsworth, London and moved to Whitchurch to escape the bombing, her sister lived there in '41 / '42. The first thing she did was capture my dad who was a WW1 veteran who was born in 1898, she in 1908. I always say that it was Hitler's fault that I was born but that should he have won he would have wiped me out because my grandmother was Jewish.

My father-in-law was in the Royal Artillery and fought with the 8th Army in the desert, then up through Italy. Rested in Belgium, billeted with a local family he went on down into Germany and the Army of Occupation ( as my father did in WW1 )

My mother-in-law, from Aylesbury, was living with her sister in Southampton, a town which was obviously attacked a lot. She worked in the Pirelli factory. She told the tale of the day she was hanging out her washing when a Stuka strafed along the row of gardens. No-one was hurt luckily. My aunt in Balham, living in a semi-detached, had the other half of the house bombed out, leaving her half intact.

Only yesterday, when I was entertaining at the Waddesdon Day Centre, I was talking to a chap who lived in London as a boy. He said that the house two doors along was bombed out. The bomb went straight down the chimney and blew out the inside. The vacuum from the blast sucked out his french windows and him with it. He was found asleep at the bottom of the garden !

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