

Scarborough Sea Wall Heritage Trail Project – Scarborough Memory

WW2 Air Raid by Mr Armitage of Manchester

Mr Armitage wished to share a story which his father had told him of his time living in Scarborough during World War II. In March 1941, aged 15, his father was at home in the Peasholm area of the town when Scarborough was attacked by the Luftwaffe dropping high explosive bombs and thousands of incendiary bombs. One of the incendiaries crashed through the roof light of the family home. Directly beneath the roof light was a staircase at the bottom of which was an upstairs window. His father hearing the breaking glass hurried to see what had happened and found one of the incendiary device next to the landing window fizzing violently and giving off horrible fumes.

The family had red fire buckets filled with sand located around the house for protection and there was one of these buckets on the landing very close to the device with a shovel next to it. His father had described how he took the initiative and poured sand onto the incendiary device then grabbed the shovel, scooped the device and sand onto it and threw the lot out of the landing window. His father later praised him saying “You did well lad, but it might have been an idea to have opened the window first.” The storyteller believes that the remains of the aluminium casing of the incendiary bomb is stored somewhere in his loft and will donate it to the SMHC if and when he finds it.