

Walter Catchpole

Bombing of the works

When I was 16 I started work at Redcar Swimming baths. On the roof of the baths was a long horizontal shelf and I would go up there sometimes and sit because you could see the landscape around for miles. I was sat up there when Dorman Long was bombed. I remember, quite clearly, seeing the German bomber flying in, real low. It was inline with the roof of the baths and I could see the young faces of the pilots and hear the droning of the engine. Their path took them in a straight line from the baths towards the works and I watched mesmerised as they dropped their load on to the works. Three direct hits. As soon as they came they were gone. Swooping, in an arch towards the sea. Not a single anti air craft fire was released. It was like a day dream.