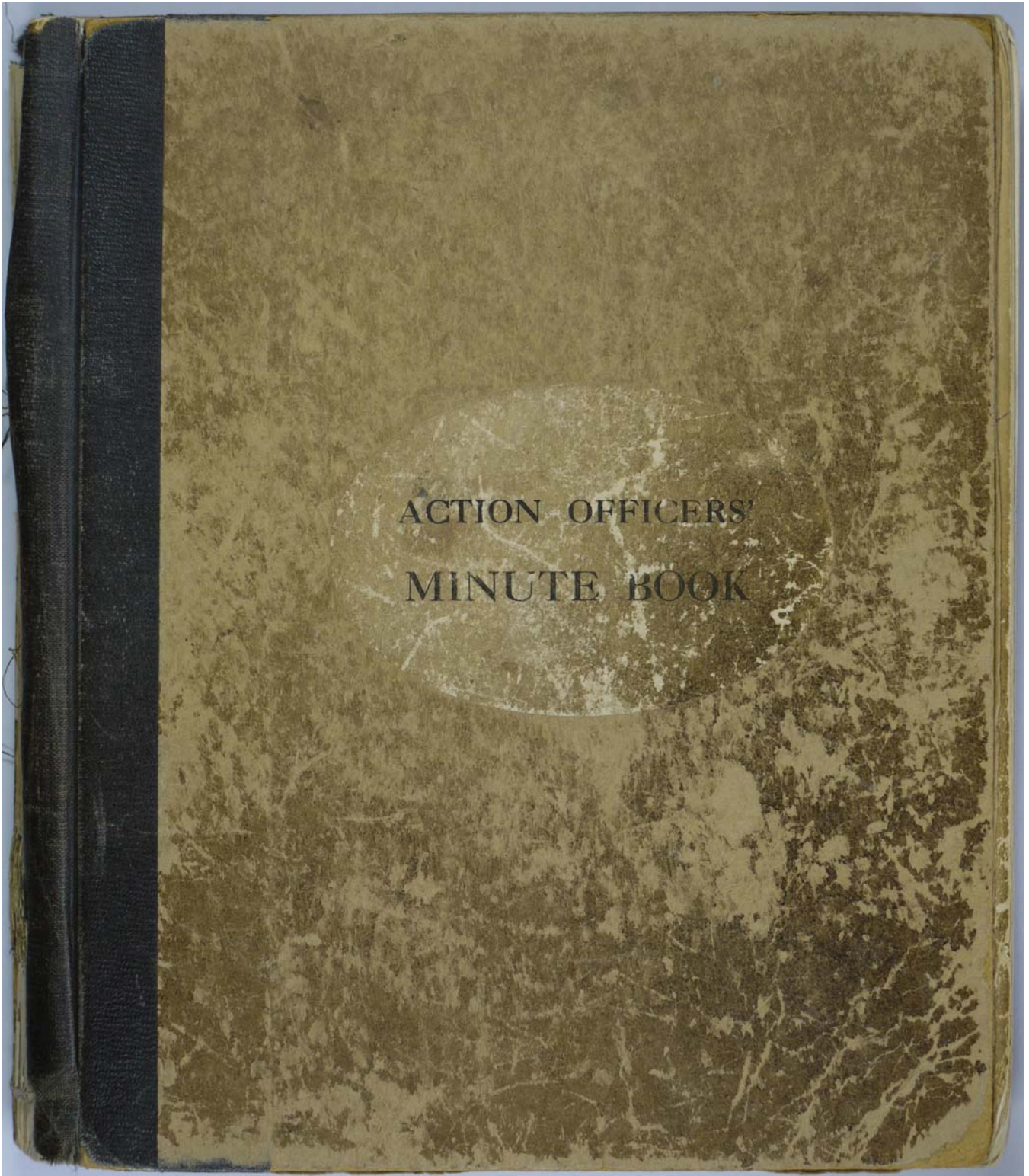


This is an extract from the Action Officers' Minute Book which is a written record of events in West Sussex during World War Two and was kept by the Civil Defence Control at County Hall in Chichester.



Wartime West Sussex 1939-1945
 Petworth Boys School Case Study

16

Line No.	Date	Time of Origin	Text	Region notified at	Back Ref.	Fwd. Ref.
1	Sept 26.	09.00	SEARMAN (AO) KLEML. Miss WILDING.			
2		1700	Trotman, Richards, Misses Just & Upton.			
3		1355	Fire Prevention: Region instructed suspension of issue of			
4			forms C.2 N and G.4. pending reprint (in connection			
5			with Registration) - passed to all sub-controls. 19.15.			
6	Sept. 27	09.00	JAMES (AO) MISS ELLIS. - 14.09. Miss Hewitt.			
7		17.00	Page, Madden, Misses Haylett & Store			
8	28.	17.00.	A.D. Robinson, Johnston, Miss Bell.			
9	29	0900	Hutson. Jarman. Misses Merder & Upton			
10		1052	Petworth 3 H.E.5 at 1044 MR 4/3.418.	1100	✓	
11		11.20	Petworth Boys' School, North St. knocked out flat.		✓	
12			Casualties numerous. Stretcher cases on a large scale.			
13			Road partially blocked. Considerable damage to			
14			buildings in neighbourhood.	11.26.		16/28.
15		11.30	Request to Lodge Hill to send 1 Res. Party & 2 Ambulances	11.26.	✓	
16		11.42	Sent to Petworth. Re above.			
17		12.00	Message sent to Assistance Board by messenger as follows:			
18			Petworth 3 H.E.5 at 10.44. Boys' School, North St. & surrounding			
19			property badly damaged. Believed to be numerous cars.			
20		12.07.	Lodge Hill requested to send 4 Ambulances to Petworth.			
21		12.10.	Chichester requested to send 2 Ambulances to Petworth.			
22		12.20	Dr. Paradohew asked to send 3 doctors & Mobile F.A.P. to			
23			Petworth.			
24		12.30.	Lodge Hill requested to send 2 Rescue Parties to Petworth			
25		12.30	W.V.S. requested to send Mobile Carteam to North Street,			
26			Petworth.			
27		12.45	Petworth informed of services dispatched.			
28		1340	PETWORTH Approx. 35 injured, 11 dead +			
29			28 unaccounted for.	13.50	16/11	16/30.
30		15.35	Petworth: Approx. 37 injured, 21 dead & 16			
31			unaccounted for.	15.37.	16/28	16/32.
32		16.10.	Petworth: Present casualty figures: - 37 injured, 22 dead			
33			(including 1 man, 2 women & 19 children) 16 unaccounted for.			
34			First-aid repairs to property in progress.	16.21.	16/30	17/2
35		16.35	4 ambulances returned to Lodge Hill Depot at 16.30.			

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Line No.	Date	Time of Origin	Text	Region notified at	Back Ref.	Fwd. Ref.
1	29.9.42	16.40.	2 ambulances returned to Lodge Hill Depot.	-		
2		17.00	^{of Petworth, hills, houses, poles and garages.} Petworth Damage Report - Bop School demolished,			
3		17.01	adjacent laundry partially demolished, two houses			
4			at back of School severely damaged, damage			
5			to windows and roofs of houses north of Bop			
6			School up to and including hall and house for			
7			about 100 yards. Similar damage, in some cases			
8			rather severe to houses covering an area of about			
9			50 yards south of Bop School.	17.35	16/32	17/11
10						
11		17.18	Request from Petworth Control for Rescue Party			
12		:	of 20 men without Ambulance for tomorrow (Wednesday)			
13			Lodge Hill requested to supply above.	18.16	17/2	17/14
14		17.50	Petworth U.X.B. M.R. 413/415. Schedule No 403.	18.10.	17/13	17/15
15		17.58				
16		18.10	Petworth Funerals for today 22 Dead		2	
17			(1M. 2F 19C) 34 Injured.	18.16	17/14	17/17
18		18.20.	Petworth 3 Rescue Vans returned to Watersfoot.		17/15	17/18
19		18.43	Petworth 4 H.E. at 10.44 instead of 3 H.E. as			
20			previously reported.	19.40	17/17	17/20
21		18.42	Petworth. Mobile Canteen required at incident at			
22			10.00 on 30.9.42. - passed to W.V.S. at 18.45.	17/18		17/22
23		20.15	Petworth. Phone message from County Controller to send	17/20		17/31
24			only 1 Rescue Party (10 men) to Petworth to-morrow,			
25			in place of the 20 ^{men} asked for, in order not to denude			
26			Lodge Hill, and leave them with 3 Rescue Parties			
27			for any emergency calls. Instructions accordingly to			
28			Company Commander at 20.20. Informed Petworth			
29			Report Centre 20.22, who agreed that, allowing for			
30			military assistance, 10 rescue men would probably be			
31			sufficient.			
32	30/9/42	08.15	Petworth Report to Lt Canadian Division		17/22	17/32
33		08.36	Petworth One rescue lorry left mobile reserve depot		17/31	18/12
34			for Petworth.			
35		09.55.	Almodington T.R. 262.174. 1 A.A. Shell	10.00		

Wartime West Sussex 1939-1945
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Line No.	Date	Time of Origin	Text	Region notified at	Back Ref.	Fwd. Ref.
1	30	0900	Trohanan, Richards, Miss Mason.			
2		12.15.	Working Shoreham ^{District} Police report bombs dropping.	12.18		
3		12.28	Lancing. MR. 612 229. 3 HE. on D. + C. unknown	12.30		
4			S. Ry. Worthing. 12.15. Police said that bombs in fact fell at 12.05. Themed Worthing.			75/30.
5		12.40	Confirmed that bombs fell at 12.06.	12.50		
6		13.20.	Worthing gave further report. 1 HE only at 12.06. 13			
7			casualties, all slight. Extensive damage to railway works.			
8			Slight damage to glass of surrounding property. Many cars			
9			dealing with damage. 1 AMB. , 1 FAP, 1 Car sent			
10			& incident by Worthing.	13.26.	18/16	18/16
11		15.25	Petworth Region enquired as to Casualty Position			
12		15.35	Petworth. Reported to Region latest	15.35	17/32	18/18
13			position as follows:- 23 dead, 30 seriously			
14			injured, 7 slightly injured. None missing			
15			as far as is known			
16		16.16	LANCING. Worthing reported total casualties 18	16.35	18/6	41/2
17			slight			
18		16.25	PETWORTH Amended report on casualties - Missing - Est.			
19			5 children.	17.36	18/12	
20		17.00	Bearman (A.O.) Klemz, Misses Potter & Wilding.			
21						
22		17.07	Mobile Reserve. 1 Rescue Party returned from Petworth at 17.07.		17/32	
23		18.50	Mobile Canteen W.V.S. enquired if M.C. required at Petworth		17/20	
24			to-morrow (1/x/42). Petworth reply 'Not required'. W.V.S. informed.			
25		21.40	Chichester report 'Red Flare' in the direction of Stone Camp at 21.36.			
26			- also reported by Bognor and O.P.			
27	Oct 1st	08.30	ELWIN (A.O.)			
28		10.45	Enquiry from the Regional Commissioner as to the time of the			
29			funeral at Petworth. Enquiry made of Petworth A.R.P. Officer			
30			and Region informed 3 o'clock at local church on Saturday			
31			next.			
32		10.55.	Petworth casualties at present.			
33			23 dead (20 children, 1 man, 2 women)			
34			30 seriously injured (24 children, 1 man, 5 women)			
35			7 slightly wounded (5 children, 2 women)			
			5 missing (all children)			

19

Line No.	Date	Time of Origin	Text	Region notified at	Back Ref.	Fwd. Ref.
1	1/10/42	17.30	H.H. James. A.O. Miss Ellis. 21.00 hrs. Miss Hewitt.	18.30.	17/14	
2		18.15.	Petworth. U.X.B at M.R. 413/415.			
3			Bomb Disposal Party have ascertained that there is			
4			no U.X.B. & a clearance certificate has been			
5			given by them to the Police.			
6		21.45.	<u>MOBILE CANTEEN</u> . W.V.S. enquired if M.C. required at			
7			Petworth tomorrow (2.10.42) Petworth replied that could			
8			arrangements be made for a canteen to arrive at			
9			between 09.00hrs and 10.00hrs. Message passed			
10			on to W.V.S. Supervisor.			
11	2.10.42	09.27	<u>Petworth Casualty figures as at 17.30. 1.10.42.</u>			19/22.
12			23 killed (1 man, 2 women, 20 children)			
13			30 seriously wounded (1 man, 5 women, 24 children)			
14			7 slightly wounded (2 women & 5 children)			
15			7 children missing and presumed dead.			
16			Total 67.			
17			11.45. <u>Lancing</u> N.R. 616.229 land mine exploded on Beach at			
18			to 22.00 hrs on 1.10.42. Very slight damage to 2 windows			
19			in 2 houses at The Square, Lower Brighton Rd. Lancing.	12.05.		
20			17.30. <u>WELLS (A.O) Dumper</u> . Misses Shepherd & Carpenter.			
21	3/10/42		Williams, Hills. Misses Boles and Sparks.			
22			10.40. <u>Petworth Latest Casualty figures.</u>			
23			Killed - 1 man, 2 women, 23 children.			
24			Seriously wounded & still in hospital - 1 man, 5 women			
25			20 children.			
26			Missing, presumed dead			
27	11.40		<u>Petworth</u> . On receipt of enquiry from Region re	10.45	19/11	19/27
28			interruption in the gas supply on Sept 29th. After			
29			communicating with District Control informed Region that			
30			gas supply was cut off on request of N.F.S. directly after			
31			bombs dropped and was restored again the same			
32			evening. District Control had not thought it necessary			
33			to advise County Control so the fact was not			
34			reported to Region. Region asked if instructions could			
35			be used to District Control re necessity of reporting			
			all interruptions in supply services	13-30	19/22	20/21

20

Line No.	Date	Time of Origin	Text	Region notified at	Back Ref.	Fwd. Ref.
1	1942 Oct 3	1700	Hutton. (A.O.) Jarman. Miss Mercer.			
2	4	09.00	Bearman (A.O.) Misses Potter & Wilding. Klemz. 13.00.			
3		1700	Trohan (A.O.) Richards. Miss Just. Miss Mason.			
4	5	1700	copy Johnstone Miss Hoare Mrs Haylett			
5	6	1700	FLOYD A (A.O) BALLARD. MISSSES. BELL & HARRISON.			
6	7	17.30	Williams (A.O.) Mills. Misses Coles and Sparks.			
7		19.36	Loze Hill. 2 Motor Cyclists left for County Hall			
8			at 19.30.			
9		20.40	More arrived.			
10						
11	8	14.40	The Police at Rake have requested that the Bomb Disposal Squad collect from the Rake Police Station a Bomb which has just been recovered measuring 6" x 2". Lower half yellow and the top aluminium with cable attached bearing the word "Danger" and a small parachute 8" across dated 9.11.40. The markings on the Bomb are (ack ack 1) Bomb No. 2 Mark H L.H. 101240 Lot 26 1/2 lbs.	14.46		
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19	8	17.30	BEARMAN (A.O) KLEMZ. MISSSES. WILDING & POTTER.			
20						
21		12.38	Petworth No change in casualty position.	12.38	19.27	
22						
23	9	17.30	Hughes (A.O.) James Misses Ellis & Hewitt.			
24	10	12.30	Ballard (A.O) Miss Harrison.			
25		14.15	Chichester Report Centre have advice from Selsey Warden that a crater about 15" across, going down at angle of 45° is on property of Mrs Mathews "The Linnet" "The Bridgeway" Selsey. Thought to have happened about Sept 24.	14.45		20/30
26						
27						
28						
29		17.00	WELLS (A.O) Semper, Shepherd & Carpenter.			
30		20.13	Selsey. Bomb Reconnaissance officers unable to confirm Ux8. report on property of Mrs Mathews "The Linnet" "The Bridgeway" Selsey. Serious report cancelled.	20.27	20/25	
31						
32						
33						
34	11		Williams (A.O), Mills, Miss Coles.			
5						