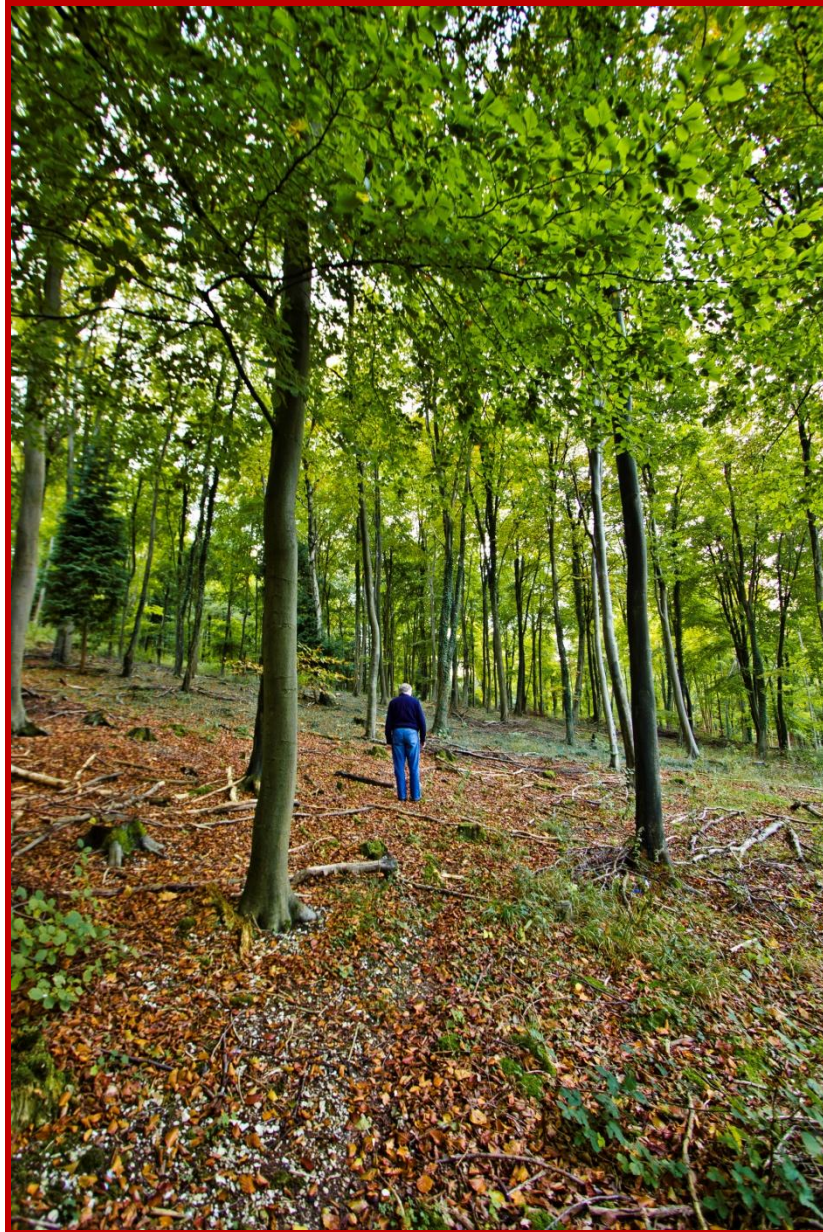


**So Many Secrets: Supplement Five: A record for researchers.**

My lasting psychological memory of the Second World War is imprinted forever on my mind; when living in Home Farm House (#126), West Dean Park, West Sussex, UK: was all the things that fell out of the sky, without warning, unexpectedly, and, sometimes with horrific preliminary and ending sounds. Fortunately no damage occurred to people, property or beast, but, ever since, when I go out every day, I wonder what is going to happen and to me in particular. I suppose all 'children of war' retain this legacy.



2010: The Author visiting the crash site of World War Two German Messerschmitt 110 Fighter Bomber.

*photo credit: Benjamin Dunk Jnr. icandycrew.com*

Related to establishing the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War time occurrences in and around West Dean Park and Estate; the following information represents a typical microcosm of events that happened all over the British countryside.

Before I pass from this world, I desire to pass on for future research, some details of 2<sup>nd</sup> World War events, relative to West Dean Estate and Park and its environs. Most are described in my Memoirs, 'So Many Secrets'. For example, someone with a metal detector probably could, in most following described locations, find remaining artifacts buried and establish the actual spots. Despite the diligent search and clean up that the military, in most cases, did in war time.

1. The Spitfire fighter plane ( Vickers-Armstrong Supermarine Spitfire MK 1, with Rolls- Royce Merlin Engine) that crashed during the winter of 1938-39 on the hill top in a field on the west side of Kendall's farm. Travel up The Warren road opposite The Selsey Arms public house. A half mile onwards, go straight ahead up the lane leading to Chilgrove. (Do not turn right) Almost at the top of the hill, go through the farm field gate on the south side and walk to the first hedge row on a raised bank. Old damage to the bank and a gap should still be evident and that is where the Spitfire ploughed through. In certain field surface conditions one may observe remaining furrows of exposed chalk going from north to south and leading to the bank.
2. The Battle of Britain shooting down of a Messerschmitt Me. 110 Fighter Bomber by Royal Air Force fighter planes on August 18<sup>th</sup> 1940, occurred over West Dean Park. The doomed plane continued on downwards and northwards at a 15 degree angle with smoke pouring out of both engines. At the same time making an increasing loud continuous whining –screaming noise as it gathered speed towards the ground. More details of this event are in my Memoirs, 'So Many Secrets'. In this I describe going to find the crashed plane on the event day. Recently I re-visited the site with my son Benjamin and on site there are now 60 year old beech wood trees, where at the time of the plane crash, there were mostly scrub oak and chestnut copse type bushes. The latter were used for making sheep hurdles and thatching spars. The actual site is about 150 yards north of the tiny hamlet of East Droke, which is also north of East Dean and Singleton. On the right side of the road going north there is a grass covered clearing with fences and a farm gate. Just beyond this clearing, the terrain slopes upwards and this is where the German Bomber crashed and exploded.
3. Particularly after the concerted attack on Southern England by over 200 German planes on August 18<sup>th</sup> 1940: a Battle of Britain day; there must be metal remains that exist beneath the surface of the ground in West Dean Park itself. For example, anti-aircraft gun shell shrapnel and machine gun bullet heads and cases. There may be hidden parts from the incendiary bomb raid on the West Dean Park grounds. NB: See my Memoirs: 'So Many Secrets'.
4. The Junkers 188 Ju twin engine bomber that machine gunned me whilst cycling on the Lavant village to to Chilgrove village road and mentioned in my Memoirs, 'So Many Secrets', eventually crashed after hitting its wing on the lower part of a metal leg of a high voltage pylon, to the north of Chalk Pit Lane leading to Colworth Farm. The pylon leg was only slightly dented and this may still be seen? Thereupon the bomber crashed and slid while breaking apart across the arable field. The underlying chalk was exposed in furrows by the engines and fuselage through the surface soil and may be visible today. The engines continued on by inertia force all the way into the nearby north western forest. One engine rested by a tree and the other burst through the camped soldier's cookhouse wall and rested in front of the cooking stove. The soldiers were in charge of a Pom-Pom anti aircraft 40 gun enclosure in the said forest. The field where this crash occurred is located ENE of Colworth Farm and WSW of Double Barn and Canada Cottages.
5. Sometime during the winter of 1941-2 West Dean Park was showered from a German bomber plane with incendiary bombs. It was said about a 1000 of these bombs fell on the park fields and some hit the roofs of the

farm buildings, our house and those of the Head Gamekeeper and the Under Gamekeeper. They bounced off the steep hard roofs and some exploded and caught fire. Most of them that hit the soft turf in the Park did not explode. Some of these were hidden in undergrowth and there may be traces of these left behind. The same bomber plane dropped two 500 lbs high explosive bombs and two explosive oil bombs on to Farmer Brown's meadow to the right of his farm driveway, at the intersection of Midhurst Road and Trundle Hill Road.

6. One night during the summer of 1941; there was a tremendous explosion, which shook our house and woke the family up. We were told the next day that it was a 2000 lbs. parachute bomb that was dropped by a German bomber plane. It had exploded a mile and a half away, just outside the fence on the south east corner of the West Dean Park Arboretum and 100 yards west of the Seven Points Cottages. I visited the site next day and there was a crater about 20 feet deep in the chalk rock. Fortunately the cottages were only slightly damaged because the blast from the bomb had gone upwards. At the time I discovered shrapnel from the bomb for my collection but more especially, fragments of the rare thick green Nylon parachute and the half inch thick green Nylon woven ropes on which the bomb was suspended. I gathered some of the latter from bushes, fences and tree branches, leaving some but I don't suppose one could find any now, after so long. The target was probably the Radar establishment on the nearby Trundle Hill. NB: See my Memoirs 'So Many Secrets'.

7. Then came, the Doodle Bugs or Buzz Bombs or Flying Bombs; properly designated the V 1 and are further described in my Memoirs, 'So Many Secrets'. They started just before D Day and continued until their firing installations were overrun by the invading Allies. These were the pilotless jet engines on a tower fixed to a 500 lbs. bomb attached below. They were guided to a large general target like residential areas of London, with a compass and gyroscope. Two of these V 1s crashed and exploded on West Dean Estate. One took place in a meadow about two hundred yards east of Binderton Farm buildings and the other crashed and exploded inside of West Dean Park, in the beech wood forest above Long Meadow, about half way up to St. Roche's gate and on the right hand side of this former Public Bridle Path. I visited these sites on the next day after they happened. Note: This former Public Bridle Path was closed to public right of way by signage when I visited West Dean Park in 2010. The Binderton Farm remains of the V 1 were pretty much totally cleaned up by the army but the remains in the West Dean Park beech woods, stayed undiscovered, except by me, under denial to speak of it by my father, when I told him of my find, until at latest after the war and I have kept this secret until today.

8. Almost anywhere in and around West Dean Park, remains of World War Two sky-sourced debris fell to the ground and lies buried and could be found. A lot of this was metal bits; for example: shrapnel from Bofors and Pom Pom anti aircraft guns, British and German bullets and their cases from the overhead battles in the sky. The foregoing may be researched in my Memoirs, 'So Many Secrets'.

9. Although not in the precincts of West Dean Estate but featured in my Memoirs 'So Many Secrets' and actually in the grounds of Goodwood Estate, 2<sup>nd</sup>. World War relics at the very top of Trundle Hill (or St. Roches Hill) probably still remain. For example: the underground Radar control bunker (also known at the time of war: Operation's Post). This was back filled with earth shortly after the end of the war, as were many other secret underground complexes, like the Aux Units. Usually not all of the equipment was removed prior to the fill, so remains may still be discovered. The wooden Radar aerial masts were removed during the 1950s. The adjacent quadrangle of 40 Pom-Pom anti-aircraft guns were removed immediately after the war but their Radar control building remained for many years. Quite an elaborate World War Two complex existed on the top of this ancient Celtic fort. I then discovered at the top of Trundle Hill, an interesting juxtaposition of modern and Celtic warfare, strange how they both used this location for war defence, 1000s of years apart. The ground was disturbed by the 'new warriors' and a cache of round Celtic slingshot brought from local beaches was exposed. They had also been in a fire, so they were probably used for heating water in clay pots as well. I took them

home and put them with my collection of flint arrowheads and tools that I had collected for many years from the ploughed up South Downs. A unique contrast for my 2<sup>nd</sup>. World War collected artifacts. I wish I still possessed all of these items!