

NEWSLETTER

Number 76

The Appleby Parva Bomb ...

Sonia Liff digs into the remaining questions about this mysterious World War II event ...

Anne Silins' memories about a WW2 bomb which fell in Appleby prompted me to look again at the copy of the photo shown with last month's story and the original report by the Warden, both held by the SJMF museum.

Both are annotated but we don't know by whom or at what date.

Some particulars from these two sources support Anne's memory but they also disagree with each other and raise further questions.

There are points of agreement:

- We all agree that the bomb did not explode (phew!) and that it fell around 7.30 pm on December 4th 1940 in the field behind Dr Salmond's house (this is the Georgian house, now known as Appleby House, on the A444 close to the Appleby Inn);
- We also can agree that it was extremely large. Museum sources give similar dimensions - around 13 ft 6 in in length (which matches Anne's memory and the photograph), 2 ft 4 in in diameter and weighing 4,000 lbs. The handwritten note with the official report says that this was one of the largest bombs dropped in England. These notes are headed Satan (German bomb). Internet sources say that Satan was a nickname for a bomb officially known as Sprengbombe Cylindrisch 1800 (SC 1800) and was so large that it had to be strapped underneath the bomber planes.

However there are some points of disagreement and puzzles, namely:

- Anne describes the bomb sticking out of the ground, in line with the photo. Yet the notes with the photo say that it was buried 35ft deep (which if accurate would mean that all villagers could see initially would be a hole in the ground). It further says that it was removed on Sept 8th, 1942. The notes with the report say that the bomb was dug up by R.E.B.D.S. in 1944. This stands for the Royal Engineer Bomb Disposal an organisation which was formed in WW2 and still exists. So was the bomb only defused 2 or even 4 years later? Or was defusing and digging up two separate stages?

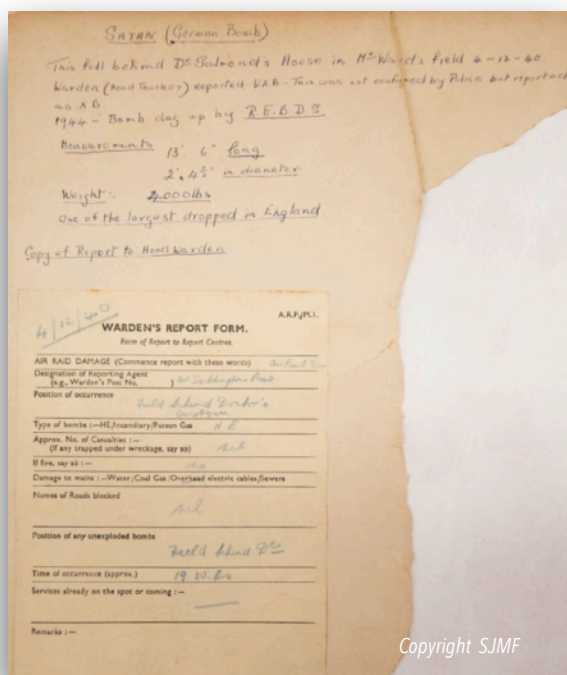
- Neither source speculates on the intended target for the bomb? The local coalfields were very important to the war effort but were not an easy target for bombers.

More likely were the industrial centres of Nottingham and Leicester.

When pilots could not find their intended targets, or were being pursued, they were known to drop bombs anywhere rather than trying to return with them.

There are no newspaper reports of the bomb being dropped in 1940. This seems a bit surprising given its size. Perhaps, given the level of bombing during that period, an unexploded one which caused no casualties or damage was of little interest?

However, a search of newspaper archives did reveal three other wartime Appleby stories - we will share these in a future edition.



Copyright SJMF

Squire George Moore Returns

A tale from Appleby Magna, shared by the late
Bill Taylor

Bill Taylor, the well-known village butcher of Appleby Magna, told this curious story — one that has lingered in local memory for decades.

Though Bill has passed on, his family still runs the business in the village, and his tale remains part of our local lore.

It was sometime in the 1930s or 40s, as dusk fell, that Bill and his friend Herbert Garton set off along the New Road, heading for the Moore Arms — now The Appleby Inn. On their way, they passed the Lodge, once the gateway to Appleby Hall, a fine Georgian manor house demolished in the 1920s. Herbert walked a little ahead, while Bill drew level with the old hall's drive.

Suddenly, Bill saw a man coming towards him from the drive: dressed in a long coat, top hat and white scarf. Bill stepped aside — first one way, then the other — but try as he might, he could not pass. He called out to Herbert, asking him to wait, saying he was “trying to pass this fellow.” At the sound of their voices, the figure vanished — “like a pricked balloon,” as Bill described it. Hurrying to catch up, he found Herbert had seen nothing at all.



Later, at the Moore Arms, Bill drew the figure he had seen on a slate with chalk. One villager looked at the drawing and recognised him at once: it was the late Squire George Moore, who had died in 1916.

After the Squire's death, Appleby Hall fell into decline and was pulled down. Today, little remains — just the enlarged Lodge, the drive leading to the empty site, and a few walls of the old stabling. But it seems, for one evening at least, the old Squire still walked his estate.

All Hallows' Eve ...

We take a look any the origins of All Hallows' eve

Halloween's roots in Britain stretch back over 2,000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, marking the end of summer and harvest, and the start of the dark winter months. People believed that on the night of 31 October, the boundary between the living and spirit world faded, allowing ghosts and other beings to walk the earth. Communities lit large bonfires and wore costumes to ward off wandering spirits.

When Christianity arrived, the Church established All Hallows' Day on 1 November to honour saints, with All Hallows' Eve falling the night before — later shortened to Halloween. For centuries it remained a traditional time for storytelling, fortune-telling and gathering, particularly in Scotland, Ireland and northern England.

In the 20th century, American customs such as trick-or-treating and carved pumpkins became popular here, joining older British traditions like turnip lanterns and apple bobbing. Today, Halloween is widely celebrated across the UK, blending ancient heritage with modern fun.



Admiral Arden Adderly R.N.

Pete Nixon charts the Naval career of one of Sir John Moore's "old boys" ...

In January 1791 Ralph and Arden Adderley joined Sir John Moore's school in both the Writing and Latin Schools. They were born to Ralph and Dorothy Adderley at Elmely Castle, Worcestershire and Hanbury, Staffordshire respectively, Ralph in 1781 and Arden in 1784 so would have been aged 10 and 6 1/2 when starting school. Based on where they were born it seems probable they would have been boarders. Ralph, who was a second son, married, lived at Cotton, Staffordshire as a landed gent and had several children and took over control of the family estates when his elder brother Charles died young.



Arden, the third son, joined the Royal Navy in 1796 at the height of the Napoleonic Wars as a midshipman aged 12. His service career is available via a number of websites and was a good one, serving in a number of ships under prominent captains or as a commander in his own right.

He passed the exams for Lieutenant at the age of 19/20 which is about normal in career progression terms for the time. He then served as Lieutenant in a number of ships presumably rising in rank from perhaps a fourth to a first Lieutenant with increasing responsibility at each stage.

He was given command of several ships as a Master and Commander and eventually promoted to the rank of Post-Captain which was the most coveted promotion in the navy as it guaranteed eventual promotion to Admiral. Shortly after this promotion he went ashore in 1814 and did not directly serve aboard ship again. This may or may not be linked to an illness he contracted records of which survive in a letter from his physician to the Admiralty explaining why he could not rejoin his ship due to a "scorbutic fever". This would be a severe illness associated with an advanced case of scurvy which did still occur occasionally in Napoleonic times when a sailor had

been on a long voyage with no access to fresh fruit and vegetables – often on blockades of French ports.

His career after 1814 is unknown but may have included shore based positions or he may simply have remained on half-pay on the active list but without direct service as he did not take retirement until 1846. The size of the navy was dramatically reduced to save costs after victory in 1814 so many officers were unemployed. He was however presented at court at a levee in 1841 along with other senior naval officers.

He was promoted Rear Admiral in 1850, Vice Admiral in 1857 and full Admiral in 1862 these promotions being "routine" for a post-captain in the navy of the day and likely having no command responsibilities attached.

He married Anne Bishton in Shropshire in 1823. They had one daughter Anne Rosamund in 1831 who sadly did not survive her first year.

Newspaper records show him selling up all his personal effects (which are listed in detail) from a residence he had in Coleshill in 1831 "due to his moving to another part of the country". This turns out to be to Ryde on the Isle of Wight where he lived until his death in January 1864 at the age of 80. He probably earned prize money from his service including from the battles in which he took part and the two ships his command captured directly. This could have been a significant sum which would have allowed him a respectable lifestyle including the purchase of a personal yacht which also allowed him membership of the Royal Yacht Squadron while he lived on the Isle of Wight. He features in the census's of 1841, 1851 and 1861 showing he employed a butler, cook and housemaid in his Ryde house.

Arden Adderley's career brought him into contact with several of Britain's greatest naval leaders:

- **Lord Nelson** – served aboard HMS *Victory* before Trafalgar while she was Nelson's Mediterranean flagship.
- **Sir Edward Pellew** (later Viscount Exmouth) – served under him in HMS *Tonnant*.
- **Sir Richard Goodwin Keats** – one of Nelson's celebrated "Band of Brothers";
- **Earl St Vincent (John Jervis)** – served in his flagship *Hibernia* and received his promotion to Commander from him.

Battle of San Domingo (6 February 1806)

His principal fleet action was as a lieutenant in HMS **Superb** during the Battle of San Domingo.

This battle was:

- the last major fleet engagement of the Napoleonic Wars fought between battleships;
- a decisive British victory over a French squadron in the Caribbean;
- commanded on the British side by Vice-Admiral Sir John Thomas Duckworth.

Naming Children and “Showing Off” – Traditions of Appleby Magna.

An extract from *Appleby Peelings ... The Recollections of*
Joan Noble ...

In days gone by, the way children were named in Appleby Magna followed patterns very different from what we know today, and the reasons behind these choices tell us much about how village life worked.

Records and the 1840 Census show that new Christian names were slow to arrive; parents preferred to name children after their own parents or grandparents, or after aunts and uncles. Often, nine or ten children in one family would carry names already used by older relatives. When a new name *did* appear, it was notable — almost a sign of



something new coming to the community.

Naming practices were also shaped by high infant mortality. It was not unusual for two or three babies in the same family to be given the same name, such as William, because earlier children bearing it had sadly died young. It seemed as though names were not seen as a special personal identity, but rather as a family mark — something to be carried on, almost as if the name itself was the important thing, rather than who bore it. This made life harder for those who wanted to build a separate sense of self.

From the late 1700s onwards, the arrival of non-conformist churches brought change. By the 19th century, a whole new set of names became popular — biblical choices like Hezekiah, Keziah, Jacob or Esther, or grander names such as Edith, Maud or Ashby. By 1874, names taken from history or high

society appeared, such as *Edith Maud*, after the Countess of London. Gradually, people began naming daughters after their mothers, and older traditions faded.

Alongside this ran the custom of “showing off” — the way people marked status, events or difference.



Marriages often happened between servants who met while working elsewhere; unions between people from different places were common, and could bring new ideas into the village. But “showing off” went further: one story tells of a young woman in the early 1900s who refused to be married in the usual way, insisting on having not just one or two bridesmaids — which was already unusual — but *four*. She even stationed herself at the church door to oversee every detail, arriving from the farm opposite and causing quite a stir.

After the Great War, attitudes shifted again. Ideas changed, old customs fell away, and what was once accepted became strange. Yet these naming habits and small acts of “showing off” are precious clues — revealing how families honoured their past, how new influences arrived, and how people quietly shaped their own place in the history of the village.

