

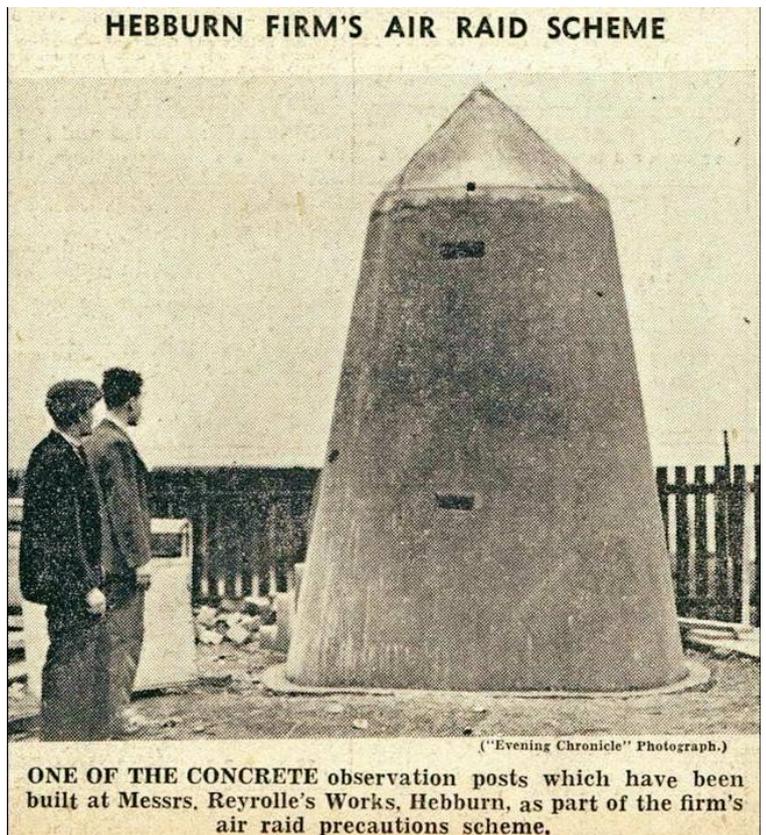


BOLDON CAMP HERITAGE GROUP

The A. Reyrolle & Co. Observation Post (*A rare wartime survivor*)

Located to one side of the 'Hebburn Sports Club' car park, just off South Drive, in Hebburn, is a rare survivor from World War Two. A relic from the last war that should no longer exist, however it does and what a relic it is!

The item in question is possibly the last known example of a 'concrete observation post' built by the well-known A. Reyrolle & Co. during the 1939-1945 war.



Photograph (left) of existing structure. Also photograph (right) and caption from a wartime copy of 'The Evening Chronicle'

This rare example of a civilian observation post stands just under 9 feet in height and approximately 5 feet in width. It is constructed from 8 inch thick cast concrete with steel reinforcing bars to the sides.

There are five observation slits around the structure, measuring 10 inches x 3 inches, each of which would have had a protective steel plate measuring 16 inches by 8 inches that could possibly be raised and lowered from within to cover the observation slits. One of these plates is still fitted to the structure. This would have given the occupants some level of protection from shrapnel (bomb or shell fire) during a raid, or to stop light showing from the observation post at night.

Entry to the observation post would be via a steel door (missing) which appears to have been 30 inches wide by 48 inches high. The structure still retains one of the substantial door hinge fittings.



The newspaper clipping and caption shown on page 1 give us a clue to the history behind the construction of these observation posts by “A. Reyrolle & Co.”. However it must be observed that the item shown in the newspaper article is much taller and wider at the base than the example which has survived.

Has the survivor been reduced in height, or is it partly buried?

If any visitors to this website can add to our knowledge of this rare survivor from WW2, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please contact us through our Facebook page or send an email to boldoncampheritagegroup@outlook.com

Thank you.

Article by Malcolm Scott (2019)