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GRIM TIMES REMEMBERED.

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Horse Guards Parade was in RAF hands, 20th anniversary of the Battle of Britain; and the man who in 1940 led Fighter Command and beat off the greatest threat since 1066, Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, had a host of memories, as he saw Spitfires and Hurricanes. For it was the Spits and Hurries that flung the Germans back, and turned our darkest hours into bright hope. The mock operations room looks like the real thing of twenty years ago, plotting the enemy bombers and alerting our squadrons. The Battle of Britain destroyed Hitler's invasion chance.

But, as the Doodle Bug at the Bomb Disposal Display reminds us, Britain took a lot of punishment, for long after 1940. The V.2. Rockets were Germany's last fling, and terrible havoc they wrought. Some of the thousands of enemy bombs that didn't go off have kept the Bomb Disposal Units busy ever since. So, outside Herahan, one Unit was at home to the public, telling the visitors how the dud bombs are located and made harmless. Divers deal with them if they're under water. Explained too, was the procedure for reaching bombs deep down.

Quite a collection. What a mercy they didn't go off.