

The war comes to Schoorldam

The little newspaper article on the left tells us about the first attack on the spoorbrug that lay a little beyond our house possibly 200 or 300 metres further South. It was a scary moment as I was in our living room watching the plane coming over and releasing the bomb. It seemed to drop so calmly gathering speed and ending in a terrifying explosion missing the bridge, but destroying the house of the bridge operator and shattering the window of our room. Everyone in the village rushed outside to see what had happened except me, I was too scared.

The second time the bridge was attacked was later in the war when 2 or possibly 3 Spitfire fighter aircraft wheeled around our house firing at the bridge and the shipping that was tied up near it. I did not see all that much of it as I dived under the bed and stayed there until they were well and truly gone. When we came out we saw that they had sunk a cement laden barge and shot up a small vessel on the canal killing the skipper's mate. There was practically no damage to the bridge.

I described the third attack in Schoorldam in my story 'The war remembered part 2' I think now that this last attack was an accident not a deliberate attack on the bridge, but at the time I thought it a deliberate attempt to kill me and my family, and who can tell.

The bridge and the rail line are now gone and replaced with more auto friendly structures.

Mere's the pity