

TWINSTEAD TRAGEDY

Additional information on the previous update concerning the four boys killed at Twinstead

This is the gravestone in St John the Evangelist churchyard at Twinstead, about four miles North of Bures.

A plaque in the church simply states,

Four Harrington Brothers - Eric (18), Dennis (16), Gordon (12) and Norman (10) were accidentally killed on 3 September 1944, when they were playing with bomb detonators taken from the bomb dumps alongside the roads in the Pebmarsh/White Colne area.

The boys were sons of Mr and Mrs Reuben Harrington of The Green, Twinstead and two of them, Eric and Dennis were seen cycling towards their home from the Bures direction shortly before 8pm on Sunday 3 September 1944. They were carrying something which all four boys gathered around at the rear of their cottage. Dennis was seen to be hammering at the object on the back doorstep when a terrific explosion was heard, he and Gordon were



killed instantly. Norman ran out into the road before collapsing in a pool of blood outside the Post Office. Eric was found not far from the terribly mutilated bodies of his two brothers.

Dr RW Rix of Sudbury ordered the removal of Eric and Norman to St Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, PC Wright the Bulmer constable accompanied them. Both boys died within a few hours of each other. The hammer was found in a garden 60 yards away, a chisel and piece of metal were also found.