

# City gunner claims Dornier kill

EX-GUNNER "Sonny" Gudgeon has staked an official "kill" claim on Norwich's Dornier in the park — and it's all thanks to Whiffler.

What's more his version of Dornier U5 EA's last flight brings to light an astonishing link with the city where it was displayed 45 years ago.

For he reckoned the Dornier featured in Whiffler's Saturday Special was shot down by the men of the 243 Heavy Anti Aircraft battery, a Norwich territorial unit, which was based at RAF Duxford in August, 1940.

His account confirms the research carried out by aviation historian Bob Collis — except in

. . . thanks to yours truly!

one small detail. For where Bob had concluded that the fatal damage had been caused by Lewis gun fire, "Sonny" insisted that it was wrought by two shrapnel bursts, from their three inch AA guns.

"Sonny", 68, of Providence Place, was one of about 40 men, most of them local "terriers", who were based at Duxford, and he vividly remembered the Dornier.

"I was on No. 1 gun, and I recalled we'd had a warning of the aircraft's approach. We could hear the plane, and then suddenly she

broke out of the low cloud right over the field and came straight across our front.

"But there was a Hurricane behind it, and we only engaged it with two rounds of shrapnel. It must have been about 400 feet high. We didn't have time to get the height finder.

"Later, our captain said that it had gone down near Newmarket, and they had given us the claim".

But incredibly, "Sonny" had no idea, until Whiffler's Saturday Special feature that revealed the truth behind the Dornier seen by thousands of Norwich people, that the aircraft had gone on display in his home city.

"We were at Duxford for about four months — waiting to go abroad," added "Sonny".



"Sonny" Gudgeon: Dornier claim 45 years after.

## TONY'S LONG ARM OF COINCIDENCE!

TALK about coincidences! Whiffler reader Tony Wickham chalked-up an amazing hat-trick when he read the story behind "The Dornier peepshow" on Saturday.

Firstly he spotted himself aged 6½ among the crowds photographed around the downed Dornier displayed in Eaton Park in September, 1940. Then, he noted that the aircraft crash-landed near a village that might have been named after him. Wickhambrook. And to cap it all the men who shot it down were based at RAF Duxford, the self-same air station where he did his national service.

Tony, 52, of Grove Road, recalled: I was going to go to the park yacht pond, and in the photograph you can see the I've got my home-made boat".