# Memories of World War Two Harringay By David Norman Former resident of 105 Fairfax Road

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THESE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW THE BACK GARDEN OF 105 FAIRFAX ROAD WHERE I WAS BORN IN MAY 1940 BOTH OF THESE PHOTOS WERE MOST CERTAINLY TAKEN IN THE SUMMED OF 1943

IN THE PHOTO NOI I WOULD HAVE BEE 3 YEARS OLD. MY MOTHER IS SUPPORTING HE FROM BEHIND WHILST PERCHED ON THE BIRT BATH. ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE IS MY GRANDMOTHER ELIZABATH. AINSWORTH. A FEW HOURS LATER WITH MY FATHER WE WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN IN THE MORRISON INDOOR SHELTER, AS WE WERE EVERY NIGHT.

PHOTO Nº 2 SHOWS THE GARDEN WHICH MY FATHER LOVED. THEIR IS THE BIRD BATH AND SITTING BEHIND IS OUR GREYHOUND CALLED "BOY" EVENTUALLY HE HAD TO BE PUT TO SLEEP.

THE HOUSES BEHIND OUR GARDEN ARE THE BACKS OF THOSE IN FALKLAND ROAD.





#### AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS



THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS MY GRANDMOTHER ELIZABETH AINSWORTH WHO PASSED HER EXAMS IN ANTI-GAS TRAINING WITH THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY AND A FIRST ALD QUALIFICATION WITH THE ST. JOHNS AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION IN JANUARY 1940, WHEN THIS PHOTO IN THE AMBULANCE STATION WAS TAKEN.

SHE NOW CAME UNDER AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS (ARP) CASUALTY SERVICES.

ELIZABETH AINSWORTH IS SEATED ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE PHOTOGRAPH.

THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE WAS TAKEN AT THEIR STATION PERMENANTLY ESTABLISHED IN THE PLAY GROUND OF FALKLAND ROAD SCHOOL, NOW CALLED NORTH HARRINGAY SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS CAN BE SEEN AT THE BACK OF THE PHOTOGRAPH.

#### WORLD WAR 2

MAY 23RD 1940

105, FAIRFAX ROAD, HORNSEY, N.8.

MY MOTHER MARGARITA (KNOWN AS RITA) NORMAN TOLD ME IN LATER YEARS THAT IT WAS A BEUTIFUL SUNNY SUMMER MORNING WHEN SHE GOT UP AND WENT OUT INTO THE BACK GARDEN.

JUST A FEW HOURS LATER AT 11.50 P.M. ON THAT NIGHT I ARRIVED, BORN AT THIS MY FIRST HOME ADDRESS. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MAY 24 TH WAS CELEBRATED AS EMPIRE DAY AND A COMMENT MADE TO MUM MANY YEARS LATER AS MY PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE AND POLITICAL DIRECTION DEVELOPED WAS THAT SHE HAD SAVED ME FROM CONSIDERABLE EMBARESSMENT BY MEETING THE MIDNIGHT DEADLINE BY TEN MINUTES AND AVOIDED I AM PLEASED TO SAY BECOMING KNOWN AS AN EMPIRE DAY BABY.

ALTHOUGH WORLD WAR 2 WAS DECLARED ON

3RD SEPTEMBER 1939 THE FIRST MONTHS IN BRITAIN

WERE GUIET AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE PHONEY WAR

I AM HOWEVER PROUD TO HAVE BEEN DECLARED A

"BATTLE OF BRITAIN GABY" AS I WAS BORN VIRTUALLY

ONTHE EVE OF THIS CRITICAL AND DECISIVE AERIAL

BATTLE WHICH WOULD REACH A CLIMAX ON SEPTEMBER 15TH

1940. THIS WAS WHEN THE GREATEST NUMBER OF

GERMAN LUETWAFFE AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN AND

THE PLANNED GERMAN NAVAL INVASION CANCELLED.

ON THIS IMPORTANT VICTORY I SPECIFICALLY RECALL

TWO STATEMENTS BEING MADE.

THE FIRST WAS BY PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL WHO SAID "THIS IS NOT THE BEGINING OF THE END.

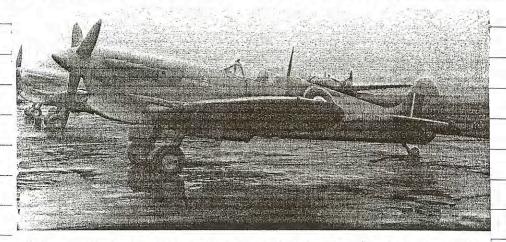
IT IS THE END OF THE BEGINING.

THE SECOND STATEMENT WAS MADE BY HERMAN

#### WORLD WAR 2

GORING THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE GERMAN
AIR FORCE, THE LUFTWAFFE WHO ASKED ONE OF HIS
SQUADRON LEADERS WHAT THEY NEEDED TO AVOID
DEFEAT. THE REPLY BY THE GERMAN SQUADRON
LEADER WAS "GIVE MEA SQUADRON OF SPITFIRES"
HERMAN GORING WAS NOT PLEASED.

AFTER THE RESOUNDING DEFEAT WITH SO MANY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN ON SEPTEMBER 15TH THE GERMAN INVASION PREPERATIONS CEASED AND THEY RETURNED TO OCCUPIED FRANCE.



The Supermarine Spitfire sponsored by the Borough of Wood Green during the 'Wings for Victory' campaign. Synonymous with the Battle of Britain, the Spitfire remains the most potent symbol of Britain's finest hour. The Tottenham Savings Committee raised sufficient funds to cover the cost of twelve Lancaster bombers and forty-eight Spitfires. As a tribute to the people of each borough, the Ministry of Aircraft Production supplied a log-book in order that the operational activities of an adopted aircraft could be recorded.

I WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE PREFERED TO BE BORN INTO
A EUROPE AND WORLD AT PEACE, LIVING IN HARMONY,
BUT YES I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN CALLED A BATTLE
OF BRITAIN BABY EVEN THOUGH I HAD NO INPUT
WHEN THOSE VERY BRAVE FEW, MANY VERY YOUNG
AND WITH MINIMUM FLIGHT TRAINING. MANY ALSO DIED
VERY YOUNG.

THOSE FEW INCLUDED POLISH AND CHECHOSLOVAC PILOTS WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE THEIR OCCUPIED HOMELANDS AND SOME SIKHS WHO HAD TRAINED IN WHAT WAS THEN BRITISH INDIA.

THEY ALL DEFENDED THE SHORES OF THIS
BEAUTIFUL ISLAND TO WHICH I HAD BY CHANCE
BEEN BORN.

THEIR IS NOTHING BUT ETERNAL GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SACRIFICE WHICH HAS ALLOWED METO WRITE THIS ARTICLE AT 71 YEARS OF AGE.

THE TWO BRITISH FIGHTER AIRCRAFT THAT FOUGHT
IN THE SKIES DIRECTLY ABOVE US INCLUDED THE
HAWKER HURRICANE, SOMTIMES OVERLOOKED BUT
LIKE THEIR PILOTS VITAL TO VICTORY. HOWEVER IT IS
THE SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE THAT HOLDS THE
SPOTLIGHT AND THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE.

THROUGHOUT MY LIFE WHEN I HAVE HEARD
THE UNIQUE SOUND OF THOSE ENGINES IT SENDS
OUT WHEN FLYING IN "BATTLE OF BRITAIN" AIR
DISPLAYS IT MAKES MY SPINE TINGLE AND IT
WOULD STILL DO SO TOMORROW.



#### WORLD WAR 2

# Boyhood memories of the night of the doodlebug

IF I MAY be permitted to contribute to your readers' recollections of their experiences in wartime Hornsey my memories are the vivid impressions of a very small child.

The night of December 11, 1944 was to be a fateful exhausting and long one for my family.

At about 6.30 pm that familiar banshee wall of the air raid siren on Decketts Common carries across the chill evening air. At 41 years of age fear was not an emotion that I had recognised and I must have been ashered into the rust-brown, flat topped indoor shelter, the Morrison, as Thad been on so many occasions during the earlier years of the blitz. Together with my brother, just six months old, a grandmother who devoted herself to the ambulance service, and my parents, we huddled tike animals equipped with blankets and pillows.

How they must have been so frightened of this persistently recurring hightmare, a nightly ritual with its long sleepless hours. Talk intersperby the monotone drone from a plague of Luftwaffe bombers and the Lanswering gunfire of a local anti aircraft battery. Frightened yet, like so many millions more throughout the land, courageously defiant.

Waiting, cursing, hoping, praying — then an enormous pressure that engulfed us all. No loud explosion just intense pressure. Blackness.

The pungent smell of chimney soot and crumbling lime plaster falling from ceilings and walls.

Doors and windows blown out.

Stunned silence imposed by the immediate shock, punctuated only by choking and coughing as the swirling clouds of dust settle.

Soon the first trembling voice breaks that initial silence with words of concern for the safety of everyone as the full impact of the event sinks

Then after just a few minutes the voice of an ARP warden calls through the ruins of a home, asking for details of any casualties. My brother is carried from the shattered building in the arms of a peaceful skies, playing and learning together in our borough. This then policeman, myself by a warden.

Here in the street were to be witnessed more scenes that might have

middle of the road, flickering and dancing on the buildings of the blacked-out neighbourhood. The clanging bells of the London Pare Brigade. AFS hosepipes writhing like enormous snakes, shouting and noise of all descriptions.

Finally, into an ambulance and away. For the next six months we temporary accommodation with an aunt in Edgware and then back again to Hornsey where I have lived ever since.

These then were my momentary impressions of the V1 "doodle but that, by all accounts, veered round after moving in the direction of Alexandra Palace and at 7 pm ploughed into the houses opposite to where I had lived, 105 Fairfax Road. A number of residents were killed. and injured in the explosion.

Today, 35 years on young children of many nationalities live under is the answer to the nazi ideology that delivered these bombs and also to the Hitler worshippers and their organisations that attempt to peddle come straight out of Dante's "Inferno". Sheets of Hairs rising in the tigir evil designs. Lavid R Norman Universitie Road, NA

DAVID RICHARD NORMAN.

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF DECEMBER 11TH 1944

FROM THE HORNSEY JOURNAL ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2ND 1979

RECOLLECTIONS BY BETTY AINSWORTH (MY GRANDMOTHER) OF DECEMBER 117H 1944 WRITTEN ON THE INSIDE PAGE OF FAERIE QUEEN"

INSCRIPTION NOI

MY COPY OF FAERIE QUEEN WAS IN PERFECT CONDITION UNTIL A "BUZZ BOMB DID I'TS BEST TO WIPE US ALLOUT ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH 1944. BUT THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD AND A MORRISON SHELTER WE ALL ESCAPED WITH SHOCK AND A FEW BRUISES. THOUGH OUR HOME WAS THOROUGHLY WRECKED WE MANAGED TO SALVAGE A FEW THINGS AND AFTER CLEANING AND PATCHING THEM UP A LITTLE THEY STILL GIVE ME PLEASURE AND I HOPE WHOEVER GETS MY

COMMENTS OF ANOTHER UNKNOWN

INSCRIPTION NO2

DIRTY BUT VALUABLE. I HOPE MY RITA WILLTAKE CARE OF IT.

OBSERVER

I LOVED IT. MAM

FAIRIE QUEEN WILL TREASURE IT. BETTY AINSWORTH.

Fairfax Road and Falkland Road, Hornsey, fell victim at 6.55pm on Demcember 11, 1944. Special trained dogs were brought in to search for persons trapped beneath the debris. To add to the confusion a gas main burst.

Pathetic scenes were witnessed the following morning. A voung woman was seen retrieving Christmas presents which she had bought for her children the previous day. The muddy roadway was littered with unused Christmas Cards and a child hugged a bedraggled doll which was to have topped her Christmas tree.

## ELIZABETH AINSWORTH COMMENTING ON

HER' EXPERIENCE OF FEAR ON THAUGUST 1944

IN THE BELOVED COLLECTION OF BOOKS, SOME GIVEN TO HER AND OTHERS BOUGHT IN A SECOND HAND BOOKSHOP FIVE HAVE COMMENTS ON THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT THAT WAR HAD ON HER TREASURES. OF THESE THE MOST DESCRIPTIVE WORDS WERE RECORDED ON THE INSIDE OF "DEVEREUX" BY SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON.

AS AN ADULT BETTY (ELIZABETH) AINSWORTH REFLECTS
ON THE CALMNESS OF HER EARLY LIFE WITH THE
HORRORS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND SHE EXPRESSES
HER MOMENTS OF FEAR.

HER COMMENTS READ AS FOLLOWS :-

"LOOKING IN MY FAVOURITE BOOKSHOP ON A LOVELY
AUGUST MORNING I DISCOVERED THIS BOOK, AND IT BROUGHT
BACK MEMORIES OF THE LAST DAYS OF POMPI BY THE
SAME AUTHOR SO I BOUGHT IT FOR CHEAP.

It'S NICE TO FORGET AND DREAM OF THE QUIET PAST—WITH IT'S LUMBER TANKS, IT'S AEROPLANES.—AND AS I WRITE A PILOTLESS ROCKET THUNDERS OVERHEAD LIKE AN EXPRESS TRAIN AT 60 MILES A MINUTE—WITH THE POSSIBLE CHANCE OF IT CRASHING AND CRUMBLING ALL TO MATCHWOOD WITHIN A 4 MILE RADIUS. AS IT PASSES ONE DIES A HUNDRED DEATHS THEN BREATHING A SIGH OF RELIEF AS YOU WIPE THE SWEAT FROM YOUR FOREHEAD.

OH TO BE BACK IN MY PEACEFUL BORDERLAND HOME WITH THE DREAMS OF CHILDHOOD - INSTEAD OF FACING A FUTURE FULL OF HORRORS. WHO SAYS HITLER IS NOT ANTICHRIST.

7/8/44 B.C.A.

THE NIGHT OF THE DOODLE BUG
CIRCA 6.30 - 7.PM. DECEMBER 11th 1944

105, FAIRFAX ROAD, HORNSEY, LONDON, N.8

THOSE PRESENT IN THE MORRISON INDOOR SHELTER
AFTER THE SOUNDING OF THE AIR RAID SIREN
ON DUCKETS COMMON AT THE JUNCTION OF
GREEN LANES AND TURNPIKE LANE.

NAME	AGE
1 LEWIS HAROLD NORMAN (FATHER)	46 YEARS
MARGARITA NORMAN (MOTHER)	364 YEARS
ELIZABETH AINSWORTH (GRANDMOTHE	R) 63½ YEARS
(26) DAVID RICHARD NORMAN (SON)	4/2 YEARS
(27) ANTHONY ROGER NORMAN (SON)	9 MONTHS

#### ALL SURVIVED.

THE HOUSE WAS SO BADLY DAMAGED THAT LIKE OTHERS ON BOTH SIDES OF FAIRFAX ROAD IT HAD TO BE DEMOLISHED.

ON 7TH AUGUST 1944 BETTY AINSWORTH WAS 45 MONTHS

AWAY FROM THE VI DOODLE BUG WHOSE ENGINE CUT OUT

SMASHED INTO FAIRFAX RD. AND NOIOS WAS INCLUDED

IN THE AREA OF DESTRUCTION ON 11TH DECEMBER

THE DOODLE BUG ALSO CALLED A VI "FLYING BOMB"

WAS NOT THE FIRST ROCKET.

WITH THE V.I. FLYING BOMB THE ENGINE WOULD SUDDENLY CUT OUT AND THEREFORE IF YOU WERE IN THE OPEN YOU HAD A FEW SECONDS TO TRY AND FIND COVER. THE V.2 WAS THE FIRST TRUE ROCKET AND GAVE NO WARNING WHATSOEVER. IT WAS THE SILENT KILLER. BOTH WEAPONS WERE LAUNCHED FROM MOBILE BASES IN THE LOW COUNTRIES.

BETTY AINSWORTH WAS NATURALLY ALARMED BY HER

EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESSED HER FEAR IN THE REMARKS
MADE IN HER BOOK "DEVEREUX". SHE, TOGETHER WITH
MY MOTHER MARGARITA AND FATHER (I) LEWIS NORMAN
WOULD HAVE BEEN EQUALLY FEARFUL OF A DIRECT HIT
ON 105, FAIRFAX RD. ALSO IN THAT INDOOR MORRISON
SHELTER WAS MY BROTHER (27) ANTHONY AND MYSELF
(26) DAVID.

AT 9 MONTHS OF AGE ANTHONY WOULD NOT HAVE
HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS AND AT 4-5 YEARS
I HAD NO FEAR WHATSOEVER, ALTHOUGH I DID HOLD
MEMORIES OF THE EVENTS (SEE LETTER PUBLISHED.
YEARS LATER IN THE "HORNSEY JOURNAL"). SOME
RESULTS OF DESTRUCTION ALTHOUGH CAPTURED AND
HELD BY THE BRAIN CANNOT BE REMEMBERED—THIS
APPLIES TO SMELLS, I.E. SOOT AND CRUMBLING PLASTER
RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND TO A LESSER
EXTENT THIS ALSO APPLIES TO SOUNDS. THE VISUAL
IS DIFFERENT. THAT 1S WHY I COULD DESCRIBE THE
SCENE IN FAIRFAX ROAD WHILST BEING CARRIED OUT
BY A WARDEN. I ALSO KNEW THAT THE TOP OF THE
MORRISON SHELTER CAME UP TO MY HEAD.

IN THE THE POST WAR YEARS AT 83, INDERWICK ROAD WHEN THE CHIMNEY SWEEP VISITED WITH HIS BRUSH THE SMELL OF SOOT WAS RELEASED FROM DEEP INSIDE THE BRAIN. A LITTLE LATER WHEN LOCAL BUILDERS WERE CARRYING OUT POST WAR REPAIRS TO LATHE AND PLASTER WALLS THE UNIQUELY DISTINCT SMELL OF LIME PLASTER WAS RECOGNISED BY THE BRAIN.

IN 2008, 64 YEARS AFTER FAIRFAX ROAD I TOOK MY
GRANDSON LIAM TO AN EXHIBITION OF THE 1940'S HOUSE
AT THE WAR MUSEUM. WHEN I SHOWED HIM THE MORRISON

SHELTER THE TOP ONLY CAME UP TO MY WAIST. I HAD
GROWN IN HEIGHT. THIS WAS NOT A SMELL OR SOUND BUT
A VISUAL RECORDING BY THE EYE. WHAT A SURPRISE!
THE SMELLS AND SOUNDS WOULD HAVE BEEN
RECOGNISED BY THE THREE ADULTS PRESENT ON
IITH DECEMBER 1944.

FEAR DEVELOPS THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF LIFE AND
THE ADULTS KNEW THAT A DIRECT HIT WOULD HAVE
WIPED THE FAMILY OUT. BY NO MORE THAN CHANCE IT
DID NOT.

WHEN WE REACH 281, CAMROSE AVENUE, EDGWARE
TO STAY WITH CHRIS AND DOROTHY CHAPMAN (NEENORMAN)
I WILL MENTION HOW I RECOGNISED FEAR AND REALISED
IT'S VALUE AS A CAUTIONARY WARNING SIGNAL.

I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF HOW LONG WE REMAINED IN THE SHELTER AT FAIRFAX RD. I DO RECALL MY FATHER (I) LEWIS STANDING OPENLY IN THE ROOM FOR A FEW MOMENTS JUST CHECKING THE IMMEDIATE AREA. LATER THE WARDENS WOULD HAVE CALLED THROUGH THE BUILDING FROM OUTSIDE TO CHECK FOR CASUALTIES. FORTUNATELY THEIR WERE NONE, MY MOTHER TOLD ME MUCH LATER THAT WE WERE NOT INSIDE FOR VERY LONG; PROBABLY UF TO AN HOUR. WE WERE THEN TAKEN TO WHAT IS NOW NORTH HARRINGAY SCHOOL IN FALKLAND ROAD WHERE ON MANY DAYS ELIZABETH AINSWORTH WAS WORKING WITH AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS (A.R.P.). HER MAIN DUTIES WERE GIVING FIRST AID TO THE INJURED. (SEE PHOTOGRAPH OF HER WITH THE AUXILARY AMBULANCE IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. ON ARRIVAL EVERYONE WAS REGISTERED, ENQUIRIES COULD BE MADE AND QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT VARIOUS ARRANGHENTS THAT HAD TO BE MADE TO SEE WHAT IT

WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SALVAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

APART FROM SOME ITEMS OF FURNITURE THE MOST

IMMEDIATE NEED WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR CLOTHING

SOME OF WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BEEN DESTROYED

AND ANYTHING SAUEDWOULD BE SYOTHERED WITH

DUST AND DIRT. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THEY OVERCAME

THIS SORT OF PROBLEM

LATER THAT EVENING WE ARRIVED AT 172, ST. JOHNS WAY, UPPER HOLLOWAY IN ISLINGTON WHERE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR US TO STAY BUT IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN TEMPORARY BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. ANOTHER FAMILY LIVED ON THE GROUND FLOOR. UPSTAIRS THERE WAS MY GRANDFATHER (I) CHARLES AND HIS WIFE CLARA PLUS THE FIVE OF US FROM FAIRFAX RD, AS IT SO HAPPENS THEIR WAS ONE OTHER PERSON WHO NORMALLY LIVED THERE PERMENANTLY, THOUGH HADN'T DONE SO FROM THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR 2.

MY BROTHER (27) EDDIE NORMAN WAS AT THIS

PARTICULAR TIME ON LEAVE FROM SERVICE IN THE

ROYAL NAVY AND I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER HIM MAKING

ME UP A BED WITH TWO HIGH BACKED VICTORIAN CHAIRS.

THIS IS THE ONLY NIGHT THAT I CAN RECALL MEMORY

OF MY STAY HERE, THOUGH WITH THE NEED TO

ORGANISE TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION AND STORE

ANYTHING SAVABLE AT THE ALEXANDRA PALACE WE

MUST HAVE STAYED PROBABLY FOR A WEEK.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE FOR US AS IT HAD

ALSO BEEN FOR THOUSANDS OF OTHER FAMILIES

THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY OVER THE PREVIOUS

FOUR YEARS FROM 1940.

DAVID RICHARD NORMAN

857904

The Statutory Fee for this Certificate is 2s. 7d. If required subsequently to registration, a Search Fee is payable in addition.

### CERTIFIED COPY of an Pursuant to the Births and Deaths



ENTRY OF BIRTH Registration Acts, 1836 to 1929.

[Printed by Authority of the Registrar-General,]

B. Cert. R.B.D.

Registration District QEO. Birth in the Sub-District of Name and Surname of Name and Maulen Sumam Twenty thirds may 1940 Devid Bot Seaso margaserla House de Morman Shirty
105 Richard Herold y Womann Jamesters Falker first
938 Janifox Morman Joseph Jalesman 105 Janifox Road heart
Mornay Democrate Housey 1940 I, CHAISTURMER CEORGE PARKING. Registration of the COLING to hereby certify that this is a true copy of the lifty No. 238 in the Register Book of Births for the said Sub-District, and that such Register Book is

ally in my custody

31 day of may

CAUTION.—Any parson who (f) faisifies any of the particulars on this cartificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be faisified is liable