Activity 5 – Worthing Pier and World War II

A section of the pier was blown out by the military in 1940 to stop German ships unloading troops and supplies at the pier-head in the event of an invasion. Following the explosion large amounts of barbed wire were strung between the blocks and land mines were laid under parts of the shingle beach.

Activity 1: Read the Ministry of Defence letter below dated January 16th 1940.

Write a letter from The Ministry of Defence staff to the people of Worthing explaining why bombing to section the Pier needs to be carried out and why it is imperative that civilians stay well away from the Pier while this work is undertaken.



Dear De bestale

When I was in the New Forest earlier this week, you suggested that Lundy Island might be a possible alternative to the Godshill proposals.

16th January, 1940.

I have now spoken to our armament experts and they confirm, as I suspected at the time, that Lundy Island is entirely unsuitable.

The island is so small that we should have to evacuate practically the whole population and this compares most unfavourably with the small number of persons who would have to be moved from Godshill.

There are in addition a number of other technical disadvantages with which I will not bother you, but I would like to assure you again that before deciding to come to the New Forest, the Air Ministry did consider all the practical alternatives.

Yours Micensey Ll. Willington A.

Credit: Aubrey Westlake & Family

Dr. Westlake, Sandy Balls, Godshill, Fordingbridge.

Read the Factsheet: Worthing Pier and World War I

Activity 2: Entertaining the Troops

Click on the link and watch the BBC programme "Entertaining the Troops."

You are responsible for organising entertainment for the Allied soldiers camped in and around Worthing during World War II. Plan an evening's entertainment for the troops on the Pier.

Present your ideas on a flyer or leaflet.

