

Ashley Bombing Range in the New Forest

Ashley Bombing Range was 5,000 acres of land used as a place for Britain to test how successful their bombs were. However, local people didn't like it!

The New Forest was a good place to test bombs because it was remote – not many people lived there compared to towns and cities.

The bouncing bomb was tested here – the landscape is still left with lots of craters from the tests. More bombs were dropped and fired in the New Forest than most other parts of England.

Security fences were set up around the bombing range to stop people entering the land.

The inventor of most of the tested bombs was Barnes Wallis. He invented different types of bombs including the bouncing bomb and the Grand Slam.

The Highball bomb was a sphere that bounced across the water to attack enemy ships.

The Tallboy bomb was an 'earthquake bomb' that was used to attack German fleets in France. It weighed 5,500kg.

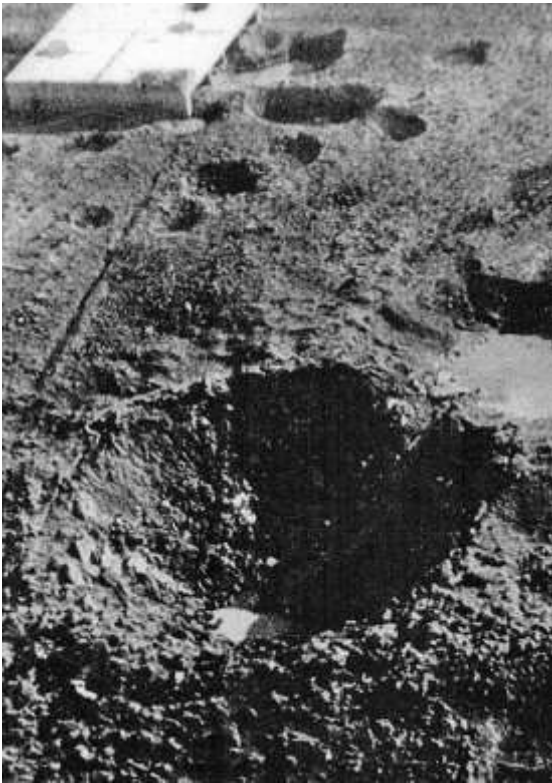
The Grand Slam weighed almost 10,000kg and was an even bigger 'earthquake bomb'. It buried itself in the ground and caused an enormous 70 foot deep crater. It is still the largest



A photo of the targets and craters left behind from test bomb explosions at Ashley Walk, 1947.



A
Grand
Slam
bomb



A crater left behind by a Grand Slam bomb.



Barnes Wallis- inventor of most tested bombs.



The Royal Air Force tested some of their largest bombs in the New Forest.