



WORLD WAR TWO  
THE  
PEREGRINI COAST  
AT WAR  
ARTEFACT BOX



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Note: Artefacts 1-6 ; 9 ; 13-23 are all contained in a plastic wallet in the box

#### Acknowledgements

The Family of Joseph Bowden, South Charlton, Alnwick, Northumberland.

The Family Of Roger Smith.

The Family of George Dickson.

The Families of John Patterson & Bruce Carey

Forestry Commission Scotland- Lossie Forest Pillbox Template..

Ian Hall, [www.wildsofwanney.co.uk](http://www.wildsofwanney.co.uk) for information & photographs of Northumberland's Auxiliary Units

[see Ian Hall (2015), *Most Secret: Uncovering The Story Of Northumberland's Underground Resistance- The Auxiliary Units Of WW2*. Wanny Books]



## ARTEFACT BOX: THE PEREGRINI COAST AT WAR

EXPLORE:

**THE 1939 REGISTER**

1939 REGISTER TRANSCRIPTION (PREVIEW)

 **Bowden Household**  
 Alnwick R.D., Northumberland, England

FIRST NAME(S)	LAST NAME(S)	BIRTH YEAR
 William (Christopher)	Bowden	1884
 Isabella M (P) Bowden is also on this record		
 1 more person who is officially closed		

**Artefact 1: 1939 Register –Bowden Family, South Charlton**

### Further Information:

- It is 1939. War is inevitable and the British Government are planning how to manage the war both at home and abroad.
- The government know that they need to issue **National Identity Cards** as part of their plans to protect the country.
- They are also planning to introduce **rationing** and to move large numbers of people around the country.
- But, the previous census in 1931 is now almost 10 years old and they need more up-to-date statistics.
- So in September 1939, the government took a register [survey] of all **civilians** living in England and Wales at the time.
- Take a look at part of the 1939 Register in **Artefact 1**. This is a copy of the original document. See if you can find the Bowden family who lived at South Charlton, near Alnwick. We will be following the story of their son Joseph.
- You will see that some records are closed. This is usually because the person mentioned is still alive.
- The Government constantly updated and changed the 1939 Register over time to take account of changes of address or deaths.
- When they introduced rationing in 1941, they planned it with information from the 1939 Register.
- After the war, the 1939 Register was used to form the basis of the NHS registration system.
- The 1939 Register is a very important 20th century record, giving us information about people and their occupations. It is the only national census-like resource available for this period as the 1931 Census was destroyed by fire and no census was taken in 1941 because of the war.

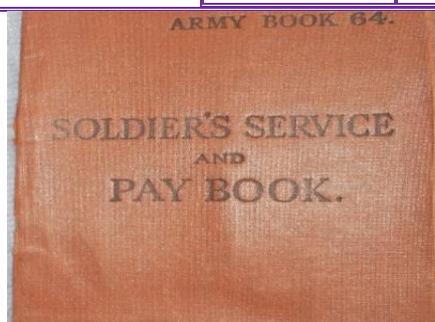
### Explore

-  What is a census? How often are they taken?
-  What sort of information is contained in a census?
-  What is a civilian?
-  Why was it important for the government to have up to date information?
-  What sort of information might have change since the last census in 1931?



ARTEFACT BOX: THE PEREGRINI COAST AT WAR

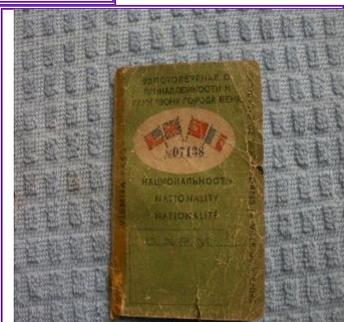
EXPLORE: **WORLD WAR 2 SOLDIERS**



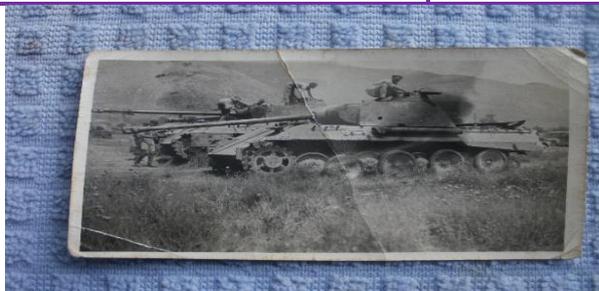
**Artefact 2: Service Pay Book**  
[Roger Smith]



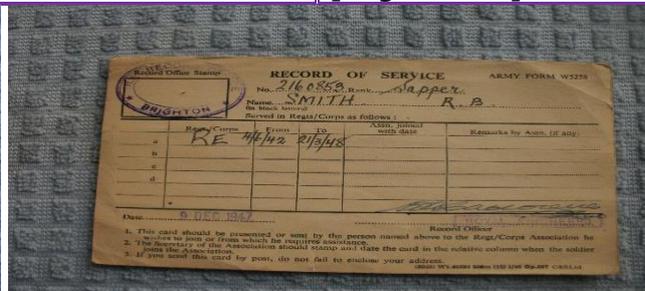
**Artefact 3: National Identity Card**  
[John Patterson] x2



**Artefact 4 : Vienna Garrison ID Card**  
[Roger Smith]



**Artefact 5: Photograph of the Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy 1944**  
[Roger Smith]



**Artefact 6: Record of Service** [Roger Smith]

**Further Information:**

- Joseph Bowden was born in December 1921 at South Charlton near Alnwick, Northumberland.
- During WW2, he was 'called up' and joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
- The photographs above are of a soldier's service pay book and ID card [**Artefacts 2 & 3**]
- National Identity cards were issued soon after the 1939 Register was taken and they were used until 1952.
- Take a look inside the service pay book [**Artefact 2**]. At the front are the soldier's details and his will in case he was killed in battle. Who does Roger Smith leave his belongings to in his will?
- **Artefacts 4, 5 & 6** tell us more about where Roger saw service during the war. In particular, he was involved on the battle of Monte Cassino, one of the most important and bloodiest battles of WW2.

**Explore:**

- ☒ Read Roger Smith's service pay book. Which regiment did he belong to?
- ☒ What other information does this book contain about Roger?
- ☒ Why was it important for Roger to carry his service pay book with him at all times?
- ☒ How would ID cards have helped to protect the country?
- ☒ In what other situations would an ID card have been important?
- ☒ Find out more about the battle of Monte Cassino:

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battles-of-monte-cassino>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6utJ\\_VQc04](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6utJ_VQc04)



EXPLORE: **WW2 IN EUROPE AND ASIA**



**Artefact 7 : Shell**



**Artefact 8 : Regimental Badges**



**Artefact 10 : Soldier's Gaiters**



**Artefact 11: Uniform Epaulette**



**Artefact 12 : Button Polisher**

**Further Information:**

- Soldiers were expected to be disciplined and keep their uniforms smart and tidy. This included polishing the buttons on their uniform.
- Take a look at **Artefact 11**, the uniform epaulette. It gives you an idea of the kind of buttons you had to polish. Uniforms often had a lot of buttons down the front, so it took a while to clean them all!
- **Artefact 12** is a button polisher. Can you work out how and why it was used?
- Soldiers were issued with gaiters [**Artefact 10**] to protect them against the mud and rain.
- **Artefact 7** is a WW2 shell. This shell has had the explosive removed from it, so it's safe to handle it. But, sometimes along our coast, **live shells** are uncovered by the tide. **THESE ARE DANGEROUS AND MUST NEVER BE PICKED UP.**
- **Artefact 8** contains two regimental badges that would have been worn as part of a soldier's uniform. These two badges belong to a well-known local regiment - the Northumberland Fusiliers.
- **Artefact 9** [not pictured] is a record of Joseph Bowden's military awards.
- It is hard to say exactly how many people were killed during WW2.
- Estimates vary between 50-80 million.
- One thing that everybody agrees with is that it has been the deadliest war ever, wiping out around 3% of the world population at the time.
- There were approximately 22-30 million military deaths during WW2.
- This covers those killed in battle, soldiers missing in action as well as deaths due to disease, accidents and prisoners of war deaths.
- About 15 million soldiers died in battle during WW2.
- Civilian deaths, including Holocaust victims and those killed through crimes against humanity, strategic bombing and population transfers are estimated to 19-30 million.



 Explore:

 Take a look at the key facts on World War 2 [WW2] at:

 <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/world-war-2>

 and:

 <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Britain.html>

 When did WW2 begin?

 Why did the UK and France declare war on Germany?

 Who were the **Allied** countries?

 Who were the **Axis** countries?

 What were **VE Day** and **VJ Day**?

 What medal did Joseph Bowden win?

 What time period does this campaign medal cover?

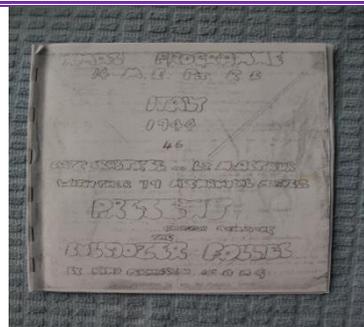
 Visit your local war memorial. How many local soldiers were killed in WW2?

EXPLORE:

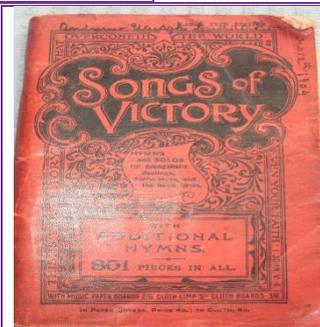
**A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS**



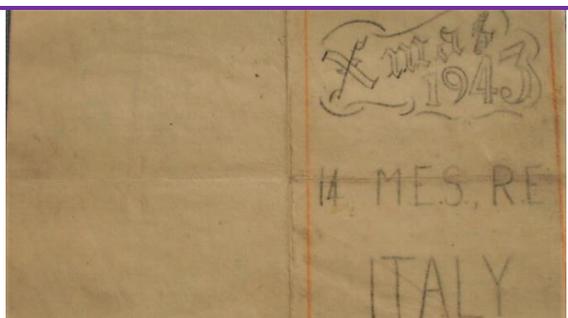
**Artefact 13: Christmas Menu 1944**



**Artefact 14: Christmas Entertainment Programme**



**Artefact 15: Soldier's Hymn Book**



**Artefact 16: Christmas Menu 1943**



**Artefact 17: Five Postcards from Home**

**Further Information:**

- Even though the troops were away from home, they still celebrated Christmas. **Artefacts 13 and 16** are Christmas Menus from 1944 and 1943 showing what the soldiers would be eating for their Christmas dinner.
- Usually, Christmas Day would start with a religious service as many more people attended church regularly then, than they do today.
- The soldiers planned a day of entertainment. Take a look at **Artefact 14** to see what was happening for some of the troops based in Italy in 1944.
- Sometimes the soldiers received gifts from relatives at home.
- The day would often end with everyone gathered around for a sing-song. Perhaps singing some songs from the Songs of Victory book [**Artefact 15**] each soldier had.
- Soldiers also sent and received letters and postcards whilst they were away at war. **Artefact 17** shows some samples of postcards Joseph Bowden sent and received

**Explore:**

- Would you have enjoyed Christmas Day as a soldier?
- Write a letter home telling your family how you spent Christmas Day as a soldier using the Artefacts above to help you.
- How do you think it felt having a son or husband at war fighting as a soldier?
- Find out more about how Britain celebrated Christmas during WW2 at: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/topics/christmas\\_in\\_world\\_war\\_two](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/topics/christmas_in_world_war_two)

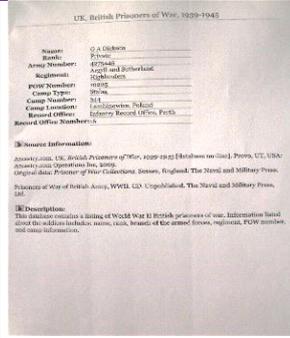
and: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00cngpy>



EXPLORE: **PRISONERS OF WAR**



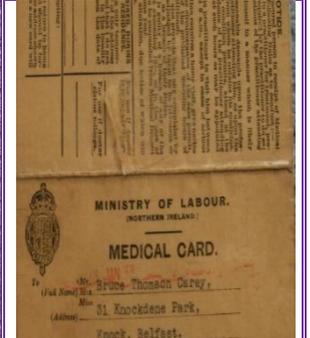
**Holy Island Coast Guard  
Lookout Tower**



**Artefact 18: POW  
Record [George  
Dickson]**



**Artefact 19: Discharge  
Papers [Roger Smith]**



**Artefact 20: Medical  
Card [Bruce Carey]**

**Further Information:**

- As well as many soldiers being killed during the war, a number of men were captured and held captive in prisoner of war [POW] camps by Axis forces during WW2.
- Meet George Dickson. He was born in 1917 and grew up in Coldstream. He worked as a stone mason.
- Like Joseph Bowden he was soon called up for active service and joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was 22 years old.
- During the 1940 evacuation of Dunkirk in France, he was part of the line of troops that held back the advancing German Army, allowing over 300,000 soldiers to be rescued from the beaches at Dunkirk.
- At one point, he and a group of fellow soldiers were cornered by some German soldiers. The Germans raised their guns ready to shoot George and his comrades.
- Just in time, a German officer arrived and ordered his men to lower their guns and take George, and the others soldiers, prisoner.
- These POWs were taken on a forced march to Czechoslovakia.
- Here, George and his fellow POWs were forced to work in a coal mine every day.
- They were treated harshly and given very little food.
- Usually, they got only a bowl of porage in the morning and some broth and bread at night.
- Later, George was moved to a POW camp in Poland. **Artefact 18** shows his POW record.
- At the end of the war, George and the other POWs were rescued by part of the US Army and taken to France.
- By this time, the POWs were in poor health and had lost a lot of weight. George weighed only 42 kg
- There they were allowed to recuperate and given extra food to eat to help them return to a healthy weight. Eventually they were returned to England.
- After the war, the servicemen and servicewomen were released from British Armed Forces. This was known as 'demobilisation'.
- Once their release papers [**Artefact 19**] came through they went to the 'demob' centre, collected their free-issue civilian clothing, packed their personal possessions and were free to return home.

- It took 18 months to demobilise almost 5 million people from the Armed Services.
- When George was demobbed from the Army, he resumed life as a stone mason and worked on restoring many important buildings in Northumberland, including Lindisfarne Castle, Hexham Abbey, Newcastle Keep and Berwick Town Walls.
- In the late 1940s, he and his father, who was also a stone mason, were commissioned to build the Coast Guard Lookout Tower on the Heugh on Holy Island.
- Whilst completing this building, George met the woman he would later marry.
- Recently, the Lookout Tower was converted into visitor observation point called *Lookout on Wild Lindisfarne*.
- The Lookout Tower's 'glass-room' provides a fantastic panorama of Holy Island, the Farne Islands, the Cheviot Hills and the Berwickshire coast.
- From the Lookout, you can get a bird's eye view of the whole of Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve.

### Explore:

 Find out more about the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940 at:

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/worldhistory/dunkirkevacuation.htm>

and

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-two/world-war-two-in-western-europe/the-attack-on-western-europe/dunkirk/>

 Watch a short video of a newsreel from 1940 on the evacuation of Dunkirk:

<https://www.britishpathe.com/video/evacuation-of-dunkirk/query/evacuation>

 Take a look at George Dickson's POW record - **Artefact 18**.

 What was the name of the POW camp he was held at?

 What was his POW number?

 What do you think it felt like to be held as a POW?

 What do you think it was like returning home after being away from family and work for so long?

 Discover more soldiers' stories at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/22/a3830122.shtml>



EXPLORE:

**PEREGRINI COASTAL DEFENCES**



*Anti-Tank Blocks near Lindisfarne*



*Cocklawburn Gun Emplacement*



*Newtown Gun Emplacement*

### Further Information:

- The geography of the Peregrini coastline was both a blessing and a liability at the outbreak of war. Its broad sands, gentle beaches and remote location made it vulnerable to enemy invasion, particularly from Nazi-Occupied Norway.
- So, a series of fortifications were built to protect the coast from Berwick to Sunderland.
- In particular, the main rail and road links needed to be defended in case of invasion.
- The main coastal defences were **barbed wire entanglements, anti-tank blocks, fire trenches, and weapons pits.**
- There are some very good examples of anti-tanks blocks at Goswick and near Holy Island causeway.
- **Pillboxes** were located at weak points in the coastal defence. The shape of pillboxes was adapted to suit local conditions. The Northumberland Type 22 and Type 23 'D' pillboxes are our very own designs. Good examples of pillboxes can be found near Beal.
- **Gun emplacements** were sited at strategic points. Two main types of gun emplacement still exist within the Peregrini coastal area.
- First there are the large gun emplacements at sites like Budle and Goswick. These would have had large guns to defend against invasion by the German Navy
- Elsewhere, there were smaller machine gun emplacements eg Bamburgh.
- Although you can still see the remains of some of the concrete defences today, much of the defences were hand-dug trenches and weapons pits which have now disappeared.
- As well as the coastal defences, the north Northumberland was protected by a **stop line** of pillboxes between Wooler and Belford.
- The positioning of this line played to the strengths of the land. Wooler, at Cheviots' edge, sits at the end of a valley - a natural bottleneck. Whilst just north of Belford, a Whin Sill escarpment has excellent extensive views over the coastal plain and its rail and road links. Much of the land between these two points is high and rough, forming a natural defence line along which to place the pillboxes.



 Explore:

 Take a look at the anti-tank blocks in the photograph above. Can you work out what useful function they have today in protecting our coastline?

 Find out more about where you can see local WW2 coastal defences at:

[http://www.keystothepast.info/article/10338?COUNTY=N&PERIOD=Second+World+War+\(1939+to+1945\)](http://www.keystothepast.info/article/10338?COUNTY=N&PERIOD=Second+World+War+(1939+to+1945))

and: <http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Bck/Bindex.html>

 Find out more about the Wooler-Belford stopline at:

<http://www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk/defence-articles/northumberland-stoplines/>

 Choose at least two of the different types of coastal defences mentioned above [in bold print] and research them using online information and resources books.

 Then make a **chart** explaining what they were and how they helped to defend our coastline.

 Use **Artefact 22**- Lossie Forest Pillbox template to build your own pillbox and anti-tank blocks.

 Find out about other ways of keeping safe during the war eg gas masks, blackout, air raid shelters at:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/air\\_raids/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/air_raids/)

and <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/blackout.htm>

and <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/gasmasks.htm>

 Watch this video to find out what it was like to be in an air raid:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4idj7fI6OZg>

 Listen to what an air raid siren sounded like here:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/history/ww2clips/sounds/air\\_raid\\_siren](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/history/ww2clips/sounds/air_raid_siren)

and, a gas mask drill for school children:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/history/ww2clips/children/gas\\_masks](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/history/ww2clips/children/gas_masks)

 Discuss how you think the blackout would have affected people's lives. Then read :

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/blackout.htm>

 Then write a **story or poem** about an air raid or the blackout based on what you've learned. If you like, you can also add your own illustrations.



EXPLORE: **THE PEREGRINI COAST AND THE HOME GUARD**



Corporal John Tough examines the rifle belonging to fisherman, Robert Kyle, during an inspection of Holy Island Home Guard unit, ca. 1942.

[www.gettyimages.co.uk/photos/holy-island-home-guard](http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/photos/holy-island-home-guard)  
**Artefact 21: Photograph of Holy Island Home Guard 1942**

**Further Information:**

- Our coastline defences were manned by volunteers. Originally this unit was called the Local Defence Volunteers. But in July 1940, it was renamed as the **Home Guard**.
- They provided our first line of defence in the event of a German invasion.
- The Home Guard weren't expected to stop the well-trained German troops. Their job was to slow down any German invaders until the Army arrived.
- The Home Guard defended key targets eg beaches and sea fronts, and also factories, explosives stores, munitions factories and aerodromes. At night, they patrolled fields where German paratroopers might land.
- **Artefact 21** is a photograph of Holy Island Home Guard 1942. It shows Corporal John Tough inspecting the rifle of Robert Kyle.
- The expected invasion by Germany never came. So, the main role of the Home Guard became capturing German airmen whose planes had been shot down over Britain.

**Explore:**

Take a look at some images of the Home Guard on Holy Island at:

<https://www.heritage-images.com/preview/2611806>

and <http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/photos/holy-island-home-guard?excludenudity=true&sort=mostpopular&mediatype=photography&phrase=holy%20island%20home%20guard>

<http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/photos/holy-island-home-guard?excludenudity=true&sort=mostpopular&mediatype=photography&phrase=holy%20island%20home%20guard>

Find out more about the Home Guard. Take a look at:

<http://www.home-guard.org.uk/hg/index.html>

and <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/homeguard.htm>

and <http://www.home-guard.org.uk/hg/hgfaq.html>

For local information on Northumberland, visit: <http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Bck/Bindex.html>

**Then answer the questions below:**

Who were the Home Guard?

Were there any women in the Home Guard?

How many people were in the Home Guard?

Why were they formed?

What was the job of the Home Guard?

What sort of weapons did they have?



**EXPLORE: THE PEREGRINI COAST AND THE WAR IN THE SKY**



*One of the crews which operated Miles Martinet aircraft for towing targets at Milfield (Maelmin.org).*

**Further Information:**

- The Peregrini coast was used to train bomber pilots who were based at RAF Milfield.
- RAF Milfield was built during 1941-1942. It was sited a few miles north of Wooler.
- Its purpose was to be an airfield training unit for pilots. Although it was originally intended as a bomber training unit (OTU), it ended up as a fighter operational training unit.
- Around 2,000 personnel were stationed at RAF Milfield. This included airmen and airwomen, officers and NCOs.
- They lived in 'site houses' scattered around various parts of the airfield. This was intended to reduce casualties in case of attack.
- Milfield housed around 120 aircraft and was a busy base.
- Training there began in August 1942. The courses ran for a period of 9-10 weeks with the aim of turning out thirty pilots every three weeks.
- The first 5-6 weeks were spent preparing the pilots for basic solo flying on Hurricanes.
- They carried out their bombing practice across Holy Island and Goswick Sands.
- After that, the trainees moved on to RAF Brunton, near Edinburgh for a further 3-4 weeks of flying Hurricanes in formations and simulated combat conditions.
- The trainee pilots came to Milfield from the Allied countries across the world eg Canada, US, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the UK.
- These trainees already had an average of 130 hours of basic and service flying before coming to RAF Milfield.
- The bomber pilots who trained here eventually went into action and played a decisive role in 'Operation Overlord' [D-Day] as well as other WW2 combat operations.
- Eventually, the site was disbanded in February 1946. Most of the runways were ripped up by a quarry company. But, some parts of the airfield are now used by the Borders Gliding Club.



- Sometimes German planes were shot down over our coast. Read the account below taken from North East Diary 1939-1945 [[http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Inc/ISeq\\_21.html#N721](http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Inc/ISeq_21.html#N721)]

**Saturday, 23rd/Sunday, 24th August 1941 N721**

The aircraft below was one of six engaged on a search for a convoy believed to have been off the Northumberland coast.

**Stab/KG26 Heinkel He 111H-5 (3691).** Hit by fire from a destroyer and crashed into the sea, N of Holy Island at 21.30. Hptmn G. Wilhelm, Dep Staffelkapitän, Uffz H. Hilpert, Uffz O. Seidel and Obergefr F. Schmidt picked up in a dinghy after twenty minutes and taken prisoner. Aircraft 1H+EA sank in sea.

*Night 721. All times BST. Blackout begins: 20.52, ends: 05.26*

 Explore:

-  How did siting the houses at RAF Milfield in different parts of the airfield help to minimise casualties?

-  Find out more about RAF Milfield at:

<http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/history/milfield/>

<http://www.milfield.org.uk/>

<http://www.forgottenairfields.com/united-kingdom/england/northumberland/milfield-s948.html>

-  Use the template on the next page to write a newspaper report about our home defences. Cover:
  - the coastal defences along the Peregrini coastline between Scremerston to Budle Bay,
  - the Home Guard, and
  - RAF Milfield



26<sup>th</sup> October 1943

# THE DAILY PEREGRINE

## Peregrini Coast Keep Us Safe!

Our Coastal Defences

Home Guard

RAF Bombers Overhead!



EXPLORE:

**SECRET AGENTS IN NORTHUMBERLAND**



*Entrance and Interior of Kyloe Auxiliary Unit's Operational Base by kind permission of Ian Hall, Wanney Books*

**Further Information:**

- By late June 1940, just 8 weeks after their first attack, the German conquest of Europe was almost complete.
- Britain had been forced withdrawn its troops at Dunkirk, but leave most of its equipment behind in France.
- The country now faced the very real threat of German invasion.
- But, plans were being put in place to defend Britain when invaded.
- It was decided to create a force that would operate from secret underground bases to carry out acts of sabotage and espionage behind the lines of German troops who were expected to invade at any moment.
- This British Resistance force became known as the Auxiliary Units [AU]. These units have been kept secret for many years. Members of the AU could not tell their families about it. Even today, very little information is known about this force.
- The idea was that these units would do everything they could to help the regular Army push back the invaders eg sabotaging roads, railways, bridges and airfields that might be used by the Germans. It is also thought that the AUs were given a list of local people to be assassinated if we were invaded eg Nazi sympathisers.
- Men and women volunteering to join this group, did so knowing that after invasion they probably only had a few days left to live, as if caught by the Germans, they would be tortured and killed.
- The very first AU in Northumberland was set up in the Peregrini area at Scremerston in 1941. It was led by Lambert Carmichael.
- It's believed that their secret underground base was somewhere on Inland Pastures Farm at Scremerston.
- In north Northumberland, there were 12 AUs at hidden locations near eg Belford, Kyloe, Warenford and Wooler. The Kyloe base is sited in Kyloe Woods, just north of the track which runs along the bottom of the crags, towards the eastern end of these crags.
- The types of people that were recruited to join the AU were usually miners or quarrymen as they had experience with explosives, and farmers and gamekeepers because of their detailed knowledge of the land.



- As well as being given standard weapons, the patrols often made their own weapons which designed to kill silently and effectively eg a garrote which they made from piano wire. They were also given plastic explosives and other equipment.
- Their underground bases were known as Operational Bases and were well hidden with secret trapdoors and escape routes. Many of the bases have now collapsed or have been destroyed.
- A typical base had weapons, ammunition, explosives, and food rations for 14 days. There was also a sealed stone jar containing a gallon of rum that was only to be opened in an emergency. Some volunteers managed to work out how to get the rum without breaking the seal on the jar!
- The job of the espionage units [known as the Special Duties Section-SDS] was to communicate information from behind enemy lines eg about German troop movements and attack plans.
- THE SDS operated separately from the sabotage units and unit members were unaware of each other's existence even when operating in the same area.
- The AUs in each county were co-ordinated by a regular Army officer known as an Intelligence Officer. In 1941, Northumberland's Intelligence Officer was Captain Anthony Quayle was later became a famous actor.

#### Explore:

-  Find out more about Northumberland's secret agents. Watch this video clips:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVfxsmXD4Vs>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/auxiliaryunits>

#### Read:

<http://www.coleshillhouse.com/northumberland-auxiliary-units-and-obs.php>  
<http://www.coleshillhouse.com/kyloe-crag-auxiliary-unit-and-ob.php>  
<http://www.coleshillhouse.com/scremerston-auxiliary-unit-and-their-operational-base.php>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/johndal/5199566374>  
<http://www.auxunit.org.uk/index.htm>

-  Read about Captain Quayle's time as an IO in Northumberland at:

<http://www.auxunit.org.uk/chronicle230468.htm>

-  Read about Tommy Barrass who was in an AU sited in Hartford Woods, Bedlington at:

[http://www.auxunit.org.uk/tot\\_barrass.htm](http://www.auxunit.org.uk/tot_barrass.htm)

-  Now, using information about from the sites above, write a story telling about how you were recruited and trained to work in an Auxiliary Unit in Northumberland.

-  Then complete this colouring sheet

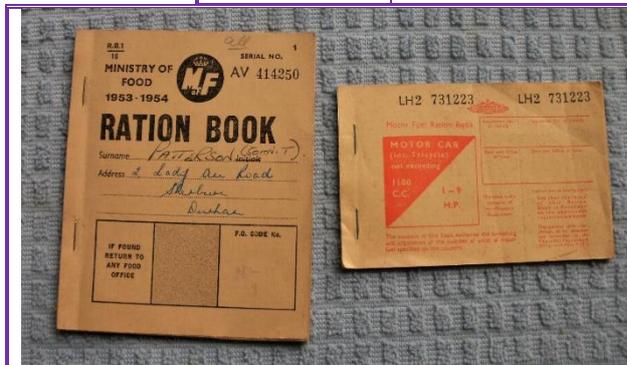
<http://www.coleshillhouse.com/CART-Files/colouringin-A4.pdf>

#### Teachers Note

For Fact Sheets & other useful downloads:

<http://www.coleshillhouse.com/downloads.php>

EXPLORE: **LIFE AT HOME - RATIONING**



**Artefact 23 : One Ration Card Booklet & One Booklet of Petrol Ration Tokens**



**Artefact 24: Butter Paddles x2**

**Further Information:**

- In the 1940s, shopping was more time consuming and different from today as there were no big supermarkets. Instead, you had to visit different shops to buy different products.
- So you went to the grocer's for tea and sugar and tinned food; the greengrocer's for fruit and vegetables; the butcher's for meat and the baker's for bread and cakes.
- There were also separate shops for buying clothes and shoes and newspapers.
- Before the war, Britain imported much of its food. So, the Germans tried to block the supply of food reaching Britain by using submarines to attack ships bringing food to Britain.
- As a result, the British government decided that they needed to introduce food rationing.
- Rationing started in 1940.
- Each person was issued with a ration book and could only buy only a fixed amount of certain foods each week.
- Take a look at **Artefact 23** which is a general ration card and a separate booklet of fuel tokens. Petrol was the first commodity to be rationed. In 1942, petrol was in such short supply that it was limited to official use only eg emergency services, buses and farmers.
- Butter was one of the first foodstuffs to be rationed. When you went to collect your ration of butter, the grocer would cut some butter from a large block of butter and weigh it. Then, using butter paddles, like **Artefact 24**, they would shape it into a block and wrap it for you.
- The idea was that rationing would make sure that everyone got a fair share.
- When you went shopping, you had to hand over coupons from your ration book, as well as money.
- When you had used up your ration of one food (say, cheese or meat), you could not buy any more that week.
- Vegetarians could swap their meat coupons for other foods.
- So, the ration book became the key to survival for nearly every household in Britain.
- People were encouraged to grow as much of their own food as possible with the 'Dig For Victory' campaign.

- There were also lots of posters and slogans to remind people to save and recycle whatever they could eg *Make Do And Mend*.

 Explore:

 Find out more about the posters and slogans used in WW2 campaigns at:  
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/campaigns.htm>

 Now, choose one of the slogans and design a poster to illustrate it. If you like, you can also come up with a new slogan for the poster.

 Find out more about rationing. Read:  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/food\\_and\\_shopping/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/food_and_shopping/)  
and <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/rationing.htm>  
and [http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Bck/BSeq\\_09.html#B37](http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Bck/BSeq_09.html#B37)

 Now complete the worksheet on the following page.



RATIONING DURING WORLD WAR TWO

**Use the information at:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/food\\_and\\_shopping/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/food_and_shopping/)

and <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/rationing.htm>

and [http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Bck/BSeq\\_09.html#B37](http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Bck/BSeq_09.html#B37)

**1. Why was rationing introduced?**

**2. How did the German blockage of our food affect the amount we could import?**

**3. What were ration books?**

**4. Why did the government decide to issue ration books?**

**5. Why were there different colour ration books?**

**6. When was rationing introduced and when did it end?**

**7. How did rationing work?**

**8. Was rationing fair?**

**9. Do you agree? Give your reason.**

 **Read :**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/food\\_and\\_shopping/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/food_and_shopping/)

and

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/food\\_and\\_shopping/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/food_and_shopping/)

 **Which foods would you have missed most?**

 **What sort of things did people do to make sure they had their own supply of vegetables and eggs?**

 **Take part in the Rationing Challenge and shop for a meal in 1943.**

**Visit:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/food\\_and\\_shopping/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/food_and_shopping/)

and scroll down to the **Activities** box and click on ***Rationing-shop for a meal in 1943***



## ARTEFACT BOX: THE PEREGRINI COAST AT WAR

EXPLORE:

### THE NEWS AT HOME



Artefact 25 : Pack Of Ten Replica WW2 Newspapers

#### Further Information:

- World War Two affected the lives of people in Britain in many ways.
- People lived with the threat of air raids at night, and families were divided. Many people were separated from loved ones who were away fighting or from their children who had been evacuated.
- Thousands also worked very long hours, often volunteering their free time to help the war effort, as well as keeping their normal jobs.
- The government was worried that people on the Home Front might grow disillusioned with the war, and that this could lead to defeat.
- For this reason, local officials used  **censorship**  and  **propaganda**  to maintain morale of citizens during the war.
- Censorship limited the information given out to the public in the news, so they didn't get disheartened or give away important information about military plans.
- Propaganda covered biased or misleading information that was used to promote a political cause or point of view eg telling people we were winning the war, when perhaps we weren't.
- It was felt that keeping secret certain details which might cause people to lose hope would be best for the morale of the country.
- From 1939, there was a government department called the Ministry of Information which managed news, press censorship and home publicity.

#### Explore:

- Find out more about censorship and propaganda at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/theartofwar/inf3.htm>

and: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/theartofwar/inf3.htm>

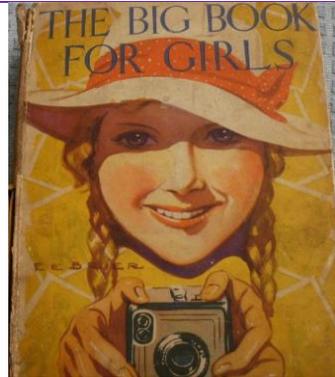
- Watch these public information films from WW2 see if you can spot any propaganda or censorship at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSD6GG1tkZ4>

and: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j\\_HeQKgb6eQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_HeQKgb6eQ)

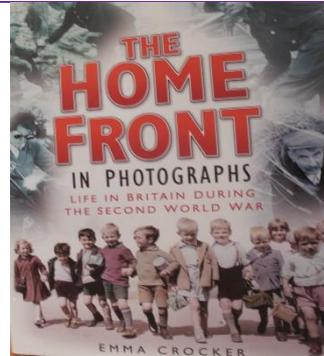
- Look at the newspapers in **Artefact 25**. How is the news covered here?
- Look at the adverts in these newspapers. Compare and contrast what is being advertised and how it is being advertised with adverts of today.



EXPLORE: **A CHILD'S LIFE DURING WW2**



**Artefact 26: Girl's Book**



**Artefact 27: The Home Front in Photographs**

**Further Information:**

- During the war, life changed for everybody, including children. For a lot of children, the war years were a time of anxiety because they were separated from their families.
- Nearly two million children were **evacuated** from their homes at the start of World War Two. They were sent to live in the countryside to escape the bombing.
- During the war, children still went to school. As well as ordinary lessons, children learned air raid drills and had gas mask practice.
- Many schools started 'Spitfire Funds' and National Savings Groups to help raise money for the 'war effort'.
- During the war, there was a shortage of toys because many toy factories were now making guns or plane parts or other war equipment.
- So, children swapped old toys at 'toy-exchanges'.
- Lots of toys had a war theme eg toy planes, tanks and battleships.
- Most wartime toys were made of paper or card, because rubber, plastics, wood and metal were needed for the war.
- **Artefact 26** is an example of the kind of book written for girls. It gives a good idea of what a child's life was like at the time. Take a look inside and compare the stories there with the stories you read to day. Are they similar or different? Which do you prefer?
- **Artefact 27** is a modern book that contains lots of interesting photographs about life at home in Britain during the war, including the work done by women during the war in munitions factories and farming.

 Explore:

 Watch this video and find out more about a child's life during the Second World War:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jSsk3NtMLo&t=1s>

 This video explains what it was like to be an evacuee during WW2:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SYDBJAwYCI>

 Use internet and other resources to research what schools were like in wartime.

Compare schools then with schools today. You will find resources and archive material on the BBC History site at [www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar)

and <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/children.htm>



[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/the\\_war\\_effort/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/the_war_effort/)

-  Write a Christmas list of presents for a wartime child. What kind of toys might he/she wish for? If you could choose one modern present to give to a 1940s child, what would it be?
-  Take a look inside **Artefact 26** and compare the stories there with the stories you read today. Are they similar or different? Which do you prefer? What do the stories there tell us about a child's life then.
-  Are girls treated differently in the book to boys? Are girls treated differently in the book compared with the way girls are treated now?
-  Look through **Artefact 27** chose one photograph showing the sort of work women did during the war. Then, write a story based on the photograph that describes the work she does and how she feels about her job.



ARTEFACT BOX THE PEREGRINI COAST AT WAR

GENERAL QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE



Explore: Joseph Bowden's Family

-  When researching a person's family history, the best place to start is from the present date and work backwards through history.
-  This makes it's easier to check that you have found the right person in the earlier Census information, particularly if you are looking for someone who has a very common surname.
-  Especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, often the same first names were used in the same family over the years, so it's easy to get confused.
-  So let's start by doing this with Joseph Bowden. The most up to date information for Joseph was the announcement of his death in the local newspaper.
-  These newspaper announcement can give lots of information to help you find out more about his family.
-  Look at the announcement below and then answer the questions that follow.

Joseph Bowden

BOWDEN. South Charlton. Peacefully at home on January 26, aged 91 years, Joseph William, beloved husband of Ruby, much loved dad of Derek and Christopher, loving grandfather of Laura, Gavin, Jennifer, Lucy, April and Arabella. Service in St James Church, South Charlton on Saturday February 2, at 2pm followed by interment in the church yard. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Earl Haig Fund or St James Church.

Published in Morpeth Herald on Jan. 31, 2013

-  How old was Joseph when he died?
-  What was Joseph's middle name?
-  What was his wife's name?
-  How many children did he have?
  
-  This information helps us search for the record of his marriage.
-  Look at the record below. Find out what his wife's surname was before she married and the year that they married.



Surname	First name(s)	Spouse	District	Vol	Page		
<b>Marriages Jun 1949</b> (>99%)							
Bowden	Joseph W	Fullerton	<a href="#">Nthmbld.N.1st.</a>	1b	<a href="#">605</a>		
Fullerton	Ruby K M	Bowden	<a href="#">Nthmbld.N.1st.</a>	1b	<a href="#">605</a>		

Knowing his wife's previous surname is a useful cross reference check and gives you the starting point to research her family.

Now take a look at **Artefact 1 – The 1939 Register for the Bowden family**

Remind yourself of the first names of his Joseph's parents.

This helps to find out when his parents were married.

Look at the record below and then answer the questions below.

Surname	First name(s)	Spouse	District	Vol	Page		
<b>Marriages Mar 1921</b> (>99%)							
Bowden	William C	Taylor	<a href="#">Belford</a>	10b	<a href="#">949</a>		
Shotton	George W A	Tait	<a href="#">Belford</a>	10b	<a href="#">949</a>		
Tait	Mary	Shotton	<a href="#">Belford</a>	10b	<a href="#">949</a>		
Taylor	Isabella M	Bowden	<a href="#">Belford</a>	10b	<a href="#">949</a>		

When did his parents get married?

What was his mother's surname before she got married?

Where did they get married?

This information helps you to cross check when Joseph was born as birth records often give the mother's unmarried surname. So you can be sure you've found the correct birth record.

Look at the record below. Check the mother's surname is correct. Then find out when Joseph was born.



Surname First name(s) Mother District Vol Page

**Births Dec 1921** (>99%)

Bowden	Joseph W	Taylor	<a href="#">Alnwick</a>	10b915	<a href="#">info</a>	
Cairns	Isabella	Taylor	<a href="#">Alnwick</a>	10b915	<a href="#">info</a>	
Dixon	John H	Hunter	<a href="#">Alnwick</a>	10b915	<a href="#">info</a>	
Elder	Thomas E	Dawson	<a href="#">Alnwick</a>	10b915	<a href="#">info</a>	
Robson	Kenneth L	Durham	<a href="#">Alnwick</a>	10b915	<a href="#">info</a>	

Next, you need to discover more about Joseph's father, William.

Take a look at the extract of **1911 Census on the following page** for the Bowden family and answer the following questions.

How old was William Bowden in 1911?

What was his job?

What job did William's father do?

How many brothers and sisters did William have?

What was the name of William's brother that was born in 1894?

What job did he have?

From this, you can see how first names in families are often repeated in different generations. You can also see that our Joseph Bowden had an uncle with the same name.

The first Joseph Bowden fought and was killed in World War One.

In St James's Churchyard, South Charlton is this gravestone:

### Bowden, J., Pte., 1916

In St. James's Churchyard is a family headstone which reads:

In memory  
of  
John Brewis son of  
Tho. & Isa Bowden  
of S. Charlton died Dec.  
4 1880 aged 77 months  
Joseph their son  
killed in France  
1917 aged 24  
(the rest is hidden by flowers)



Photo: Brian Chandler

Although the headstone in the local churchyard commemorates his name, he is not buried there. Joseph Bowden is also listed on Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. This memorial is one of four memorials to the missing. These were soldiers who were killed in action, but whose bodies were never recovered for burial.

Why was it so difficult to recover dead soldiers' bodies for burial?

This is a picture of the Tyne Cot Memorial. You can find out more here:

<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-cemeteries-and-memorials/85900/tyne-cot-memorial>



 This is Joseph Bowden's Service Record form World War 1.

Joseph Bowden

**Photo:** (none)

**Service No:** 51681

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** Manchester Regiment, 20th (Service) Battalion (5th City)

**Died:** 30/11/1916

**Aged:** 24

**Commemorated / Buried:** Tyne Cot Memorial (Tyne Cot Cemetery)

**Service History:** Enlisted at Alwick, Northumberland. Formerly 32222, Northumberland Fusiliers.

**Background:** Born at South Charlton, Alwick, Northumberland, the son of Thomas & Isabella Bowden.

 Now, go back and re-read the death announcement for Joseph Bowden in 2013. Find out which charity [fund] the family asked for donations to be made to.

 The Earl Haig fund was a charity set up in 1921 to help ex-servicemen. It still supports the Armed Forces today, but this charity is now known by a different name.

 Today, we call it the 'Poppy Appeal' and its members sell poppies in the weeks before Remembrance Sunday in November.

 What does this tell you about the link between these two men who shared the same name?

 Write a poem or story based on this.

## Explore: The North East Diary 1939-1945

This website, compiled by Roy Ripley and Brian Pears, is a fantastic local resource about life and events in Northumberland during WW2.

Visit : [http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Inc/ISeg\\_21.html#N721](http://ne-diary.genuki.uk/Inc/ISeg_21.html#N721)

Using the place name index, find out what was happening during the war in the town or village where you live.

Then, use the index to research places along the north Northumberland coast like Cheswick, Goswick Holy Island and the Farne Islands to find out what was military action happening there eg bombings etc.

Next, compare and contrast you where you live with what you've discovered was happening on the Northumberland coast.

Which area saw the most military action?

Why do you think this was?

Where was the safest place to live?