

THE FAIRLIGHT GLEN MINEFIELDS.

1. These were laid hurriedly in 1940 between the months of July and September.
2. The original plans for laying Mines were lost when the Officer i/o laying party was blown up, he was carrying the plans at the time.  
The laying of Mines continued, but accurate records of minelaying prior to the accident were not available.
3. The area was swept with Detectors, except for that portion below the Cliff which lies on the left of the path leading down to the sea, and which is fenced in and marked with DANGER Notices.  
This particular area was known beyond doubt to contain Beach Mines (B. type C.). The Cliff behind this area was hit by a Flying Bomb (V1.) which exploded on impact and brought down a large portion of the Cliff on to the Minefield below.
4. In 1947 approval was given to enclose this area in semi-perpetuity (20 years), to allow erosion to destroy or reveal the Mines, and with the hope that the Mines would corrode away to a safe condition in that time.
5. During the past 2 or 3 years Mines have been found in the Shingle fronting The Minefield, and in one instance a Mine has been found outside the Perimeter Fence.
6. Although the area has been adequately surrounded by Wire and Notice Boards, members of the public have entered it on a number of occasions, notably from the sea. Small craft have pulled in on the shingle and the occupants have wandered into the Dangerous area.
7. It was decided that clearance must be attempted to prevent accidents to members of the Public.
8. The first step was to gain access to the known Minefield area, by driving a road in order that Bulldozers and other heavy equipment could get down to the Beach.
9. The densely overgrown area was suspect because of the discovery there of a Mine in the Summer of 1954. It was decided that this growth must be burned down and the ground underneath swept with Detectors as the access road was cut.
10. During the burning off and sweeping of the ground leading to the Minefield proper 4 Mines have been found.

PLEASE KEEP TO THE ROAD, - OR REMAIN WITH YOUR GUIDE,  
THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHERS.

From : Captain R.V. Acres,  
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EC/PR/20.

10th May, 1956.

The News Editor  
The Art Editor

Subject : Minefield Clearance by Bomb Disposal Unit RE

On Wednesday, 16th May, facilities will be available for the press to photograph operations which are being carried out by the Bomb Disposal Unit RE at Fairlight Glen, HASTINGS.

This particular operation is one that will provide excellent photographic and newsreel material and it also demonstrates some of the very difficult and hazardous tasks being carried out by Bomb Disposal Units throughout the UK.

It will be appreciated that owing to the element of risk and the desire not to hamper the work of the Royal Engineers personnel it has been necessary to arrange a specific day for the press to visit the site. On Wednesday, 16th May, operations will have reached the stage where it is possible to ensure that there will be some "action" shots for cameramen. Bomb Disposal Officers will also be available to explain the details of the task, the many difficulties encountered, and the methods of dealing with these minefields.

You are invited to send your representative/s who will be most welcome and who should report to me at The Chatsworth Hotel, Carlisle Parade, HASTINGS by not later than 1030 am on Wednesday, 16th May, 1956.

Could you please telephone this office if you intend to take advantage of this facility.

*Yes seems good possible*  
*AL*