

## MINE EXPLODES AT HIGHCLIFFE

Beautiful stained-glass windows at Highcliffe Castle were shattered when a floating mine, washed up by the gale, exploded on the anti-invasion defences on the beach 100ft. below, early on Tuesday morning. Fragments of the mine and twisted steel tubes were blown up the cliff and landed in gardens several hundred yards inland. Considerable damage was done to property and windows over a large area; some, including plate glass shop fronts in Lymington Road, were a mile from the explosion.

At Culmore, residence of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Power, a door was blown in, and many windows shattered. Damage was also done at Col. Adams' Cliff Close, and at Beacon Lodge, which is still undergoing repairs.

The Hon. Mrs. Stuart Wortley told the Christchurch Times that the window of the bedroom in which she was sleeping was shattered. Many of the stained glass windows which escaped damage when a bomb fell near by towards the end of the war suffered. Glasshouses and gardens were ruined.

Mrs. F. A. Power said that the explosion was terrific. "With the roar of the wind, and sound of falling glass, I thought an aeroplane had crashed, and phoned the police," she told a Christchurch Times reporter.

Iron railings blown from the beach were found in her garden, and a fragment believed to be part of the mine casing.

Col. F. Adams, D.S.O., described the explosion as "like a very large bomb." "I was awake at the time," he said. "But I couldn't do anything so I went to bed again."

The explosion occurred at about 5.20 a.m. and woke sleepers for many miles around.