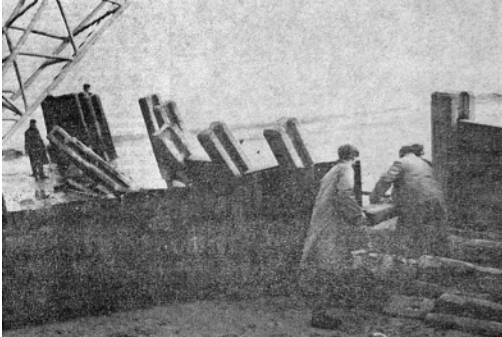


Town will have to find 'several hundred pounds more'

DEFENCES SHOCK FOR RATEPAYERS

Council fighting to stop tidal invasion menace

Christchurch Herald 15th March, 1963



THE £11,000 Mudeford Sandbank defence scheme to stop a tidal invasion of Christchurch is going to cost the ratepayers several hundreds of pounds more than they thought.

Gales over the weekend and a recent "fog swell" have caused damage estimated at £1,750 to a concrete groyne and existing defences.

In addition to this bill, the Beach Committee was told this week that the ratepayers will have to find £650 more towards the new scheme because the Hampshire County Council grant is that much less than expected.

In the strong southerly winds and high tides of last weekend, four private beach huts were swept from their sites by the sea scouring under a 100-yard length of the old wooden piling defences.

UNDERMINED

They would have been carried out to sea but for the fact that they were jammed behind the piling. Eight huts were undermined by the sea which is eroding the sand dunes on which they stand, and another 11 are in danger.

The hut owners have been notified by telephone and telegram.

One owner rushed down there with spades and sandbags to provide her own "sea defences."

To prevent further inroads Corporation workmen have hammered down some of the horizontal sleepers in the wooden piling defences to fill the gap caused by the scouring tide.

Workmen are also repairing the 80ft. concrete groyne, first constructed in 1954, which was pushed over by a recent "fog swell." This phenomenon is caused by fog acting on a rough sea and causing high rollers which come in at very long intervals.

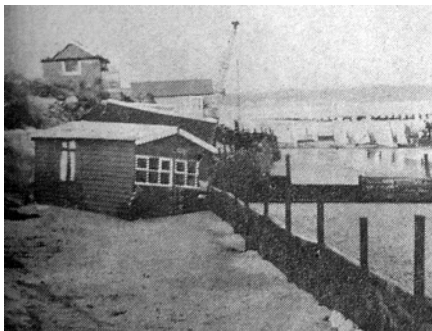
ON ORDER

"They sometimes do a lot of destruction," said borough engineer Mr. Ernest B. Wise this week.

"We have got some new materials on order and will start putting them in as soon as they have been delivered."

The damaged defences adjoin the new scheme, which consists of interlocking steel sheets, and should be completed before the end of April. This scheme was undamaged by last weekend's gales.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has made a grant of £3,400 towards the new scheme and it is hoped the Ministry and the County Council will contribute to the damage bill.



PROFIT

The County Council has given £1,500 towards the new scheme, but a grant of £2,150 was expected. "Their reason is that it is a profit-making beach," said Christchurch town clerk Mr. John Macfadyen. "This means that the borough will have to pay more."

The borough's share is being paid by means of a loan over a number of years. The responsibility for the sea defences falls on Christchurch even though much of Mudeford Sandbank belongs to Bournemouth Corporation. The land is held by Christchurch Corporation on a repairing lease.