

PERMANENT CONCRETE TRENCHES FOR THE BOROUGH

UNDERGROUND SHELTERS FOR NEARLY TWO THOUSAND RECREATION GROUND AND JUMPERS SITES FIXED

C.T. April 15, 1939

WITHIN the next few months, bomb-proof A.R.P. trenches to accommodate 1,600 Christchurch people are to be constructed in different parts of the borough. Tenders are already invited by the Borough Surveyor's Department for the making of such shelters at the Barrack Road Recreation Ground, and at Jumpers. Provision will be made later for similar refuges at Purewell and Highcliffe.

These new concrete trenches are to be constructed to a design and standard approved by the Home Office.

The trenches, which are to be some five feet in width, will be lined and roofed with re-inforced concrete. Two feet of soil will cover the concrete roof. The trenches will afford protection to the occupants from flying splinters and shock of explosions within a radius of about 50 to 100 yards. They will be built upon the traditional "zig-zag" plan in order to present a line of "least resistance" to any explosion.

JUMPERS SHELTERS.

At Jumpers, the shelters will be erected upon land adjoining the common owned by the Burial Board. It is situated close to the end of Gardner Road, and will be easily accessible from Fairmile and Barrack Roads. It is planned to construct about 150 feet.

Special attention is to be given to camouflage, and the Recreation Ground trenches will in no way detract from the ground's appearance. In fact they are to be rendered almost invisible. When covered and capped by flowers and shrubs they may become quite ornamental.

At the Recreation Ground the shelters will be 100 yards in length, being dug parallel to Sopers Lane and close to the Fountain Hotel.

When completed the entrances to trenches will be filled in to prevent misuse.

When sites have been acquired, 100 yards of trench will be provided at Purewell, and another 50 yards at Highcliffe.

The invitation to tender reads as follows: "The Christchurch Town Council invite tenders for the excavation and construction of Permanent Concrete Lined Shelter Trenches at the Barrack Road Recreation Ground and at Jumpers Common.

"Drawings may be inspected, and specification, conditions, quantities and forms of tender obtained, at the office of the Borough Engineer."

These tenders must be received not later than Monday, April 24th