## Pershore's hidden Gem

Our contractor was cutting the new field at Pershore and his mower hit a solid construction in the middle of the field and stopped him dead.



The chrome spigot looked brand new so it was very intriguing as to what it was.

So I did a little research.

In 1940 with invasion expected at any time a decision was made to create "Stop Lines" across the country.

Birmingham was a target for obvious reasons so the Avon "Stop Line" was started on 1st August

1940 to defend the industrial heartland of the UK, it was to run from Tewkesbury to Leamington.

As well as bridges there would be locks, weirs and canals to be considered so the BAA have lots of hidden history on and around our waters.

Back to our mystery structure. There are still anti-tank cylinders on the old medieval bridge at Pershore so I suspected it could be something to do with the defences.

I found this old WW2 Defence plan of the bridge at Pershore I have marked in yellow where the Structure was found, It is in fact a "Visible Spigot Mortar Pedestal" As the name suggests it's a mount for a "Blacker Bombard or Spigot Mortar". A pit would have been dug for the troops to fire from, the pit would give little cover and they would be very exposed and I would suggest that they would be considered to be expendable.

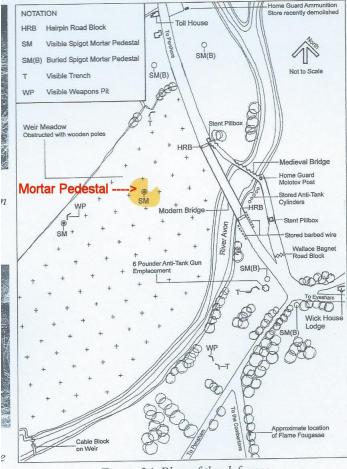


Figure 24. Plan of the defences

## Photo showing Troops manning a firing pit. note how exposed they are.



The mortar was designed to stop tanks and if you look on the plan you will see that it is close to the road so I should think that they would only get one or two shots off before being in trouble.

Here's one with a concrete surround and you can clearly see the pedestal which I assume is made from chrome like the one in our field that looks as new as the day it was first installed.



Heres what it looks like under ground so I don't think is going to be removed in a hurry.

We have marked its location in the field so the next time you fish at Pershore walk across and reflect and put yourself in the position of the young lads who were there to defend Birmingham during WW2.

