

Wartime West Sussex 1939 - 1945 ON THE HOME FRONT - DAILY LIFE

Civilians banned from Worthing seafront

Worthing Gazette, July 3rd 1940

DAY AND NIGHT BAN ON SEA FRONT Entirely Closed To Civilians

By an Order of the Military Commander for West Sussex, the whole of the beach and parade at Worthing, together with the footpath on the south side of the coast road, was placed out of bounds to civilians from five o'clock yesterday evening. The ban applies to the whole 24 hours, and automatically bans bathing.

It is part of an Order which covers all the West Sussex coastline, and also extends as far as Black Rock, Brighton, in the east. It will remain in force until further notice.

Houses adjoining the promenade are not affected, except that the residents cannot make use of the beach. The south footpath on the coast road is still in use for the taking up and setting down of passengers on public service vehicles, but civilians must cross to the north side of the road after alighting.

NO TRAFFIC BAN.

So far there is no announcement of restriction of traffic on the coast road, but road users are asked to take alternative routes wherever possible.

Yesterday's decision to close the south footpath as well as the beaches and promenades followed an Order announced yesterday morning putting the beaches and promenades out of bounds for the whole of the 24 hours.

The total ban supersedes the curfew announced on Monday, when the beaches and promenades were placed out of bounds to civilians from five in the evening until five in the morning.

POSITION OF THE HOTELS.

Several hotels on the Front closed at the week-end, among them Warnes and the Burlington, but the majority of the hotels in the town are remaining open for the present.

This morning Mr. H. J. K. Herink, the Secretary of the Worthing Hotel and Boarding House Association, told the *Worthing Gazette* that a meeting of the Association would be held in a few days' time to decide what action to take.

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TOWN HALL WINS BEACH CONCESSION

BATHING ALLOWED

Part of the sea front and beach ban, imposed by military authorities at Worthing some time ago, has been lifted as a result of direct pressure from Town Hall officials.

Two stretches of the beach are now open to the public for bathing, walking, sitting and general recreation.

These areas, which are bounded by wire obstructions, are:

From Warwick-road to Seamill Park (East Worthing).

From Wallace-avenue to a point 500 yards westwards.

People may use these stretches of beach and sea front between 9.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. until further notice.

It is understood that the Town Clerk (Mr J. Kennedy Allerton) made several other requests for the lifting of restrictions, but so far this concession is the only result. There are hopes that further concessions will be made shortly, but everything depends, apparently, on the war situation.

The whole of the area from Warwick-road westwards to Wallace-avenue is still under the military ban, and the public is not allowed to use the promenades on the south side of the coast road. The same applies to points eastwards of Seamill Park, and points westward of the boundary given 500 yards beyond Wallace-avenue.

Though first results of the Town Hall's requests for concessions are only small, it is felt generally that at least something has been achieved for the benefit of the town.

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