

Tarbat's War Effort

Education sheet for Secondary Pupils

Propaganda Film

In 1942 a propaganda film called 'Before the Raid' was filmed in Portmahomack. The story was about a Norwegian fishing village suffering under Nazi occupation, and how its brave inhabitants resisted the Nazis.

'Propaganda' can involve:

- Giving information to influence an audience and further an agenda
- Choosing what facts to share to encourage a particular perception
- Using loaded language to produce emotional rather than rational response

Can you think of an example of more recent propaganda? Answer the questions below about your example:

Who is presenting the propaganda?

What is their agenda (what do they want to achieve)?

What do they want the audience to think/feel?

How do they achieve this?

How will this benefit them?

Below are some extracts of the script to give an idea of the plot of 'Before the Raid':

"This place Norjsen where you come from, what's it like?"

"It was a nice place till the Nazi burnt it."

"Burnt it? What for?"

"That's a long story."

"The Germans had not been in Norway long before there was a shortage of food for us Norwegians. Whoever else might go short it would not be the Germans, and they brought hunger to our people – to our women and children – when our men were far away on the fishing grounds."

"Every day there are regulations, and new measures circulated to provoke us, but we have brought home a good catch of fish. But now we are told that the whole catch will be



handed to occupying authorities. This, they say, will encourage us to bring more fish home in the future.”

“For so long we had refused to be provoked. But now we had had enough, if we can’t have it they cant either.” They throw the fish back into the sea.

“Krruer tried to avoid an open revolt, but the Germans were waiting for just this excuse to start shooting.”

“We held a secret meeting, we determined to show the Germans once and for all that we Norwegian villagers were free men and not slaves. If it came to a fight this time, well, we had had enough, and we’d take the consequences.”

“We sailed several miles down the fjord and then according to the plan we stopped our engines and refused to go any further. The Germans wanted fish and we wanted food. We refused to cast our nets until the Germans agreed to our terms.”

The Germans shoot at the fisherman.

“This was unprovoked attack, we were unarmed, our only weapon with which to reply to German bullet was the skill in handling our craft.”

The fishing vessels surround the German boat and attack them.

“So shall die all Nazis who plunder our land, our people, and so shall die all traitors who betray us to our enemies.”



Did things like this really happen? You can find out by emailing a museum in Norway. Write some questions and send them to:

haraldr@romsdalsmuseet.no – Haraldr at the coastal museum in the fishing village of Bud

oystein.kobbeltveit@falstadsenteret.no

– Oystein at the Falstad centre

Look at the ‘Before the Raid’ exhibition page – <https://www.tarbat-discovery.co.uk/ve-day>

If you can, visit some of the location.

Can you find them?

Do they look the same?

[Rosemary Mackay on Am Baile](#)

Listen to memories of Rosemary Mackay on the Am Baile website. What can you discover about Portmahomack during the filming?

Artefact investigation



This is a regimental cap badge. It is about 5cm wide. It was found in a field on the edge of the village.

Can you find out:

- what regiment it was used by
- what the words mean
- imagine how it may have come to be there?

This is a shell fuse. It is about 12cm wide. It was found in a field at the edge of the village. You can look at a 3D model here:
<https://skfb.ly/6RHPN>
It has numbers and letters around the outside. It dates to 1915.

Can you find out what it did?

Imagine how it may have come to be there.



A soldier's story

On the Tarbat Discovery Centre 'Portmahomack at War – a Memorial' exhibition on <https://www.tarbat-discovery.co.uk/ve-day> choose one of the people from the First World War and one from the Second World War. Read their stories.

How are they similar? How are they different?

Make a poppy for those individuals. You can send us a picture if you like to curator@tarbat-discovery.co.uk