



Tank Trap Diagram by Tim Walker

WWII Tank Trap

During WWII on St. Marks Avenue towards Somerset Road a tank trap was erected. It seems hard to imagine this design was unique but I suspect it was. It was just north of the Netheravon Road/St. Marks Avenue junction which was actually quite sweeping and thus had a pinch point slightly northwards where the trap was constructed, by hand. It was constructed of concrete as shown in the drawing above.

There were four pyramid shaped concrete blocks that were offset to allow a car or van to enter at the arrows, but nothing bigger could get through. The vehicle would then turn sharply to drive between the two sets of pyramids and turn sharply again to exit. I have never seen or heard anything like this design before or since and I suspect there is a lovely story behind it. St. Marks Avenue was not the busiest thoroughfare in the land anyway.

Since we now know how the Germans operated, the constructions was actually a waste of time.

My father's car, a rather large Austin Six, had difficulty getting through the gap and he always expressed an opinion which was not complimentary about them every time we drove through. He was actually quite right.

Near the tank trap was a field belonging to the large Girls School, Leahurst Convent. Late in the War a Barrage Balloon suddenly appeared in this field and was a source of wonderment for us children. How could anything so large float upwards? Well, it was proved about a month later as float upwards it did and was last seen heading towards Andover. Our visions of seeing a German plane crashing in flames in our field were dashed especially as it wasn't replaced and the men and machine manning it disappeared one night soon afterwards..