

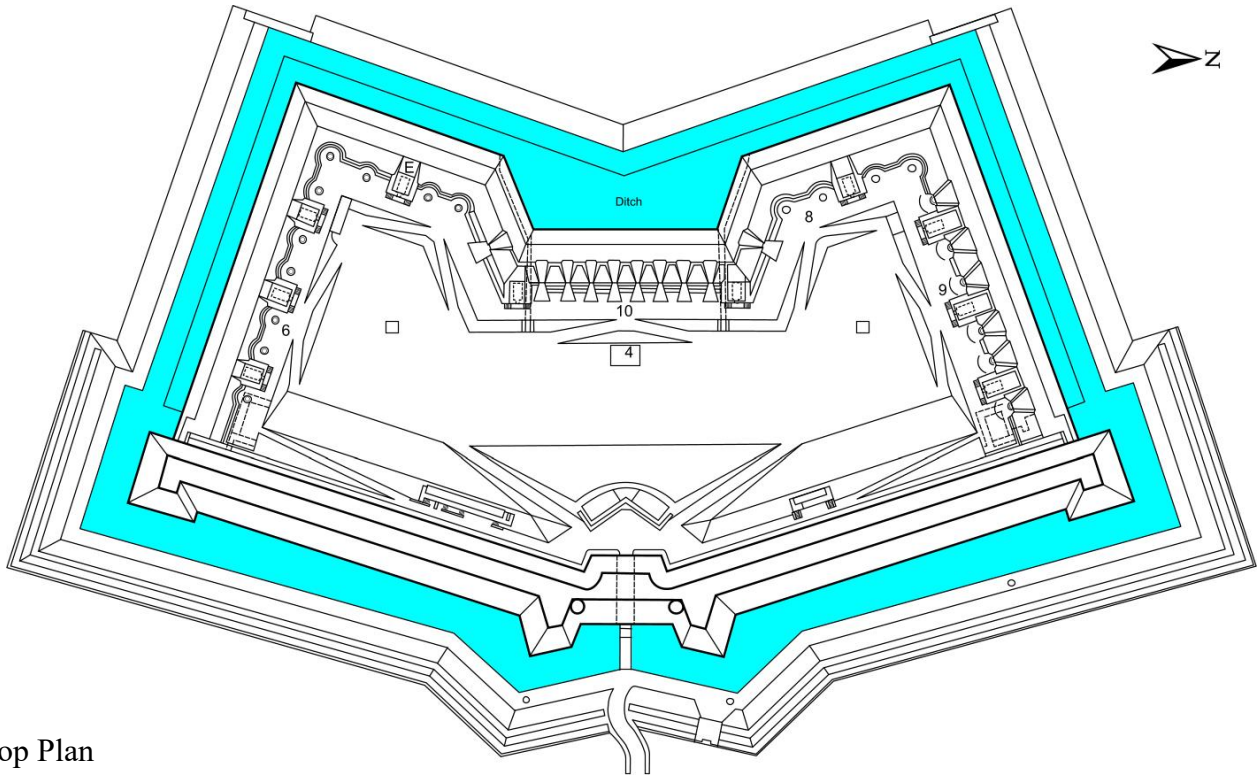
Fort Gomer

Commenced	1853	Armament	
Completed	1858		
Cost	£ 92,000 (The Times 1858)	Designed for 30 guns on the ramparts.	
Map Reference	SZ 588993	1860 armament	9 x 68 pr. 5 x 10-inch 85 cwt. 7 x 8-inch 65 cwt. 9 x 32 pr. 3 x 13-inch mortars.
Position	Western Flank, Gosport Advanced Lines	1886 mounted	20 x 7-inch RBL and 2 x 13-inch mortars.
Type	Land front, Early Polygonal	1888 -1898 mounted	6 x 64pr 58cwt. RMLs, 8 x 7-inch RBLs
Ditch	Wet	1901 Disarmed	
Guns	73		
Barrack Accom.	300	Caponiers	None - two flanking galleries
Present use	Nothing Remaining / Under housing estate	Counterscarp galleries	Two 'bastionettes'
History	Army Barracks Sold for demolition in 1964	Haxo casemates	None
Disposal		Moncrieff Pits	None
Condition	Nothing remaining		
Access			
Sources	Solent Papers No 6		

History and Description

Fort Gomer was constructed between 1853 and 1858 and as such it was the first of the Polygonal land forts based on the Prussian System of mutual defence. It was unique and an example of early attempts to break away from the old bastioned system of fortification. A low lying brick barracks occupied the rear of the fort, closing off the gorge. To the west the main armament of the fort was placed on two earth bastions with a central curtain providing more guns firing through embrasures. Flanking fire for ditch defence was provided for musketry only. Two bastionettes were placed on the far side of the wet ditch, one at each shoulder. Two more flanking galleries fired across the faces of the curtain and bastions. It was possibly intended to mount guns on the roof of the barrack, using it as a cavalier, but this was never done. Mortars were to be mounted on the central parade. The fort was modified early on to remedy shortcomings in its method of mounting guns, barbette positions being substituted for some of the embrasures on the flanks. In the Victorian period the fort was used mainly as barracks and as a training establishment. Line regiments undergoing the musketry course at Browdown were quartered in the fort. It was disarmed in 1901. It saw service as a training facility once more in preparing troops for the Boer War and the First World War trenches. The 3rd. Field Training Regiment was stationed at the fort during 1939. A Canadian unit, The Fort Garry Horse occupied the Fort in 1943/4 with its A and Headquarters Squadron for Amphibious assault training. The 1st Hussars (6th Armoured Regiment) moved to Fort Gomer on 4 March 1944 in preparation for the D-Day landings. The 7th. Royal Tank Regiment was based at the fort in the 1950s, leaving in 1953. Briefly in 1953 the fort was occupied by the RAOC Boys Training School and the fort was eventually released in 1964. It was sold at auction for £169,000 and a Fareham firm demolished it to provide land for housing. Nothing of it remains.

Fort Gomer



Top Plan

