

Portishead Battery

Commenced	1901	1902 -1905
Completed	1902	2 x 6-inch BL Mk11
Cost	£ Unknown	1907
Map Reference	ST: 465 775	Disarmed
Position	Bristol Channel, Avonmouth. Severn South Fire Command	1940-1945
Type	Coast Defence	2 x 6-inch(N) (manned by Home Guard)
Ditch	Nil	1944
Guns	2	Care and Maintenance
Barrack Accom.		
Present use	Demolished	
History	Coast Defence	
Disposal		
Condition	Gun aprons survive	
Access	Public open space	
Sources	The Bristol Channel Swansea Defences by Ian Stevenson	The defences of the Bristol channel in the last two centuries. Fort 11 Margaret Pinsent

History and Description

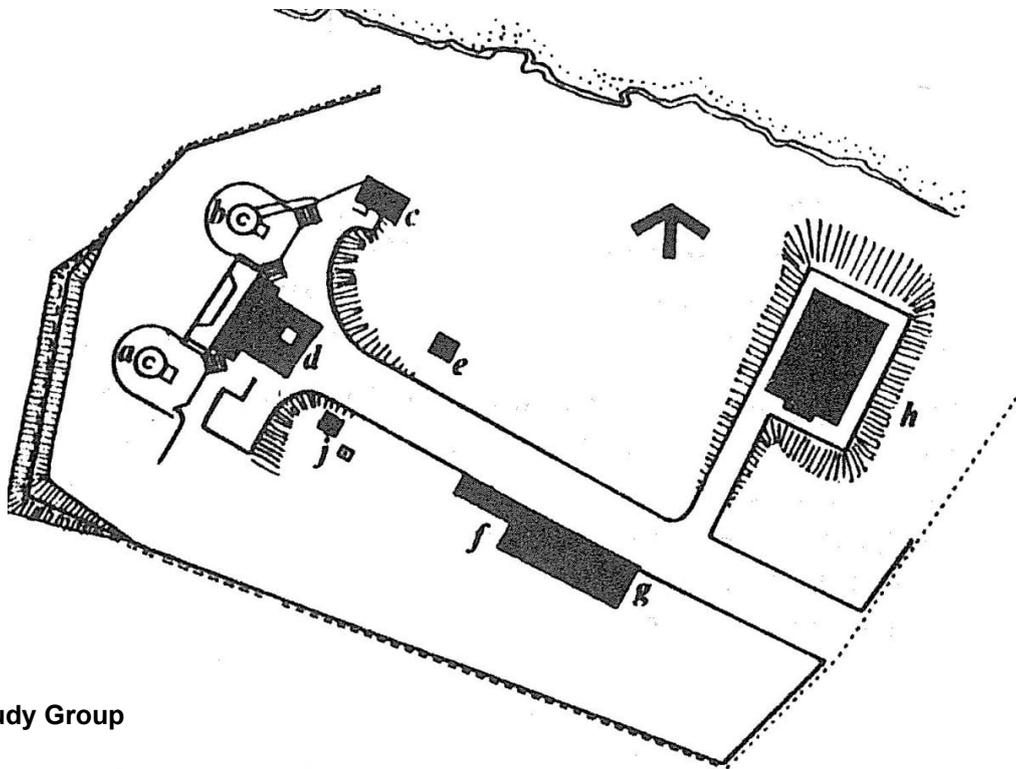
In the early years of the nineteenth century a battery at Portishead was armed with four thirty-six pounder guns. Nine years after the Bristol Channel defences were completed a committee was set up to consider the defences of the Mercantile Ports of the United Kingdom. A sub-committee visited the area in June 1881 and recommended that at Portishead, the old battery should be reconstructed to mount three of the surplus 7-inch RML guns. They said that the existing defences, whilst in good order, could not close the Bristol Channel to an enemy determined to press his attack. The Report was considered by the Inspector-General of Fortifications who recommended a second line of defence at Cardiff, Newport, Portishead and Avonmouth to deal with vessels running past the existing defences on a flood tide. The Report's recommendations along with those of the Inspector-General were never implemented, the cost in the eyes of the Government being prohibitive.

Six years after the Morley Report the Bristol Channel defences were reviewed by the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers Works Committee in two reports. In 1894 came the wide ranging and comprehensive report by the Joint Naval and Military Committee that considered the question of coast defence as a single entity instead of piecemeal, viewing each port or harbour in isolation. The Committee proposed the immediate protection of the docks at Swansea, Barry, Cardiff, Newport, Portishead and Avonmouth.

The battery consisted of two gun emplacements with a BOP behind, a hut for signallers gear next to a flagstaff, a separate magazine for the volunteers, RA general store and artificers, A cottage at the rear acted as a caretaker's quarters and a barrack room.

The Montgomery Committee recommended that Portishead should receive two six inch QF guns to cover the approaches to Bristol and Avonmouth. These were supplied and mounted. The Owen Committee of 1904 recommended that Portishead Battery be disarmed and this was done by 1907. Two 12pdr QF guns were mounted in a new Portishead Battery to the east of the old one, these were removed at the end of the war. In 1940 it was proposed that Portishead Battery be re armed with two 6-inch BL naval guns.

Portishead Battery



Fortress Study Group

John Cartwright fsgfort.com/fortfinder/poi/portishead-battery-battery-point/



Portishead: The gun Apron