

## Upton Battery

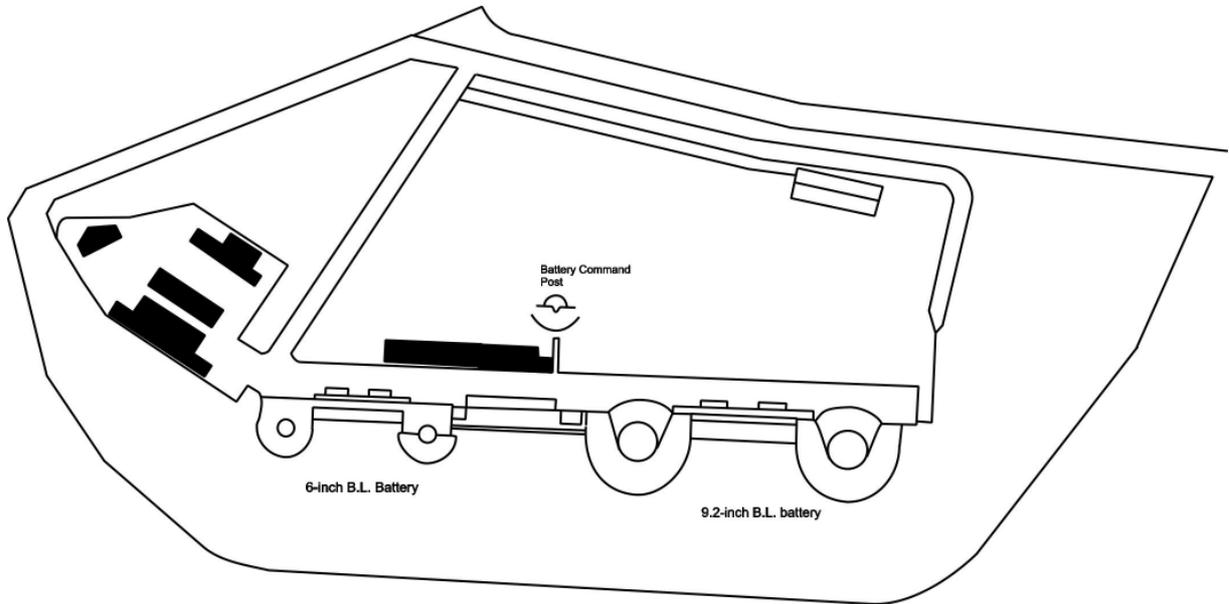
<b>Commenced</b>	1902	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1902	<b>1902 Proposed</b>	2 x 6-inch B.L. 2 x 9.2-inch B.L.
<b>Cost</b>	£	<b>1902 Mounted</b>	2 x 9.2-inch B.L.
<b>Map Reference</b>	SY 742815	<b>1940-41</b>	2 x 6-inch Naval Mk XVI on PVIII mountings
<b>Position</b>	Osmington, North of Weymouth		
<b>Type</b>	Coast defence		
<b>Ditch</b>	dry with unclimbable fence		
<b>Guns</b>	4		
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>			
<b>Present use</b>	Private permanent residences		
<b>History</b>	Coast defence, used for a while as a school.	<b>Caponiers</b>	None
<b>Disposal</b>	Sold 1945?	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	None
<b>Access</b>	Private.	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>Sources</b>	Military Dorset Today & F.S.G. notes		

### History and Description

Upton Battery was built in 1902 to defend Weymouth and the approaches to Portland harbour. It was designed to mount two 6-inch B.L. and two 9.2-inch B.L. guns but armament returns show that the 6-inch guns were never approved or mounted. The 9.2-inch guns, fitted in 1902, were Mk X on Mark V barbette mountings. The battery consisted of the two 6-inch emplacements to the west with the two 9.2-inch emplacements to the east, all in line. This was surrounded by an earthen bank with a dry ditch and unclimbable fence. A sunken road ran behind the gun positions. Between each pair of guns was a magazine of the usual pattern for these types of gun. Behind the battery steps lead up to the Battery Command Post, with the ablutions, cookhouse and telephone room adjacent. To the west of the 6-inch battery were the latrines, caretakers quarters, RA store, paint store, smiths' and fitters' shops and armament office, most of which still survive. Major Dalton's report of 1904 called for the hydraulic machinery, not yet supplied, to be fitted. After WWI the 9.2-inch guns were removed and for a while the battery was used as a school. The army requisitioned the fort again in WWII

Between June 1940 and 1941 the 9.2-inch B.L. emplacements were reconfigured to take two ex-naval 6-inch B.L. Mk XVI guns on PVIII mountings from HMS Erin (scrapped in 1921). Two searchlights, a French 4.5-inch howitzer, a German aeroplane M.G. together with a Bofors completed the wartime armament. The army left the fort in 1945/46 and it was rented out. The WWII 6-inch B.L. guns were removed by 1956. The battery is now privately owned as holiday and permanent residences. The overhead cover to the WWII gun positions is in a state of collapse but many of the original buildings have been incorporated into homes.

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Emplacement for 6-inch B.L. Naval (WWII)