

Fort Carlisle

Commenced	August 1861		
Completed	1874		
Cost	£ 79,695		
Map Reference			
Position	White Bay, Cork harbour		
Type	Coast Defence		
Ditch	Dry		
Guns	24		
Barrack Accom.			
Present use	Department of Defence training facility		
History	Coast Defence		
Disposal	Irish Authorities 1938		
Condition	Mostly intact		
Access			
Sources	1868 Report on the Construction, Condition and Costs of Fortification. The Defences of Cork Harbour - Redan No. 42. Owen Report 1905 :		
		1886	2 x 12-inch R.M.L. 3 x 11-inch R.M.L. 2 x 10-inch R.M.L. 8 x 7-inch R.M.L. 3 x 40pr RBL 4 x 20pr RBL (movable) 2 x 64pr RML (practice) 4 x 10-inch SB mortars
		1898	Approved Mounted 2 x 9.2-inch B.L. 2 x 12-inch B.L. 4 x 6-inch B.L. 8 x 7-inch R.M.L. 3 x 11-inch R.M.L. 3 x 11-inch R.M.L.
		R.M.L.	2 x 10-inch R.M.L. 2 x 10-inch R.M.L. 3 x 40pr R.B.L. 3 x 40pr R.B.L. 4 x 20pr R.B.L. 4 x 20pr R.B.L. 3 x 6pr Q.F. 3 x 6pr Q.F. 6 machine guns 6 machine guns
		1905	2 x 9.2-inch B.L.MkX 4 x 6-inch B.L.MkVII 3 x 12pr Q.F.
		1914	(Aug) 1 x 9.2 BL MK X on Mk V mounting + 1 in reserve
		1918	1 x 9.2 BL MK X on Mk V mounting
		1938	removed, transferred to Templebreedy as replacement for damaged gun
		Caponiers:	3 of concrete
		Moncrieff Pits:	8 (4 Pattern I and 4 Pattern II)

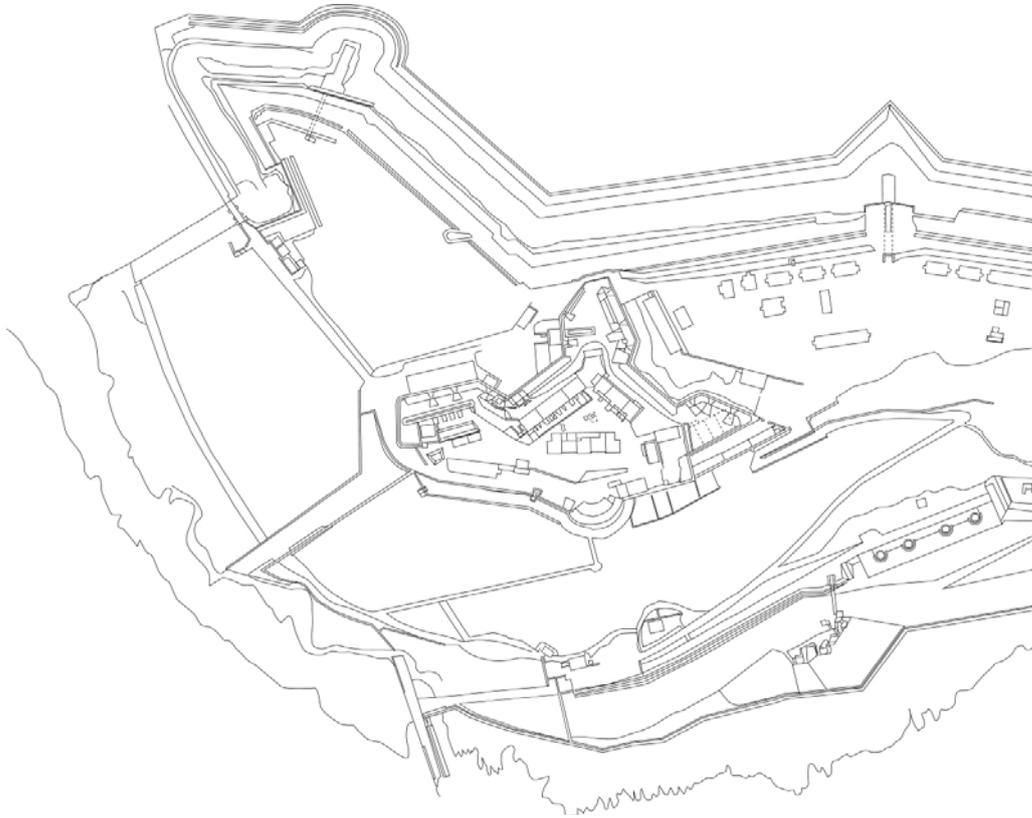
History and Description

Fort Carlisle was constructed opposite Fort Camden on the eastern side of the harbour to the north of White Bay and cooperated with Camden to command the entrance to the harbour. The first of the Cork works to be commenced under the Royal Commission the land defences consisted of a line of rampart enclosing the sites of various existing batteries with a rock-cut 40ft wide ditch, 30ft deep cutting the fort on the landward side. The ditch was flanked by three single storied musketry galleries constructed of concrete and a covered way. The construction began in August 1861 but the contractor was bankrupted in 1863. The work was completed by persons employed by the trustees of the bankrupts, with the War Department taking over in September 1863. From 1864 to 1867 the work was undertaken by a force of 180 convicts. In October 1867 the convicts were transferred to Spike Island. Military and civilian labour completed the work. The terreplein of the fort was to be armed with movable armament, as at Camden, with positions prepared for eight guns. Near the entrance to the fort at the northern end is the old Napoleonic fort consisting of one full and two demi bastions with a circular one built to contain the old sea facing battery. This was later adapted as a saluting battery with 12pr QF guns. The Victorian batteries are approached via a zig-zag traverse from the southern demi-bastion. At its northern end the traverse levels put with a small pier and an entrance to the concrete fort covering it. South from the pier along the covered way is the 6pr QF battery. In front of this were searchlights to operate in conjunction with similar ones at Fort Camden to cover the harbour entrance. Next is No.1 battery originally for four 7inch RML guns on Moncrieff mountings it was reconstructed for three 12pr QF guns by placing a platform on top of the pits. From here a short vaulted tunnel leads down stairs to No. 2 battery, casemated for two 10-inch RML guns firing through armoured shields. No.3 Battery is next with four positions for 7inch RMLs on Moncrieff Pattern I Mountings. These were never altered and remain as built. Another vaulted tunnel leads to No.4 battery which is casemated for three 10-inch RMLs firing through shields. This was later converted to an oil store. From this battery a long flight of steps leads back to the upper level of the fort where the BL guns were later placed. At the southern end of the forts ditch is another flanking gallery.

Armed with a range of R.M.L. guns the work was upgraded in 1898 with two 9.2-inch B.L. guns and four 6-inch B.L. guns. Two new batteries were built (North Battery and South Battery) and two of the earlier ones converted for the new armament. The four 7-inch RMLs on Moncrieff Pattern II mountings were removed and the battery rebuilt for three 12pr Q.F. guns. Rupert's Tower Battery was rebuilt with the two 12-inch RMLs removed and two 6-inch BL Mk VII guns emplaced. Adjacent to Rupert's Tower Battery the fort is divided internally by a ditch covered by a flanking gallery where it changes direction. South battery is on the south side with a command post and position finding cell behind. South Battery was remodelled for two 9.2-inch BL Mark X guns.

The Owen Committee of 1905 recommended leaving the four 6-inch BLs and three 12pr QF guns as anti-torpedo boat defence with the 9.2-inch BL guns for counter bombardment. By 1914 one of the 9.2-inch BLs had been removed with the other guns still in place. In 1927 the two remaining 12pr QF guns in No.1 battery were dismantled. In 1938 when the Irish Authorities took over the armament the fort still had two 6-inch BL MK VII guns in Rupert's Tower battery and one 9.2inch B.L. gun in South Battery. The fort was renamed as Fort Davis. Coast Defence was stood down in 1949 and the 6-inch guns were left for training and practice.

Fort Carlisle



RML Casemates