

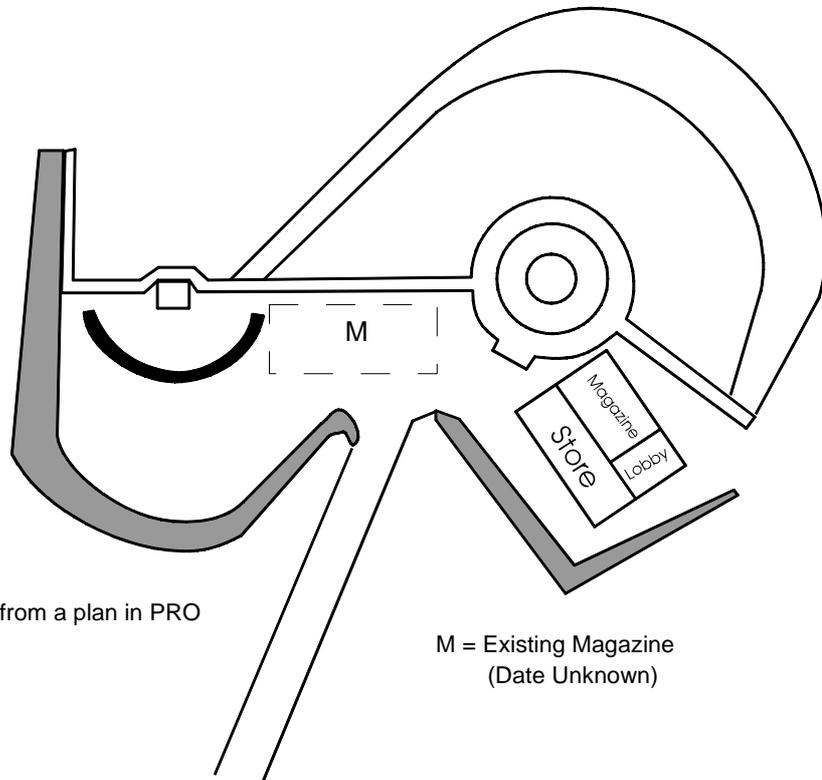
Padstow Battery

Commenced	1855 (rebuilt 1868)	Armament	
Completed		Earlier -	12 pounder
Cost	£ Unknown		3 x 32pr. SB
Map Reference	493477	1888 -	1 x 64pr. R.M.L.
Position	Gun Point		1 x 32pr. S.B.
Type	Coast Battery	1890 -	2 x 64pr. R.M.L.
Ditch	None	WWI -	60 pdr. Field gun
Guns	2	1940	2 x 4-inch naval
Barrack Accom.	One bungalow.	1942-45	2 x 138mm French naval
Present use	Vacant		
History	Coastal battery	Caponiers	None
Disposal	1945	Counterscarp galleries	None
Condition	Part restored (still under	Haxo casemates	None
Access	restoration)	Moncrieff Pits	None
Sources	No Problem		

History and Description

Padstow is a small port in the River Camel on the north coast of Cornwall. There is evidence of defences at Gun Point, and elsewhere in the estuary, dating from 1858. Other defences, built at Gun Point for its protection during the Napoleonic Wars, had a good field of fire up the river to its mouth. Parts of the present structure were built before 1780. The Victorian battery was also constructed at Gun Point for two guns firing en-barbette. A Victorian guidebook states that a Henrician gun was taken from the battery in 1868, when the battery was rebuilt for the Padstow Artillery Volunteers. There was barrack accommodation, in the form of a bungalow, for the guardians of the battery in 1886, which was occupied up to 1952. Since the gunners were volunteers, they would have lived at home in Padstow. Towards the end of its military life the battery was relegated to practice battery status and with the silting up of the mouth of the River Camel preventing the larger ships from reaching Padstow, the battery was disarmed and abandoned at the turn of the century. Once a site has been selected for a gun position its potential remains and so in 1940 a war emergency battery for two 4-inch naval guns was built on Victorian battery with all necessary attendant structures including a Battery Observation Post and Range Finder position with searchlights. One gun sited on top of the 1780 barbette mounting and the second was on the flank of the battery. Later in the war (1942) the 4-inch naval guns were replaced by two French 138mm (5.4-inch) naval guns which could not be mounted in the former 4-inch positions and so one of these French guns was mounted at the Victorian battery. After the war ended the 138mm guns were dismounted and returned to France and the site was abandoned after all military equipment had been removed. Later almost all the buildings of the wartime battery were demolished down to their concrete bases which remain on-site to day. Quite surprisingly the outline of the Victorian battery survives, as do the remains of the gun positions. Along the coastal path towards Padstow are to be found the remains of the WWII generator house for nearby searchlights, an oil store, now overgrown and derelict. Close by the Victorian battery and to its rear are the foundations of the bungalow together with a water tank dated 1888. The WD boundary posts are dated 1868 and the existing magazine probably dates from this period.

Padstow Battery



Taken from a plan in PRO

M = Existing Magazine
(Date Unknown)

