

Pier Cellars Brennan Station

Commenced	1888	Armament 1888 to 1903 Brennan torpedoes QF Battery 1898 2 x 12pdr QF 1 x MG WW1 2 x 12pdr QF
Completed	1890	
Cost	£	
Map Reference	SX 435495	
Position	Cawsand Bay	
Type	Brennan Torpedo Station	
Ditch		
Guns	2 (in the QF battery)	
Barrack Accom.		
Present use	MOD Navy Adventure Training	
History	Harbour Defence ASDIC (sonar)	
Disposal	Still in use	
Condition	Bricked-up portions not used	
Access	none to Brennan Station	
Sources	Beanse The Brennan Torpedo	

History and Description

Constructed in 1888/89 as a purpose built Brennan Torpedo Station it was in use until 1903 and was finally closed down in 1906. Located on the South side of Cawsand Bay and to the North East of Penlee Battery its purpose was to defend Cawsand Bay, and to a lesser extent the Western approaches to Plymouth Sound and the Breakwater. Built of shuttered concrete and brickwork the Station was covered with earth to protect it from incoming shell-fire and obscure its position. The station itself consists of a series of terraced buildings and underground chambers which include an engine room, dynamo room, wire winding store, torpedo room with a launching slipway situated on the East of a stone built harbour. The Brennan torpedo was a land-based wire-driven anti-ship weapon. It was steered and propelled by unwinding two wires from drums contained inside the torpedo body.

In 1896 a searchlight (Brennan Light) was added to the Station and in 1895 a QF battery and a maxim machine gun were proposed for the site. An iron landing pier for the delivery of torpedos was added in 1898. The site was used during WWII as an HDA, Harbour Defence (ASDIC) Station. The station remains in MOD Navy use for adventure training. The underground portions of the station have been closed off with brickwork and no access is possible.

The nearby QF battery for two 12pdr QF guns was added by 1898. These two guns were dismantled by 1908 but were remounted during WWI. They were removed again sometime between 1920 and 1936. The QF battery is largely intact together with the underground magazine between the guns. The battery was equipped with two searchlights protected by adjoining pillboxes. Both remain.

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