

Verne Quarry High Angle Battery

Commenced	1890?	Armament	
Completed	1892	1892	6 x 9-inch RML High Angle mounts
Cost	£	1898	4 x 9-inch RML High Angle mounts
Map Reference	SY 694732		
Position	Verne Quarry, South of The Verne		
Type	High Angle Coast Defence Battery		
Ditch	None		
Guns	built for 8		
Barrack Accom.	None		
Present use	Open site		
History	Coast Defence	Caponiers	None
Disposal	Abandoned 1907	Counterscarp galleries	None
Condition	Fair	Haxo casemates	None
Access	Open access all year round	Moncrieff Pits	None
Sources	FSG Fort supplement Vol. 9 1981		

History and Description

Verne Quarry Battery was constructed to mount six 9-inch RML guns on High Angle mounts (70 degrees) to fire heavy projectiles down onto the decks of ships attacking the harbour of Portland and could engage moving targets to a range of ten thousand yards. The guns could traverse through 360 degrees and were directed by Position Finding Cells on either side, two at Priory Corner on West Cliff and four on East Cliff. Those on East Cliff still survive as empty roofless shells. The ammunition was stored in two magazines, one at each end of the battery, feeding the guns by a rail, delivering the shells at muzzle height. A date above one of the magazines gives the completion as 1892 whilst other magazines give different dates, suggesting that the battery was completed in stages. Between the magazines were bombproof troop shelters and a laboratory. Two store buildings were built to the rear. Pits for two more guns were added on the flanks sometime after 1898 but these were never fitted, instead they were used for observation points. Plans in the PRO Kew indicate that the Northern one was later converted for use as an Officers' latrine whilst the Southern one became a store. The H.A. guns were still in use in 1906 when Major Dalton inspected the battery. He suggested that it would be a pity to remove them but the Owen Committee recommendations were carried out in 1907, the battery then being abandoned.

The battery survives almost intact but has been suffering at the hands of vandals.

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