

# Dover Lines

Western Heights Preservation Society  
June 2001 News  
Issue 2

Welcome to issue 2 of 'Dover Lines', the Western Heights Preservation Society newsletter. At last we've been able to complete our first members' volunteer project day thanks to a number of factors; the dreaded foot and mouth disease restrictions have been lifted on most of the Heights and the summer is, more or less here. Ten members came along to the North Entrance, top of North Military Road last Saturday, June 9, to help cut back scrub and remove grass and weeds that had accumulated, totally covering the pavement which dates back to the 1860's. This was a relatively small project but as you will see from the photo's below, the difference is clear, and is a real benefit to the appearance of this part of the Heights.



Section of roadway before clearance



Same area following clearance



The Team

If you would like to help with the next Members' project day we would be very pleased to hear from you. By carrying out these tasks we are making a very real difference to Western Heights. Future projects may involve graffiti removal at St. Martin's Battery, Scrub clearance at the Drop Redoubt and steps clearing at Grand Shaft Barracks.

Our thanks to the White Cliffs Countryside Project for their invaluable assistance in carrying out this project.

## The War Game

The BBC film made at Grand Shaft Barracks in 1964 and banned until 1985 is now available on video. Unfortunately though, only on NTSC, the American format. As far as we can find out there are no plans to release this film on PAL video suitable for the UK market. For those interested, the video can be obtained through the internet site, Amazon.com Warning: This film is graphic !

## Citadel Battery

Citadel battery is situated at the western-most point of Western Heights defences and was started in 1898 for three 9.2 inch breech loading guns. At the same time a similar battery was installed behind Dover Castle at Langdon cliffs, here three 9.2 inch guns were installed together with two 6 inch weapons. These were coast defence guns.

During the WW2 years quite a staff worked at the battery. The total manning the guns was 91 people, and this number included a Battery Commander, a Section Commander, 3 Relief Section Commanders, range finding and instruments specialists, telephonists, Battery Commandant's Assistants, Storeman, and AA detachment, an artificer and a gun crew of 66 men.

Aswell as the big guns there was also a small arms store. In July 1942 this contained 97 Lee Enfield rifles, 2 Bren Guns, 2 Spigot Mortars (the mountings of which can still be seen today), 2 Thompson machine guns, 3 Very Light pistols, 4 .38 calibre revolvers and 2 .22 calibre rifles. All the ground to the north and south of the Battery was heavily mined too.

Battery commenced	19.07.1898
Completed and handed over	31.03.1900
Number 3 gun mounted	13.08.1901
Number 2 gun mounted	15.10.1901
Gun trials carried out	22.05.1902
Number 1 gun mounted	09.09.1902
Number 1 gun tested	29.12.1902
Number 2 gun removed to Woolwich then sent abroad	05.12.1910 thru 18.03.1911
Battery manned by No. 40 Company, Royal Garrison Artillery	05.08.1914
Replacement guns manufactured (No's 1 & 3)	02.11.1935
Numbers 1 & 3 guns removed	Feb 1938
Replacement guns mounted (No's 1 & 3)	Dec 1939
Battery no longer operational	20.10.1943

Source: Public Record Office: WO 192/45



Citadel Battery from the air

## White Cliffs Countryside Project

Second Annual Western Heights Open Day - 8th July 2001 11am - 4pm

Wildlife of the Western Heights

Western Heights Preservation Society

Western Heights Today

Cinque Ports Volunteer Artillery

Sladden Farm - 'Meet the Dexters' and burger van

Rob and Pat Moon - Green woodworking

English Nature - Local Nature Reserves display

And more...

In addition the Grand Shaft will be open to visitors at the reduced price of 60p adults and 40p children for the duration of the day.

Western Heights History guided walks - 11.30 am and 2.30pm - Duration 2 hours meeting at St. Martins Battery Car Park and including a drill display.

Green Gang - Minibeast Safari - 2.00pm - Duration 1 hour, meeting at

St. Martins Battery Car Park

All details subject to change

For further information contact the WCCP directly on 01304-241806