

## A helper's guide

Welcome to Newhaven Fort. This short guide will help you to make the most of your school visit here.

### General information

- Pupils should be supervised at all times for their own safety to gain the maximum benefit from their school visit and to ensure the enjoyment of the Fort by other visitors.
- In the event of First Aid being required please ask the member of staff in the Guard Room
- In the event of an emergency, the fire assembly point is on the PARADE GROUND between the Searchlight Café and the Romney building.
- The Romney building is available for pupils to leave their belongings and to eat their lunch; they may also use the picnic tables dotted around the parade ground. The Searchlight Café is open for light refreshments and snacks between March and the end of October and for tea and coffee at other times. Please ensure that children leave the café once they have made their purchases.

The adventure playground is for use by the under 12s

Toilets are located in the main entrance tunnel.

Souvenirs can be purchased from the shop located in the GuardRoom. Pupils should be allowed entry in small groups.

When in doubt about anything at all please ask a member of staff.

Finally, enjoy your visit to Newhaven Fort and come back soon!

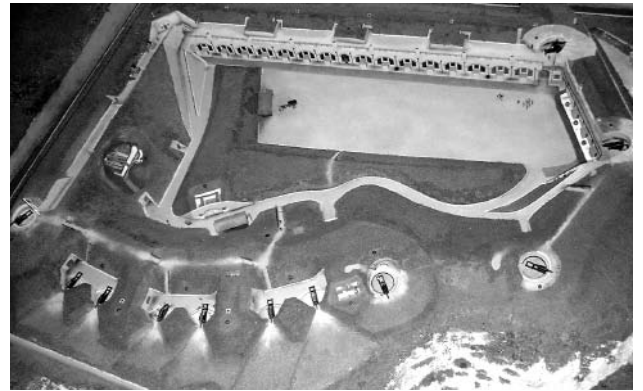
### Around the Fort

#### Theatre

The film in the theatre details the history of the site as a defensive position against invasion from Roman times to the post World War Two era and runs for 12 minutes starting on the hour and at 20 past and twenty to each hour.

#### The Fort collection

A mass display of photographs and other artefacts donated to the Fort in recent times.



### The Fort and Newhaven

- A time line, along with display boards illustrate how the site has been developed since Roman times
- Pupils can identify different parts of the Fort on a detailed model.
- A life size of John Ardagh stands next to photographs of the building of the Fort.

### Life in the Fort

Display boards tell you about daily life in the Fort and the layout of the beds and the sparse facilities give an idea of how uncomfortable life for a soldier could be.

Pupils should press the green button beside the Sergeant major to hear him speak.

The initials above the door at the far end are V.R. (which stand for Victoria Regina - Queen Victoria).

### School Room

Photographs around the walls depict the Home Front and contain a great deal of useful information.

### Sussex land, sea and air

Displays in this room relate to the many and varied military connections with the county of Sussex

The remains of a V-1 "Doodlebug" Flying Bomb are on your left - the tail pipe and a wing are the most substantial remains on display.

Point out the air/sea rescue model to pupils, similar boats operated from the Fort during the war.

### Sussex and Surrey Yeomanry

Formed in 1797 to counter a possible French invasion, these regiments continued to serve until long after the Second World War.

The history of these regiments is depicted with colourful uniforms, medals, photographs and other artefacts.

# NEWHAVEN FORT

## Royal Observer Corps

Two rooms depict the history of one of the most important, if somewhat unsung, elements of Britain's air defence - the Royal Observer Corps (ROC).

Post war Britain brought the menace of a possible nuclear war and the ROC would have been in the forefront of warning the public of an impending attack and in recording and reporting nuclear fall-out.

Formed prior to World War Two, the ROC reported and recorded the movements of enemy and friendly aircraft.

## Dieppe Raid and D-Day

The Dieppe raid took place in August 1942 and casualties were horrendous.

As you enter the display area there is a glass display case containing artefacts relevant to the raid.

If time allows, sit your pupils in the audio-visual display and listen to the four minute commentary



D-Day took place on June 6th 1944

Get pupils to examine the model of the invasion beach and look at the video displays and read the information boards on the walls.

## The Home Front

This is the main focus for your Home Front work sheet. Allow plenty of time to complete them.

Walk through the blitzed house and draw attention to the various air raid shelters

Sit in the Air Raid Experience but be aware that some pupils might find this a distressing experience. Encourage pupils to write down their feelings of the experience as if it was a real air raid.



Visit the other displays mentioned in the worksheet.

## The Eastern Magazine and Caponier

The storeroom with shells in can be found in the long passage at the bottom of the steps

Be careful on the Caponier steps- there are over 70 of them to the bottom.

The Caponier was built to allow soldiers to get from the Fort to the beach to repel attackers. The small windows are small enough to allow a musket to fire through them whilst protecting the soldier within at the same time.

This is where the Fort ghost is said to haunt.

## The Grand Magazine and Caponier

Barrels of gunpowder were stored in the Grand Magazine

Candles placed behind glass windows to keep their flames away from the dangerous gunpowder lighted the area; these candles were serviced via a narrow lighting passage that runs behind them.

Not far from the magazine is the Laboratory where shells were filled with explosive before being taken to the guns.

## The Site

Pupils will enjoy exploring the guns on the ramparts

Make sure that they are supervised at all times, especially in adverse weather.

Point out the way that the guns and the position of the Fort defended Seaford Bay and the harbour of Newhaven and from seaborne attack.

## First World War

Situated in the former Officers Quarters, there is a vast amount of information inter actives, a trench scene and artefacts relating to this terrible conflict.