



## **NEWHAVEN FORT: UNLOCK THE HIDDEN HISTORY**



**Newhaven Fort is the last of a long series of defences built on the cliffs overlooking Seaford Bay, dating back to the Iron Age. The site you see today was started in 1862 and was the vision of a young Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers called John Charles Ardagh.**

**These trails are for use by teachers and adult helpers visiting Newhaven Fort with Key Stage 2 groups.**

When war broke out 1939, Newhaven Fort was a vital element in the defence against the very real threat of German invasion. Thousands of soldiers were stationed in the area, including many Canadians, who took part in the ill-fated Dieppe Raid from Newhaven. Troops also set out from here for the Normandy landings of 1944.

They are intended to support your visit to the Fort, and to help you discover key features of the site and explore some of the displays in the Casemates.

The trails give things to look for, things to think about and things to imagine. The things to think about are intended to be prompts for discussion – there are not necessarily any right or wrong answers.

The trails cover the whole site, but there is a particular focus on the role of the Fort in the Second World War.

# FORT AND NEWHAVEN



Start at the Fort and Newhaven exhibition and look at the model of the Fort. When you have finished, make your way onto the Ramparts. When you get to the top, look across to Newhaven town and the harbour.



1. Find examples of how Newhaven defended itself



1. Why Newhaven has always been an important Port, and still is today.
2. Why Ardagh originally chose the site to build a fort and how useful it has been throughout History.



Life in Newhaven during the Second World War was scary, the fort was a natural defence for the town, what would life have been like here in Newhaven.

Newhaven would have been a very different place, would it have been as busy or as safe? What would have been different? Would different people have lived and worked in the town?

# BATTERY OBSERVATION POST



Walk along the Ramparts to the Battery Observation Post, marked Battery Command Post on the map.



## LOOK FOR

1. Find the binoculars in your pack
2. Look out to sea. What can you see?
3. Look for the lighthouse and the beach. Are there any ships?
4. Turn around look behind you at the harbour. Is the Ferry there?
5. Can you see the windows the soldiers would have looked out of during the Second World War?
6. Look out for the sheep! Why are they here?

## THINK ABOUT

1. You have been looking for ships, the harbour and the beach. Would the soldiers during the Second World War be looking for the same things? Would they have a different reason to look?
2. We are 120 feet above sea level. This gives us an amazing view. Ardagh would have known this when he built the Fort. Why was this important to him? Why was it important to the soldiers during the second world war?

## IMAGINE

Try to imagine yourself as a soldier sitting in the cold in 1940. Suddenly you see a German ship. How would you feel? What would you do, and how would you get the information back to Headquarters? Remember, no mobile phones!

# DIEPPE AND D-DAY

From the Parade Ground, find the Casemate with a sign outside saying 'Dieppe and D-Day'. This room contains the displays relating to the Dieppe Raid. Go inside and find the cat.



## LOOK FOR

1. Find the picture of the cat (clue: look for the medal and the painting as you enter the Casemate)
2. Find the button with a Union Jack on it (press it) and listen to the story of the raid
3. Look for the large flag (clue: it is near the end of the display). Which country is it from (clue: look for the Maple leaf)?

## THINK ABOUT

1. Listen to the story of the raid. The soldiers tell one story, the government tell a slightly different one. Which do you believe?
2. Lessons were learned from the raid and put into practice for the D-Day landings. What lessons did the Allies learn that they could put into practice when they next invaded France?

## IMAGINE

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Many men lost their lives or were captured during the raid. Imagine landing on the beach at Dieppe. How would you feel? You might have lost a really close friend even if you had survived.

There was a brave cat on the ship and she was given a medal. Women were not involved in the fighting but their lives were very much altered by the war. In Newhaven many local women married Canadian soldiers who were stationed here during the hostilities, and after the war they moved back to Canada with them. What would it have been like for those women, leaving their families and starting a new life away from England? Travel and communication was very different from today! What would they miss from home? Would they be happy?

# HOME FRONT



From the Parade Ground, find the Casemate with a sign outside saying 'Home Front'. This room contains the displays relating to life in the Second World War. Go inside and find the display containing two evacuees.



## LOOK FOR

1. Evacuees
2. A woman in a uniform
3. Examples of rationed food
4. A boy in the Morrison shelter
5. Victory celebrations in Newhaven for the end of the war

## THINK ABOUT

1. Look at the food in the ration pack that was for a whole week! Would that have been enough? Would you still be hungry? Have a look around, what else did people at the time do to provide food for themselves and their families?
2. Why children were not allowed to stay with their families, why did the government want to evacuate them?
3. Stand in the bomb site, this is where the children of Newhaven would have played, what dangers can you see?

## IMAGINE

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Go back to the bomb site, how does it smell? Does it feel cold? Can you see the boy in the shelter. He is on his own. How would he feel?

Because of the dangers of bombing, children were sent away or evacuated to a safer part of the country. They went without their parents.

Keeping in touch was difficult, with no mobile phones. In fact letter writing was the only way to communicate with home.

If you were an evacuee, what things would make you feel less lonely?

It was an adventure, but it would have been scary, exciting, and lonely?

How would you feel?

# SUSSEX SEA & AIR



From the Parade Ground, find the Casemate with a sign outside saying 'Sussex Sea & Air'. This room contains displays related to the defence of Newhaven. Go inside and find the Doodlebug.



## LOOK FOR

1. A Doodlebug. Press the button
2. A Machine gun
3. Battle of the Atlantic display. Can you find a Newhaven resident who was involved in the battle?

## THINK ABOUT

1. Why was it called the Battle of the Atlantic?
2. Newhaven is by the coast, and during the war it was really important in defeating the German air force. Why?

## IMAGINE

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You are sitting at home in 1944. You hear a Doodlebug approaching, and then it all goes silent. What does that mean? What would you do? How would you feel?

# CAPONIER

From the Parade Ground, find the entrance to the Caponier and the steps that lead down to bottom of the cliff.



## LOOK FOR

1. Steps. How many do you think there are?
2. Can you find the slits in the wall?

## THINK ABOUT

1. What were the slits used for? Why were they so thin?
2. What is at the bottom of the steps? If you were a soldier, why would you want to go down those steps?
3. During the Second World War why would it be important to put defences at the bottom of the steps?

## IMAGINE

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If you were a soldier stationed here during the Second World War, why would you want to close off the Caponier? What would you use to defend the Fort?

There are rumours of ghosts in these tunnels. Imagine what it would be like here at night alone, how would they feel? Do you think they would see ghosts? Would they be real or just in your imagination?

# THE FIRST WORLD WAR



From the Parade Ground find the Casemate marked the 'First World War' (it is next to the Caponier).



**LOOK FOR**

1. When was the First World War?
2. This was a very different war, fought in a very different way from the Second World War, as you go around the display look for the model of the trenches that the soldiers on both sides lived in and fought from.
3. Look around the walls at the government information. Posters were made encourage men to sign up to fight or keep up the spirits on the Home Front.
4. Can you find the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA)? (If you need a clue, it is a set of rules for living during the war.)

**THINK ABOUT**

1. Why the soldiers fought in trenches. Look at the large model it will give you a clue. This was the last war to use trench warfare. Why? What lessons did we learn? What changed that meant we never fought like this again? Remember that illness killed as many troops as the fighting did.
2. What is propaganda? Why were lots of propaganda posters made in the First World War. What other methods could the Government use to get their pro-war message across to the public? Remember at that time there was no television, very little radio and definitely no internet!

**IMAGINE**

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Try and imagine that you are a soldier sitting in the trenches waiting for the whistle to blow. This is the signal for you to go over the top. How would you feel? Would you want to run away or would you want to stay and do your duty? Life in the trenches was hard. What would you miss from home? How would you make life more bearable?

Imagine you are at home waiting for news of your son, husband or father in the trenches. What would you be thinking? How would your life and the life of your family have changed since they went to war? Everyone thought the war would only last a few months if went on for four years. How would you feel about that? What effect would it have on you and those around you?