

## Grain Dummy Battery

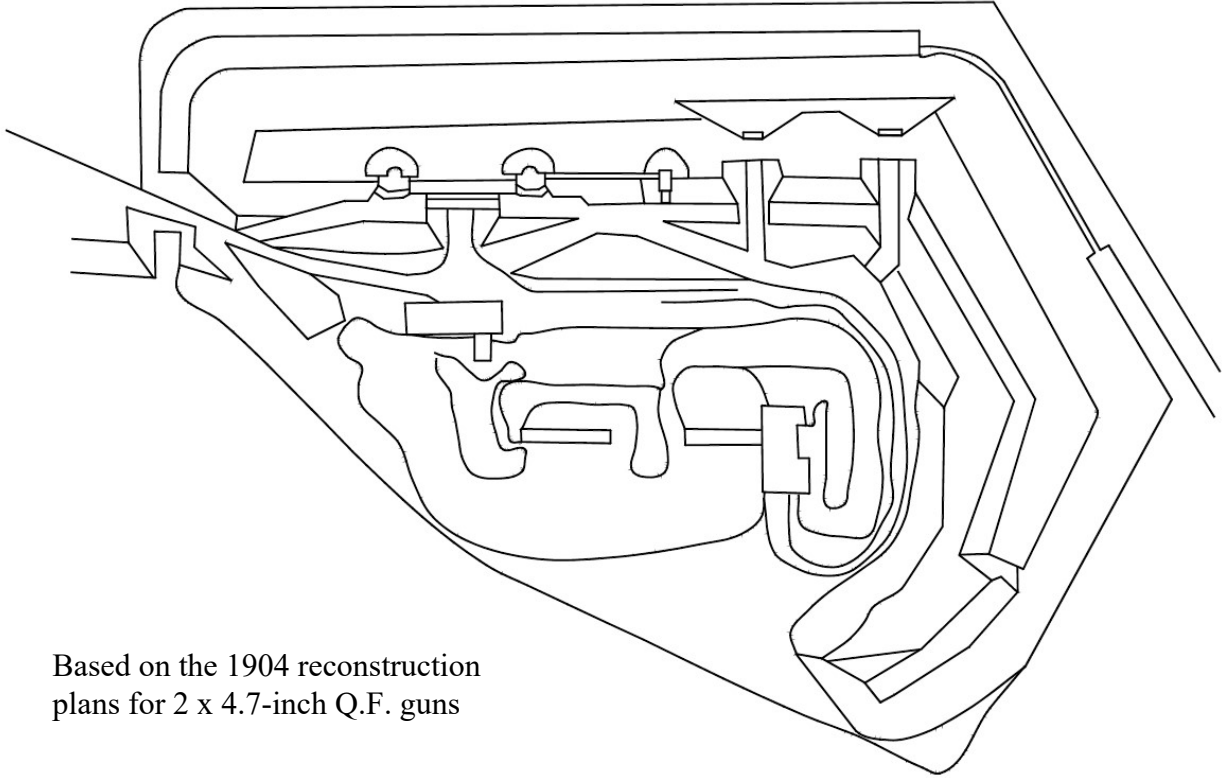
<p><b>Commenced</b> 1904  <b>Completed</b> 1905  <b>Cost</b> £ 3,410  <b>Map Reference</b> TQ893757  <b>Position</b> Medway Channel, Isle of Grain  1000 yards from Grain Fort  <b>Type</b> Coast defence  <b>Ditch</b> none  <b>Guns</b> 2  <b>Barrack Accom.</b> 6 officers 24 men  <b>Present use</b> Mostly demolished</p> <p><b>History</b> Coast defence</p> <p><b>Disposal</b> Partially destroyed 1955  <b>Condition</b> some concrete remains  <b>Access</b> Open  'The Isle of Grain Defences' Macdougall K.D.R.G.  J.D. Wilson 'Later Nineteenth century defences of the Thames, including Grain Fort' Army Historical Research. E.H. survey report</p> <p><b>Sources</b></p>	<p><b>Armament</b></p> <p><b>1904</b> 2 x 4.7-inch QF  <b>1914/16</b> 2 x 3-inch AA guns</p>
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### History and Description

Grain Dummy Battery was so named to differentiate it from the 'New Grain Battery' which was built adjoining the Fort and immediately behind the Wing Battery. The E.H. Report on the defences of the Isle of Grain surmises that the earlier 'Grain Battery' stood on this site (see datasheet 2 Isle of Grain Battery), for probably 11-inch R.M.L.s but no plans survive.

The battery as it stands today has been badly vandalised by the removal of earth and materials between 1953 and 1955. 'Vandalism' by the local authorities. A large trench was dug around the battery cutting into its sides to leave the exposed concrete. This has become water filled and misleadingly looks like a moat, but has nothing to do with the battery. The two 4.7inch Q.F. emplacements with holdfasts and the Battery Command Post with D.R.F. post on top, stand out of the top of the battery due to the removal of the earthwork material leaving the concrete core. Each gun emplacement had three cartridge recesses and one shell recess. The two emplacement were joined by a covered walkway. Attempts have also been made to drill into the concrete of the emplacements, presumably to demolish them. It is lucky that something recognisable remains! The magazine for the 4.7inch guns, consisting of a cartridge and a shell store, was situated between the two gun emplacements. Behind the emplacements were ancillary buildings consisting of men's shelter, officers' shelter, artillery store, lamp store, cook house and urinals/ablution room. There was also a small officer's latrine. By WWI the battery was used by the Kent Territorials for practice and air defence using two 3-inch AA guns.

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Based on the 1904 reconstruction plans for 2 x 4.7-inch Q.F. guns

