

Hawkins Battery

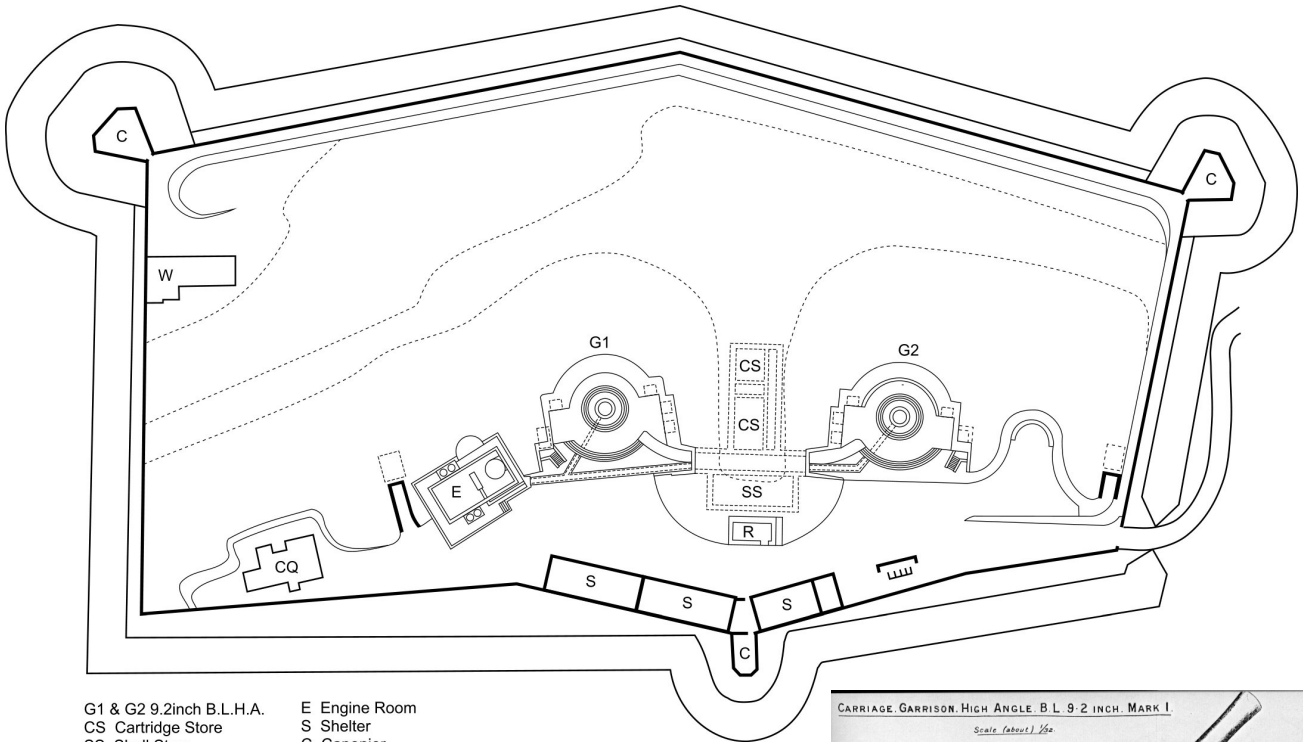
<p>Commenced 1888</p> <p>Completed 1892</p> <p>Cost £</p> <p>Map Reference SX 439516</p> <p>Position Maker Heights, north of Raleigh Battery</p> <p>Type Coast Defence High Angle Battery</p> <p>Ditch Dry</p> <p>Guns 4</p> <p>Barrack Accom. 96 plus 3 officers</p> <p>Present use Private caravan and chalet park</p> <p>History Coast Defence to 1922</p> <p>Disposal 1953. sold 1959</p> <p>Condition Much remains Reasonable</p> <p>Access Possible by arrangement with occupiers</p> <p>Sources P.F.S. Journal 'The Redan' No.36</p>	<p>Armament</p> <p>1895 4 x 9-inch H.A. R.M.L.s</p> <p>1916 2 x 9.2-inch H.A. B.L. 'B' Mk VI guns</p> <p>Caponiers 3 (blockhouses)</p> <p>Counterscarp galleries None</p> <p>Haxo casemates None</p> <p>Moncrieff Pits None</p>
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History and Description

Hawkins Battery, on Maker Heights, Plymouth, was constructed between 1888 and 1892 as a coast defence battery for four 9-inch 12-ton RML guns on high angle (70 degrees) mountings. The battery was built as a self contained fort rather than as a battery and it reflects the new thinking of its time, with walls and caponiers of concrete rather than the local stone found in the earlier forts of Plymouth. The caponiers are really small blockhouses, reminiscent of later pillboxes, for machine guns to flank the ditches and defensible walls of the battery. The original armament of four 9-inch H.A. R.M.L. guns was mounted by 1895 but plans were soon in hand to replace these with more modern armament, two 9.2-inch B.L. Mk 4 or 6 H.A. guns. The 1916 armament return lists the fort as mounting 2 x 9.2-inch B.L. High Angle Fire guns, four Maxim Machine guns and 42 x .303 rifles. The conversion of the battery for these new guns probably took place between 1910 and 1915. According to the plans, the battery was to be manned by 3 officers and 96 other ranks, although it is not clear whether they were to be billeted in the fort during peace time. The battery was stood down in 1922 and re-occupied by the military in 1940. There is some indication that barrage balloon personnel used the fort from time to time during the war and it is therefore safe to assume that more than one military unit used the battery 1939 to 1945. It was retained post-war and was finally relinquished in 1953, sold in 1959 and is currently used as a residential facility with various private individuals occupying converted buildings on the parade and chalets/bungalows within the battery perimeter.

The 'B' Mk 6 HA mounting was declared obsolete in 1929.

Hawkins Battery



- G1 & G2 9.2inch B.L.H.A.
- CS Cartridge Store
- SS Shell Store
- CQ Caretaker's Quarters
- W Workshop
- E Engine Room
- S Shelter
- C Caponier
- R Royal Artillery Store

