

Steep Holm(e) Island

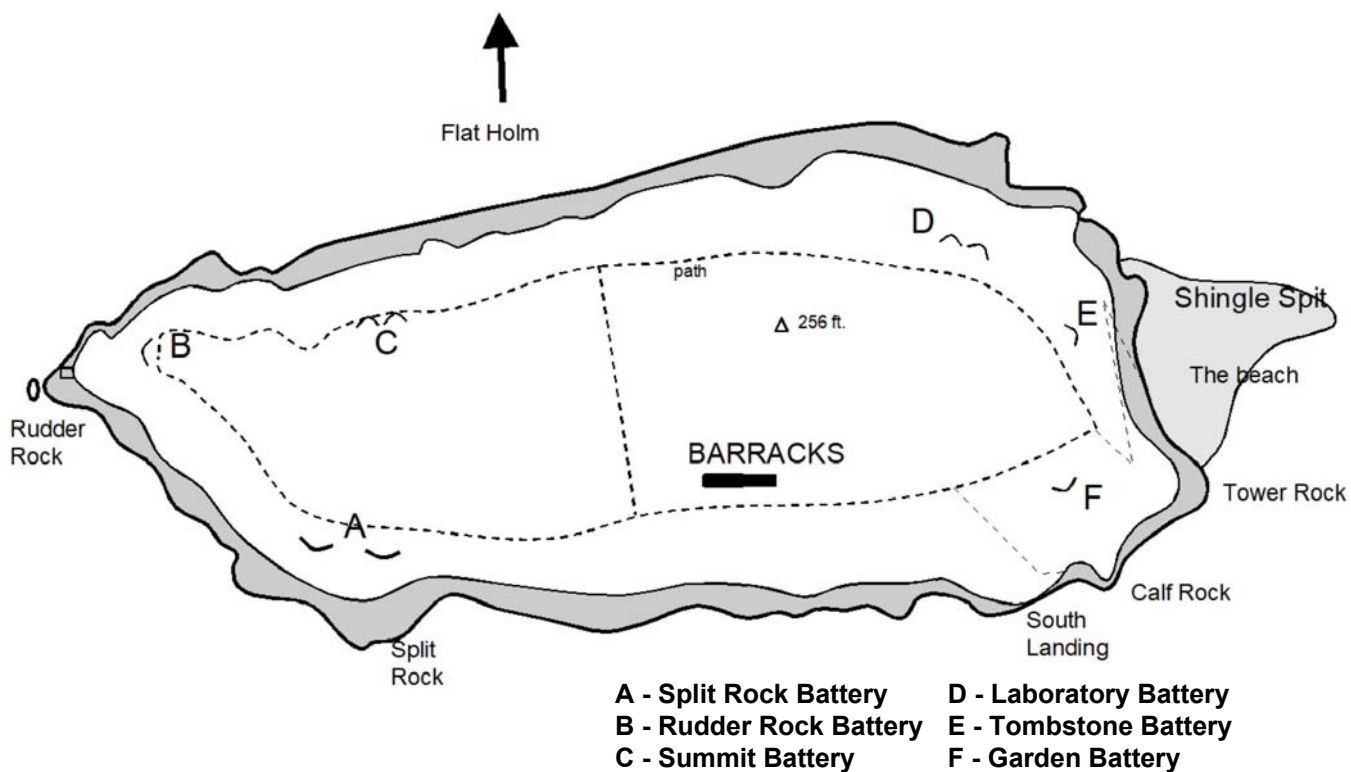
Commenced	18th November 1865	Armament	
Completed	July 1871	1882 Mounted	10 x 7-inch RMLs Mk III on dwarf 'C' 'Pivot traversing platforms
Cost	£ 17,871	WWII 1941 - 1945	4 x 6-inch B.L. ex-naval Mk VII or XI 6 x 40mm Bofors 1 x Harvey Projector (Split Rock)
Map Reference	ST 229607		
Position	Bristol Channel off Weston-Super-Mare		
Type	Fortified island		
Ditch	None		
Guns	10		
Barrack Accom.	Approx 50		
Present use	Nature reserve (birds)		
History	World War II use as Coastal and AA batteries		
Disposal	Army moved out 1901 & 1945		
Condition	Fair/ derelict		
Access	Allsop Trust - April to October		
Sources	R. Legg "Steepholm at War" & J. Barret "A History of Maritime Forts in the Bristol Channel 1866 - 1900"		

History and Description

Steep Holm was fortified during the 1860s, along with fortifications on Brean Down, Flat Holm and Lavernock Point. Together these fortifications provided a defensive line crossing the Bristol Channel protecting the principle ports of Bristol, Cardiff and Newport. Steep Holm is an island of about 49 acres with an average height above sea level of 200 feet and as its name suggests the island is bordered by precipitous cliffs. The fortifications on Steep Holm consist of six small parcels of land which run around the cliff top perimeter path, with an average distance between each of about 200 yards. The guns were all mounted on Dwarf Traversing platforms for C pivots. Each gun battery has its own underground expense magazines for shells & cartridges and the batteries are served by barrack accommodation located in the middle of the Southern side of the island. Most of the Victorian batteries have suffered from damage caused by the re-fortification of the island during the Second World War, although all but one of the batteries still have their 7-inch RMLs lying near by. The details of each gun battery are as follows:

Battery name	Height above		Guns	Notes
	Sea Level			
Split Rock Battery	175 ft.		2	Good condition - best preserved
Rudder Rock Battery	200 ft.		1	Poor condition - suffered from 1898 armour trials and WW II O.P. built on site
Summit Battery	250 ft.		2	Fair condition - 6" WWII battery built on site
Laboratory Battery	230ft.		2	Poor condition
Tombstone Battery	200ft.		1	Poor condition
Garden Battery	200ft.		2	Fair condition - 6" WWII battery built on site

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Split Rock Battery