

## **RESTORATION OF TOMAHAWK BATTERY (ST KILDA BATTERY)**

### General

Dunedin City has a rich military history and although much of it has been lost over time, there are still elements present that should be restored and maintained for both historical and educational purposes. From the Russian Scare of 1885 to the end of World War II, coastal defences were built and maintained. These coastal defences consisted of batteries and emplacements and were manned as threat levels increased. The attached map from Dr Peter Cook's book "Defending NZ" shows the extent of these coastal defences around Dunedin and the Otago Peninsula.

### Tomahawk Battery

Of the Dunedin coastal defences, the last battery emplacement physically remaining is at Tomahawk. The Lawyer's Head, Ocean Beach (Central Battery), Forbury and St Clair emplacements are long gone. The original Tomahawk Battery emplacement dated back to 1885 but real construction in terms of what is left today began in Jun 1942 and the gun(s) were not mounted until Oct 1942. The attached photograph on the NZ Coastal Defences website from 1942 shows what the Tomahawk Battery emplacement actually looked like and shows one of the two guns actually firing. However the guns were removed in Jul 1945 and the emplacements and associated buildings sealed shortly thereafter.

### Site Assessment

DCC has undertaken an assessment of the site and concluded that the No1 emplacement has the potential to be restored. As a result, there is significant community interest in restoring one of the two emplacements and then providing access and associated "story boards" recounting the history of the site. A list of the contacted stakeholders is contained as an attachment and they have all been supportive.

### Community Support

There is strong community support for this project and volunteers have already undertaken significant research on the site. It is envisaged that the physical "tidy up" of the site, the painting of the emplacement and the preparation of the "story boards" all be undertaken by volunteers.

### Request

It is requested that the Dunedin City Council:

- a. Agree to the restoration of the Tomahawk Battery (No 1 Emplacement only).
- b. Provide funding of \$10K for the structural engineering work, fencing and access to the site.
- c. Provide funding of \$5K for the "story boards".

### Attachments:

1. Excerpt from "Defending NZ" by Dr Peter Cook (Hard Copy provided) .
2. Photograph of Tomahawk Battery firing in 1942 from "NZ Coastal Defences Website" (Hard copy provided).

### 3. List of Stakeholders

#### List of Stakeholders

Dunedin City Council  
Otago Peninsula Community Board  
ODT  
The Star  
“Hawk Talk”

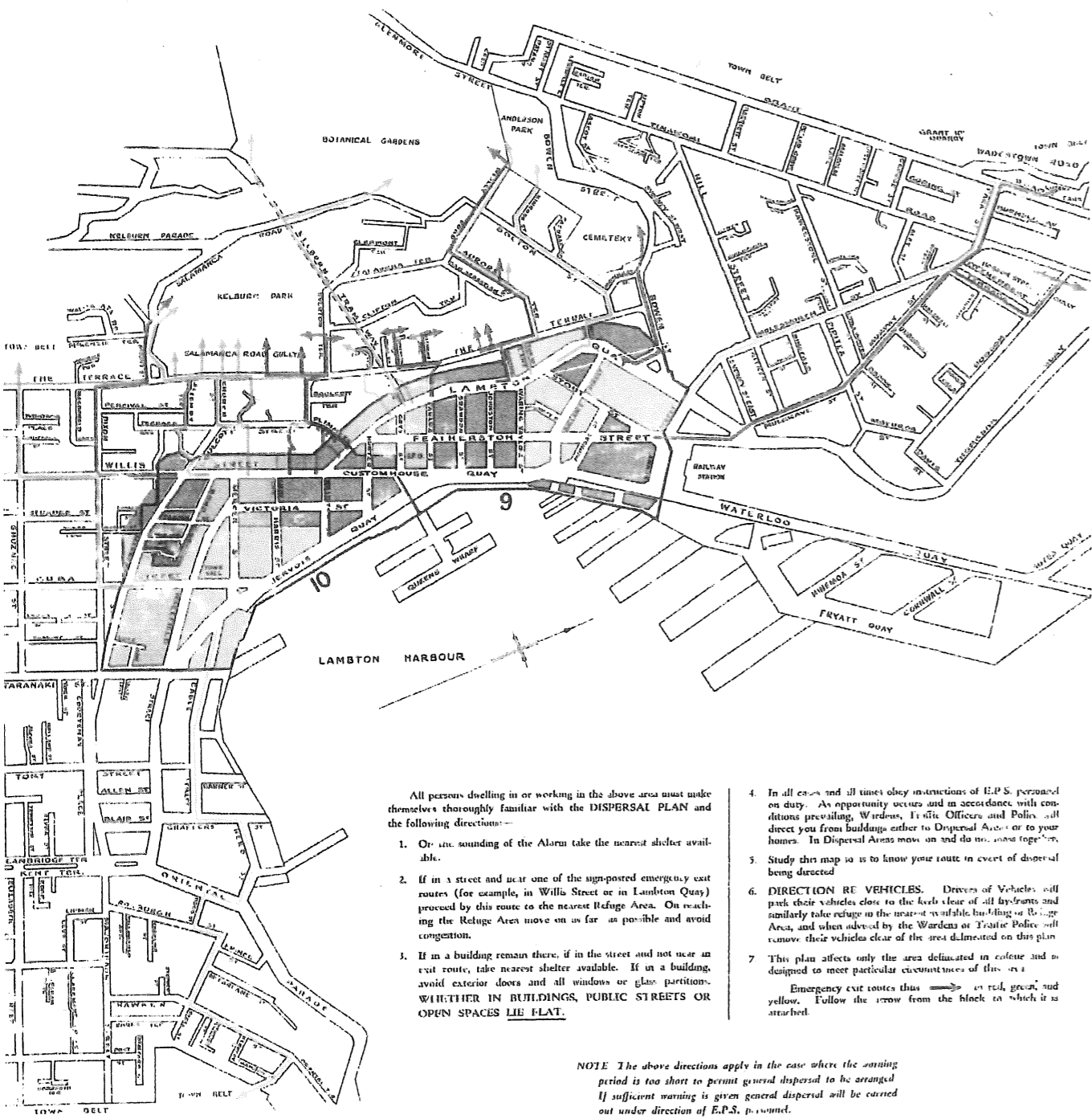
NZ Army  
NZCF  
Otago Southland RSA  
Dunedin RSA  
Otago Officers Club

Southern Heritage Trust  
Otago Military Historical Group

Harbour Rotary Club  
Blokes’ Shed

# DISPERSAL PLAN FOR WELLINGTON CENTRAL CITY AREA

## E.P.S. DISTRICTS 9 and 10



All persons dwelling in or working in the above area must make themselves thoroughly familiar with the DISPERSAL PLAN and the following directions—

1. On the sounding of the Alarm take the nearest shelter available.
2. If in a street and near one of the sign-posted emergency exit routes (for example, in Willis Street or in Lambton Quay) proceed by this route to the nearest Refuge Area. On reaching the Refuge Area move on as far as possible and avoid congestion.
3. If in a building remain there, if in the street and not near an exit route, take nearest shelter available. If in a building, avoid exterior doors and all windows or glass partitions. **WHETHER IN BUILDINGS, PUBLIC STREETS OR OPEN SPACES LIE FLAT.**

4. In all cases and all times obey instructions of E.P.S. personnel on duty. As opportunity occurs and in accordance with conditions prevailing, Wardens, Traffic Officers and Police will direct you from buildings either to Dispersal Areas or to your homes. In Dispersal Areas move on and do not crowd together.
5. Study this map so as to know your route in event of dispersal being directed.
6. **DIRECTION RE VEHICLES.** Drivers of Vehicles will park their vehicles close to the kerb clear of all footpaths and similarly take refuge in the rear of any suitable building or Refuge Area, and when advised by the Wardens or Traffic Police will remove their vehicles clear of the area delineated on this plan.
7. This plan affects only the area delineated in colour and is designed to meet particular circumstances of this area.  
Emergency exit routes thus in red, green, and yellow. Follow the arrow from the block to which it is attached.

**NOTE** The above directions apply in the case where the warning period is too short to permit general dispersal to be arranged. If sufficient warning is given general dispersal will be carried out under direction of E.P.S. personnel.

PREPARED BY  
DEFENCE DEPARTMENT  
MAY 1950

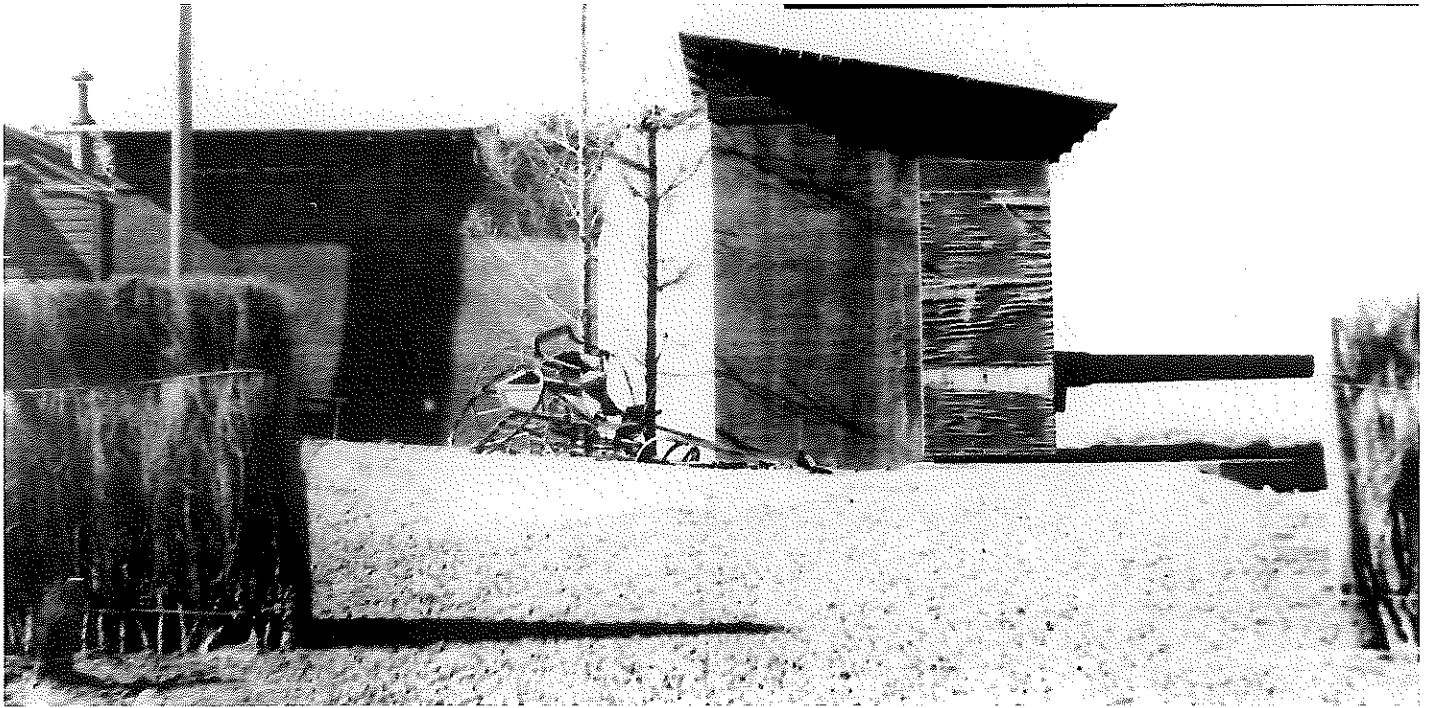
# Defending New Zealand

## Ramparts on the Sea 1840-1950

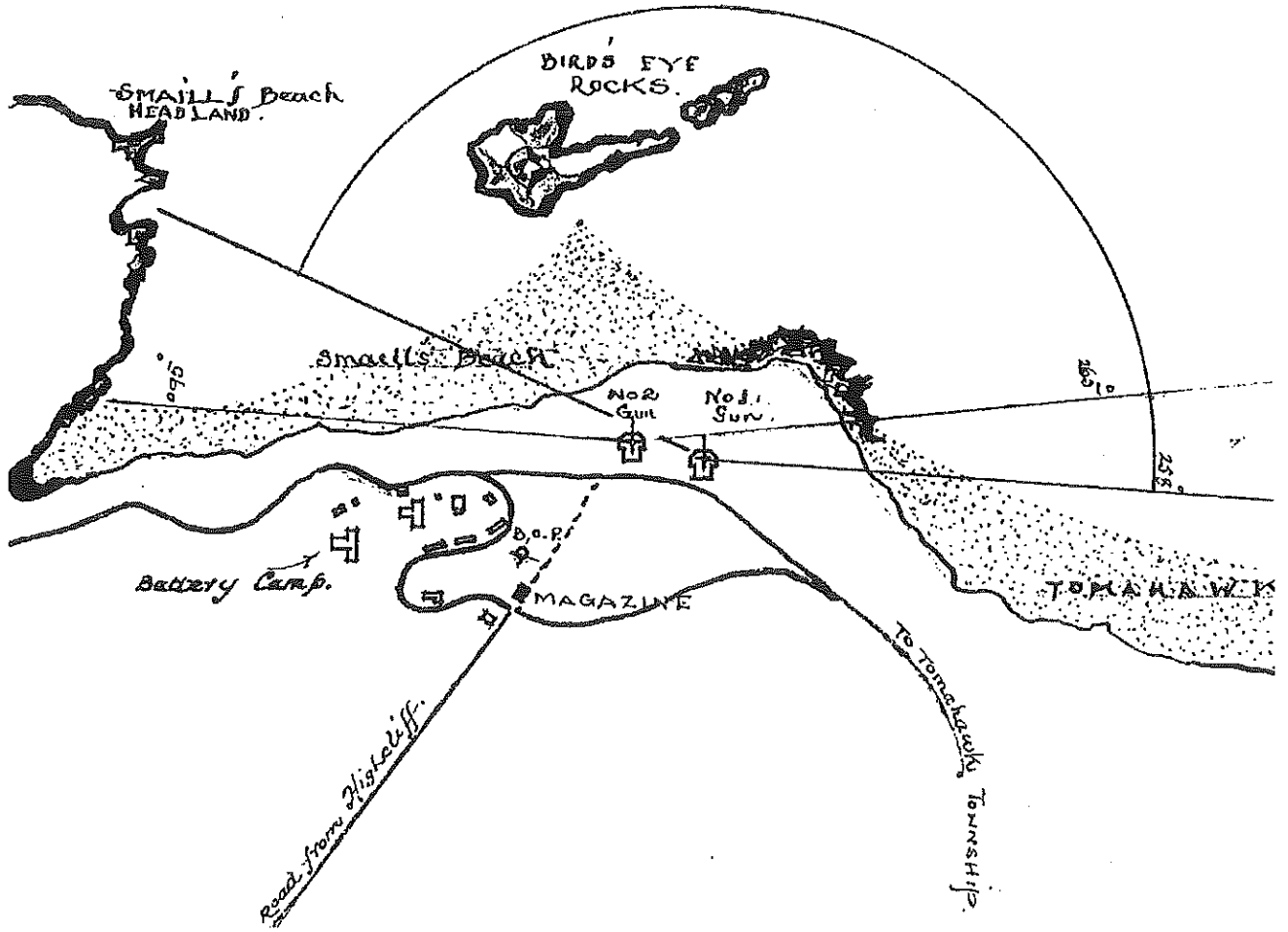
Peter Cooke  
Defence of New Zealand  
Study Group

### Part 2





Cama fage wu11  
Look like a house



# Coastal fortifications of New Zealand

**Coastal fortifications** were constructed in New Zealand in two main waves: around 1885 as a response to fears of an attack by Russia, and in World War II due to fears of invasion by the Japanese.

The fortifications were built from British designs adapted to New Zealand conditions. They typically included gun emplacements, pill boxes, fire control or observation posts, camouflage strategies, underground bunkers, sometimes with interconnected tunnels, containing magazines, supply and plotting rooms and protected engine rooms supplying power to the gun turrets and searchlights. There were also kitchens, barracks, and officer and NCO quarters.<sup>[1]</sup>

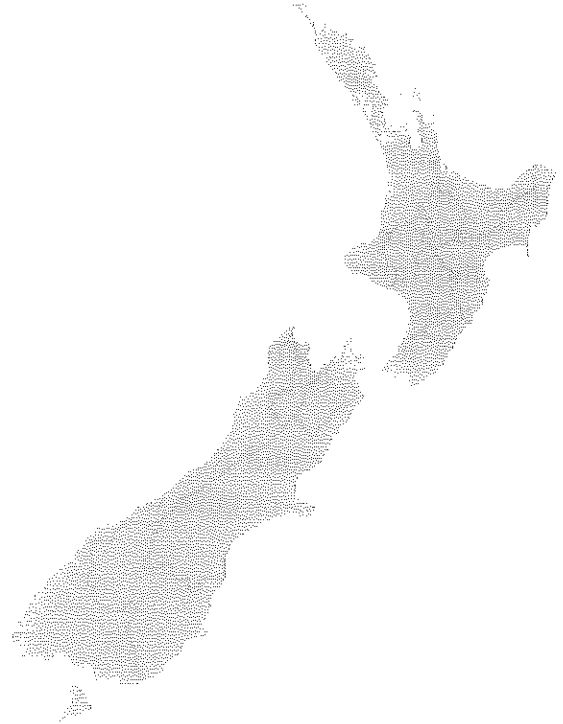
## The "Russian-scare" forts of 1885

In the 1870s New Zealand was a young self-governing colony of Britain. It had developed no coastal defences of any consequence and was becoming increasingly sensitive to how vulnerable its harbours were to attack by a hostile power or opportunistic raider. Fears of invasion by the expanding Russian Empire were common, especially due to the founding of Russia's Pacific port at Vladivostok.<sup>[2]</sup>

Fears intensified after a hoax article was run in the *Daily Southern Cross* on 18 February 1873.<sup>[2]</sup> The article proclaimed that war had been declared between England and Russia,<sup>[3]</sup> and that a fictional Russian naval cruiser, the *Kaskowiski*, had attacked Auckland.<sup>[2][4]</sup>

[The *Kaskowiski*] - whose very name should have made sober readers suspicious - had allegedly entered Auckland Harbour on the previous Saturday night and proceeded to capture a British ship, along with the city's arms and ammunition supply, and hold a number of leading citizens for ransom. The 954-man Russian vessel obviously meant business, with a dozen 30-ton guns as well as a remarkably new advance in warfare, a paralysing and deadly "water-gas" that could be injected into enemy ships from a great distance.<sup>[3]</sup>

The *Southern Cross* article created panic and the Government commissioned its first reports on the colony's defences. It was now clearly understood that Britain would protect its territories and vital shipping routes, but the defence of individual ports was the responsibility of each self-governing colony. Then Russia declared war on Turkey in 1877 producing another "scare".



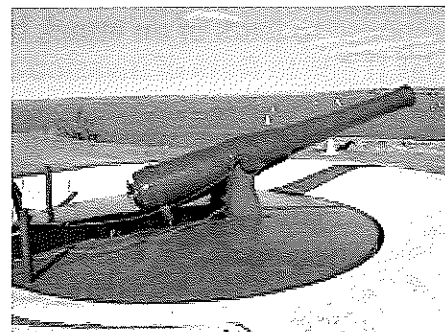
The New Zealand coastline is 15,134 km long

An 1884 report by Sir William Jervois, the Governor of New Zealand, included recommendations for military forts to be constructed at the country's four main ports at Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton and Port Chalmers.<sup>[2]</sup> These coastal artillery fortifications or land batteries were to be based on British designs. Heavy artillery pieces and ammunition was ordered from Britain. By 1885 work started in earnest on the construction of what eventually became seventeen forts, further encouraged by yet another Russian scare.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Artillery

In 1885 the New Zealand Government bought ten Armstrong BL 8-inch and thirteen Armstrong BL 6-inch guns on disappearing carriages. The disappearing gun was the very latest in military technology in the 1880s. It was "disappearing" because as it fired, the recoil pushed the gun back underground where it could be reloaded under cover. The total costs of this artillery plus the costs of installation including land, emplacements, magazines and barracks was about £160,000.<sup>[5]</sup>

Following the "second Russian scare" a number of additional RML 7-inch and 64-pr guns were also installed<sup>[6]</sup>



BL 8-inch Armstrong disappearing gun at North Head.

Artillery circa 1890	Number	Range	Notes
Armstrong BL 8-inch Mk VII <u>disappearing guns</u>	10	4 miles	Weighed 13.5 tons and fired a 180-pound shell.
Armstrong BL 6-inch <u>disappearing guns</u>	13	3 miles	Weighed 5 tons and fired a 100-pound shell.
RML 7 inch 7 ton guns	11		Weighed 7 tons.
RML 64-pr Mk 3 guns	9	2 miles	Weighed 64 <u>cwt</u>

## The forts

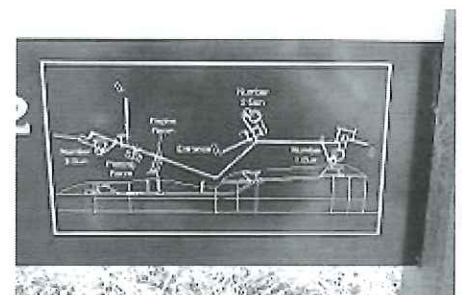
Fort	Harbour	Way-point	Ordnance circa 1890	Range (miles)	Dates	Notes
<u>North Head</u>	Auckland	<u>36°49'39"S</u> <u>174°48'44"E</u>	1xBL 8in gun RML 7in guns 64-pr guns		1870	At Devonport, divided into three sub-forts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Battery (to defend Rangitoto Channel)</li> <li>South Battery (with a 7in gun to protect the inner harbour)</li> <li>Fort Cautley (with the 8in gun on the summit).<sup>[7][8][9]</sup></li> </ul>
<u>Bastion Point</u>	Auckland	<u>36°50'43"S</u> <u>174°49'29"E</u>	2xBL 6in guns		1885–	In <u>Mission Bay</u> . Not completed.
<u>Fort Resolution</u>	Auckland		2xBL 6in guns		1885	In Parnell.
<u>Fort Takapuna</u>	Auckland	<u>36°48'55"S</u> <u>174°48'24"E</u>	2xBL 6in guns		1886–	<sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup>
<u>Fort Victoria</u>	Auckland		1xBL 8in gun		1885	On Mount Victoria, Devonport. The gun fired only once because of complaints from residents whose windows were broken. <sup>[14]</sup>
<u>Fort Ballance</u>	Wellington	<u>41°17'41"S</u> <u>174°50'02"E</u>	2x7" RML guns 1x6" BLHP gun 2 x QF 6 pounder <u>Nordenfelt guns</u>		1885	(1885–1886) Point Gordon. At Miramar. Wellington's primary military fort until 1911 when Fort Dorset opened. <sup>[15]</sup>
<u>Fort Gordon</u>	Wellington	<u>41°17'41"S</u> <u>174°50'02"E</u>	1x8" BLHP gun		1895-1924	Point Gordon
<u>Fort Buckley</u>	Wellington	<u>41°15'38"S</u> <u>174°47'17"E</u>	2x64-pr RML guns	2		At Kaiwharawhara. <sup>[16][17][18]</sup>
<u>Haswell Battery</u>	Wellington		1xBL 8in gun		1889	At Miramar.
<u>Kau Point Battery</u>	Wellington		1xBL 8in gun		1891-1922	At Miramar.
<u>Fort Kelburne</u>	Wellington		2xBL 8in guns		1885	At Ngauranga. <sup>[19]</sup>



Battery Point	Lyttelton	<u><span><span><span><span>43°36′10″S</span> <span>172°44′25″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>43.60278°S 172.74028°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-43.60278; 172.74028</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-43.60278; 172.74028</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	2x7in RML guns 1x QF 6 pounder Nordenfelt guns		1885	On the north side of Lyttelton Harbour, 3 miles from mouth. <sup>[20][21]</sup>
Fort Jervis	Lyttelton	<u><span><span><span><span>43°37′11″S</span> <span>172°45′15″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>43.61972°S 172.75417°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-43.61972; 172.75417</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-43.61972; 172.75417</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	2x8in BL guns 2x6in BL guns		1886	On Ripapa Island on the south side of Lyttelton Harbour. <sup>[22]</sup> Fort Jervis is an internationally rare 1880s "Russian Invasion Scare" structure, which has retained a high level of authenticity of both structure and hardware (6" and 8" disappearing guns). It is one of only five examples of this type of fortification in the world. The Island has been managed by the Department of Conservation since 1990. <sup>[23]</sup>
Spur Point Battery	Lyttelton		1x64-pounder RML gun		1885	Site of battery, quarried away as part of land reclamation during the 1970s to build Cashin Quay. <sup>[24]</sup>
Lawyers Head Battery	Port Chalmers	<u><span><span><span><span>45°54′32″S</span> <span>170°32′06″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>45.90889°S 170.53500°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-45.90889; 170.53500</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-45.90889; 170.53500</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>			1885	Eastern Ocean Beach, Dunedin South.
Ocean Beach Battery	Port Chalmers				1886	
St Clair Battery	Port Chalmers				1885	On a spur of Forbury Hill above Second Beach, Dunedin. No remnants remain; the area was cleared and subdivided for residential housing.
Fort Taiaroa	Port Chalmers	<u><span><span><span><span>45°46′26″S</span> <span>170°43′40″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>45.77389°S 170.72778°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-45.77389; 170.72778</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-45.77389; 170.72778</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	1xBL 6in gun		1885	Otago Harbour. This Armstrong Disappearing Gun was installed in May 1889 and was recommissioned during World War II. It is the only one of its kind working and is still in its original gun pit. <sup>[25][26]</sup>

## World War II coastal fortifications

The second main wave of building coastal fortifications occurred during World War II. This was mainly a response to a perceived threat of invasion by the Japanese after the attack on Pearl Harbor. From 1942 until 1944, when the threat receded, 42 coastal artillery fortifications or land batteries were either developed using historical fortifications or were built from scratch. The fortifications were built from British designs adapted to New Zealand conditions. Radar was installed which allowed long range shooting at night and replaced the traditional fortress system of range finding.<sup>[1]</sup>

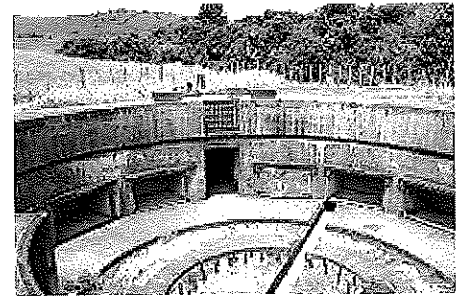


Tunnel layout for a three gun emplacement system.

## Ordnance

The fortifications were equipped with both old and new ordnance, mostly British. Some World War I ordnance was requisitioned from museums and recommissioned.

Ordnance used during World War II	Number	Range	Notes
<u>9.2 inch guns</u>	6	18 miles	
<u>BL 6 inch Mk 24 guns</u> ( <a href="http://www.navweapons.com/Weapons/W/NBR_6-50_mk22.htm">http://www.navweapons.com/Weapons/W/NBR_6-50_mk22.htm</a> )	3	14 miles	
<u>BL 6 inch Mk 21 guns</u>	6	13 miles	
<u>6 inch Mark 7 guns</u>	32	12 miles	
<u>6in EOC gun</u> ( <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20160807121544/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/hist/dgun/index.htm">https://web.archive.org/web/20160807121544/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/hist/dgun/index.htm</a> )	2	6 miles	Elswick Ordnance Company
<u>5"/51 caliber guns</u> <sup>[27]</sup> (USA naval guns)	6	10 miles	51 calibre MkVII 1912
<u>4.7in guns</u>	1	6 miles	
<u>4 inch Mark 7 guns</u>	11	9 miles	
<u>155mm guns</u>	2	9 miles	
<u>75mm guns</u>	2		
<u>QF 12 pdr guns</u> ( <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20071226221500/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/hist/local/qf12pr.htm">https://web.archive.org/web/20071226221500/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/hist/local/qf12pr.htm</a> )	8	8 miles	
<u>QF 6 pdr guns</u>	12	5 miles	
<u>Bofors 40mm guns</u> ( <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20071227143347/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/hist/local/qf40mmaa.htm">https://web.archive.org/web/20071227143347/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/hist/local/qf40mmaa.htm</a> )	48	4 miles	
<u>CASLs</u>	48		Coastal Artillery Searchlight



9.2 inch gun emplacement at Stony Batter.

## The fortifications


The fortifications were administered by the Royal New Zealand Artillery, which grouped them into four areas. Each area was under the command of a heavy artillery regiment. Within each regiment the fortifications were grouped into batteries.

Also used (highlighted below in yellow) were seven of the now historic Russian scare fortifications

## Upper North Island

Under the command of the 9th Heavy/Coast Regiment.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Battery	Name	Way-point	World War II Ordnance	Range (miles)	Dates	Notes
60	Motutapu Island	<u><span><span><span><span>36°45′03″S</span> <span>174°55′09″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>36.75083°S 174.91917°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-36.75083; 174.91917</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-36.75083; 174.91917</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	3 x 6in Mk 21 guns 2 x CASLs	13	1936–1945	Consisted of a battery, camp, gun emplacement, pill boxes and US naval magazines. Its remains are administered by DOC. <sup>[30]</sup>
61 RHQ	North Head [Russian scare]	<u><span><span><span><span>36°49′39″S</span> <span>174°48′44″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>36.82750°S 174.81222°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-36.82750; 174.81222</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-36.82750; 174.81222</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	2 x 4in Mk 7 guns 2 x 12pdr guns 4 x 6pdr H&N 6 x CASLs	9	1870–1957	Part of Auckland's coastal defence system from the Russian scare in 1885 to World War I. By World War II, with ships' guns able to fire long distances, the old fort was too close to the city it was meant to defend. New batteries were built at Motutapu, Castor Bay, Whangaparaoa and Waiheke Island and North Head became the centre of administration. <sup>[31]</sup> A complex of tunnels, guns, searchlights and other fortifications remain and it is now a historic reserve managed by the Department of Conservation. <sup>[7][8]</sup>
61	Bastion Point [Russian scare]	<u><span><span><span><span>36°50′43″S</span> <span>174°49′29″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>36.84528°S 174.82472°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-36.84528; 174.82472</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-36.84528; 174.82472</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	2 x 12pdr gun Twin 6pdr guns 3xCASLs	8	1885–	Located in Mission Bay. The fortifications were buried in the 1940s when the Michael Joseph Savage memorial was built, and effectively forgotten. The underlying tunnels were later rediscovered.
61	Great Barrier Island		6in Mk 7 gun 4in Mk 7 gun 4 x 40mm Bofors	12		
61	Manukau		1x4.7in gun	6	1942	Built by American Forces [unknown unit] at the end of Harvey Road, Manukau Heads, approximately 100 m north of lighthouse site, this open fronted fortification had one gun, and an observation post inland. Accommodation was at the end of Harvey Road, with only concrete pads remaining for some buildings. Due to the erosive nature of these compacted sandhills the gun emplacement was undermined and slipped down the cliffs in the early 1980s. According to local residents, the gun was only fired 6 times, cracking the concrete abutments.
61	Motuihe Island	<u><span><span><span><span>36°48′40″S</span> <span>174°49′29″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>36.81111°S 174.82472°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-36.81111; 174.82472</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-36.81111; 174.82472</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	2 x 4in Mk 7 guns	9	1872–	During World War II (1941) the Motuihe buildings became HMNZS Tamaki naval base, a training establishment. Now in the care of the Department of Conservation. <sup>[32][33][34]</sup>
62	Fort Takapuna	<u><span><span><span><span>36°48′55″S</span> <span>174°48′24″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>36.81528°S 174.80667°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-36.81528; 174.80667</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-36.81528; 174.80667</span>)</span></span></span></span></u>	2 x 4in Mk 7 guns 2 x CASLs	9	1886–	Also known as HMNZS Tamaki, and Narrow Neck. In 1963 the RNZN moved its New Entry

	[Russian scare]					Training School HMNZS Tamaki from Motuihe Island to the fort. The navy built a new Gunnery School and set up an Officer Training School. Previously officers had been sent overseas for training. Only the Officer and Trade Training schools remain. Has been under the care of the Department of Conservation since 2000. <sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup>
63	<u>Castor Bay</u>	<u>36°45′22″S</u> <u>174°46′0″E</u>	2 x <u>6in Mk 7 guns</u> 2 x CASLs	12	1942 -1944	 Bunker at Castor Bay  Notable for its camouflage strategies during World War II. <sup>[35][36][37]</sup>
64	<u>Whangaparaoa</u>	<u>36°36′09″S</u> <u>174°50′16″E</u>	2 x <u>6in Mk 7 guns</u> 2 x CASLs	12		SE tip of peninsula
163	<u>Whangaparaoa</u>	<u>36°36′09″S</u> <u>174°50′17″E</u>	2 x <u>9.2in guns</u>	18		SE tip of peninsula
164	<u>Stony Batter</u>	<u>36°45′45″S</u> <u>175°10′27″E</u>	2 x <u>9.2in guns</u>	18	1942–	Waiheke Island. Now in the care of the Department of Conservation. <sup>[38][39]</sup>
68	<u>Moturoa Island</u>	<u>35°13′07″S</u> <u>174°11′21″E</u>	4 x <u>6in Mk 7 guns</u> 8 x <u>40mm Bofors</u>	12		Bay of Islands
68	<u>Whangaroa</u>	<u>35°00′40″S</u> <u>173°45′21″E</u>	6in Mk 7 gun	12		South Head of harbour.
139	<u>Bream Head</u>	<u>35°51′01″S</u> <u>174°31′35″E</u>	<u>5in Mk 7 gun (USA)</u>	10	1942 -1944	Entrance to Whangarei harbour. Remaining structures are the (Colchester) gun shelter, engine room, and observation post. The most significant feature is the spotting mural with compass bearings painted above the slit window in the observation post. <sup>[40][41]</sup>

## Lower North Island

Under the command of the 10th Heavy/Coast Regiment. <sup>[42]</sup>

Battery	Name	Way-point	World War II Ordnance	Range (miles)	Dates	Notes
70	Palmer Head	<u><span><span><span><span>41°20′14″S</span> <span>174°49′01″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>41.337222°S 174.816944°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-41.337222; 174.816944</span></span></span></span></u>	3x6in Mk 21 guns 4xCASLs	13	1936 -1957	At the entrance to the Wellington Harbour. The abandoned gun pits were blown up in the late 1960s. The only remains are the underground plotting rooms, which are closed for safety reasons. <sup>[43]</sup>
71 RHQ	Fort Dorset	<u><span><span><span><span>41°19′33″S</span> <span>174°50′14″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>41.325833°S 174.837222°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-41.325833; 174.837222</span></span></span></span></u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns 2x4in Mk 7guns 4x12pdr guns 7xCASLs	12	1908 -1991	At the inner entrance to Wellington harbour. The fort was demolished in 1998. <sup>[44][45]</sup>
72	Fort Ballance [Russian scare]	<u><span><span><span><span>41°17′41″S</span> <span>174°50′02″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>41.294722°S 174.833889°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-41.294722; 174.833889</span></span></span></span></u>	2x4in Mk 7guns Twin 6pdr guns 2x75mm guns 6xCASLs	9	1885– 1945	(1885–1886) Point Gordon  By Mount Crawford, Karaka Bays, Wellington's primary fort until 1911 when Fort Dorset opened, Fort Ballance was closed in 1945 but remnants remain. <sup>[15]</sup>
73	Fort Opau	<u><span><span><span><span>41°13′20″S</span> <span>174°41′46″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>41.222222°S 174.696111°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-41.222222; 174.696111</span></span></span></span></u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns	12	1942 -1944	On a high headland above Mākara, on Wellington's west coast, protecting Cook Strait. <sup>[46][47][48]</sup> The fort was built in 1941, and comprised two covered 6" gun emplacements, a battery operations post, and an observation post and a radar post, with a large barracks several hundred metres inland.
165	Wrights Hill Fortress	<u><span><span><span><span>41°17′46″S</span> <span>174°44′21″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>41.296111°S 174.739167°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-41.296111; 174.739167</span></span></span></span></u>	2x9.2in guns	18	1942 1957	This British-designed fortress was similar to the 9.2 inch fortresses built at Whangaparaoa and Stoney Batter. 2,030 feet (620 metres) of interconnecting tunnels were dug. Two 185 hp diesel generators provided power to manoeuvre the guns. Each gun weighed 135 tons and could fire a 380-pound (172 kg) shell across Cook Strait or up to Plimmerton. The fortress was used for training purposes up to the mid-1950s. In early 1960 the guns were sold for scrap, ironically, to the Japanese. The Wrights Hill Fortress Restoration Society is restoring the coastal battery to its former state. <sup>[49][50]</sup>
77	Bluff Hill	<u><span><span><span><span>39°28′43″S</span> <span>176°55′03″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>39.478611°S 176.917500°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-39.478611; 176.917500</span></span></span></span></u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns 4x40mm Bofors	12		At Napier. Also a signal station during World War II, <sup>[51]</sup> although never a lighthouse, <sup>[52]</sup> despite being situated on Lighthouse Road.
77	Titirangi (Kaiti Hill)	<u><span><span><span><span>38°42′03″S</span> <span>178°03′56″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>38.700833°S 178.065556°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-38.700833; 178.065556</span></span></span></span></u>	5in Mk 7 gun (USA)	10		Located at Gisborne.
78	Moturoa		2x155mm guns 4x40mm Bofors	9		At New Plymouth.

140	Languard Bluff	<span><span><span><span><span>39°57′30″S</span> <span>175°01′20″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span></span></span></span></span>	5in Mk 7 gun (USA)	10		At Wanganui. <sup>[53]</sup> <sup>[54]</sup>
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## Upper South Island

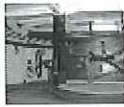
Under the command of the 11th Heavy/Coast Regiment.<sup>[28]</sup><sup>[29]</sup>

Battery	Name	Way-point	World War II Ordnance	Range (miles)	Dates	Notes
80 RHQ	<u>Godley Head</u>	<u>43°35'13"S</u> <u>172°48'21"E</u>	3x6in Mk 24 guns 2xCASLs	14	1939 -1963	At the northern entrance to Lyttelton Harbour, the last NZA to be decommissioned. It last fired a gun in 1959. In its heyday in World War II, it was staffed by over 400 men and women and was a self-contained community. It is ranked in the top ten New Zealand coastal defence heritage sites. <sup>[55]</sup> It is now under the care of the Department of Conservation and the Godley Head Heritage Trust. <sup>[56][57]</sup>
81	<u>Battery Point</u> [Russian scare]	<u>43°36'10"S</u> <u>172°44'25"E</u>	2x4in Mk 7guns Twin 6pdr guns 5xCASLs	9	1886–	On the northern side of Lyttelton Harbour, 3 miles from mouth. <sup>[20][21]</sup>
81	<u>Fort Jervois</u> [Russian scare]	<u>43°37'11"S</u> <u>172°45'15"E</u>	6in EOC gun	6	1886	On <u>Ripapa Island</u> on the southern side of Lyttelton Harbour. <sup>[22]</sup> It is an internationally rare 1880s "Russian Invasion Scare" military defence structure, which has retained a high level of authenticity of both structure and hardware (6" and 8" disappearing guns). It is one of only five examples of this type of fortification in the world. The island has been managed by the Department of Conservation since 1990. <sup>[23]</sup>
	<u>Magazine Bay</u> [Russian scare]		?		1886	<u>Lyttelton</u> , in conjunction with nearby torpedo boat base. <sup>[58]</sup>
84	<u>Tory Channel entrance</u>		6in Mk 7 gun 12x40mm Bofors	12		<u>Queen Charlotte Sound</u>
84	<u>Maraetai</u>	<u>41°15'21"S</u> <u>174°08'01"E</u>	6in Mk 7 gun	12		In <u>Tory Channel</u> , <u>Queen Charlotte Sound</u> .
84	<u>Blumine Island</u>	<u>41°09'30"S</u> <u>174°14'11"E</u> ; <u>41°09'31"S</u> <u>174°14'39"E</u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns	12	1942 -1945	Guarding the northern entrance to <u>Queen Charlotte Sound</u> , the guns are positioned separately on the two northern points of <u>Blumine Island</u> . Associated with each emplacement are a magazine, observation post and accommodation camp. <sup>[59][60]</sup>
84	<u>Post Office Point</u>		6in Mk 7 gun	12		In <u>Pelorus Sound / Te Hoiere</u> .
84	<u>Maud Island</u>	<u>41°01'01"S</u> <u>173°54'21"E</u>	6in Mk 7 gun	12		At the entrance to <u>Pelorus Sound / Te Hoiere</u> . Under the care of the Department of Conservation. <sup>[61][62]</sup>
84	<u>Port Hills</u>	<u>41°16'10"S</u> <u>173°15'59"E</u>	6in Mk 7 gun	12		In <u>Nelson</u> .

85	Smithfield Freezing Works	<u><span><span><span>44°22′16″S</span> <span>171°14′41″E</span></span></span></u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns 4x40mm Bofors	12	1942–1944	In <u>Timaru</u> . The No 2 (Colchester type) gun shelter is in an excellent state of preservation. <sup>[63]</sup>
134	Westport	<u><span><span><span>41°43′48″S</span> <span>171°35′15″E</span></span></span></u>	5in Mk 7 gun (USA) 4x40mm Bofors	10	1942–1944	On South Spit. The gun emplacement is no longer there but the battery observation post is visible on Google Earth. <sup>[64]</sup>
134	Cobden	<u><span><span><span>42°26′15″S</span> <span>171°12′45″E</span></span></span></u>	5in Mk 7 gun (USA) 4x40mm Bofors	10	1942–1944	At Greymouth. Establishment: 2 Officers, 1 WO, 3 Sergeants and 26 ORs. <u>Grey District Council</u> destroyed part of this site, without consultation, in 2007 to make way for a sewer line. <sup>[65]</sup>
143	Wainui	<u><span><span><span>43°49′46″S</span> <span>172°54′17″E</span></span></span></u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns 4x40mm Bofors 2xCASLs	12	1942–1944	In <u>Akaroa Harbour</u> on <u>Banks Peninsula</u> <sup>[66]</sup>

## Lower South Island

Under the command of the 13th Coast Regiment.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Battery	Name	Way-point	World War II Ordnance	Range (miles)	Dates	Notes
RHQ	Dunedin					
82	<u>Fort Taiaroa</u> [Russian scare]	<u><span><span><span>45°47′12″S</span> <span>170°43′39″E</span></span></span></u>	6in EOC gun 5xCASLs	6		 <p>Armstrong disappearing gun at Taiaroa Head</p> <p>Close to Taiaroa Head at the northeastern tip of Otago Peninsula. Restored, and open to the public. Includes what is believed to be the only 1889 <u>Armstrong Disappearing gun</u> remaining in working condition in its original gun pit.<sup>[67]</sup></p>
82	Rerewahine	<u><span><span><span>45°47′13″S</span> <span>170°44′45″E</span></span></span></u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns	12		Otago Peninsula.
82	<u>Tomahawk</u>	<u><span><span><span>45°54′19″S</span> <span>170°33′11″E</span></span></span></u>	2x6in Mk 7 guns	12		Dunedin
82	<u>Harington Point</u>	<u><span><span><span>45.7834°S</span> <span>170.7245°E</span></span></span></u>	2xTwin 6pdr guns 2x6pdr H&N			Dunedin
141	<u>Cape Wanbrow</u>	<u><span><span><span>45°07′13″S</span> <span>170°58′50″E</span></span></span></u>	5in Mk 7 gun (USA)	10	1942–	Under the care of the <u>Oamaru Coastal Defence Restoration Group</u> <sup>[68][69]</sup>
142	Bluff		6in Mk 7 gun	12		

## Post war



The advent of air warfare and missiles made these forts redundant and most were decommissioned by the 1950s. Godley Head continued because of compulsory military training and last fired a gun in 1959. The Department of Conservation has the remains of around 30 installations on land it manages.<sup>[55]</sup>

## Postscript

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None of the forts fired a gun in anger, though in October 1939 a Battery Point gun at Lyttelton accidentally sank the fishing boat "Dolphin" and killed its skipper.<sup>[70]</sup>

In 1972 the United States declassified a contingency plan for invading New Zealand. This plan consisted of a 120-page intelligence document called *Naval War Plan for the Attack of Auckland, New Zealand*. The intelligence for the report was gathered during the visit of the Great White Fleet to Auckland over six days in 1908. The plan advocated Manukau Harbour as the best invasion point and landing heavy guns on Rangitoto Island to shell the forts on the North Shore. The plan was not very realistic and may have been an exercise to keep young officers busy (see United States war plans; which allocated the colour Garnet to New Zealand as part of War Plan Red).<sup>[71]</sup>

## See also

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- Early naval vessels of New Zealand
- Coastal defences of Australia during World War II
- Coastal Forces of the Royal New Zealand Navy
- Axis naval activity in New Zealand waters
- British hardened field defences of World War II
- British anti-invasion preparations of World War II
- Seacoast Defense (US)

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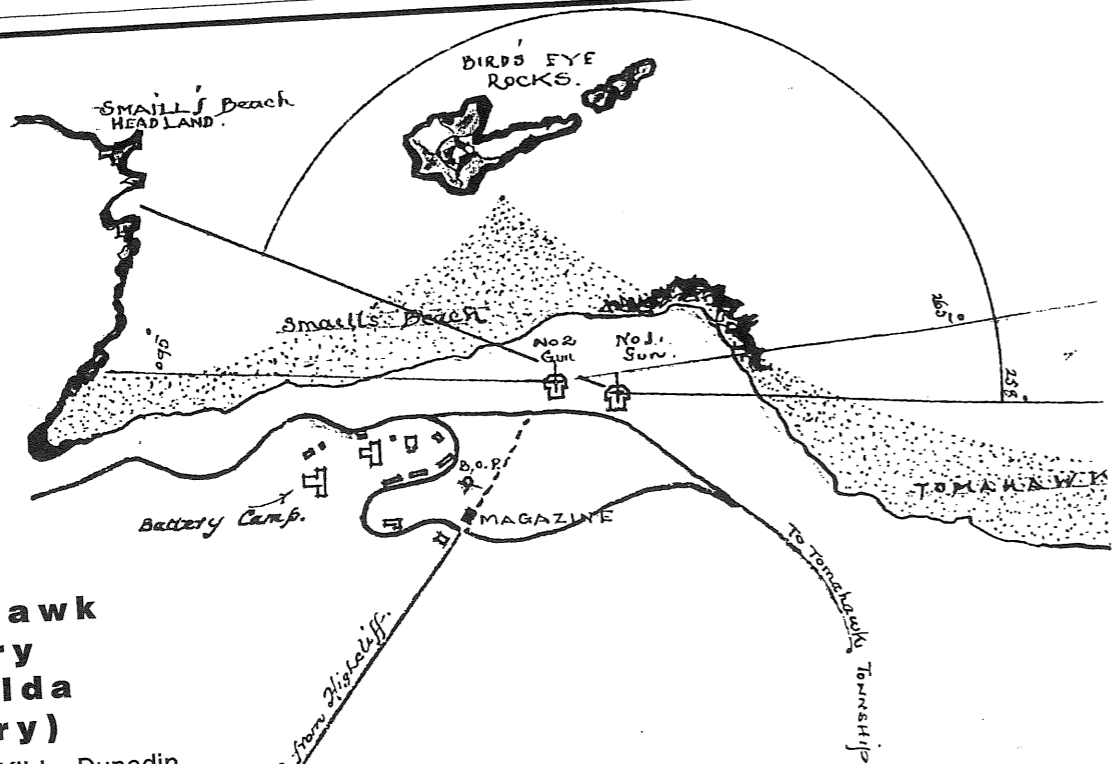
## External links

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- NZ coastal artillery units of World War II (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081015043526/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/rf/ww2/nz2.htm>)
- Coast Artillery Defences (<https://web.archive.org/web/20091017115627/http://riv.co.nz/rnza/hist/baigent1.htm>)
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### Tomahawk Battery (St Kilda Battery)

Where: St Kilda, Dunedin

Built: 1942

Cost to build: £29,955

In service: 1942-44

#### Armament

Nov 1942 two 6-inch BL MKVII on naval P.III 20° mounts, 156-161ft ASL

**History:** Suitable defence of Dunedin's docks (vulnerable to bombardment from the south) had a rocky road. Everyone agreed on the site: the St Kilda (Tomahawk) headland between sandy Lawyer's Head and Small's Beach Headland to the north east. The guns, however, were another matter. Port Chalmers took priority through 1941 and 1942 until weapons were available for this site. War Cabinet accepted a Chiefs of Staff proposal in May 1941 that "on the availability of further guns [after Port Chalmers' needs had been met] the question of providing some measure of protection for the City of Dunedin was to be considered". The DCGS Committee originally allotted Dunedin two 155mm field guns in January 1942 or, if these did not arrive, two US 5-inch guns. Two ex-Naval 6-inch guns were soon allotted (in February) to St Kilda and the work on emplacements approved, but in May the Chiefs decided that one of these guns was to be diverted to the West Coast coal ports. PWD and SMD inspected the St Kilda site in May 1942 and instructed that five cottages be taken for accommodation. The land was formally taken over on 22 June for the duration of the war (as well as, in standard practice, for 6 months thereafter), and the main road behind it closed. A camp for the PWD (and later to be used by 51 men serving the battery) was begun. The emplacements were begun then and ready by September 1942. Ancillary structures such as a BOP and magazine followed. The guns (a second had been found) were mounted on 23 October 1942, but the battery never became fully operational. One gun (s/n 1955) was not proof fired until 27 July 1943 (3 rounds): the other (s/n 1635) was never proofed as, the *Fort Record Book* states, its "equipment is incomplete".

The battery never participated in 'battery series' practice shoots. They weren't mounted for long, however, before going to C&M on 22 September 1943. Most of the ammunition was railed to Lyttelton in September and October 1944. While still under C&M the incomplete gun was replaced (on 21 December 1944) by a similar piece (s/n 1544) from Bluff's 142 Hy Bty. Both guns at Tomahawk were dismantled on 21 July 1945, when the magazine was emptied and all buildings 'sealed and secured against pillage'.

Tomahawk's No.1 gun emplacements was camouflaged, as was common in the South Island, to look like a beach cottage or 'crib' (with No.2 as a shed). A false front (through which the gun poked) and painted windows made it look quite tranquil from the air.

Maori Head was declared a Prohibited Place from 13 August 1941, modified on 12 November 1941 and cancelled 13 September 1945 under the Defence Emergency Regulations 1941, and the Tomahawk Camp on 22 December 1942 to 13 September 1945, by which time the guns had been returned to the Navy (after a spell in store at Burnham).

In January 1945 SMD recommended that the site, part of which had been privately owned, be made a defence reserve and in March 1946 it became a Transit Housing Centre.

**Observation:** No rangefinder was installed for the St Kilda guns. They operated solely in the close-defence role, using DSIR autosights fitted in April 1943.

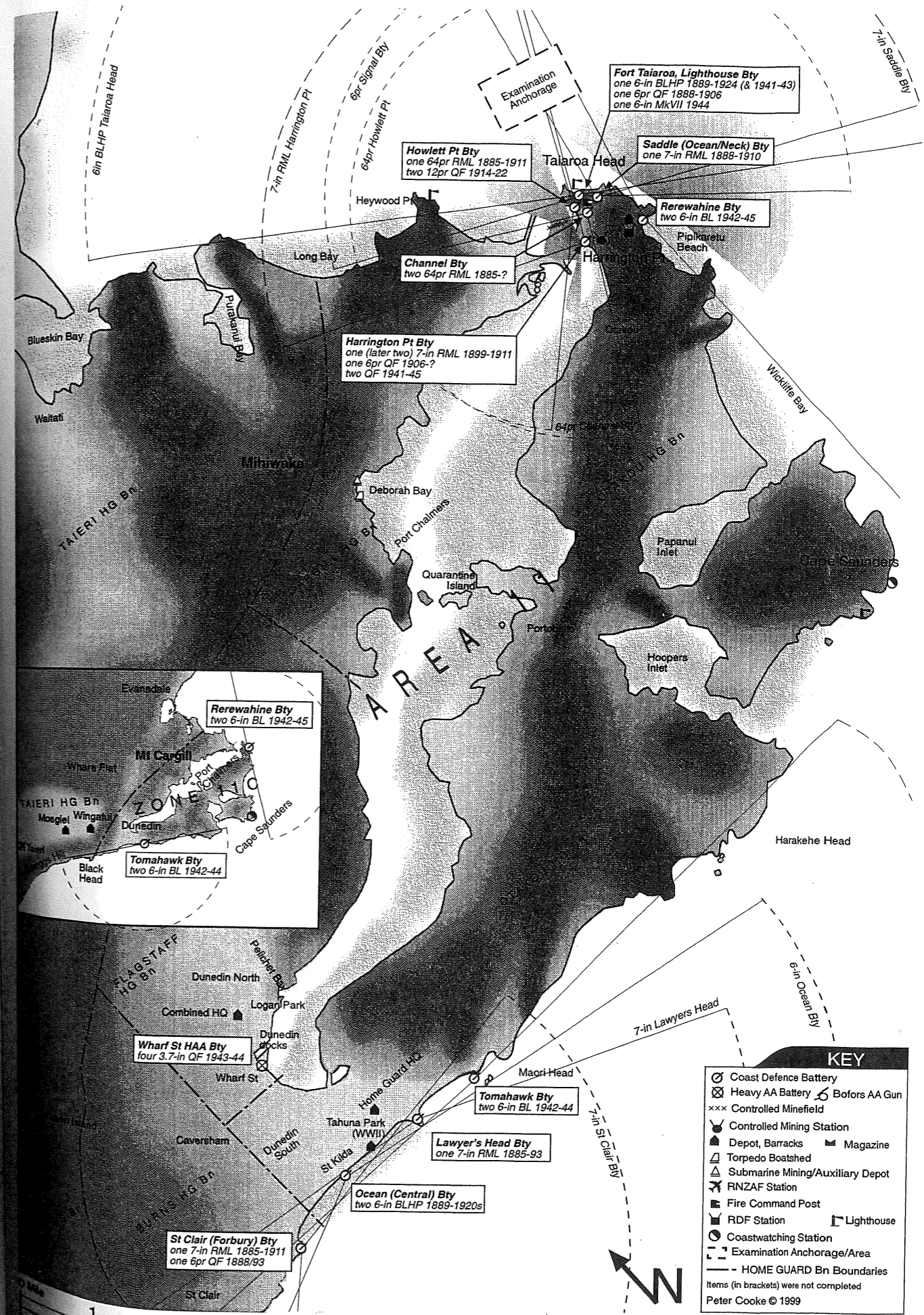
**Garrison:** D Section, 82 Hy Bty, 11 Hy Regt (13 Mixed Hy Regt from May-December 1943), RNZA. These and a Sig Sec were partly operational into 1944. The Headquarters of 13 Heavy Regt NZA moved to Tomahawk from Taiaroa Head in August 1943.

**Remarks:** Also known as St Kilda Bty

**Status now:** All concrete structures remain.

**How to get there:** head east along the south coast road

## Otago's Fixed Defences - 1885-WWII



Dark areas denote high ground. Not all defences shown were in service at the same time. Though taken from best known information, the gun arcs are approximate. Part of the arcs in two-gun batteries were usually covered by only one of the guns. Distances shown are maximum effective range.