

Appendix Description of Positions, 1940

This appendix describes the remaining military archaeology at Walberswick. It is intended to show the evidence that has been used in the accompanying discussion 'The Defence of Walberswick, 1939-1945 Part I' and also to inform the computer reconstructions that can be seen on this website.

Abbott: refers to map drawn up by Lance Corporal Abbot of the 2nd/4th South Lancashire Regiment, dated 16th May 1940 and appended to the unit war diary (TNA WO166/4680)

IWM: Imperial War Museum

TNA: The National Archives, Kew (Formerly the Public Record Office)

A. Location of Mobile anti-tank gun.

The gun, one of six manned by 115 Field Battery, Royal Artillery, was positioned in the area to the west of Sallow Wood Covert. In its anti-tank role this was a most appropriate locality situated between the main and minor roads leading inland from Walberswick.

Sources

TNA WO 166/1037, War Diary, 164 Infantry Brigade Operation Instruction No.1 issued 5 July 1940 [with Cassini grid reference]

TNA WO 166/10, War Diary, GHQ Home Forces CRA, 'Formation of batteries with naval equipment', May 1940

Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, set of three photos of a mobile four- inch anti-tank gun near Dungeness, Kent, 29 July 1940, H 2570, H 2580 and H 2591

B. Location of 'E' Troop, 136 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Details from various war diaries and the Regimental History suggest that the Sallow Wood position was established at the end of August or the very beginning of September. The positioning and manning of the guns and their relationship with the command centre, Lewis gun enclosure and barbed wire entanglement are based on various war diaries, contemporary photographs, the Regimental History of 136 Field Regiment and the advice of Lieutenant Colonel Alan Walpole, R.A. Retd.

Some of the more important sources include

War Diaries

TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regt., Home Defence Scheme, 3rd Edition 14 October 1940, Appendix C. Artillery. [Disposition of artillery]

TNA WO 166/692, War Diary, 55 Division CRA, '55 Division Arty Standing Orders, Appendix 1 to Diary, Sept. 1940. [Instructions on protection, nature of gun pits and operation of OPs]

TNA WO 166/1548, War Diary, 136 Field Battery RA. [Of general interest]

Photographs

(All from the Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, London unless otherwise indicated)

75mm French field gun.

A sequence of eight photographs showing a 75mm being fired in Scotland, Autumn 1940. H 4909 – H 4916. The entire troop of four guns seen from a distance H 4904,

H 4905. Set of photographs of the extant 75mm gun in the main hall at the Imperial War Museum, London.

Gun pits.

Set of four images of action in a field gun pit, South Coast 1940, H 4023, H 4028- H 4030. Plus H 1076 also 1940

Hogg I.V. (1998) *Allied Artillery of World War Two*, Crowood. [with contemporary photos of gun pits]

Mead P. (1982) *Gunners at War, 1939-1945*, Ian Allen, Surrey. Gun pits, photo No.132, p.85 and No.149, p.91

Savage Col. J.D. (1999) *The Hertfordshire Yeomanry Regiments, Royal Artillery*, Hart, Welwyn. Plates 71,72, of a 4.5-in howitzer dug in between Westleton and Darsham House, Suffolk, Winter 1939/40

Troop Command Post.

IWM H 1309, H 2700, H 4032 and E 16841

Field Service Pocket Book, Pamphlet No.4, Field Engineering, The War Office 1939, p.30, 'Typical design of a Battery Command Post.'

Lewis gun emplacement.

IWM H 1220, H 2695 and H 4062

Other secondary sources

Robertson G.W. (1986) *The Rose and the Arrow*, 136 Field Regiment R.A., Old Comrades Association, pp.47, 48.

C. Earthworks remains of section Trench and extant Pillbox.

This is the best-preserved trench in the Walberswick area. The position is shown on Abbot and represents the extreme right flank of the 'C' Company line. This position is visible on RAF aerial photograph taken 8.7.40 (S.1) and was still open in a photograph taken 16.10.45. (S.2) The pillbox is of 'Suffolk Square' design and is in good condition. Bullet marks on the eastern face suggest re-use for training purposes after 1940. The position comprised a main fire trench with a section of linking communication trench with the pillbox. The good state of preservation is largely down to the presence of regenerating woodland and its position on the edge of the Walberswick National Nature Reserve. Limited excavation was carried out in February 2009 when sections were dug across the widest part of the feature together with what was assumed to be a communication trench. In the former there appeared to have been a substantial fire step and this trench was reconstructed on the basis that it had been dug as instructed in the manual (S.3).

Whilst the majority of the fire trench appeared to be of textbook width, one section, in excess of 3 metres, definitely exceeded this. It had a length of about 3 to 4 metres and this suggests an interesting and alternative development possibility for this trench. If this is the case the sequence of events might have been as follows.

The trench was first dug in a textbook fashion. This position is very isolated and far from shelter so the western end was widened and a basic dugout was built to offer some protection to the section. This may have been similar to the structure illustrated in the series of photos depicting a practice assault on a section position, July 31 to

Aug 2 1940 (S.4). Some time after the trench was dug it was decided that this location needed a pillbox, which was constructed in the most suitable position, about 12 metres to the west of the trench. Pillbox and fire trench had then to be connected by a communication trench, which was of less than textbook width, possibly confirming its later construction. As the section was now provided with a pillbox, the dugout may have been removed. While this is, of course, only supposition, it in accordance with the fact that that pillboxes seem to have been added to existing trenches some considerable time after the initial construction. (S.5) Furthermore the battalion war diary stated that at the end of June that men of forward companies were 'very comfortable when they have to sleep at their posts' (S6)

Sources

- (S1) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.33, 8.7.40
- (S2) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4125, 16.10.45
- (S3) Field Service Pocket Book, Pamphlet No.4, Field Engineering, War Office, 1939, pp. 20-23.
- (S4) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, IWM H 2700
- (S5) See this website 'The Defence of Walberswick Part 1: The Coastal Crust' p.11.
- (S6) TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regt., entry 30 June 1940.

D. Probable Location of Pillbox.

The remains of this pillbox now lie at Grid TM 48956 74044 where they were dragged from their original position to the north during field clearance during the 1960s (S1). The remains suggest that this too was a 'Suffolk Square'. If the original position was to the north then it would represent the greatest deviation from Abbot's map in the Walberswick area, which shows a section position between 'C' and 'F'. Supporting evidence that the actual position was indeed further to the north comes from aerial photographs that show barbed wire running through the position shown on Abbot's map (S2). The topography suggests that the decision to move this position to the north was probably due to an area of dead ground that the new location would have been able to cover with fire. Given that Abbot's map shows arc of fire to the north, presumably to deal with paratroops approaching from inland, it would seem that this position was re-sited at an early date. To further complicate matters, however, no sign of any trench system is to be seen on aerial photographs. Research for the Defence of Britain Project, based upon a aerial photo of 1952 (S3) places the pillbox about 40-50 yards to the west of 'D'. However, a very clear aerial photo of 1945 does not appear to show anything in this position.

Sources

- (S1) Philip Kett, pers comm.
- (S2) Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 051 – MXS19421 and large scale interpretive map
- (S3) Defence of Britain database, site reference, S0016151 'Pillbox'

E. Extant artillery Observation Post.

A concrete structure similar in design to the 'Suffolk Square' pillbox, but can be shown from entries in unit war diaries to have been an artillery Observation Post, in this case for 'E' Troop, 136 Regiment Royal Artillery at Sallow Wood Covert. The

two structural differences from a Suffolk Square are the half hexagonal front and the absence of interior shelves. The siting is closely bound up with the infantry position at F, but is on higher ground to the north.

Sources

TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regt., Home Defence Scheme 10 Oct. 1940, Appendix 'C' Artillery,[Cassini reference for OP-9].

TNA WO 166/692 War Diary 55 Division CRA, Artillery Standing Instructions, Sept. 1940, Paragraph 12, O.Ps

F. Remains of pillbox and slight earthworks of trench.

This position, shown on Abbot, lies on a natural promontory overlooking the area of Corporation Marshes. The remains of a concrete pillbox can be seen and this too, appears to be a 'Suffolk Square'. The fragmented nature of the concrete might suggest forcible destruction, possibly in a training exercise. Very slight traces of earthwork trench can be seen today, but are largely obscured by gorse. The attendant trench system does appear on aerial photographs (S1). Given the topography and the relatively central position in relation to C and D, this is the likely location of the platoon headquarters. There was a major barbed wire entanglement in this area extending to sites 'C' and 'D' (S2)

Sources

(S1) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2BC/BR/173 frm.19, 17.6.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 frm.4125,
16.10.45

(S2) Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 051 – MXCS19421 'Barbed wire obstruction'

G. Extant Pillbox.

A well-preserved 'Suffolk Square' pillbox now on private land. The location is approximately 20 metres from the section position marked by Abbot. The presence of a trench is seemingly confirmed by aerial photographs that show a linear feature running to the east (S1). While a trench seems most likely, the possibility that this is a garden path should not be discounted. There was a major barbed wire entanglement to the east approximately 200 metres long (S2)

Source

(S1) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.19, 17.6.41,
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/S/524 frm.9, 21.9.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/106G/UK/929 frm.4122,
16.10.45.

Defence of Britain database, site reference S0016150

(S2) Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 052 – MXS19422 'Barbed wire obstruction'

H. Location of filled in trench on farmland.

A section position marked on Abbot and visible on aerial photographs. Here, the design is more typically rectangular and more akin to First World War design. It is visible on aerial photos from 1941 and 1942 but not on a good quality photo of Oct 1945 and had presumably been backfilled.

Sources

English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18.17.6.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF 2A/BR165, frm.32, 18.11.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/106G/UK/929, frm.4122, 16.10.45
Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 055 – MXS19428 ‘Slit trenches’

I. Two extant pillboxes. Two ‘Suffolk Square’ pillboxes in close proximity.

No earthwork remains of trenches, but extensive trench systems are visible on aerial photographs from 1940 through to 1945 (S1). As is the case with F, this position is situated on a promontory with good views over both the marshes and also towards Walberswick itself. Abbot’s map shows Boys Anti-Tank rifle fire towards the beach area from this position. This location seems also to have been a platoon headquarters, in this case for other sections at G and H. There is a major barbed wire entanglement protecting this area (S2).

Sources

- (S1) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.34, 8.7.40
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18, 17.6.41
Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Luftwaffe aerial photo, Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940.
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF 2A/BR165, frm.32, 18.11.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4122, 16.10.45
(S2) Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 044 – MXS19414 ‘Barbed wire obstruction, trenches and pillboxes

J. Extant Artillery Observation Post.

A concrete structure similar in design to that at E, with unit dairies indicating that this was used by spotters from 72 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery at Henham park. (S1). As their original OP was established in Walberswick church tower on 15th June 1940, it is highly unlikely that this structure was then in place (S2). It was not visible on an aerial photo of July 1940 although there appears to be a cleared area in the hedge in the locality in which it was subsequently built (S3). Covering fire for the OP appears to have been provided by the trenches and pillboxes at I; this meant that the artillery observers therein would have been the closest troops to the sea in the event of invasion.

Sources

- (S1) TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regt., Home Defence Scheme 10 Oct. 1940, Appendix ‘C’ Artillery, [Cassini reference for OP-8].
(S2) TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regt., daily war diary, entry 15.6.40
(S3) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.34, 8.7.40

K. Extant Anti-Tank cubes.

A series of lines of anti-tank cubes now occupy the area in and around the modern car park. To judge from aerial photographs, however, some are not in their original position.

Sources

English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.35, 8.7.40
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18, 17.6.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF 2A/BR165, frm.31, 18.11.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4122,
16.10.45
Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 041-MXS19410 'Anti-tank cubes'
Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 042 – MXS19411 'Barbed wire obstacles'

L. Destroyed pillbox.

This pillbox is visible on aerial photographs, but nothing remains today, the site being subsumed by later anti-flood defences. The evidence for this pillbox is a defence plan of 1942 (S1) As the other five pillboxes shown on this trace are either extant or definitely existed there is reason to assume that this one existed as well. It appears to be visible, but not clearly on RAF aerial photos from 1941 onwards (S2). An aerial photo of July 1940 shows considerable activity in the immediate area possibly caused by the construction of the pillbox (S3). Abbots map shows that the planned defended area *was to be situated* just to the south of the Dunwich River, a marshy locality where a dug trench would soon fill with water. It is suggested, therefore, that the local commander moved the site of 'L' to a drier more suitable position 40-50 metres to the north, where the pillbox was built. It is surprising that although there were three platoons forward defending the village in 1941/2, there is so little aerial photo evidence for trenches. One platoon defended the rear of the town, but in this case aerial photos do suggest a 'strong point' positioned to defend the main road out of the village (S4).

Sources

(S1) TNA WO 166/8851, War Diary, 5 Royal Berks, 'Operation Instruction No.1',
10.3.42, [trace of troop dispositions].
(S2) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18,
17.6.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF 2A/BR165, frm.31, 18.11.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4122,
16.10.45
(S3) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.35, 8.7.40
(S4) Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 036 – MXS19323 'Strongpoint'

M. Removed Anti-Tank Cubes.

A shorter line of cubes are visible on aerial photographs in this location. Their purpose seems to have been to prevent vehicles leaving the harbour area.

Sources

English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.35, 8.7.40
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18, 17.6.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, Oblique, E2/BR260 frm.6988, 7.7.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF 2A/BR165, frm.31, 18.11.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4122,
16.10.45
Defence of Britain database, site reference S0016032

N. Location of barbed wire entanglements and minefield.

Aerial photographs (S1) show a considerable amount of barbed wire parallel to the beach, which was probably of 'treble concertina' type as there are numerous references to Dannert wire in unit war diaries (S2) The minefield was located between the line of Dragons Teeth and the wire and consisted of anti-personnel mines (S3). A simple barbed wire fence surrounded the minefield (S4).

Sources

- (S1) Suffolk County Council, SMR DUN 029 – XS 10412 'Beach Defence Obstructions'
Suffolk County Council, SMR SWD 038 – MXS19406 'Beach Defences'.
Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 043 – MXS19413 'Barbed wire obstruction'
Dr. Colin Pendleton, HER Officer, kindly assisted in identifying and distinguishing between the various rows of beach defences on the interpretive maps produced during the Suffolk Coastal Mapping Programme. This made it possible to reproduce the beach defences as they would have been in the Autumn of 1940.
- (S2) TNA WO 166/1037, War Diary 164 Infantry Brigade, Instruction No.5 27 May 1940
- (S3) TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regiment, General Summary to June 1940 war diary 'There are also anti-personnel beach mines at Dunwich South and Walberswick.' TNA WO 166/4181, War diary, 10 Cameronians Defence Scheme Appendix E to Operation order No.1 Minefields in Bn. Area, 10.10.41. [Exact extent of anti-personnel minefield with number of rows and mines] Defence of Britain database, site reference S0016042.
- (S4) TNA WO 166/688, 55 Division Defence Scheme Oct 1940, paragraph 37, 'Minefields'.

O. Location of Dragon's Teeth.

Although a term often used today to describe concrete anti-tank obstacles, unit war diaries refer to 'Dragon's Teeth' at Walberswick that are clearly metal spikes set in concrete in the shingle to tear the bottom out of craft attempting to land on the beach.

Sources

- Suffolk County Council SMR DUN 029 – XS 10412.
TNA WO 166/688, 55 Division War Diary Summary, and Defence Scheme, July 1940
TNA WO 166/688, 55 Division War Diary, Summary, 1 Sept.

P. Location of River Boom.

Several attempts were made to obstruct the mouth of the Blyth. Two wooden trawlers had been sunk in the mouth of the river on or about the 20th of May (S1) but they did not prove durable enough and as early as the 2nd June were reported as being broken up by action of the sea (S2). Some kind of net obstruction can be seen on an aerial photograph from autumn 1940 (S3) and by July 1941 a boom was in place (S4).

Sources

- (S1) TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regiment, daily entry 20.5.40.

- (S2) TNA WO 199/85, Beach Defence Reconnaissance, 1940, 'Message No.7 from Admiral Dreyer, 2nd June 1940.'
- (S3) Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Luftwaffe aerial photo, Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940. This shows a *Netzsperr* (net obstacle) between the two piers.
- (S4) Suffolk County Council, SMR 043 – MXS20463. 'The barrier suspended between South Pier and North Pier was probably a boom composed of chain or heavy (*wire*) rope and would have been lowered to allow the passage of vessels.'

Q) Barbed wire and Southwold Emergency Coastal Defence Battery (first position)

This battery, originally constructed in June 1940, was moved about 800 metres to Gun Hill Southwold, the highest point in the area, between the 23rd and 26th Sept. 1941 (S1). There is an excellent surviving Fort Book with plans and details of the new battery complex. (S1) but for the earlier position just north of the River Blyth there is no such record and even the war diary does not start until the beginning of 1941 (S2) The reconstructed battery (first position) is therefore based on aerial photos, and the basic layout as recorded for other batteries in the area including Aldeburgh (S3) and East Lane, Bawdsey, the latter, of which much still survives

The two gun houses are clearly visible on a series of both vertical and oblique WWII aerial photos (S4) To the south of the gun emplacements is a structure correctly positioned to be the battery observation post. On the Luftwaffe aerial photo (S5) it is given a symbol suggesting that they recognised it as such and the Defence of Britain database describes it as an coastal observation post, plotted from the same German photo (S6) We have therefore assumed that this is the BOP, but it does not look high enough to be of the locally common type, as for example the structure surviving at East Lane Battery, Bawdsey or as illustrated in Kent (S7). It also does not appear to have the characteristic steel roof protecting the 9-foot Barr and Stroud Rangefinder seen on both East Lane BOP and the second BOP at Aldeburgh. However East Lane Battery was not built until early 1941, the guns being transferred from Foulness Point (S8) and the mill at Aldeburgh was not converted into the second BOP until August 1941 (S9).

We have therefore, in the absence of any other information, reconstructed a simpler form of BOP with one working floor only (the lofty BOP at East Lane has two), based upon, but higher than, the original BOP at Aldeburgh (S3 and S10) and the surviving OP at Grand Battery, Lowestoft. There are records for other CD batteries of this type in the United Kingdom including a series of photographs for the Emergency Coastal Battery at Llandwrog, Caernarfon (S11) from which we also based our camouflage. The operation of the BOP has been reconstructed from the many contemporary photographs available to view at the Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive. (S12)

The gun houses and their manning are based on action photographs of similar 6-inch guns being fired, photos and drawings of the structures themselves, together with a photograph of a 5.5-inch naval gun exhibited in the Imperial War Museum, London (S13). Similarly the magazines have been modelled on contemporary photographs (S14) and the layout of the surviving magazines at Dunwich Emergency Coastal

Defence Battery. The excellent and detailed plans of the new Southwold CD battery were also used as guidance (S1).

The South CASL (Coastal Artillery Searchlight). A 1940 Luftwaffe map (S15) interpreted this structure as a pillbox but it would have been in a very exposed locality and is in a more suitable position to serve as one of the two searchlights for the Emergency Coastal Defence Battery. This assumption is backed up by oral testimony (12.06.04) stating that this was not a pillbox (S16). Photographs and drawings of searchlight emplacements have been used in preparing the model (S17).

The North CASL (Coastal Artillery Searchlight) and Lewis gun. With regards to the north searchlight emplacement there appears to be a small square building on the oblique aerial photo of 1941 (S18) and as this is in a typical position with regards to the rest of the complex we have modelled it accordingly. All gun batteries both CD and field, are recorded in the war diaries as being given defence against aircraft, commonly using a Lewis Gun (S19). The Lewis Gun enclosure has therefore been modelled on contemporary photos (S20). Its real position is unknown but a circular feature of about the correct size, visible on the same oblique aerial photo of 1941 as above (S18) has been taken as a possible position. There would also have been one or two generator houses to supply emergency power but no attempt has been made to plot possible position/s.

Sources

- (S1) TNA WO 192/79, Fort Record Book, 327 Coast Battery, Southwold
- (S2) TNA WO 166/1817, War Diary, 327 Coast Battery.
- (S3) TNA WO 192/214, Fort Record Book, 328 Coast Battery, Aldeburgh
- (S4) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.35 & 36, 8.7.40
Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Luftwaffe aerial photo, Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940.
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, oblique, E2/BR260, 7.7.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4122, 16.10.45
- (S5) Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Luftwaffe aerial photo, Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940.
- (S6) Defence of Britain database, site reference S0016031, 'Coastal observation post.'
- (S7) Kent P (1988), *Fortifications of East Anglia*, Terence Dalton, Lavenham, p.191
- (S8) Ibid, pp. 64,65.
- (S9) TNA WO 192/214, Fort Record Book, 328 Coast Battery, Aldeburgh. 'Part II, Section 'A' Description of the Fort'
- (S10) See early post-war photo of first OP and one of the two gun house, SRO (Ipswich) K681/1/3/128
- (S11) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, H 6020 to H 6030
- (S12) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, H 2683, H 2953, H 2954, H 3247, H 4526, H 4527, H 10607, H 10608, H12514 to H 12518,
- (S13) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, in particular H118-121, H 3291, H 3293 and H 12959
Brown I (et al), (1996) *20th Century Defences in Britain*, CBA, 1996, Fig.51, p.99
Bird C (1999) *Silent Sentinels*, Lark Press, p.17, [gun casement Happisburgh]

- Dewing G (1955) *Aldeburgh 1939-1945*, privately published, photos of Aldeburgh CD Battery, Front cover, and between pp.12 and 13.
- Kent P (1988), *Fortifications of East Anglia*, Terence Dalton, Lavenham, P.191
- (S14) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive H 12953 to H 12956
- (S15) Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.
- (S16) Defence of Britain database, site reference S0016029. 'Square flat roofed structure.'
- (S17) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, H 327.
Brown I (et al), (1996) *20th Century Defences in Britain*, CBA, 1996, p.103.
Osborne, M (2008), *20th Century Defences in Britain, Suffolk*, Concrete Publications, Market Deeping, Illus.10, p.20
- (S18) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, oblique, E2/BR260, 7.7.41
- (S19) TNA WO 166/692, 55 Division CRA, Artillery Standing Orders, paragraph 8, anti-aircraft defence
- (S20) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, IWM H 1220, H 2695 and H 4062

R. Destroyed Pillbox.

A pillbox in this location can be seen on the Luftwaffe aerial photo but it is not visible on later RAF photographs, which possibly may be due to careful camouflage techniques. Its siting to cover the harbour area from the Southwold side seems clear. This position would probably have been manned by men of 'D' Company, 2nd/4th South Lancashire Regiment and the location is on Abbot's map.

Sources

Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940,
Defence of Britain database, site reference S0012794

S. Site of Grounded Ferry.

The pre-war ferry that took passengers across the Blyth ceased to be operational early in the war. The ferry itself was put onto moorings but these broke and she ran aground and partly filled with water.

Sources

Church D. and Gander A., (2009), *The Story of the Southwold – Walberswick Ferry*, privately published, Chapt.10, pp. 80-84.
Philip Kett, pers. comm., 2009.

T. Destroyed Pillbox.

A pillbox in this location can be seen on aerial photographs of 1940 and 1941 (S1). It was probably being built in July 1940 as an aerial photo of that month shows much activity in the surrounding area. In addition there appears to be a trench already in position facing the river entrance (S2). This possible trench is not visible from 1941 onwards. Abbot's map shows a section position here with fire from a Boys Anti-Tank rifle. The latter was presumably intended to fire on armoured vehicles on the Southwold side.

Sources

(S1) Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940,
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18, 17.6.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, Oblique, E2/BR260 frm.6988,

7.7.41

(S2) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.35, 8.7.40

U .Remains of pillbox.

The broken remains of a concrete pillbox lie in this location, washed off the sea bank and destroyed during floods in 1963. The aerial photo for July 1940 show much activity in the immediate area and as for 'T' above it would appear that preparations for its construction were being made at that time. The pillbox then appears on aerial photos from 1941 and 1945

Sources

English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/2/BR11/14 Frm.35, 8.7.40

Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940,

English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18, 17.6.41

English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4122,
16.10.45

Suffolk County Council, SMR WLB 040 - MXS19409 'Square pillbox'

Philip Kett, pers comm., 2009

V. Extant Pillbox.

A 'Suffolk Square' pillbox that does not appear as a section position on Abbot. It is possible that it had not been planned at this early stage and was later manned by men from a platoon of 136 Field Regiment who were working as infantry (S1) This pillbox is orientated to cover the River Blyth and thus presumably to defend this waterway which formed part of a stop line, 'F-Switch', running from Walberswick to Halesworth and then on to Harleston (S2). The 1940 RAF aerial photos do not cover this area but it is clearly shown with associated fieldworks on the Luftwaffe photograph. It is then visible on RAF 1941 aerial photos but is not covered by those of 1945 (S3).

Sources

(S1) TNA WO 166/4680, War Diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regt., Defence Plans
17 July and 14 Oct., 'Other troops in Battalion area'.

(S2) TNA WO 166/688, War diary, 55 Division Defence Scheme. October
1940, 'Description of Stop Lines'.

(S3) Taktisches Luftbildbuch N.3, 23.10.1940, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frm.18, 17.6.41
Defence of Britain database, site reference S0012791

W. The Towers.

The Headquarters of 'C' Company 2nd/4th South Lancashire Regiment. It occupies a position that would have been central and slightly to the rear of the three forward platoons.

Source

TNA WO 166/1037, War Diary, 164 Infantry Brigade, location statements, April and July 1940

X Road Block

The roadblock had been established prior to 17 July 1940 and was one of the only two in the area manned by regular troops. All the others were manned by the L.D.V. (Home Guard) (S1). It probably took the form of temporary steel girders inserted into slots in the road with permanent concrete cubes to each side (S2), but being in an important position it may have later been converted to the stronger 'hairpin' type. A pillbox was placed adjacent to the road, of which nothing now remains although it appears to be visible on aerial photos of 1941 and may still be there in October 1945 (S3). It was shown on a defence plan of 1942 (S4) and recalled by a war time resident (S5)

Sources

- (S1) TNA WO 166/4680, War diary, 2/4 South Lancashire Regt., Home Defence Plan 17 July 1940, para. 18, 'Road Blocks'.
- (S2) Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive, H 2711, H 2722, H 12852.
TNA WO 166/329, War Diary XI Corps, Defence Scheme, 30.6.40, Appendix F, Part III Road Blocks, para.15 'Closing of Gaps', method (a) 'Steel rails in sockets.'
- (S3) English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/2BC/BR173 frms.17, 18, 17.6.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography RAF/S/524 frms. 8, 9, 21.9.41
English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography, RAF/106G/UK/929 Frm.4122, 16.10.45
- (S4) TNA WO 166/8851, War Diary 5 Royal Berks, 'Operation Instruction No.1', 10.3.42, [trace of troop dispositions].
- (S5) Phillip Kett, pers comm., 2009.

Y. Walberswick church Tower.

The church tower was the original site of for the artillery OP of 72 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, prior to the construction of the concrete OP at J.

Source

TNA WO 166/4680, 2/4 South Lancashire Regiment, war diary, entry 15 June 1940.