

Anti-Aircraft Battery D3 Frith Farm, Guston

Barry O'Brien – Dover Tales

Less than one mile from the gates to Connaught Barracks, Frith Farm, Guston, was the site of Anti-Aircraft Battery D3.

A Second World War Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) Battery the Frith Farm site was ready for action on 25th August 1939 at which time it was equipped with two 3inch semi-mobile guns dating from the First World War. The site was manned by half of the 233 Battery while the other half were stationed at Farthingloe (D1) but who were, at the time, still awaiting the arrival of their guns. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery D2 was located at Wanstone Farm while D4 was located in St. Radigunds. In all there would appear to have been at least 19 HAA sites in and around the towns of Dover and Folkestone.

Many of the Dover HAA sites were built on green-field land and had no concrete gun emplacements or magazines, leaving the guns and command post protected only by sandbags while the ground around the guns reduced to a sea of mud throughout the winter. Frith Farm, though, did have an accommodation block albeit with no

electricity supply, no glass in the windows and no bed-frames.

With the 3inch guns removed to the Harbour Battery (D5) the new 3.7inch guns destined for the site arrived at Dover Priory station on the afternoon of 25th May 1940 and were henceforth towed to Frith Farm, although these were mobile type guns and not the static ones planned.

They were also received un-painted and the paint was still wet when that night's enemy action began, coincidentally this was also the first time the Battery had fired a shot in anger. A Heinkel 115 minelayer was duly despatched by the guns while the only casualty at Frith Farm was the paint on the newly painted gun barrels which had blistered along the barrel's length from the heat of firing. By 1942 the Frith Farm site was armed with six 3.7inch mobile guns with GL Mark II radar manned by 411 Battery of the 127th Royal Artillery Regiment. From 2nd August 1944, the site was manned by 413 Battery of the 173 Anti-Aircraft Regiment and thereafter, in 1946, retained as a Nucleus Force Headquarters Battery.



Anti Aircraft Battery D3 Christmas 1940



Nissan Hut is Now a Stable for Horses

The only building that survives today at Frith Farm is the Nissan hut used for the living/sleeping accommodation of the men whilst Officers used requisitioned

houses nearby. Nowadays the Nissan hut survives as a stable for horses, shown on the defence of Britain data base as a defended building. Ref. No. S0014875

Location of WW2 Air Defence Sites around Dover

Site Number	Site Name	OS Grid Reference
D1	Farthingloe	TR 297 399
D2	Swingate	TR 349 433
D3	Frith Farm	TR 319 436
D4	St Radigund	TR 289 424
D5		TR 328 426
D6	Dover Harbour	TR 328 416
D7	Western Heights	TR 310 408
D8		TR 329 461
D10		TR 352 477
D12		TR 356 513

With thanks to Mark Chapman

© *Dover Tales 2023 for The Land Trust*

Derek Leach

Terry Sutton

Derek Leach OBE, our Dover Society former chairman, has retired from the unpaid post as chairman of the influential Port Community Forum which he has chaired for nearly nine years. Derek is succeeded by Mick Tedder who worked at the port of Dover for forty years before retiring as freight import director employed by local shipping company Hammonds.

Tributes were paid to Mr Leach by bosses of Dover Harbour Board and others at the last Port and Community Forum held in November.

The forum was set up in the wake of the

failed attempt to privatise the Port of Dover when some local people tried to switch the ownership of the ferry port to local people. As a result, in an attempt to gather better local community views on the work of the port, and its future, the forum was set up. Members of the forum today represent a wide range of community views and opinions.

During the November meeting of the forum, it was formally announced that Dover Harbour Board had gifted more than £1 million to mainly 150 local organisations and projects through the Kent Community Foundation.