

Coastal Artillery - Fidra Coast Battery, Firth of Forth



Fidra Coast Battery (not, in fact, built on the island of Fidra, but on the coastline just north of Dirleton, East Lothian), which became operational in 1940.

It was equipped with two ex-navy 6 inch guns which had been removed from an obsolete warship. These large calibre guns were intended to fire against any large warships which attempted to enter the Firth of Forth, or to shell targets from off the estuary. Fidra was also equipped with coast artillery searchlights (CASL) which were intended to illuminate ships at night in order that they could be fired upon (as Fidra was not equipped with radar).

Extensive camouflage measures were carried out at Fidra, in an attempt to disguise its real function. False sloping roofs were provided, from which canvas curtains were hung, the effect of which was to turn the gun houses into apparently innocent domestic dwellings, and therefore of no interest to German photographic intelligence.

Fidra had been closed down by November 1943.



An observer at Fidra