

Burton Battery

17th - 19th Century Defences

13 Coastal Defence Cannon Batteries

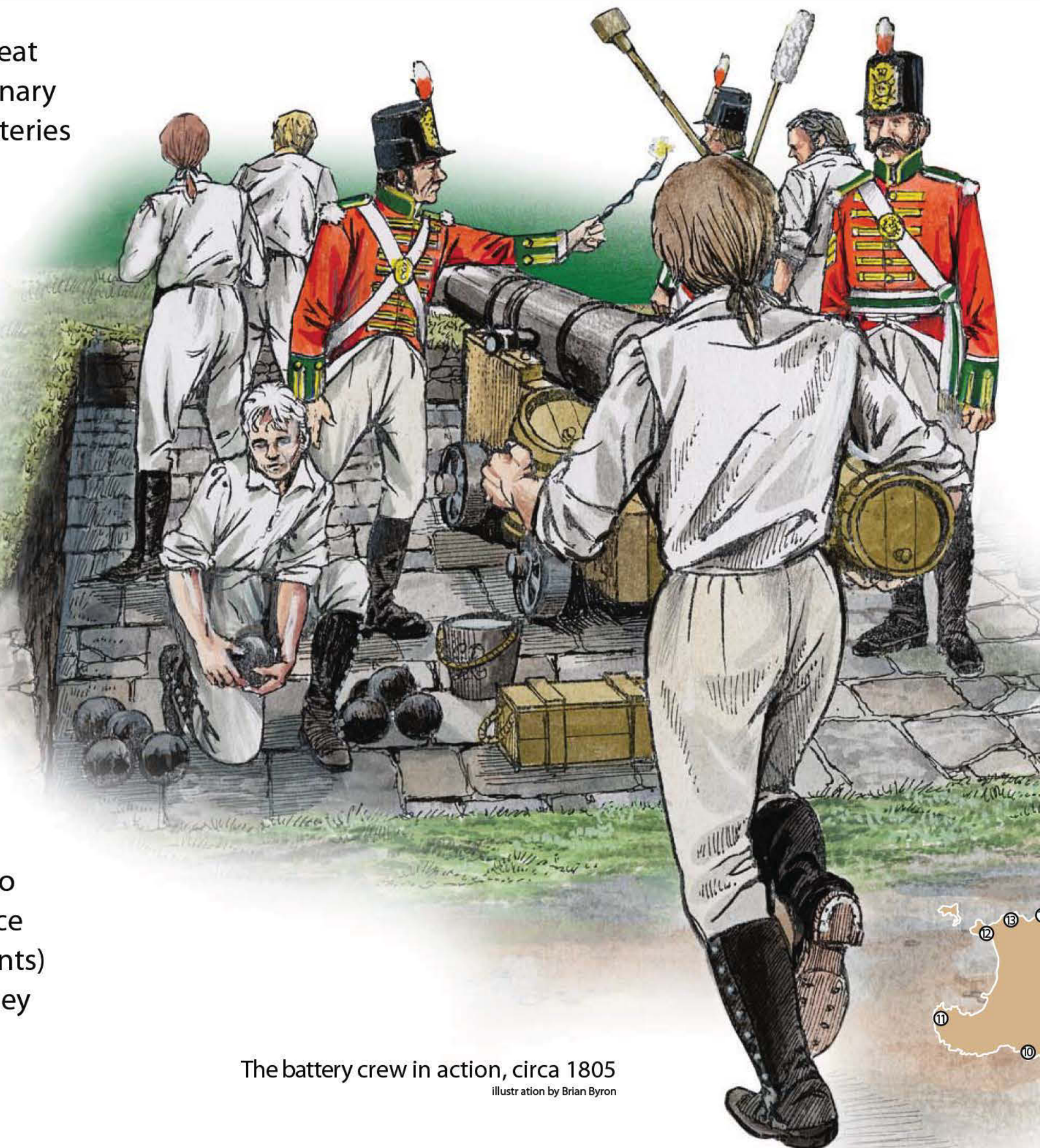
Burton Battery was built towards the end of the 18th century as the threat of possible invasion from France increased during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793 – 1815). It was one of over sixty coastal batteries in service in Guernsey at the time and was constructed to protect the coastline from possible landings by the French.

Records from 1801 show that the battery was known at that time as the 'Two Gun Battery'. It had two 20 pounder cannons which would have been manned by the Guernsey Militia. These cannons would have been able to fire an iron ball between 1600 and 2400 metres.

By 1816 the battery was known as 'Fort Burton' and it had been equipped with another two 20 pounder cannon, making four in total. A permanent and a portable magazine were also recorded. The magazine would have held black powder and shot for the guns.

During the Second World War the site of Burton Battery was utilised as *Wiederstandsnest Lowenfels* by the German occupying forces.

The weapons positioned here included one 8cm mortar, one 3.7cm Pak in a tank turret, three flamethrowers and several machine guns. Today a reinforced field order personnel shelter is visible, as is a small machine gun post built into the wall of the old battery. *Wiederstandsnests* (resistance nests) combined with the larger *Stutzpunkts* (strongpoints) formed a defensive network around the coast of Guernsey that was designed to repel an Allied invasion.



The battery crew in action, circa 1805

Illustration by Brian Byron



Other Coastal Defence Batteries can be found along Guernsey's coastline

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Clarence 1 | Perelle 14 |
| Becquet 2 | Vazon 15 |
| Fermain 3 | Burton 16 |
| Bec du Nez 4 | Portinfer 17 |
| Mont au Nord 5 | Rousse 18 |
| La Moye 6 | La Lachonde 19 |
| Moulin Huet 7 | Platon 20 |
| Saints Bay 8 | Nid De L'Herbe 21 |
| St. Clair's 9 | Beaucette 22 |
| Les Tielles 10 | Delancey 23 |
| Pleinmont 11 | |
| L'Eree 12 | |
| Mont Chinchon 13 | |



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