

SOURCE 6



This source is a reconstruction illustration of the castle in the mid 13th century, created by artist Terry Ball in 2008. It shows the castle at the height of its development in the medieval period.

SOURCE 7

‘On 10 December 1914, South Breakwater took part in repelling a sub-marine attack, at 5.am. and 7.am. Battery Commander Major A. J. Breakey R.G.A.’

‘On 12 January 1915, at 12.mn., South Breakwater beat off a sub-marine attack on western entrance to the harbour. Officer of the watch, 2nd Lieut H.Simonis R.G.A.’

‘On 27 February 1915, Pier Extension opened fire at 7.55.pm. at a sub-marine which appeared in No. 3 Electric searchlight beam. Officer in charge, 2nd Lieut N.L.Borkott R.G.A.’

These extracts are from an army report, which details the achievements of different units in No. 46 Company of the Royal Garrison Artillery in the year 1914–15, while stationed at Dover.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

WRITE A MILITARY REPORT



KS3

KS4+

Recommended for

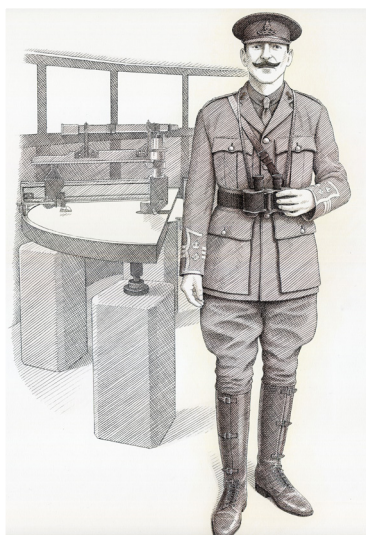
KS3 and KS4 (History, English)

Learning objectives

- Better understand the role of the army at the Dover Fire Command Post.
- Empathise with the troops on watch at the Dover Fire Command Post.
- Recall key subject-specific terminology.

Time to complete

Approx. 30 minutes



The Fire Commander was in charge of the coast artillery defences in the Dover Fortress area and controlled all activity in the Fire Command area.

SUMMARY

Students could respond to their visit to Dover Castle's FC Post and PWSS by creating a glossary of terms linked to their visit. This can include any new words and acronyms they have learnt (e.g. Royal Navy 'RN' and Royal Garrison Artillery 'RGA').

They can then apply this understanding by writing a military report about the achievements of the troops. For inspiration, share the extracts in Source 7 (on page 73) with your class. The extracts are from a real army report, which details the achievements of different units in No. 46 Company of the Royal Garrison Artillery in the year 1914–15, while stationed at Dover.

Ask students to imagine they are working as a soldier for No. 46 Company at Dover in the year 1915. They are on duty in the FC Post and have just been involved in repelling an enemy sub-marine. They need to write a short report to explain what happened. The audience for this report is the Fortress Commander and time is of the essence, so it needs to be concise and informative. It should follow the same structure as the extracts in Source 7: date and time, unit involved, details of the achievement, person in charge at the time.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students could extend this activity by pretending they are a soldier of the Royal Garrison Artillery, writing a letter to a friend or relative. Because they are writing for a different, more personal audience in this task, they can explore their character's emotions further, going into more detail about how it feels to fight the enemy at Dover and protect England from attack.