

The War Ruins of Hell Fire Corner

by Demi Millard

The remains and ruins of war buildings are prominent over England, I have created a sample of this through Dover, dubbed 'Hell Fire Corner' during WW1 and WW2 demonstrates the impact of these visual effects.

Although interesting, iconic and sometimes even beautiful, the ruins of war buildings, shelters and barracks, are not necessary to the lifestyle, safety or protection of people today.

A View to a Kill



The Langdon Searchlight Battery was built in WW2 to illuminate and identify enemy crafts before they could reach the all important cross channel gun batteries.

Hole in the Wall



Two of the three emplacements remain, the third having been destroyed by a cliff fall. No longer in use, serving no purpose, they exist in harmony with the cliff face. Impairing the simple beauty of the cliff.

Dismay



This messy array of rusty metal, is a ruin of what was once the Citadel Battery of Dover. It is now a mess of metal mingled with broken glass, empty beer cans and various other litter. It is an eyesore.

Gun Powder



A gun pit in the Citadel, pokes out of the ground, large and now hazardous with a deep and potentially dangerous trench running through the middle.

Birds Eye View



The depth of this dangerous and no longer necessary trench, is highlighted here in this birds eye view of the gun pit and the extent of the vandalism can be seen through the graffiti on almost every remaining wall.



Drop Redoubt is a pentagonal structure which was built in 1779. The building was modified dramatically in the 1860's due to the rise of Napoleon III, and a commission of health and safety in 1858. This building is perhaps the most iconic in the area but as it is the largest after the castle. Fortunately however, unlike many other of the war ruins, painting graffiti on this building is illegal, making the abandonment of this building feel non-existent.

Through the Iron...
Fence



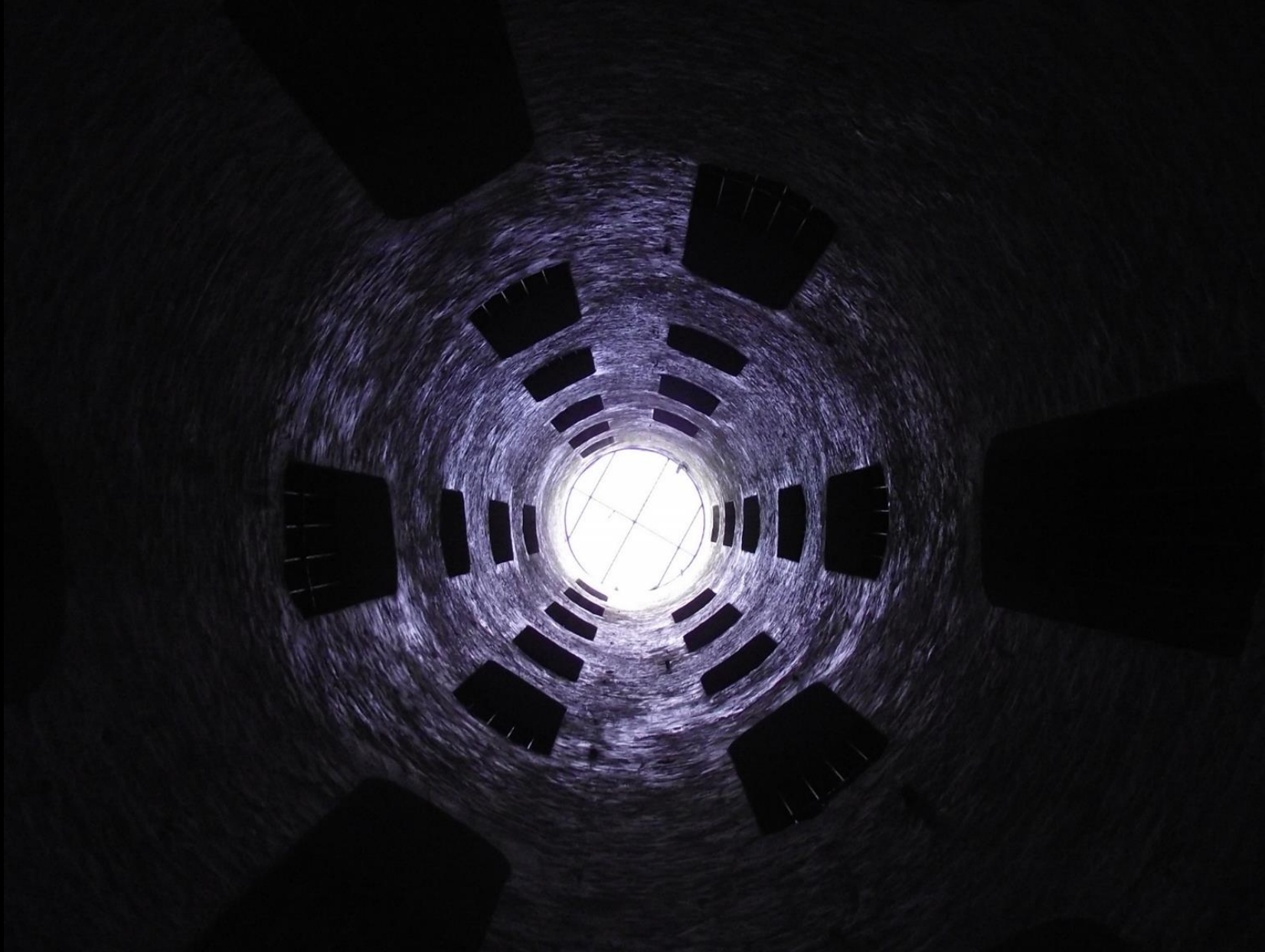
The flight of stairs down to the Grand Shaft has the biggest impact on the environment for it is ground level. Because of this the stairs and the Shaft is surrounded and closed off but a visually unpleasing grey fence- a repercussion of war.

A Stairway to War



The entrance to The Grand Shaft located nearby Drop Redoubt, is littered with wet, slippery leaves that show the slight abandonment of the structure, that, over time been left without a purpose, or at least, without the purpose it was designed for its sole purpose was to essentially avoid the conquest of the Gateway to England, Dover.

Vortex



The 140ft deep vortex alluded structure, with windows approximately every thirty stairs lining the inside of the inward tower, which were designed to allow light to reach the staircases, is not an eyesore by any standard, but does not on its own visually effect the environment as it is built into the cliff. Both entrances however, do visually effect out environment as they have no modern day use other than occasional tours.



Gunning them Down

The once important Coastal Defence Dover, although here, portrayed beautifully, is internally graffitied, often inhabited by the homeless and is commonly used as a toilet; even though it has no specified room for this purpose, no urinals and no toilet paper. I think we can safely assume that this definitely has no genuine modern day purpose.

Round and About



Inside the Coastal defence there are three small gun supports where large guns were once placed to fire at the enemy during WW1 and WW2.

A View from a Pillbox



Dover Castle built in the 12th Century, has served as an imperative building for territorial protection. Known as 'The Key to England', the castle is open all year round and although it is not used as a fort or for protection as it was originally designed for, it is important for historical factors. Dramatically visually effecting our environment grand, impressive, dominant and beautiful.

Starry Night



Finally, a lowly bunker, once key to our survival, now almost buried by over grown shrubbery and foliage. Graffitied, and cast against the beautiful night sky, this bunkers removal would not effect the life of anyone, and thus one might argue, this humble, nameless bunker, visually effects our environment most due to its complete lack of use, importance, and its total abandonment.