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Putmans Photographers



Beach Barricade

All along the beach below there was the curious spectacle of a line of steel scaffolding erected as a barrier against landing craft or tanks.

Unique History

It includes the site of one of Britain's first guided missile test installations and passes over the ground trodden by innumerable soldiers using the Naze for wartime battle training.

The tower had stood there since 1720 but during the latter part of World War Two it had a huge radar aerial on the top. Billets for the RAF operators were grouped together nearby. Barbed wire ringed the site.

Along the clifftop were perched pillboxes, each with an anti-aircraft machine-gun on the top. Soldiers manning them would scan the horizon for a possible invasion fleet or low-flying aircraft intent on strafing the site.



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All the comforts of a pillbox, heavily staged by the photographic unit for morale-boosting purposes.

Learn More...

The Naze was a hive of military activity during World War Two. For more details of the Naze's World War Two past, there are websites at:

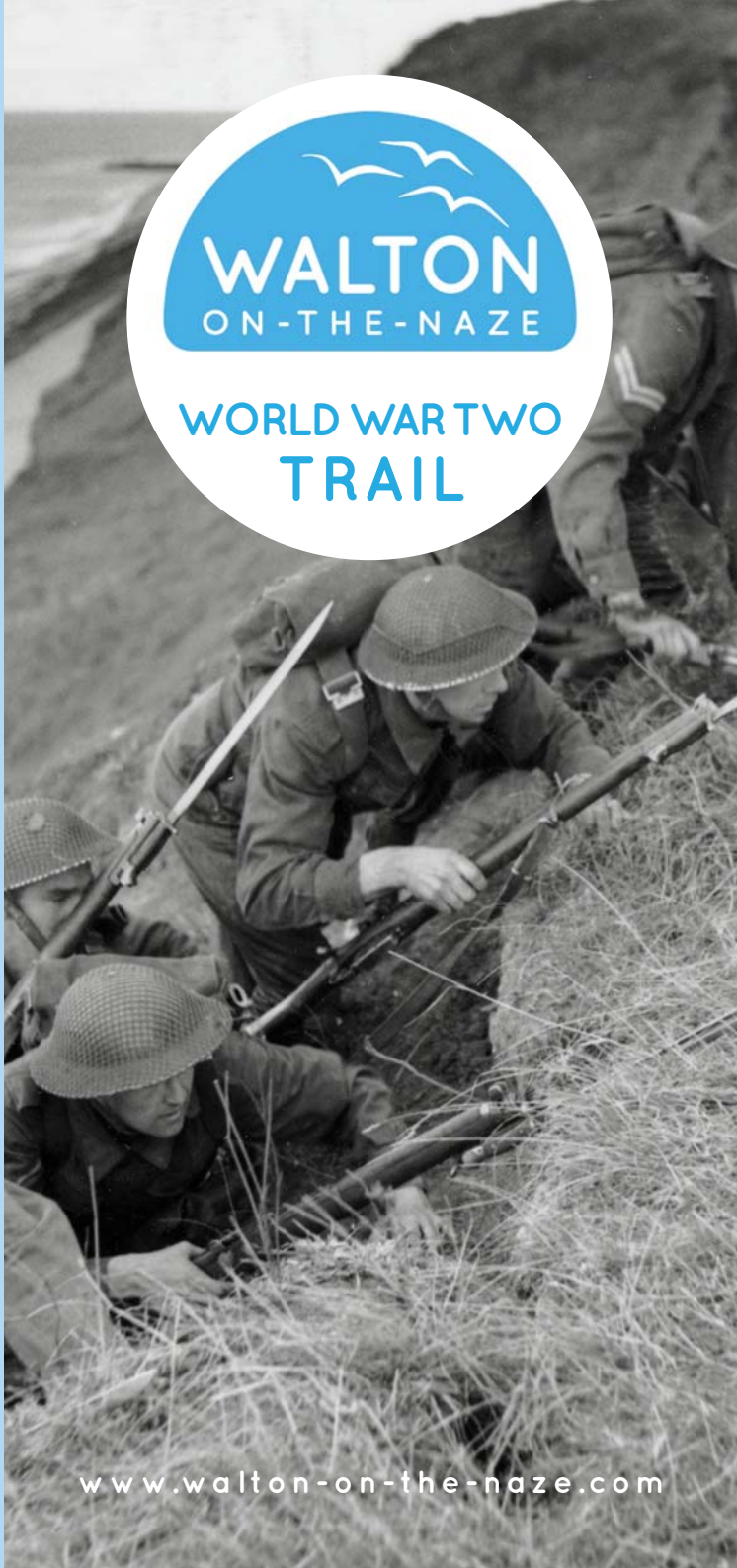
- www.heritagegateway.org.uk
- <http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk>

“Investing in your future”
 Crossborder cooperation programme
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www.worldwar2heritage.com

On the cover © Imperial War Museum (H.24661)



www.walton-on-the-naze.com

The Naze at War



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An infantry pillbox camouflaged with a false roof, paint and piles of earth to deceive enemy planes.

The Naze during the Second World War (1939-1945) would have been barely recognisable to today's visitors. The grassland on the clifftop is now a peaceful recreational area for walkers, school children, people taking their dog for its daily exercise and others simply out for a gentle stroll. Then, it was a land of army huts, trenches, pillboxes and gun emplacements.

Follow the Trail

Discover the Naze's World War Two past. Following a one-mile circuit around the top of the Naze, this way-marked trail, with information boards, takes in some of the wartime sites and looks at what remains now.

It visits two surviving pillboxes, one of them of a type unique in Essex, and offers the unusual spectacle of a further two, seaweed-encrusted on the beach below, being covered twice a day by the in-coming tide!



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Missile Testing

From the cliff edge, long, silver projectiles whooshed off a launch mounting to speed out to sea. Established in 1944, here was one of the country's first guided missile test sites.

Past lines of anti-aircraft rocket launchers, there was a battery of 3.7-inch anti-aircraft guns pointed out to sea, waiting to bring down the next V1 flying bomb passing overhead on its way inland.

Decoys

At the extreme north end of the Naze, at night with enemy bombers coming across the sea, massive fires, moving lights, headlamps and sparks from overhead tram wires may have been seen on the open fields. A night-time decoy would be trying to lure bombers into dropping their loads here rather than on their intended target.



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