

Pillboxes.

Images of an Unfought Battle.

By Ian J. Sanders



**To those who, at a time when their Country was in mortal danger
were prepared to defend it by force of arms, and with their lives if
need be.**

Foreword.

In 1940 a network of defences was hastily built all over the British Isles to prevent an anticipated German invasion. Sited at road junctions, canals and other strategic points these constructions were called "pillboxes".

Despite the passage of time many of these remain as permanent monuments and a silent tribute to the courage and tenacity of the British people in the dark days of 1940.

This book attempts to show some of what remains today



**Pillboxes – Images of an Unfought Battle
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Introduction.

Nowadays, they are largely ignored and left to the elements and the vandals even though these structures should rank in British History alongside the Norman castles as reminders of what Winston Churchill called "Their Finest Hour".

If the Battle of Britain had turned out differently my father or grandfather might have died in one defending the freedoms which many take for granted.

They were built in a hurry as part of the measures to resist an expected German invasion of Britain which was expected in 1940. Made by local construction companies to many different designs, they were often further modified to suit a particular site.

They were supported by further defences of barbed wire, trenches and other earthworks, however these defences are now largely without trace, leaving the pillbox as the sole reminder.

It is worth looking around if you come across one, because there are often more in the same area. They were sited to cover road junctions, river crossings and other important places. It was also usual to site them to give each other covering fire when they were in a group. Many were disguised in some way or built into other buildings like barns and bridges or even houses. Other defence remains are often nearby such as concrete anti-tank obstacles.

The letters and 6 digit numbers next to the photos signify the British Ordnance Survey Map Reference of the site. This does not imply any right of way to the location and permission should be sought from the relevant landowner before visiting a location.

Many thanks particularly to Mark Brotherton and Dave Pemberton for permission to use some of their photos.

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Southern England.

Southern England was the most directly threatened area, being only 30 miles from France. The strongest defences were in this area and included the GHQ line. The GHQ line was designed to protect London and the industrial heartland of Britain . It was made up of pillboxes, anti-tank obstacles, trenches and other defences that took advantage of natural and man made features in the area.



This type 24 is located at Carbone Hill, Northaw Hertfordshire and formed part of London Stop Line: Outer - Line A (outer suburbs) of London defence rings.

