

Railway Guns in Dover & East Kent Area

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_gun#World_War_II

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/unfairytale/4100851431/>

The railway guns would fire at shipping from strengthened firing spurs on the military railway. SR and LMS diesels were used to bring these heavy items up, to avoid steam and exhaust from revealing the movement to enemy spotters in France, where many more, heavier guns lay in wait. Dover, or "Hell Fire Corner," was heavily shelled very often in the course of the war.

http://www.dover-kent.co.uk/history/ww2d_bombing.htm

WD steam locos (Dean Goods type) ran eastward on the East Kent line from Shepherdswell where up to 6 smaller rail guns made a line of defence.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:12inchRailwayHowitzersMkVCatterick12December1940.jpg> or seen here as comprehensively secured for firing

<http://www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=5679.0>

Read of the East Kent Railway at war here, link below.

<http://www.hfstephens-museum.org.uk/kesr/a-light-railways-war.html#>

18-inch howitzer rail gun "Boche Buster" was based on the Elham Valley Folkestone West to Canterbury line, completely in the hands of the Army as a railway operations training base. See video in video photo supplement link.

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:18inchRailwayHowitzerBocheBusterWWI-I-Brightened.jpg>

It seems the barrel changing on all the rail guns as necessary was performed by railway breakdown cranes, in view of the times photos are few.