

walk ends behind the smaller of the two boatsheds at a roadblock (10) reinstated by the Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society in 1999. Note the attached plaque.

The remains of more roadblocks will be seen among the rocks nearby. Roadblocks such as these and others in the form of large concrete cylinders which could be rolled into place were on Evans Pass Road and the Summit Road.

Slit trenches, and machine gun emplacements were numerous in the surrounding hills. Sentry posts guarded the bottom of Scarborough and Lyttelton hills and the tram viaduct in Clifton Bay.

All halls and schools including the School for Deaf, now Van Asch Deaf Education Centre, were taken over by the Army. The only house on Ocean View Terrace was the Army's dental clinic. Several houses on Clifton Hill, Esplanade and Nayland Street provided officer accommodation and large numbers of huts housed troops on the present RSA and Anglican Church sites.

St Leonards Square was used for marching drills and Bren gun carriers practicing on local streets were a common sight.

St Johns, Red Cross and other volunteer groups were ready to support the war effort and the population waited, ready to confront an enemy that never came!

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The Sumner-Redcliffs Historical Society welcomes new members, we offer-

- Museum
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Mrs M Rule, Secretary
Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society
5 Main Road, Redcliffs
Christchurch 8008

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World War II Local Defences Trail

The Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society invites you to a self-guided walk of approximately five kilometres, passing places of interest to those who wish to imagine what the area looked like in the years from 1939 to 1945.



Starting from the Redcliffs end of the Causeway, known locally as the “The Cutting”, (1) on the map was the site of a sentry box and on the rock above was a machine gun emplacement. Thus began the fortified area extending to Sumner, Taylors Mistake and the artillery battery of Godley Head.

A short 100m on your right is Moa Bone Cave (2), which was used for the storage of ammunition. Just past the cave look up to a rocky spur, can you see the rectangular opening of a machine gun emplacement? Redcliffs School was taken over as Fortress Command, Hospital and Ambulance Unit. Children from the area went to Woolston School.



Barnett Park (3), with the rifle range in the upper valley, was to be used as a casualty clearing centre. Looking up to the skyline on the left of the valley, below a row of pines and above a small rocky bluff, the sharp-eyed may just see a machine gun emplacement.

Carry on along Main Road as it bends to the left. From the old tram shelter, now a bus stop, walk

along the inside of the stone wall to a point opposite 230 Main Road (4) where a plaque marks the remains of yet another machine gun emplacement. Three more were on the hillside beyond.



The old Rowing Club, now part of Christchurch Yacht Club

Further on, past the Christchurch Yacht Club, the Rowing Club building (5) was No.2 Morgue (No.1 Morgue was in Sumner, a house known as Beach Glen, which was on a site bounded by Head and Colenso Streets, and Heberden Ave).

Past here and before Shag Rock concrete road-blocks secured entry to Sumner and their remains can be seen in the water at low tide. You will see a restored road-block at the end of your walk. Barbed wire entanglements on the beach extended from Shag Rock (6) to Cave Rock.

From Shag Rock a straight section of Main Road takes you to Gollans Point (7) where the locally named “Tar Cave” was used to store ammunition during wartime and for roading materials during the peace.



Carry on to Cave Rock (8) where small amounts of concrete mark the positions of three machine gun emplacements. One facing west towards Shag Rock was near the smaller mouth of the cave. A north facing emplacement will be found by noting the hole in the roof of the main cave where a ladder was in place to service the gun above. On the east side another emplacement overlooked the beach from here to Scarborough. Inside the larger east entrance to the cave were several portable buildings.

Between 1942 and 1944 a tank trap in the form of a large ditch was excavated from Cave Rock to Scarborough. Barbed wire entanglements lined the beach side and three small bridges crossed the trap.



Restored road blocks behind Sumner Lifeboat station

At Scarborough, the Clock Tower (9) became a fortified sentry post. From here you will see the lifeboat station and breakwater where your

