

## YOUR VIRTUAL DISCOVERY VISIT – 22 TO THE DEFENCE HERITAGE STORIES OF ROTTNEST ISLAND



The *Virtual Visit* series was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic when Rottneest Island was closed to the public due to social distancing restrictions and periods of use for quarantine from March to June 2020.

The intent was to maintain a connection to the Island by exploring stories of interest and offering links for self discovery.

Now that the Island is once again open to visitors and guiding services are being gradually re-established, these Virtual Visits have been retained as part of an archival record for future reference and enjoyment.

### PHOTOGRAPH – BARBED WIRE



There are extensive lengths of military emplaced barded wire remaining on Rottneest Island. These remnants illustrate a range of purposes from boundary delineation, defensive perimeters, close-in protection and beach defences. Visitor safety considerations mean that there is an ongoing challenge between hazard reduction and retention of original defence features for heritage education and interpretation purposes. It is always best practice to remain on identified paths and routes and point out barbed wire installations from these safe locations. Photo above - Oliver Hill perimeter fence – Single apron 8 strand fence reinforced with roll of concertina.



Barbed wire boundary fence delineating Kingstown Barracks reserve – eight horizontal stands on vertical posts



Close in defensive fence – Bickley Battery – Appears to have been double height concertina with single apron



Beach defence fence – appears to be double height concertina with double apron. Salvage of truck from Uribes in Thomson Bay. Cut down Phillip Rock is visible in the background to facilitate clear sweep pattern for Bickley Point searchlight. The Uribes was wrecked in 1942.



WRAN's Quarters at Signal Ridge / Wadjemup Hill, Single stand concertina with single apron.

<https://graphics.wsj.com/100-legacies-from-world-war-1/barbed-wire>

<https://www.farmanddairy.com/columns/barbed-wires-history-entangled-in-war/480937.html>

<https://militaryhistorynow.com/2014/01/08/barbed-wire-war-how-one-farmers-innovation-changed-the-battlefield/>

<https://www.pearlmaya.com/home/a-very-quick-history-of-barbed-wire-in-australia>