



**The King's Gun**  
"Boom Boom"

### 1 King's Gun "Boom Boom"

The King's Gun was made during the reign of King Edward VII, King of the United Kingdom, in 1901, about halfway along the gun barrel is the King's mark with the letters "ED VII". It looks like a circle with some writing inside it and a crown on top (the crown's shape is that of a crown for a king).

The rear (or breech) of the gun is marked with a variety of letters and numbers, which give us more information about the gun.

The "N" at the top indicates that this was originally a Naval gun.

*"B.L. 6 IN WIRE VII"*

Tells us that this is a Breech Loading gun (ammunition is put in from the back) with a 6-inch diameter bore (internal diameter of the barrel), is made of wire-wound construction (where very long lengths of thin wire were wrapped about an inner tube to form the gun barrel, which was then covered by another outer tube). The "VII" tells us this is a Mark VII (7th version) of the British 6-inch Naval gun. Note: the letter "B" is completely faded and no longer visibly, while about half of the letter "L" is no longer visible.

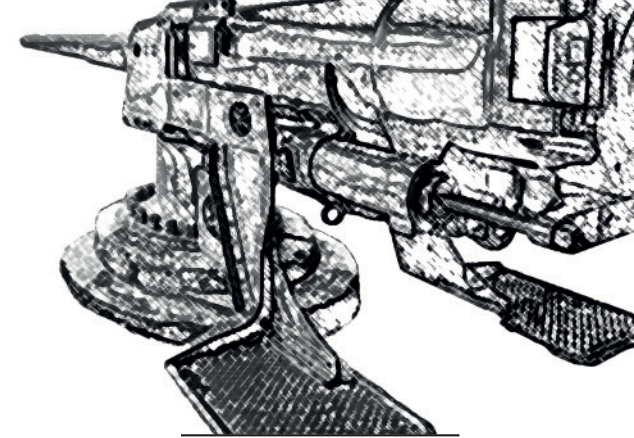
*"R.G.F. 1901"*

Tells us the gun was manufactured at the Royal Gun Factory in London, England in the year 1901.

*"No 1170"*

Tells us this gun's serial number is 1170.

*These two 6-inch guns were installed here in 1941 to defend Fiji against the Japanese during World War 2. The Visitor Centre has more of their story and information on the important role Fiji played in the War.*



**The Queen's Gun**  
"Jig Jig"

### 2 The Queen's Gun "Jig Jig"

The Queen's Gun was made during the reign of Queen Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom, in 1900 and has the Queen's mark about halfway along the barrel. It looks like a circle with some writing in it and a crown on top (the crown's shape is the shape of a crown for a queen).

The "N" at the top is mostly faded and very difficult to make out, indicating that this was also originally a Naval gun.

*"B.L. 6 IN WIRE VII"*

This gun is also a Breech Loading gun with a 6-inch diameter bore and made from wire-wound construction (see the King's Gun for more details). It is also a Mark VII of the British 6-inch Naval gun.

*"V.S. & M. 1900"*

The Queen's Gun was manufactured at the factories of 'Vickers, Sons and Maxim' in England in the year 1900.

*"No 1266"*

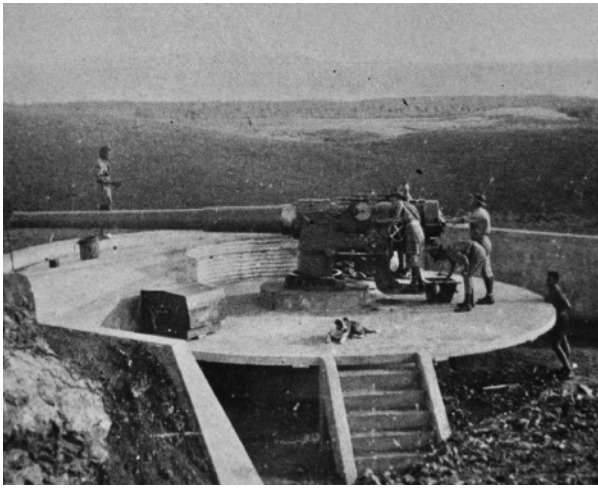
And it's serial number is 1266.

### 3 Fire Control Building

The distance and direction to the enemy was passed from the Command Post to troops in the Fire Control Room who calculated the instructions for the gunners, such as the angle to elevate the guns and the amount of charge (gunpowder) to use. They would also calculate the adjustments to be made between shots to track moving targets and correct for misses.

### 4 The Arms Rooms

These two rooms, on either side of the Command Post, were used to store smaller guns for use as personal weapons by the soldiers. The troops stationed here would have used a variety of pistols, rifles, sub-machine guns and machine guns. The rooms originally had metal doors and metal shutters for the windows, but these were removed by scrap metal merchants after the War. The walls of the rooms were lined with shelves for storing the weapons.



## 5 Command Post

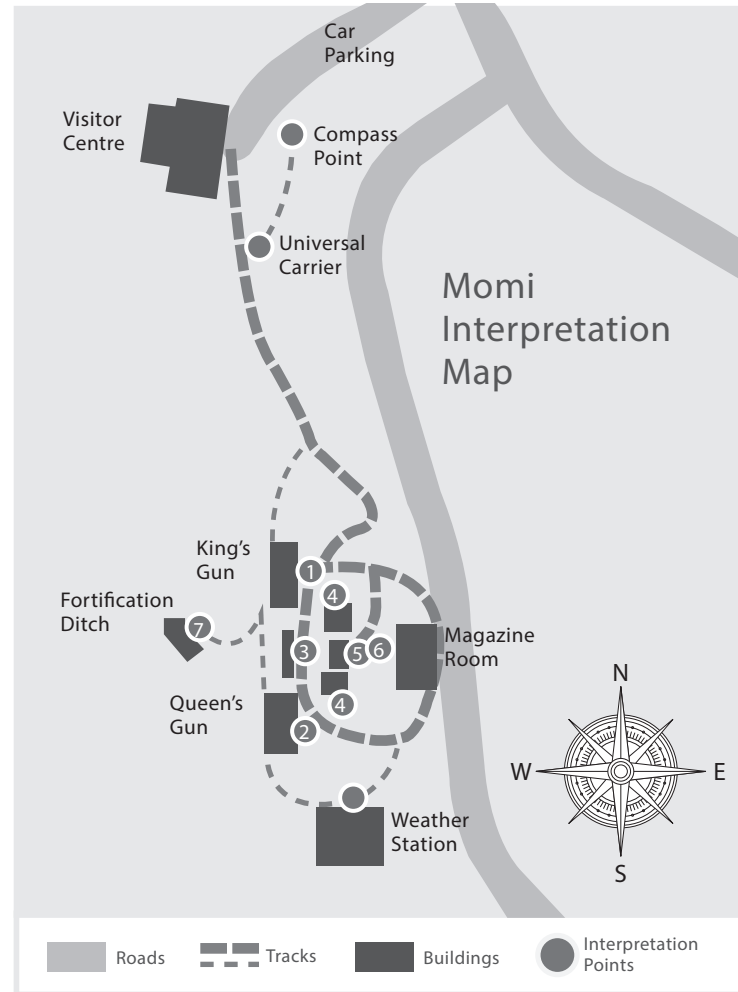
The Officers on duty would have been in the Command Post during any attack and would coordinate the activities of the Gun Battery. A combination of fixed telephone lines, two-way radios and flag signals were used to communicate between the different troops stationed at Momi. Information from the rangefinders, on distance and direction to the enemy would be passed from the Command Post to the Fire Control Building.

## 6 Rangefinder Building

The building in the distance, on the hill behind the Battery, was used for determining the range to enemy vessels. The extra height above sea level compared to the Gun Battery improved the accuracy of the rangefinder equipment. A radio provided communication between this building and the Command Post. During the War, improvements in technology saw radar increasingly take over the role of the more traditional rangefinder instruments.

## 7 Fortification Ditch

This small fortification ditch in front of the Battery would probably have had sandbags piled on the seaward side to provide additional cover to troops stationed here. It provides good views of anyone trying to come up the hill towards the Battery from the sea.



The Momi Battery is managed by the National Trust of Fiji

## Contact Information

Telephone: 6284356 (Momi) / 3301807 (Suva Head Office)  
 Email: [info@nationaltrust.org.fj](mailto:info@nationaltrust.org.fj)  
 Postal Address: PO Box 2089, Government Buildings, Suva  
 Street Address: 3 Ma'afu Street, Suva (Head Office)

# MOMI BAY BATTERY

## HISTORICAL PARK

