



# Day went with a bang

CROWDS who visited Tilbury Fort on Sunday took a trip more than 50 years back through time to see how artillery troops operated during World War Two.

Volunteers dressed in authentic 1940s uniforms and demonstrated the historic wartime equipment and weaponry which is preserved at the fort.

The crowds watched as "The Garrison" gun crews fired off blank rounds from a 25lb field gun, a 12lb naval gun and a 3.7" anti-aircraft gun.

Apart from the artillery exhibition, the open day also included a display of a typical wartime barrack room, a guard room and ATS girls at work in a clerical and signals office.

Visitors to the fort even had the chance to fire blanks from one of the smaller artillery pieces themselves.

■ Artillery – Thurrock Museum assistant curator Jonathan Catton from "The Garrison" shows William Swinburn, seven, how to fire a 25lb Second World War field gun  
**Picture: ARTHUR PAFFEY**