

## MILITIA CAMPS IN SUSSEX, 1793, AND A LADY'S FAN

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It may be recalled that a few years ago the real meaning of the "Mystery Mounds" on Camp Hill, Ashdown Forest,<sup>1</sup> and subsequently too in Broadwater Forest,<sup>2</sup> was fully explained by the fortunate discovery, first by our member Mr. P. D. Wood and later by me, of two large, beautifully drawn, coloured maps showing the layout of Militia Camps for 7000 troops which were occupied there for short periods, in 1793. (The Mounds were the field kitchens). It was also known that the troops moved on to a third camp at Brighton where they practised with a new drill (the object of the exercise) before the Prince Regent, but no map of this third camp had been found and its exact location was therefore unknown.

It happened that during the summer of 1968 Worthing Museum arranged a special exhibition of ladies' fans. The Assistant Curator, Miss K. J. Evans, noticed that one of those shown was entitled 'The New Camp Fan,' and depicted in coloured but small simplified form the maps of the *three* camps above mentioned. Thus for the first time we learn the location of the Brighton camp. I am most grateful to Miss Evans for recognising the special interest of this little fan and for so promptly bringing it to our notice.

The body of the fan is of paper with a prettily designed central spandrel and the soft colouring of the maps is well preserved, as is the fan itself. The title 'The New Camp Fan' is given above the centre map. Then come the three maps, entitled 'Waterdown Forest' (i.e. Broadwater, near Eridge), 'Ashdown Forest,' and 'Downs.' Along the foot of the paper area appears in very small letters 'Published as the Act directs May 1st 1794 by the Proprietor and Sold at all the Fan Shops in London.'

Comparison of the first two maps with their large equivalents already known shows that in simplified form they are well drawn and reasonably accurate on their very small scale. For instance, the three main alignments of layout on Ashdown Forest are meticulously indicated. One turns then to the unknown third map at Brighton with particular interest.

The camp here is shown in one long alignment extending from a little to the south-west of 'Brighton Church' (i.e. the old parish church of St. Nicholas) to the Hove boundary, which is shown, south of 'Wick Church,' roughly on the line of Upper North Street—Lansdowne Road now. Wick is well known as a hamlet of Hove and the name still exists as a large block of modern flats, Wick Hall,

<sup>1</sup> *Sussex Notes & Queries*, Vol. III (1930), p. 101.

<sup>2</sup> *S.A.C.*, vol. 103 (1965), p. 60.

south of St. Anne's Well Gardens, but there seems never to have been a church, or even chapel, there, so its mention here is puzzling and appears to have been an error, although depicted as a little church with tower. One wishes all the more to be able to see how the missing large map may have shown it.

Militia units were the Territorials of those days and one can imagine the young ladies associated with the officers who had attended these camps in the previous summer eagerly buying these fans as souvenirs of the occasion.

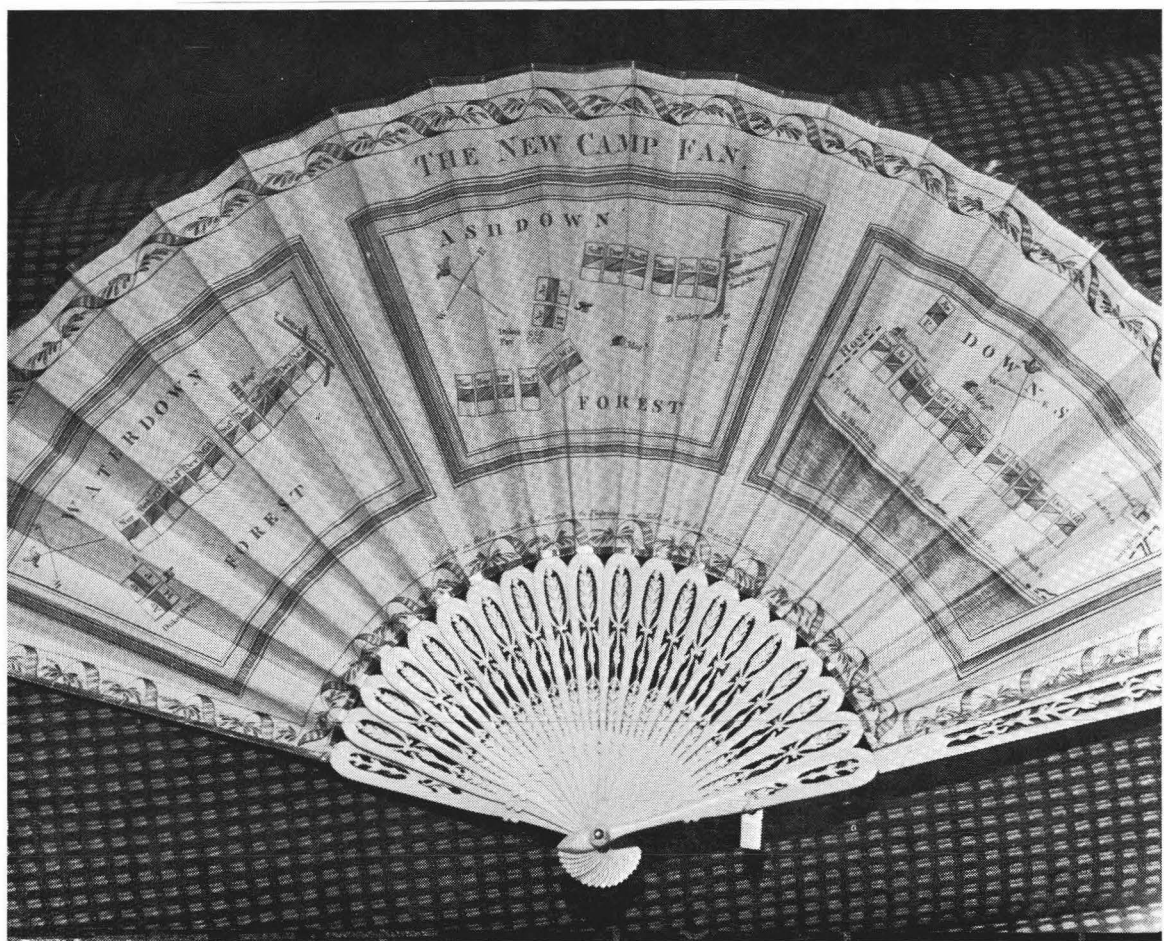


PLATE I. The three maps. For names of units see S.A.C. vol. 103

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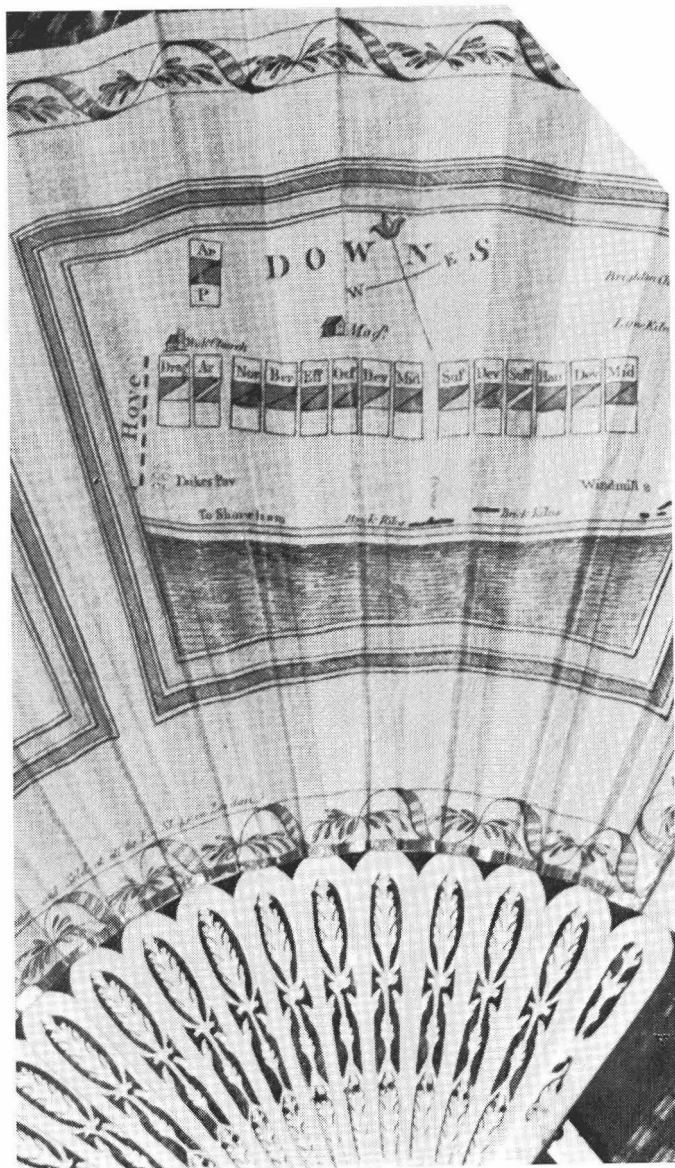


PLATE II. The Brighton map enlarged.  
 Brighton Church at extreme top right, Wick 'Church' near Hove boundary.  
 Mag<sup>n</sup>=magazine (centre of line).