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## Press Release 2

### *Echoes from the Past*

Designed to defend the sea reaches of the South East Coast from enemy bomber formations using the Thames Estuary as a guide to the Docklands of London. The WWII Army Sea Forts were built in Gravesend & floated out past the Isle-of-Sheppey & Sunk in position off the Whitstable Kent Coast

One of three sets, the Red Sands Fort was ready for action from November 1943, only to be abandoned after the war by the MoD in 1958. Left until June 1964 it was to be Radio Pirates that grabbed the Fort for their broadcasting exploits

Eager to navigate round the Wireless telegraphy Act of 1949 Pirate Radio came to notoriety when Radio Caroline launched at Easter 1964 from a ship off the South East coast. In June the scramble for old Forts began when Screaming Lord Sutch & his manager Reg Calvert exercising squatter's rights nabbed the Shivering Sands Fort

Outlawed in 1967 the Forts became silent once again. Now in July 2007 *Echoes from the Past* reverberate around the steel walls of the Fort as Radio Red Sands comes to air

Programme Director Bob Le-Roi said, " Our ambitious project is to mark the important 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forts closedown. As radio bases the Forts represent the humble beginnings of British Commercial Radio". "Key features of the seascape today, they attract curious multitudes". "Our long term aim is to preserve the Red Sands Fort for future generations, the complex being the last complete example of its kind"

For more information telephone 07961 601 893

*Bob Le-Roi - Programme Director*