

The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — August 2011



The Chairman's Column

Phil Payette

I hope everyone has had a pleasant Summer. Let me start off by congratulating Mike Fiorini. He will be our next Director on the Board, replacing Tom Kavanagh in October. We are looking forward to having Mike on the Board. We also thank Karl Fritz for his willingness to serve on the Board.

In this issue, Mark has a column which brings up a great subject concerning site visits by the CDSG membership. We believe all of us should help keep the rest of the organization updated on the goings-on at coastal defense sites. I don't think we should rely on only a handful of members to report all the news. Key themes that ideally should be covered in every newsletter issue are organizational news, coastal defense site updates, and artifact preservation efforts. Perhaps the biggest headline this quarter is about Fort Monroe. Gordon explains the present situation adequately in his Preservation column. September 15 marks the official date of transfer, however the Army will still be present until early next year. There are still many uncertainties to be resolved. We also have our 2011 Annual Conference summary in this issue. The next two upcoming conferences are tentatively set for mid-May 2012 (Great Lakes) and May 2013 (Pensacola-Mobile). Anyone wishing to organize a future conference or special tour please contact one of the Board members.

In addition to the Book Reviews presented in the Journal, I would like to suggest having website reviews. An increasing number of researchers are using the Internet for sources of information. Some sites are good, some are not. We can share our opinions about websites almost the same way we critique published books. I'm not suggesting such reviews need to be published in the Journal, but rather in the Newsletter instead. Just a thought.

We have a Fund request from Fort Miles, DE which was approved by the Board concerning moving a 16-inch gun from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, VA. If you would like to help the CDSG Fund with a donation to this project, or any other project please contact the Fund Trustees.

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

This will be a short report, as I have heard little over the summer months so far. The announcements on the Presidio Parkway Project at San Francisco have been of routine construction. I have not yet heard if the demolition and stabilization work at Boston's Fort Andrews has been completed, but expect to have a report on where that stands by the next *Newsletter*. Also, I have not heard how the Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower are progressing on their fund raising for needed work on the tower. Hopefully, I will have positive news on that by next time.

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

Please advise Terry McGovern of any additions or changes at tcmcgovern@att.net.

Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour
Sept. 18 - 25, 2011
Halifax, Canada
Charles Bogart, cmabogart@aol.com

Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference
May 15-20, 2012
Great Lake Forts
John Weaver, jrweaver@purdue.edu

Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference
May 2013
Pensacola/Mobile
David Ogden, david_ogden@nps.gov

Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour
June 2013
Norway
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

Other Meetings and Tours

Sept 2-5, 2011
Isle of Wight, United Kingdom
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
Alan Fyson, bill.clements@btinternet.com

Sept 10-13, 2011
Europa Nostra Annual Meeting
Portsmouth, England
Lester Borley, lesterborley@waitrose.com

September 23 - 25, 2011
Dresden, Germany
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting
Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

Oct 2011
Toul, France
International Fortification Forum Fair - 19th Annual

Oct 1 & 8, 2011
Breda - Antwerp, Netherlands & Belgium
Menno von Coehorn Meeting & Tour
Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

Oct 1-9, 2011
 Baltic Fort Tour Route Northern Poland
 Private Fortress/Bunker Tour
 Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

Oct 14, 2011
 Karlovac, Croatia
 Internatinal Fortress Council Annual Meeting
 Luc Fellay, lucfuley@bluewin.ch

Nov 5, 2011
 Grebbelinie, Netherlands
 Menno von Coehorn Tour
 Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

Nov 5, 2011
 Prague, Czech Republic
 Czech Association for Military History Annual Meeting
 Vladimir Kupka, kupka@sazka.cz

Feb 15 - 25, 2012
 Coastal Defenses of Chile
 Private Tour
 Christian Casartelli, casac@netcourrier.com

April 20-30, 2012
 Great Fortress Tour Romania
 Private Fortress/Bunker Tour
 Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

May 12-20, 2012
 The Netherlands
 Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour
 bill_clements@btinternet.com

May 14-17, 2012
 Lexington, KY USA
 Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference
 Martin Gordon, martinkgordon@gmail.com

Sept 2012
 Koblenz
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting
 Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

Sept 2012
 S.W. England, UK
 Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
 bill.clements@btinternet.com

Feb 2013
 Great Fortress Tour to India/Rajasthan
 Private Fortress/Bunker Tour
 Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

May 2013
 Defenses of Southern Italy
 Private Tour
 Christian Casartelli, casac@netcourrier.com

May 2013
 Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference
 Dayton, OH
 Martin Gordon, martinkgordon@gmail.com

Sept 2013
 Kustrin
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsf Annual Meeting
 Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

Sept 2013
 Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
 bill.clements@btinternet.com

Preservation ... continued

The big item going on right now is the proposal to make part of Fort Monroe a National Park Service unit. This appears to be receiving universal support in the local area and among many historical groups. While overall this is a good thing, from the CDSG perspective the main concern is that the currently proposed park boundaries do not include any of the Endicott batteries. We are working on a way to have at least Batteries Parrott and Irwin (the batteries right across the road from the stone fort) included in the NPS boundaries. Also, according to the latest news on the Fort Monroe Authority website, though the army will still be gone on September 15, the property will not be transferred to the Commonwealth of Virginia until early 2012.

In Hawaii, the army is considering putting the former Kahuku Military Reservation (NE corner of Oahu), hopefully including structures not in the current training area, on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Among these is Battery Ranch, which may be the only extant Panama-mount battery on the island. My thanks to John Bennett for this information and most especially for his continued efforts to help preserve and document this and other sites on Oahu.

If you have a preservation issue, or for further information on any of the items I have mentioned, contact Preservation Committee chair Gordon Bliss, at preservation@cdsg.org.

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Result of 2011 CDSG Election

The CDSG teller reports the election of Mike Fiorini as the next CDSG director. Tom Kavanagh's term will end on October 1, 2011, and Mike's 3-year term will begin at that time. Therefore the directors for the next year will be Phil Payette, Chris Zeeman, and Mike Fiorini. They will select the chairman of the board for the coming year as well as chairmen for all committees. The CDSG Board of Directors thanks both Karl Fritz and Mike Fiorini for their willingness to serve the CDSG in this role. Next year's Nomination Committee will be Tom Kavanagh (Chair), Charles Bogart, and Steven Kobylyk.

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St. Babs 2012
Save the Date: May 15-20, 2012
Forts of the Northern Frontier, from
Kingston, Ontario, to Toledo, Ohio.

John Weaver

The St. Babs for 2012 will take a different format from previous years, as we will be staying in three locations rather than one. The tour will cover the Northern Frontier, the border between the United States and Canada, focusing primarily on masonry forts. In addition to the forts, there are Nike missile sites and an army post that was converted to a safe haven for concentration camp survivors toward the end of World War II. The emphasis, however, is on the forts on both sides of the US –Canadian border – including a fort built partially by Canadians, completed by Americans, then besieged by the Canadians.

Beginning in Kingston, Ontario, where we will stay two nights, we will visit at least two Martello towers and two forts – Fort Henry and Fort Wellington. From Kingston, we will cross into the US and visit Fort Ontario en route to Niagara Falls, where we will spend two more nights. In the Niagara area we will visit Fort Niagara, Fort Erie, Fort George, and the Mississauga Tower – an earthen fort with an interior square tower. We will then travel to Amherstburg, Ontario, on the Detroit River, visiting Fort Malden, then traveling on to Detroit for the final night of the conference. In Detroit we will visit Fort Wayne, then end the conference in Toledo at Fort Meigs – a beautifully reconstructed fort from the War of 1812.

Program development is continuing as we attempt to gain access to even more locations. Currently we plan to hold the Annual Meeting and Banquet in Niagara Falls on Friday, May 18, 2012.

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Summary of the 2011 Member Survey
Responses

Three questions were posed to our membership via our election ballot to provide feedback to the Board of Directors. Here is a sample of responses. All responses were provided to the board for their review.

The first question was “**How would you rate the CDSG’s current publications and activities**”. Sample responses are: Improved board leadership needed. Current publications are great. Perhaps CDSG should publish its own book of reports from our journal (various authors – coast to coast) and sell to the general public from bookstores. Excellent. OK. Excellent – more activities; good publications – more local articles on current status of forts – regional CDSG meetings. Very good. Publications – great, leadership – poor. More preservation activities. Publications are excellent, wish there were more. Excellent. Excellent. professional – the state of the art on coast defenses. Excellent!! give BW a raise. Very good – *Artillerists And Engineers* was an excellent find and reprint. Excellent pubs – continue special trips. Publications and activities are first rate. Switching to Lulu was a brilliant idea.

Keep up the good work! Very Good. The best. Good – Always room to grow/improve, but overall good. Excellent job on both. Current publications and activities are adequate – they fit the organization. Very Good. Excellent. Excellent – I would like to see a special fund created to publish extra issues of the *Journal* for the publication of Bill Gaines’s harbor defense series, which would get them published sooner, without interfering with the publication of regular articles and book reviews. Excellent – I would like to see more recruitment of book reviewers, with a request in every journal, emphasizing that you often receive a copy of the book for free. Excellent. *Journal* is excellent! Website good but needs menu system for easier navigation and adding cc/PayPal would be great! I enjoy receiving the *Journal* each quarter. CDSG does a great job with them. Publications are great! Especially Mark’s books. About as much as I can handle, I think. Top notch. I can’t say enough about the enthusiasm, abilities, and efforts of the officers and working members. Very Good! More reprints and short subjects. Excellent publications. Would like to see more activities in my region. Great! If we can only distribute these publications out to bookstores, etc. so the general public can purchase and learn what the organization is all about. The CDSG Press should publish a guide book on America’s seacoast fortifications. The *CD Journal* is the best non-profit, volunteer publication I’ve seen. It should be submitted for an award. Current publications and activities are first-class excellent. CDSG staff/volunteers doing a great job.

The second question was “**What should be the future of the CDSG – more of the same or new goals/programs**”: Sample responses are: CD site owner database needed. CDSG interest should go beyond the borders of coast defense sites and include nearby airfields, radar sites, harbors, etc. as these are sometimes related to coast defense sites. Stay on same course. Same. Preservation and membership. What happened to the Representative/Outreach committee? More preservation. Membership growth – Get today’s site owners to join. Outreach to site owners. Continue current programs, expand outreach efforts. An attempt to bring the legacy of the coast defenses of the US, especially the existing structures, to the public’s awareness. Stay the course, but consider new goals/programs as the opportunity arises. Membership expansion – signage with photos at forts – TV series thru PBS (our tax money) “Forts of the USA” with BW as narrator. More of the same. More articles about coast artillery that saw combat in various conflicts. Preservation and growth. Consider expanding more from the core brick/stone/concrete. The same seems a good plan. More of the same. The same, but with a special emphasis on reaching out for new members. A continuation of the present – tours (for education and information), publications, seminars. Integration with history. I would like to see more active participation by the membership. Nexus of research, public education, and public contact with the CDSG group at various forts would be nice. Regional and/or local published field guides for the forts. Then and now photo books on coast defense installations. Continue what we do and focus on building membership and site representative program. Both the hard-core fort student and the casual fort visitor or web browser should be accommodated. I would like to see more CDSG organized or sponsored

work parties for battery cleanup, such as what was done at Fort Washington. I enjoy that volunteer work very much. I like the current direction and appreciate the fine balance of learning & preservation. Publish photo collection and history for each of the harbor defense installations. The BOD should work more closely with the CDSG Representative Program. More networking to obtain new members. Require each member to recruit one new member each year. How about a CD with training films or archival films? Surely some of these films are still around!! The CDSG has failed to reach out to the owners of former coast defense sites. We need to educate those owners on the historic value and need to preserve these structures. We need a program directed at those hundred or so owners!! The CDSG needs to impact the local forts. We need reps that actively visit all the local sites. Formation of local CDSG chapters to assist in “care and feeding” of sites would be great. CDSG should try to gain more members so that we can have more impact on preservations issues. Investigate the possibility of the CDSG winning grants from foundations to expand its impact and reach. “Then and Now” photographic studies of overseas and continental harbor defenses. A larger web footprint that included taking credit cards would be great. More advertising for new members and more efforts in preserving former coast defense sites.

The third question was “**Where should the CDSG hold its future conferences and special tours – and would you organize one?**”. Sample responses are: Conferences at Columbia River and Pensacola/Mobile – Tours to Turkey, Bermuda, and Norway. No comment. The present schedule seems to be OK for those able to attend. Delaware River – Yes. Norway. More tours – Panama and Alaska. Conference to Los Angeles and San Diego. Conference – New York. Conference – Los Angeles. You are doing great – unfortunately I cannot help at this time. Tour to Latin America. Delaware/NJ area, Hawaii, and Bermuda. Am unable to attend either conferences or tours so have no input on this subject. Hawaii would be good. Perhaps some of the inland river forts. I am looking forward to one in Southern California. Late April – May dates better than late March. Repeat harbor defense, but with a limited daily schedule that allows the evening program to begin earlier. Schedule the tour/conferences to cover the phases of CA history at the sites that best show the phase. Special tours to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and St. John, New Brunswick. Conferences to LA/San Diego and Puerto Rico. Tours to Norway. Set the conferences in order then ask for volunteers. If unavailable skip to next one on the list. The forts of Bermuda I hear are nice. How about a CDSG themed cruise?; Tour to Florida – Fort Clinch, St John’s Bluff, Saint Augustine, etc. plus Tampa. The CDSG should hold a tour to Panama. We have been to Manila Bay three times since our tour to the Canal Zone in 1993. We should include a work party during every CDSG conference so we can put our back where our mouth is on the preservation of fort sites. I would like to attend a tour to the coast defenses in Norway/Sweden. With certain minor adjustments, repeat annual conference sequence. Make sure to mix East and West Coast and large and small defenses. No repeats within 10 years. Conferences to the Gulf Coast - New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola. What happened to the tour to the defenses of Australia

and New Zealand? Annual meetings in no particular order just spread them out geographically (west coast every 5 years). Should include the Great Lakes, Alaska, and Oahu as part of the rotation of annual conferences.

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Dispatches from Fort Wayne, Detroit

Jonathan A. Mycek

Reconstruction continues during the first summer of the Civil War Sesquicentennial at Fort Wayne, Detroit. In the afterglow of a successful “Spirit of ’61” event, the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition (HFWC) reported over 1000 hours of volunteer work. Since April, numerous tasks are nearing completion; foremost among them is the project to reglaze Limestone Barracks’ windows.

Begun shortly after the City of Detroit recognized the HFWC, repairing the Limestone Barracks’ northwest windows has occupied a large portion of the group’s efforts. The barracks building was constructed at the same time as Fort Wayne’s first earth and timber ramparts, and has been renovated repeatedly over the last 169 years. The stone building’s three and a half floors once housed part of Fort Wayne’s garrison and a military museum. Today, the barracks are home to weekend re-enactors and HFWC volunteers. During events, the barracks typically host living history and static displays.

Due to a line of destructive storms that struck the Detroit area on July 2, the HFWC cancelled its premier event, “Civil War Days.” Fort Wayne suffered downed power lines, fallen trees, and unspecified damage to the “civilian and public areas.” Though the city offered emergency assistance, according to news from the HFWC, restorative efforts during the short week prior to “Civil War Days” could not ensure visitor safety. With this in mind, HFWC postponed the event indefinitely. Check the HFWC website (www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com) for additional information.

When the weather cooperates, military re-enactments are joined by period sports on the Riverfront Parade Ground. For over three years, Detroit’s Early Risers have played 19th century baseball for hundreds of Fort Wayne visitors. The 16 Early Risers play America’s favorite pastime according to the “old-style” rules of the Vintage Base Ball Association – in reproduction “shield” shirts, knickers, and without gloves. While the original 1859 team played at the Downtown Campus Martius Park, today’s Early Risers now call Fort Wayne home. Games are held, monthly, through September. Check out the Vintage Base Ball Association’s website (www.vbba.org), the Early Riser’s Facebook page, and the HFWC Events Page (www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/Events) for updates and more information.



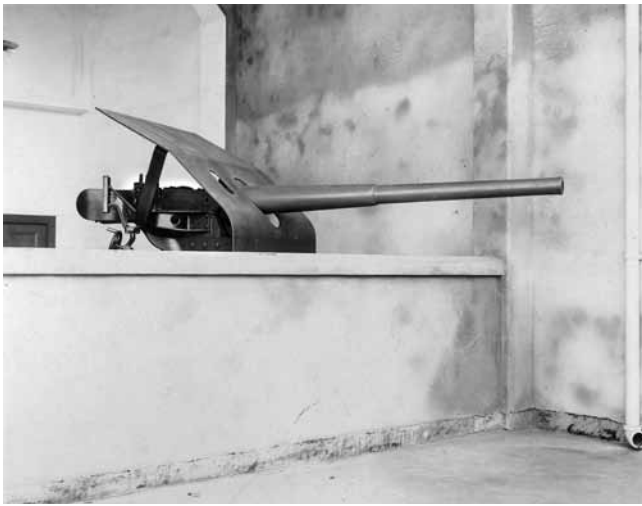
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The 16-inch gun Saved for Battery Townsley Was aboard USS Missouri

John Martini

I wanted to share this information with you ASAP: the 16-inch gun the NPS is getting from Hawthorne Depot for Battery Townsley was mounted aboard USS *Missouri* at the time of the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945, and is the most prominent gun in the historic photos. (See below) The historical significance is immense.

There are several Missouri guns at Hawthorne, and until recently it looked as if none could be saved (they are in the middle of the gun line and difficult to get at) but the contractor scrapping the gun and the Defense Logistics Agency staff worked to save Barrel 386 and make it the NPS gun.



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San Francisco 3-inch (15-Pounder) Dummy Gun at Fort Lee, VA

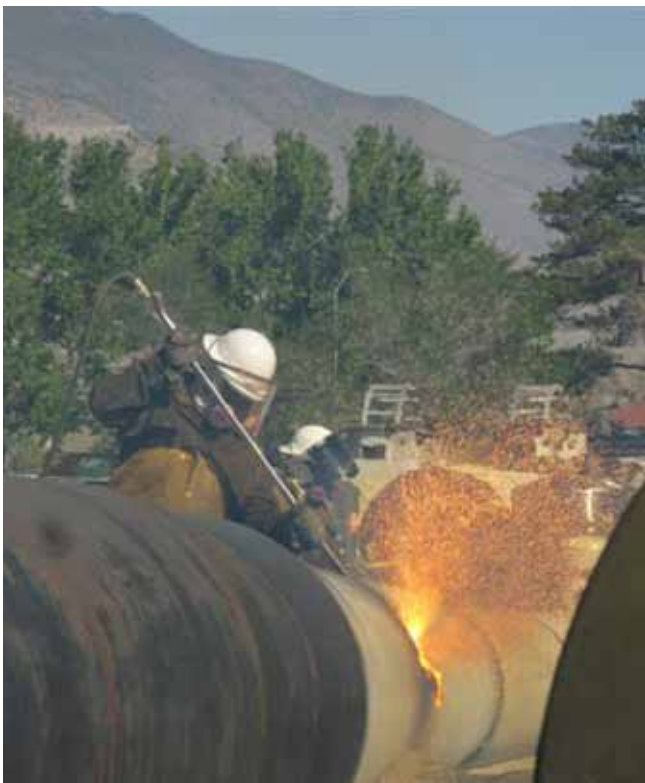
Before World War I, the U.S. Army Ordnance Department produced a few “dummy” (training) 3-inch and 10-inch seacoast guns and 12-inch BL mortars, using less expensive materials in place of forged gun steel. Five sets of 3-inch guns and carriages, nine 10-inch guns and carriages, and eight 12-inch mortars and carriages were manufactured and issued to the National Guard for armory training. While they could not be fired, they did provide valuable realistic training.

Until recently, an M1911 dummy 3-inch (15-pounder) gun sat on an M1912 dummy carriage in front of the Army Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. The gun and carriage have now been moved to the Ordnance Museum’s new location at Fort Lee, VA. The gun, Serial No. 2, and carriage, Serial No. 1, were originally installed in the National Guard Armory in San Francisco, CA. They were transferred to Camp McQuaide, CA, in 1943 and to Stockton Ordnance Depot a year later. Although listed as “to be salvaged,” the gun and carriage survived and eventually found their way to Benicia Arsenal and from there to the Ordnance Museum in 1963.



We also thought the group would like to see some photos of the end of the line for the 16-inch/50 barrels at Hawthorne, NV.





One barrel was saved for Battery Townsley at Golden Gate NRA. The CDSG is trying to find a home for the eight 16-inch/50 barrels at Portsmouth, VA, in the next 30 days or they will end up steel donuts. Please contact Terry McGovern for details if you have a lead on an organization that would like to care for one. Remember they are about 70 feet long and weigh about 120 tons.

These shots of the scrappers in action are courtesy of Terry McGovern.



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Reports from the Field

Mark Berhow

One of the things we have been trying to do as an organization is to develop better ties with the sites. We in the CDSG need to have a regular dialog on what is happening at various harbor defense sites in order to examine ways that the CDSG can support preservation and interpretation there. We had hoped that our CDSG Representative program would encourage this regular

dialog, but it has not. If for only informational purposes, more in the way of reports in this newsletter on a regular basis from the locations, from the reps and from any visits our members make to these sites, would at least bring our membership and any other readers up to date on the goings-on around the country.

I would like to encourage ALL members who visit any harbor defense location to file a report for the newsletter. There is no need to go into detail on the background of the locations, we have most of that information already. What we do need to hear about is recent developments -- good or bad -- that you observe during your visit. This should be done on a more regular basis by our reps, but anyone can write up a report on a site visit. Sometimes the folks on site are "too close" and do not see the "big picture." I only ask that you try to keep your reports short and to the point, focusing on the changes that are currently in progress. Current contact information and good websites would be a welcome addition for the CDSG to follow up on. And, it makes for good reading to see what is going on at the sites.

We will start with a short report from my visit to the San Francisco forts last June and a report from Terry McGovern on his visit to Fort Totten, NY.



Fort Baker parade (2011)

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San Francisco Update

Mark Berhow

In June I had a chance to spend a morning visiting some of the forts around San Francisco Bay and see the changes since my last visit in 2006 with the CDSG. As reported in other articles in this newsletter, work continues on the restoration of Battery Townsley with the new development being the prospect of obtaining a 16-inch gun tube for display.

As my time was short, I headed to visit Fort Baker and part of the Presidio to get some new pictures and see how things were going. When the CDSG visited Fort Baker in 2006, the NPS had just finalized plans for the buildings vacated by the army in 2002. Now in 2011 that transformation is complete. The Murray Circle section of the post is home to Cavallo Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate, a premier lodge and meeting facility, as well as the Institute at the Golden Gate, a non-profit organization promoting environmental preservation and global sustainability. These organizations join the Bay Area Discovery Museum and other National Park Service facilities which manage the old Fort Baker military reservation.



Below is some information from the website at <http://www.cavallopoint.com/>

“Discover Cavallo Point, a San Francisco Bay area luxury lodge in one of America’s most popular national parks. It’s one of the most romantic destinations in the area and a great springboard for Northern California adventures. In addition to being a member of Historic Hotels of America, this San Francisco luxury resort was named one of the “Top 10 New American Landmarks” by Travel+Leisure and also received LEED Gold Certification for its environmentally sustainable design and construction.

“Set in an idyllic location on the San Francisco Bay at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, Cavallo Point offers unique historic and contemporary lodging options. Kid friendly and pet friendly, Cavallo Point offers a multitude of activities and services to choose from.

“The Healing Arts Center & Spa offers innovative spa treatments in a serene, tranquil setting. Filled with natural light and top-of-the line culinary equipment, the Cavallo Point Cooking School is an intimate place to taste, create and learn. Michelin star Murray Circle Restaurant is one of Northern California’s top culinary destinations. “



Barracks (top) and Farley Bar inside (2011)

The renovation of the military buildings has been completed and a number of new structures have been added unobtrusively behind the structures that line the parade ground. The restoration is magnificent. The barracks have been restored to their original appearance: one houses administration, lodge check-in, and meeting rooms, the other houses a Michelin-rated restaurant and bar. The officers’ quarters and other buildings have been renovated as lodge quarters. The parade ground has been re-turfed, and the whole area looks like the military post of old. The barracks have restored balconies and the interiors feature nice hardwood floors, pressed metal ceilings, and interior support columns. They look great! I now feel that Fort Baker is one of the premier existing Endicott-era posts remaining in the US, made all the better by the careful restoration for its new uses. If you want one spot to go see an Endicott-era post today, Fort Baker would be a great choice.



Work on Doyle Drive (2011)

At the Presidio across the bridge, the Fort Winfield Scott parade ground still looks under-utilized, But the buildings look to be in good shape and the parade ground lawn is green and mowed. The renovation effort around the main Presidio parade ground is underway. The old officers’ club is currently being completely redone and several brick barracks have been completed; one is now home the Walt Disney Family Museum. The asphalt that covered much of the parade ground has been removed and a new lawn is being put in.

The new Doyle Drive approach to the Golden Gate Bridge is now under construction, and I could see from cemetery the parapets of Batteries Blaney and Slaughter, both covered with a protective rope mat. As per the plan, a large overpass will cover a sunken Doyle drive and allow access to the cemetery battery area from the main entrance to the cemetery.

Finally, I visited Fort Point, which was undergoing restoration when we were there in 2006. The work has been completed; the fort is open to visitors; all levels are open; and a number of barracks and quarters have been restored. One can now walk completely around the top parapet. It looks great.



Officers quarters, Fort Baker (2011)



Fort Point (2011)

Progress is being made on a number of fronts at the GGNRA/Presidio Trust areas to make the location economically sustainable, but care is being given to preserve the historical integrity. The GGNRA website is a great site to explore and plan a visit to this park. <http://www.nps.gov/goga/index.htm>.

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**Harbor Defenses of San Francisco
A Field Guide: 1890 to 1950
Second Edition now available**

Matthew Kent

For those interested in the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco, I am pleased to announce my new book "Harbor Defenses of San Francisco, A Field Guide: 1890 to 1950, Second Edition." The book is 400 pages, hard bound, and is printed in full color.

The book is a concise full color field guide to the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco, comprising all seacoast fortifications and their elements from 1890 through 1950. The field guide covers all major gun batteries, anti-aircraft batteries, plotting and switchboard rooms, fire control stations, fire control switchboards, radio and switchboard rooms, mine facilities, mine casemates, radar stations, sheltered searchlight positions, and more. Additionally, all forts and military reservations located immediately north and south of San Francisco are included as well.

Harbor Defenses of San Francisco - A Field Guide also contains complete historical information including, blueprints, period maps, up-to-date site maps made from satellite photographs, black and white aerial period photographs, and full color photographs of every site. The field guide was specifically designed for fortification enthusiasts to use in the field when visiting these historic sites. The list price is \$94.00.

My book is available for purchase at the following URL:

<http://www.blurb.com/my/book/detail/2378620>

I invite you all to check out the link to the book.



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**A visit to Fort Totten
Bayside, New York**

Terrance McGovern

Recently I had the opportunity to stop by the former Fort Totten which defended the eastern approaches to New York City's harbor via the Long Island Sound and the East River. The fort at Willet's Point was one of the last Third System forts undertaken (construction begun in 1862) and was never completed. Later, seven Endicott-Taft batteries were constructed from 1897 to 1904. Beside its coast defense role, Fort Totten was used by the Corps of Engineers as a school that developed many of the coast defense techniques and the controlled mine defenses used throughout the U.S. and oversea possessions. During World War II the fort served as the regional headquarters for the anti-aircraft defenses and later as the headquarters for the NIKE defenses until 1974. The fort was declared surplus in 1977, but supported several military tenants until it closed in 1995. The New York City Fire Department took over most of the post as a support and training center, while US Army Reserve and the US Coast Guard maintain facilities at the post. In 2004 about 50 acres, including all the Endicott batteries with the exception of buried Battery King, were transferred to the New York City Parks & Recreation Department.

The last 15 years have not been kind to the former Fort Totten and its military structures. Finding productive use for a large



Fort Totten ownership map (Rebecca McGovern 2011)

array of special purpose buildings has been difficult. The Fire Department, Coast Guard, Army Reserve, and Parks Department have been able to use about two dozen buildings while the rest have been abandoned.

Recently the NYC Parks Department has removed 18 non-historic Capehart buildings as part of the Park Master Plan on its part of the post near the main line of Endicott-Taft batteries. The Parks Department retains several large administration buildings, such as the former post headquarters and commanding officers quarters. They have restored part of the Grand Magazine (built in 1871) and established a Fort Totten Visitor Center in the Ordnance building which is open on weekends for tours. This Ordnance Storehouse served as Fort Totten's unofficial museum under Chief Warrant Officer Jacob (Jack) Fein (US Army, Ret.) since the 1950s had been not open since his death. The visitor center and tours of Third System water battery are managed by the Parks Department's Urban Park Rangers. Beside the work at the Grand Magazine, the Parks Department has removed much of vegetation behind the main gun line so over 350 native trees can be planted. Several walking paths have been added or upgraded and the Parks Department is seeking to repair damage to the seawall that runs around Willet's Point. The Endicott-Taft batteries remain off limits and abandoned as the freeze-thaw cycle and vegetation growth take their toll on these cement structures.



Endicott-Taft battery line (Rebecca McGovern 2011)



Fort Totten visitor center (Rebecca McGovern 2011)



Company barracks (Rebecca McGovern 2011)



Hospital complex (Rebecca McGovern 2011)

See accompanying photographs.

Most of the post's turn-of-century non-tactical buildings are outside the NYC Parks Department zone. Most of these structures are under the control of NYC Fire Dept but that Department only has a need for (and funding to maintain) a small percentage of these historic buildings. Large buildings such as the several



Officers club (Rebecca McGovern 2011)



Former engineer depot (USCG station) (Rebecca McGovern 2011)

company barracks constructed in 1894 and the hospital complex have been consigned to demolition by neglect and have been fenced off to let them collapse in place. See accompanying photographs. If uses for these buildings and quarters cannot be found then they will disappear. The former torpedo school and engineer depot (mine complex) buildings are used by the US Coast Guard for their small boat base. These structures continue to be used as does the ball fields over the former Battery King (8 x 12-inch mortars) which was buried in 1935. The US Army Reserve continue to maintain its area of Fort Totten but this part of the post has a large 1960's reserve center and supporting warehouses. A Friends of Fort Totten Parks group (www.fort-tottenparks.org) has been formed to support the development of the local park and related passive recreational experiences, cultural events, educational programs, and other community needs. The Fort Totten Officers' Club, known as "the Castle," is now the home to the Bayside Historical Society, which hosts events, historic exhibitions, and cultural programs. This iconic building is a replica of the Army Corps of Engineers symbol and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The CDSG has no local representative or member for Fort Totten since Jack Fein passed away. It would be great if we could locate local members to support the interpretation and preservation of Fort Totten, especial to promote the value of historic coast artillery buildings and structures.

* * * * *

Growing Up on Long Island During WW-II

Notes received along with a donation to the CDSG Fund.
James J. Moore, Jamaica, N.Y.

"I grew up alongside Fort Tilden, Rockaway Point, L. I., N. Y., with 16" guns booming and 8" guns firing at German U-Boats at night along the coast.

(There were) huge mine fields to protect N.Y. Harbor. Destroyer *USS Turner* blew up when it hit a mine off shore our dummy lighthouse. (It) still stands – an artist's delight today. But I remember the secretive lads who manned during WW-II and extra Coast Artillery Regt. (were added) after German spies were captured at Amagansett, L.I. with deadly plans for N.Y.C.

There was so much heavy lube oil from sunken tankers we could rarely swim! Wreckage of ships came in on every tide! Bodies too – with sea gulls pecking away at them!

(There were) endless convoys & air patrols & blimps overhead. (There were) great moments when *Queen Mary* & *Queen Elizabeth* sailed with 14,000 troops aboard – Endless black-outs & dim-outs.

I became an air raid warden as a teenager (because) there were no men left to serve."



* * * * *

2011 CDSG Annual Conference Harbor Defenses of Narragansett Bay March 29-April 3, 2011

Chris Zeeman

Tuesday, March 29

The attendees checked into conference headquarters, the Best Western/Mainstay Inn, Newport, RI. After a briefing by the conference organizer, Karl Fritz presented a discussion on the 1883 sham battle in Newport Bay. Following the talk, everyone had a chance to socialize, renew old friendships, and create new ones.

Wednesday, March 30

At 0745 hrs., the group gathered on the wharf at Fort Getty for the short boat ride over to Fort Greble on Dutch Island. Fort Greble contains a number of Endicott batteries as well as some



Conference attendees in front of the entrance to Fort Adams (Alex Holder)



Landing at Dutch Island (Chris Zeeman)



Civil War warthworks on Dutch Island (Chris Zeeman)

unique elements, including “Lower Battery” (11 Rodman ML guns), “Middle Battery” (6 Rodman ML guns), and earthworks built by the 14th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery (Colored) in 1863. A typically brisk bay breeze helped cool us while we waited for Captain Doug and the Jamestown Ferry, which arrived on schedule and transported us over to the island in two trips. CDSG members fanning out over the island benefitted from the hard work of the conference organizer (myself), Jack McCormack (Fort

Adams Trust), and Andy Grant (Fort Mott State Park). The three of us spent about 5 hours the previous day clearing and marking trails on the island. Note that it was 30 degrees Fahrenheit when we pushed off too row/paddle over! The markings we put out were very effective in keeping people from getting disoriented on the heavily overgrown island.



Lower Battery, Dutch Island (Chris Zeeman)

After returning from Dutch Island, members toured Fort Getty, Prospect Hill, and Fort Burnside. At Fort Getty, Batteries Tousard (3 x 10”DC) and House (2 x 6 “P) have been buried up to the parapet level. At Battery Whiting (2 x 3”P), the CRF station has collapsed and is heavily overgrown. One bolt circle from the AMTB battery was visible, having been used as a fire pit.

At Prospect Hill, a walking path has been built and interpretive signs installed. Six in-ground fire control stations have been cleared off, but are well sealed. The path also loops by Conanicut Battery, a Revolutionary War earthwork, which has also been cleared.



Battery Tousard, Fort Getty (Mark Berhow)

At Fort Burnside, we were able to visit the magazines of Battery 213 (2 x 6"BC), but not the interior of the HECP structure. (New) Battery Whiting (2 x 3"BC) was cleared, but the magazine and BC station were well sealed.



HECP at Fort Burnside (Chris Zeeman)

Evening presentations commenced around 1945 hrs. John Weaver spoke on the land defenses of Fort Adams and also previewed the 2012 Great Lakes Conference. Subsequently, Dan Malone presented his photos of little known, hard-to-access sites in Panama.

Thursday, March 31

The morning started with a tour of Newport sites. Our first stop was the museum of the Newport Artillery Company. Our route from the hotel to the museum took us past Equality Park, site of a 4.7" Armstrong gun, complete with shield. This gun was originally in Battery Talbot at Fort Adams. In addition, members



4.7 inch Armstrong (Mark Berhow)



Newport Artillery Company Museum (Mark Berhow)

visited the Panama mount at Brenton Point State Park. At 0945 hrs. the group gathered at Fort Adams's parking lot. Once again we boarded the Jamestown Ferry for a brief boat ride over to Rose Island, home of partially completed, Second-System Fort Hamilton. Rose Island was subsequently used by the navy as part of the torpedo station. In addition, there are concrete emplacements and magazines for 3 x 5" AA, built during World War Two.

Returning from the island, participants broke for lunch and reconvened at 1300 hrs. at the main gate to the old fort. In addition to touring the main fort, tunnels, and outer works, we also visited the exterior barbette battery and Endicott Batteries Bankhead (3 x 6" Armstrong) and Talbot (2 x 4.7" Armstrong). Interspersed between the later Endicott batteries are four Rodman-era magazines from the barbette battery. Hard work by volunteers had uncovered the last remaining 15" Rodman position, No. 403, so we could view it.



Fort Adams (Mark Berhow)

From the main fort, we stopped by the combined mortar Batteries Edgerton/Greene, on our way to the Advanced Redoubt, part of the original Third-System works that anchored a system of defenses stretching back to the main fort. At the redoubt, we were able to view the newly stabilized double staircase and access the roof. The staircase project was a partnership between the CDSG Fund, individual CDSG members, and the Fort Adams Trust. In addition, ladders were provided so that participants could visit the outer ditch galleries, as well as the inner ditch, and the AA position atop the inner wall. By the time the group arrived at the redoubt, the weather had turned from a drizzle into a sleet/snow mix - giving everyone a small taste of New England! Sleet turned to all-out snow during the evening presentations, leaving a light covering on the ground.



The repaired stairs at the Advance Redoubt (Mark Berhow)



Outerworks, Fort Adams (Mark Berhow)



Battery Reilly, Fort Adams (Mark Berhow)



Entering the Advance Redoubt (Mark Berhow)

Friday, April 1

By morning, the snow had gone, but the damp weather continued, along with a stiff breeze. The day started with Fort Greene at Point Judith, RI. At Fisherman's Memorial Campground, the group visited Battery 109 (2 x 16"BC) and its once-disguised silo-style BC tower. On the south reservation, we visited Battery 211 (2 x 6"BC) as well as the last remaining FC cottage at nearby Camp Cronin. From Fort Greene, we proceeded to Camp Varnum, stopping for lunch along the way. Camp Varnum is still an active Rhode Island National Guard facility, and the buildings are in fairly good condition. The camp contains four separate cottage-style fire control stations, and the gun blocks for three gun batteries: House (2 x 6"BC), AMTB 921 (4 x 90 mm), and Armistead (2 x 3"BC).



Entering Battery 109 (Chris Zeeman)



Fire control structures at Camp Varnum (Chris Zeeman)

From Camp Varnum, we travelled north to Fort Kearny, now home to a branch campus of URI. Since the batteries were still in use, we could only view them from the outside. From Fort Kearny, we returned to Jamestown Island to visit Fort Wetherill, our last stop of the day. The submarine mine complex at the fort has been completely renovated as office space for DEM. The other parts of the fort, however, are fairing much worse. The main gun line is coated in graffiti and overgrown with brush.



Battery French emplacement, Fort Kearny (Mark Berhow)



Fort Wetherill (Chris Zeeman)

Saturday, April 2

Saturday started with a visit to Little Compton, RI. Fort Church is spread between three separate tracts of land (East, West, and South). We started with the West reservation, site of Battery Gray (2 x 16" BC), at the Sakonnet Golf Club. This was the first time the group had been permitted to visit and tour the interior of the battery. Next, we moved to Battery 212 (2 x 6" BC), now the beautiful home of Mr. David Haffenreffer. We were graciously invited to tour the magazine spaces which the owner has turned into a private museum. Finally we toured the sad remains of Battery Reilly (2 x 8" BC), now completely buried. In addition, a new home has been built over the PSR for Battery Reilly and its entrance is now completely sealed as well. From Battery Reilly, we traveled to Mishaum Point, MA, and Battery 210 (2 x 6" BC). A large, expensive vacation home has been built atop the battery, but the magazine spaces can still be accessed via Emplacement No. 1. The interior of the magazine



Overhead rails in Battery Gray (Chris Zeeman)



Swichboard in Battery 210 (Chris Zeeman)



The entrance to Battery 210 at Mishaum Point (Chris Zeeman)

has begun to collect a lot of water, but we were able to see the remains of original stenciling and switchboard equipment racks. In addition, the center of a Panama mount was visible on the lawn - painted white apparently as a decoration.

Leaving Battery 210, we travelled to Fort Rodman, in New Bedford, MA, where we toured the newly expanded museum at the park. In addition, the folks at Fort Rodman allowed us full access to the Third-System fort, which not normally open to the public. Members were then able to view the rest of the Endicott period structures at their own pace. After touring Fort Rodman, we returned to the hotel for the annual dinner banquet and business meeting. The end of the business meeting marked the end of the annual conference.



Fort Rodman (Chris Zeeman)

Sunday, April 3 (Add-on Day 1)

Our first add-on day visited the coastal defenses along the Connecticut/Rhode Island shoreline. Our first stop was Fort Trumbull in New London, CT. The fort has been the beneficiary of nearly \$25 million from the state, and is now a sparkling example of Third-System architecture. Superintendent Jonathan Lincoln was on hand to unlock areas of the fort not normally open to the public. He then accompanied us across the river to Groton, CT. Fort Griswold there is a Revolutionary War-era earthwork, with a later Civil War-era water battery as well. Mr. Lincoln was kind enough to open up the nearby, newly renovated Groton Monument and Museum. Many of the group braved the long, confined climb up the spiral staircase to get a bird's eye view of the works from the top of the monument.

After Fort Griswold, we travelled to our last site for the day, Fort Mansfield, at Watch Hill, RI. About 10 members made the trek out to the fort and visited Batteries Wooster (2 x 8" DC) and Crawford (2 x 5" BP). On the hike back, we were able to view the sad remains of Battery Connell (2 x 5" P) in the surf. Following our visit to Fort Mansfield, the group enjoyed refreshments in the hospitality of member Peter DeRose's home.



Fort Griswold (Chris Zeeman)



Battery Wooster, Fort Mansfield (Chris Zeeman)



Pete DeRose views the remains of Battery Connell (Chris Zeeman)

Monday, April 4 (Add-on Day 2)

Our destination for the second add-on day was Plum Island, NY, former site of Fort Terry. The island is now inhabited by an animal disease laboratory run by the Department of Homeland Security. The weather was overcast and gray, with drizzling showers. During this visit, we were not allowed to get within 10 feet of any concrete and were not permitted to walk under any concrete overhangs. This limited our ability to visit batteries such as Battery Stoneman, and we were not permitted to enter any structures, with the exception of the large combined fire control near the cantonment area. Our hosts provided us with lunch and drinks, as well as an informative briefing on the mission of the lab. They even went to the extent of clearing a path to one of the batteries

we wanted to visit with a tractor, while we were at lunch. Despite the restrictions, everyone had a good time. Despite some initial commotion, the excellent behavior of the group bolstered our good reputation. One clear lesson learned what that all future conference attendees must follow the directions of the event organizer and the directions of security personnel when visiting government facilities!

This closed the 2011 CDSG annual conference. Despite some challenges from the weather, both the history and the fellowship were excellent, and the response of the participants was overwhelmingly positive. We are grateful to all the individuals and organizations that contributed to the successful conference.



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George Island 6-inch Navy gun

Matthew Hunter

I recently made a trip to George Island with the US Forest Service to inspect the 6-inch gun that was emplaced there to defend the navy section base at an old cannery in Port Althorp. I am making a trip to Anchorage in a few weeks for training and will spend one day at the National Archives Alaska office when I am there to see what I can learn about this gun. The only document that I have that mentions it is the "Narrative History of Construction in Alaska: Fort Ray." It mentions that the navy obtained three of these guns to defend their installations in Sitka. Two were given to the army and emplaced at Shoals Point (I have located the emplacements: www.sikaww2.com/harbordefenses/Locations/shoalspt/shoalsptallen.html). The other gun was used to defend Port Althorp.

The gun is in decent shape, but its breech block has been removed and it is in an unnaturally depressed position. Faint red lettering on the barrel reads "Brigadier." The "igloo-type" ammunition magazine behind the gun is an iron half-cylinder, with no backfill over it.

Enjoy the photos. I included one of the lettering on the side of the gun and another of the bolt pattern. The emplacements at Shoals Point only have the outer ring of bolts.

There are two more of these guns on "Cannon Beach" in Yakutat. Those barrels were cut in half.



6-Inch Navy gun on George Island
(All photos by Matthew Hunter)



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A visit to 15-inch (38.1cm) coast artillery on Menorca, Islas Baleares, Spain

Terrance McGovern

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the island of Menorca (Minorca) in the Mediterranean Sea, belonging to Spain. The Spanish Navy maintained a key naval station for many years at Mahon, the island's principal city and port. The defenses of Mahon have a long history with the principal fortifications at La Mola and San Felipe. These defenses are quite extensive and include fortifications that evolved from muzzle loading cannon to breechloading rifled weapons. Some of these defenses were in use by the Spanish Army until the 1990s. One of the last phases of these defenses was construction of three battery complexes each centering around two 38.1 cm/45 (15-inch) Model 1926



38.1 cm shell lift with Javier at La Mola Battery



38.1 cm gun at La Mola Battery
(All photos by Terry McGovern)

cannons on single-gun barbette mounts with light-weight shields. These battery complexes included four single-barrel 15.2 cm/50 (6-inch) Vickers guns in open barbette mounts with light-weight half shields and four single-barrel 10.5 cm/45 (4.7-inch) anti-aircraft guns in an open mono block emplacement. Each site had dedicated plotting rooms, fire control stations, and power rooms, as well as barracks and other supporting buildings. These batteries, constructed from 1928 to 1932, are at Llucalary (southern coast), Favaritx (northern coast), and La Mola (eastern coast).



38.1 cm breech at La Mola Battery



38.1 cm gun at Llucalary Battery



15.2 cm gun at Espero Battery (La Mola)



Rangefinder for 38.1 cm gun at Llucalary Battery



38.1 cm gun at Llucalarty Battery

Travelling with Michel von Best and Peter Muller, we were able to visit each of these three batteries in great depth due to the efforts of Javier Girona Hernandez, director of the Museo Militar de Menorca. Javier, a captain in the Spanish Army, personally guided us to each of these batteries and arranged access to each site, which are not generally open to the public. Javier helped us locate and visit each of the guns, emplacements, underground magazines, access tunnels, plotting rooms, and power rooms. As you can see from the accompanying photographs, four of the six 38.1 cm guns survive today, but only two of the twelve 15.2 cm guns. None of the 10.5 cm AA guns remain. The battery at La Mola is now part of joint historic area that is preserved for tourism. The Favartix battery (whose two 38.1 cm guns were moved to the Paloma Alta Battery on the Strait of Gibraltar in 1945) is abandoned and part of national wildlife refuge. The Llucalarty Battery has been sold to private owners but its two 38.1 cm guns remain, abandoned. A visit to Menorca is highly recommended as there are many other fortifications and coastal batteries to visit and increased military tourism would encourage the preservation of these sites, as none of these sites are maintained by the Spanish Army any longer.



10.5 cm AA emplacement at Favartix Battery



Fire control computer and plotting table for 38.1 cm battery at Museo Militar de Menorca

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Army Museums at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, and Fort Lee, VA, and the Movement of the German 28 cm K5 (E) Railway Gun

Greg Hagge

Museums Status

The BRAC process moved the Ordnance School and Museum to Fort Lee, VA, from Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG), MD. This process has been in motion since 2005, and this summer will complete the major part of the move, leaving only those macro artifacts that need to be run through the restoration shop before being shipped to Ft Lee. The other collections and archival material will be at Ft. Lee in our temporary new home. There is no plan for a publicly accessible ordnance museum in the near future. These developments are being worked out with many details yet to be determined.

The museum building at APG will house a new institution called the APG Museum. The mission of this museum will be the bigger picture of history at APG and the new mission of the Communications Command, which has moved to APG from Ft. Monmouth, NJ. The Ft. Monmouth electronics-oriented museum will be part of the new APG museum. Some macro artifacts will be transferred to the APG Museum and some new



38.1 cm emplacement at Favartix Battery

acquisitions will be displayed there. The new APG museum is a completely separate and distinct institution, with no ties to the former ordnance museum. The interpretation of the various historical activities at APG including the test center, R&D functions and new organizations will be included. The 16-inch gun on its proof mount will remain at APG.

Moving the K5 "Leopold"

The largest artifact to be moved to Ft. Lee is the 28 cm (11-inch) K5 (E) German railroad gun called "Anzio Annie." Work to disassemble the gun began in October 2010 and reassembly at Fort Lee was completed on December 10, 2010. It is currently at Railroad Avenue on Fort Lee. It can be viewed but is technically not open to the public.

The work was done by a major contractor using two large cranes, heavy-haul trucks and trailers, very heavy rail car for the barrel and lots of hydraulic jacks and sweat. The first process was to lower the barrel and remove the two pins attaching the elevating mechanism to the cradle extensions. This took all day, trying various ways to move the barrel. Late in the evening the solution that worked was to turn the elevating drive shaft by hand with a crane assisting to control the decent. Worked smooth as silk.



K5 gondola being lifted at APG



K5 barrel on rail car for movement to Fort Lee



K5 barrel being lifted from gondola at APG

Removing the pins took nearly three days. A process developed using an air impact wrench turning a ring of large bolts like wheel lug nuts. Placing shims under the bolts and tightening all around over and over again. The last few inches were moved with special hydraulic jacks. When the pins were free the main cradle trunnion cap squares were unbolted and lifted away. With the gun tube and cradle free, two cranes lifted the assembly out of the gondola structure and placed it on a heavy trailer for temporary storage.

The next operation was to lift the gondola from the two 12-wheel trucks. The front truck was held by gravity and the weight of the gun. This large ball and socket worked with the rear



K5 rail truck being lifted at APG



Leopold's new home at Ft. Lee

truck to allow leveling the gun gondola. The rear truck was pinned to a sliding plate on the truck. The sliding plate allowed moving the truck forward to shorten the length of the whole equipment. The pin was lifted, lowered, and locked by a large nut/lever on the left side of the gondola. This proved to be rusted and very difficult to rotate. Once unlocked the truck and plate were slid to the center of the dovetailed track freeing the gondola from the truck. The two cranes lifted the gondola clear and placed it on an extra-long heavy-lift trailer. When cleared the top of the sliding plate was found to have four small hydraulic pistons. The small pistons were adjusted with valves located on the left side of the rear truck to level the gun car. The ball joint on the front truck could move in any direction to easily level the gun. The two trucks were each lifted onto trailers. That night the three truck loads left for Ft. Lee over the road.

The gun and cradle were too heavy for the trailer on hand. Another larger trailer could not be located. It seems there are only a few trailers of this size in North America and all were booked. It was therefore decided to ship the gun and cradle by rail. It took nearly a month to obtain a heavy rail car, arrange for the movement, and finally deliver the car to Ft Lee.

The first three loads were reassembled in a few hours at Fort Lee in October. A month later the gun and cradle arrived. These were placed on the gun car and bolted down, and the pins were reinstalled in about four hours.



12-inch M1895 gun on its railway mount at Dahlgren

It should also be noted the 12-inch M1895MIA1 gun (#19) on M1918 railway mount (#9 Marion Steam Shovel) is going to be relocated from the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division at Dahlgren, VA, to Ft. Lee to be next to the K5 railway gun as part of this effort to assemble unique army ordnance at the Ordnance School.

All photographs by Greg Hagge



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Establishment of a Fort Monroe National Park

Terrance McGovern

The Coast Defense Study Group (CDSG) has been very involved in the future of Fort Monroe since 2005, when the BRAC process decided the U.S. Army would leave the site after over 200 years of active military use. We joined the planning process for the future use of Fort Monroe by becoming a consulting party to the Programmatic Agreement (PA) under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Throughout this process our focus was insuring the preservation and interpretation of the historic fortifications which includes the largest Third System fort in the nation and the detached Endicott batteries that surround the masonry fort. In the many meetings and drafts of the PA we were able to demonstrate that Fort Monroe's Endicott batteries were the technological extensions of the Third System fort and their preservation was just as important as the old stone fort. The Section 106 PA recognized their importance by classifying these batteries as their own protected zone so that if commercial developments threaten these batteries they would be some barriers to their destruction or modification. This recognition is important at the army leaves Fort Monroe on September 15, 2011, and the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) takes over responsibility for the 565-acre military reservation in 2012. The prospect of being responsible for over 170 buildings and other historic structures has been one of FMA's concerns since its creation. Different local factions have advocated a range of future plans, from intensive commercial development (and enlarged tax base) to no development at all, turning much of the reservation into green space. Over the last 5 years the mood has shift toward Fort Monroe becoming a National Park run by the National Park Service (NPS).

At the end of June 2011, Virginia's U.S. Senators and several of Virginia's Congressmen introduced legislation that would establish a unit of the NPS at Fort Monroe. The Fort Monroe National Historical Park Establishment Act of 2011 would authorize the Park Service to establish a national park presence at the fort to preserve historic and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The CDSG is very supported of a Fort Monroe National Historical Park managed by the NPS, as the purpose of the park as set forth in this bill is very similar to what CDSG has advocated for the last five years. The proposed legislation calls for the park to preserve and interpret several aspects of Fort Monroe, but the key one for the CDSG is *(B) the development and use of the Fort as a coastal defense facility and artillery training center, including providing information on the military and community life at Fort Monroe.* This purpose is of particular interest to the CDSG, since to successfully carry out this mission both the Third System fort and the Endicott batteries need to be part of the park's historical resources and be included within the boundaries of the proposed national park. In reviewing the map entitled "Fort Monroe National Historical Park Proposed Boundary," numbered 250/107,111, and dated June 24, 2011, and attached to the bill, the CDSG is encouraged to find three Endicott Batteries (DeRussey, Church, and Anderson-Ruggles) are include in the "North Beach Area", but

we are very surprised to see the two Endicott Batteries (Parrott and Irwin) that are located to the right of the North Gate of the Third System fort are excluded from the proposed park's boundaries, as shown on the map below.

The Endicott batteries were a major part of Fort Monroe for over 50 years starting in 1897, as the Third System fort became obsolete. They also represent the final period when Fort Monroe acted as an installation directly defending against naval attack. They were the final evolution at Fort Monroe of the purpose for





Google images of Fort Monroe showing the locations of the Endicott-era batteries



which the fort was originally constructed and to not include all these batteries diminishes the whole history of the site. Additionally, Fort Monroe was the heart of the Coast Artillery Corps and School for almost its entire existence and these Endicott batteries were the epitome of it during a large part of that period. Batteries Parrott (two 12-inch guns on disappearing carriages) and Irwin (four 3-inch rapid fire guns) are the representative archetypes for the entire Endicott-Taft era of U.S. coast defense as these batteries were used intensively for training throughout their service life. They were also the most photographed batteries in U.S., as they played key roles in developing training manuals and instructional films due to their close proximity to the Fort Monroe's Coast Artillery School campus.

Battery Parrott had the most powerful guns ever mounted at Fort Monroe and was considered a showpiece for both the post and the Coast Artillery School. Many foreign officials and officers traveled to Fort Monroe to observe the drills and target practice at these two batteries. Battery Parrott continued to serve in a coast defense role even after its 12-inch guns were removed, as Fort Monroe's only World War II battery was constructed on the battery's loading platforms. This anti-motor torpedo boat battery was the final fixed defensive guns mounted at Fort Monroe, active until 1950. The only surviving example of this type of 90 mm fixed mount weapon was reinstalled in 1976 in Battery Parrott and remains on display there today. Battery Irwin served as both a defense against fast-moving warships and later in an anti-aircraft role to the end of World War II. Currently, two unique 3-inch

guns are installed in two of its emplacements. They were moved to Battery Irwin from Fort Wool for use as saluting guns after World War II and thus are a historic part of the post and its Coast Artillery history.

The location of Batteries Parrott and Irwin is just important as their history. These structures are located between the Third System fort and the bay along the important 3rd and 4th Fronts of the old fort. See attached photos. Maintaining this viewshed and landscape is critical for visitors to understand the form and purpose of Fort Monroe as documented in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's "Fort Monroe Historic Viewsheds" and "Fort Monroe Historic Landscapes" reports. To leave these two Endicott batteries (and the adjutant large parking lot) outside the boundaries of the proposed national historic park would greatly affect a visitor's experience and appreciation of the importance of Fort Monroe's coast defense role. This land was also the site of the Third System fort's large water battery, of which only a small portion remains. The large parking lot could play an important role in handling visitors to the proposed National Park, as they could visit the old stone fort without driving into the parade ground via a narrow one-way roadway and bridge. These Endicott batteries are in good condition, as they were maintained by the U.S. Army and could be used as coast artillery museums and display areas for related artifacts. The CDSG has offered to assist in the interpretation and restoration of the batteries to their original purpose and function.

Through its Preservation Committee, the CDSG has made written requests that the NPS and the drafters of pending Senate and House bills include the Fort Monroe's unique Endicott batteries as listed historical resources and part of the management plan, and that they be included within the boundaries of the proposed park. Changes to the NPS boundary map would only require the inclusion of a portion of land to the south of Fenwick Road, from Engineers Wharf to Gulick Road, to where the remains of the former water battery begin on Fenwick Road. Only the establishment of an NPS managed Fort Monroe National Historic Park including its Endicott batteries will allow for interpretation of the use and development of fortifications at Old Point Comfort for the benefit of present and future generations. Their exclusion will restrict this future great park to interpreting and preserving only half of the story of Fort Monroe, since during the roughly 120 years that Fort Monroe served as the primary defense for Hampton Roads and the center for U.S. Army coast artillery training both the Third System fort and the Endicott batteries served in this integrated role of both seacoast defense and artillery training.

The CDSG Preservation Committee asks that each of our members reach out to the NPS and their Congressional delegation to ask them to support the establishment of Fort Monroe National Park that includes the historic Endicott Batteries. You can contact the NPS' project manager at this address and email:

Mr. Terrence D. Moore
Special Projects Manager
National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



Unique 90mm fixed mount ATMB gun at Battery Parrott, Fort Monroe, VA



Unique 3-inch rapid fire guns at Battery Irwin, Fort Monroe, VA

terrence_moore@nps.gov
megan_lang@nps.gov

The congressional sponsors of this bill are Senator Webb and Warner; and Congressmen Scott Rigell, R-Virginia Beach, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, D-Newport News, and Rob Wittman, R-Westmoreland. Supporting the bill are the NPS, the Fort Monroe Authority, Hampton Mayor Molly Ward, and Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, so you can also contact them to indicate that you want the Endicott batteries to be include in the proposed Fort Monroe National Park.

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Why the Cannon is at the Piggery

Steve Kelleher
Barberton Historical Society

On Saturday April 23, 2011, the Barberton Historical Society took possession of the Lake Anna Cannon, which has been stored for the last three years at the Barberton Street Garage in Barberton, Ohio. The 155 mm GPF gun has been transported to the O.C. Barber Piggery at 248 E. Robinson Ave., Barberton, Ohio.

Based on an outstanding French design, the GPF gun was made in France and then the United States. It was an important American weapon in both world wars, and during World War II the guns were a major element of America's coast defenses until largely replaced by newer armament. Some GPF guns were used throughout World War II in the Pacific Theater. This cannon was given to the City of Barberton in 1946 and displayed at Lake Anna Park, where it was a playground for children for the next 60 years.



Moving out of the city storage yard.



Putting it down at the piggery.



Sixty years at Lake Anna Park.



155 mm GPF gun at the Pig Barn.

The Lake Anna Cannon is in a sad state of deterioration. It needs major metal work, some replacement parts, and a whole lot of elbow grease. This gun was a focal point at Lake Anna Park for 60 years. We have started a campaign to restore this gun, and you can be part of the solution. The cannon is better now sitting at the Piggery being restored than in the belly of a blast furnace being melted down for scrap.

We desperately need funds to rebuild parts of the framework or the Lake Anna Cannon will never see its 100th birthday. Please consider making a small contribution to its preservation. If you are a welder or metal fabricator we could also use your help. Please call us at (330) 830-1444 or email to Barbertonhistsoc@aol.com to volunteer. Steve Kelleher has called on the CDSG to

provide technical assistance in restoring the cannon to its original condition. Members that wish to help him and the Barberton Historical Society should call or email.

Photographs provided by Steve Kelleher

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The CDSG is seeking good homes for eight 16-inch/50 Mark 7 Barrels

Former 16-inch coast defense batteries site owners indicate interest
Terrance McGovern



16"/50 Mark VII guns with lifting cradles at St. Julien's Creek Annex

Robin Staton and the folks at the Dahlgren History Project have approached the CDSG to help finding organizations to acquire the war reserve 16-inch/50 Mark 7 barrels of the Iowa-class battleships at St. Juliens Creek, VA, (8 barrels) and Hawthorne, NV, (15 barrels) before they were scrapped. They had researched the service history for each of these barrels and had learned that most of these barrels have their own interesting history; they were used on Iowa-class battleships during World War II and some were mounted on the USS Missouri at the time of the 1945 Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay. The U.S. Navy has been seeking to find a home for these historic barrels for the last 3 years without success and now these barrels to be turned over to the Defense Logistics Agency for disposition. By the time we gathered information on these barrels, the 15 barrels located at Hawthorne (except for one barrel held for the Golden Gate NRA) had been auctioned off and were soon cut for scrap (see related article in this newsletter).

In 2007 the U.S. Navy contacted battleship preservation organizations, naval and army museums, and other ordnance related museums to make them aware of availability of these barrels. However, they missed one potential group that might want to display a 16-inch barrel - the owners of the former U.S. Army coast artillery batteries that emplaced 16-inch guns very similar to the 16-inch/50 Mark 7. About 30 such batteries were built

between 1923 and 1945 (visit www.cdsg.org for a listing of these batteries). While a few have been destroyed over the last 60 years, many today are now national, state, and local parks. Some of these sites have been working to interpret these batteries, mainly through their "friends of the park" groups. The CDSG undertook to contacted each of these organizations to see if they have an interest in a surviving barrel from the U.S. Navy. While most of the sites indicated an interest in acquiring a 16-inch barrel, they faced a very large challenge in gathering the funds to move a barrel from St. Juliens Creek Naval Annex in Portsmouth, VA, to their battery site, given the size and weight of these tubes (about 70 feet long and 120 tons). Estimates as high as \$200k to move a barrel require a major funding commitment.

Beside the funding challenge, the Naval Sea System Command (which has oversight over these barrels) has only extended the deadline for qualified organization to submit detailed transportation plans from June 30 to September 30, 2011. So far the State of Arizona (they want to display a USS Missouri barrel at the State Capital) and Delaware State Parks/FMHA (display at Cape Henlopen State Park – Battery Smith) have gained navy approval for a barrel (and more time to move it). The U.S. Navy at the Joint Expeditionary Base – Little Creek & Fort Story are seeking a barrel at the Cape Henry Lighthouse (near Battery Ketcham)



16-inch guns identified at St. Julien's Creek Annex

and Norfolk Naval Station wants one for the USS Iowa Memorial (to the 47 sailors killed in explosion in Turret No. 2 in 1989). They have an advantage as the barrels can be transferred internally, but they need to located funding, as the weight of barrels exceed the capacity of any current navy or army resources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing a transportation plan to display a barrel at the Virginia National Wildlife Refuges (Battery Winslow). We are assisting these sites with technical information about the barrels and talking with other interested sites about sharing resources to reduce the cost of transporting a barrel to their site. Other site owners that have expressed interest so far are Monmouth County Park System - Hartshorne Woods Park (Battery Lewis – Navasink Highlands, NJ), Gateway NRA – National Park Service (Battery Harris – Fort Tilden, NY), Montauk State Park Complex (Battery Dunn – Camp Hero, NY), Fisherman’s Memorial State Park (Battery #109 – Fort Green, RI), Odiorne Point State Park (Battery Seaman – Fort Dearborn, NH), and Peaks Island Land Preserve (Battery Steele – Peaks Island Military Reservation, ME).

We ask CDSG members to reach out to the site owners of their local former 16-inch batteries to help them with their interest or assist them in the transportation planning and fundraising. Also, if any CDSG member knows of any location that would have an interest in obtaining a barrel please advise Terry McGovern at tmcgovern@icfi.com or at 703-934-3661 the name of such location and contact information of the site owner. We might also need to ask our members to assist in convincing the Naval Sea System Command to grant more time for these groups to assess their ability to fund the movement of these barrels and get back with detailed plans, as only a few weeks are available before the auction of the last of these 16-inch/50 Mark 7 barrels.

* * * * *

Fort Miles Historical Association seeks funds to move 16-inch/50 Mark 7 Barrel

CDSG Fund Challenges Members to Match our Donation
Terrance McGovern

The CDSG Board of Directors recently approved a \$1,000 donation from the CDSG Fund to Fort Miles Historical Association (FMHA) to help cover the cost to move and display a historic 16-inch/50 Mark 7 barrel at Cape Henlopen State Park, DE. FMHA and state park staff have worked quickly to put together a plan requesting one of the 16-inch/50 barrels – Number 371 – that was on the battleship, USS Missouri, where the Japanese signed surrender documents Sept. 2, 1945, ending World War II. This barrel is one of eight once mounted on Iowa-class battleships and now stored at St. Juliens Creek Naval Annex, part of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, since the 1950s.

The lack of money and time are working against FMHA. While there is no cost for the actual barrel itself, crane companies to lift the 116-ton, 67-foot barrel and transport it by barge and train could cost as much as \$85,000, according to Gary Wray, president of the FMHA. In addition, the U.S. Navy is aggressively scrapping surplus Iowa-class materials, including the 16-inch barrels at St. Juliens Creek, which were originally scheduled to be sold for scrap by the end of July 2011. Because of the efforts of the



16-inch/50 Mark 7 (gun number 371) at St. Juliens Creek, VA



16-inch/50 Mark 7 (gun number 371) at St. Juliens Creek, VA

CDSG, enough interest in acquiring these barrels was generated that the navy has extended the liquidation date to September 30, 2011. Fourteen 16-inch/50 barrels were cut up for scrap in June at the Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada (one barrel, also from the USS Missouri, was saved for display at Battery Townsley at the Golden Gate NRA by the NPS), and that action spurred the CDSG into action. Terry McGovern contacted all the owners of the former 16-inch coast defense batteries on the East Coast to see if they would have any interest in (and funding for) a 16-inch barrel to help interpret their site. The FMHA was one of the groups contacted and as it so happens that they have been searching for a 16-inch gun similar to the two in the Fort Miles’s Battery Smith during World War II to add their collection of 3-inch, 6-inch, 8-inch and 12-inch guns.

The FMHA, working with Delaware State Parks, has submitted a transportation plan and the U.S. Navy has extended the deadline on Barrel No. 371 by one year, so the association can mount a serious fund-raising campaign. The association has credibility to back up its plan because the group has already secured and restored a massive 12-inch gun on display in the Battery 519 (the CDSG Fund also played a role by providing funds for its restoration). Gary Wray said the logistics of moving the barrel from Norfolk to Lewes are not as complicated as they might

seem. He has already made contacts with a crane company, the railroad lines involved, and a barge company. Cranemaster from Richmond could lift and rig the massive barrel onto a railroad car that would be transported on a barge to be ferried across the Chesapeake Bay to Cape Charles, VA, (the barrels already have their own cradles). The railroad car would then move to Lewes via rail, where it would be removed by crane and loaded onto a truck to be taken to the state park. The exact location where it would be on display in the park is being discussed but the FMHA want to also acquire a breechblock, slide, and girders to be able to display an complete 16-inch/50 Mark 7.



Fort Miles Historical Area – future site of 16-inch/50 16-inch/50 at Dahlgren Naval Surface Weapon Center –



FMHA planned display method

Critical to the success of this effort is raising the funds to pay the contractors and railroads to move this barrel to Cape Henlopen. The CDSG Fund challenges our members to match the Fund's donation to the FMHA for this project. We ask that each of you make a dedicated donation to the CDSG Fund for the 16-inch/50 project. If we can get 20 members to each donate \$50, we can provide \$2,000 instead of \$1,000 to this worthy cause. Currently no 16-inch coast defense battery has a barrel on display to help visitors better understand the function of these massive structures. Your donation can make this happen. Remember your gift to the CDSG Fund is tax-deductible for federal tax purposes and 100% of your gift will go to the 16-inch/50 Project (please indicate this purpose on your check). Please send your check as soon as possible, as FMHA needs to move the barrel within one year. Your check payable to the CDSG Fund should be mailed to Alan Hardey at 1577 Braeburn Road, Altadena, CA 91001-2603.

* * *

Support the CDSG Website

The CDSG supports its web site ONLY through donations. If you download PDF files from the website, please help the CDSG continue to maintain it by donating a shareware fee. The suggested fees will be noted next to each PDF document. We suggest a minimum donation of \$5.00. Thank you for supporting the CDSG web site!

* * *

The CDSG Fund

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc., by raising funds to support preservation and interpretation efforts concerning seacoast defenses around the United States. The CDSG Fund is seeking donations for preservation projects around the United States consistent with the goals of the CDSG. Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes, and 100% of your gift will go toward the project selected. The CDSG Fund will acknowledge your gift and keep you informed on the status of its projects. Make checks or money orders payable in US funds to The CDSG Fund.

The CDSG Fund is always seeking proposals for the monetary support of preservation and interpretation projects at public parks and museums. A one-page proposal briefly describing the site, the organization doing the work, the project to be done or supported, and how the money would be used, should be sent to the address listed below. Successful proposals, usually one to two per year, are typically funded at \$500 or more. Upon conclusion of project, or the year in which funding was received, a short report suitable for publication in our newsletter is requested.

Send all donations and proposals to:

The CDSG Fund
C/O Alan Hardey, Trustee
1577 Braeburn Road, Altadena, CA 91001-2603
oozlefinch_1@earthlink.net

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CDSG Logo Patches and Shirts

The CDSG is pleased to offer custom-made T-shirts and patches to our membership. Wearing these T-shirts and patches are a great way to make others aware of the CDSG and its goals. It is also an excellent way to promote new memberships in the CDSG.

The CDSG patches have been available for several years. Designed especially for the CDSG, these quality patches combine the Coast Artillery Corps and the Corps of Engineers symbols to reflect their involvement in U.S. coastal defenses. Placed on hats or jackets these patches will show your membership in the CDSG.

To order your T-shirt or patch, please complete the order form below and send it along with your check (made out to CDSG, Inc.) to Terry McGovern at 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA (e-mail: tcmcgovern@att.net).

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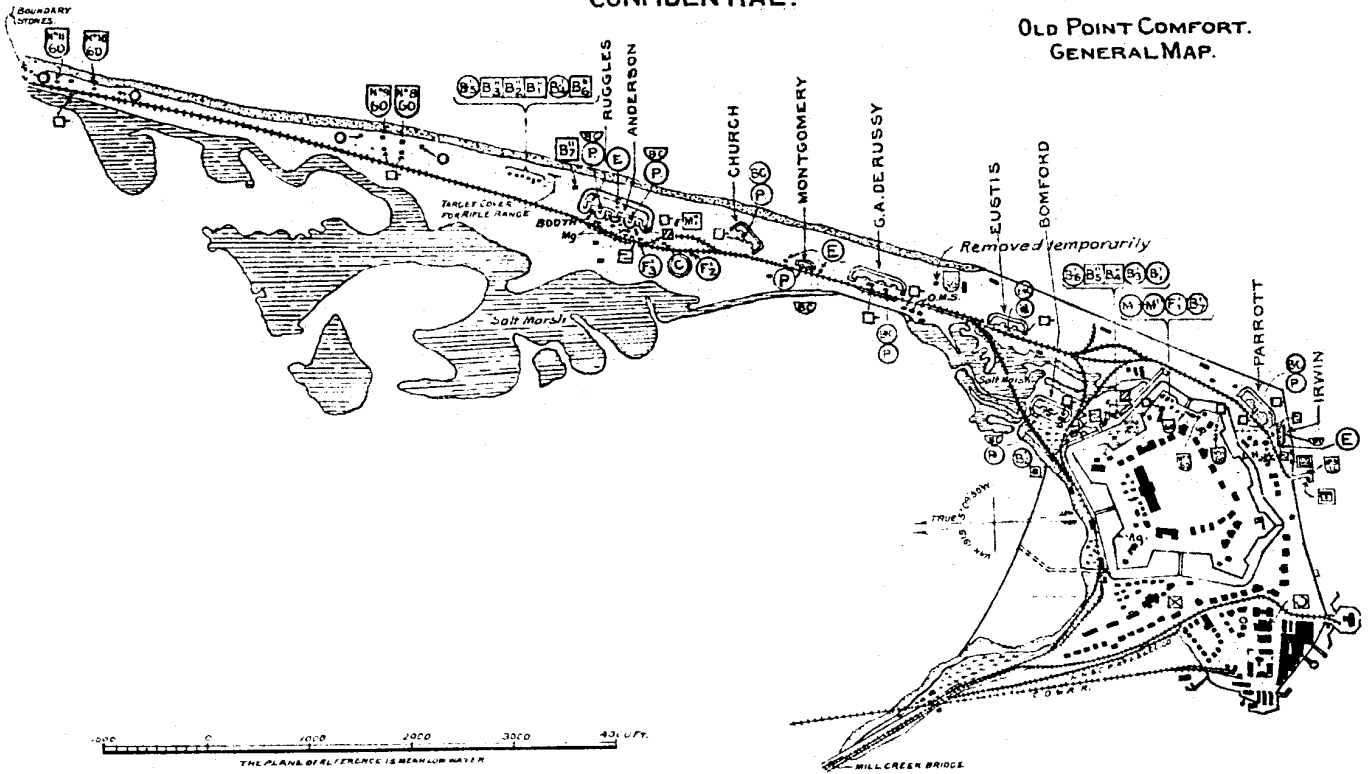
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FORT MONROE

OLD POINT COMFORT.
GENERAL MAP.



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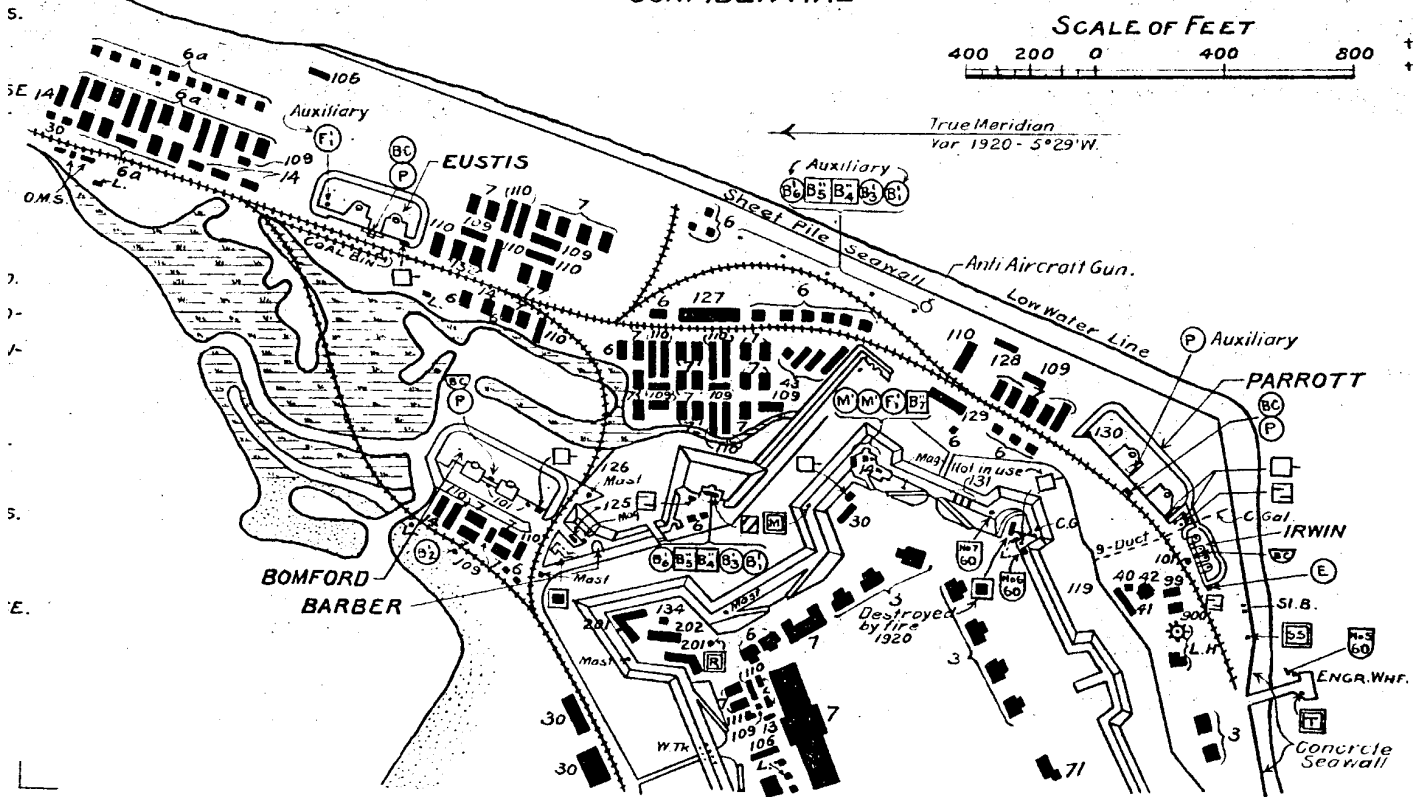
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The CDSG Newsletter

www.cdsg.org

The *CDSG Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. along with the *Coast Defense Journal*. Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to the editor or publisher below

Submission deadlines are the first of the month in February, May, August, and November of each calendar year. All rights are reserved. Comments on business matters should be addressed directly to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

CDSG Publications
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The CDSG is a non-profit corporation formed to promote the study of coast defenses and fortifications, their history, architecture, technology, and strategic and tactical employment. The purposes of the group include educational research and documentation, preservation of historic sites, site interpretation, and assistance to other organizations interested in the preservation and interpretation of coast defense sites. Membership in the CDSG is open to any person interested in the study of the coast defenses and fortifications of the United States.

Annual dues for 2011 are \$40 domestic, \$55 for Canada, and \$70 for international.

Checks payable to: The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. (CDSG)

Send to: Alan Hardey, CDSG Membership Chairman
1577 Braeburn Road
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Harbor Defense Documents. These PDF documents form the basis of the Conference and Special Tour Handouts that have been held at harbor defense locations around the U.S. The collection includes RCBs/RCWs; maps; annexes to defense projects; CD engineer notebooks; quartermaster building records; and aerial photos taken by the signal corps 1920-40. These collections are available as PDFs on DVD, the size of the collection varies from harbor to harbor. Please consult <http://www.cdsg.org/cdrom1.htm> for more details.

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CDSG Press Books (\$ domestic / \$ international)

Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction, by Col. Eben E. Winslow (GPO, 1920), hard cover reprint, with 29 plates included in a separate paperback. Both items: \$35 / \$45

Seacoast Artillery Weapons (Army Technical Manual 4-210, 13 Oct. 1944), hard cover reprint. \$25 / \$35

The Service of Coast Artillery, by F. Hines and F.W. Ward (1910), hardcover reprint \$40 / \$60

Permanent Fortifications and Sea-Coast Defenses, Congressional Report No. 62, U.S. House of Rep. (1862), hardcover reprint \$30 / \$45

American Seacoast Matériel, Ordnance Dept. Doc. #2042, (1922), Hardcover reprint \$45 / \$65

American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide, Second Edition, edited by Mark Berhow (2004), softcover \$45 / \$80

The Endicott and Taft Reports, reprint of original reports of 1886, 1905, 1915, hardcover, with plates included in a separate paperback \$45/ \$80

Artillerists and Engineers, the Beginnings of American Seacoast Fortifications, 1794-1815, by Arthur P. Wade (2010) \$25/ \$40

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