



# The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — February 2010



## Chairman's Message

Charles Bogart

The Puget Sound Conference is shaping up to be a memorable outing, and the add-on trip to Canada will visit a number of sites not normally open for public exploration. If you have not made your reservations for the 2010 CDSG Conference you need to do so now. Also do not forget the 2010 CDSG Special Tour at Wilmington & Beaufort, North Carolina, in October. Our 2011 annual conference is scheduled for Narragansett Bay, and for 2012 we will visit the Niagara Frontier. The 2011 CDSG Mini-Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in September will be co-hosted by Park Canada; more information on this mini-conference will be in the next Newsletter. At the 2010 Annual Meeting we will entertain proposals for hosting the 2013 CDSG Annual Conference and 2012 and 2013 Mini-Conferences. Some members have expressed interest in a Mini-Conference at Key West, Florida, but we need a local coordinator. Remember that passports are now needed for travel to Canada; this includes crossing to Canada at Niagara Falls. You can apply for a passport at your local post office.

We are seeking members to run for a seat on the CDSG Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving, contact Steven Kobylk at [sjkobylyk@aol.com](mailto:sjkobylyk@aol.com).

If you have not visited the CDSG web site recently there are a number of new venues to explore. One of these is a list of endangered coast defense sites. If you would like to nominate a site to this list, contact Gordon Bliss at [gblisscdsg@msn.com](mailto:gblisscdsg@msn.com). The CDSG web site is maintained by donations from our members. If you like the CDSG web site and think it is a positive means of communicating the history of American coast defense, please send your donation to help maintain it to Alan Hardey, 1577 Braeburn Rd., Altadena CA 91001-2603.

For those of you who ask, "Why doesn't the CD Journal publish an article on this or that topic?" the answer is because no one has written an article on that topic. The Journal is always seeking new authors, so if we have not published anything on a topic of interest to you, consider authoring an article on the topic.

In 2011 we will be observing the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War and in 2012 the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. The CD Journal is seeking articles concerning the coast defense during these two wars for publication between 2011 and 2015.

We are still exploring electronic payment for CDSG dues and the purchase of materials from CDSG. I wish to thank those who have shared their thoughts on this topic with the CDSG leadership. This will be a topic of discussion at Puget Sound.

## CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

Please advise Terry McGovern of any additions or changes at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net).

2010

April 3-11

Kalingrad/Baltisk, Russia Tour

Private Fortress Tour

Hans-Randolf Neumann

[hrv.neumann@t-online.de](mailto:hrv.neumann@t-online.de)

April 13 - 18

Puget Sound, WA

Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference

Chiswell/Kobylyk

[sjkobylyk@aol.com](mailto:sjkobylyk@aol.com)

April 18 - 19

Victoria, British Columbia

Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour

Chiswell/Kobylyk

[sjkobylyk@aol.com](mailto:sjkobylyk@aol.com)

May 12 - 16

Mare Island, CA

Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference

Dale Floyd

[caponier@aol.com](mailto:caponier@aol.com)

May

West Bohemia, Czech Republic Tour

Czech Association for Military History

Vladimir Kupka

[kupkav@sazka.cz](mailto:kupkav@sazka.cz)

May 29 - Jun 6

Sevastopol/Yalta, Crimea Private Tour

Hans-Rudolf Neumann

[hrv.neumann@t-online.de](mailto:hrv.neumann@t-online.de)

June 18 - 27

Maginot Line-Feste-West Wall CDSG Special Tour

T. McGovern/M. van Best

[tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

Aug/Sep

Northern Ukraine Tour

Private Fortress/Bunker Tour

Hans-Rudolf Neumann

[hrv.neumann@t-online.de](mailto:hrv.neumann@t-online.de)

Sep 3 - 6  
North Wales, Anglesey  
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
To Be Announced  
dave.bassett@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Sep 11 - 19  
SE France (Briancon)  
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour  
Keith Phillips/Mike Brock  
kjp22@supanet.com

Sep 16 - 20  
Estonia  
Association Saint Maurice d'Etudes Militaires (ASMEM) Tour  
Serge Monnerat  
sergemonnerat@mycable.ch

Oct 6 - 9  
Wilmington/Beaufort, North Carolina  
Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour  
Phil Payette  
hrforts@cox.net

Oct 4 - 5  
Ouvrage Galgenberg, Metz  
International Fortification Forum Fair - 18th Annual  
To Be Announced  
a15@wanadoo.fr

Oct 23  
Saint-Maurice, Switzerland  
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting  
Luc Fellay  
lucfellay@bluewin.ch

Nov  
Prague, Czech Republic  
Czech Association for Military History Annual Conference  
Vladimir Kupka  
kupkav@sazka.cz

2011

Apr  
Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island  
Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference  
Chris Zeeman  
c.zeeman@hotmail.com

May  
NW Italy - Livorno  
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour  
To Be Announced  
dave.bassett@ons.gsi.gov.uk

May  
Kansas City, MO  
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference  
Dale Floyd  
caponier@aol.com

Aug/Sep  
Lithuania Tour  
Private Fortress/Bunker Tour  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann  
hrv.neumann@t-online.de

Sep  
To Be Announced  
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
To Be Announced  
dave.bassett@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Sep  
Halifax, Canada  
Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour  
Charles Bogart  
cmabogart@aol.com

Sep 24 - Oct 2  
Albania  
Private Fortress/Bunker Tour  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann  
hrv.neumann@t-online.de

Oct  
Toul, France  
International Fortification Forum Fair - 19th Annual  
To Be Announced

Nov  
Coastal Defenses of Chile  
Private Tour  
Christian Casartelli  
casac@netcourrier.com

2012

May  
Great Lake Forts  
Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference  
To Be Announced

May  
Netherlands  
Fortress Study Zgroup Overseas Tour  
To be announced

Nov  
Defenses of Southern Italy  
Private Tour  
Christian Casartelli  
casac@netcourrier.com

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**Fortress Study Group  
FORT Issue 31 (2003) released**

The latest issue of *Fort*, the international journal of fortification and military architecture, was sent out early in January. This publication is the scholarly color journal from the Fortress Study Group ([www.fsgfort.com](http://www.fsgfort.com)) based in Great Britain, but interested in fortifications around the world. One of a series the FSG is printing to make up for past lapses in the yearly publication schedule, Issue 31 is for the year 2003. This particular issue is dedicated to two of the founding fathers of the FSG, Dr. Quentin Hughes and Brigadier Jock Hamilton-Baillie. The contents include previously unpublished articles by these two historians and a few sidelights on their impact on the FSG. Articles include: a chairman’s message; an introduction by Andrew Saunders; “A History of Fortification in the United Kingdom, 1870-1955,” by Hamilton-Baillie; “J.R.R.H-B. and the Oxford Subgroup of the FSG,” by Margaret Pinset; “A Very Personal Appreciation,” by Roger Veilla Bonavita; “A Chronology of Events Related to the Turkish Threat in the Mediterranean, including the Sieges of Constantinople, Rhodes, Tripoli, and Malta,” by Quentin Hughes; “Errors of Judgment: the Sieges of Rhodes and Malta,” by Quentin Hughes; “Italian Engineers Working for the Knights of Malta,” by Quentin Hughes; plus a book review. As usual, the quality of the journal, the photographs, and the articles are excellent.

The January 2010 issue of *Casemate*, the monthly newsletter of the FSG was also sent in January. In addition to organizational news =, meeting notifications and book release news, this issue had reports on the Orkney Defence Interest Network (ODIN), Fort Wynyard South Africa, Kilroot Battery Belfast Loughm Gunpowder at Waltham Abbey, the CDSG Conference in Baltimore, Fort Foote Maryland and the Dictator, the FSG Conference at Newcastle, teh City Defenses of Strasbourg, Stockaded Forts in America, and reviews of over 20 books. The casemate features a color cover and a color photo section.

It should be noted that the FSG has made considerable effort to meet publication deadlines and make up for past lapses. If you have an interest in general fortifications subjects you should be a member of the FSG.

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**CDSG 2010 Annual Business Meeting**

The CDSG Annual Business Meeting will be held at 8 P.M. on Saturday, April 17, 2010, at the Manresa Castle Banquet Room in Port Townsend, Washington. The annual Dinner Banquet preceeds the Business Meeting, same location, at 7 P.M.

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The 2010 CDSG membership list will be published in May. Please send all updated email addresses and mailing address to the Membership chairman, so we can publish the most up-to-date guide we can.

Nominations of members are being sought to run for May 2010 election to the CDSG Board of Directors for a three year term begining in October 2010. Please contact the nominations committee members Steven Kobylk, Jonathan Prostack or Sam Stokes with your nominations.

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**CDSG is on Facebook**

Phil Payette

Facebook is an extremely popular social networking site whose members can create their own profiles, build a list of friends and fan pages, join groups, and play games. It has its own email and chat. Facebook is a blend of Myspace and Twitter, two other popular sites.

Currently there are 73 fans of the CDSG, but most appear not to be dues-paying members of our organization. I use this site to update fans on news from other forts. I add links to websites or other fan pages that I believe CDSG members will be interested in. These other sites are related to our wars, forts, museums, etc. I have included many of my own photos from our conferences. Fans may also upload photos and videos, and submit additional hyperlinks. In addition, I have added event pages for our conferences and tours with a link to the registration info on the CDSG website. Originally I created a group page, but it had less functionality than a fan page, so I switched everything over and shut down the original page. Updates I make on the fan page will appear on each fan’s news feed on the home page. Anyone who was a member on the group page and did not receive my messages needs to find the fan page (search “Coast Defense Study Group”) and click on “Become a Fan.” In order to become a fan, users must be registered on Facebook.

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**CDSG Special Tour to Cape Fear and Beaufort, North Carolina**

Phil Payette

Although dates will not be confirmed until sometime in March, this tour tentatively scheduled for October 6 to 9, 2010. We will be visiting Fort Caswell, Fort Fisher, Fort Anderson, and the USS North Carolina in the Southport and Wilmington areas. We will also be visiting Fort Macon up in Atlantic Beach. Cape Lookout will not be included because there are no remains left of the military post. However, I will be adding a related site at Topsail Beach that I think everyone will enjoy. The cost of this tour should be minimal and the itinerary will be easy. As I currently have it scheduled, the entire special tour should only be 3 days. Unlike the last time the CDSG visited the area, we will not be staying in the barracks at Fort Caswell. I have decided to base the event at a hotel in Wilmington.

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## Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

2009 Year in Review

The two big items this past year have been Fort Monroe and the Presidio. While Fort Monroe is an open issue, and will stay such this year; developments at the Presidio have been positive for preservation. These two should not take attention away from the many other items and activities this past year, some of which are mentioned below.

The future of Fort Monroe is now in the hands of the Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority (FMFADA) and various studies are being done and proposals considered as they work towards the turnover from the army in 2011. The CDSG will be following progress on this and looking to provide input when and where we can. The website for the FMFADA is at [www.fmfada.com](http://www.fmfada.com). Once again, I want to give my personal thanks to Phil Payette for his continuing work on Fort Monroe and for following other preservation issues in the Hampton Roads area.

In San Francisco, the item that has received the most notice, the proposed contemporary art museum at the main post on the Presidio, has been cancelled. How this will affect the rest of the items on the main-post project is unclear. Information on this can be reviewed at [www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/mp/](http://www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/mp/), but as of the time I am writing this, the website does not seem to have been updated to reflect the cancellation of the art museum.

Also in San Francisco, the Doyle Drive project is moving forward. Construction work has started on its replacement. The cemetery batteries will be preserved, though only the tops of them may be visible. When the new Presidio Parkway is completed, the battery area will be landscaped and there will be pedestrian access to the area. Short tunnel sections both here and in front of the main post area will allow walking down to the former Crissy Field area. Further information on this can be found at [www.presidioparkway.org/](http://www.presidioparkway.org/).

At Fort Screven on Tybee Island, Battery Backus is threatened by further development. Local people, in cooperation with state historic preservation organizations, are working to prevent this and keep the undeveloped part of this battery as one of the few there that do not have structures built on or in them.

Efforts continue to save the Pulpit Rock, a round FC tower part of the HD Portsmouth, NH. The Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower have been raising money for cleaning and preserving the tower and have also held open houses there. The NH Dept. of Fish and Wildlife still owns the tower and are supportive of efforts to preserve it. It is not known yet if the town of Rye will be willing to assume ownership. The tower is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

In Hawaii, I continued to be in communication with the person attempting to preserve Fort Barrette, to get it nominated to the National Register, and to make into a historical park. However, I currently have no further progress to report on this front.

The "Endangered Coast Defense Sites" webpage did not make it up by the end of the year, but is in progress right now and should be up by the end of this month.

Biennial Preservation Soapbox

Preservation is not only taking action to prevent sites from being destroyed or damaged, it is also working to improve, maintain, and provide interpretation for existing sites including artifacts at these sites. One very positive development this past year has been the number of projects to preserve, restore, or even recreate from scratch, artifacts and components present in coast defenses and to interpret and demonstrate their use. Projects underway or completed at Fort MacArthur, Fort Stevens, Fort Miles, and at Batteries Townsley and Godfrey in San Francisco have made visiting those site a lot more than just looking at empty concrete. All those involved in these projects deserve our accolades.

Some of the locations I have reported on originally came to my attention because a member forwarded me information about it. If you hear of an actual or even potential threat to a coast defense site, please let me know about it. I would also appreciate follow-ups if you hear of changes or updates – I try to track most of the items I hear about, but I am not perfect.

If you have a preservation issue, or want further information on any item I have mentioned, contact me, Preservation Committee Chair Gordon Bliss, at [preservation@cdsg.org](mailto:preservation@cdsg.org).

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## CDSG Publications Report

Mark Berhow and Bolling Smith

Last year we experimented with perfect binding for the *Journal*. I thought it looked great, but it added significantly to the cost. So, we had to go back the staple design. Too Bad! Other than that, our situation is similar state to that of the past few years. A few authors are providing the bulk of our articles. For the time being, we have articles, but that could change. We need more authors to submit manuscripts to add diversity.

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## CDSG Projects Report

Mark Berhow

We continue to look for new things to tackle as a group. We have pretty much finished up the document scanning, but we are keep our eyes open for addition material to scan and provide for our membership. Next up for me is to keep up with the revision of *American Seacoast Defenses and Reference Guide* for a third edition, perhaps making it a hard cover this time. We are also working on a new companion book, an illustrated guide to the modern era forts. Still looking for suggestions and ways to get the ideas done! I am looking into ways to revise and enhance the CDSG website.

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## CDSG Press Report

Terrance McGovern, Chairman

### 2009 Reviewed

The CDSG Press only exists because of the volunteer efforts of its committee members. We need to thank all current the members of the CDSG Press - Greg Hage, Mark Berhow, Terry McGovern,

Jon Prostack, Tom Kavanagh, and Tom Batha for their long-term volunteer work for our organization.

We have added Volumes 22 (2008) and 23 of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to our list of back issues at \$55 each. Additionally, Mark Berhow has updated the entire *Journal/News* collection on a DVD-ROM, which represents over 8,900 pages of coast defense material for only \$55. Once you purchase this DVD, *CDSG Publications 1985-2009*, you can buy yearly updates for only \$10 upon the return of the DVD cover insert. Mark has also added several electronic products (RCWs, Engineer Notes, Quartermaster, and Annexes) under our CDSG ePress label in PDF format (see references page at our web site, [www.cdsg.org](http://www.cdsg.org)) for \$50 per DVD or \$10 per CD. These are great reference items! We also added the conference notes from the Harbor Defenses of Baltimore/Potomac River to our list of past conferences/tours notes for \$45 or three CDs for \$30. Please buy a copy.

Here is a summary of reprint efforts to date: Our 2007 project, *Endicott-Taft Report* has sold 220 books/plates (52%) to date out of a press run of 427. Our 2004 project, *American Seacoast Defenses*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (ASDII) has sold 439 books (87%) to date out of a press run of 503. Our 2001 reprint project, *American Coast Artillery Material* has sold 248 units (61%) to date out of 404 books printed. Our 1998 reprint book, *Permanent Fortification and Seacoast Defenses* which covers the Third System of U.S. fortifications has sold 192 units (56%) out of a press run of 344. Our 1997 reprint, *Service of Coast Artillery* has sold 291 units (55%) out of 532 printed. Our 1996 reprint book, *Seacoast Artillery Weapons* has sold 406 copies (99%) out of our press run of 411. We have sold a total of 339 copies (95%) of our 1994 reprint book, *Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction*, out of our total press run of 356.

We have been donating our remaining stock of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the *ASD* to coast defense site owners to help educate them about our favorite subject. Please provide Terry McGovern the contact information for site owners that would benefit from having a copy of the *ASD*. You should also consider donating your own 1<sup>st</sup> edition (once you purchase the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) to non-members to encourage them to join the CDSG.

### 2010 Plans

The CDSG Press is working on a companion volume to *American Seacoast Defenses*. This publication will be a *Guide to Modern American Seacoast Forts (1885-1950)*. This work (*ASF*) will focus on the history, key features, location, and the current status/access of each American coast defense fort (using site maps and old & current aerial photos). The book will also include an introduction, battery listing, and sources. Terry McGovern is assembling this work with Mark Berhow providing his excellent layout skills. Once we finish the 1<sup>st</sup> draft, we will be circulating it to various regional CDSG members for their review and comments. Please contact Terry McGovern at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net). If you have information about your local fort or forts that you want to include and/or if you would like to review the manuscript.

We plan to publish the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *American Seacoast Defenses* at the same time we offer the *Guide to Modern American Seacoast Forts (1885-1950)*. We have sold almost 90% of our stocks of this excellent reference guide. Mark has been updating

and expanding the range of coast defense information for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. We are also considering printing this edition with a more durable cover than the previous editions. By offering both ASD and ASF at the same time we can reduce production and shipping costs and you will have the most up to date information on your favorite subject.

Several proposals have been offered for future new CDSG Press projects. One such proposal is a collection of rare ordnance photographs and drawings from the archives of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. This publication would be professionally printed and bound which will allow for high quality grey scale and/or color illustrations (not currently possible in the *Coast Defense Journal*). Another proposal is a then-and-now photograph book of various U.S. forts, with a goal of promoting the preservation of these rare sites. We ask our membership to keep offering new ideas for the CDSG Press.

We will also add the conference notes from the Harbor Defenses of the Puget Sound - 2010 to our list at a price to be determined (these notes will be on a CD). Future book reprints are also under consideration. Members are encouraged to suggest titles for reprinting. While the **CDSG Press** will not print new works on coast defenses author by members at this time, the **Redoubt Press** will consider publishing such works. Please contact Terry McGovern at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net) or 703/934-3661 (work) if you have such a title that you would like to be considered.

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### CDSG Fund Report 2009

Terrance McGovern

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc., by raising funds for preservation and interpretation of American seacoast defenses. The CDSG Fund is seeking donations for preservation projects supporting its goals. Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes and 100% of your gift will go to project grants. Major contributions are acknowledged annually. Make checks or money orders payable in US funds to: Coast Defense Study Group Fund or the CDSG Fund. The trustees for the fund are Terry McGovern, Mark Berhow, and Alan Hardey.

The 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, and the proposed work or outcome should be sent to the address below. Successful proposals are usually distinct projects rather than general requests for donations. Ideally we desire to fund several \$500 grants per year. Upon conclusion of a project a short report suitable for publication in the Newsletter is requested.

During 2009 the Fund was pleased to provide a gift of \$750 to the Friends of Old Fort Stevens to cover the cost of materials for a sighting platform on the Replica 6-inch Disappearing Gun Project for Battery Pratt at Fort Stevens, Oregon. The Fund was also able to grant \$750 to the Golden Gate Parks Conservancy to acquire a support structure for solar panels to generate power for the lighting in Battery Townsley at Fort Cronkite, California. The Fund also contributed for pizza and chain saw rentals for two

work parties at Fort Washington, Maryland, clearing batteries prior to our annual conference at Baltimore/Washington.

Funding was provided during the year to transcribe the oral history of Colonel Schonher's career in the coast artillery for Golden Gate NPS. The Fund again recognized the efforts of CDSG volunteers by hosting a dinner at the annual conference in Baltimore/Washington. This year the dinner was held at the home of Fund Trustee, Terry McGovern. We also continued a program to supply public fort sites with copies of our publications to aid their understanding and preservation of the structures in their care.

The CDSG Fund received \$2,727 in gifts during 2009 while making \$2,434 in grants, leaving the Fund with a balance of \$6,549 at the end of 2009. The Fund trustees and Board of Directors wish to publicly thank the following individuals for making contributions to the Fund during 2009:

Charles Bogart	James Bournazos
Merle Cole	Douglas Converse
Martin Dwyer	Dale Floyd
Stephen Fanciulla	Michael Fiorini
Alan Hardey	Alex Holder
Gary Hunter	Robert Jones
David Kirchner	Scott Loomer
Terry McGovern	Ward Maier
William Ricker	John Shepherd
John Scholes	Robert Scholes
Norman Scarpulla	

Send donations to:                      Send grant requests to:

The CDSG Fund	The CDSG Fund
c/o Alan Hardey	c/o Terry McGovern
1577 Braeburn Road	1700 Oak Lane
Altadena, CA	McLean, VA
91001-2603 USA	22101-3326 USA

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**YOU MUST SEE the Puget Sound Forts**

Mark Berhow

The upcoming CDSG annual meeting at Puget Sound is an outstanding opportunity to see quite possibly one of the finest remaining collections of **purely** Endicott-era fortifications and facilities remaining in the US. I have always considered the Puget Sound forts to be at the top of my list of recommended places to visit if you are interested in modern US seacoast fortifications. There is a lot to see, and most of it is top-notch in terms of what remains, what shape it is in, and the variety of things to see. There are five Endicott/Taft-era forts (The big three forts Worden, Flagler, Casey, and the two inner-defense forts Ward and Whitman) and two WW-II era posts (Fort Ebey and Camp Hayden). There are a number of compelling reasons to tour the Puget Sound forts. I will hit on a few. I will admit I am a bit biased on this matter as these were among the first forts I visited, but I think I make a valid point in stating that an opportunity like the upcoming CDSG conference to visit these forts should NOT be missed.

First and foremost is the fact that they are, for the most part, public parks and fully accessible without the trouble and hassles of getting permission to visit, unlike a number of forts on the East Coast. Only part of Fort Casey (currently a university owned camp/extension campus, but not modified much from its days as a military post) and half of Fort Ward (now subdivided, but retaining a number of renovated post buildings) are privately owned.

Nearly all the fortification elements remain at these forts. All the batteries are still extant, most of the fire control and searchlight elements remain as well. The one element with little remains to be seen are the submarine mine facilities at Fort Ward. A significant collection of garrison buildings remain, especially at Fort Worden, and to a lesser extent at Forts Flagler, Casey, and Ward. This is a rare place to get a good overview of the complete post layout and physical structure, as opposed to what can be gleaned from maps and records.

The Puget Sound forts were built during the Endicott era. As such they were not built around construction from a previous era, as at San Francisco or New York. Here, a visitor can see Endicott forts in their prime. While some additional construction occurred through the WWII era, most of the works from that era that remain do not impact the core Endicott facilities, especially at Fort Worden. While both Fort Flagler and Fort Casey lost a significant number of buildings in the late 1930s, a number of buildings still remain at both locations and these forts have some fine examples of the WWII buildings as well.

And, these forts actually have weapons, a very rare thing these days! In the 1960s, several rare weapons were recovered from Fort Wint in Subic Bay, the Philippines. Two 10-inch guns on disappearing carriages (in outstanding shape and the only two of this caliber in the US) and three 3-inch guns on pedestal mounts (a fourth 3-inch gun is a naval weapon) were brought back and re-emplaced at batteries at Fort Casey and Fort Flagler. In addition Fort Flagler has acquired a 120 mm AA gun that is now on display. These are must see items!

Fort Worden has a coast artillery museum, staffed by volunteers, with an extensive collection of coast artillery artifacts. They also have a great archive of manuals, documents, and photographs. The museum was started by the veterans of the old Washington National Guard 249<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment that was stationed at the Puget Sound forts in the 1940s.

Over the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the state and its volunteers have made a significant effort on restoration and renovation projects in the fort parks. Several buildings at Fort Worden have been re-roofed and repainted, and others have been remodeled and updated for their roles as part of the conference and arts center. Forts Worden, Flagler, and Casey currently have established volunteer friends organizations which have been busy working on several key restoration projects. Various coast artillery restoration projects have been completed or are ongoing, including clearing tree growth from battery fields of fires, cleaning, clearing, and stabilizing the concrete of several batteries, repainting the guns in accurate military color schemes, and other general restoration work. Specific projects include the "complete" restoration of Battery Worth at Fort Casey— including a restored Taylor-Raymond

ammunition hoist, and restored or replicated electrical and communications systems—and the cleaning and restoration of some unique remaining hoist systems at Fort Flagler.

There are several unique fortification features at these forts including the only 10-inch barbette batteries built (at Worden and Flagler), a series of nice 10-inch disappearing batteries (at Casey and Worden), a great set of 12-inch mortar batteries, a nice set of 5-inch and 3-inch batteries, a nice set of 6-inch DC batteries, and the only 12-inch altered gun lift battery remaining (Flagler's Battery Wilhelm).

The two WW II-program forts are on separate reservations and feature a 6-inch battery at Fort Ebey, and a 6-inch and a 16-inch battery at Camp Hayden, along with several base end stations.

While these are public parks, visiting these sites with our group is a rare opportunity. A number of buildings, batteries, and sites will be opened expressly for our group. The newly finished restoration projects afford an unparalleled opportunity for photography. In addition, a trip to visit the Canadian sites, most of which are closed to the public, is also a remarkable opportunity.

I note with some alarm that as I write this less than 30 members have registered for this conference. If at all possible, you should not pass up this opportunity to visit these outstanding coast artillery forts.

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### **Current Government Budget Woes WILL Impact Historic Preservation Efforts: How can the CDSG Help?**

Mark Berhow

The budget crunches facing national, state, and local governments as we begin 2010 will have an impact on most public historic parks and sites. Most government bodies are facing and making serious budget decisions, which will continue into the fiscal years to come. Public historic parks and facilities are faced with loss of operating budgets and staff, which can result in reduced operating hours and closures. Long-range effects could include damage or loss of property, displays, and structures due to lack of proper surveillance and maintenance. There is even the possibility of the transfer of site properties to other uses, agencies, or being put up for sale and disposal. The short-term outlook is not good these days for historic park budgets. Since the halcyon days before the late 1960s when recreational budgets were well funded and parks were being expanded and improved, there has been a slow and steady erosion of governmental park and recreation budgets. Now, things have the potential to come to a crisis very soon if the economy that much of the governmental revenue is based on does not pick up dramatically.

I feel it is important again to consider what the CDSG can do as an organization during these times and, more importantly, what we each can do as individuals concerned with historic site preservation.

As funds and budgets shrink, historic parks and sites have become increasingly dependent on volunteers to keep sites open and to accomplish needed projects. The more successful historic

sites have strong volunteer programs in place, supported by other organizations as well as a number of fund-raising events. A historic site that preserves and interprets its history in a museum-like fashion (look but do not touch) is clearly not going to make ends meet these days. The historic site that hosts a wide range of interesting events (talks, dinners, dances, shows, etc.) on a regular basis is going to be successful at raising additional funds and getting more volunteer time. Often, these programs may not necessarily coincide with the historical focus of particular site (like say hosting a Sci-Fi convention), but the site that makes the most use of its facilities and grounds and is successful at bringing in the public will be the site that is able to open its gates next month and next year.

Keeping a piece of the shrinking public fund pie for a particular historic site also depends on exposure, use, and influence. Getting the money to run a location may come at the expense of closing other parks and sites. How successful a historic site is at keeping (or getting more) funding will depend on its political connections and the degree of public use of the site. The more people visiting the historic site and attending events, the more likely it is that public officials will hear about that historic site and keep it funded to some degree.

Getting donations of funds, materials, and volunteer time from outside sources has increasingly become a key part of many historical sites' operations. This seems to be most successful at sites which key their events and activities into a large and diverse number of activities based on its surrounding communities, often beyond the historical focus of the site. A historical park/site that hosts art and wine fairs, along with historical reenactments and events in line with its historical context will fare much better when it comes to bringing in income, donations, visitors, and volunteers than a location which does none of these types of events. Let's face it; "adaptive re-use" is the name of the game these days. Most fortification historical site elements are largely static in nature, the structures and weapons are "on display." Any historic site able to use its lands, facilities, and structures for a variety of uses is going to have better chance of surviving these rocky financial times. If a historic site can join with other established organizations, such as non-profit (or even for-profit) organizations, neighborhood organizations, wildlife preservation organizations, military collectors and re-enactor organizations, veterans groups, etc., will be much more successful at bring in new funds and support. Bring on the art fairs, renaissance fairs, hobby fairs, wine tasting dinners, re-enactment balls, kite flying contests, dog walking days, eagle watches, garage sales, and flea markets. The higher the profile of a historic site in the public eye the better, as long as the historic site can control the action and keep focused on their goals.

So, with those rather obvious observations, how can the CDSG and its membership provide support? In other words, how can the CDSG martial its resources in support of individual and group efforts and projects at the local level? I think we as an organization have been very successful at maintaining our publications and annual meetings. We have also expanded our efforts into organizing special tours, reprinting rare books and manuals, and providing access to a electronic library of hard to find docu-

ments, manuals, and reports. The membership is what has made this all possible. By paying dues, and by buying CDSG books and documents, members have allowed us to put together and make accessible this fabulous collection of documentation. And researchers are coming to the CDSG to get this information. The organization is still faced with some communication problems in getting the word out as to what it is and what it has to offer. Having an established website helps and we do need to get into the electronic payment age which we hope to do this year. But, the longer we are around the more the word will get out.

Letters of support from the CDSG organization or from members of the CDSG from around the nation to state or city government officials involved in decisions to close or curtail the use of a park are just not as effective as letters, phone calls, and emails from individuals and organizations that reside in the location and who can vote them in and out of office.

What the CDSG can do, and has done very successfully in the past, is to provide the historic documentation and interpretation in support of the efforts of the local individuals and organizations lobbying for or against funding and policy changes. Recently, the state governments in both New Jersey and Washington proposed closing and mothballing several parks including a number of historic fort sites that had "low visitation numbers." In both cases citizens in those states spoke up and alternative funding measures were found to keep those parks open. Lessons to take home from this past crises are that those parks with large visitor numbers were not on the closure lists and that vocal local efforts ("We want our parks!") forced the legislatures to come up with alternate methods to keep the parks open.

That is not to say that the CDSG as an organization cannot have an effect on the way a historic site goes about its business.

Recently, there has been a significant change in the preservation and interpretation policies of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area near San Francisco with more emphasis and resources dedicated on the care and interpretation of the fortification structures. Volunteers and Park staff have noted that this distinct change in policy from basically ignoring many of these structures on park grounds to active efforts in clearing, maintaining, repairing and restoring these structures came about after the CDSG conference in 2006. The park management was shown that there was an international interest in these structures and this has allowed a change in working priorities. By 2010 several batteries have been cleared of overgrown vegetation, some batteries have had restoration work done, and efforts to restore and open Battery Townsley have begun. This change has been attributed by several folks to the visibility of the CDSG visit and the follow up support given by the organization (both monetarily and documentation) and several members. I think the information and documentation the CDSG offers had an impact on several other sites as well, including those state parks in New Jersey and Washington.

The CDSG has established itself as credible historic preservation organization and as a reliable and credible source of interpretive information and historic documentation. The CDSG

has shown itself to be a reliable source of answers to questions on American seacoast fortifications both for its members and for those working at and for a wide range of historic sites.

A much bigger impact on the care of the many seacoast-fort historical sites can be obtained if lots of individuals get involved with these parks by visiting the sites, supporting events held at the sites, and donating money and time. If a site has a local friends group, join! If you live close, consider volunteering some time. If you don't live nearby, consider at least joining the friends group and donating money to their efforts. The CDSG can only provide its documentation and historical interpretation expertise if there is someone at the site to receive it. Personal contact is vitally important if these parks and sites are to remain open and viable. We have tried to build a representative program to reach out and contact these various forts and it has worked to some degree. But in a bigger sense, all CDSG members need to be effective representatives by supporting the efforts to keep these sites open and effectively preserving the sites for the future. The best way to do this is with your pocket book and your time.

The usual mantra that *this is a critical time for historic sites* continues to ring true. It may be even more critical in this year and next as governments will have to make some tough budgetary decisions; funds WILL be cut and public parks and facilities WILL be closed. How seacoast-fort historic sites fare WILL depend on the local and national support these sites receive. These sites WILL be evaluated for viability in terms of attendance, diversity of use, volunteer support, and outside funding. The membership of the CDSG MUST make an effort to see that we EACH contribute to the effort to keep these sites open.

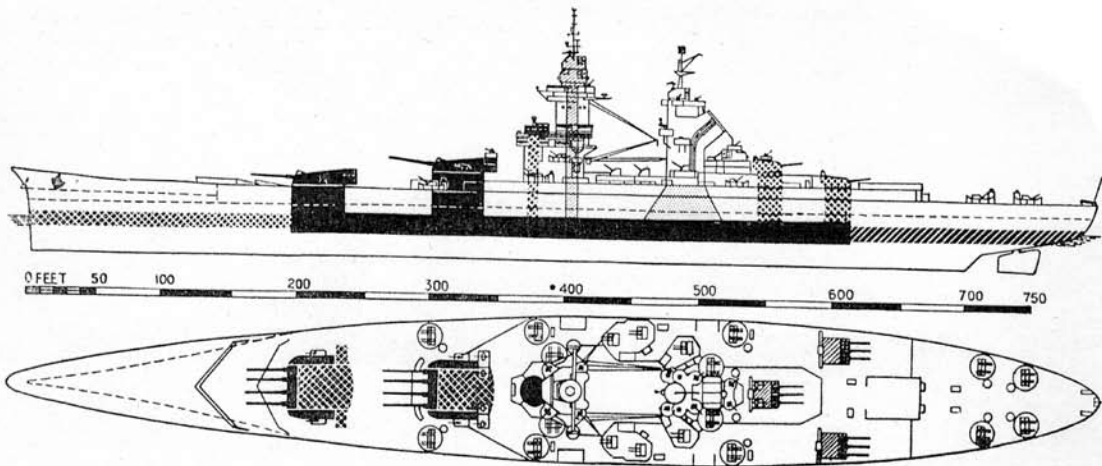
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### **FFS *Richelieu* and the Ponipum Hill Battery**

Charles H. Bogart

In 1935 the French Navy laid down the battleship *Richelieu* at Brest. She and her sister ship, *Jean Bart*, were the first of a new class of battleship designed to fight either German or Italian battleships. Their armament was very unusual, two quadruple gun turrets carrying 380 mm/45 Modele 1935 main guns forward of the bridge and three triple 152 mm gun turrets aft. The 152 mm guns were mounted in a triangle layout, so only two turrets could fire to port or to starboard; all three 152 mm turrets could only engage the same target while firing aft.

*Richelieu* was launched in January 1939 and commissioned in June 1940, although only 95 percent complete. As German troops began to occupy Brest on June 18, 1940, she sailed for Dakar, Senegal, where France had a fortified naval port. She arrived June 28, 1940, and on September 24, 1940, *Richelieu* was attacked by ships of the Royal Navy. She sustained only minor damage from this attack, but suffered an explosion in her No. 2 turret as a result of a gunnery accident as she fired back at HMS *Berham*. She was not operational until April 1941. *Richelieu*, however, remained at Dakar until November 1942, when she finally rallied to the Free French and sailed to the US Navy's Brooklyn Naval Yard for overhaul.



USN drawing of FFS **Richelieu** in 1944 following her rebuilding at the Brooklyn Naval Yard.

After *Richelieu's* US-funded refit was complete in October 1943, she sailed to join the Royal Navy. She saw brief service in European waters before sailing in January 1944 for Admiral Sir James Somerville's British East Indies Fleet based at Trincomalee, Ceylon (Sri Lanka). She operated with the British East Indies Fleet until September 1944, when she sailed for Casablanca, Morocco, for a yard period. *Richelieu* rejoined the British East Indies Fleet in March 1945. During this second deployment to the Indian Ocean, *Richelieu* participated in four offensive operations during 1944: Operation Cockpit, a carrier attack on Sabang, Indonesia, April 16-21; Operation Transom, a carrier attack on Soerabaya, Indonesia, May 6-27; Operation Pedal, a carrier attack on the Andaman Islands June 12-23; and Operation Crimson, a carrier and gunfire attack on Sabang July 22-27. Sabang was a port on Pulau Wan Island in what was then the Netherlands East Indies, now Indonesia, at the western entrance to the Malacca Straits. The port, used by the Japanese as a refueling station and as a port of departure for ships sailing north from Singapore for Thailand and Burma, was guarded by both Japanese Army and Navy personnel. A number of coast defense and antiaircraft gun positions were established by the Japanese in and around the port, including a two-gun battery of 120 mm guns on Ponimpum Hill, on the north shore of the harbor. I believe the Ponimpum Hill Battery was armed with Japanese Navy Type 10 120 mm dual-purpose guns with a horizontal range of 17,000 yards.

*Richelieu*, in company with the battleships HMS *Renown*, HMS *Valiant*, and HMS *Queen Elizabeth*, was to provide covering fire for a mixed cruiser-destroyer force which would close on Sabang on July 25, 1944. Besides neutralizing any coastal batteries that opened fire, *Richelieu* was also assigned targets within the port facility. The 120 mm Ponimpum Hill Battery began contesting the bombarding ships by firing at the cruiser-destroyer bombardment group. *Richelieu*, using her 380 mm turrets, joined in bombarding Sabang port facilities but used her port and center line 152 mm turrets to neutralize the Ponimpum Hill Battery. The battery was soon silenced by *Richelieu* as it had been dug in to engage aircraft and not ships. This ended the one and only time *Richelieu* engaged a coast defense battery. This is also thought to be the only time that either *Richelieu* or her sister ship, *Jean Bart*, fired their guns in anger against a non-American or British target.

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### Update on Oahu's Turret Batteries

Terrance McGovern

Recently (October 2009) I had the opportunity to visit and photograph many of the former coast defenses of Oahu, including all six World War II turreted-battery sites. These six batteries have always been of interest to me as WW2 was the only time the Coast Artillery Corps developed coast defenses using naval-style turrets (with the exception of Fort Drum in Manila Bay – my favorite fort). It has been more than 65 years since these wartime batteries were built. They have all been compromised to varying degrees by decommissioning, vandalism, and economic development. I thought my fellow-CDSG members would enjoy seeing photos of their current condition and a brief update on their status.

During 1942-1944 the aft turrets of the sunken USS *Arizona* were removed and restored. One was emplaced on Oahu's western shoreline at Kahe Point, the other on Oahu's eastern shore at Mokapu Point.

#### Battery Arizona

One turret with three 14-inch Guns – Kahe Point

While the turret was in position on site, the battery was not completed before the end of World II and the guns were never



Battery Arizona – Kahe Point (T. McGovern 2009)

proof fired. In the late 1940s the turret and most of the battery's material, especial metal items, were scrapped. The emplacement itself was used for civil defense before being leased to several organizations and then abandoned. Today, site ownership is shared between Hawaiian Electric Power Company and the City of Honolulu Environmental Services department. Access is controlled by city's primary landfill site. As you can see in the photograph, the turret well has been filled in with dirt and except for a communication relay complex near the former battery commander's station, the site is abandoned. The underground support tunnels are accessed by two portals that are barred by gates. During the 1960s the battery's power room was set on fire, causing extensive damage. The site's current status appears secure, but once the landfill closes it may be threatened, as little historical value is placed on the site by local authorities.

#### Battery Pennsylvania

One turret with three 14-inch Guns – Mokapu Point

This battery was nearly completed and its guns were proof-fired a few days before the Japanese surrender. In the late 1940s the turret and most of the battery material, especial metal items of metal, were scrapped. The emplacement itself was used as wartime command post before being used for storage and then abandoned. Today, the battery site is under the control of the US Marine Corps as part of their base at Kaneohe Bay. Access is difficult as the battery site is within the rifle range and a nesting area for the red-footed booby bird. As you can see in the photograph, the site is abandoned and the turret well has not been filled in but is covered by fencing material to keep birds (and humans) from falling in. The underground support tunnels are accessed by three portals which have been sealed by the marines

in the last several years. As long as Marine Corps base at Kaneohe Bay remains open the site's status is secure, though the marines are currently not allowing visitors to enter the underground support tunnels.

Four 8-inch mounts were removed from USS *Lexington* and four 8-inch mounts were removed from the USS *Saratoga* in 1942 to make room for increased anti-aircraft defenses. The Corps of Engineers used these weapons to construct four batteries for the Coast Artillery Corps, to strengthen the coast defenses of Oahu.

#### Battery Kirkpatrick –

Two turrets, each with two 8-inch guns – Wiliwilinui Ridge

A site high (1,200 feet above sea level) on Wiliwilinui Ridge overlooking the southeastern side of Oahu was selected for Battery Kirkpatrick. The guns were ready for use in September 1942, but the battery was not completed until May 1943. In 1949 the two turrets and most of the battery's material, especial metal items, were scrapped. The emplacements themselves were abandoned and the land returned to the original owners. Today, site ownership is shared between Kamehameha Schools and a large private home. Access is somewhat available through publicly accessible Wiliwilinui Ridge Trail. As you can see in the photograph, one turret well (in front of the swimming pool) has been extended upward using masonry blocks as the ground has been leveled, and access to the underground magazines are each located at a 90-degree angle from the turret well. One entrance in the foreground has had railings added. The entrance to one of the magazines for the other turret can be seen across the driveway on the right side of the photograph, but the turret well itself is hidden in



Battery Pennsylvania – Mokapu Point (T. McGovern 2009).



Battery Kirkpatrick – Wiliwilinui Ridge (T. McGovern 2009)

the woods. The former battery commander's station can be seen behind the house with the underground generator and plotting rooms hidden in the woods behind this structure, abandoned. The future of this site is threatened by the continued development of this large home but the owner so far seems to be trying not to destroy the key structures. Kamehameha Schools seem to place little historical value on its part of the battery site.

Battery Burgess –

Two turrets, each with two 8-inch guns– Salt Lake area

A ridgeline site near Aliamanu Crater and Salt Lake on Oahu's southern shore was selected for Battery Burgess. The guns were

ready for use in May 1942, but the battery was not completed until December 1943. In 1948 the two turrets and most of the battery's material, especial metal items, were scrapped. The emplacements themselves were abandoned and the land returned to the original owners. In the 1950s the land was subdivided into a housing development so by the 1960s all traces of the battery had disappeared. Today, the battery's exact site is unknown. Access to the area is on public streets but there appears to be nothing to visit. As you can see in the photograph, the site is well developed with single-family homes. There has been some discussion that the battery commander's station may exist on Salt Lake Hill, but this has not been confirmed. There is no future for this site as it has already been destroyed.



Battery Burgess – Salt Lake area (T. McGovern 2009)

Battery Riggs –

Two turrets, each with two 8-inch guns – Opaepala

A site overlooking the north shore of Oahu on the Ahahulu Flats (at about 1,100 feet above sea level) near the Opaepala Gulch was selected for Battery Riggs. The guns were ready for use in August 1942. In 1948 the two turrets and most of the battery's material, especial metal items, were scrapped. The emplacements themselves were abandoned and the land returned to the original owners, who filled in the entrances to many of the underground facilities. Today, the site is owned by Kamehameha Schools, but it is leased to the Opaepala Ranch Ltd as private home and ranch. Access is only by permission of the resident and the access roads are blocked by gates. As you can see in the photograph, one turret well (between the tennis court and concrete slab) has been filled in and the ground has been leveled but access to the two underground magazines is open via stairwells. Not shown is the other turret well, which is open along with the two magazines. The former battery commander's station is between the two turret wells with the underground generator room directly behind

(filled in with dirt) and two abandoned underground plotting rooms are to the rear of the turrets in a gulch. The future of this site is stable in the short term as the resident of the ranch has a great interest in its history. Kamehameha Schools seems to place little historical value on its part of the battery site.

Battery Ricker –

Two turrets, each with two 8-inch guns – Brodie Camp No. 4

A pineapple field (775 feet above sea level) about one-half mile southwest of Kamehameha Highway on Oahu's north shore was selected for Battery Ricker. The guns were ready for use in May 1942, but the battery was not completed until December 1943. In 1948 the two turrets and most of the battery's material, especial metal items, were scrapped. The emplacements themselves were abandoned and the land returned to the original owners. The area around the battery site has been in continuous use for growing pineapple since then, while the site itself has been bulldozed by the land owner several times. Today, the battery site is an overgrown island among the pineapple fields. Access to the



Battery Riggs – Opaepala (T. McGovern 2009)



Battery Ricker – Brodie Camp No. 4 (T. McGovern 2009)

area is restricted by the owner, Dole Foods, and the roads to the site are blocked by gates. As you can see in the photograph, the site is very overgrown and only the battery commander's station is easily accessed. Dole Foods seems to place little historical value on the battery site.

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### **Historical forts threatened: National Park status considered**

By Sandy Davis, Advocate staff writer  
Published: Sep 28, 2009

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PLAQUEMINES PARISH -- More than 150 years ago, Fort St. Philip and Fort Jackson, which sit almost across from each other on the east and west banks of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, were all that stood between the Union Navy and the Confederate stronghold of New Orleans.

For seven days, the Union fleet led by Flag Officer David Farragut bombarded the two Confederate forts but failed to quiet their guns.

Finally, early on the morning of April 24, 1862, Farragut's fleet managed to blast past the forts, break through a chain barrier stretched across the river and head to New Orleans.

Within days, Farragut accepted the city's surrender and the lower Mississippi River Valley fell into the hands of Union soldiers. Many historians call April 24, 1862, "the night the war was

lost." Today, the forts are facing another battle — plans to make them into a national park, the Lower Mississippi River National Park, have been stymied by logjams in Congress and questions as to whether the private owners of Fort St. Philip will cooperate.

The two forts that housed soldiers through World War I and have stood as sentinels over the mouth of the Mississippi are in danger of falling prey to the elements — battering hurricanes, choking vines, brush, weeds, tree roots and even snakes are threatening to take over.

Time has not been kind — some of the mortar and bricks carefully laid in the 1820s in the star-shaped Fort Jackson are crumbling and falling. It is owned and maintained by the parish. The much older Fort St. Philip, built by the French in 1741 and only accessible by boat, is deteriorating even faster after public funding for repairs went by the wayside when the fort was sold to private owners in 1929.

Restoring the forts to their original condition would cost millions of dollars — money that the parish and a private owner say they don't have.

"It's a serious situation now," said Rod Lincoln, historian for the Plaquemines Historical Association.

"The only way we're going to save these forts is if the National Park Service takes over."

#### Tourism magnet?

Supporters of turning the forts into a national park say the move would bring thousands of visitors and millions of dollars in revenues into a parish that was brought nearly to its knees by Hurricane Katrina.

"Creating a national park is a critical part of Plaquemines Parish's recovery and future," said Parish President Billy Nungesser.

But beyond any economic boon a national park might bring, Nungesser said there's another reason for the park.

"There is so much history in Plaquemines Parish," Nungesser said. "But we're not included in any state tourism map or book."

If bills sitting in committees in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are passed and made into law, it would be the first step toward reaching the goal of creating the national park.

The law would direct the secretary of the Department of the Interior to conduct a study that would determine whether the forts and the lower Mississippi River area have enough national significance to become part of the National Park system.

Nungesser said that if the parish found itself low on the National Park Service's list of who gets a study performed first, the parish would hire a private contractor to do the study so it can move the process along more quickly.

"We would do that even if we had to use private funding," Nungesser said.

But right now neither congressional bill is moving through its respective committee. "It's a stand-alone bill," said Robin Winchell, a spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, who is sponsoring the House bill. Winchell was commenting on HR-1041, which was introduced in January.

Unless a larger bill is found to "attach" this bill to, it doesn't stand much of a chance of getting passed, she said.

Apparently there is a group of Republican senators who are blocking all public land bills. "They don't want any more public lands supported by taxpayers' money. It's a philosophical difference," said Aaron Saunders, a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-L. Landrieu is sponsoring the Senate version of the bill.

Saunders said Landrieu will be persistent in getting the bill passed — just as she was when she managed to get passed an expansion of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. "She had to introduce that bill in 2004, 2006, 2008 and she finally got it passed," Saunders said of the expansion project. "The way it was passed was a group of Republican and Democrat senators put all of their land bills together — which was about 80 bills — and they got it passed as a package."

The strategy, both Winchell and Saunders said, is to find or create another such bill. "We will be working to rally support for the bill," Saunders said. "It may take awhile, but she won't give up."

But there is another concern causing delays.

"One of the forts is privately owned," Winchell said. "So far, the owners haven't been interested in donating it to the National Park Service. That's causing some concerns."

#### Ownership issues

Both forts were put up for sale in the 1920s when the federal government determined they were surplus properties.

Fort Jackson was sold to Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Harvey, of New Orleans, in 1927. But the Harveys donated the fort to Plaquemines Parish in 1960.

Fort St. Philip was sold to John and Joseph Vela in 1929. When Joseph Vela died, his portion of ownership reverted back to John Vela.

Today, Fort St. Philip is owned by five people, said Frank Ashby Jr., 81, of Metairie, one of the owners. Four of the owners have a 1/6 share of the property, he said. The four are: Ashby; Mavis Ashby, Frank Ashby's ex-wife; Peter Vela and Leon Vela — both of whom are John Vela's nephews. Rivers Lelong, Frank Ashby's business partner, owns a 1/3 portion of Fort St. Philip. "We're office mates," said Frank Ashby, of Lelong. "We have an agreement that says anytime I buy something, he has the option of buying half of what I bought."

Ashby said he is the designated speaker for all of the owners. His interest in the fort is very personal, Ashby said. At a very young age, he fell in love with the fort that held off the British fleet during the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. "My dad and John Vela were as close as you can get," Ashby said. "We used to all go fishing at the fort, and I have some really wonderful memories of those times." Ashby's father, John Ashby Sr., loved the fort so much that when he died in the early 1960s, he asked that his ashes be spread at the fort, his son said.

Over the years, Ashby said he has restored the fort several times, but each time the work was destroyed by violent hurricanes. Today, with no government funding, the fort is falling apart. "There's virtually nothing left down there," he said.

People have contacted Ashby over the years to ask whether the owners would be interested in seeing the fort become a national park. "At first I wasn't so interested," Ashby said. "When my dad's ashes were fresh, it was just a different ballgame." But now, Ashby said, he believes his father's ashes were washed into the Gulf of Mexico by hurricanes a long time ago. "Now, I would be delighted to see it become a national park," he said. "But we're not donating the fort. "If the government wants it, they'll have to buy it," Ashby said. He did not say how much money he expected from such a sale.

In the meantime, the proponents of turning the forts into a national park are working to keep Fort Jackson in good shape and unearth all of the history they can find on the forts. The lawns of the red-brick Fort Jackson are manicured and most of it is in good condition. The parish is accepting bids to repair damage caused by Katrina. The project will be funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Lincoln, the historian for the Plaquemines Historical Association, James Madere, the president of the association, and Nungesser, the parish president, are leading the fight to get the forts into the federal park system. "It would mean so much to our parish," Madere said. "I love these forts, too. I want to see them preserved."

Both Madere and Lincoln have visions of seeing Civil War buffs and eco-tourists visit the parish and absorb its history, which besides the forts, includes the fishing, wildlife refuge, coastal erosion and the oil and gas industry. "There is a park in Itasca, Minn., where there is basically a ditch with trees and woods around it," Lincoln said. "That's where the Mississippi River starts and almost 500,000 people visit there every year.

"Here we are where the river ends and there are two forts sitting there," Lincoln said. "And no one knows about it. "Plaquemines Parish is the jewel of Louisiana," Lincoln added. "It is the beginning of the state and we want people to see what we have."

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### Company of Military Historians

This organization is dedicated to the study and preservation of military history in the Americas. Its objectives are to promote and advance the research of military history and traditions through publications, exhibits, and meetings. Members include anyone interested in military history, such as historians, collectors, writers, artists, and those involved in living history.

The company publishes the quarterly journal, *Military Collectors and Historian*, and an ongoing series of color plates—“Military Uniforms in America.”

For membership information contact:

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 E-mail: cmhhq@aol.com or Dsulli7875@aol.com  
<http://www.military-historians.org>.

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### The Artilleryman Magazine

The *Artilleryman* is the only magazine exclusively for artillery shooters and collectors. History, unit profiles, events, places to visit, book reviews, advertising. It is published quarterly; subscriptions are \$18 a year. We are also publishers of *The Civil War News*. Free sample copies of both publications are available.

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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: [tcmgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmgovern@att.net)).

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 Kaki T-Shirt with black ink:  
 Size & # \_\_\_S \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_2XL \_\_\_3XL  
 Navy T-shirt with yellow ink:  
 Size & # \_\_\_S \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_2XL \_\_\_3XL

Total Number: \_\_\_ times \$ \_\_\_ = Total \$ \_\_\_  
 (domestic \$18/overseas \$26 each)

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Be sure to include your name and shipping address.



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