



The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. – November 2013



Chairman's Message

Norm Scarpulla

Mike Fiorini, Quentin Schillare, and I are the CDSG Directors for October 2013 through September 2014, and I am honored that my fellow directors have asked me to be the chairman. Quentin was elected to the board this year and Mike and I look forward to working with him.

The CDSG exists to research and document information about the seacoast fortifications of the United States, to disseminate that information, and to promote preservation of these fortifications through assistance to the site owners. How do we do this? Since the 1970s, CDSG members have pulled information from the National Archives and other sources. In 1986, we published our first newsletter, and we have continued regular journals and newsletters since then. We have printed or reprinted critical reference books on the subject. *American Seacoast Defenses, A Reference Guide*, edited by Mark Berhow and first published in 1999, puts years of research by our members in one place.

Besides our role to research, document and disseminate information, the other half of the job is to be a resource to the owners of seacoast fortifications and promote preservation. The owners range from the National Park Service to individuals. Our site representatives are the conduit for information and advice to the site owners, and to report what is happening at the site. We need more site representatives; currently we don't have coverage for New York and Chesapeake Bay. Even if you can only cover one small fort or fire control location, that much is important.

Over the past two years, one notable preservation success was saving surplus US Navy 16" gun barrels. Delaware State Parks took one barrel for Cape Henlopen, the former Fort Miles. A second one went to Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, the former Fort John Custis at Cape Charles. A third one will become part of the Arizona state WW2 memorial in Phoenix. CDSG, and notably Terry McGovern, were the catalysts for these efforts. The CDSG Fund helped fund the projects in Delaware and Virginia. Recently, two more organizations have started arrangements to take a barrel each: Monmouth (NJ) County Parks for the former Battery Lewis, and the USS *Iowa* Association for the Iowa memorial at the Norfolk Naval Station.

CDSG is a volunteer organization; we have no paid staff. Two very important volunteer opportunities are to write articles for the *Journal* and *Newsletter*, and to be site representatives. Also, volunteers maintain our membership records and fulfill orders for books, shirts, and hats. Please consider being a volunteer in the CDSG and contact Mike, Quentin, or me.

Finally, we need to continue to bring in new members. When you are visiting a fort, or a military event, be an ambassador for the CDSG. Wear a CDSG shirt, hat, or patch. Talk to people about the organization and point them to our website, CDSG.org. Can you recruit one new member in 2014?

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

CDSG Special Tour
February 22 - March 5, 2014
Manila Bay, the Philippines
Andy Grant, wekagg@verizon.net

CDSG Annual Conference
October 1 - 5, 2014
Los Angeles /San Diego HDs
Mike Fiorini, mrfiorini@comcast.net

CDSG Annual Conference
April 2015
Delaware River HD
Chris Zeeman, c_zeeman@hotmail.com

CDSG Annual Conference
April 2015
Tampa Bay & Key West
Charles Bogart, cmabogart@aol.com

Proposed CDSG Special Tour
June 2015
Panama Canal Zone
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

Proposed CDSG Special Tour
June 2016
Defenses of Switzerland
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

Other Meetings and Tours

February 2014
ICOFORT Germany Tour
Sultanate of Oman
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

March 2014
Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaries Tour
Vietnam
Pascal Bruchez, president@asmem.ch

May 2014
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference
Reno, Nevada
Marylou Gjernes, mjgernes@earthlink.net

May 2014
Czech Association for Military History Tour
Northern Bohemia
Vladimir Kupka, kupkav@sazka.cz

May 2014
Association Vauban Annual Conference
Besancon
Mary Pierdait Fillie, marie.pierdaitfillie@laposte.net

June 4-14, 2014
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour
Western Pyrenees, Spain
Keith Phillips, keith-phillips@sky.com

June 2014
Czech Association for Military History Tour
Menorca
Vladimir Kupka, kupkav@sazka.cz

August 2014
Czech Association for Military History Tour
Maginot Line in the Alps
Vladimir Kupka, kupkav@sazka.cz

August 30 - September 6, 2014
ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour
Pula & Croatia
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

September 2014
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
East Anglia
TBA

September 2014
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting
Koln (Cologne)
Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

September 18 - 22, 2014
Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaries Tour
Maginot Line & Verdun
Maurice Lovisa, president@www.asmem.ch

October 17, 2014
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
Portsmouth, UK
Luc Fellay, lucfellay@bluewin.ch

February 2014
ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour
Punjab, India
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

May 2015
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour
South Portugal
Charles Blackwood, casemate@fsgfort.com

May 2015
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
Marylou Gjernes, mgjernes@earthlink.net

July 2015
ECCOFORT Reg. Association Forte Cultura Pilot Tour
Germany-Austria-Italy
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

August/September 2015
ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour
Verona Italy
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

September 11-15, 2015
Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaries Tour
Hamburg, Germany
Marc Girard, president@www.asmem.ch

October 2015
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
Antwerp, Belgium
Luc Fellay, lucfellay@bluewin.ch

May 2016
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour
Menorca/Majorca
TBA

Sept/Oct 2016
ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour
Edirne, the Dardenelles, Istanbul
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

October 2016
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
Berlin, Germany
Luc Fellay, lucfellay@bluewin.ch



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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

The continuing main item is the proposed new General Management Plan (GMP) for Gateway NRA. The CDSG has both submitted comments on the official webpage form and written letters directly. The public comment period has now closed. Our primary concern is that a number of gun batteries, as well as some other tactical structures, have been relegated to a "ruins" category including the zone around them in which they will be allowed to deteriorate without any effort at stabilization or repair. Secondly, most of the other batteries are put into a stabilized category (including the main gun line, aka the "nine gun battery" at Fort Hancock) but no details are provided as to what this stabilization will entail, or whether it will allow the batteries to be open for visitation. Only a handful of batteries are listed in the preserved category. I will be looking to see how this progresses and for any reply from Gateway as well as any further opportunity to provide input on future plans.

Information about the General Management Plan can be found at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=237&projectID=16091&documentID=54826>

No further news yet to report on Fort Monroe. The day that I write this there is a meeting of the Fort Monroe Authority board of trustees to vote on a master plan that will allow development on the former Wherry housing area – which potentially also includes Battery DeRussey. More on this next time after the outcome of the meeting is known. The Fort Monroe Authority website is at: (<http://www.fmauthority.com/>)

On a somewhat coast artillery related topic, the museum at Watervliet Arsenal has shut down for a two year makeover. During the course of this, some artifacts (including some gun tubes) will go to other Army museums while the Arsenal museum gets some items from elsewhere that are more closely tied to the history of the Arsenal. That's all the detail I have at the current time.

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

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DENR to Reforest Corregidor

By DJ Yap

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Tuesday, April 9th, 2013

MANILA, Philippines—Some 200 hectares of land on the historic Corregidor island will be planted with trees endemic to the area to boost its biological diversity and promote the tourist spot as a bird-watching sanctuary, officials said. Manuel Escasura, acting regional technical director for ecosystems research and development service of the Department of Environment and Resources' office in Region IV-A, said a mix of forest tree species and fruit-bearing trees would be used to reforest the island and make it more attractive to birds. "We will plant fruit-bearing trees which will serve as food for the birds. The regional executive director (Reynulfo Juan), during his previous visit to the island last

year, saw the need of introducing fruit and forest tree species that are more attractive to birds," he said in a news release. Juan said the goal was to promote Corregidor in Cavite province not only as a historic battlefield but as an ecological tourism destination. "Not just to be remembered as 'battlefield' and national shrine noted for the gallantry of the Filipino soldier, Corregidor will be an eco-tourism destination for bird-watching. Yes, Corregidor Island will become a bird sanctuary," he said.

Juan pursued the idea after a visit to Corregidor last year with forestry experts to assess the situation and plan rehabilitation efforts on the island as part of President Aquino's National Greening Program, which aims to plant 1.5 billion trees by 2016. He said the team of forestry experts from the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) would comprehensively survey, plan and map out the forest rehabilitation and tree growing activity on the island. Initial discussions have been done with concerned agencies including the tourism business establishments in the area, he said. On Sunday, the DENR signed a memorandum of agreement with Corregidor Foundation, Inc. and the Department of Agriculture for the reforestation effort.

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Government Reaffirms Plans to Sell Lab Island Off of New York

Wall Street Journal Friday August 30, 2013 *Associated Press*

NEW YORK — The federal government's move to reaffirm its planned sale of Plum Island, an 843-acre animal disease research site off Long Island, does not mean the sale should go forward or that it will, environmental groups and others said Friday.

The General Services Administration and the Department of Homeland Security issued what's called a record of decision Thursday night on Plum Island. The document marks one of the last steps before a sale.

But critics say most of the island should be turned into a nature preserve with limited development.

"While a sale is not yet imminent, this latest news serves as a reminder of the critical need for federal legislation to preserve this unique, priceless natural treasure," U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said in a statement. "Once this pristine open space is lost to development, it can never be reclaimed."

Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Timothy Bishop, a Democrat from Long Island, have introduced a proposal to stop the sale altogether. Bishop's district director, Brian Beedenbender, said Friday that "it remains foolish to sell off an environmental treasure."

Congress voted in 2009 to close the laboratory, which opened on the island 100 miles east of New York City in 1954. Plum Island scientists research pathogens like foot-and-mouth disease, which is highly contagious to livestock and could cause catastrophic economic losses and imperil the nation's food supply. Sale proceeds would go toward moving the research to Kansas State University.

A GSA environmental study in June suggested homes might be built on Plum Island, but there has been no estimated sale price for the island.

The two federal agencies said in a statement they issued the record of decision after considering "all the factors discovered and

analyzed” during the National Environmental Policy Act process.

When the timeframe for the laboratory’s relocation is known, the agencies said, they will re-examine the environmental impact statement “specifically for the purpose of ensuring that it reflects the then current knowledge of the conditions on the property.”

Environmentalists have sounded alarms that selling the island would jeopardize endangered terns, seals and other wildlife, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency raised some red flags earlier this month. The island provides “important habitat for a number of species,” and the GSA hadn’t done a detailed enough evaluation of selling the island, regional EPA administrator Judith Enck said.

In 2007, the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation said there appeared to be no existing environmental threats on the island, noting that hundreds of tons of contaminated soil had been removed from landfills and other areas there.

But Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said concerns over contamination would likely affect the island’s potential sale.

“It’s most like riddled with contamination, and a thorough investigation needs to occur,” Esposito said. “You can’t just sell an island that was used in secret for 50 years.”

The local town board approved new zoning laws Tuesday that would prevent any significant development of the island. Under the zoning rules approved unanimously by the Southold Town Board, the bulk of the island would be preserved as a conservation district while laboratory research would be allowed on part of it.

Southold Town Supervisor Scott Russell said Friday that his first choice would be to keep Plum Island open and providing jobs to area residents, but the zoning regulations should at least restrict future development.

“You will see no Plum Island Estates on Plum Island,” Russell said.

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Plum Island is Saved After All

By David Collins

Publication: The Day

Published 08/30/2013 12:00 AM

Updated 08/29/2013 11:55 PM

Residents of Southold, N.Y., 1, federal officials 0.

That’s the latest scorecard on securing a safe, environmentally sound future for Plum Island, a 3-mile-long, 840-acre refuge between eastern Connecticut and the north fork of Long Island.

Just last week, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney led a water tour around the island, touting their plan to legislatively steer the island into a conservation-minded federal agency.

Current federal plans, hatched during the George W. Bush years and approved by Congress, are to transfer the animal disease lab on Plum Island to Kansas, financing the move, in part, by selling off the island.

Courtney, Blumenthal and others have a legislative plan to make the government, in disposing of the island, abide by the

usual practice of offering surplus land to other agencies - in this case, possibly the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Members of the New York and Connecticut delegations would also like to keep the lab and its 400 jobs here.

The plan to save Plum Island is a work in progress in Washington.

But this week, the people of Southold, which includes Plum Island, took matters into their own hands, promising there won’t be any Plum Island estates or any new development that could harm the natural habitat or create new traffic problems on the two-lane road that leads to the end of the north fork.

The Southold Town Board unanimously approved new zoning for Plum Island that would create two new districts, a big one for conservation, and a smaller one which would allow only research laboratories like the one that is there now.

The new zoning would prohibit development on a large portion of the island and allow only housing related to the research facility.

Boom. There went the shot across the bow of the federal government, which now probably won’t be able to build much in Kansas from the proceeds of selling Plum Island.

Who will pay a lot of money for an island you can’t develop?

Until now, developers might have been licking their chops at the idea of an opportunity, once the skull and crossbones flag comes down, to buy one of last big pieces of undeveloped waterfront in the Northeast, within spitting distance of the hyper-expensive Hamptons.

There have been a lot of scary reports and rumors about Plum Island over the years, including one strange book that came out in 2004, suggesting a lack of controls at the Plum Island lab were responsible for Lyme disease.

A 2003 Government Accountability Office study made some scary suggestions about the potential for terrorist attacks on the island, finding that guards didn’t have the authority to carry guns or sound an alarm in the event of an attack.

More fears were fueled when an associate of Osama bin Laden was arrested and found to be carrying a New York Times story about the island.

Adding to the Plum Island intrigue, environmentalists trying to preserve the island recently unearthed a report that the remains of a huge woolly mammoth was discovered in a sand dune in the late 19th century.

That report was debunked, though, by historians who said the 1879 article in a Long Island newspaper was probably about a woolly mammoth found on Plum Island, Mass.

In 1978, there was a release of foot-and-mouth disease from the Plum Island laboratory here to animals outside the containment area, but it did not leave the island.

Environmental studies have indicated the island should be safe once the laboratory is closed, though erasing the stigma of the place could prove to be a little harder.

Congressmen like Blumenthal and Courtney should be commended for making the effort to save the island from development. They can still work at keeping the lab jobs here.

But it looks like the people of Southold have won the race to conserve Plum Island.

This is the opinion of David Collins.

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Visit the Spice Island Forts!

Simon Pratt

The Spice Islands of Eastern Indonesia seem a long way from the Americas, but there are some fascinating links. For a start, Christopher Columbus, exploring for Spain, was actually seeking the spices of the 'Indies' when he discovered the Americas in 1492. The Portuguese discovered Brazil in 1500 while searching for westerly winds to take them around Africa, and on to the Spice Islands. Magellan rounded South America on his way to these remote volcanos that were the world's only source of nutmeg and cloves. And Francis Drake, the first captain to circumnavigate the globe, moored near San Francisco prior to crossing the Pacific; his goal, those same Spice Islands.

Incredibly remote, but bestowed with precious spices, these islands were finally located in 1512 by the Portuguese. A decade later they built the first of the Spice Islands forts, Kastella, on Ternate, in response to the arrival of the Spanish from the east.

Originally almost medieval in design, Kastella was continuously upgraded, first by the Portuguese, next by the Sultan of Ternate who took the work after a five year siege in 1575, and then by the Spanish, who stormed the fort in 1605 and maintained it as their headquarters for over half a century. Its 500 year old ruins are still visible today.

The initial confrontation between the Iberian nations evolved into a long campaign by both nations against the Dutch. Fortification construction was a fundamental part of this campaign, and dozens of works were built throughout the islands to protect plantations, store spices, hold garrisons and intimidate locals. There was an intense period of conflict in the first decades of the 17th Century, with many forts changing hands, but gradually the spices – and the region- faded from importance.

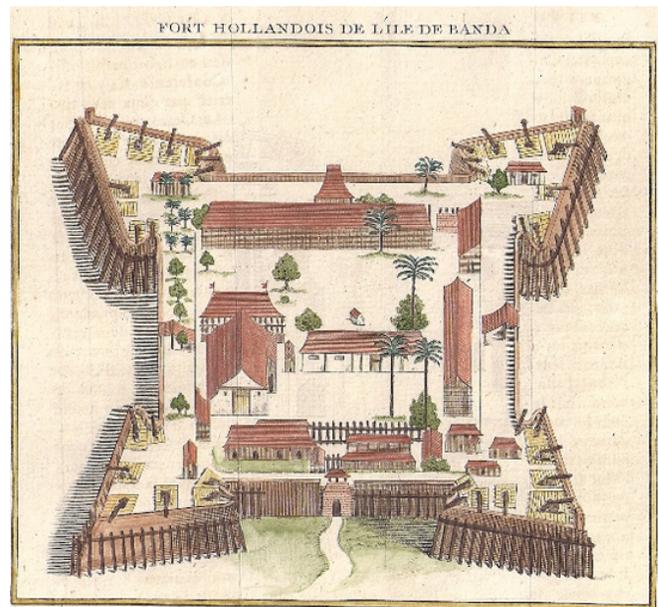
The Spanish, more concerned with the Philippines and unable to match Dutch maritime power, abandoned and partially destroyed all their forts in 1663. Four years later, most famously, one of the nutmeg producing Spice Islands, the isle of Run, in the Bandas, was exchanged for Manhattan Island during a peace settlement between the Dutch and English in the Treaty of Breda.

After this, the now-Dutch Spice Islands drifted off into obscurity; spice trees were smuggled elsewhere; the forts crumbled in the tropical monsoon. Today around 40 forts remain, some scattered ruins, others restored and proud. Around half a dozen are well worth inspecting, set as they are amid stunning volcanic cones, turquoise seas, and groves of nutmeg trees, forgotten testaments to the Age of Discovery that opened up the globe.

For more information, please visit www.spiceislandsforts.com



Run Island - once the site of an English fort, Run was handed to the Dutch in return for Manhattan island in 1667 as part of a peace treaty with England (Courtesy Spice Islands Forts).



Fort Nassau – Built by the 1609 to control the nutmeg trade, this four-bastioned quadrilateral was the standard Dutch fort design for the Spice Islands (Engraving by van Schley 1749).



Fort Belgica- From 1611, but later rebuilt as an unusual double pentagon after earthquake damage, Belgica is the most impressive of today's Spice forts (Courtesy Spice Islands Forts).



Fort Kalamatta – On the clove island Ternate, Spanish built Fort Kalomatta guarded the narrow channel between there and her perennial adversary, Tidore (Courtesy Spice Islands Forts).

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Concrete Restoration on Battery Lewis

Hartshorne Woods, Monmouth County Park, New Jersey

These photographs were provided by CDSG member Cory Newman from Monmouth County preservation specialist Gail Hunton showing the current progress on the restoration of the gun shield of Battery Lewis (Construction # 116) at the Hartshorne Woods Park in Monmouth County. This restoration has cost over \$200,000. The photos show the various stages of the restoration work. The concrete work has been completed as well as the preparation and painting of the structural steel under the casemates.



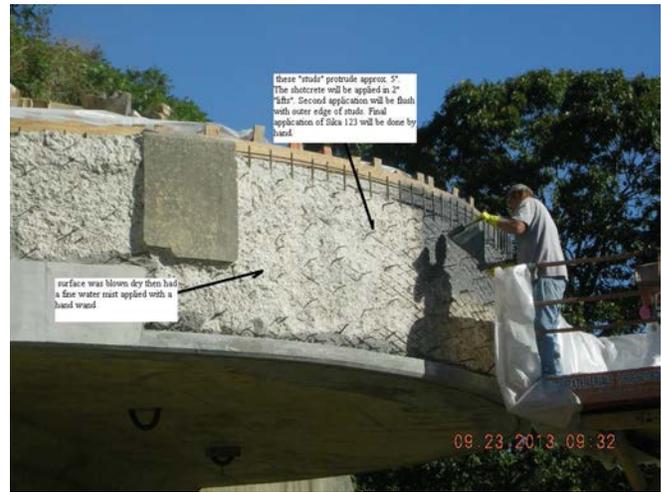
Face of north casemate August 7, 2013



North casemate canopy masonry resoration



Applying second coat of shotcrete



Spraying Sika 110 Armatec bonding agent to north casemate canopy



Finished second coat of shotcrete & Sika



Applying epoxy-zinc primer on prepped ceiling

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Battleship Island Website

Those intrigued by the review of Alberto Tabone's DVD *Battleship Island: Alderney*, in the August Journal, may find the producer's website, <http://www.battleshipislands.com/>, of interest.

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CDSG Special Tour to Norway

Norwegian and Atlantic Wall Defenses

Part I: Defenses of the Oslofjord

By Terrance McGovern



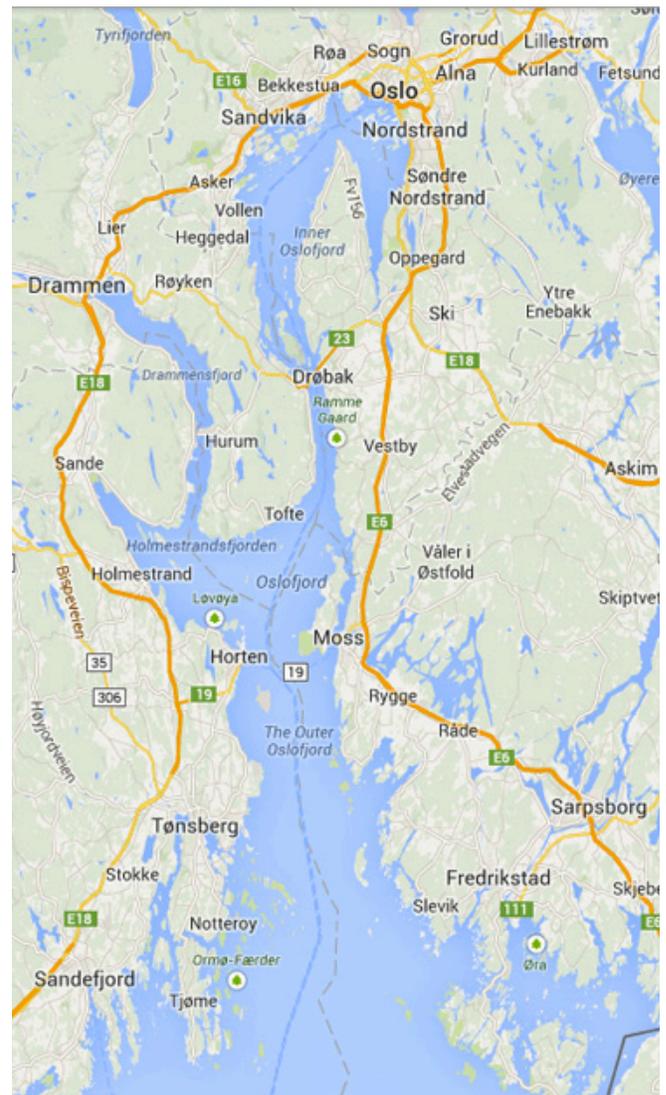
CDSG Norway Tour Sites

The CDSG Special Tour to the Coast Defenses of Norway took place June 8 to June 19, 2013, with 24 tour members. The goal of this tour was to visit the world's best collection of surviving coast artillery, especially the dozen "big guns" (greater than 280 mm) that remain, as well as other wonderful coast defense sites that still have their smaller artillery. During World War II, Germany built (or converted existing Norwegian defenses) over 280 coast defense batteries in Norway, mounting over 1,000 guns. Many of these "Atlantic Wall" defenses were used by Norway during the Cold War, when Norway added modern 75 mm and 120 mm batteries and maintained the defenses into the 1990s. The group was able to visit over 50 examples of surviving coast artillery during the tour, many in their original emplacements.

This is the ninth special tour that I have organized for the CDSG and the most complex logistically, due to the remoteness of the locations and the long distances between coast defense sites. The tour's planning and ultimate success was due to the efforts of our local tour leaders, Svein Wiiger Olsen, Vic Phillipson, Pål Johnsen, and Harald Isachsen, who arranged access to the many sites and guided us to these defenses. This tour would have never happened without their efforts and we owe them many thanks for

a great tour. We also want to thank tour members Mike Fiorini, Alan Fyson, Terry McGovern, Michel van Best, and Keith Estes, who each undertook the responsibility to organize and drive one of our five rental vehicles. They did a great job considering they had never been to Norway before, and they succeeded in keeping track of all their passengers during the long tour. Finally, we want to thank Denise Agostino from Premiere Travel for arranging the air, hotel, and rental vehicles for the group.

The CDSG tour started at Oslo Gardermoen International Airport, 35 km northeast of Oslo, on June 8, 2013. We divided up into our 9-passenger rental vans for the 82 km ride to Drobak Narrows on the Oslofjord, where we took a short ferry ride to the former **Oscarsborg Fortress**. The main fortress is on two small islets (Kaholmane); the former military reservation also included lands west and east of the fjord. The fortress was a military reservation until 2003, when the Norwegian coast artillery school closed. The school facilities were turned into a resort hotel and the rest of the military reservation is now a historic/recreational site. A large, round masonry fort was completed in 1848, with additional casemated defenses for rifled muzzleload-



The Oslofjord – Norway (Google Maps)



Oscarsborg Fortress Sites

A. Drøbaksund strait, B. Drøbak town, C. Heer settlement

1. Main fort at S. Kaholmen island, 2. Torpedo battery on N. Kaholmen island, 3. Battery Husvik, 4. Battery Kopås, 5. Battery Veisving, 6. Seiersten redoubt, 7. Infantry strong point Heer, 8. Batteries Heer, 9. Batteries of Håøya island.
10. Mine station on Bergholmen island, 11. Battery Nesset, 12. Battery Luftvern

ing cannons added by 1853. The fortress was named in 1855 after a visit by Swedish-Norwegian King Oscar I. By the end of the 19th century, military technology had developed rapidly and the fortress was soon obsolete. Tension was also growing within the union of Sweden and Norway, and the Norwegian Army decided to upgrade the fortress. An underwater barrier was built in 1874–79 to block ship passage on the western side of the fortress and Armstrong RML cannons were installed in front of main fort as a new main battery. Another round of modernization was undertaken in the late 1890s. In addition to one Krupp 305 mm M1877 gun purchased in the 1880s, the new main armament consisted of three Krupp 280 mm M1889 guns and an underwater torpedo battery was completed in 1901. A number of smaller guns (150 mm and 57 mm) were installed

on the mainland shoreline, as well as several large-caliber batteries on the island of Håøya. These turn-of-the-century defenses were still in use at the start of World War II. The fortress is best known for sinking the German heavy cruiser *Blücher* on April 9, 1940, as a German invasion force attempted to reach Oslo. After aerial bombardment, the Germans took Oslo by another route and the fortress surrendered, remaining in German hands until 1945. The Norwegians upgraded the island's defenses during the Cold War. These defenses were phased out in the 1990s, though the island retained its coast artillery school until 2003.

Once the group checked into the former coast artillery school dorms of **Oscarsborg Hotel & Resort** (we were told at front desk that the hotel's spa had recently burned down; so much for the resort part!). Tour members took advantage of the long summer days, with a late sunset at 10:30 PM and an early sunrise at 4:00 AM, to explore the island fortress on their own. After breakfast the next morning at the hotel, we boarded the ferry to return to our rental vans to drive 75 km to Øyenkilen to visit **Torgauten Fort**, constructed by the Germans as *Heeres Küsten Batterie HKB 6/980*. The battery was armed in April 1941 with four 100 mm K17/04 guns. After the war, the fort was modernized by the Norwegians in 1960 to include a radar fire control station and two casemated 105 mm SKC/32 guns. In 1993, the fort was deactivated, but still retains the 105 mm guns in casemates and one of the 100 mm field guns on a turntable. Svein Olsen led us to a hole in the fence around the back of the fort so we could enter, as the association that maintains the fort was not available on the day of our visit. The fort has very distinctive fire command post disguised as a summer cabin.

We then drove 22 km to Kråkerøy to visit **Kjøkøy Fort**, constructed by the Germans as *Heeres Küsten Batterie HKB 7/980* and armed in May 1941 with four 100 mm K17/04 guns. After



Northern and Southern Kaholmen Islands
Fortress Oscarsborg

the war, the fort was modernized by 1960 to include a radar fire control station and two casemated 105 mm SKC/32 guns. In 1995, the fort was deactivated, but it still retains the 105 mm guns in casemates and the fort is now a local park. Svein Olsen led us around to the various emplacements and through the extensive concrete/stone trench system connecting all the key defenses.



Torgauten Fort – 105mm SKC/32 in casemate
June 9, 2013



Torgauten Fort – Fire Control Position with Radar
June 9, 2013



Kajokoy Fort – 105mm SKC/32 in casemate – June 9,
2013



Fredriksten Fortress – 120mm Schneider in armored
turret – June 9, 2013

We drove 45 km toward the Norwegian-Swedish border and the city of Halden to visit the **Fredriksten Fortress**. Construction of Fredriksten started in 1661 after Norway lost the Bohuslän district and Bohus Fortress to Sweden in 1658. Three subsequent attacks by the Swedes on Halden in 1658-1660 convinced Fredrik III, King of Denmark and Norway, that a stronger, more modern fortress was needed. During the war in 1718, Swedish King Charles XII fell before the walls of Fredriksten fortress. The large central citadel has several small forts as part of its outworks. The primary item of interest for the group was a 120 mm L/40 Schneider gun in an armored turret that was originally installed in 1905, but was then removed when Norway separated from Sweden. The gun and turret were first moved to a border fortress, then used by the Germans in WWII for coast defense, before were returned to Fredriksten in the 1980s.

We next drove back 38 km toward the Oslofjord, stopping at **Fredrikstad Fortress** for a quick visit of the walled city. Fredrikstad Fortress was constructed according to Dutch architectural models, with wide, water-filled moats and high earthen ramparts. On its eastern side, facing away from the river, are three bastions and two counterscarps. There are ravelins in the moats and several outworks, including Kongsten Fort, beyond the main fortress. Facing the river is a massive stone wall, reinforced by earth ramparts. After our quick walking tour of the walled town we drove 70 km to Drobak and the ferry back to Oscarsborg. That evening we were treated to a special group dinner inside a barracks casemate of the old masonry fort.

June 10 started with another early morning self tour of Oscarsborg Fortress. Most sought after was the collection of German and Norwegian coast artillery guns near the Lower West Battery. This line of guns represents nearly all the coast artillery used in Norway during the last 100 years. To the south of this collection, the Lower South Battery originally mounted two Armstrong RMLs, replaced in 1960 with two 105 mm SKC/32 dual purpose guns in separate emplacements with camouflage metal shields. After breakfast, tour members gathered near the bridge between the two islands for the formal guided tour of the fortress. We were guided to one of best sites of our entire tour — the fortress' famous **Torpedo Battery** on North Kaholmane Island, which has three dual torpedo launchers, torpedo



Norwegian Coast Artillery Museum Collection as Oscarsborg Fortress – June 8, 2013



Main gun line at Oscarsborg Fortress – 280mm Krupp M1891 – June 9, 2013



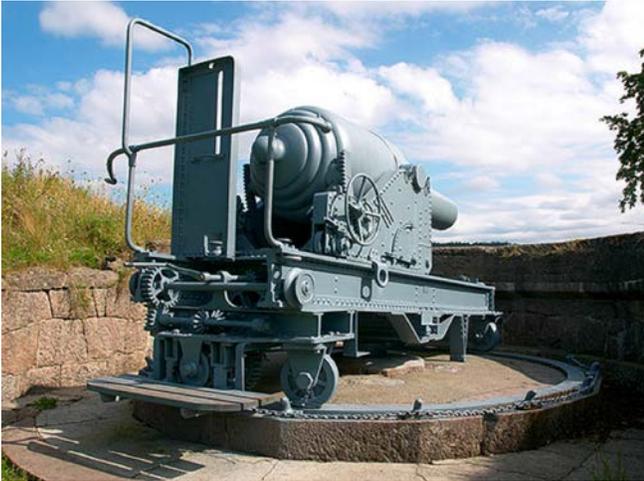
Main gun line at Oscarsborg Fortress – 280mm Krupp M1891 – June 8, 2013

Oscarsborg Fortress (left)

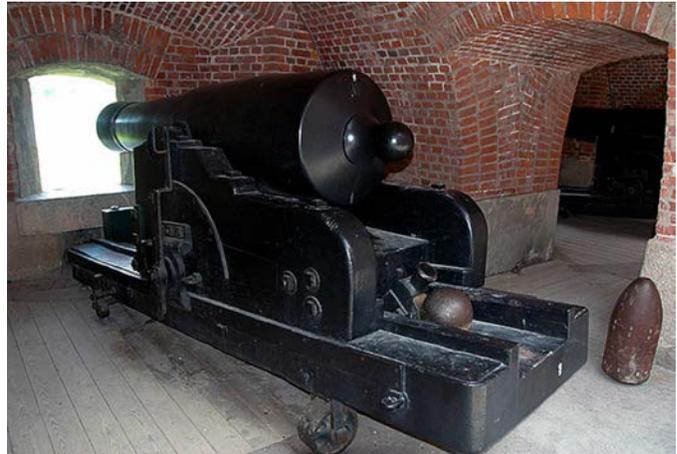
- A. island of S. Kaholmen, B. island of N. Kaholmen
- 1. Main fort, 2. Lower Western shore battery, 3. Lower Eastern shore battery, 4. Main battery, 5. Lower South battery, 6. East battery, 7. Coastal Redoubt, 8. Parade in front of the CA School barracks, 9. Range finder post and Signal battery, 10. Torpedo battery, 11. Residence of the commandant of the fortress

and warhead storage, and supporting equipment constructed underground inside a large rock bluff along the East Passage of the Oslofjord. Completed in 1901, the battery was armed with Whitehead torpedoes which could be lowered in metal cages below the water line and launched through underground pools directly into the Oslofjord. Above the launching chamber is the observation station for aiming the torpedoes. The group was very excited to be able visit this one-of-a-kind installation, as it was here on April 9, 1940, that Norwegians launched the battery's

torpedoes at the German heavy cruiser *Blücher*, sinking the ship in the fjord with the loss of about 800 sailors and soldiers. The torpedo battery was modernized in the 1960s and remained active until 1993 before becoming part of the island's coast artillery museum, still fully equipped. The guided tour continued along the edge of the two islands to Lower East Battery (constructed in 1848), with a casemated gallery of muzzleloading cannon and magazines tunneled into the side of the island. We were able to



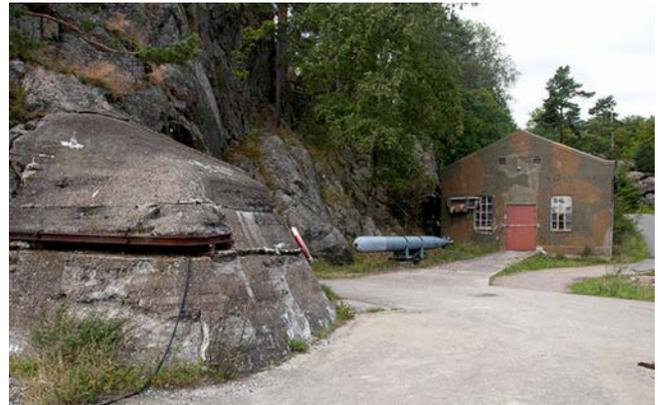
East Battery – Oscarsborg Fortress – 226mm Armstrong RML – June 9, 2013



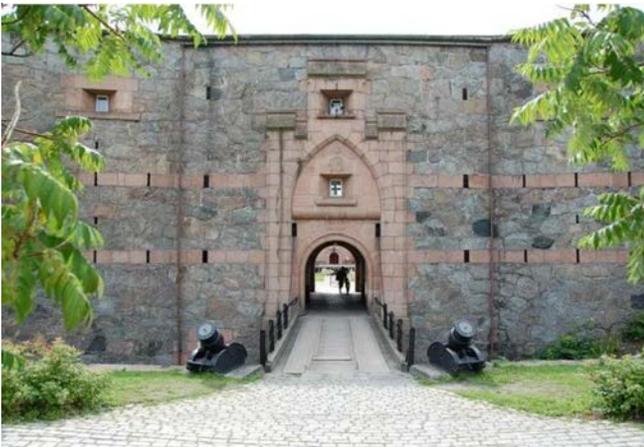
Lower East Battery – Casemated Cannons – Oscarsborg Fortress – June 10, 2013



Lower South Battery – 105mm SKC/32 with camouflage turret shield – June 9, 2013



Torpedo Battery – Fortress Oscarsborg – Observation Position, next to entrance – June 10, 2013



Main Sally Port for Masonary Fort at Oscarsborg Fortress – June 10, 2013



Torpedo Battery – Fortress Oscarsborg – Dual Torpedo Elevator over underwater portals – June 10, 2013

walk through a tunnel to the main fort, where we were given a tour of the both the **Fortress Oscarsborg Museum** and the **Norwegian Coast Artillery Museum**, which has a nice bookshop. Of special interest and not normally not open to the public, the section of the museum on fire control contains a wonderful collection of optical and electronic fire control devices dating from 1890s to the 1990s. Some of the large German rangefinders are very impressive. With a few minutes to spare the tour group was able to pack up and check out of the hotel to catch the 11:45



Torpedo Battery – Fortress Oscarsborg – Torpedo loading station – June 10, 2013



Torpedo Battery – Fortress Oscarsborg – Control Station – June 10, 2013



Norwegian Coast Artillery Museum – Fire Control Exhibit – Oscarsborg Fortress – June 10, 2013

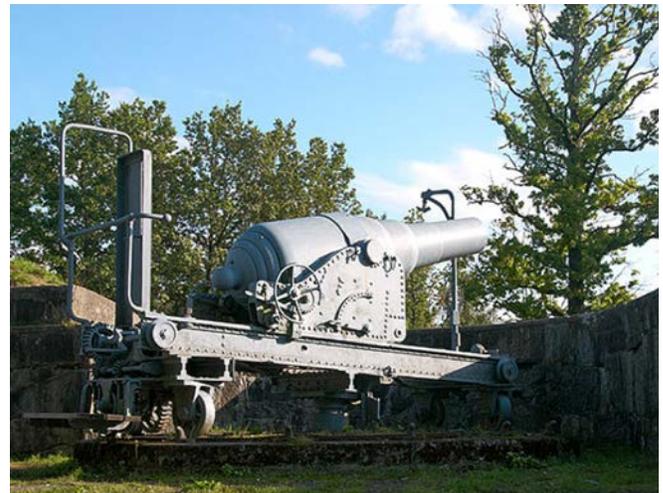
AM ferry to our vans. As we traveled across the fjord, we wished we could have stayed longer to explore all the island defenses, but other coast defenses awaited us.

After loading our luggage, we hiked up the hillside to tour **Kopas Battery** constructed by the Norwegians in 1900 for three 150 mm Armstrong breechloading guns. These guns played an important part in battering the German naval task force in 1940. Part of the battery was rebuilt for two casemated 105 mm SKC/32 guns, which remain today, although the battery is no longer in use. The Germans added a large fire command bunker to the upper part of the battery. Returning to our vans, we briefly stopped by **Husvik Battery**, which had mounted two 57 mm rapid fire guns, but only the emplacements remain today. These guns scored more than 30 hits on the *Blücher* in 1940. We drove up to the top of the fjord to visit **Veisving Battery**, which still mounts three 227 mm Armstrong RML and one 267 mm Armstrong RML in open positions. These guns are in excellent condition and the batteries provided a great view of Oscarsborg Fortress and the fjord.

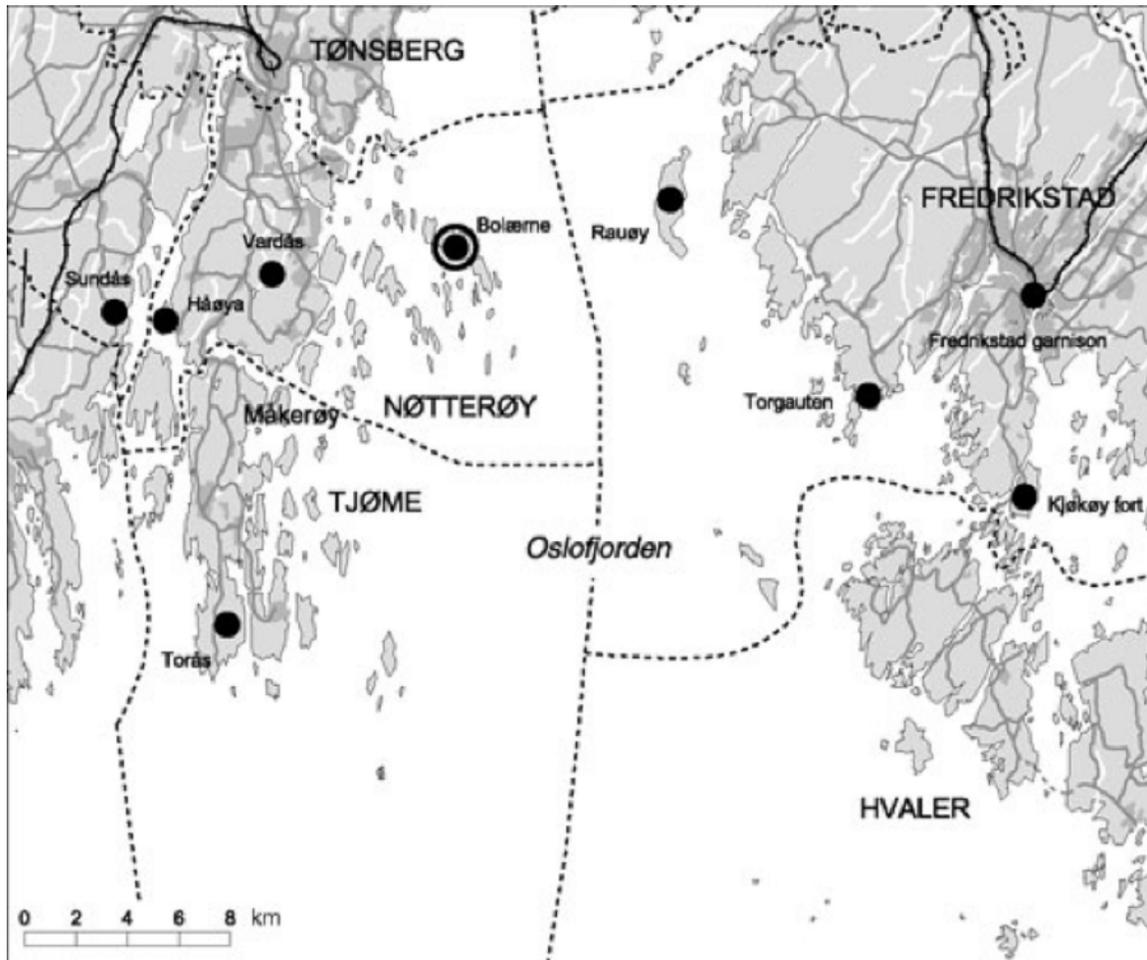
Driving under the fjord in a deep tunnel, we made our way about 100 km to Horten for a guided tour of the **Royal Norwegian Navy Museum**. The collection, started in 1853, contains several decommissioned ships, naval equipment used by the Norwegian, Allied, and German navies, ship models, paintings,



Kopas Battery – Oscarsborg Fortress – 105mm SKC/32 in Casemates – June 10, 2013



Veisving Battery – Oscarsborg Fortress – 226mm Armstrong RML – June 10, 2013



The Outer Defenses of Oslofjord

Places visited by tour: Kjøkøy Fort, Torgauten Fort, Bolaerne Fort, Torås Fort, Vardås Fort

and pictures. The museum also includes the Royal Norwegian Navy Library, started in 1805. The museum and library have book collections of about 25,000 volumes. Parts of the museum were destroyed during an allied bombing raid on Horten in February 1945. A nice collection of naval ordnance (such as a 267 mm M1866 RML and two 105 mm SKC/32 guns) is on display outside the main museum building. The Horten Naval



The HNoMs Utstein - Kobben class or Type 207 – Royal Norwegian Navy Museum, Horten – June 10, 2013

Base is no longer active, so we were able to drive around former base buildings and out to the shoreline of the fjord to visit several battery sites that once defended the shipyard. These RML emplacements and nearby open emplacements for WWII batteries are now part of an open green area. We drove 30 km to the nearby city of Tonsberg and our hotel for the next two nights, **Thon Hotel Brygga**.

After a hotel breakfast the next day, we made our way to the other side of Tonsberg, where we took a water taxi to **Bolaerne Fort** on East Bolaerne Island. The 25-minute cruise allowed us to see the island's defenses from seaward before we docked in the island's main harbor. Svein Olsen led us by foot to visit this fort that, along with similar works on the island of Rauøy on the other side of the fjord, provided the outer coastal defenses of the Oslofjord. In 1916, the Norwegians placed four 120 mm guns and two 65 mm guns on island. The island's primary defenses were started in 1935 when three 150 mm L/50 Bofors guns were installed in permanent open emplacements along with fire control structures and supporting underground magazines. These defenses engaged the German Navy on April 9, 1940, as they entered the fjord on the way to Oslo. The battery traded fire with these vessels until they pulled back as the primary German invasion force passed on its way to Oslo. The Luftwaffe then bombed the island's defenses until the battery was knocked out.

The Germans strengthened the defenses by restoring the 150 mm guns and added an additional 150 mm gun, designating the battery *Marine Küsten Batterie MKB 3/501 Bolaerne*. They also constructed a large underground battery, *Heeres Küsten Batterie HKB 8/980 Kongshavn*, in a rock bluff with four R671 casemates, each containing a 105 mm K331(f) gun. The Norwegians replaced these guns in 1950 with 127 mm SKC/34 guns, and the 150 mm Bofors battery was decommissioned in the same period. In 1972, two 75 mm L/57 Bofors turret positions were built,



75mm Bofors Turret – Western Position – Bolaerne Fort – June 11, 2013



HKB 8/980 Kongshaven – 127mm SKC/34 in casemates – Bolaerne Fort – June 11, 2013



HKB 8/980 Kongshaven – New uses for gun casemate – Bolaerne Fort – June 11, 2013

with a third position built in 1974. The “tunnel battery” of 127 mm guns was decommissioned in 1999 and the 75 mm turret battery was mothballed in 2001. In 2004, the fort came under the control of the Vestfold County Council as a recreation area.

The island has been “cleaned” up with defenses sealed, such as the “tunnel battery” with guns still in place but each casemate sealed in concrete so the gun barrel is sticking out. While we were visiting this battery, a large group of rock climbers was using the sealed casemates and bluff above to develop their skills. We were unable to enter the interior of this unique battery. During our visit we were treated to the sorry sight of the 75 mm turret positions being scrapped. One had already been gutted and sealed, while another one was actively being worked on; we could see internal turret mechanism being lifted from its concrete emplacement. The turret and its barrel would be returned to its former position but the emplacement inside will be empty. A benefit of this activity was that Svein was able to convince the crew working on this battery to let us into the remaining 75 mm turret position. Each turret is a stand-alone position – hundreds of meters apart. After exploring the exterior of the battery’s radar and optical station, we visited the exterior of the southernmost 75 mm turret. The turret is on the spine of the island, so we climbed down the rock bluff to the main entrance. Being a Cold War defense designed to resist nuclear, biological, and chemical attack, an inner bomb-resistant door about a foot thick led to a gas-proof chamber with decontamination showers. Seven men manned the position – three in the turret and four in the magazine. The self-contained multi-floored emplacement had a power room with two generators, fuel storage, supply room, and water supply on the lower level. The next level had the crew room with galley and communications room, and the upper level had the magazine and shell handling rooms with a shaft rising about 5 meters to the turret, allowing an elevator to bring the fixed ammunition to the breech. While the position had been mothballed for a quite a while, most of its equipment was still in place. Visiting the inside one of these “modern” 75 mm gun turrets was a treat for the group, as it was not planned. As time was up and the water taxi was at the dock, the group hustled down to return to Tonsberg. On the return trip, we were able to convince the taxi captain to stop at Western Bolaerne Island



Elevator/Shaft for Fixed Ammo to reach 75mm Turret – Eastern Position – Bolaerne Fort – June 11, 2013



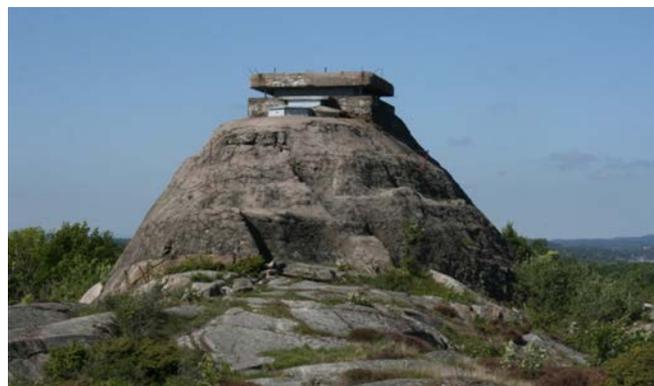
75mm Bofors Turret – Central Position – Gutting the position – Bolaerne Fort – June 11, 2013



MKB 4/501 Toarraas Battery – 150mm SK L/50 Bofors – Toras Fort – June 11, 2013



Fire Control Position for Bolaerne Battery – Norwegian design 1935 – Bolaerne Fort – June 11, 2013



MKB 4/501 Toarraas Battery – Fire Control Position – Toras Fort – June 11, 2013

so we could visit the now disused underground NATO naval munitions depot. Several truck-size tunnel entrances led into the storage areas that honeycombed the island; the main shaft passed all the way through to the other side of the island. Back aboard our water taxi, we returned to the mainland and our vans.

We drove 35 km south to our next stop, **Toras Fort** on the island of Tjome. Before we reached this fort, the group had a lunch break at a local gas station. As this is a rural part of Norway, having five vans and 24 customers all at the same time provided to be a traumatic experience for the clerk, as she had more business in 10 minutes than all day long. Toras Fort is now deactivated, so Svein arranged for a representative of the local mayor to meet us and guide us to the fort's defenses. This visit was another highlight for the group due to its battery's dramatic location on a succession of "Sugar Loaf" rocks. Each of the four 150 mm L/50 Bofors guns was emplaced on its own rock, while the largest rock had the battery's TDP fire control station. Built by the German as *Marine Küsten Batterie MKB 4/501 Torraas*, the Norwegians retained this fort until 2004. Three of the four 150 mm guns remain on site. The group had a great time climbing up one rock and down to the next. From the top of these rocks one can see shipping in the Skagerrak.

We headed 22 km north, back to the center of the Norderoy Peninsula to visit **Vardas Fort**. This former fort was built by the Germans for three 380 mm KM36/36 (f) guns, *Marine Küsten Batterie MKB 6/501 Norderoy*. This was to be the principal German coast defense site for the Oslofjord, but construction did not start until 1944, as the three cannons, originally built for the French battleship *Jean-Bart*, had to be shipped to Norway from France, while the carriages for the guns were designed and constructed. To



Emplacement for 380mm gun at MKB 6/501 Norderoy – June 11, 2013



Emplacement for 380mm gun at MKB 6/501 Natteroy – June 11, 2013



Operational 380mm gun at MKB 6/501 Natteroy – 1945

save on construction effort, the sites for the three emplacements were carved from the hillside, so rather than building a large concrete structure to support each gun a series of underground tunnels were bored into the hillside for the magazines and other supporting activities; only the actual base for the carriage had to be constructed of reinforced concrete. Only one emplacement was operational by the end of the war in 1945. The Norwegians planned on finishing the battery as their principal defense of the fjord, but the French requested the return of the barrels to refit their battleship. The Norwegians agreed to trade for the three guns at Battery Todt at the Pas-de-Calais. The switch was made but by the time the new guns arrived the Norwegians had decided not to complete the battery. The group visited each of the three sites and a few climbed to the top of the hill to visit the incomplete fire command bunker (later used by the Norwegians). The group then made its way separately to our hotel in Tonsberg.

This completed our tour of the defenses of the Oslofjord. Part two of our tour required us to drive about three hours to the coast defenses of Kristiansand, where over two days we visited Battery Vara with its 15-inch gun and casemated bunker, as well as several other forts in the area. Part three of the tour had us travelling to Trondheim and its U-boat bunkers via airplane from Kristiansand. We visited the triple 11-inch naval turret from the *Gneisenau* at Orland and other defenses of the Trondheim Fjord

over three days. Part four had us flying on to the Harstad/Narvik area, where we visited several fascinating batteries over two days, but the main attraction was the four 16-inch guns at Battery Trondenes. From Harstad we flew back to Oslo and the tour ended. Due to the length of the tour and the resulting tour report, it will be published in the CDSG *Newsletter* over several issues.

* * * * *

Fortress Study Group Publications

Article contents of *Casemate*, No. 98, September 2013: FSG news and updates; articles include “Enkhuizen the Netherlands; 20th Century Defenses of Macau;” “Bunker Hunting Near Logatec Slovenia;” “Louis Nicolas Chevalier de Clerville;” “Fort de Villey-le-sec;” “FSG Tour to Southern Ireland Report;” “FSH Review of Cork fortifications;” “A Cambell’s Kingdom – Kilchurn Castle;” “Albania, Land of ‘Mushrooms’;” and “Fort Liesele, Belgium;” along with numerous book reviews.

The article contents of *Fort the International Journal of Fortifications and Military Architecture*, Volume 41, 2013 are: “The British Defenses of Mauritius” by Bill Clements; “The Fortifications built in the Surroundings of the Alhambra by the French Army During Napoleon’s Invasion of Spain” by Luis Jose Garcia-Pulido; “From Assertive Visibility to Concealment, the Transformation of Slough Fort, Allhallows, England” by Victor Smith; “Fort Oranje, St. Eustatius, an Historical Archeological and Architectural Assessment” by R. Grant Gillmore III & Madileine J. Roth; “The Fortification of Leith, 1558-1916” by David Flintham; “Three River Guardians, Fort de la Presentation, Fort Levis, and Fort Wellington” by Jeromy Cowell; “Serene Speculations (or Thoughts on the Origins of a Venetian Defense Work on the Ionian Islands) the Fortress of Agios Nikolaos, Paxoi, Greece” by E. Paul Beckmann; “The State of Fortifications in Southwest England in 1623” by John R. Kenyon; “The Marquis of St. Angelo and the Building of the Fortress Malta” by Denis De Lucca; “Martin Beckman and the English Occupation of Tangier 1662 – 1684” (part 1) by E. Paul Beckmann; “A Short Introduction to Croatia’s Fortifications Heritage from the 15th to the 19th Century” by Zlatko Uzelac; “No Atlantic Wall – Vauban and the Defenses of the Normandy Coast” by David Flintham.

* * * * *

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See our nation’s key defenses on southern California Coast. The Point Loma peninsula of San Diego contains Fort Rosecrans and a number of WWII-era batteries. Coronado has the former Fort Emory with its WWII-era 100 and 200 series batteries. Many non conference additional sites include the *USS Midway* museum, Liberty Station, the former Naval Training Center, the Marine Corps museum and Cabrillo National Monument to name a few.

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Battery commander's station, Battery Osgood-Farley



Restored power room, Battery Osgood Farley



Motor generators in power room of BCN 241

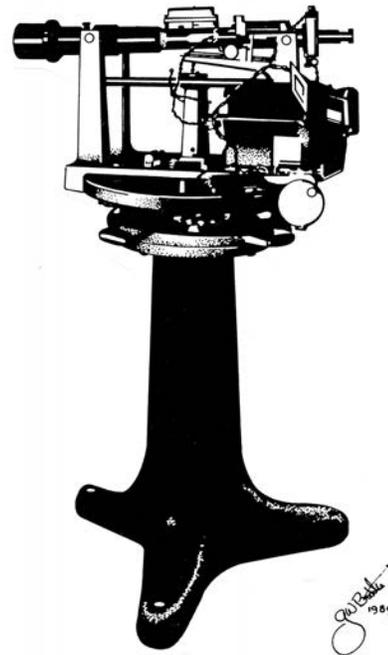
White Point, and Long Point. Many additional sites can be seen before or after the conference, including the *USS Iowa* and the *Queen Mary*.

If you are interested in attending send me an e mail (non binding) so I can gauge interest and this will help me with hotel reservations.

Joe Janesic member and the VP of the Ft Mac Museum Association is my Co Chairman – Thanks Joe. Additional help is needed, give me a shout; it will be very much appreciated.

Mike Fiorini

mrffiorini@comcast.net



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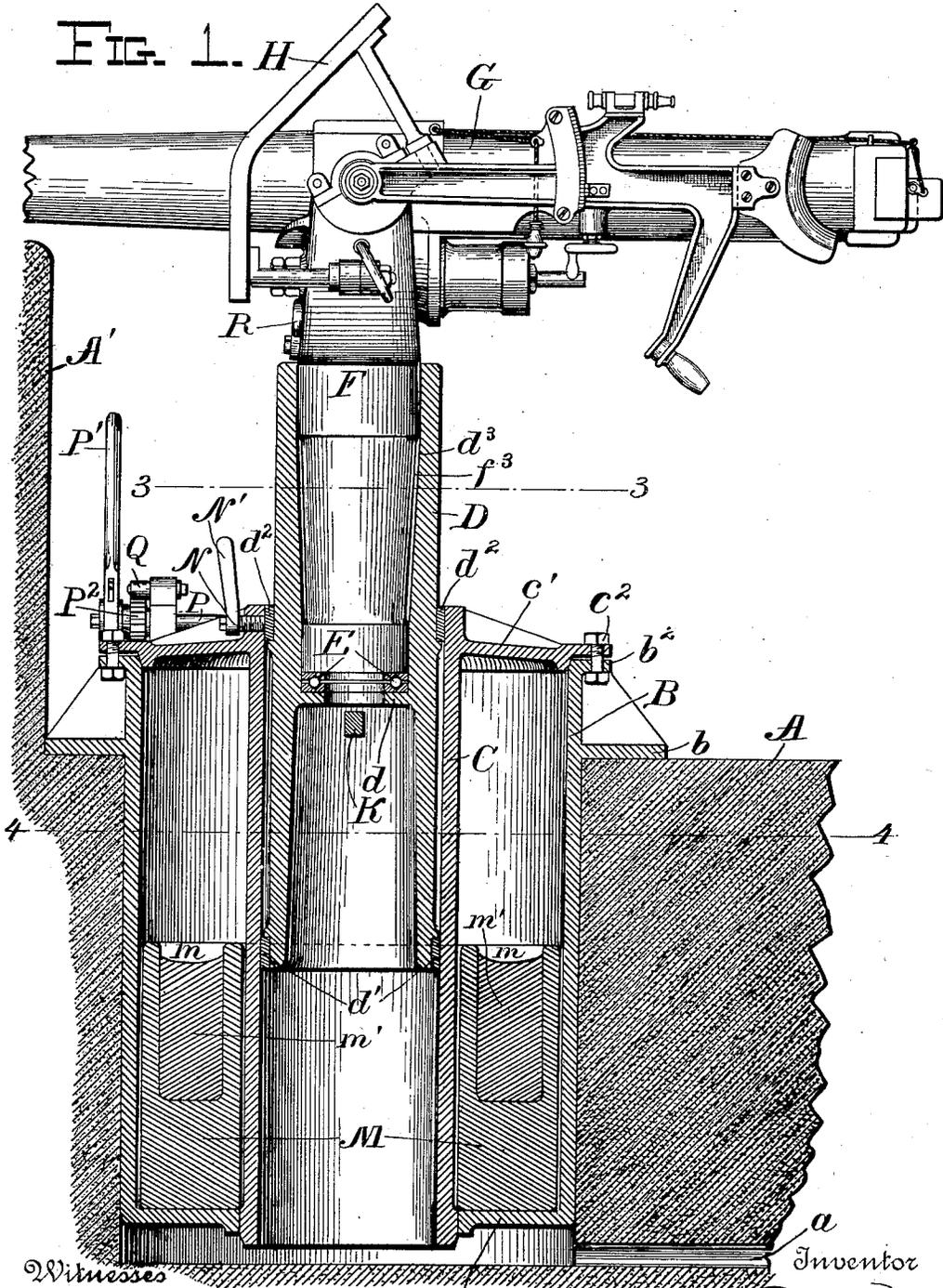
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Seacoast Artillery Weapons (Army Technical Manual 4-210, 13 Oct. 1944), hard cover reprint. \$25 / \$35

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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