



# The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — February 2011



## The Chairman's Column

Phil Payette

I trust everyone is having a good start to 2011. The weather in New England and the Mid-Atlantic has been rather brutal this winter. Something tells me our Annual Conference in Rhode Island next month will be quite chilly. But when you are having fun exploring all the forts, who notices the cold? Newport is a major fortification site, please consider joining us.

In this issue we have our annual reports from the various committees. The CDSG had an active and productive year and we plan on remaining just as active this year. I trust we will have more *Newsletter* reports about Civil War sites as they have their anniversary events this year. Our preservation efforts have been going strong at various locations, such as Fort Adams, Fort Monroe, and Fort Washington, among several others. Let's keep up the good work, whether it be monetary donations or hands-on work.

The CDSG Press continues to go digital with the complete inventory of all past *Newsletters*, *Journals*, and *Conference/Tour Notes* being put on DVD or CD. Our Facebook page has been successful, but it could be even more so if more fans post about their local forts. Facebook is a good opportunity for the CDSG to interact with the public. Our next major publication can be purchased online from *lulu.com*: *Artillerists and Engineers: The Beginnings of American Seacoast Fortifications, 1794-1815*. The BOD has decided *Seacoast Artillery Weapons* will be retired from our offerings of reproduced works. There are only 2 copies left at the time of this writing.

It's also time to renew memberships and seek a replacement for outgoing board member Tom Kavanagh. Notices are being mailed with this issue to remind members (including myself) to send in their membership fee. The Nominations Committee is seeking names of anyone wanting to become a BOD member. This past year the BOD decided to allow previous board members to run again in order to maintain some kind of continuity within the board; although serving consecutive terms is still restricted as mandated in our Bylaws.

Please also remember to sign up soon for our special tour to Halifax this Fall. And next year's conference will be something new: the Great Lakes, from Niagara to Detroit. And the timing will be nearly perfect as it coincides with the anniversary of the start of The War of 1812. Exciting times ahead.



## CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2011 Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference  
Mar 30 - Apr 2

Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island  
Chris Zeeman, [c\\_zeeman@hotmail.com](mailto:c_zeeman@hotmail.com)

2011 Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour  
Sept. 18 - 25

Halifax, Canada  
Charles Bogart, [cmabogart@aol.com](mailto:cmabogart@aol.com)

2012 Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference  
May

Great Lake Forts  
John Weaver, [jrweaver@purdue.edu](mailto:jrweaver@purdue.edu)

2013 Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour  
June

Norway  
Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

2011

Mar 28 - Apr 8  
Lithuania / Latvia

Private Fortress/Bunker Tour  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, [hrv.neumann@t-online.de](mailto:hrv.neumann@t-online.de)

Mar 30 - Apr 2  
Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island  
Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference  
Chris Zeeman, [c\\_zeeman@hotmail.com](mailto:c_zeeman@hotmail.com)

April 2 & 9  
The Hague  
Menno von Coehorn Meeting & Tour  
Fritz van Horn, [fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl](mailto:fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl)

April 16  
Western Heights, Dover, UK  
Fortress Stust Group Tour  
Bill Clements \, [bill\\_clemments@btinternet.com](mailto:bill_clemments@btinternet.com)

May 7 - 13  
NW Italy - Livorno  
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour  
Charles Blackwood, [casemste@fsgfort.com](mailto:casemste@fsgfort.com)

May 11 - 15  
Kansas City, MO  
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference  
Dale Floyd, caonier@aol.com

May 28  
Weesp en Muiden - NHW linie  
Menno von Coehorn Tour  
Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

June 1 - 3  
Corsica  
Association Vauban Annual Conference  
Robert Delome, robert.delome.3@wanadoo.fr

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

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

September 23 - 25  
Dresden  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsf Annual Meeting  
Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

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

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

Oct 29  
Karlovac, Croatia  
Internatinal Fortress Council Annual Meeting  
Luc Fellay, lucfuley@bluewin.ch

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

2012

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

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

May  
Netherlands  
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour

May  
Lexington, KY USA  
Council on Americ'a Military Past Annual Conference  
Martin Gordon, martinkgordon@gmail.com

Aug/Sept  
Rumania  
Private Fortress/Bunker Tour  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

Sept  
Koblentz  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsf Annual Meeting  
Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

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

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

2013

May  
Southern Italy  
Fortress Study Group Tour  
bill.clements@btinternet.com

June  
Norway  
CDSG Special Tour  
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

September  
Kustrin  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsf Annual Meeting  
Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

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### Publications Committee Report

Bolling Smith and Mark Berhow

Another year and basically the same message: we need more authors. The production and delivery of four newsletters and journals a year is pretty much on track; we meet publication deadlines; and production costs are under what we bring in as dues. As we produce only what is necessary to meet membership needs, we do not run any over-production costs. Back issues are now only available in electronic form, so we only need to produce what we need for our members and the new members that join during the course of the year. Publications are prepared from templates in Adobe InDesign and sent electronically to the printers as a print-ready PDF for production. The printer now handles domestic mailing at the bulk mail center, which is good. We are restricted to a total weight under 1 pound, which limits the number of pages we can have in a mailing to around 180 pages.

However, we are still very dependent on a few authors for the material we publish in the Journal. We feel that we have published some excellent articles and we would like to keep it up, but we are only getting regular submissions from six authors. As a result, our supply of material is more tenuous than we would like. Please consider preparing and submitting articles.

The newsletter is culled from items posted on internet groups and items sent to us, as well as trip reports and group business items, but we can always use more material. We especially want to get news from the various forts so that we can keep the membership informed as to what is going on. But we need your help; please send updates on trips you made, news articles you read, and events you attended.

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### CDSG 2011 Annual Business Meeting

The CDSG Annual Business Meeting will be held at 8 P.M. on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at the Best Western Mainstay Inn, 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road in Newport, RI. The annual Dinner Banquet precedes the Business Meeting - same location, at 7 P.M.

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### CDSG 2011 Annual Membership List

The 2011 CDSG membership list will be published in May. Please send updated email and mailing address to the Membership Chairman, Alan Hardey, so we can publish the most up-to-date guide we can.

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### Board of Directors Nomination Committee Seek Candidates

Nominations are being sought for members to run in the May 2011 election for for a three year term on the CDSG Board of Directors, beginning in October 2011. Please contact nominations committee members Charles Bogart, Steven Kobylk, or Jonathan Prostack with your nominations.

### CDSG Fund Report 2010

Terrance McGovern, Trustee

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc., by raising funds for preserving and interpreting American seacoast defenses. The CDSG Fund is seeking donations for preservation projects supporting its goals. Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes as the CDSG is a 501(c)(3) organization, 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 2010 the Fund was pleased to provide \$500 to the Fort William Foundation for a feasibility study on the restoration of Battery Blair as a museum at Fort Williams Park, Maine. The Fund's primary gift in 2010 was \$3,008 to the Fort Adams Trust to install temporary wooden supports under the rare double spiral granite staircase in the Advance Redoubt that protected the land approach to Fort Adams. Years without maintenance and exposure to the elements resulted in concerns that the staircase could collapse. The CDSG Fund provided \$1,500 and the balance was donated by individual members to the CDSG Fund.

The Fund again recognized the efforts of CDSG volunteers by hosting a dinner at the annual conference in Port Townsend, WA. 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 \$3,401 in gifts during 2010 while making \$3,838 in grants, leaving the Fund with a balance of \$6,828.04 at the end of 2010. The Fund trustees and Board of Directors wish to publicly thank the following individuals for making contributions to the Fund during the 2010 calendar year:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Appel, David       | Griesmer, Michael  |
| Berhow, Mark       | Grigorieff, Paul   |
| Binau, Douglas     | Hardey, Alan       |
| Bogart, Charles    | Hawkins, James     |
| Bournazos, J.      | Holder, Alex       |
| Converse, Douglas  | Hunter, Gary       |
| Cyunningham, Nigel | Jones, Robert      |
| Dow, Charles       | Kirchner, D.       |
| Fanciullo, Stephen | Larsen, David      |
| Fiorini, Michael   | Loomer, Scott      |
| Floyd, Dale        | Maier, Ward        |
| Fritz, Karl        | McCormack, John    |
| Gaines, W.         | McGovern, Terrence |

Nelson, Jonathan	Shepherd, John
Page, David	Touza, James
Ricker, William	Waldron, Steven
Scapulla, Norm	Weaver, John
	Zeeman, Chris

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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## Coast Defense Study Group Press Annual Update

Terrance McGovern, Chairman

### 2010 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 Hagge, Mark Berhow, Terry McGovern, Jon Prostack, Tom Kavanagh, and Tom Batha for their long-term volunteer work for our organization.

We have added "Volume 24" (2010) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and CDSG Newsletter to our back issues DVD for a price of \$55. Additionally, Mark Berhow has updated the entire *Journal/News* collection on a DVD, which represents over 9,500 pages of coast defense material for only \$55. Once you purchase this DVD, *CDSG Publications 1985-2010*, you can buy yearly updates for only \$10 upon the return of previous DVD. Mark has also added several electronic products (such as RCWs, Engineer Notes, Quartermaster Records, and Annexes) under our CDSG ePress label in PDF format (see references page at our web site, "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 Puget Sound" to our list of conferences/tours notes for \$50 on three DVDs. The tour notes for the 2010 special tour to Wilmington/Beaufort are also available for \$10 on CD.

Here is a summary of reprint efforts to date: Our 2007 project, *Endicott-Taft Report* has sold 225 books/plates (53%) to date out of a press run of 427. Our 2004 project, *American Seacoast Defenses - 2nd Edition* (ASDII) has sold 451 books (90%) to date out of a press run of 503. Our 2001 reprint project, *American Coast Artillery Material* has sold 250 units (62%) 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 193 units (56%) out of a press run of 344. Our 1997 reprint, *Service of Coast Artillery* has sold 294 units (55%) out of 532 printed. Our 1996 reprint book, *Seacoast Artillery Weapons*, has sold 409 copies (99%) out of our press run of 411. We have sold a total of 343 copies (96%) 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 1st edition of the ASD to coast defense site owners to help educate them about our favorite subject. Please provide to 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 1st edition (once you purchase the 2nd edition) to non-members to encourage them to join the CDSG.

### 2011 Plans

The CDSG Press has just published our first "print on demand" book through Lulu.com, an internet books publisher. By using this method we do not need to pre-sell the book to insure we have enough funds to cover about half of the print run. Members (and the general public) can order through Lulu's website using a credit card and the book will be printed and delivered in a few weeks. *Artillerist and Engineers: The Beginings of American Seacoast Fortifications, 1794-1815*, is Col. Arthur Wade's doctoral dissertation covering the development of the 1st and 2nd coastal fortification systems during the early days of the United States. We hope our experience with "print on demand" will lead to other such titles. Please purchase a copy.

The CDSG Press is working on a companion volume to the *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 1st draft, we will be circulating it to various regional CDSG members for their review and comments. Please contact Terry McGovern at 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 3rd 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 3rd Edition. 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 CDSG Press projects. One 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 Narragansett Bay and New Bedford - 2011" to our list at a price to be determined (these notes will be on DVD). While the CDSG Press does not print new works on coast defenses authored by our members at this time, the Redoubt Press will publish such works. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net or 703/934-3661 (work) if you have such a title that you would like considered.

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## Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

### 2010 Year in Review

The single largest preservation issue this past year has probably been Fort Monroe and what will happen after it is turned over to the State of Virginia later in this year. Besides this, there have been a number of positive actions and developments in the past year.

The preservation of the old fortress part of Fort Monroe seems secure but the future of the Endicott batteries and some of the significant structures outside the fortress, such as the former Coast Artillery School buildings, is less certain. The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) is already advertising housing for rent and promoting re-use of the old buildings. Information on all this, including a promotional video made by the FMA is on their website at [www.fmauthority.com](http://www.fmauthority.com). The army turns over Fort Monroe on September 15 of this year and after that the State of Virginia will control it. CDSG will be following progress on this and looking to provide input when and where we are able to. I give my continuing thanks to Phil Payette for his work following the situation at Fort Monroe and other preservation issues in the Hampton Roads area

Since the cancellation of the proposed art museum for the main post area of the Presidio in San Francisco, a new plan has been developed which scales back the larger proposed projects – for example, the new proposed lodge would now have a number of small buildings that blend in rather than the large one proposed before - while maintaining positive features such as the interpretive outline of the original Presidio and elimination of the parking lots on the main parade. This new “Final Main Post Update” is dated November 2010 and can be viewed or downloaded through the Presidio website at [www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/mp/](http://www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/mp/).

Also in San Francisco, the Doyle Drive replacement project, known as the Presidio Parkway, is moving forward and preparatory construction has been occurring this past year. When the new road and landscaping is completed, the cemetery battery area will be pedestrian accessible and the batteries will be cleaned up and fully visible. Further information on this can be found at [www.presidioparkway.org](http://www.presidioparkway.org).

At Fort Adams in Newport, RI, a group of volunteers working with the Fort Adams Trust has been clearing vegetation from areas of the main fort and the advanced redoubt. This work occurred throughout 2010 with a number of work days scheduled and has been continuing through the winter (until snow caused the cancellation of the most recent one). Those of you attending the annual conference this year will have an opportunity to see the results. In addition, the goal of raising funds to stabilize the unique double spiral staircase in the advanced redoubt was reached and the work will be done as soon as weather permits. Hopefully, this will be before the annual conference.

Down in Maryland, another group has been working to continue vegetation clearance at Fort Washington. Two additional work days have already been scheduled before the end of March. Work like this is important for preservation, as left alone, vegetation can attack and destroy even steel-reinforced concrete. And as most of us have seen, even once cleared, without regular

follow-up the vegetation will return.

The Pulpit Rock FC tower (a round tower in the HD Portsmouth) in Rye NH may soon be under the control of the Town of Rye Historical Commission if town warrants recommended for passage by the town government are approved by the voters. By the time you read this, a public meeting and discussion that includes these will have already occurred. The Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower have been raising money for the cleanup and preservation of the tower and have also held open houses there. They have done an excellent on this and I extend my thanks to them. They now have a website up at [www.friendsofpulitrocktower.org](http://www.friendsofpulitrocktower.org).

The Halibut Point tower (in Rockport, MA, part of the HDs of both Boston and Portsmouth) received the azimuth instrument on loan from the Army Center for Military History that had been in process for quite some time now. It arrived in an original packing crate looking like it had never been used. It is now on display in their museum.

I have not heard anything further regarding Battery Backus at Fort Screven on Tybee Island. The last I was aware, the open part of the battery was still safe from development.

The “Endangered Coast Defense Sites” webpage has been set up with an initial group of sites. I am always interested in hearing from those with comments or suggestions on sites to be added to the list.

Some of the locations I have reported on I have only originally heard about because a member forwarded me notice or information about it. So if you hear of a threat, or even a 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 the items I hear about, but sometimes I miss a follow-up.

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

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## Tactical Details of the Korean Artillery Exchange

November 29, 2010

### Summary

Important tactical details have emerged in the past week to paint a more accurate portrait of the Nov. 23 exchange of artillery fire between North and South Korea and the subsequent tensions. In addition to military details, satellite imagery provided to STRATFOR by DigitalGlobe offers further perspective on the exchange.

### Analysis

In the past week, additional tactical details have emerged about the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island by North Korean artillery. In addition, a satellite imagery package provided to STRATFOR by DigitalGlobe offers further perspective on North Korean military activity in the buildup to the event.

South Korea has claimed that it detected the movement of at least an entire battalion of 122 mm multiple rocket launchers (MRL) into position prior to the shelling. Under Soviet organization, a BM-21 Grad battalion consists of 18 fire units organized

into three batteries of six launchers apiece. Each launch vehicle carries 40 launch tubes divided into four rows of 10. North Korea operates direct copies of the BM-21 as well as another variant, the BM-11, which generally uses the same (but locally manufactured) Russian Ural-375D 6x6 chassis but mounts two sets of 15 tubes side-by-side. Attached satellite imagery shows four different prepared battery firing positions near Kaemori, including at least one that appears to have been targeted by counterbattery fire.

#### Timeline of the Shelling

This battalion of MRLs, deployed to the area from the North Korean 4th Army Corps, played the primary role in the shelling, not the coastal artillery position already stationed in Kaemori. The barrage of artillery rockets began at 2:34 p.m. local time and lasted for more than 20 minutes. The initial barrage consisted of 150 rounds, followed by 20 more intermittently — meaning that while a full battalion appeared to be in position, a fully armed single battery could have conducted the entire attack. Of these 170 rounds, 80 struck Yeonpyeong Island, though 20 failed to detonate.

The initial barrage was reportedly a coordinated time-on-target strike, which would mean that the rounds were fired in such a way as to attempt to achieve simultaneous impact. This tactic, achieved by lofting earlier rounds on less-efficient trajectories, does not necessarily require particularly modern equipment, but it does require well-drilled gun crews, decently maintained equipment and competent fire direction control personnel to calculate the fire mission. It is not clear what the North Koreans were attempting to achieve or how many guns were involved, but time-on-target is a useful tactic to attempt to lessen the time South Korea has to react to the strike — though an alert counterbattery radar would spot the first rounds — and the North had experimented with it in a January live-fire drill from coastal positions near the Northern Limit Line.

Additionally, the rounds appear to have been incendiary or perhaps even thermobaric, with the intention of starting fires. Given the murky nature of North Korea's order of battle and the rockets' domestic manufacture, the exact type of round is not known. With a few modern exceptions, artillery rockets are unguided and achieve results through massed fires rather than exceptional accuracy. Here, North Korea had no opportunity to register targets or adjust fire based on input from forward observers; South Korea has subsequently conjectured based on the targets that the North's maps of military positions on the island may have been dated. The failure of so many rounds to reach the island and a dud rate of roughly a quarter of those that did suggest issues of quality control in manufacture and/or poorly controlled storage, as well as the potential for there to have been issues in the fire direction or on the gunline.

South Korea began to return fire at 2:47 p.m., minutes before the initial North Korean barrage ended. A battery of six K9 155 mm self-propelled howitzers, which was conducting live-fire drills on a Yeonpyeong Island military base, fired some 80 rounds. Two of the six guns were down at the time the North Korean barrage began and were oriented to the south for training, and the initial targets of the active guns reportedly were existing emplacements, not the new positions near Kaemori. It is not clear whether South

Korean counterbattery fire was sufficiently timely to be at all effective — it is common practice for both mortars and artillery to displace rapidly after firing when there is a counterbattery threat. The exchange of fire continued from 3:10 p.m. to 3:41 p.m., and South Korean F-15K fighters were scrambled. Two South Korean soldiers and two civilians were ultimately killed in the exchange.

Significantly, the South claims its Yeonpyeong Island drill was not part of the larger Hoguk exercises under way simultaneously throughout South Korea. North Korea has occasionally protested these drills — including recently — and claims dozens of shells fell in North Korean waters near the island, provoking it to fire. However, as the North does not recognize the Northern Limit Line and considers the entire island and its surrounding water to be North Korean territory, it does not seem to be clear that this particular incident was any more provocative than any other drill.

#### After the Exchange

Separately, though few details are available, explosions were audible on Yeonpyeong Island from 12:20 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. local time Nov. 26 and smoke was visible from what appears to have been a North Korean artillery live-fire drill inside its land territory and not from the artillery positioned on the coastline, according to South Korean military officials.

On the morning of Nov. 28, joint U.S.-South Korean naval exercises began with the USS George Washington (CVN 73) Carrier Strike Group, which includes the guided missile cruisers USS Cowpens (CG 63) and USS Shiloh (CG 67) as well as the guided missile destroyers USS Stethem (DDG 63) and USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and may also include a nuclear-powered attack submarine. The USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23), a unique special missions submarine, is thought to be on station, and U.S. Air Force E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft that provide battlefield surveillance have also reportedly been deployed.

After the Nov. 28 exercises began, the North fired some 30 artillery rounds from the Kaemori area into the West/Yellow Sea. Additional 122 mm MRL batteries were moved forward and camouflaged, as were SA-2 surface-to-air missiles and shore-based anti-ship missiles. MiG-23 fighters were also reportedly put on alert at Hwangju military airfield. A South Korean-towed artillery piece along the Demilitarized Zone also accidentally discharged a single round, for which the South issued a notification.

On Nov. 29, South Korea deployed a second battery of six K9 155 mm self-propelled howitzers, doubling the number on the island. Towed systems are also now slated to be replaced, and artillery rocket systems may be deployed. Exercises continue and tensions remain high.

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## German Spies Seek American Defense Plans

Charles H. Bogart

During the late 1930s the Germans had a small but active spy network in place in the New York area. The network consisted of professional intelligence operators, amateurs, and flim flam men. Among the latter category was Guenther Gustav Rumrich, of

Chicago, IL. Rumrich was the son of an Austrian diplomat, who had American citizenship by virtue of being born in Chicago. He joined the U.S. Army at the onset of the Great Depression and served in Panama and at Ft. Missoula, MT.(1) Disliking army life, he deserted, allegedly after stealing his company funds. Apprehended, he served a six-month court martial sentence. In 1936, Rumrich was in New York working at menial jobs. To improve his financial situation and avoid manual labor, he offered his services to German intelligence, portraying himself as a former Air Corps lieutenant. Using information acquired while serving in Panama, he impressed the Germans by supplying them with information on various aspects of the defense of the Panama Canal. How impressed they were with Rumrich, however, may be judged by the salary he received - \$50 a month.

Once in the employment of German intelligence, Rumrich fed them information he cribbed from various open-source documents, including the *Coast Artillery Journal*. In addition, he mixed with soldiers, picking up various tidbits concerning the defense of the New York area. Pressed by his German superiors to provide more detailed information concerning American plans to defend the East Coast, Rumrich proposed to steal these secret plans.

The plot for the theft of the East Coast defense plan, as envisioned by Rumrich, called for him to pose as a local luminary and arrange a phony preparedness conference at the Hotel McAlpin in Manhattan. The only real invitee, however, would be Col. Henry W.T. Eglin, commanding officer of the 62nd CA (AA), stationed at Ft. Totten. In what may have only been a strange coincidence, Eglin had served as military attaché to Vienna, Austria, and was known as an articulate anti-Semite. The colonel would be informed that he was to brief local elected officials on the army's plan to defend the East Coast. It was assumed that Colonel Elgin would bring copies of the overall East Coast defense plan with him to the meeting. Once he was within the conference room, the German plan called for Colonel Elgin to be given a spiked drink to render him unconscious. The defense files would then be taken from his brief case and copied.

However, since the Germans could not be sure that Colonel Elgin would bring the war plans with him, a new wrinkle was added to their plot. Orders would be forged, using the signature of Gen. Malin Craig, army chief of staff, directing Colonel Elgin to conduct the briefing and instructing him to bring the East Coast defense plan with him. This concept also misfired, as the necessary stationary could not be obtained.

The scrip of the operation, as developed by Rumrich, included leaving behind incriminating evidence indicating that the whole scam had been carried out by Communist Party members.

In the end, nothing came of the plot to steal the East Coast defense plan, apparently because Colonel Eglin became suspicious. The scheme to drug and rob Colonel Elgin was only discovered after Rumrich was arrested in April 1938 while trying to obtain blank U.S. passport applications. Many of the perpetrators fled the country before they could be arrested, but Rumrich testified for the government and was sentenced to two years in Federal prison, a slap on the wrist compared to what he would have received if the crime had occurred after the United States went to war. The FBI, however, was greatly embarrassed by their entire handling of the case, resulting in major improvements in their

counter-espionage operations.

As for Colonel Eglin, he retired in 1939, but returned to the colors during World War II, serving in the Ordnance Department and Army Service Forces. He died in 1957.

After his release and America's entry into World War II, Rumrich apparently resumed his espionage career, which, predictably, resulted in his being arrested once again. This time, all that could be proven was that he had fraudulently attempted to obtain a coast guard pass in California. That however, was enough to land him in prison again for another two years. Nothing is known, however, about his life after his second release.

1. Various articles describe Rumrich as a private, corporal, or sergeant in the Regular Army Medical Corps. I would suspect he was a private.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Destruction of Battery Plouharnel

Charles H. Bogart

In arming their *Atlantikwall* between 1941 and 1944, the Germans used both German and captured artillery pieces. Among the heavy artillery captured from the French were three 340 mm railroad guns manufactured for French *Normandie*-class battleships that were not completed due to the outbreak of World War I. In French service, the guns were designated 340 mm Mle 1912 Schneider, and during the 1930s, four of these 340 mm (13.4-inch) guns were converted by Saint-Chamond into railway guns, although they were not employed against the Germans during the Fall of France. After their capture in 1940 by the German Heer (army) at Depot d'Artillerie Saint Pierre Quiberon, the Germans designated these guns as 34.0 cm Kanone (E)674(f). These railway guns could fire a 532 kg (1170 lb) round every three minutes to 44,000 meters (48119 yds).

After their capture, three of the railway guns assigned to the German Kriegsmarine (navy) were incorporated into the defense of the French port of Lorient, in the portion of the *Atlantikwall* along the Bay of Biscay. The three guns were emplaced in individual open gun pits at Plouharnel, at the base of the Quiberon Peninsula. The open gun pits allowed Battery Plouharnel to fire over 360 degrees, both out to sea and against targets inland. The 4/MAA 264 (4th Batterie, 264th Marine Artillerie Abteilung) manned the three guns of Battery Plouharnel. Most U.S. Army documents of the period refer to Battery Plouharnel as the Quiberon heavy railroad battery.

Following the Allied breakout from the Normandy Beachhead on July 28, 1944, SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) decided to mask the ports of Lorient and St. Nazaire instead of assaulting them, since sufficient supplies were coming through Cherbourg and the smaller ports, plus over the Normandy Beaches, to sustain the drive until Belgian ports were captured. Adolph Hitler played into SHAEF's plans by declaring the two ports "Fortresses," to be held to the last man. Thus 22,000 members of the Heer, Kriegsmarine, and Luftwaffe (Air Force), under General der Infanterie Wilhelm Fahrmbacker, were bottled up in Lorient. General Fahrmbacker personally pledged to Hitler to defend the port to the last man against any Allied assault.



The U.S. Army's 94th Infantry Division was assigned in August 1944 to contain the Germans within the St. Nazaire and Lorient Salient. Various light infantry units of Forces Francaises de Interieur (FFI) were assigned to work with the 94th. In general, the United States and FFI troops only conducted patrols to contain the Germans within their defensive area. At times, however, limited actions were undertaken to seize high ground and shorten the defensive perimeter.

In December 1944, the 66th Infantry Division relieved the 94th Infantry Division containing the two ports. Assigned to assist the 66th were 11 FFI regiments de infantry and one forces terrestres anti-aeriennes (AA). Shortly after the 66th went into line, the three 340 mm guns of Battery Plouharnel, under Oberleutnant Funk, began to shell the 66th's supply center at Vannes. The 66th's after-action reports said "Huge 700-pound shells sounded like boxcars when they rushed through the air," and "Despite constantly changing climatic conditions and winds, the Germans once hurled three shots into Vannes that landed no farther than 200 yards apart." Since 4/MAA 264 was firing the guns of Battery Plouharnel using only map coordinates without the benefit of observation, the firing was basically harassment. However, the report went on to say, "The guns were a constant thorn in the sides of the 66th and they struck terror in the hearts of the surrounding territory."

Unable to obtain air or naval support to take out the three 340 mm guns, the 66th Division decided to take out the guns using American field artillery. The weapon of choice was the 240 mm howitzer M1, which could fire a 360 pound shell 25,000 yards with amazing accuracy. For 240 mm howitzers to reach Battery Plouharnel, the 66th had to push the German lines back toward the sea. After this operation was successful, two 240 mm howitzers from a field artillery battalion under SHAEF control were moved up. The two howitzers were moved into their pre-prepared, protected firing position at night to keep their location secret. To further protect the 240 mm howitzers from German counter-battery fire, the 155 mm guns of the 721st Field Artillery Battalion and the 105 mm guns of the 870th, 871st, and the 872nd FA Bns were located near the two howitzers.

After opening fire, the two 240 mm howitzers were soon on target and one by one, over a 90 minute period, the three 340 mm guns of Battery Plouharnel were knocked out of service. While not physically destroyed, the guns of Battery Plouharnel remained silent for the remainder of the siege, due to destruction within their gun pits. The re-adjusting of the Lorient Salient front lines to bring the guns of Battery Plouharnel into range of the American 240 mm howitzers also brought part of the harbor of Lorient into 155 mm gun range. The 155 mm guns were now directed at ships and boats in the harbor. The men of the 721st FA Bn would claim their guns sank a total of 14 ships and boats in the harbor, including a 1,250-ton mine layer, a 300-ton subchaser, a floating crane, an 800-ton steam dredge, and an 800-ton barge.

After General Fahrmbacker surrendered Lorient to Major General H.F. Kramer, commanding the 66th Division, on May 7, 1945, the French army re-occupied the city and its surrounding headlands. The three 340 mm guns of Battery Plouharnel were found to be still serviceable. As a result, the gun barrels were salvaged by the French navy and moved to the local naval arsenal.

The present status of these guns is unknown. It would take until 1948 before all the ships in Lorient Harbor, either scuttled or sunk by Allied bombs and gunfire, were salvaged. One wonders if the 721st FA, in sinking 15 vessels at Lorient during 1945, sank more ship tonnage with their 155 mm guns than the total ship tonnage sunk by the entire United States Army Coast Artillery Corps during World War II.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Dispatches from Fort Wayne, Detroit

Jonathan A. Mycek

On October 16th and 17th, Historic Fort Wayne saw a flea market sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society Guild. Vendors from all over metro-Detroit packed the fort's visitor center, bakery, and gym to sell everything from twice-used toys to clothes and antique tools. The Guild's Fort Flea Markets have supported their social efforts and famous tea parties for over two decades.

Concurrent with the sale, the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition transformed the rest of the Fort into 1944 France. During its first public World War II Weekend, the Coalition conducted tours while local SS Panzer units guarded against the 101st Airborne. Authentically equipped re-enactors mingled with over one thousand visitors and offered Jeep and Kubelwagen rides to a lucky few. Allied and Axis action on both days ended with a running street-to-street battle around the riverfront housing.

"One re-enactor let me handle an M1 Garand; one like my Grandfather carried into battle on Iwo Jima," said visiting veteran Carlo Rea. Both veterans and serving military were, unquestioningly, the weekend's VIPs. Servicemen and women from all the services (including the Tuskegee Airmen) freely shared their personal experiences. World War II themed exhibits in the Limestone Barracks and along NCO Row displayed period gear, heavy equipment, and American industry's contribution to the war effort.

The weekend climaxed as young Detroiters took the oath of enlistment and joined our country's armed forces. These were the first enlistments at the Fort in over 30 years and palpably connected Fort Wayne's past to the present. During the post's active service, Fort Wayne was a primary induction center for southeast Michigan.

Days after the WWII Weekend, Fort Wayne hosted the "Mad Anthony Cyclecross" race. As a bugle sounded "charge," one hundred brightly colored bikers rode through, on, and over the 167 year old star fort's sally port, parade, and terreplein. "It's a good thing this place was built strong," one observer commented. This wasn't the fort's first bicycle race and, judging by the success of this event, it won't be the last.

The year 2010 saw a great deal of varied activity at the fort. The new year will undoubtedly bring more changes and challenges, but Fort Wayne will endure.





\* \* \* \* \*

### Preservation of Nike Site SF-88C, Fort Cronkhite, CA

David Hoffman

In November 2010, the National Park Service completed stabilization and preservation work at the old SF-88C integrated fire control (IFC) radar site atop Hill 88 in Fort Cronkhite, CA, part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The NPS found emergency funding for the work due to concerns over growing safety hazards caused by weather, decay, and vandalism, which could lead to the imminent collapse of some structures.

According to Stephen Haller, park historian and branch chief for cultural resources at GGNRA, the project, initially conceived as a two-stage process (immediate safety issues and longer-term stabilization), evolved into a very comprehensive site preservation project. The contractor (Yerba Buena Construction) carried it out under the supervision of park maintenance staff.

Of particular historical interest were the two radar platforms on site. The target-tracking radar (TTR) platform had partially collapsed in high winds, but the park originally hoped that the target-ranging radar (TRR) platform could be saved. However, both platforms were far too deteriorated and had to be pulled down, leaving only their concrete pedestals in place. While only their remnants are preserved, Haller points out that these platforms still provide a tangible link with the restored radar equipment on display at SF-88L at Fort Barry. (SF-88C is inaccessible

hilltop location makes it too remote for any feasible display of IFC equipment.)

Haller also noted that a project will soon stabilize the sole remaining radar platform in the park, at nearby SF-87C atop BCN 129 at Fort Barry.

Besides the radar platforms, work at SF-88C also included repair of some sections of the perimeter fence, removal of collapsed and/or sagging building roofs (leaving stabilized portions in place for historical context), filling in utility trenches, and removal of a significant amount of debris. Lastly, all cinderblock buildings were prepped and carefully painted in their historic ARADCOM-era colors, interior and exterior. Total cost of this project was \$75,000. According to Haller, feedback from visitors to the site has been very positive, particularly from resident education groups such as the Headlands Institute and YMCA who regularly visit the site.

Haller complimented local CDSG members for bringing continued attention to the Marin Headlands and its military legacy as a strategic location defending San Francisco. He also noted that a fortuitous combination of rocky soil and military occupancy resulted in the preservation of many other features in the Fort Cronkhite area, such as machine-gun emplacements and foxholes, which would otherwise have disappeared over time. The survival of these small scale features affords continued opportunity for archeological surveys and to develop and implement guidelines for what is and is not acceptable in preserving this extraordinary military cultural landscape.



Guard Shack



Missile Assembly Building



Radar platform



Crew Ready Room



Generator Building



Generator Building interior

\* \* \*

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Fort Adams, 1932 (NARA)



Fort Wetherill gun emplacements, 1940 (NARA)



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