



# The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — February 2014



## Chairman's Message

Norm Scarpulla

Today in Massachusetts the sun is out, but the temperature is only 16 degrees Fahrenheit. I wonder how it was loading a 12-inch disappearing gun in this weather. US Army Coast Artillery personnel were stationed in many weather extremes, from Manila Bay to Newfoundland. I think most of them were hardy soldiers.

This month, 23 CDSG members will travel to the Philippine Islands to tour the Manila Bay fortifications. We wish them a safe and pleasant journey. Our 2014 annual conference will be in San Diego and Los Angeles this October. Please plan to attend to see the fortifications and meet other members.

Remember that this is a volunteer organization. We need members to write articles for the *Journal* and *Newsletter*. Even a short report about a visit to a fort is useful. Also, we need site representatives. A site representative does not need to be an expert on the fort or coast artillery, but rather he or she needs to maintain contact with the site owner or manager and be the conduit for communication both ways. If a park ranger has a question, someone in CDSG will probably have the answer.

Our memberships run for the calendar year and renewal forms were sent with the November *Newsletter*. If you have not renewed yet, please do so. Also, we need to continue to recruit new members. When you visit 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](http://cdsg.org). Can you recruit one new member in 2014?

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## The New CDSG.ORG Website Credit Cards Now Accepted!

The new redesigned web-optimized CDSG website was launched on February 7, 2014. The big news is that the CDSG can now accept credit card payments.

The CDSG worked with a local Peoria firm that specializes in business website design to build a new home page. They used a server-based program called WordPress and commercially available template to build the new site design and incorporate e-commerce capability to our site.

The CDSG now has an online membership form that accepts credit card payments through PayPal as well as a shopping cart system for our books, some document DVDs, hats, shirts and patches. One does not have to have a PayPal account to make the payments on our new website. Members can renew their memberships with credit cards using the same page.

Of course you can still renew and buy items the old fashion way with check or money order. A copy of the 2014 CDSG brochure is attached to this newsletter.

## CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2014 CDSG Annual Conference  
October 1 - 5, 2014  
Los Angeles /San Diego HDs  
Mike Fiorini, [mrfiorini@comcast.net](mailto:mrfiorini@comcast.net)

2015 CDSG Annual Conference  
April 2015  
Delaware River HD  
Chris Zeeman, [c\\_zeeman@hotmail.com](mailto:c_zeeman@hotmail.com)

2016 CDSG Annual Conference  
September 2016  
Tampa Bay & Key West  
Charles Bogart, [cmabogart@aol.com](mailto:cmabogart@aol.com)

Proposed CDSG Special Tour  
June 2015  
Panama Canal Zone  
Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

Proposed CDSG Special Tour  
June 2016  
Defenses of Switzerland  
Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

## Other Meetings and Tours

April 5, 2014  
Stiching Menno van Coehoorn Tour  
Linie van Bergen op Zoom  
Frits van Horn, [president@asmem.ch](mailto:president@asmem.ch)

May 2014  
Czech Association for Military History Tour  
Northern Bohemia  
Vladimir Kupka, [kupkav@sazka.cz](mailto:kupkav@sazka.cz)

May 2014  
Association Vauban Annual Conference  
Besancon  
Mary Pierdait Fillie, [marie.pierdaffillie@laposte.net](mailto:marie.pierdaffillie@laposte.net)

May 7 - 11, 2014  
Council on America's Military Past  
Reno, Nevada  
Marylou Gjernes, [mgjernes@earthlink.net](mailto:mgjernes@earthlink.net)

May 24, 2014

Stiching Menno van Coehoorn Tour  
Rijksdorp en Atlantik Wall Wasse  
Frits van Horn, president@asmem.ch

June 7 - 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

July 2014

FORTE CULTURA Pilot Tour  
Germany-Austria-Italy  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

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 5 - 8, 2014

Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
East Anglia  
Alistair Graham Kerr, bill\_clements@btinternet.com

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 11, 2014

Stiching Menno van Coehoorn Tour  
Zaltbommel, Netherlands  
Frits van Horn, president@asmem.ch

October 17, 2014

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

February 2015

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  
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, casemate@fsgfort.com

Sept/Oct 2016

ECCOFORT Reg. Association Tour  
Edime, 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

2013 Year in Review  
Gordon Bliss

The largest preservation issue this past year (and going forward into this year) is the future of the coast defense structures at Gateway NRA, in the New York City area. The NPS has a draft General Management Plan with a preferred alternative that relegates most (though not all) of the concrete batteries to what are classified as “ruins” areas. The CDSG, as well as individual members, has provided input to this during the public comment period this past fall. As of the time I write this, I have not seen any further information on whether the draft plan is being adopted or has been changed. Adding to this is the effects of Hurricane Sandy and the resulting damage. What is done with the damaged structures will likely depend on what plan is adopted. Information about the draft General Management Plan can be found at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=237&projectID=16091&documentID=54826>.

At the annual conference this past year, the CDSG was asked for recommendations on what to do with Battery Cullum-Sevier at Fort Pickens. Multiple people submitted recommendations after the conference and I passed them on to David Ogden. On a related note, the NPS is going to be preparing a National Register nomination for the HD of Pensacola and I will be the CDSG contact for any questions and technical issues that may come up. So I may be contacting some of you that have more expertise in specific areas than I do for help.

The situation at Fort Monroe has not changed greatly this past year. The main new item is a vote to allow developing the former Wherry Housing Area (which includes Battery DeRussy) rather than preserving it as green space. Batteries Parrott and Irwin have not yet been included in the National Park Service boundaries but have also not had anything negative impact them. Information on Fort Monroe can be found at the Fort Monroe Authority's website (<http://www.fmauthority.com/>).

In San Francisco, the 16-inch gun barrel now outside Battery Townsley has been cleaned and painted. An archeological excavation project has unearthed the remains of two 15-inch Rodman positions in front of the main gun line at Fort W. Scott—hopefully 1 will be left fully uncovered and interpreted. Also, the Doyle Drive/Presidio Parkway project continues to move forward and they are well into Phase 2. The southbound Battery Tunnel has been completed, and after the northbound one is done, there will be direct access to the cemetery batteries. Further information on this project can be found at <http://www.presidioparkway.org/>.

The Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower continue to raise money to clean up and preserve the tower and also to ensure repairs to the exterior concrete necessary before the town can accept ownership. They have had some open houses again this past year and I expect more to come this year. Further information can be found at the Friend's website at <http://www.friendsofpulpitrocktower.org/>.

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@cmsg.org](mailto:preservation@cmsg.org).

## 2014 Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, Chris Zeeman and Charles Bogart, are seeking candidates for the Board to consider by May 1. The ballot will be included in the May *Newsletter* with results by July 15. Results will announced in August *Newsletter*. The three-year term will begin October 1, 2014. If you are interested in running or have a nomination, please contact Chris ([c\\_zeeman@hotmail.com](mailto:c_zeeman@hotmail.com)) or Charlie ([cmabogart@aol.com](mailto:cmabogart@aol.com)) before May 1.

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## CDSG Publications Committee Annual Report

Mark Berhow and Bolling Smith

We currently have material for the next two issues of the *Journal*, with promises for a few more articles beyond that. We have been fortunate to get enough submissions to work ahead, but still need more authors to submit more articles for both the *Journal* and the *Newsletter*. Please note: it is best for the publisher to have all illustrations as separate files, preferably high resolution, with illustration captions tied to the file name of each illustration in a separate word document. The text of the article should be a separate file free of as much formatting as possible. To recap, please submit your article, your captions, and each illustration as separate documents. The publisher uses Adobe InDesign to prepare both the *Newsletter* and *Journal* for publication. As always, the entire CDSG membership owes special thanks to our authors for keeping the organization going!

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## CDSG Projects Committee Annual Report

Mark Berhow

Most of my effort in the past year has been spent getting the new CDSG website taken care of. The goal was to arrange to accept credit card payments on our website for membership and items purchased from the CDSG Press. This was not an easy task; it required a fair amount of web page programming and set up to make it all run smoothly, so the decision was made to hire a professional web designer team to create the required pages. This has been in the works for the past 6 months and the new website was launched on February 6th.

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## Coast Defense Study Group Press Annual Update

Terrance McGovern, Chairman

### 2013 Reviewed

The CDSG Press only exists because of the volunteer efforts of its committee members. We need to thank all the current members of the CDSG Press - Mark Berhow, Terry McGovern, Jon Prostack, Tom Kavanagh, and Tom Batha - for their long-term volunteer work for our organization.

We have added "Volume 27" (2013) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to our list of back issues at \$55. Additionally, Mark Berhow has updated the entire *Journal/Newsletter* collection on a DVD, over 10,000 pages of coast defense material for only \$55. Once you purchase this DVD, "CDSG Publications 1985-2013," you can buy yearly updates for only \$10 upon return of the original DVD. Mark has also added several electronic products (RCWs, Engineer Notes, Quartermaster, and Annexes) under our CDSG ePress label in PDF format (see references page at our web site, "www.cdsg.org") for \$50 per DVD or \$10 per CD. We are also now offering a complete collection of all digital files for \$250. These 10 DVD provide a collection of the key National Archives coast defense documents that rivals Bolling Smith's collection without all the paper. These are great reference items and will help you write articles for the *CD Journal*. We also added the conference notes from the "Defenses of the Pensacola & Mobile Bay" to our list of past conferences/tours notes for \$50 on one DVD.

Here is a summary of reprint efforts to date: Our 2011 project, *Artillerists and Engineers*, has sold 57 books-on-demand copies through Lulu.com, while we have sold 64 hard copies (93%) to date out of a press run of 69. Our 2007 project, *Endicott-Taft Reports*, has sold 231 books/plates (54%) to date out of a press run of 427. Our 2004 project, *American Seacoast Defenses – 2nd Edition (ASDII)*, has sold 496 books (98%) to date out of a press run of 503. Our 2001 reprint project, *American Coast Artillery Material*, has sold 262 units (65%) 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 177 units (52%) out of a press run of 344. Our 1997 reprint, *Service of Coast Artillery*, has sold 328 units (62%) out of 532 printed. Our 1996 reprint book, *Seacoast Artillery Weapons*, has sold all of our press run of 411. We have sold a total of 349 copies (98%) of our 1994 reprint book, *Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction*, out of our total press run of 356.

As you can see from the paragraph above we have sold out of *Seacoast Artillery Weapons*. We plan to offer this book through an online print-on-demand service, but we do have a special 20-unit reserve of this book that we can draw upon for the foreseeable future. We are also offering the 3rd edition of *American Seacoast Defenses* in digital format (PDF) for \$40 via FTP file transfer.

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 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.

#### 2014 Plans

The CDSG Press published our first print-on-demand book through Lulu.com, an internet book provider, in 2011. 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 Beginnings of American Sea-*

*coast Fortifications, 1794-1815*, by Col. Arthur Wade, is Colonel Wade's doctoral dissertation covering the development of the 1st and 2nd systems of coastal fortification during the early years of the United States. Our experience with print-on-demand will lead to other such titles. Please provide your suggestions to Terry McGovern for worthwhile titles (please consider the copyright when suggesting titles) for the CDSG Press to publish.

The CDSG Press is working on a companion volume to *American Seacoast Defenses*, tentatively titled *Guide to Modern American Seacoast Forts (1885-1950)*. This (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 usual 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 a hard-copy version 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 over 98% of our stock of the 2nd edition of this excellent reference guide. Mark has been updating and expanding the range of coast defense information for the 3rd edition, and it is available now in digital form. 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 such proposal is a collection of rare ordnance photographs and drawings from the Aberdeen Proving Grounds archives. This publication would be professionally printed and bound, which will allow for high quality gray-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 sites. We ask our membership to keep offering new ideas for the CDSG Press.

We plan to add "Volume 28" (2014) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to our list of back issues for \$55. While the CDSG Press does not print new works on coast defenses at this time, Redoubt Press does 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 to be considered.

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#### New CDSG.ORG Website Pictures

We now have a "slider" display system for photographs on the main page. The plan is to change the photo array on a regular basis, so submit your photos! The maximum size is 2 MB, and the ideal photograph dimensions are 2-3 inches by 6 inches.

Please give the new website a try. Any suggestions or problems can be sent to webmaster@cdsg.org.

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## CDSG Fund Report 2013

Terrance McGovern, Trustee

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc., by raising funds for preservation and interpretation of American seacoast defenses. The CDSG Fund is seeking donations for preservation projects supporting its goals. Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes 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 Sam Stokes.

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 to \$1,500 grants per year. Upon conclusion of a project a short report suitable for publication in the newsletter is requested.

During 2013 the fund was very disappointed that it made no gifts during the year due to the lack of qualified grant requests. Our membership, especially our CDSG Reps, need to reach out to organizations that are working to preserve and interpret fortification and coast defense sites.

The fund again recognized the efforts of CDSG volunteers by hosting a dinner at the annual conference in Pensacola. 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 \$3,021.27 in gifts during 2013 while making \$0.00 in grants, leaving the fund with a balance of \$7,329.42 at the end of 2013. The fund trustees and the Board of Directors wish to publicly thank the following individuals for making contributions to the fund during the 2013 calendar year:

David Appel	Robert Grimm
Nelson Barnhouse	Gary Hunter
Tom Batha	William Keish
Mark Berhow	David Kirchner
Doug Binau	Terrance McGovern
Jim Bournazos	William Piper
Andrej Bristow	David Propert
John Case	Norm Scarpulla
Nigel Cunningham	John Scholes
Martin Dwyer	Mark Seeger
Stephen Fanciullo	Mark Stokes
William Gaines	Robert Vancour
William Goldsmith	Douglas Walters
Michael Greismer	Chris Zeeman

Send donations, made out to The CDSG Fund, to:

CDSG Fund  
c/o Sam Stokes  
P.O. Box 807  
Bodega Bay, CA 94923-0807 USA  
sestokes@sonic.net

Or use your credit card via PayPal on the [www.cdsg.org](http://www.cdsg.org) website.

Send grant requests to:

The CDSG Fund  
c/o Terry McGovern  
1700 Oak Lane  
McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA  
tcmcgovern@att.net

Please include a written request of your need and how your request relates to the goals of the CDSG.

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## Restoring Battery Lewis

Gail L. Hunton

Supervising Historic Preservation Specialist  
Monmouth County Park System, New Jersey

A new park master plan for Hartshorne Woods Park in 2012 revived interest in the restoration of Battery Lewis, with the objective of opening the historic site to the public. Visitors will be able to walk from one end of the battery to the other, explore the various rooms, and learn through exhibits and guided tours about Battery Lewis and how it functioned, the history of the site, and the historic coastal defenses of the United States. The size of Battery Lewis, and the story of how the home front was defended during World War II, promises to add another popular attraction to the area, with possibilities for cooperative programming with the National Park Service at Fort Hancock.

Battery Lewis, a 16-inch gun battery built in 1942 as part of the Harbor Defenses of New York, survives largely intact, along with the plotting-switchboard room, 6-inch gun Battery 219, and four fire control stations constructed for the Navesink Military Reservation. The other WWII-era buildings, and the structures built between 1949 to 1974 when the site was part of the Nike missile defense system for New York (Highlands Air Force Station, later Highlands Army Air Defense Site) were demolished by the army after base deactivation. Today, the former military reservation is located within a 787-acre county park popular for its forested hills and panoramic views of nearby Sandy Hook and the Atlantic Ocean.

In 2013 the Monmouth County Park System completed the first phase of the Battery Lewis restoration, which repaired the concrete on the two canopies and the wing walls that were exhibiting spalling and stress cracks. We are actively researching the site's history with the help of the Coast Defense Study Group and others, and are preparing the nomination of the entire 224-acre Navesink Military Reservation to the National Register of Historic Places. We have submitted an application to the navy for one of the 16-inch gun barrels from the USS *New Jersey*. The prospect of finding a home for a gun barrel from the

USS *New Jersey* in Hartshorne Woods Park would add a significant feature to Battery Lewis, and will help visitors visualize its historic function. Currently we are preparing plans for the next phase of restoration, which will include interior work to make it visitor-ready, relocation of the gun barrel from Virginia, as well as construction of the concrete pedestal for the gun barrel within the original firing block.

The park system has requested county funding in 2014 for the next phase of restoration, and is seeking funding assistance from the CDSG to help support the many facets of this exciting project. Funds received from CDSG would be used for important components of the battery's restoration and interpretation, such as reconstruction of a section of the shell trolley, conservation of the gun barrel, or purchase of key artifacts. Funds will be held in a dedicated account by The Friends of the Parks, a chartered nonprofit organization that supports the Park System's projects.

We are grateful for the support of CDSG members, who have been generous with their wealth of research, photographs, and expertise. We hope to make you proud with a restored Battery Lewis in the not too distant future!



Battery Lewis, Hartshorne Woods Park

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### CDSG Fund Seeking Donations for Battery Lewis

Monmouth County Park System, New Jersey  
Terrance McGovern, Trustee

Over the past two years the CDSG Fund has donated funds from our members to help several 16-inch/50 barrels find good homes. We provided funds to the Fort Miles Historical Association to help them to move a barrel from St. Julian Creek Naval Annex to Cape Henlopen, DE. We also provided funds to help move a barrel to the USFWS at Cape Charles, VA. We want to do the same for The Friends of the Parks for the Monmouth County Park System, NJ. Having a 16-inch barrel in the gun casemate will allow visitors to have a better understanding of the function of these massive structures. Your donation can make this happen. Remember your gift to the CDSG Fund is tax-deductible for federal tax purposes and 100% of your gift will go to the Battery Lewis 16-inch/50 Project (please indicate this purpose on your check). Please send your check made payable to the CDSG Fund as soon as possible as the CDSG Fund will match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$1,500. Your check should be mailed to Sam

Stokes at P.O. Box 807, Bodega Bay, CA 94923-0807 USA. You can also make a donation via the CDSG website at [www.cdsg.org](http://www.cdsg.org).



Remaining five 16-inch/50 barrels at St. Julian Creek Naval Annex

Please advise Terry McGovern at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net) if you can help find good homes for these remaining barrels.

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### Films From the National Archives Now Available

Bolling Smith

I have copied the following films from the National Archives onto DVDs. If anyone is interested in copies, please contact me.

#### Coast Artillery Training Films

After considerable discussion with other members about coast artillery training films, I found a large number of army training films, under 111-TF (111 indicating they were produced by the Signal Corps). The original films have been transferred to 3/4-inch (NOT 1/2-inch VHS) archival tapes. 3/4-inch-tape copies were in turn made for the use of researchers. The quality of these tapes varies, but most are in good condition, and all are usable. The National Archives's limited number of 3/4-inch tape machines have seen years of use and do not always function perfectly. I also took in my own DVD recorder, which further complicated the process, but gave better, more consistent, results.

Over several weeks I copied, on DVDs, all the training films related to coast artillery. In addition to seacoast and AA guns and fire control, subjects covered included radar, AA directors, searchlights, and barrage balloons. I copied 163 training films onto 90 DVDs. All had to be copied in real time; it took 30 minutes to copy a single 30-minute film, in addition to the time necessary to format and finalize the DVDs. Some DVDs have one film, some have as many as four. All the films are reasonably good copies of what is available in the archives. A list of the films copied, broken down by DVD, is too long for inclusion in the *Newsletter*, but I would glad to email the list to anyone interested.

If anyone would like a set of the training films, **I can supply a set of 90 DVDs for \$250**, including domestic postage. Feel free to contact me with any questions and/or a list of films copied.

#### WW2-Era Newsreels

The National Archives has two principal sets of WW2 newsreels, one civilian, one governmental. There is a ton of interesting

information on the war here, although not all military and not necessarily entirely unbiased. I have not had time to go through them all personally, but have relied on Wikipedia for information. A number of the Universal Newsreels do not have sound.

Since these newsreels are already on DVD, the copying time was reduced, and therefore the cost is lower than for the training films.

Universal Newsreel: 1941/1945

Universal Newsreel (sometimes known as Universal-International Newsreel or just U-I Newsreel) was a series of 7- to 10-minute newsreels released twice a week between 1929 and 1967 by Universal Studios. A Universal publicity official, Sam B. Jacobson, was involved in originating and producing the newsreels. Nearly all of them were filmed in black-and-white, and many were narrated by Ed Herlihy.

In 1976, the films' owner, MCA, made the unusual decision to turn over ownership of all of the newsreels to the National Archives, effectively ending Universal's copyright claim and releasing the films into the public domain. Because royalties no longer have to be paid in order to broadcast them, Universal Newsreels have become a popular source of file footage in recent years. The History Channel made them a key part of the TV series *Year-By-Year*. Also, C-SPAN and CNN regularly use the films for video of events that took place before those networks were founded. (*Wikipedia*)

United News: 1942/1946

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Office\\_of\\_War\\_Information](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Office_of_War_Information). The U.S. Office of War Information (OWI) was created during World War II (WWII). Part of its role was to oversee U.S. propaganda and promote patriotism. As part of this role, the OWI produced 267 newsreels called the "United News." These newsreels were shown throughout the U.S., but were targeted to overseas viewers. The reels were released in several languages, including German. However, they were primarily distributed to allied and neutral countries.

Newsreels average 10 minutes in length and consisted of U.S. military footage depicting allied military operations and other events from the home front. Much of the footage was taken by military combat photographers and is in excellent condition.

Universal Newsreels, 94 DVDs: \$150.

United News, 49 DVDs: \$100.

Domestic postage included.

Bolling Smith  
17301 Will Court  
Accokeek, MD 20607  
bollingsmith@hotmail.com



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**Fortress Study Group News**

The latest edition of *Casemate*, the FSG newsletter, issue number 99, arrived in January. The FGS is still look for an editor to maintain the fine standard set by Charles Blackwood. This issue contains member information and a number of book reviews, as well as trip reports and features on the following: FSG conference report on the defenses at the tip of Cornwall; Expedition "Stop-Line"; Le Bunker de La Rochelle, France; a Gibraltar update; cavalry and sieges; Panama; British 9.2 in BL coast defense guns, a Dalmatian "Vis-it"; a holiday with a bang; and the walls of Dubrovnik. As always, the newsletter had a full-color cover and a full-color insert.

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**2014 Conference  
San Diego and Los Angeles**

See our nation's key defenses on the southern California coast. San Diego's Point Loma Peninsula 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.

In Los Angeles see Fort MacArthur, Battery Osgood-Farley's restored BC station and power room, and the other batteries, fire control stations, and Nike missile sites of the Upper Reservation, 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, please send me an email (non-binding) so I can gauge interest; this will help me with hotel reservations. Hotels are currently being selected in both locations. Local members are helping and acting as my "boots on the ground." Many thanks to them.



The former San Diego Naval Training Center - now Liberty Station



Submarine memorials at the former San Diego Naval Training Center

Check out the CDSG web site for updates prior to the next *Newsletter*. The May *Newsletter* will have the conference registration form. Be aware that the US Navy will require names and social security numbers 45 days prior to the conference.

Mike Fiorini  
mrfiorini@comcast.net

Wednesday, October 1: Afternoon check-in 3:00 PM with evening organizational meeting and presentations.

Thursday, October 2: Board CDSG-provided bus to sub base/ Ft. Rosecrans, Cabrillo National Park, and West side of Pt. Loma Peninsula, followed by evening presentations.

Friday, October 3: Board CDSG-provided bus for Coronado/ Ft. Emory and Border Field State Park in the morning. Mid-day, drive in private cars to LA / San Pedro hotel. Annual dinner meeting in the evening, presentations if time allows.

Saturday, October 4: Upper reservation Ft. MacArthur; evening presentations. Conference officially ends.

Sunday, October 5: Outlying sites in the morning, Whites Point Battery Bunker & Nike Launch area), Sea Bench base end stations, and Point Vicente (Battery 240, Nike launch area, and base end stations).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Fire Rips Great Diamond Island Hotel.**

The Inn at Diamond Cove Sustains About \$5 Million to \$9 Million in Damage Saturday Morning

By Beth Quimby

Staff Writer, *The Portland Press Herald*

November 23, 2013

Fire ripped through a hotel under construction on Great Diamond Island in Casco Bay early Saturday, causing an estimated \$5 million to \$9 million in damage. The building was under renovation and was scheduled to open next year. The state Fire Marshal's Office will help with the investigation into the cause of the fire.



Bill Finney photo



City of Portland photo

Portland Fire Department officials said the fire broke out about 4:25 a.m. at the Inn at Diamond Cove at 18 McKinley Court. The fire, which required much equipment to extinguish because it was so large, was under control by 10 a.m. No one was injured in the blaze. City firefighters left the island around 5 p.m. Saturday, Portland spokeswoman Sheila Hill-Christian said, but volunteers and island security guards planned to



keep watch on the site overnight to make sure hot spots didn't flare up.

Deputy Fire Chief Robert Wassick said the blaze was reported by a Casco Bay Bridge tender who spotted a large fire on the horizon in Casco Bay. The department's fireboat and 20 firefighters were sent to the scene. They arrived at the island about 4:50 a.m. to find the three-story brick structure engulfed in flames. The building's roof collapsed during the fire.

The building was being developed by Diamond Cove LLC into a full-service hotel and condominium complex with a variety of room types at the Fort McKinley site, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, said Jeff Levine, the city's planning and urban development director. The head of the development group, David Bateman, did not respond to a phone call and an email seeking comment Saturday.

Fort McKinley was built at the turn of the 20th century, designed to protect Portland Harbor during the Spanish-American War. It closed after World War II and was redeveloped in the 1990s into the upscale Diamond Cove community.

The building, the last of the unredeveloped structures on the site, was undergoing renovation and due to open as the Inn at Diamond Cove next year. Originally the hotel project was opposed by some homeowners, who went to court to try to block it. The construction was nearing completion, Levine said.

Wassick said the state Fire Marshal's Office will help with the investigation into the cause of the fire because of the scope of the damage. Sgt. Joel Davis of the Fire Marshal's Office said it could take several days to make the building, which was a complete loss, safe for investigators.

City officials said investigators would likely interview witnesses Monday before beginning a thorough search of the debris. The cause of the blaze has not been ruled suspicious at this point. Twenty volunteer firefighters from Great Diamond Island's station and Long Island also responded to the fire. About 20 people live on Great Diamond Island in the winter.

*Staff Writer Edward D. Murphy contributed to this report. Beth Quimby can be contacted at 791-6363 or at quimby@pressherald.com*

## **Fire Causes As Much As \$9 Million In Damage to Historic Island Fort Building In Portland**

By Seth Koenig, Bangor Daily News  
Posted Nov. 23, 2013, at 10:55 a.m.

PORTLAND, Maine—An early morning fire Saturday did between \$5 million and \$9 million worth of damage to a historic island fort property being renovated as a hotel. According to an announcement Saturday morning by Deputy Portland City Manager Sheila Hill-Christian, the Portland Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 18 McKinley Court on Great Diamond Island at approximately 4:30 a.m.

The fire was reported by the Casco Bay Bridge tender who reported seeing a glow from the island, she said after an 11 a.m. press conference at Portland City Hall. The Inn at Diamond Cove, a project under construction, was found ablaze, Hill-Christian stated. "The Inn at Diamond Cove is being developed in

a former U.S. Army Barracks on the Fort McKinley site on Great Diamond Island," she wrote in her morning announcement. "It is a reuse of the last, and largest, building on the complex into a full-service hotel with a variety of room types. This site is on the National Register of Historic Places."

Firefighters and police officers from Portland and Long Island joined island volunteers at the scene. Fire personnel were still at the scene as of 12:30 p.m. Saturday, although Hill-Christian said the blaze was under control and no injuries were reported. She described the damage as being worth between \$5 million and \$9 million to the historic property in a press release issued about 12:30 p.m.

"Due to the magnitude and location of the fire, we have requested and received approval for the State Fire Marshal's office to assist in the investigation," said Deputy Portland Fire Chief Robert Wassick in a statement. "This is routine under these circumstances." The State Fire Marshal's Office will provide periodic updates regarding the investigation, Hill-Christian said in the afternoon press release.

Fire Marshal Sgt. Joel Davis said in the release that getting heavy equipment out to the island would be a challenge in the investigation. The equipment will be needed to move heavy debris in order to fully evaluate evidence at the scene, the press release said. The city of Portland acquired the historic barracks property in 2005 due to unpaid taxes and agreed to turn it over to hotel developers four years later for \$1. A group of Great Diamond Island residents protested the hotel project, arguing the new influx of transient visitors would disrupt the island's neighborhood atmosphere. Jeff Levine, director of Planning and Urban Development for the city, said at the press conference that "this project is a wonderful reuse of a long abandoned property. While the future status of this project is now unknown, we remain optimistic with regard to development of the site."

\* \* \* \* \*

## **3D Printer Models of Gun Batteries**

Karl Fritz

About two months ago, I was at a demonstration of 3D printing, where information was given about some of the resources available. Among other things, it was noted that low-end 3D printers are as cheap as \$300. (The better ones tend towards \$2000, but prices may be dropping significantly in the near term, as certain patents expire this year.) But for those who do not want to indulge in such toys at this time, there are other options. There exists 3D design software (Tinkercad.com is one such free resource) and websites (such as ShapeWays.com) that will produce what you create.

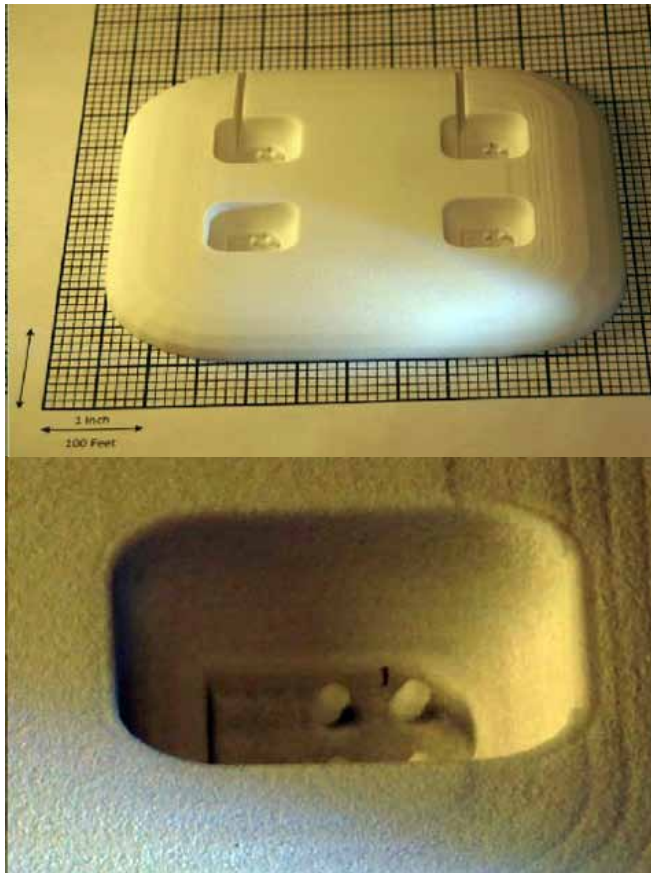
So.... naturally, I had to play around and see what I could do. I decided to try creating some 3D models of Endicott-era gun batteries. I opted for 1/1200 scale, for several reasons:

1. Cost. The cost of having an object printed costs is relative to the amount of material used. The larger item ran into the \$40 range. Smaller ones got down to about \$10.
2. Translating dimensions. At 1/1200 scale, 1 inch equals 100 feet. That is convenient.

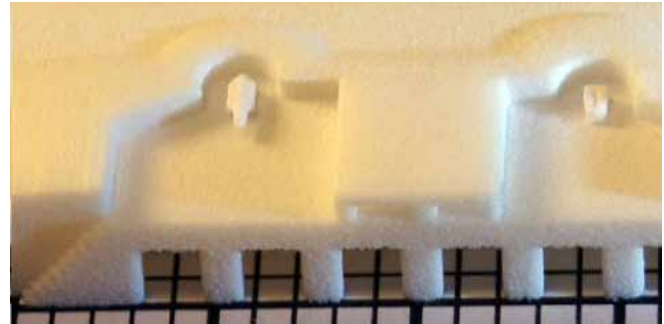
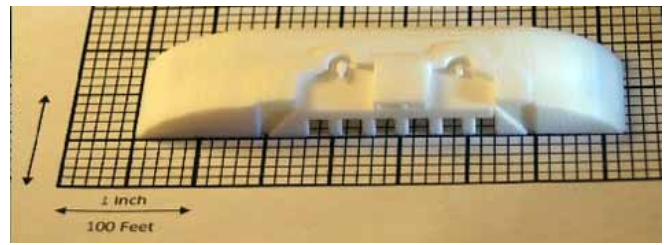
3. Utility. 1/1200 scale is a popular scale for naval miniatures wargaming, so if the designs were not all that great, they could still be of some use.

I was not aiming for super-accuracy on these models. At 1/1200 scale, a lot of detail will disappear. Also, using TinkerCad and ShapeWays, the material was plastic, unpolished, strong and flexible, but limited to 0.7 mm material thickness, which at 1/1200 scale is 2.7 feet. The minimum detail is rated as 0.2 mm, just under 1 foot of detail. Also, I was getting used to the new software to design the models, and being that the software was free, it was not going to be as capable as more expensive software. Finally, my ability to read blueprints is limited, so I probably was not getting all of the dimensions correct, anyway. So consider these more as “proof of concept” designs, to get a feel for what was possible.

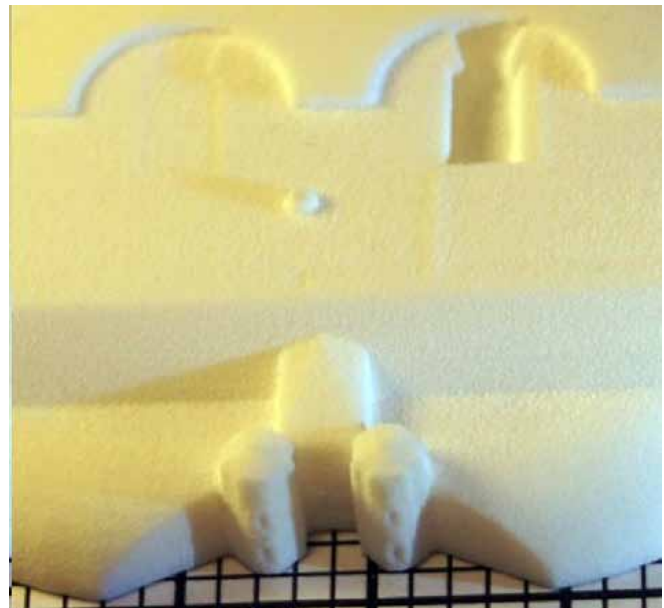
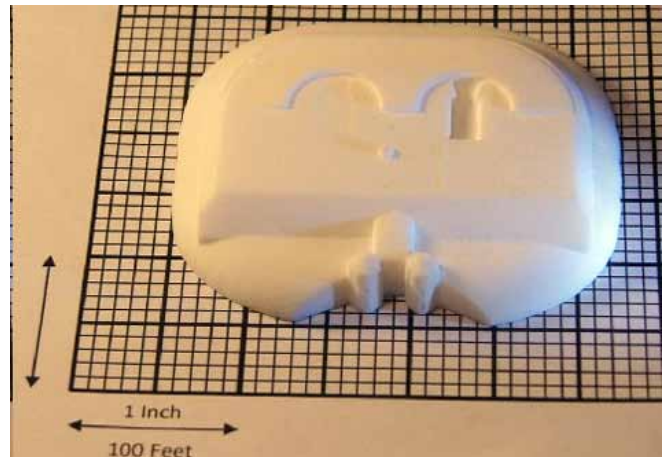
My first project was an Abbot-quad mortar battery. This was a relatively large model (about 4x5x1 inches, and I spent a weekend designing it. This was actually the second design - I had to redo it to thin out the walls in an effort to reduce the price. My attempts to show the mortars in the pits did not turn out well. All detail was lost, leaving a bunch of small pegs leaning at a slight angle.



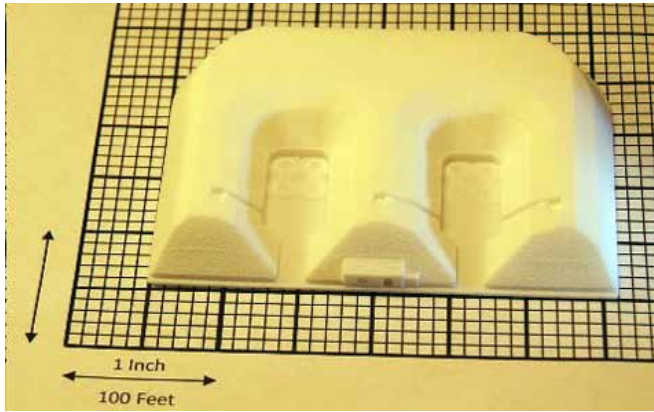
Next I tried a disappearing gun battery. This only took me a couple hours to design. Again, the guns did not turn out that well. The gun on the left, in the loading position, turned out marginal. The gun on the right was supposed to be in the firing position, but the barrel is simply missing - I don't know if it just did not print or broke off afterwards. On the other hand, you can differentiate between the concrete parapet and the earthen front. And the stairs actually show steps.



Next I tried a gun lift battery. OK, I am not all that satisfied with the earthen base around the battery. I would probably do it different if I were to try this again. At this point, I abandoned trying to show the actual guns. The gun platform on the right is lowered, the one on the left is raised (it is slightly depressed so you can see it, if you look close).

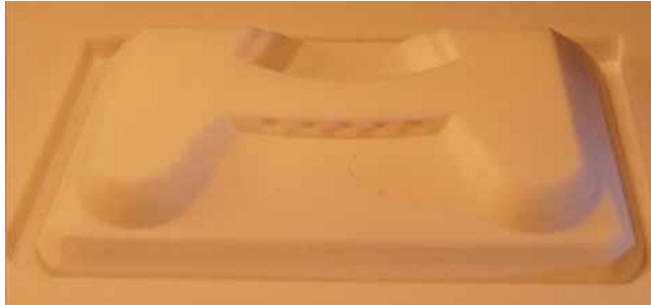


I tried a smaller mortar battery. This one turned out much more to my liking. Again, I did not try to put mortars in the pits.



For my final project at this point, I decided to try a battery that had never been built. I had found 1888 plans at NARA for an iron casemate for five 50-ton guns. This took me the better part of a weekend to design.

Front:



Rear:



I might try creating smaller batteries in 1/600 or 1/700 scale. At those scales, I might be able to give reasonable depictions of the guns, either as part of the battery, or made separately to be added later. I could also make use of brass gun barrels that are available to increase the accuracy of naval models. I am also thinking of trying some other unusual things, like a battery of guns on King's depressing carriages, or maybe some pneumatic dynamite guns. Who knows, maybe I'll try a Timby revolving turret. We will see.

But, basically, I wanted to show that this sort of stuff gives us the potential to recreate gun batteries or post buildings, including those that have been modified, long since been destroyed, or never even actually constructed. There are all kinds of things we can do with this sort of technology.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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Be sure to include your name and shipping address.

You can also order online at <http://cdsg.org/shopping/>

\* \* \*

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The CDSG Fund is always seeking proposals for the monetary support (up to \$500) of preservation and interpretation projects at public parks and museums. A one-page proposal briefly describing the site, the organization doing the work, the project to be done or supported, and how the money would be used, should be sent to the address listed below.

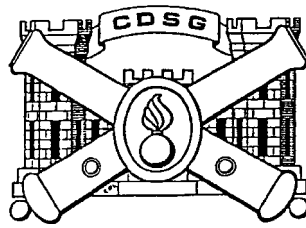
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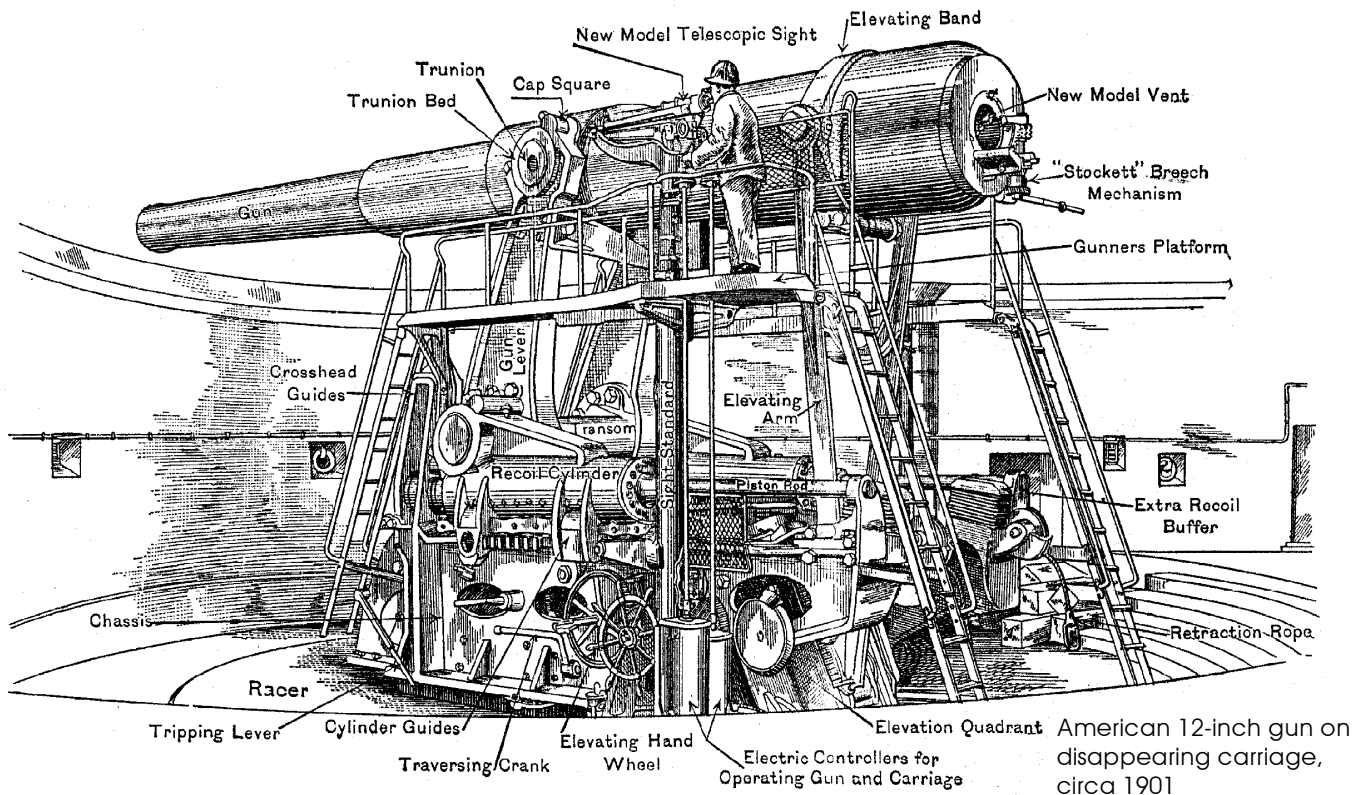
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*Submission deadlines are the first of the month in February, May, August, and November of each calendar year.* All rights are reserved. Comments on business matters should be addressed directly to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

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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

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