



# The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — February 2016



## Chairman's Message

Quentin Schillare

Conferences: Capstone of the CDSG Year

The CDSG has a yearly cycle based on a fiscal year that matches the calendar year. We recruit and sustain members, collect dues, and convert them into the quarterly publications and the other activities of our organization. All this is managed by the board of directors, officers, and chairs and members of the various committees you see listed on the last page of this newsletter. While everything the CDSG does promotes the study of seacoast fortifications, the annual conference is the main event of the year. As an organization, annual conferences and special tours are the most visible group activities of the CDSG.

Most Coast Defense Study Group members are historians at heart. We are students of the past. The story of the architecture, technology, equipment, employment, and other aspects of coast defense holds our interest enough to join the organization, read its publications, occasionally write for those publications, attend its conferences / special tours, and volunteer to contribute to its continued success.

Many amateur historians are lazy. Not intellectually lazy in the sense that we do not want to learn, but we like to optimize learning opportunities. Reading and independent study build knowledge, but there are few activities that concentrate learning about seacoast defense like the annual CDSG conferences. The chance to visit multiple locations and see the artifacts of our military past in an organized fashion with expert local guides and our members, many of the people most knowledgeable of coast, harbor, and air defense history, is not to be missed.

Conference organization facilitates the experience. Daily orientation briefings, conference notes, escorted tours, and evening presentations enhance the accumulation of knowledge. The ability to access hard-to-reach locations normally closed to the general public and requiring special permission from government and private land owners and special transportation is especially valuable. Conferences also provide something most of us need—discipline. If you sign up and pay, you might as well go. You are bound to learn something. I realize that every member cannot come to every conference every year. Life can be complicated, but for CDSG members nothing beats a conference.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is information about this year's conference to Portsmouth and North Boston and the 2017 get-together to the defenses of Eastern and Southern New York. The tentative schedule for future conferences includes the Columbia River (2018), Chesapeake Bay (2019), New Orleans (2020), Charleston & Savannah (2021), San Francisco (2022), and Long Island Sound (2023).

## CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2016 CDSG Annual Conference  
September 14 - 18, 2016  
HD Portsmouth NH  
Craig Lentz, [windsorgroup@msn.com](mailto:windsorgroup@msn.com)

2017 CDSG Annual Conference  
March 28 - April 2, 2017  
New York  
N. Scarpulla & S. Welch, [nands.scarpulla@verizon.net](mailto:nands.scarpulla@verizon.net)

CDSG Special Tour  
August 2017  
Cuba  
Glen Williford, [glen1430@att.net](mailto:glen1430@att.net)

2018 CDSG Conference  
April 2018  
Columbia River, OR/WA  
Mark Berhow, [berhowma@comcast.net](mailto:berhowma@comcast.net)

## Other Meetings and Tours

April 2 - 11, 2016  
Menno van Coehoorn Meeting and Tour  
Bunnik - Netherlands  
Fritz van Horn, [fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl](mailto:fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl)

April 9 - 19, 2016  
FORTE CULTURA Pilot Tour  
Antwerp - Belgium  
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, [hrv.neumann@t-online.de](mailto:hrv.neumann@t-online.de)

May 4 - 8, 2016  
INTERFEST Meeting  
Sargans, Switzerland  
Florian Browsers, [browsers@t-online.de](mailto:browsers@t-online.de)

May 4 - 8, 2016  
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference  
Frederick, MD  
Marylou Gjernes, [mjgernes@earthlink.net](mailto:mjgernes@earthlink.net)

May 5 - 8, 2016  
Association Vauban Annual Congress  
Alpes Maritime  
Mary Pierdalt Fillie, [marie.pierdatfille@laposte.net](mailto:marie.pierdatfille@laposte.net)

May 7 - 14, 2016  
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour  
Menorca/Majorca  
Alistar Graham Kerr, psgeditor@hotmail.com

May 27 - 28, 2016  
Menno van Coehoorn Meeting and Tour  
Maastricht - Netherlands  
Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

September 2 - 5, 2016  
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
Chichester/The Solent  
Alistar Graham Kerr, psgeditor@hotmail.com

September 15 - 19, 2016  
Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaries Tour  
Austria  
Col. Pascal Bruchez, president@www.asmem.ch

September 22 - 25, 2016  
Association Vauban Study Tour  
Portugal  
Mary Pierdalt Fillie, marie.pierdatfille@laposte.net

September 23 - 25, 2016  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festung Annual Conference  
Saarlouis - Germany  
Andrea Theissen, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

October 1 - 11, 2016  
INTERFEST Tour  
Edirne, Gallipoli, Istanbul - Turkey  
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

October 1 - 8, 2016  
Menno van Coehoorn Meeting and Tour  
Wesel - Germany  
Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

October 13 - 15, 2016  
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting  
Toulon, France  
Kees Neisingh, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

November 5, 2016  
Menno van Coehoorn Meeting and Tour  
Vught - Netherlands  
Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

February 2017  
INTERFEST Tour  
Maharashtra, Mumbai, Goa - India  
Hans-Rudolf Neuman, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

May 2017  
ICOFORT Annual Conference  
Northern Norway  
Milagros Flores, milagrosflores44@aol.com

May 2017  
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour  
Lake Garda, Italy  
Alistar Graham Kerr, psgeditor@hotmail.com

September 2017  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festung Annual Conference  
Ingolstadt - Germany  
Andrea Theissen, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

September 2017  
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
Alderney, Channel Islands  
Alistar Graham Kerr, psgeditor@hotmail.com

We have volunteer coordinators for 2016 through 2020, but misery loves company. Anyone who lives near one of these locations, has special knowledge of the places identified, or would like to learn about them, is encouraged to volunteer. As the cliché has it: teachers learn twice, once when they are mastering the material and once again when they are teaching it. The same goes for conference coordinators. Contact anyone of the volunteers on the last page of this newsletter for further information.

If you are going on the special tour to Panama later this month, I will see you there. If not, see you in Portsmouth.

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## 2016 Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, Norm Scarpula and Mike Fiorini, are seeking candidates for the board to consider by May 1. The ballot will be included in the May 2016 Newsletter with results by July 31. Results will announced in August 2016 Newsletter. The three-year term will begin October 1, 2016. If you are interested in running or have a nomination, please contact Norm (nands.scarpulla@verizon.net) or Mike (mrfiorini@comcast.net) before May 1.

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## Preservation Committee Report

Year in Review 2015

Gordon Bliss

Two of the largest concerns this past year are Fort Monroe and Gateway National Recreation Area (NRA). Gateway has adopted a new General Management Plan (GMP), the option least favorable to the historical elements, particularly the concrete batteries. At Sandy Hook (Fort Hancock), most of the concrete batteries are now in areas labeled as "ruins" and are being left to decay in place, including any remaining interior components. This is particularly true for 12-inch casemated batteries Kingman & Mills, which are more remote. Remaining overhead rails are rusting and falling away and water seepage is causing spalling. Like some of the other batteries, they are inadequately sealed from outside entry. On a hopefully more positive note, a number of historic structures in the main post area have been offered for lease with part of the leasing conditions that they be rehabilitated. Though not a perfect solution; they will still be under a degree of NPS control which should prevent them from being significantly altered. And given the current priorities I think it is likely that any building that is significantly damaged or reaches a certain level of decay will be demolished rather than being rehabilitated or even stabilized. I have focused on the Sandy Hook area because I do not have the same level of information for the other areas of Gateway NRA in New York City, but given the priorities in the new GMP, coast defense structures there will be well down the list.

At Fort Monroe, things look potentially more positive. All the concrete batteries except for Batteries Parrott and Irwin, along with the Third-System fort and all the structures within that, are within the National Monument (NM) boundaries and are at least safe from development. Batteries Parrott and Irwin are within the boundaries for the proposed Waterfront Park. Initial indications are that this will more likely help keep them safe and that the NPS may wish to include them into the NM boundaries; we will have to see this year as the Waterfront Park process goes forward. The CDSG is providing input into this.

In San Francisco, the Doyle Drive replacement project (the Presidio Parkway) is nearing completion. This will open up access to the batteries near the national cemetery, though I have not seen or heard how much of the battery structures will be above the surface. Information on the overall project can be found at: <http://www.presidioparkway.org/>. There has also been considerable activity in Golden Gate NRA: continued progress in interpreting Battery Townsley and improvements in the area along the main gun line, including a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the service road behind the gun line. I hope we can see more of this type of positive activity at NPS locations along the east coast, where we seem to have more engagement with state controlled sites.

Speaking of which, at the annual conference this year covering the Delaware River, the attendees had the opportunity to see the improvements and ongoing activities at Forts Mott, Delaware, Mifflin, and Miles. My hearty thanks for their efforts and the hospitality they showed us.

A number of other individual site items have also occurred during last year:

- In San Diego, the navy is going ahead with the demolition of Battery 134. There appears to be almost nothing that can be salvaged from it, so all we will get is documentation of the battery. A final walk-through with local CDSG representatives should have been conducted by the time this column appears.
- At Fort Casey, HD Puget Sound, Washington State Parks has approved a plan to spend money on interpretive signage and passive displays. In addition, there are a number of other actual and potential activities that will improve assets at the park.
- In Fort Rodman, New Bedford, MA, the local fire department is pushing to have a second exit added to the Fort at Clark's Point (sometimes known as Fort Taber) in order to hold events with any significant number of people. Instead of creating an opening where one previously existed on the side of the fort, they want it to be on the seaward face opposite the current opening. The CDSG is opposed to defacing the fort.
- The Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower have done some repairs and continue to raise money to restore this fire control tower. Their webpage is at <http://www.friendsofpulпитrocktower.org/>.
- House Island in the harbor of Portland, Maine, has been declared an historic district by the city, which should help protect Fort Scammel from any threat.

### Quadrennial Preservation Soapbox

It seems to growing longer between these occasional editorials. I would like to see this column also used to pass on sources and information about preserving sites, structures, and any remaining contents thereof. In addition, questions asked about the details or significance of particular batteries and other structures can help with preservation by bringing attention to unique or unusual features that provide justification on why something should be saved. There is a large body of knowledge in the CDSG and asking about a seemingly minor item can lead to information that helps in the preservation of something as a whole. There is already a great amount of information on the CDSG website and the CDSG email group and website forum have been useful in getting questions answered. I hope that this column, along with the Representative Committee, can help in this.

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

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## Coast Defense Study Group Press Annual Update

Terrance McGovern, Chairman

### 2015 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 - Mark Berhow, Terry McGovern, Jon Prostack, Tom Kavanagh, and Tom Batha for their long-term volunteer work for our organization.

We have added "Volume 29" (2015) of the Coast Defense Journal and CDSG Newsletter to our list of back issues. This volume is only available via a DVD which contains our entire *Journal-Newsletter* collection, over 12,000 pages of coast defense articles for only \$55. Once you purchase this DVD, "CDSG Publications 1985-2015," you can buy yearly updates for only \$10 upon the return of the previously purchased DVD. Our coast defense document collections, known collectively as "HD Records" (such as RCWs, Engineer Notes, Quartermaster, and HD Annexes) is also available under our CDSG ePress label in PDF format (see references page at our web site, "cdsg.org"). The complete collection of these digital files is available for \$250. These DVDs are a digital collection of the key National Archives coast defense documents from Bolling Smith's collection without all the paper. These are great reference items and can help you write articles for our *CD Journal*. Single harbor defenses collection of these documents are also available at the cost of \$50 on one or two DVDs. A companion digital product is our "CDSG Documents" DVD with a great collection of key coast artillery reports and manuals for only \$50.

We published (hardcopy version) the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of *American Seacoast Defenses* (ASD3) in May 2015 via Thomson-Shore, using their "print-on-demand" service this time. We have sold about 90 ASD3 so far at \$45 including shipping, but unlike the traditional printing process we only order a similar number of books as we can always have more printed on demand. Mark has updated and expanded the range of coast defense information for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (it is also available in PDF digital form for \$40 via FTP file transfer). Please place your order for a hardcopy version of ASD3 so you will have the most comprehensive guide on your favorite subject.

While actually part of our Membership Committee activities, the CDSG Press handles the distribution of our T-shirts (\$18), patches (\$4), and hats (\$20). We updated our t-shirt design in 2015 as we needed to reorder due to a low inventory. Please purchase one of these items to promote the CDSG to others and grow our membership.

Here is a summary of reprint efforts to date: Our 2011 project, *Artillerists and Engineers* has sold 75 books on demand through Lulu.com, while we sold 69 hard copies (100%) to date out of a press run of 69. Our 2007 project, *Endicott-Taft Report* has sold 235 books/plates (55%) to date out of a press run of 427. Our 2004 project, *American Seacoast Defenses* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (ASDII) has sold 503 books (100%) to date out of a press run of 503. Our 2001 reprint project, *American Coast Artillery Material* has sold 265 units (66%) 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 331 units (62%) out of 532 printed. Our 1996 reprint book, *Seacoast Artillery Weapons*, has sold 415 copies (98%) out of our press run of 419. We have sold a total of 356 copies (98%) of our 1994 reprint book, *Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction*.

As you can see from the paragraph above we have almost sold out of several titles. We plan to continue to offer these books through an "online print-on-demand" service, but we do need to consider the number of future sales to justify the set-up costs to have these print-on-demand titles.

We have been donating our remaining stock of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the ASD to coast defense site owners to help educate them about our favorite subject. Please provide Terry McGovern the contact information for site owners that would benefit from having a copy of the ASD. You should also consider donating your own 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (once you purchase the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) to non-members to encourage them to join the CDSG.

### 2015 Plans

The CDSG Press published our first "print-on-demand" book through Lulu.com, an internet provider of books, in 2011. Now we have a second experience of "print-on-demand" with the ASD3. 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. These excellent experiences with "print on demand" we hope will lead to other such titles. Please provide your suggestions to Terry McGovern for worthwhile titles for the CDSG Press to publish. (Please consider the copyright when suggesting titles.)

The CDSG Press is working on companion volume to the ASD3. This publication will be a *Guide to Modern American Seacoast Forts (1885-1950)*. This work (ASF) will focus on the history, key features, location, and the current status/access of each American coast defense fort (using site maps and old & current aerial photos). The book will also include an introduction, battery listing, and sources. Terry McGovern is assembling this work with Mark Berhow providing his excellent layout skills. Once we finish the 1<sup>st</sup> draft, we will be circulating it to various regional CDSG members for their review and comments. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net 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.

Several proposals have been offered for future new CDSG Press projects. One such proposal is a collection of rare ordnance photographs and drawings from the archives of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. This publication would be professionally printed and bound to allow 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 the goal of promoting the preservation of these rare sites. We ask our membership to keep offering new ideas for the CDSG Press.

We plan to add "Volume 30" (2016) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and CDSG Newsletter to our DVD of back issues for \$55. 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 a title that you would like to be considered.

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**CDSG Projects & Website Committee**

Mark Berhow

Work continues on keeping the CDSG website up to date. We have hired Hook Associates in Lewes, DE, to help maintain and update the CDSG website. There is not a lot of other new projects in the works, but we are always open to suggestions.

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**CDSG Membership Committee**

Mark Berhow & Quentin Schillere

The membership database is temporarily being maintained by Mark Berhow. We are using a nice database that was created by Sam Stokes in Filemaker Pro in 2014. We currently have a membership of 392, with 125 members from 2015 that have not yet renewed for 2016 as of February 10. If your name is on the delinquent list we need you to renew either by mail or by credit card on the CDSG.org website! Next October Quentin Schillere will be taking over the membership responsibilities.

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**The CDSG and Credit Cards**

Mark Berhow

For those of you who have had problems with credit card payments on the CDSG website, here are a few things to note.

We ONLY accept credit card payments through a web service called PayPal.

*You DO NOT have to have a PayPal account nor do you have to create a PayPal account to use your credit card.*

Once you complete your order on the CDSG website and click the payment button, you have an option to use EITHER your credit card or make a PayPal transfer. If you want to pay by credit card, *you have to select the credit card option* on the PayPal page.

Using this method we do not have to pay yearly credit card user fees (which can be very expensive), we pay the credit card fee with each transaction through PayPal.

Occasionally, we have had problems with the CDSG website NOT completing orders or membership renewals, issues that are separate from completing a PayPal form. This is either due to incomplete filling out of the on-line form or to software issues resulting from on-going website upgrade processes. If this happens, please email me so I can look into the matter. I cannot fix what I do not know about!

As electronic banking becomes more and more the norm, I hope our members are able to use their credit cards to make purchases and to renew their memberships. It does make life a bit easier in terms of record keeping. Please let me know if you have any problems or issues with our website.

The CDSG website is: [cdsg.org](http://cdsg.org)  
Our CDSG PayPal account is: [cdsgpress@cdsg.org](mailto:cdsgpress@cdsg.org)  
Contact Mark Berhow: [berhowma@cdsg.org](mailto:berhowma@cdsg.org)

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**CDSG Fund Report 2015**

Terrance McGovern, Trustee

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. by raising funds for the 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 CDSG Fund for 2015 were Terry McGovern and Mark Berhow.

The fund is always seeking proposals for the monetary support of preservation and interpretation projects at former coast defense sites 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 *CDSG Newsletter* is requested.

During 2015, the fund made only two grants during the year due to the lack of qualified grant requests. These grants were to Delaware State Parks for the purchase of steel plates to make doors for the mine casemate, Battery 519 PSR, and Battery Smith PSR at Cape Henlopen State Park (Fort Miles). These WWII structures were unburied for the CDSG Annual Conference and rather than rebury the entrances we provided funds to make secure doors. The second grant was for signage for the planned restoration of the bakery building at Fort Ward on Bainbridge Island in Washington State. 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 Middletown, Delaware. We also continued a program to supply public fort sites with copies of our publications to aid their understanding and preservation of the structures in their care.

The CDSG Fund received \$2,859.48 in donations during 2015 while making \$2,280.13 in grants, leaving the fund with a balance of \$10,617.18 at the end of 2015. The fund trustees and CDSG Board of Directors wish to publicly thank the following individuals for making contributions to the fund during 2015:

- |                    |                    |                  |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Appel, David       | Hunter, Gary       | Seeger, Mark     |
| Binau, Douglas     | Keish, William     | Seward, Jon      |
| Bournazos, James   | Kenneally, Charles | Shepherd, John   |
| Cox, Richard       | McGovern, Terrence | Stokes, Samuel   |
| Cole, Merle        | Murdock, Scott     | Walters, Douglas |
| Derose, Peter      | Nee, Denis         | Wood, Sid        |
| Fanciullo, Stephen | Novak, Ronald      |                  |
| Fiorini, Michael   | Percy, Peter       |                  |
| Floyd, Dale        | Scanlon, Gene      |                  |
| Frey, Michael      | Schillare, Quentin |                  |

Send donations to (and made out to):  
CDSG Fund  
c/o Mark Berhow  
PO Box 6124  
Peoria, IL 61601-6124 USA  
berhowma@comcast.net

Or use your credit card via PayPal on the www.cdsg.org website

Send grant requests to:  
CDSG Fund  
c/o Terry McGovern  
1700 Oak Lane  
McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA  
tcmcgovern@att.net

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

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### **Proposed Future CDSG Tour to the Defenses of Switzerland**

Terrance McGovern



Swiss cows man 10.5 cm turret at Festung Furggels, Sargans

As we reported in past CDSG *Newsletters*, the CDSG has been invited by Pascal Bruchez and Maurice Lovisa of the ASMEM (Association St-Maurice d'Etudes Militaires), the primary fortification study group in Switzerland (similar to the CDSG) to visit the fortifications of Switzerland. The focus of the tour will be the National Redoubt encompassing a widely distributed set of fortifications on a general east-west line through the Alps, centering on three major complexes: Fortresses St. Maurice, St. Gotthard, and Sargans. These fortresses primarily defended the alpine crossings between Germany and Italy. We will also visit a few defense sites of the Border Line, the advance line of defenses near the borders, and the Army Position, somewhat farther back. These two defense lines were designed to protect the Swiss heartlands (the industrialized and populated heart of Switzerland)



Chain mail helps protect this 15.5 cm casemate at Festung Magletsch, Sargans

So far we have not had much interest in this tour to the Swiss Defenses. We need at least 20 members to attend this tour to justify organizing such a tour. Please let Terry McGovern know at tcmcgovern@att.net of your interest in attending a 10 day special tour to Switzerland. Based on your response by the end of the year we will begin the detailed planning process. The timing of the tour would be during the summer but until we have at least 20 member signed up we will not set a date or year.

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### **Fort Rodman New Bedford, Massachusetts**

David Larsen

On December 2, 2015, I visited Fort Rodman in New Bedford, Massachusetts. This site includes the Third System "Fort at Clark's Point," a series of Endicott batteries built 1899-1902, and the 1924 Battery Milliken (12" BCLR), casemated in WW2. During the Civil War, because the stone Third-System work was incomplete, a temporary earthwork fort was built on the site and named Fort Taber. This name remained in use for the entire complex until the army officially named the site Fort Rodman in 1898.

The fortifications are in Fort Taber Park, operated and maintained by the City of New Bedford, open all year. An entrance fee is charged in the summer.

<http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/parks-recreation-beaches/fort-taber/>



Also in the park is the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association Museum. Veterans volunteer their time to keep this worthwhile endeavor running smoothly. The museum is filled with interesting exhibits and it hosts living history events at the fort. Check their website for dates, information and other details: <http://forttaber.org>. Overall condition of the entire Fort Rodman property is good.

The Third-System Fort at Clark's Point is in fair-to-good condition overall. Rooms and quarters are mostly gutted and brickwork needs stabilization. Some arches in the casemates are braced with timbers to provide temporary structural support. The granite is otherwise excellent. Some catwalk remnants exist. An Endicott-Period fire control station and a searchlight shelter stand on the rampart. The Fort at Clark's Point is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The vegetation that was cleared around the Endicott batteries about two to three years ago is beginning to grow back. Batteries Barton, Walcott, Cross, Craig, and Gaston all exhibit some concrete deterioration but overall are in sound condition. Two Panama mounts are in good condition. Battery Milliken has some fencing but is accessible. There is significant erosion over and under the burster slab at Gun No. 1. In 2014, the Corps of Engineers installed barricade rails to prevent falls at the Endicott batteries, and over Battery Milliken's entrances and gun rooms.

Only a few of the support structures from the Endicott Period and later remain. A water treatment plant occupies most of what was the cantonment area.

Events cannot accommodate many people inside the Fort at Clark's Point without hiring a special fire detail because the sally port is the single exit. The New Bedford Fire Department wants a second exit, and holds the position that it should be on one of the bayside fronts. The museum has proposed to reopen the door to the mine casemate or the radiator opening in the power plant, creating a second exit on the land front. For now, the museum can admit a small number of people to visit the fort's interior with a guide, but if the maximum number of people is reached, the museum is required to arrange for a fireman to stand by with a fire extinguisher. The cost of doing so effectively restricts visitation until a solution is implemented.

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## Historic Cannons in Baltimore County Undergo a Makeover

By Pamela Wood

December 28 *The Washington Post*

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/historic-cannons-in-baltimore-county-undergo-a-makeover/2015/12/28/439ec45a-ad88-11e5-b711-1998289ffcea\\_story.html?wpmm=1&wpsrc=nl\\_lclheads](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/historic-cannons-in-baltimore-county-undergo-a-makeover/2015/12/28/439ec45a-ad88-11e5-b711-1998289ffcea_story.html?wpmm=1&wpsrc=nl_lclheads)

For decades, visitors to Fort Howard Park in southeastern Baltimore County have admired — and to some extent abused — a pair of historic cannons.

The cannons have been climbed on like a jungle gym and used as trash receptacles. Names have been carved in the barrels.

Now, thanks to the work of community residents and a retired Maryland Army National Guard staff sergeant, the cannons — M1906 field artillery guns — are getting a makeover at the guard maintenance facility in Havre de Grace, where service members are working to restore them to their World War I-era glory.

Officials in Baltimore County, which operates Fort Howard Park, acknowledge the nearly 100-year-old cannons are the victims of “benign neglect,” suffering from a lack of maintenance and in a general state of disrepair.

“They were just put there, and they wasted away,” said Kathy Labuda, secretary of the Fort Howard Community Association.

The association put the cannons high on its list of issues to address but initially didn't have much luck.

Things got moving, though, when residents found a community partner they didn't know existed: Les Ernest, a recently retired staff sergeant and 31-year veteran of the National Guard.

Ernest said he was on a walk one day at Fort Howard when he saw the cannons and was taken aback by their condition.

“It bothered me they were in disarray,” he said.

Ernest contacted the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society, which in turn told him of the community association's interest in restoring the cannons.

A few phone calls and emails later, the parties were shaping restoration plans and forming a partnership with the historical society, the local recreation council, county government and others.

“It just worked out very well,” said historical society board member Rose Benton.

Until Ernest got involved, Labuda said, it never occurred to neighborhood leaders that the National Guard might be able to help.

For Ernest, it was a no-brainer.

“We've done several restoration projects, but nothing this old,”

Ernest said of the maintenance shop staff members.

Soldiers have found a few surprises since they began work on the cannons in November.

For one, the guns were not properly demilitarized — the barrels were never capped, and trash found inside included old soda cans and a deteriorated baseball.

Also, the cannons' firing pins were still in place and the cranks to aim the barrels were operational — although rusted in place.

“The appearance is terrible-looking, but when we pulled the wheels off, it had the original grease,” Ernest said. “They're pretty much complete.”

“The only thing stopping it now is the rust,” said Warrant Officer Steve Norris, an inspection and supply production control supervisor.

The cannons weren't actually used at Fort Howard, which served as a military base from 1896 to 1940.

At that time, the fort was turned over to what is now the Department of Veterans Affairs to become a hospital. VA gave some of the land to Baltimore County to create a park in the 1970s, and the cannons were brought in as a decorative feature.

The cannons, built in 1918, are among only about five dozen of their type that were made. Some M1906 guns were sent to battlefields in France, although it's not believed that the cannons donated to Fort Howard saw wartime action.

The weapons are about 20 feet long and stand more than 5 feet tall. Each weighs 4 tons.

The guns would have been manned by a team of three to six soldiers, including one to load 3-foot-long rounds into the barrel, another soldier to aim and another soldier to fire it.

On a recent morning, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Musselman leaned over the breech door of one of the cannons — where the rounds would have been inserted — and attacked it alternately with a cordless drill, a long screwdriver and a heavy mallet.

The Havre de Grace crew had removed the firing pin from one cannon, and Musselman was working to free the pin from the other.

The National Guard is absorbing the cost of labor to restore the cannons, but officials said they can't estimate the overall cost. The community association is providing supplies, such as paint.

While the guns are getting a makeover in Havre de Grace, the original wooden wheels that supported them are being restored by Chesapeake Woodworking in Baltimore, which has discounted its rate for the project.

The Fort Howard Community Association hopes to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 to pay for the restoration supplies and the repairs to the wheels.

Once restored, the cannons will be remounted on the wheels and placed on new supports. The National Guard will install signs describing the cannons' significance, and the community association hopes to add landscaping and possibly a small fence to discourage people from climbing on them.

Baltimore County has offered to pour concrete slabs for the cannons, said Barry F. Williams, director of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Williams said he has often thought about getting the cannons restored, but with so many priorities at 200-plus county parks, it never happened until the Fort Howard volunteers and the National Guard presented a plan.

Williams said he's glad the cannons are being rescued, in large part because of community efforts.

"I'm very pleased to say people are very actively taking an interest in that park, and they want things to be nice," he said.

If all goes according to plan, the cannons and the wheels will be ready to be reinstalled in the spring.

Scott Pappas, vice president of the community association, said a ceremony will rededicate the cannons in honor of veterans.

"These cannons are a symbol of our veterans' sacrifices," he said.

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## Fort Worden's Busy Future

By Ross Anderson

Special to *The Seattle Times*

Originally published January 6, 2016

[http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/fort-wordens-busy-future-pub-dinner-theater-culinary-school/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=article\\_bottom](http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/fort-wordens-busy-future-pub-dinner-theater-culinary-school/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_bottom)

The ex-Army base in Port Townsend was not sold or privatized, but part of the park has been leased to a corporation. It's a potential model for communities looking for ways to rescue parks that have suffered from budget cuts.

## PORT TOWNSEND —

Visit Fort Worden State Park here and you can do most of what you'd expect from a state park — hike in the woods, walk the beach or just park your RV or tent at a campsite overlooking the Olympics.

But here you can also check into accommodations ranging from a budget dormitory to a three-bedroom apartment with a view. You can study yoga or computer science or learn to play bluegrass fiddle. And soon you'll be able to step into a pub for a local craft brew, or sit down to a dinner prepared by a chef trained at a culinary-arts school a few steps away.

Yoga and beer and gourmet dining in a state park? This is the vision concocted by the local public development authority (PDA) that now manages the heart of this park. Fort Worden has become the first park in the state, and one of the nation's first, to be managed by a corporate entity.

For Port Townsend, it is a bold and risky effort to maintain a park that is an essential driver to its small-town economy. But the enterprise is also being closely watched from Seattle and beyond, where communities are groping for ways to rescue parks that have suffered from repeated budget cuts. Eastsiders in particular are exploring alternatives for the former seminary at St. Edwards State Park.

### A strategic setting

Fort Worden, a former Army base at the entrance to Puget Sound, has not been sold or privatized. But about one-quarter of the park — 90 acres incorporating more than 70 buildings surrounding the original parade grounds — has been leased to a public corporation.

The PDA is a public agency but can operate like a private business much like the Pike Place Market board and other Seattle agencies. Using a mix of public and private funds, it manages the park much like a destination resort or a college campus.

The public authority is "a vehicle for freeing up or enabling assets to become self-supporting while retaining them in the public sector," explains Gerry Johnson, a Seattle attorney who specializes in helping set them up.

### Port Townsend highlights

Arts, history and the outdoors, all in one easy weekend.

For Port Townsend that meant finding a way to preserve a cluster of military buildings, many of them a century old, that have become an integral part of the town's culture and economy.

Fort Worden was built at the end of the 19th century to protect Puget Sound from naval invasion — a strategy that was promptly rendered obsolete by the invention of airplanes. Still, it was manned by up to 10,000 during World War II before being handed over to the state.

State Parks took ownership in 1973 and began studying what to do with its 434 acres, extensive shoreline and more than 100 buildings ranging from cottages and houses to barracks and auditoriums.

Over time, however, State Parks was unable to manage all those buildings, says Thatcher Bailey, director of the Seattle Parks Foundation. "It was outside their competence zone."

Bailey previously directed Centrum, the Port Townsend arts organization that stages a wide range of music and arts festivals at the park, luring visitors to the fort's former military housing, especially the popular Victorian houses on Officers Row.

The problem came to a head as tax dollars for state parks plummeted by nearly 80 percent during the recession. Discover Passes and other fees have failed to fill the gap.

Thousands of visitors

For Port Townsend, Fort Worden is more than a park. Non-profit tenants such as Centrum, the Marine Science Center and Peninsula College employ dozens of residents and draw thousands of visitors into the local economy.

After months of debate, the city of Port Townsend created the PDA, whose mission is to transform the park into a "lifelong learning center," offering classes in everything from country music and culinary arts to computer science. The PDA assumed management last year.

Since then, the PDA has taken over the food service and housekeeping for the park's nearly 400 housing units. It built a front desk into the central Commons building and mans the desk 18 hours a day.

The key, says PDA director Dave Robison, is to "get heads in beds" year-round, visitors who are tempted to sleep and eat in the park during their stays.

Robison acknowledges that he and his staff face a daunting task. Estimated costs for upgrading the campus buildings exceed \$80 million.

However, the authority has already lured \$5 million in grants from family foundations interested in making the idea work. Peninsula College of Port Angeles has begun a \$6 million remodel of one building to be used as a satellite campus.

They have lured a Hollywood film crew that will bring some \$400,000 onto the campus later this year. And plans are in the works for a dinner theater, culinary-arts school and a pub.

Meanwhile, they are renegotiating leases with Centrum and other nonprofit tenants.

Gerry Johnson, who has advised Port Townsend through the transition, warns that most state parks do not lend themselves to such enterprising strategies. To work, he says, a park needs a rare mix of entertainment venues or housing capable of paying for themselves. They need support from a local community and efficient management.

And Fort Worden may be the only park in the state that meets each of those requirements.

Ross Anderson is a former *Seattle Times* reporter who lives in Port Townsend.

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**Friends of Fort Ward Update**

[fortwardhall@gmail.com](mailto:fortwardhall@gmail.com)

The Friends of Fort Ward board and our Youth Advisory Committee want to say THANK YOU to our many supporters for an amazing 2015.

Our effort to restore Fort Ward's historic bakery building as a community hall really picked up speed, thanks to the enthusiasm of our Fort Ward neighbors and the local businesses, professionals and individuals who stepped up to offer their time, talent and resources.

Among the year's many highlights:

- Friends of Fort Ward formally organized as a WA nonprofit to lead the community hall fundraising campaign
- Our Youth Advisory Committee earned the City of Bainbridge Island's annual Blakely Award for Leadership in Historic Preservation
- We received grants from the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation, the WA Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Coast Defense Study Group, and outstanding contributions and pledges from Bainbridge Heating and Air, Town & Country Markets and many others

• Our first-ever Friends of Fort Ward Labor Day BBQ brought out more than 100 neighbors for an afternoon of fun in the Parade Grounds park

Now we're looking ahead to more great announcements early in the new year as we work toward our one big goal: the Fort Ward Community Hall.

Contact us anytime at [fortwardhall@gmail.com](mailto:fortwardhall@gmail.com). Cheers, and thanks again!

-- Stephanie Appleberry, Candy Merifield, Ellie Montaperto, Christina Doherty and Douglas Crist, Friends of Fort Ward board

\* \* \* \* \*

**Fort Adams Winter Update**

[Fort Adams Trust <cwortley@fortadams.org>](mailto:cwortley@fortadams.org)

The Fort Adams Trust is proud and honored to welcome our new Executive Director, Mr. Joe Dias. After a comprehensive search resulting in more than 80 applicants, the Board of Directors selected Joe. He is a lifelong resident of Newport, worked for many years at RIDEM, and has been personally involved with many major projects at Fort Adams State Park over the years. Welcome, Joe! We look forward to your leadership for many years to come.

Joe hit the ground running on November 2, 2015 and has already coordinated new, fun, family-oriented programming for 2016. Coming to the fort this year will be a food concession next to the Visitor's Center. The Fort will be host to a number of YMCA youth camps throughout the summer. Additionally, Joe is networking with numerous non-profit organizations in the area to promote mutually beneficial programming and events at the fort.

The fort has had great success over the last year in attendance. Because of an excellent marketing and social media campaign, attendance at the Fortress of Nightmares was up by 33% over last year. Tonya Frederick, the Gift Shop manager, orchestrated

a holiday card drive that resulted in over 2100 holiday cards that were mailed to troops deployed overseas. Tour attendance was over 25,000 for the first time ever. Coupled with the new Fort Adams Museum were improvements in the Gift Shop which made a day at the fort a nicer experience for all who visited.

The fort Staff is also working with Discover Newport, Viking Transportation, and Bird's Eye View Helicopters on some new initiatives to integrate tours of the fort into their programming to offer Newport visitors more varied and exciting choices.

Stay tuned for a list of the major public events that will be held at the fort in 2016.

Last, but not least, because of the continued restoration efforts, the fort has more space available for public and private events, functions, parties, ceremonies, etc. Please contact Cara at 401-619-5801 or email her at [cwortley@fortadams.org](mailto:cwortley@fortadams.org) to book your event now. If you are not already a member, please join. Your membership fee helps to bring better visitor services and programming for you to enjoy.

Not a Fort Adams Trust member? Joining is easy! Benefits include discounted tours, fun information on the fort, a tax deduction to the fullest extent of the law, 15% off Fort Adams merchandise and apparel, and special event invitations/discounts.

Join today!

Fort Adams Trust  
 90 Fort Adams Drive  
 Fort Adams State Park  
 Newport, RI 02840  
 Phone: (401) 841-0707  
<http://www.fortadams.org/>

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### Book on Puerto Rico Defenses Released

Gerardo M. Piñero Cádiz

November 10, 2015, the eve of Veterans Day saw the new book release of Professor and CDSG member, Gerardo M. Piñero Cádiz, "El Gibraltar del Caribe en Guerra: las defensas costeras en Puerto Rico durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial" (San Juan, PR: Isla Negra Editores, 2015) at the Fort San Cristóbal bomb and gas-proof structure built during Second World War to house the Headquarters, Caribbean Sea Frontier and the Joint Operations Center. The book explains the role of the coastal defenses at Puerto Rico to protect the island from the menace of naval and air attacks and raids from the Axis.

Before the book presentation the public enjoyed a half-hour documentary film (available at YouTube) "Las defensas costeras en Puerto Rico durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial" that tell the story of preparing the island of Puerto Rico for the coming of war. The book presentation coincide with the opening of the National Park Service "One Hundred Nights" celebrating the 1st Century of the Institution. The welcome was made by Mr. Eric J. López, historian of the Castillo San Cristóbal. Maj. Gen. Luis E. González Vales U.S. Army retired and the Puerto Rico Official Historian was in charge of the book presentation. Hopefully, an English version of the book will be available next year.



From left to right: Dr. Gerardo M. Piñero Cádiz, author; Major General and Puerto Rico Official Historian Luis E. González Vales



The book...

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### The Coast Artillery Guns of Cartagena, Spain

Terrance McGovern

In June 2014 I had an opportunity to visit the surviving big coast artillery guns of Cartagena, Spain. During the 1920s the Spanish government decided to upgrade their country's coastal defenses at the three primary naval bases (El Ferrol, Cartagena, and Mahon). This suite of modern defenses called for a two-gun battery of Vickers-Armstrong 38.1 cm/45 Model 1926, a four-gun battery of Vickers 152.4 mm/50 Model 1923, and a four-gun battery of Vickers 105 mm/45 Model 1923 to be built as a group. In 1926, King Alfonso XIII issued a royal decree approved by the government of Primo de Rivera, for Spain to acquire 18 Vickers 38.1 cm/45 guns, 52 Vickers 15.2 cm/50 guns, and 48 Vickers 105 mm/45 antiaircraft guns. Cartagena received two sets of these gun batteries, one at Cabo Tiñoso to the west of the main harbor and one at Cabo Negrete to the east. Construction work started on the emplacements in 1929 with the guns installed between 1931 and 1936. These batteries were manned throughout the Spanish Civil War, though only

the anti-aircraft batteries saw action during Nationalist air raids on the naval arsenal and city. The AA batteries were abandoned in the 1950s, but Spanish army continued to man the remaining batteries until 1994. Today, the batteries are all derelict, though still military property. They are open to visit as natural preserves.

Batteries visited included Cenizas (38.1 cm), La Chapa (15.2 cm), and Cabo Negrete (105 mm). Batteries Castillitos (38.1 cm), Jorel (15.2 cm) and Atalyon (105 mm).



Battery Cenizas



Battery Cenizas



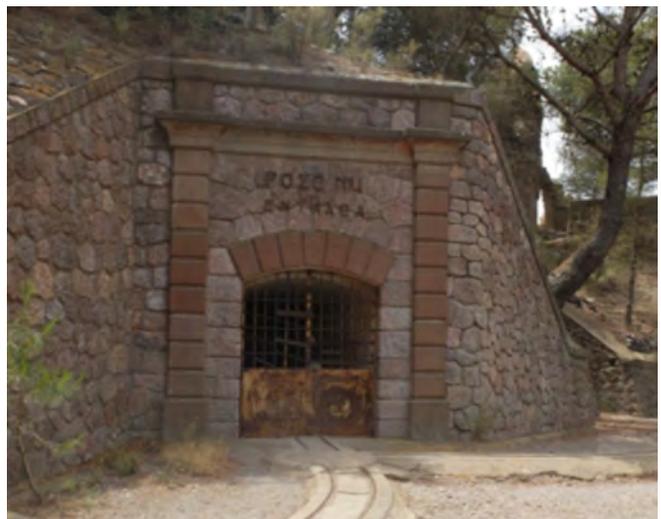
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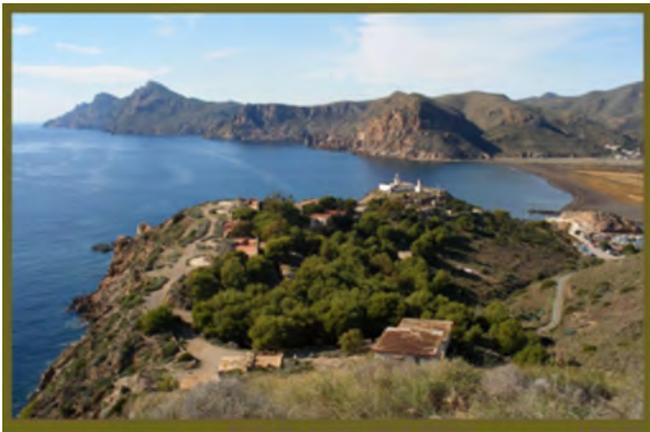
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Map of the outer batteries that defended the naval base of Cartagena, Spain

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide*, Third Edition edited by Mark Berhow (2015), hardcover \$45 / \$80

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