



# The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — May 2011



## The Chairman's Column

Phil Payette

To start off, I would like to thank Chris Zeeman for an outstanding, and near flawless conference in Newport. We visited quite a few sites not ordinarily available to the public. We had a great time, despite receiving a few inches of snow one evening. We have had cold weather before, but I believe that was the first time ever the CDSG had to deal with snowfall on an annual conference. But the weather warmed up nicely after that. Our boat crew to Dutch Island even had to rescue a pair of dogs out in the open water, as we watched with wonder. The dogs were fine, by the way.

I've mentioned this earlier, and I will mention it again. Please purchase your copy of *Artillerists and Engineers: The Beginnings of American Seacoast Fortifications, 1794-1815* from either *lulu.com* or the *CDSG Press*. This book is amazing. We can't stress enough how valuable this book is and how proud of it we are. And while you are at it, pick up a few of our other offerings. We really need to sell through several of our reprinted books.

I would also like to thank Mike Fiorini and Karl Fritz for offering their desire to serve on the Board of Directors. Both have been around for quite some time now. One of them will be replacing Tom Kavanagh whose term ends this Fall. Please vote for your ideal candidate! And remember to submit your answers to the questions attached to the ballots. We ask these questions every year and we do indeed read them. They are very important to us in our decision-making.

Upcoming conferences were discussed at the annual business meeting during the conference. Although we were unable to offer LA/San Diego in the next available slot, we still have it on the table for the near future. Please, anyone who is willing and able to help organize the group tour at Navy owned sites in San Diego, contact the Board. The upcoming annual conferences will be Great Lakes in 2012 and Pensacola/Mobile in 2013. In addition, we also have an open slot for a 2012 special tour. Again, contact the Board if you wish to set one up. It can be foreign or domestic.

Have a great summer, everyone. Enjoy the Civil War Sesquicentennial wherever you decide to visit.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

All who attended this year's conference had an opportunity to see the results of one of our preservation projects. The unique double spiral staircase at the Fort Adams Advanced Redoubt was in danger of collapse and has now been stabilized. In addition, two of the granite steps that had partially fallen out have been straightened. This work has also made it much safer and easier to get on the top of the redoubt and vegetation clearance has begun up there.

## CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour  
Sept. 18 - 25, 2011  
Halifax, Canada  
Charles Bogart, [cmabogart@aol.com](mailto:cmabogart@aol.com)

Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference  
May 2012  
Great Lake Forts  
John Weaver, [jrweaver@purdue.edu](mailto:jrweaver@purdue.edu)

Coast Defense Study Group Annual Conference  
April 2013  
Pensacola/Mobile  
David Ogden, [david\\_ogden@nps.gov](mailto:david_ogden@nps.gov)

Coast Defense Study Group Special Tour  
June 2013  
Norway  
Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

## Other Meetings and Tours

June 1-3, 2011  
Corsica, France  
Association Vauban Annual Conference  
Robert Delorme, [robert.delorme.3@wanadoo.fr](mailto:robert.delorme.3@wanadoo.fr)

June 2-5, 2011  
Swinemunde/Poland  
Interfest e.V. Annual Conference  
Florian Browsers, [browsers@t-online.de](mailto:browsers@t-online.de)

Sept 2-5, 2011  
Isle of Wight, United Kingdom  
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
Alan Fyson, [bill.clements@btinternet.com](mailto:bill.clements@btinternet.com)

September 23 - 25, 2011  
Dresden, Germany  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festung Annual Meeting  
Andreas Kupka, [anja.reichert@uni-trier.de](mailto:anja.reichert@uni-trier.de)

Oct 2011  
Toul, France  
International Fortification Forum Fair - 19th Annual

Oct 1 & 8, 2011  
Breda - Antwerp, Netherlands & Belgium  
Menno von Coehorn Meeting & Tour  
Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

Oct 2-9, 2011  
Baltic Fort Tour Route Northern Poland  
Private Fortress/Bunker Tour  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

Oct 29, 2011  
Karlovac, Croatia  
Internatinal Fortress Council Annual Meeting  
Luc Fellay, lucfuley@bluewin.ch

Nov 5, 2011  
Grebbeleinie, Netherlands  
Menno von Coehorn Tour  
Fritz van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

Nov 5, 2011  
Prague, Czech Republic  
Czech Association for Military History Annual Meeting  
Vladimir Kupka, kupka@sazka.cz

Feb 15 - 25, 2012  
Coastal Defenses of Chile  
Private Tour  
Christian Casartelli, casac@netcourrier.com

April 2012  
Great Fortress Tour Romania  
Private Fortress/Bunker Tour  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

May 2012  
The Netherlands  
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour  
bill\_clements@btinternet.com

May 2012  
Lexington, KY USA  
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference  
Martin Gordon, martinkgordon@gmail.com

Sept 2012  
Koblenz  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsf Annual Meeting  
Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

Sept 2012  
S.W. England, UK  
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
bill.clements@btinternet.com

Feb 2013  
Great Fortress Tour to India/Rajasthan  
Private Fortress/Bunker Tour  
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

May 2013  
Defenses of Southern Italy  
Private Tour  
Christian Casartelli, casac@netcourrier.com

May 2013  
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference  
Martin Gordon, martinkgordon@gmail.com

Sept 2013  
Kustrin  
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsf Annual Meeting  
Andreas Kupka, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

Sept 2013  
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference  
bill.clements@btinternet.com

At Fort Andrews in Boston Harbor, the long discussed demolition of some of the buildings there has begun and should be in progress as you read this. This is being done to about half of the remaining buildings and in return, the other buildings will be stabilized with 4 being rehabilitated (including the chapel and guardhouse). This had been under study for some time and after a compromise with the main local environmental/preservation group, 3 buildings that were originally on the demolition list will be saved. If I am able to get out there and see things for myself, I will report on it here later this year.

The Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower have been progressing in their efforts as the Town of Rye (NH) has voted to accept the tower as town property and to set up a heritage commission. However, before the tower will be accepted, \$130,000 needs to be raised as an evaluation determined that although the tower is structurally

sound, it will need cosmetic concrete repairs and the cost estimate obtained is \$120,000. Efforts are underway to look for possible sources of funding for this.

In Hawaii, the state is looking to put up interpretive signage, to include information on the Coast Defense elements there, at the trailhead for Makapu'u Head. There are 3 fire control stations there along with 4 machine gun pillboxes. This is a good and relatively inexpensive way to educate people on the meaning and history behind what otherwise are viewed by many people only as "mystery bunkers". My thanks to John Bennett for this information and for his efforts in providing information to the State of Hawaii.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Reprint Edition of Watertown Arsenal History Follows History of US Artillery Development

April, 2011 -- VIA APPIA PRESS has announced the release of *A History of Watertown Arsenal 1816-1967*, a reprint edition of the classic US Army history, with bonus material, edited by Alan R. Earls.

For some 150 years, until 1968, Watertown Arsenal, in Watertown, MA, served as a vital element in the system of government and private facilities that developed and manufactured the weapons used by the United State Army, in particular its coastal artillery. Although its sudden demise in the 1960s was a shock to the community, it wasn't until 1995 that the last army installation on the site finally closed. By then, most of the arsenal grounds had long since been converted to shopping facilities and offices. The remaining 48 acres were converted for a time to the United States Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center (AMMRC), later called the United States Army Materials Technology Laboratory (MTL).

It was during this "second incarnation" that the *History of the Watertown Arsenal 1816-1967* was researched, written and published by the Government Printing Office. This book, now long out of print and hard to find, is reprinted in this new edition from Via Appia Press. It includes a detailed history of the arsenal's beginning in Charlestown, near Boston, and its move to Watertown, the Civil War period and early research breakthroughs starting with Thomas J. Rodman and the development of his powerful smoothbore cannon, in calibers of up to 20-inch. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the arsenal was involved with development of the Woodbridge wire-wound 10-inch gun and the Crozier 10-inch breech-loading wire-wrapped gun. In this period, the arsenal began to focus more on modern welded gun carriages, including the "disappearing" gun carriages widely used in coastal fortifications. The story continues through World War I and World War II as well as the Cold War years, when the arsenal's research role became even more critical and extended to antiaircraft artillery, missile launching apparatus, and the famous Atomic Cannon.

As an additional feature, this volume includes a reprint of an arsenal publication from approximately 1950, "The Watertown Arsenal Laboratory."

"Anyone with an interest in artillery and the arsenal's history should enjoy this new book," says editor, Alan R. Earls.

The book has 105 pages and more than 60 illustrations and is currently available for order through [www.viaappiapress.com](http://www.viaappiapress.com). It is priced at \$19.99 plus shipping and handling.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT [info@viaappiapress.com](mailto:info@viaappiapress.com) or call 508-528-6930

[viaappiapress.com](http://viaappiapress.com) -- 222 Pond Street -- Franklin--MA-- 02038



## Golden Gate NRA to get 16" rifle

John Martini

General Superintendent Frank Dean of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area informed me today that the Defense Logistic Agency has set aside one of the 16-inch guns barrels at Hawthorne, NV, for the NPS. This is one of the Mark VII 16/50 guns that were just put up for scrap.

When informed of the guns' pending destruction, Superintendent Dean personally interceded and convinced DLA to earmark one of the barrels for the National Park Service. The park's intent is to move the gun tube to Fort Cronkhite and, eventually, install it in Battery Townsley.

I was cc'd on many of the emails that went back and forth between Frank Dean and DLA, and his commitment to preserving the Coast Artillery legacy of GGNRA is impressive. It's nice to have friends in high places who care about saving America's vanishing resources.

This is a huge coup for the park, and an even bigger challenge. Based on our research, it is theoretically possible to move the gun from Hawthorne to Fort Cronkhite via a combination of rail and truck transport, but the logistics of moving and reinstalling the gun will be overwhelming -- not to mention the associated costs.

No timetable has been set for this ambitious project, but we'll keep everyone posted.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Dispatches from Fort Wayne, Detroit

Jonathan A. Mycek

The Spirit of '61 reinvigorates Fort Wayne, Detroit, during one of Michigan's biggest Civil War Sesquicentennial events. Union re-enactors from all over the state are expected to recreate the enlistment and training frenzy that took hold of Detroit in the first year of the rebellion. Tours, displays, and period garrison activities will undoubtedly make the two days a success.

The Historic Fort Wayne Coalition's Civil War Days, 2011, is scheduled for July 9 and 10, but check their website (<http://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/Events.html>) for regular updates on this, and other events.

On the restoration front, approximately \$100,000.00 from local tax revenues has been allocated for Fort Wayne. Money will be spent on continuing efforts in the City Site Manager's office -- installing a new kitchen floor and "heating plant." Left over funds will be channeled to the fort's visitor's center.

Originally constructed as the post recreation building in 1903, the visitor's center was overhauled and expanded by the Works Progress Administration in 1934. In the mid 1970s, the old structure was renovated again, this time the city turned it into an exhibition hall. Sitting vacant for nearly thirty years, the recent financial infusion will replace aged electrical systems and the leaky gymnasium roof. Though there are no plans to use the building, when the time comes, the visitor's center will be ready.

Visitors, costumed re-enactors, and work crews won't be the only people roaming the fort's grounds this summer. The fort's phantasmic friends from Metro Paranormal Investigators (MPI)

return for another season of ghost tours. In addition to monthly hunts, MPI and Fort Wayne will welcome some spectral superstars this June. Though Slimer, Egon, and the rest of the Ghostbusters won't be driving up in Ecto 1, members of SYFY Channel's *TAPS* Ghost Hunter team will stopover at the Limestone Barracks. According to MPI and HFWC sources, *TAPS* team members Dustin Pari, Steve Gonsalves, and Dave Tango will share personal experiences and lead a few lucky on a special spook search! Check MPI's website (<http://www.hauntedfortwaynedetroit.com/taps.html>) for more information.

The next few months bode well for Fort Wayne and the coming events promise positive exposure, revenue for the city, and a few more months of life for Detroit's most historic place.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **The Townspeople Have Spoken in Favor of Acquiring the Pulpit Rock Tower!**

Rye voters approved the warrant article concerning transferring Pulpit Rock Tower to the Town of Rye by a vote of 628 in favor, 423 opposed (67%). We are, of course, very pleased by this result. The voters also approved the formation of a heritage commission for the town and an accompanying heritage fund. These votes pave the way for a possible transfer of the tower to the people of Rye. We are grateful to all the Rye voters who cared enough about the tower and the history of our area to approve these warrant articles.

However, we still have a long way to go before any transfer can occur. The warrant article requires that at least \$130,000 be raised before Rye will accept Pulpit Rock Tower. This figure results from an engineering study that recommended repairs and ongoing maintenance to keep the tower from deteriorating. Most notably, the now 68-year-old roof and the exterior concrete walls need attention. Due to the height of the tower, these repairs will be quite expensive, estimated to be approximately \$120,000 (nearly a third of which is for the scaffolding). The good news is the engineers found Pulpit Rock Tower to be very strong structurally.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, Inc. is presently investigating potential sources of donations and grant funds to determine if such an amount can be raised. If you have any suggestions, can lead a fundraiser, or have experience with grant writing, please let us know. We will need much help if the transfer is to become a reality. Thankfully, NH Fish and Game Dept. has verbally agreed to give us time to work this through with the Town of Rye and we hope to have a written lease-type agreement in place with Fish and Game in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, Inc.

(Patty Weathersby, Steve Tobin, John Meehan, Tim Bergeron, Chris Frasier)

Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. It can be contacted at 603-373-0646 or [friendsofpulpitrocktower@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofpulpitrocktower@hotmail.com).

Donations may be sent to Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, Inc., 20 Pulpit Rock Rd., Rye, NH 03870 or donate on-line. More information may be found on our website [www.friendsofpulpitrocktower.org](http://www.friendsofpulpitrocktower.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Shuttered Island**

Peddocks Island is home to an abandoned fort, but it will soon be renewed for public use

By Andrew Ryan

Globe Staff / February 20, 2011

*The Boston Globe*

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/02/20/shuttered\\_peddocks\\_island\\_readied\\_to\\_open\\_up/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/02/20/shuttered_peddocks_island_readied_to_open_up/)

Branches have sprouted from chimneys. Ovens in a boarded-up bakery have sat cold for decades. And thieves have stolen parts of the wood floor from the basketball court in the gymnasium.

Assailed by ocean wind and scavenged by vandals, this abandoned red-brick village was once Fort Andrews, a handsome century-old military complex with a rich history in a far corner of Boston Harbor.

Battalions of troops trained here for World War I. Thousands of Italian soldiers knew it as a prisoner of war camp during World War II that allowed weekend passes to the North End for home-cooked food and romance with local girls. It even functioned as a backdrop for Martin Scorsese's 2010 film "Shutter Island."

To preserve what remains of the fort and prepare it for its next life — as a public campground and maybe much more — bulldozers will soon flatten almost half of the 26-building hamlet, including a derelict hospital and many of the dilapidated homes on a phantom street known as Officer's Row. Demolition is expected to begin March 1.

Spearheaded by the island alliance and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, the project originally targeted 14 buildings for demolition. A compromise with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and other preservationists lowered the number to 11. Crews will stabilize 11 other buildings to preserve them, while rehabilitating a white clapboard chapel, two guardhouses, and a stable.

Some harbor advocates and history buffs had hoped to salvage the whole abandoned town. But securing a future for the essence of Peddocks meant facing up to what had to go.

Standing shin-deep in snow outside a rotting duplex on a recent morning, Tom Powers of the Boston Harbor Island Alliance recalled words of advice he received from an architect about preservation.

"Don't distract yourself trying to save them all," Powers said, "because you'll never get anywhere."

The campground will open this summer, when ferry service is set to resume, and advocates hope the island will become a recreation destination. There is no concrete plan, but Powers described potential in the remaining old buildings for a bed and breakfast or for corporate retreats. The parade ground could serve as a setting for festivals.

For all the possibilities, the demolition and landscaping will also tame an enchanting but dangerous ruin on New England's maritime fringe. That saddens some Peddocks devotees, such as Steve Hollinger, a 48-year-old sculptor from Boston whose work has been inspired by the decay.

"There's an otherworldliness out there," said Hollinger, who

for 14 years has ferried other artists in his Boston Whaler to experience Fort Andrews. “Demolishing a building before its time extinguishes important historical stories. There’s nothing like the experience of walking through an abandoned town.”

But the romance of decline can go too far. Steps from the dock, the wooden roof of a three-story barracks has collapsed, an uneven red brick wall exposed like a jagged tooth on the edge of the parade ground. On the bluff that forms Officers’ Row, porches have flattened. At another house, a toilet sat alone on a pipe like a pedestal; the walls around it had crumbled.

“We preserve buildings so people can experience them,” said Sarah D. Kelly, executive director of the Boston Preservation Alliance, who signed the compromise. “Right now, the island is very alluring, and it’s fascinating to walk around. But it’s not in the state where you’d feel comfortable opening it up to large crowds of people. I think the goal is to retain some of that mystique and at the same time make the island more accessible.”

The \$7.8 million project will be funded with mitigation money from liquefied natural gas companies that laid an underwater pipeline and built other facilities around Boston Harbor. As part of the compromise with preservationists, the state agreed to fortify three structures and contribute roughly \$500,000. The work will remove asbestos and seal the structures to slow decay and prevent break-ins.

The immediate goal, Powers said, is to preserve salvageable structures such as the quartermaster’s building for future use. With sweeping views of the Boston skyline, curving banisters, and fireplaces, it could make an exceptional inn, he said.

The work will also clear Norway Maples, staghorn sumac, and other dense growth, which thrived as the land lay fallow.

The campground will include 10 individual sites, a large area for a group, and, by next year, the construction of six yurts, permanent tent-like structures that will make it easier to spend the night.

Pedlocks is the second-largest of the 34 islands in Boston Harbor’s national recreation area, a 210-acre expanse off the town of Hull that looks, from the air, like a malformed dumbbell. Its rounded hills are linked by flat spits of sand. The fort sits on what is known as East Head; elsewhere on Pedlocks are the remnants of a Portuguese fishing village that is still home to seasonal cottages.

Construction of what would become known as Fort Andrews began in 1898 with the formation of enormous earthen mortar batteries on East Head. Over the next decade, the government built a collection of Colonial-revival-style brick structures with granite foundations, ornamental cornices, and several barracks with majestic double-deck porches facing a grassy parade ground.

“There seems to be a grandness in the architecture,” said Susan M. Kane, islands district manager for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. “Now a lot of military buildings are very utilitarian. These buildings have a little bit of a flair.”

During World War I, Fort Andrews surged with activity, swelling with regiments and artillery companies headed overseas. It occupied a critical position in coastal defense, guarding Boston from attack. Guards scanned the harbor with a cutting-edge new searchlight.

Peacetime emptied the fort, leaving it staffed by a four-man caretaker squad. But World War II brought another burst of life. The military built the white clapboard chapel and dozens of temporary wooden structures to house additional men. A submarine net was stretched across the deep, narrow channel between the island and the mainland known as Hull Gut.

Then Fort Andrews became a prisoner of war camp for thousands of Italian soldiers. One of those held captive was Luigi DiGiorgio, a 20-something tank driver captured in North Africa in March 1942. The prisoners cooked communal Italian-style dishes with homegrown vegetables, DiGiorgio told the Globe in 2001, and they worked five days a week across the harbor, loading munitions onto US ships at the Charlestown Naval Yard.

The men watched films in the island movie theater, DiGiorgio recalled, and they paid weekend visits to the North End, finding romance with local girls who then made their own trips to Pedlocks.

In 2001, DiGiorgio, by then 80, returned to the island. He spoke sadly of its “beauty,” lamenting over and over that his old POW camp had been allowed to decay. Asked to describe his treatment on Pedlocks, DiGiorgio spread his arms wide and beamed. “Benissimo,” he said. Wonderful.

After the war, the military abandoned the fort and it fell into disrepair. The state acquired the island by eminent domain in 1970. It opened to camping five years later. Regular ferry service took visitors to Pedlocks.

In 2008, when film crews scouted the location for “Shutter Island,” the main draw was the wooden pier that Scorsese came to inspect. The film did not focus on Fort Andrews. By then its buildings had been ravaged by arsonists and scavengers.

As recently as December, State Police said they arrested two vandals from Quincy who brought duffel bags stuffed with saws and other tools to steal radiators and copper pipes.

The allure of the ghostly decay could be the fort’s undoing.

“If they said every building was of significance, nothing would ever happen there — ever,” said Henry Moss, principal at Bruner/Cott, the architecture firm for the project. “Until somebody gets hurt. And then all the buildings would all be cleared away.”

Andrew Ryan can be reached at [acryan@globe.com](mailto:acryan@globe.com).

© Copyright 2011 Globe Newspaper Company.

\* \* \* \* \*

## President Aquino leads Detonation of 4,000 Vintage Bombs at Crow Valley

By Aurea Calica

*The Phillipine Star* March 6, 2011

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=663488>

MANILA, Philippines – President Aquino led yesterday the remote detonation of more than 4,000 World War II-era US bombs and other explosives and expressed relief that the American government finally granted his request for assistance in the cleanup of unexploded ordnance that had lain idle on Caballo Island near Corregidor.

The detonation was done in Crow Valley Range in Capas, Tarlac, as part of the Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal exercise. US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. was also at the event.

Aquino had requested US President Barack Obama to help the Philippines in the cleanup effort when they met in New York in September during the United Nations General Assembly and in Yokohoma in November at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

The President pushed a button on a radio firing device, triggering a series of explosions that destroyed the vintage bombs.

The Philippine Navy said the safe transport of the unexploded ordnance from Caballo Island in Manila Bay and their detonation in Crow Valley through US help was a great achievement in itself.

Detonating the shells on Caballo Island, the Navy said, could have created “a destructive blast lethal to humans within a 32-kilometer radius and the catastrophic effect would have endangered nearby populated areas and ships plying Manila Bay and can be felt up to Sangley Point, the Philippine Navy Headquarters and the US embassy.”

Aquino said the danger posed by the unexploded shells had been one of the major problems faced by his administration.

“More than anything, I feel that this was really one of my first nightmares upon assuming office – that there was something left over from (the Second World War),” he said.

He commended the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the timely disposal of the explosives.

“The target date for completion was March 26. They managed to complete it on March 5, three weeks ahead of schedule. It was really quite impressive,” he said.

“The transport from Manila Bay to Subic to Tarlac also was an impressive operation – no untoward incidents, nobody was harmed, no injuries whatsoever,” he added.

The US government, according to the Philippine Navy, contracted a commercial landing craft tank that transported the explosives from Caballo Island to Crow Valley. The transport was completed on Feb. 6.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Sinking of USN Motor Launch No. 3429

Charles H. Bogart

After the United States became a co-belligerent against Germany on April 6, 1917, the U.S. Navy established a naval air station (NAS) at Dunkirk, France, that operated both land and seaplanes. The seaplanes patrolled off the coast of Belgium, which had been in Germany hands since August 1914; Germany had developed a number of Belgian harbors as offensive bases from which submarines and torpedo boats sortied to attack cross-channel traffic between Great Britain and France.

Among the aircraft assigned to NAS Dunkirk were single-engine, three-seater, Donnet-Denhaut (DD) pusher flying boats. On July 7, 1918, flying boat DD 840, piloted by Ensign Edward De Cenca, USNRF, and carrying observers Amos Chord and L.B. McGee, suffered engine failure off the coast of Belgium. Cenca safely landed his plane on the water and an accompanying land-based plane reported his predicament to NAS Dunkirk, which asked for naval assistance. A French torpedo boat and NAS Dunkirk's *Motor Launch 3429* put to sea to rescue the airplane and its crew.

On board *Motor Launch No. 3429* was a crew of five: Quartermaster 1st Class Revile E. Bailey, Quartermaster 2nd Class Philip Goldman, Machinist Mate 2nd Class Alonzo O. Hildreth, and Seamen John P. Vogt and Charles J. Tatuliniski. Joining them were Aviation Quartermaster R.F. Coash, who had observed the landing of DD 840 from an accompanying aircraft and Assistant Surgeon Albert M. Stevens. Before the motor launch reached the downed aircraft, the French torpedo boat rescued the crew and aircraft, and NAS Dunkirk ordered the motor launch to return



Batterie Aachen, Raversijde, Belgium

to base. However, as she turned for home, the motor launch fell onto a wrong heading; instead of steering for Dunkirk, course was laid for the coast of Belgium.

Although the motor launch lay low in the water, she soon became visible to German observation posts along the Belgium shore. These quickly began to send bearings to the fire control center of Batterie Aachen, just behind the beach at Raversijde, Belgium. This battery, operational since April 1915, consisted of four 5.9-inch naval guns (15 cm S.K.L/40). Each gun was mounted in its own concrete emplacement, and the gun crews were protected by steel shields. The battery was manned by Matrosenartillery Regiment 2 of the Kaiserlichen Marinekorps Flandern. The first rounds from Batterie Aachen were on target, damaging the motor launch's pilot house. The crew and passengers quickly abandoned their boat, which continued to run crewless until it disintegrated from two subsequent shell hits from Batterie Aachen. Stevens, Vogt, and Goldman were captured by the Germans; Coash and Bailey swam ashore behind Allied lines; Hildreth was picked up at sea by friendly forces, but Tatuliniski is listed as lost at sea.

*Motor Launch No. 3429* was the only USN vessel lost to seacoast artillery during WWI. I suspect that she was one of a number of private motor launches taken into USN service during the war and since she was administratively assigned to a NAS, she maintained no official log.

Batterie Aachen, although disarmed, is well preserved today at Raversijde, Belgium, (<http://1914-1918.invasionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=97871>).

Source

Whistler, Richard T. "The Making of a Dunkirk Aviator - The War Experiences of Ensign James Henry O'Brien." *Over The Front*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring 2002). This article cites "NAS Dunkirk History," RG-45, NARA.

\* \* \*

### The CDSG Fund

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc., by raising funds to support preservation and interpretation efforts concerning seacoast defenses around the United States. The CDSG Fund is seeking donations for preservation projects around the United States consistent with the goals of the CDSG. Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes, and 100% of your gift will go toward the project selected. The CDSG Fund will acknowledge your gift and keep you informed on the status of its projects. Make checks or money orders payable in US funds to The CDSG Fund.

The CDSG 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, the project to be done or supported, and how the money would be used, should be sent to the address listed below. Successful proposals, usually one to two per year, are typically funded at \$500 or more. Upon conclusion of

project, or the year in which funding was received, a short report suitable for publication in our newsletter is requested.

Send all donations and proposals to:

The CDSG Fund  
C/O Alan Hardey, Trustee  
1577 Braeburn Road, Altadena, CA 91001-2603  
oozlefinch\_1@earthlink.net

\* \* \*

### Support the CDSG Website

The CDSG supports its web site ONLY through donations. If you download PDF files from the website, please help the CDSG continue to maintain it by donating a shareware fee. The suggested fees will be noted next to each PDF document. We suggest a minimum donation of \$5.00. Thank you for supporting the CDSG web site!

\* \* \* \* \*

### CDSG Logo Patches and Shirts

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

The CDSG patches have been available for several years. Designed especially for the CDSG, these quality patches combine the Coast Artillery Corps and the Corps of Engineers symbols to reflect their involvement in U.S. coastal defenses. Placed on hats or jackets these patches will show your membership in the CDSG.

To order your T-shirt or patch, please complete the order form below and send it along with your check (made out to CDSG, Inc.) to Terry McGovern at 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA (e-mail: [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)).

#### CDSG T-Shirts and Patches Ordering Information

Red T-Shirt with white ink:

Size & #  S  M  L  XL  2XL  3XL

Kaki T-Shirt with black ink:

Size & #  S  M  L  XL  2XL  3XL

Navy T-shirt with yellow ink:

Size & #  S  M  L  XL  2XL  3XL

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

Patch: \_\_\_\_\_ times \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(domestic \$4/overseas \$6) each

Be sure to include your name and shipping address.





Attendees of the 2011 CDSG Conference at Naragansett Bay, RI in front of Fort Adams.



Rodman battery on Dutch Island, RI



\* \* \* \* \*

### Warship International Steam Back Into History...

Go to sea with the ships of the world's navies – the USN's *Essex* & *Independence*-class carriers, the *Arizona*, the Japanese I-400 class subs, HMS *Vanguard*, Czarist Russia's battleships, French cruisers of the 1922 Program. These are subjects of some of the articles that have appeared in recent issues of *Warship International*. These issues are still in print and can be obtained at special rates for new members.

What ever happened to USS *Lexington's* (CV-2) 8" guns?  
How much do you know about the cannon of "Old Ironsides"?  
Want to learn more about early naval radio experiments?

These questions and many more are answered in each issue of the world's most unique naval journal – WARSHIP INTERNATIONAL.

A ONE VOLUME SUBSCRIPTION of 4 QUARTERLY ISSUES IS ONLY- U.S.A. \$34.00, CANADA \$37.00, OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA \$45.00, we now feature Pay-Pal.

A SAMPLE COPY \$3.25, this includes postage & handling.  
WARSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Dept. CD  
P.O. Box 48

Holden, MA 01520-0048

See us on the World Wide Web: <http://www.warship.org>



\* \* \* \* \*

### Company of Military Historians

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

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

For membership information contact:

Company of Military Historians  
David M. Sullivan, Administrator  
P.O. BOX 910, Rutland, MA 01543-0910  
Phone: 508-845-9229  
E-mail: [cmhhq@aol.com](mailto:cmhhq@aol.com) or [Dsulli7875@aol.com](mailto:Dsulli7875@aol.com)  
<http://www.military-historians.org>.

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Artilleryman Magazine

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

Historical Publications, Inc.  
234 Monarch Hill Rd.  
Tunbridge, VT 05077  
Call 1-800-777-1862  
fax (802) 889-5627  
email: [mail@civilwarnews.com](mailto:mail@civilwarnews.com)

Artillery safety rules and more Civil War information posted at [www.civilwarnews.com](http://www.civilwarnews.com).

Help Preserve Our Military Heritage

## Council on America's Military Past

See our web site for information on publications and activities

[www.campjamp.org](http://www.campjamp.org)

**The CDSG Newsletter**

www.cdsg.org

The *CDSG Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. along with the *Coast Defense Journal*. Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to the editor or publisher below

*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.

CDSG Publications  
PO Box 6124, Peoria, IL 61601  
berhowma@comcast.net

The CDSG is a non-profit corporation formed to promote the study of coast defenses and fortifications, their history, architecture, technology, and strategic and tactical employment. The purposes of the group include educational research and documentation, preservation of historic sites, site interpretation, and assistance to other organizations interested in the preservation and interpretation of coast defense sites. Membership in the CDSG is open to any person interested in the study of the coast defenses and fortifications of the United States.

Annual dues for 2011 are \$40 domestic, \$55 for Canada, and \$70 for international.

Checks payable to: The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. (CDSG)

Send to: Alan Hardey, CDSG Membership Chairman  
1577 Braeburn Road  
Altadena, CA 91001-2603  
626-791-5034  
oozlefinch\_1@earthlink.net

**2010-2011 Board of Directors of the CDSG**

Phil Payette (Chairman)  
Thomas Kavanagh  
Chris Zeeman

**CDSG Publications**

Bolling W. Smith, *Journal* Editor

Mark Berhow, Publisher

**CDSG Press**

Terry McGovern

**CDSG Fund**

Terry McGovern, Trustee

Mark Berhow, Trustee

Alan Hardey, Trustee

**Membership Committee**

Alan Hardey, Secretary

**Finance Committee**

Terry McGovern, Treasurer

**Preservation Committee**

Gordon Bliss

**Representative/Outreach Committee**

Andy Grant

**Projects Committee**

Mark Berhow

**Audit Committee**

Charlie Robbins

Glen Williford

**Nominations Committee**

Charles Bogart, Chair

**Upcoming Conference and Tour Committees**

2011 Halifax, Canada, Special Tour—Charles Bogart, Chair  
2012 Great Lakes Conference—John Weaver, Chair  
2013 Pensacola/Mobile Conference—David Ogden, Chair  
2013 Norway Special Tour—Terry McGovern, Chair

**The Coast Defense Study Group Press**

http://www.cdsg.org/cdsgpres.htm

http://www.cdsg.org/cdrom1.htm

This is an all volunteer operation provided as a service to our members and to other interested historians. As such we cannot accept credit card orders. All orders must have a check or money order in US currency for the items ordered. Please note clearly in your order which items you are ordering. All prices include domestic / international shipping costs (US Postal Service). Allow at least 8-10 weeks for delivery. Please visit our website for a complete listing of electronic documents.

**CDSG Publications 1985-2010 DVD** (Volumes 1-24) Text-searchable PDF files of the entire set of *CDSG News/Journal/Newsletters* Price: \$55 domestic and foreign. An updated copy can be purchased for \$10 by sending in a photocopy of the old CD/DVD.

**CDSG Documents DVD.** Price: \$50 domestic and foreign mail. These PDF cover a range of historical documents related to seacoast defenses most from the National Archives. Included are PDFs of annual reports of the chief of coast artillery and chief of engineers; various board proceedings and reports; army directories; text books; tables of organization and equipment; WWII command histories; drill, field, training manuals and regulations; ordnance department documents; ordnance tables and compilations; and ordnance gun and carriage cards.

**Harbor Defense Documents.** These PDF documents form the basis of the Conference and Special Tour Handouts that have been held at harbor defense locations around the U.S. The collection includes RCBs/RCWs; maps; annexes to defense projects; CD engineer notebooks; quartermaster building records; and aerial photos taken by the signal corps 1920-40. These collections are available as PDFs on DVD, the size of the collection varies from harbor to harbor. Please consult <http://www.cdsg.org/cdrom1.htm> for more details.

Past meetings include: Manila Bay, PI 1991; Oahu, Hawaii 1991; Los Angeles/San Diego 1992; Canal Zone, Panama 1993; Pensacola & Mobile 1994; Delaware River 1996; New York 1997; Tampa/Key West 1998; Columbia River 1999; Chesapeake Bay 2000; Portsmouth/North Boston 2001; Mississippi River 2002; Long Island Sound 2003; Charleston/Savannah 2004; Portland 2005; San Francisco 2006; Boston 2007; Galveston 2008; Baltimore/Washington 2009; Puget Sound 2010; Wilmington, NC 2010; Narragansett Bay/New Bedford 2011.

**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

*American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide*, Second Edition, edited by Mark Berhow (2004), softcover \$45 / \$80

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

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

Checks payable to: CDSG Press

send Press orders: CDSG Press Distribution

C/O Terry McGovern,

1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326

tcmcgovern@att.net