

The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Spring 2018



Chairman's Message

Thomas D. Batha

The CDSG Conference at the Columbia River last month was a rousing success. Attendance was excellent with some 55 members present. The weather, while sometimes threatening, was good throughout and the rain held off. The three forts we visited; Fort Stevens, Fort Canby and Fort Columbia were in excellent condition and had unique layouts and other features. They were a tribute to the volunteers and park ranger staff who maintain and interpret them. It was a nice, compact conference and well worth the trip. Some attendees continued north to Forts Worden, Casey and Flagler before and after the scheduled conference and had very favorable experiences there.

Conference Chairman Mark Berhow did an excellent job putting this together and it can serve as model for how to conduct a flawless conference.

A full report on the annual business meeting and the conference and committee reports appear in the next *Newsletter*.

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CDSG Code of Conduct on Artifacts Found at Sites During CDSG Conferences

Tom Batha, Chairman, CDSG Board of Directors

The CDSG membership is largely composed of avid students of military history and serious military historians, though we do have some site owners as members. Ours is a niche group focused on American coastal fortifications. We possess a unique understanding of why these structures were built, where they were built and how they were built. We have reconstructed their service histories as well as their life histories. We have documented every remaining component from tactical structures to garrison buildings. We know where every remaining part of every fort is, whether it be foundation bolts for a generator set or a surviving base to a gun mount. We even know where things are that aren't. Like the buried mortar battery at Fort Totten or more buried batteries at Fort Williams. We also know where surviving artifacts are like generators in a 6" battery in Virginia or ammunition hoists in storage at various locations.

We know the life cycle of all the forts. From optimistic inception, mostly caretaker status, periods of reactivation and then salvage of useful material by the Army followed by abandonment and vandalism. Then, sometimes, the final indignity of complete removal. Fortunately, over the lifetime of CDSG we have seen the re-birth of a number of forts due to a strong group of local volunteers. Fort MacArthur, Fort Knox, Fort Adams, Fort Miles, Fort Stevens, Fort Mott, and Fort Casey, to name just a few. Also, individual batteries - Gunnison, Cronkhite, Battery #519, etc. have been restored and manned by reenactors. All are constantly in search of missing pieces and parts of their facility and sometimes CDSG can point

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2018 CDSG & FSG Special Tour
August 11-19, 2018
Switzerland

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2019 CDSG Conference
April 10 - 14, 2019
Chesapeake Bay, VA
Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2019 CDSG Special Tour
February 2 - 11, 2019
Manila Bay, the Philippines
Andy Grant, ftmottis@comcast.net

2020 CDSG Conference
April
New Orleans, Louisiana
Quentin Shillare, qschillare@kc.rr.com

2020 CDSG & FSG Special Tour
May or June, 2020
Sydney, Australia
Ian Wolfe, ianmcwolfe@hotmail.com

Other Meetings and Tours

June 9-10, 2018
Association Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaires Tour
Aosta Valley, Italy
Pascal Bruchez, president@asmem.ch

August 31 - September 3, 2018
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
Dover, England
Alistar Graham Kerr, psgeditor@hotmail.com

September 15-22, 2018
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Gibraltar and Tarifa
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

September 21 - 23, 2018
Deutsche Gesellschaft Festungsforsch Annual Meeting
Magdeburg, Germany
Andres Kupka, Andrea Theissen, anja.reichert@uni-trier.de

October 6, 2018
Menno van Coehoorn Meeting
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Frits van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

October 12, 2018
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
Fort Bard & Aosta Valley, Italy
Kees Neisingh, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.com

October 13, 2018
Menno van Coehoorn Meeting
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Frits van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

November 3, 2018
Menno van Coehoorn Meeting
Hellevoetsluis, the Netherlands
Frits van Horn, fritsvanhorn@xs4all.nl

February 2-16, 2019
ECCOFORT INTERFEST Study Tour
Ganges River, India
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

May 2019
Fortress Study Group Overseas Tour
Toul/Verdun, France
Alistar Graham Kerr, psgeditor@hotmail.com

September 2019
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
Liverpool, UK
Chairman@fsgfort.com

October 2019
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
Croatia or Czech Republic
Kees Neisingh, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.com

them in the right direction to site owners that may have surplus coast artillery artifacts.

Most former forts are owned today by the National Park Service, state, or local governments. Some of those that are in the best condition are those that are owned by a government entity but "adopted" by a strong group of local volunteers (Fort Adams, Battery Townsley, Fort MacArthur, etc.). These groups go past preservation and into restoration. This is the area where CDSG can be a trusted advisor. We can help coordinate the marriage of known artifacts from abandoned locations to the more active facilities that can best preserve, restore and interpret them. We also have funded the associated moving costs from time to time. One of a growing number of examples would be the transfer of a 90mm gun mount from Fort Moultrie in Charleston, SC, to Fort MacArthur in Los Angeles, CA, or the movement of a 25KW Generator from Fort Hancock, NY, to Fort MacArthur in LA. We located the artifact, connected the site owners on both ends, helped arranged for its physical transfer, but never touched it. The officials of the site owner did the transfer paper work; we got them in the room.

And that, I believe, is the proper role of the CDSG and its members. Neither we, nor our members, should directly retrieve artifacts, regardless of what ever "noble" purpose we may imagine without the site owner's written permission. We should alert owners as to what they have and the relative rarity of the item. We may help in find homes for surviving artifacts before it's too late (like the 16" battleship barrel project currently underway). And we actively lobby for preservation of surviving coast defense structures, objects and property. Please remember the CDSG is a private, non-profit organization that has no authority, nor assets, nor any physical locations. We only have our reputation and knowledge to offer to site owners. Any change in disposition or recovery of any artifact must proceed through the site owner. The CDSG does not have any legal standing to accept or transfer artifacts, its role remains that of advising and providing documentation to enable the site owner to make decisions regarding the artifacts on its property.

The removal of artifacts without permission from properties visited by the CDSG by its members is not condoned in any way. While such actions may have occurred in the past, we want to be clear that these actions should not take place in the future. To this end, the CDSG Board of Directors has approved a CDSG Code of Conduct that we ask every CDSG member to follow. This Code will be posted on our website along with our by-laws and I urge you to read this code at your first opportunity. Please keep in mind that if you breach this code of conduct during a CDSG sponsored event, under the by-laws of the CDSG any member may be expelled, with cause, by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting of the directors after notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Board of Directors are afforded that member.

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CDSG Board Ballot – Please vote and respond to member survey

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Nominations Committee, Alfred Chiswell, Quentin Schillare, and Norm Scarpulla, has recommend Robert Grimm and Richard Wong as board candidates and the Board has approved these nominations. The ballot is included with the May 2018 *Newsletter*, and completed ballots are due to the teller by July 31. Results will be announced in August 2018 *Newsletter*. The next three-year term will begin October 1, 2018, when Alex Hall will be stepping down from the Board. Please return your complete ballot and complete the annual member's survey. It is important that all member partake in our organization through voting and providing your input to the Board.

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2018 Annual Worker's Dinner Thursday, April 26, 2018

Terry McGovern – CDSG Fund Trustee

The CDSG Fund Trustees are proud to announce that the 23rd Annual CDSG WORKER'S DINNER was held on April 27, 2018 at Dooger's Seafood and Grill in Warrenton, Oregon, in recognition of our volunteer's efforts during the past year. The following CDSG members were invited to the CDSG Worker's Dinner because of their efforts for the CDSG: Mark Berhow (Conference, Publications, Press/ePress, Projects & Website, Fund); Bolling Smith (Publications); Glen Williford (Audit); Jon Prostack (Press); Tom Kavanagh (Membership & Promotion, Press); Gordon Bliss (Preservation & Interpretation); Norman Scarpulla (Representative & Outreach); Quentin Schillare (Membership & Promotion, Fund); Terry McGovern (Fund, Finance & Corporate, Press/ePress, Tour). Joining these volunteers were the CDSG Directors (Alex Hall, Tom Batha (Press), Danny Malone). Please join the directors in thanking these volunteer for their efforts for the CDSG over the past 12 months. You too can be part of this dinner by becoming a CDSG committee volunteer in 2018.

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Request to CDSG Membership

Terry McGovern and Norm Scarpulla

The CDSG Representative and Outreach Committee is working on gathering current contact information for all the coast defense site owners in the USA. We need this information for our outreach efforts to both inform site owners on the value of protecting these sites for future generations as well as to encourage them to become members of the CDSG. We are asking you to send us this contact information (Site Name and Location, Owner's Name, Owner's Address, Owner's Telephone Number, Owner's Email Address, Website (if any), and Owner's Primary Contact Person) for your local coast defense sites (this could be from a fire control station to an entire fort, as our database will be organized based on ownership, i.e. one entry per owner). Please send this information to Terry McGovern (tcmcgovern@att.net) and to Norman Scarpulla (nkscarpulla@icloud.com). Thanks for your assistance.

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CDSG/FSG Joint Tour to the Defenses of Switzerland (August 11 to August 19, 2018)

Terry McGovern – Tour Chairman

Maurice Lovisa of the Association St-Maurice d'Etudes Militaires (ASMEM) and Martin Egger, our Swiss-based contact, have arranged an excellent tour for the dozen CDSG members and eighteen FSG members that have signed up for the 8-day tour to modern Swiss fortifications. Both FSG and CDSG members have shown strong interest in this tour, so we have reached our limit on



the number of tour members (based on buses/hotels limitations). We have started to place those wanting to attend the tour on a waiting list in case tour members drop out. Excluding air fare to and from Zurich, the cost of the tour is around \$2,000 (depending on single or double rooms). If you are interested in placing your name on the waiting list, please contact Terry McGovern.

Contact for questions at: Terry McGovern
1700 Oak Lane
McLean, VA 22010 USA
703/538-5403
tcmcgovern@att.net

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Coast Defense Study Group 2019 Annual Conference to the Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay

April 10 to April 14, 2019

First Announcement – Twelve Months Out
Terry McGovern – Conference Chairman

Planning is well advanced for the 37th Annual CDSG Conference to the former Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay (HDCB). The defenses protected Hampton Roads and the bay's large collection of important military sites, industrial enterprises, and access to important cities of Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond, resulting in several layers of coastal defenses. This key role resulted in the construction both of 2nd and 3rd System fortifications which took part in the American Civil War and the famous naval battle between the *USS Monitor* and *CSS Virginia* in 1862. The importance of the HDCB led to the construction of extensive Endicott-Taft defenses, as well as World War II forts at Cape Charles and Cape Henry at the entrance to the bay that resulted in the largest collection of 16-inch (10 guns) and 6-inch (12 guns) batteries in the United States.

Gaining access to the remaining coast defense structures of former HDCB with its sub-units of Fort Monroe, Fort Wool, Fort Story, Fort John Custis, and Fort Norfolk has become much more difficult since our last conference to the Tidewater area in 2000. General security issues have increased dramatically since "9/11", the continuing military use of the Fort Story area. Concerns about impacts on wildlife, health & safety concerns, and even weather issues have made our efforts to received permission to visit all the



Chesapeake Bay harbor defenses with key coast defense sites marked.

coast defense sites, as well as obtaining access to interior spaces of these structures, a very complex process. We have been working with the Fort Monroe Authority, National Park Service, US Army, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the City of Hampton, and the US Navy to gain their approval to tour these structures. Through use of background checks, school buses, boat charters, waivers, safety equipment, escorted groups, etc. we have received approval from all these sites owners to tour these historical fortifications. You will only have opportunity to visit these “off limits” sites by attending the CDSG Annual Conference (and we will not return for another twenty years!!). Access will only get more difficult in the future, so please plan on attending our annual conference if you want to visit these defenses.

We have selected April 10 to April 14, 2015, as the dates for the



Battery Winslow with 16-inch/50 barrel at Fort John Custis



Fort Monroe with 3rd system fort, Endicott batteries, and garrison areas

annual conference. The conference will be based at the Quality Suites & Sleep Inn Lake Wright – Norfolk Airport. This selection is based on the best location for our daily field trips, the quality of the facility, and the room price as for this conference. You will have an option of two types of sleeping rooms at the same location. Quality Suites Lake Wright has agreed to a daily rate of \$89 single or double occupancy, plus applicable tax, including free breakfast, internet, and parking, while the Sleep Inn Lake Wright has a daily rate of \$69 single or double occupancy, plus applicable tax, including free breakfast, internet, and parking. They have also agreed to provide a free meeting room, if we use over 40 guestrooms. For those who are attending, you must call the Quality Suites & Sleep Inn at 757-461-6251 to make your own reservations (ask for the CDSG rate at the hotel of your choice) for the four nights (April 10 in/April 14 out). You have until March 10, 2019, to book a room at these very low rates. Please remember to arrange your flights and shared rental cars for the conference. The hotel runs a free shuttle to the Norfolk Airport, which is about 10 minutes away.

We are identifying the shared conference costs which will include: the Fort Wool boat charter, three boxed lunches, the Fort Story bus charter, an annual banquet, permits, safety equipment, daily handouts, conference notes, and other miscellaneous costs. These costs will depend on the number of members attending and our vendors providing us their final numbers, so we have not yet arrived at a final conference cost. We will provide a registration flyer with the August 2018 *Newsletter*; you can send in your registration fee at that time.

On-site registration will take place from 4pm to 6pm on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, with conference orientation session and coast defense presentations to follow. Presentations will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Please consider giving a presentation during the conference. Contact Quentin Schillare for details as he is organizing these presentations, as well as the nightly “Coast Defense Material Sale.” The CDSG Annual Meeting and Group Dinner will be

held on Friday night, April 12, at 6pm. The conference will end at 3pm on Sunday, April 14, but there are many other military sites for you to visit on your own in the area, such as the Fort Eustis, Yorktown Battlefield, Fort Boykin, Fort Powhatan, USS *Wisconsin*, McArthur Memorial, Naval Station Norfolk, etc.

Please plan on attending the 2019 CDSG Annual Conference to visit these very hard to visit sites and structures, as well as the great opportunity to discuss your favorite subject with old friends and to make new friends.

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Donation of Coast Defense Collections to the Fort Monroe Authority Casemate Museum

Terry McGovern – CDSG Secretary

The Coast Defense Study Group (CDSG) and the Fort Monroe Authority Casemate Museum (FMA) have agreed to work together to provide a permanent repository for CDSG members to donate their coast artillery/defense collections (artifacts, books, photographs, documents, etc.). The CDSG Board has approved this arrangement between the CDSG and FMA as a solution to what has been an ongoing issue for our CDSG members and their families.

Rationale

Many of the CDSG members are getting older and are starting to plan for their coast defense collections after their deaths if their estates do not want to retain their collection and/or the trustees of their estates are not knowledgeable about how to deal with coast artillery collections. Past outcomes – sales through eBay, local tag sales, or even trashing them – have not been the best means of preserving these materials for future use. CDSG members have been seeking advice on this subject or even just donating their collections directly to the CDSG. The CDSG does not have the resources to preserve and make these materials available to other members, much less the general public. The CDSG Board has sought to identify a good repository for these collections for several years and seeks to recommend an organization that will provide a good home for these collections.

The Fort Monroe Authority Casemate Museum's mission is to preserve and interpret the history of Fort Monroe (which for many years was the educational center of the US Army's Coast Artillery Corps as well as the largest seacoast fortification in the USA). The FMA Casemate Museum interprets the story of the US Army's Coast Artillery Corps and American fortifications in general. FMA Casemate Museum maintains a large archive of materials on coast defense and artillery according to museum industry best practices. FMA Casemate Museum is in the process of rehousing their archival collection to improve general public access. The FMA is planning to create a Fort Monroe Visitor Center (which will include space for expanding its archives) in the former Coast Artillery School Library building (which ties in well with CDSG's mission). As such, FMA Casemate Museum is willing to enhance its collection initiatives through a CDSG Special Collection, to include private collections and materials that relate to US seacoast fortifications and US Army Coast Artillery Corps.



Responsibilities

The CDSG will publicize this process of coast artillery/defense collection donation to the FMA Casemate Museum. We will assist our members with complying with the FMA Casemate Museum's collection policies and procedures. The CDSG will encourage researchers to visit the FMA Casemate Museum to conduct research. The CDSG will be available to consult with the museum staff on the assessment of the donated materials. The CDSG does not accept or assume any liability for the copyright or ownership status of any material donor gives to the CDSG Special Collection; that responsibility remains with the donor. The CDSG will consult with the FMA Casemate Museum on a regular basis to ensure the success of our combined efforts to preserve this historic coast artillery material.

The FMA Casemate Museum's archives are professionally organized and are maintained in a secure facility. The archive is governed by Fort Monroe Authority and follows the guidelines set forth in their formal Collections Management Policy. The FMA Casemate Museum will evaluate and assess all offered collections to make sure they comply with this policy and inform the donor of the necessary relevant paperwork. The FMA Casemate Museum will maintain any accepted materials and preserve them for future generations. FMA Casemate Museum will make the donated materials available for viewing and research once the collection has officially been processed. FMA Casemate Museum will provide an annual report to the CDSG on the status of the CDSG Special Collection.

Process

Below are the steps involved and the attached are samples of the paperwork need to donate materials to the FMA Casemate Museum:

Contact the FMA Casemate Museum collections staff to discuss your interest in donating to the CDSG Special Collection (Chelsea Morris, Collection Specialist, cmorris@fortmonroe.org (757)-690-8065.) They will send you a History of Artifact form. This questionnaire will assist the collection staff to assess the items you which to donate to the special collection. An example of this form is attached to the memo.

Fill out this form to the best of your ability. Email or mail the completed form along with several photographs of the coast artillery materials to FMA Casemate Museum collection staff. If

you have several boxes of materials, please discuss directly with the collection staff.

The FMA Casemate Museum collection staff will contact the donor within 30 days of receipt to acknowledging the donor's paperwork and to let them know if they should ship the material to the FMA Casemate Museum, as well as letting them know to who, how, and where they should ship the materials. The collection staff will provide a Temporary Artifact Receipt form to the donor when they receive the coast defense material.

The museum collections team will meet quarterly to discuss any potential acquisitions. Should the museum decide to accept the donation, a collections staff member will be in touch to arrange for an official Deed of Gift form to be signed. If the museum decides not to accept the materials, a staff member will work with the donor to arrange for the return of the items, and paperwork to acknowledge the return.

An example of this paperwork listed above has been posted to the CDSG website. Please use the following link: http://cdsg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CDSG_Special_Collection_MOU_FMA_Casemate.pdf

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Restoration of historic Fort Ward bakery building has begun

March 8, 2018

<https://fortwardhall.org/2018/03/08/bakery-building-renovation-begins-today/>

And so, we begin. After more than three years of fundraising, friend raising, planning and public review, work starts today on restoration of Fort Ward's historic bakery building. When we're done – sometime, we hope, late in 2018 – the island will have a new historic meeting hall, interpretive site, and monument to local heritage preservation: Fort Ward Community Hall.

It's a big moment, and we want to share it with you, our supporters, and reflect on how we got this far.

First off, we need to acknowledge our project partners, the Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District (our general contractor) and Kitsap County (Fort Ward) Sewer District No. 7 (building owner and as such, cornerstone investor). When we presented this idea to the Park District at a neighborhood meeting at "Station S" back in 2015, they signed on without hesitation to contribute horsepower and expertise. And the project is only possible because our neighborhood utility district had the foresight to purchase the bakery building for a community space back in 2007, many years before we even had a plan to bring it about.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Wenzlau Architects, Browne Wheeler Engineering, and Fischer Bouma Partnership landscape architects. The cost just to get to groundbreaking has been high; it would have been considerably higher but for the generous contributions and considerable expertise of these three island firms. We're particularly indebted to Charlie and Ariel at Wenzlau for helping us through the permitting process – necessarily rigorous,

sometimes frustrating, ultimately successful. Thank you both.

Bainbridge Island Rotary was an early and key supporter through its Judd Huney Fund. Bainbridge Community Foundation, Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation and the Suquamish Foundation have also made outstanding contributions, as have local businesses including Fairy Tale Dental, T&C, ACE Hardware and OTWB Inc.

The City's Historic Preservation Commission played its role, shepherding changes to the city code that cut red tape and permit costs for historic building restorations like ours.

Neighborhood kids – our Fort Ward Youth Board, versions 1.0 and 2.0 – brought the enthusiasm and vigor of youth to our outreach.

And of course, we thank the many donors – dozens of island families and individuals – who have invested both funds and faith in the project. It takes vision and trust to support a capital campaign whose horizon has been, to this point, somewhat hazy. We're grateful to all who have latched onto the Fort Ward bakery building and its history, subscribed to the idea that our local heritage is worth preserving, and given generously to help create a community hall to complement those at Island Center, Seabold, and Yeomalt.

We now set out to reward your faith. Groundbreaking (if that is right term for a building renovation – we may have to shovel some dirt just for the occasion) commences today.

The first phase will see a "controlled demolition" – undoing all of the changes made to the building over the decades, with the goal of restoring it to its original, 1910 glory. Some of these tasks will be relatively easy and cheap: taking down the carport, tearing out interior walls and flooring, peeling away the tumbledown porches that have been grafted on front and back and mar the classic facade. In the coming weeks and months, we'll contract with an expert in masonry restoration to reopen to full depth those big windows bricked over by the Navy in the 1940s and address smaller needs.

Materials will be recycled and reused wherever possible. Anything of salvage value will be repurposed within the building, made available on the used-materials market, or offered to islanders for a small donation to the project. This will include everything from doors and windows to the vintage pink sinks and matching bathtub. If you have a construction project coming up – be it a mother-in-law apartment or just a backyard chicken coop – and are looking for used materials, drop us a line. We might have something for you – funky perhaps, but with an interesting provenance.

Then comes the more formidable task of restoration. While much of that work will be relatively straightforward, we're already learning that some will be more involved and expensive than we anticipated. Example: Sometime over the years, a misguided resident hammered away two of the hewn sandstone sills on the north side of the building. That damage will be laid bare as the carport comes down. Sourcing replacements (even reproductions) will run into many thousands of dollars – but we believe these ornamental sills are absolutely essential to an accurate and acceptable restoration of this beautiful, architecturally striking building. Other surprises and challenges may await.

Are we done raising funds? No – we'll need more contributions

to complete the restoration and dedicate the hall for public use. The outstanding financial need will come into clearer focus as we get work underway and start checking off each task one by one. We'll economize where we can. But if you have considered supporting this project with a contribution, or would like to make another gift, this is the time. We're moving from idea to actuation. The Fort Ward Community Hall is really happening – starting now.

We believe the community will come together in our capstone phase and help us complete the project this year, with tax-deductible contributions through Friends of Fort Ward (our all-volunteer, neighborhood 501(c)3), One Call For All, and our local Foundations. Follow our progress at www.fortwardhall.org and www.facebook.com/friendsoffortward.

With permits in hand, a respectable fund balance and an expert restoration team ready to go, now is the time. And so, we begin. We hope you'll follow along, and we carry your support and good wishes with us.

- Douglas Crist, Candy Merifield, Ellie Montaperto, Christina Doherty, Wesley Dreiling and Kate Merifield, Friends of Fort Ward

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CDSG 2020 Conference the Defenses of New Orleans

Preliminary Report

January 28, 2018

Conference Committee: Quentin Schillare, John Weaver, and Robert Grimm

Advisory Associates: Alex Holder, Terry McGovern, and others as identified.

Dates: Open.

Lodging: Open

Potential Visit Locations:

Coast and Harbor Defense: Fort Jackson, Fort Pike State Historic Site, and Wood/Macomb (drive); Forts St. Phillip and Livingston, Battery Bienvenue, and Proctor's Tower (boat); Fort Massachusetts as an add-on day.

General American History: Jackson Barracks Military Museum, Chalmette Battlefield National Historic Site (Battle of New Orleans), National World War II Museum.

Where Else?

Airport: Louis Armstrong International Airport

Points of Contact in New Orleans: Open

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Another Ft Casey Find

From: Steven Kobylk <sjkobylk@aol.com>

Found when clearing a downed tree on the SPU Camp Casey Campus. It's the rod for holding the counter weights for a 5-inch balanced pillar mount gun. It was moved and a determination will be made if it stays with SPU or turned over to State Parks.



A Visit to Fort Fremont, South Carolina

Charles H. Bogart

In February 2018, Mary Ann and I visited Fort Fremont, SC. What a difference the fort presented from the last time we visited. Since our 2010 visit all of the underbrush and many of the trees surrounding the gun batteries have been removed and orientation signs have been posted. Fort Fremont was an Endicott-period coast defense fortification authorized under the 1898 Harbor Fortification Defense Act to guard Port Royal Sound. The fort was to defend the port of Beaufort and the U.S. Navy shipyard at Port Royal (Parris Island). In 1898, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started construction of the fort.



Battery Jesup from Gun No. 1 to Gun No. 3.

The U.S. Navy had established a coaling station at Port Royal during the American Civil War. Between 1891 and 1895 the navy built a drydock at Port Royal, the only naval drydock south of Norfolk. This wooden graving drydock was the largest wooden naval drydock ever built in the United States. However, by 1920 the drydock was obsolescent and in need of major repairs. With the U.S. Navy concentrating its fleet at Norfolk, the Port Royal shipyard was closed and the naval station was turned over to the Marine Corps.



Battery Jesup Emplacement No. 1.

Fort Fremont was the primary harbor defense of Port Royal Sound. The fort covered 170 acres and was located just upstream of where the Beaufort River entered Port Royal Sound, allowing the fort's batteries to cover both the sound and the river. Fort Fremont contained two Endicott-era batteries: Battery Fornance with two 4.72-inch Armstrong pedestal-mounted rapid-fire guns and Battery Jesup with three 10-inch disappearing guns. Battery

Jesup's guns were one M1895, Gun No. 1; and two M1888MII, Guns No. 2 and No. 3. All three guns were mounted on M1896 disappearing carriages. The fort also had a mine battery room but it was never equipped to control a mine field. These two gun batteries were turned over to the artillery on September 2, 1899.



Battery Jesup Emplacement No. 2..

As built, Fort Fremont was a one-company coast artillery fort, with three enlisted barracks housing 109 men, five NCO quarters, three officers' quarters, a mess hall, and a guardhouse. A total of 32 quartermaster structures were built at the fort, to include the flagstaff. The brick hospital completed in 1904 is the only original building remaining at the fort.

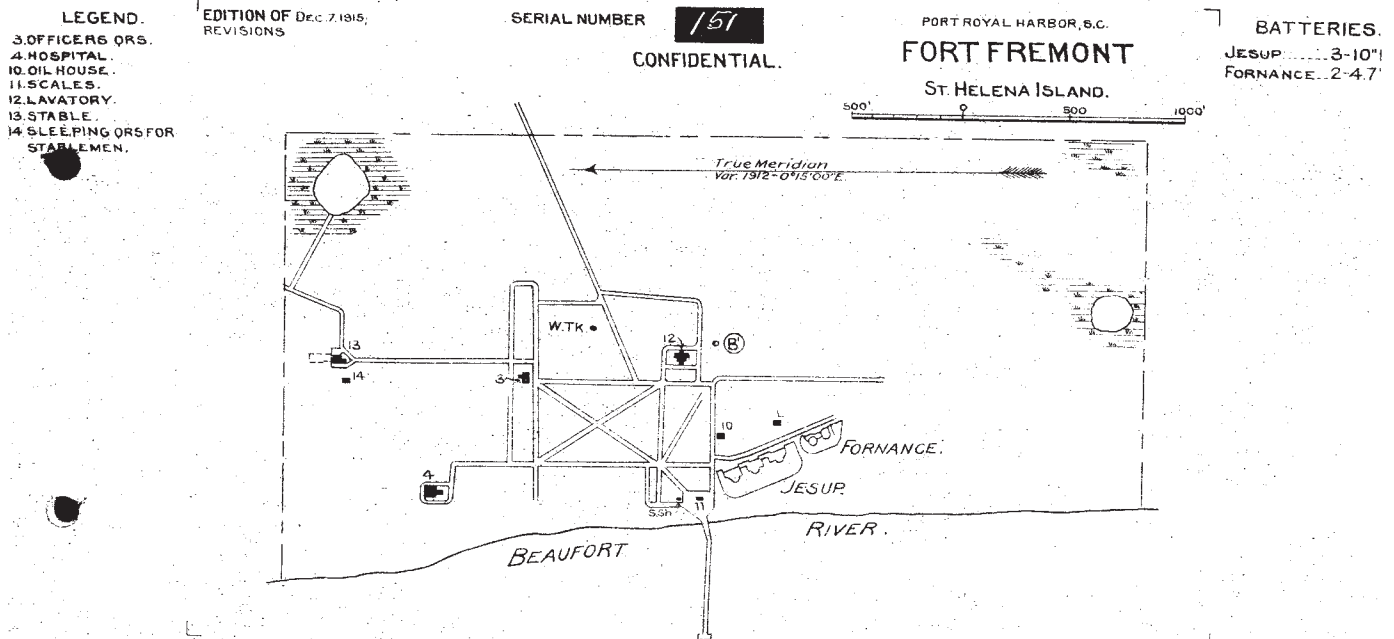
In August 1911, Fort Fremont was hit by a hurricane that heavily damaged the fort. Congress was reluctant to provide money to repair Fort Fremont as Port Royal had fallen out of favor at this time as a commercial port and naval base.



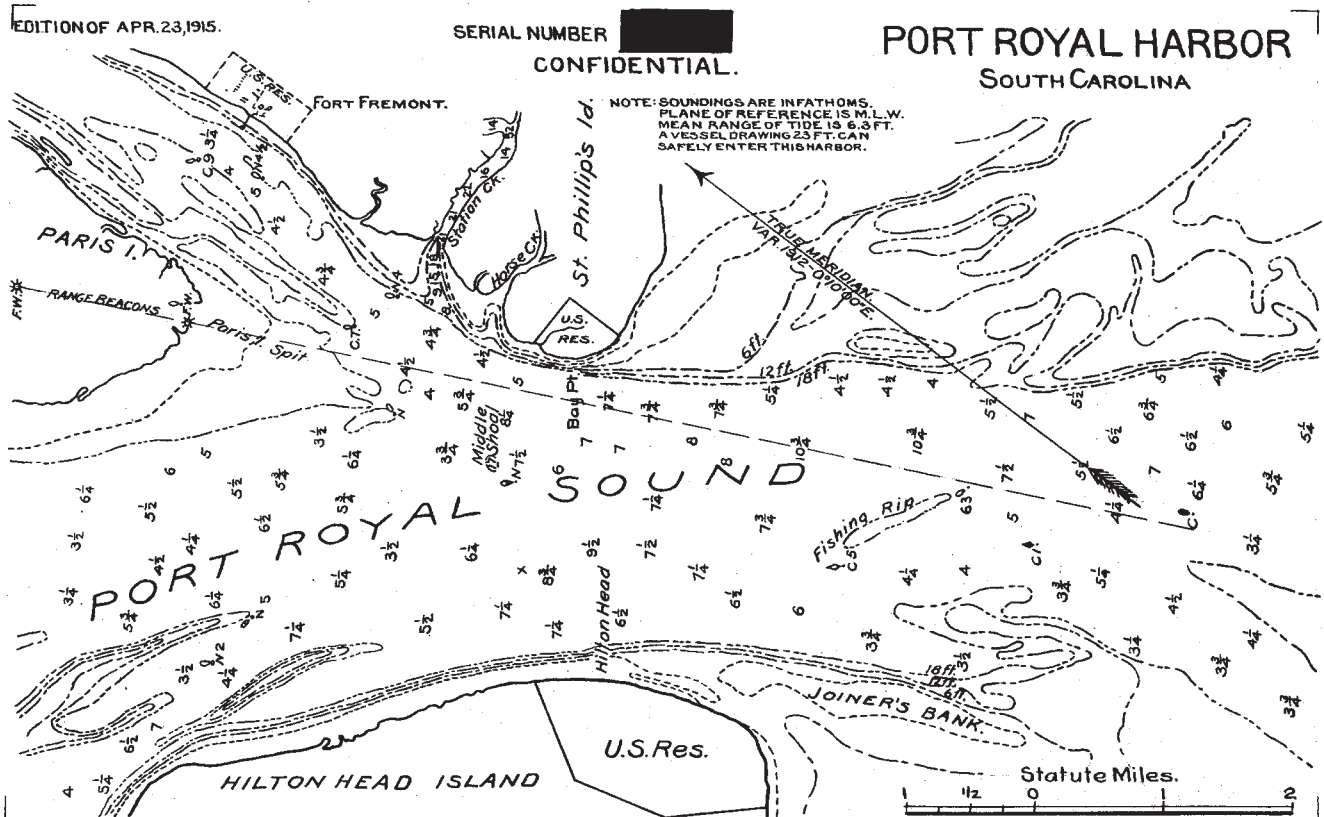
Battery Jesup from Gun No. 3.

In 1911, the 127th Company was ordered to Fort Crockett, TX, leaving Fort Fremont with only five men of the 116th Company from nearby Fort Screven, GA, under an NCO. In 1912, the secretary of war directed that Fort Fremont be placed out of commission, and in 1913 he directed that virtually all the frame building be torn down. Since the removal of the navy base it had been built to protect, Fort Fremont had clearly been on borrowed time. The fort was in caretaker status from 1913 to 1920.

In 1917, the hospital was converted into barracks for a detachment of one officer and 30 enlisted artillerymen. In 1918, Fort Fremont was abandoned as a military station and turned over to the Engineer Department.



Fort Fremont, SC, 1915. NARA.



Port Royal Harbor, 1915. NARA.

Fort Fremont was not regarrisoned during World War I and its heavy artillery tubes were to be converted to railroad artillery for shipment to France to support the American Expeditionary Force. However, none of Fremont's 10-inch guns were converted. On January 2, 1918, Battery Jesup's No. 1 gun was removed and on July 19, 1918, its No. 2 and No. 3 guns were removed. Gun No. 1 was sent to Watervliet Arsenal and eventually scrapped, while Guns Nos. 2 & 3 were sent to Fort Warren, MA, and not scrapped until WWII. In 1920, Battery Fornance's two 4.72-inch guns were dismounted and in 1922 the War Department declared Fort Fremont surplus to its needs and permanently closed the fort.



Battery Fornance.

From 1899 to 1901, Fort Fremont was manned by Battery K, 2nd U.S. Artillery Regiment; from 1901 to 1904 by the 16th Company, Coast Artillery, Artillery Corps; from 1904 to 1907 by the 117th Company, Coast Artillery, Artillery Corps; and from 1907 to 1911 by the 127th Company, Coast Artillery Corps.

In 1930, the fort was sold to a private individual who developed much of the fort's property for residential housing. In 1990, Fort Fremont's gun batteries were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 2004, Fort Fremont has been owned by Beaufort County. In 2011, the Friends of Fort Fremont cleared the area around the gun batteries of the underbrush that had grown up in and around the gun batteries. The fort is now open year-round to the general public during daylight hours.



The remains of Battery Fornance's No. 1 pedestal.

A more detailed history of Fort Fremont, by Dale Manuel, "Fort Fremont and the Defense of Port Royal Sound, South Carolina," appeared in the *Coast Defense Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (November 2002).



A model of the cruiser USS Olympia in the Port Royal drydock.

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Site Visits to Five Gulf Forts

Charles H. Bogart

The first week of April 2018 found me in New Orleans for re-certification training. I took Mary Ann and my granddaughter Grayson with me and added some time to my stay in New Orleans, so we could visit Forts Jackson, Macomb, Pike, Gaines, and Morgan. The last time Mary Ann and I visited these forts was in 2006, one year after Katrina, and all were closed to the public. The following is what we found during our April 6 & 7, 2018, visit.

Fort Jackson

The visitor center was closed and looked abandoned. The grounds of the fort were open for visiting but the fort itself was closed. The land surrounding the fort was maintained and a number of people were using this area for a family outing. The exterior of the fort looked no different from our last visit in 2006. The moat was filled with floating vegetation but the fort's walls looked in good shape with no new cracks. One can still visit Battery Miller, and the fort's water batteries remain open for exploring.



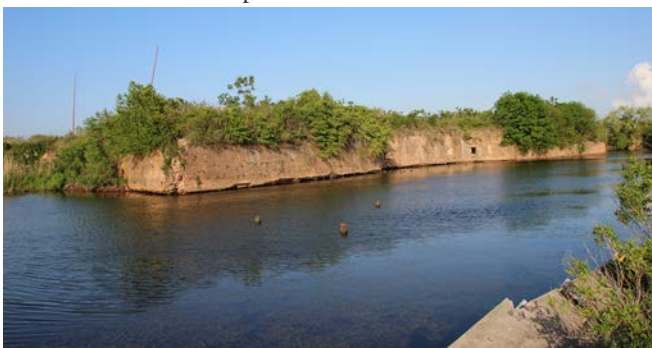
Fort Jackson's wall and the interior of the fort from the landside



A view of the wet moat toward Fort Jackson's drawbridge. The cracks appear little different from 2006.

Fort Macomb

Fort Macomb's entrance is surrounded by impenetrable bush, guarded by a chain link fence topped with barbed wire. From the site of the former marina, in the moat, one can view the west and south walls of the fort. The interior of the fort and its walls are covered in various plants and it appears that one could not view the interior of the fort even if one could cross the drawbridge. I noticed no new vertical cracks in the fort's wall and the existing cracks do not appear to have enlarged. However, it does seem that the moat waters are continuing to undercut the walls at water level and I expect that sometime in the next ten years a portion of these walls will collapse into the moat.



Fort Macomb from the marina dock. The drawbridge is left center. The fort's walls are lost in vegetation.



A close-up of the vertical crack in Fort Macomb's left bastion wall. Note how the water is undercutting the fort's brick wall at water level.

Fort Pike

The fort is surrounded by a chain link fence topped with barbed wire. Thick vegetation along the fence line prevents one from obtaining a ground view of the fort. However, if one walks up on the shoulder of the bridge located to the east of Fort Pike one can obtain a view of the fort. The fort's grounds, walls and interior are covered in high uncut vegetation. The walls of the fort are visibly deteriorating with large cracks and the citadel has collapsed. Without stabilization I expect a portion of the fort's walls to collapse within the next ten years.



Fort Pike from the bridge. Note the uncontrolled growth of vegetation inside and outside of the fort. The outer sea wall is heavily damaged, allowing waves to crash directly against the fort's wall.



A close-up of Fort Pike's walls showing the enlarging vertical crack. The state apparently installed steel beams to help stabilize this section of the wall. The fort's interior citadel has crumbled in upon itself.

Fort Gaines

This fort was closed when I visited in 2006 but I am happy to report that it is again open for visitors. I could see no visible damage to the grounds or to the fort itself. Everything that was formerly open within and outside the fort can again be visited. The museum was nicely restored. The citizens of Dauphin Island have done a great job in restoring Fort Gaines to its pre-Katrina condition. The auto ferry once again connects Fort Gaines to Fort Morgan.



The gorge wall of Fort Gaines toward the drawbridge. The grounds are well cared for, the wall has no cracks.



Fort Gaines from seaward. The damage to the walls has been repaired but the moat is filled with sand.

Fort Morgan



A view down the dry moat toward the main entrance to Fort Morgan. Note how neat the grounds look and how well maintained the fort's walls are.



Fort Morgan's 155 mm GPF is in excellent condition and shows no signs of being engulfed in seawater.

Closed when I visited in 2006, the fort has been restored by the State of Alabama to its former glory. The siege trenches and earthworks outside the fort have been restored. The museum is

once again filled with artifacts. I could not discern any damage to the walls of the fort and all portions of the interiors of the Third-System fort were open for visiting. The Endicott batteries outside the park grounds still stand - a little worse for wear, but still recognizable.



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