



The

CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Summer 2018



Chairman's Message

Thomas D. Batha

The CDSG Board of Directors met recently for our quarterly telephone conference call and I would like to briefly relate what was discussed. The first item of business was our upcoming conferences and tours. You may not realize this, but planning for each one typically begins two years in advance. We usually try to have three years of conference planning in the pipeline. This has proven to work successfully, as those who have attended can attest. Right now, organizing the 2019 conference - Defenses of the Chesapeake Bay - is well underway by Terry McGovern. The 2020 conference in New Orleans is developing on schedule with organizer Quentin Schillare. We are currently searching for someone to organize the 2021 conference. Its location remains to be finalized, but it should be either Long Island Sound, Charleston/Savannah, or Portland, Maine, in keeping with the rotation schedule. If anyone would like to organize one of these, please contact me or Terry McGovern. We have much information and support resources to offer, so you won't be doing it alone.

You will find a copy of the annual audit report in this *Newsletter*. It is sent to all members for information and comment. This task has been done in recent years by founding member Glen Williford, but he chose to step down this year. We were able to recruit member Ned Libby to take over the Audit Committee and this report is his first. On behalf of the CDSG, I would like to thank Glen for his past efforts and welcome Ned to the volunteer group that makes CDSG "happen."

Other items of interest from our conference-call meeting appear elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

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CDSG Membership Update: Looking for Lost Souls

Membership in the Coast Defense Study Group is on a calendar-year basis. All memberships expire on December 31 and must be renewed by January 1 of the new year. Life being what it is, we often have members who do not renew on time. To ensure we do not lose any members who have simply become overwhelmed by end-of-year activities, we in the CDSG membership business provide gentle reminders through the *Newsletter* and personal contact by mail, email, or phone call — and sometimes all three. We give extra effort to old timers, those long-term members with decades of membership. Occasionally, our contact information is wrong; members move, or change phone numbers and email addresses. Sometimes info is transcribed incorrectly into our membership database (How can that be?). We are looking for contact information (home address, email, phone number) for these former members: Daniel Vukobratovich, Martin Dwyer, Peter O'Hara, James Burri,

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

2020 CDSG Conference
April

New Orleans, Louisiana

Quentin Schillare, qschillare@kc.rr.com

2020 CDSG & FSG Special Tour
June 2020

Sydney, Australia

Ian Wolfe, ianmcwolfe@hotmail.com

Other Meetings and Tours

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

Tom Peterson, and Daniel Lyons. We do not want to lose any of these lost souls. Send any updates to:

Quentin W. Schillare
24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7295
913-839-4293, qschillare@kc.rr.com

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2019 CDSG Trip to the Philippines Cancelled

Andy Grant <wekagg@verizon.net>

We are sorry to announce that the scheduled February 2019 CDSG trip to Corregidor in the Philippines has been cancelled. After reviewing the current status of Corregidor, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel or delay the trip to a future undetermined date. Many factors went into the decision, but the leading cause of the cancellation is that we felt with new restrictions and lodging concerns we would not be able to provide the quality tour that we have offered in the past.

The Corregidor Inn, where we had planned to stay and eat while on the island, has been under continual renovation for almost two years and currently has no kitchen facilities. The timeline for completion of the Corregidor Inn renovation has been repeatedly moved back from the original date in early 2018.

Another issue we were facing is that access to the other fortified islands (Fort Drum, Fort Hughes, and Fort Frank) has become increasingly more difficult or outright forbidden since the last time the CDSG visited in 2014. During our last trip we learned that Fort Drum and Fort Frank are now under the supervision of the Philippine Marines. Another big issue we were facing is the loss of key staff on the island, with whom we had dealt in the past. Ron, the former Corregidor Foundation Island Manager, who was integral in our ability to see locations on and off Corregidor, is no longer on staff.

The CDSG plans to return to Corregidor in the future but before a date is chosen we will have to assess the ability to see the locations and sites to make such a trip worthwhile.

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Request to CDSG Membership

Terry McGovern

The CDSG Representative and Outreach Committee is working to gather current contact information for all owners of coast defense sites in the USA. We need this information for our outreach

efforts to both inform site owners of the value of protecting these sites for future generations as well as to encourage them to become members of the CDSG. We ask you to send us contact information [site name and location; website name, if any; owner's name, address, telephone number, email address, 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). Thank you for your assistance.

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Result of 2018 CDSG Election

Terry McGovern

The CDSG Teller reports the election of Richard Wong as the next CDSG director. Alex Hall's term will end on October 1, 2018; Richard's term will begin at that time and run for the next three years. Therefore, the directors for next year will be Tom Batha, Danny Malone, and Richard Wong. They will select the Chairman of the Board for the coming year as well as chairmen for all committees. The CDSG Board of Directors thanks both Richard Wong and Robert Grimm for their willingness to serve the CDSG in this role. Next year's Nomination Committee will be Quentin Schillare (Chair), Norm Scarpulla, and Alex Hall.

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Mid-Atlantic CDSG Members Event Fort Washington National Park September 22 and 23

Mid-Atlantic CDSG members are invited to a public event focusing on the role of the fort during First World War. We will be manning displays on the Coast Artillery Corps and giving tours of Battery Decatur (two 10-inch disappearing guns) and the fire command stations. It will be an opportunity for members to meet, socialize, and exchange knowledge (and objects). We will also be surveying the fortifications for their current condition for a CDSG work party in October or November to remove harmful vegetation and clear drainage channels. The event is on Saturday, September 22, and Sunday, September 23, from 10am to 4pm. Fort Washington National Park is at 13551 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington, MD 207144 (let's see if we can get

Fort Washington enough in that address!!). Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net or 703-538-5403 (home) if you can attend this event. We need members to participate on both days.

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CDSG Annual Business Meeting April 27, 2018,

HD of Columbia River Conference, Astoria, Oregon

Directors present: Tom Batha (Chairman), Alex Hall

Committee Chairs present: Gordon Bliss, Quentin Schillare, Norm Scarpulla, Terry McGovern, Mark Berhow

Meeting began at 8:05 PM with Chairman Tom Batha thanking Oregon State Parks, Washington State Parks, and the U.S. Coast Guard for extending permission to visit their properties and providing access to areas not regularly open to the public. Thanks also to Mark Berhow for serving as the conference chair and running the conference. The meeting moved into committee reports, upcoming events, and questions.

Preservation (Gordon Bliss) – The write-up of summary guidelines published in the newsletter was well received.

Nahant, MA – Battery Murphy – Owner intends to build a new three-story building and is in the preliminary stages. Fort Terry, Plum Island, NY – The USDA pulling out/final fate of the island and properties will take at least a few more years to get sorted out. A large group has organized to keep Plum Island and is promoting preservation/future park use. Fort Ward, WA – Work is being done to the guardhouse.

Membership (Quentin Schillare) – Members may offer a “scholarship” for the benefit of another member who may not be able to afford annual dues. Since going to Paypal for electronic payment of dues, the percentage of members paying that way has increased each year. The membership chairman uses a database program to keep track of member’s info for publications to be sent and records donations to the CDSG fund. Since CDSG’s inception, there have been a total of 1,185 members, turned over three times. General appeal has been made to members to volunteer for the organization and a thank you to those who are serving already to help run the CDSG.

Question from a member - Is Paypal cheapest method of payment versus direct debit? Answer - Paypal is used so CDSG does not need /get member’s bank account info. (Terry M./Mark B.)

Outreach – (Norm Scarpulla) - Site representative program is how we reach out to owners. It could be a whole harbor defense or just individual features. Currently we have vacancies in the Gulf Coast, New Orleans, Key West, and Hawaii. In addition, an overall coordinator for San Francisco is also needed. Preservation Handbooks still available, free to good homes.

Finance and CDSG Fund – (Terry McGovern) - CDSG Fund – Looking for new projects for Fund support. Requests for funding must be in writing and meet the objects/goals of CDSG. A report has to be written if the project is done or the money needs to be given back to the CDSG Fund.

Finance – A financial audit will be done shortly. Summary: \$32,000 primarily spent on Journal, Newsletter, website, press; \$50,000 in checking account; \$18,000 in the CDSG Fund.

Reserve monies are held in support of the annual conferences and CDSG Press.

Publications (Mark Berhow) – The annual dues cover the costs of publication and shipping of the Newsletter and Journal. The editor of the Journal, B.W. Smith, is happy to work with potential authors.

Website (Mark Berhow) – There is a wealth of information available on our website at cdsg.org.

Upcoming Conferences -

2019 CDSG – HD Chesapeake Bay (Terry McGovern) – Two different room rates to choose from, as same hotel owner owns two hotels adjacent to each other. Four main areas will be visited. First signup opportunity in the next newsletter.

2020 CDSG – CD New Orleans (Quentin Schillare) – Conference will be of particular interest to fans of brick fortifications. Challenges are working with both private and government owners and arranging boats. Possible add-on day to visit Ft. Massachusetts. Conference will likely be in late February or early March.

Upcoming Special Tours – Philippines, 2019 (Andy Grant) – Tour being organized through Valor Tours. Appears that a new direction for Corregidor is being envisioned, but our tour planning is continuing.

Old Business (Terry McGovern) – A memorandum of understanding between CDSG and the Fort Monroe Artillery Museum has been created to provide an option for donating the collections of our members.

New Business / Questions from Members

Question – Has a cost or donations been received from people downloading documents we have on our website? Reply – few donations have been received from people who have downloaded posted materials. Unspecified money given to the CDSG Fund helps covers this.

Question – Concerning international fees and possibility of making mailings to international members electronic. Reply – Board will look into this for consideration.

Meeting concluded at 9:12 PM.

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

This will be a short column as I do not have anything totally new to report, so I will just update some ongoing items and some thoughts going forward.

The situation regarding Plum Island and Fort Terry continues to be in a holding pattern. The Preserve Plum Island Coalition continues its efforts to prevent the island from being sold for development, including visits to Congress. The CDSG now has a representative on the steering committee of the coalition so we will have more input on our specific issue (Fort Terry structures) as well as a more informed view of their plans. Unfortunately, DHS has now stopped all visitation to the island for the indefinite future, so there will not be a way to see what may be happening on the island.

At Fort Adams, volunteer cleanup work continues with another of the Endicott batteries, Battery Belton. However, vegetation

never stops growing and regular upkeep is required on the areas cleaned so far and the volunteer work parties are re-clearing the outer works, the redoubt, and Battery Bankhead. If you have not been to Fort Adams in some years, I would encourage you to try and make it there and see how much it has changed, particularly at the Advanced Redoubt.

Next spring brings our next annual conference which includes another of the areas I am following – Fort Monroe. If you have not been there since the last Chesapeake Bay conference, this will give you a chance to see the major changes that have happened since the Army left and the National Park Service and Virginia's Fort Monroe Authority have taken over. A large turnout by the CDSG may help in giving us more of a voice on what happens to the structures on the fort that we are most interested in.

For those that have a specific preservation need, this is a reminder that the CDSG fund has money available for qualified projects. This can include repairs, signage, as well as other concrete examples (pardon the pun) of improvements to a coast defense site or structure.

It is peak vegetation season right now, but it is not too early to plan for work in the fall when the vegetation loses most of its leaves and recedes (at least in most parts of the country). If starting to clear the area around a structure for the first time, it can be best to do it in the late fall just before winter, when it is easier to clear, and it will not be growing back immediately.

If you have a preservation issue or question, or for further information on any of the items I have mentioned, contact the Preservation Committee Chair, Gordon Bliss, at preservation@cdsg.org.

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Update on Massachusetts Sites

Norm Scarpulla

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages several former Coast Artillery sites, many of which are in the Boston area. Recently, DCR has made significant preservation efforts at two sites.

Halibut Point Fire Control Station, Rockport, MA



Halibut Point is the northern tip of Cape Ann, the peninsula that bounds the north side of Massachusetts Bay. During WW2, the army built a fire control station here to service Battery Murphy (CN 104) at East Point, Nahant, MA, and Battery Seaman (CN 103) at Odiorne's Point, Rye, NH, (both batteries 2 x 16" BC). The Halibut Point reservation is now a state park, and the five-level concrete tower (with three observation levels) is partially surrounded by a two-story wood-frame barracks. There is direct access to the tower from the first floor of the barracks. The state park used the barracks as a visitor center and museum, but it has been closed for the past two years because of serious deterioration of the 75-year-old barracks. DCR chose to restore the barracks, preserving as much of the original structure as possible, rather than removing the original building and replacing it with a replica. Work started this spring and includes replacing the modern entrance ramp and windows and repairing sections of spalled concrete on the tower.

Fort Warren, Boston Harbor

Fort Warren is the major 3rd-System work guarding Boston Harbor, located on George's Island. Built between 1837 and 1861, later it was the site of major Endicott-period gun batteries, mine facilities, and fire control stations. DCR became concerned about deterioration of the 3rd-System brick masonry in the Front I rooms underneath the Endicott-period Battery Stevenson (2 x 12" DC) and has closed those rooms to visitors. A major accomplishment this year was to complete a 3D laser scan of the entire fort. The data will be used to provide accurate plans for design work, and to assess any structural movement. Also, they have cleared vegetation from parts of the terreplein, starting with Front II. In recent years, DCR converted the mine storehouse into a new visitor center, which includes a museum, café, and store.

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Fort Monroe Authority Removes Vegetation

Batteries Parrott and Irwin prepared for 2019 CDSG Annual Conference

By Terrance McGovern

The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) is very much looking forward to the CDSG Annual Conference to the Defenses of Chesapeake Bay, April 10 to April 14, 2019. We plan on visiting the wonderful 3rd system masonry fort, as well as the Endicott-Taft defenses. Fort Monroe has always been the "heart" of the U.S. Coast Artillery Corps, due to the presence of the CAC School for almost 50 years at Old Point Comfort.

Due their training role, two of the most photographed batteries at Fort Monroe were Battery Parrott (two 12-inch disappearing guns) and Battery Irwin (four 3-inch rapid-fire guns). The batteries closest to the CAC School were often where visiting VIPs would observe gun drills. The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) owns them currently and they are looking forward to our visit to these batteries during our conference.

David Stroud, director of heritage assets and HPO for the FMA, will be our host during our visit to these two batteries and he has many questions about the preservation and interpretation of these batteries. These batteries are special to us, as Battery Irwin has two 3-inch rapid-fire guns with WW 2 shields still in place, while Battery Parrott was converted to a 90 mm AMTB emplacement during WW 2. A very rare 90 mm gun on a fixed mount is on display there.

David, knowing our great interest, is getting the batteries ready for our visit by removing all the vegetation that has growth up around the emplacements and guns since the US Army closed the fort in 2011. When these photos were taken, they had only completed phase one - to remove the invasive vegetation from the berm and return the historic viewshed. Ongoing maintenance will eventually bring the berm to a point much like the area by Battery Irwin. The removal of vegetation on the concrete structures of the batteries will begin later. He has sent us "before" and "after" photographs of this work.



Protective berm in front of Battery Parrott – "before" image – although some vegetation has been removed



"After" image. You can now see the 90 mm gun



Protective berm in front of Battery Irwin – "before" image



View of Battery Irwin's berm after vegetation removal.

The CDSG is a consulting party under the Section 106 process at Fort Monroe, so the FMA is looking to the CDSG for plans to reuse these structures, especially Battery Parrott, as structures need to generate income to pay for their maintenance. The CDSG Board has agreed that the CDSG Fund will provide up to \$5,000 to pay for historical signage at these batteries, as visitors today do not even know the names of these batteries, let alone their function and history. We are working with David to develop the proper signage to fit with the rest of Fort Monroe. There has also been interest in helping to fund the maintenance of the guns, such as painting them to protect them and get the right color.

For more information on these batteries or these projects, please contact me at tcmcgovern@att.net or David at dstroud@fortmonroe.org.

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Sumter & Moultrie Cannons Conserved

Gary Alexander

For the past six years, the National Park Service has partnered with the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, a part of Clemson University, to conserve historic metals at Fort Sumter National Monument. Through the Adopt-a-Cannon Program, the Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Historic Trust has raised funds necessary to complete the conservation of the park's historic cannons. The park's collection of 40 cannons at Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter span the period of 1830 to 1890.

The last segment of the project is underway and concentrates on Fort Sumter's twelve 100-pound Parrott rifles. These guns were mounted in the right face of the fort in 1870, on post-Civil War iron carriages. These guns were buried in place with dirt fill from building Battery Isaac Huger in 1899. The guns were not unearthed until the partial excavation of the fort between 1958 and 1960.

The application of paint stripper begins the process. High-pressure hot-water blasting safely removes the loosened paint without damaging the historic metals. The final application of an epoxy-based primer and top coat completes the work. Identifying marks previously unseen due to many layers of black enamel and rust are now clearly legible. The guns are being conserved in place, one at a time, enabling visitors to get a close-up look at the ongoing project. It is hoped that the Parrott conservation will be completed by the end of 2020.





For more information regarding the Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Historic Trust, visit www.fortsumtertrust.com. Interested members may also contact Park Ranger and CDSG site representative Gary Alexander at Gary_A_Alexander@nps.gov.

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A Visit to Forts Jackson and Pulaski

Charles H. Bogart

Among the forts Mary Ann and I visited in the Savannah, Georgia, area during our January stay at that city were Fort James Jackson, a Second-System fort, and Fort Pulaski, a Third-System fort.

Fort James Jackson

Fort James Jackson, a Second-System fort, was named for Col. James Jackson of the Continental Army, who received the surrender of the city of Savannah from the British in 1782. Locally the fort is called Old Fort Jackson and most maps of United States coast fortifications list it as Fort Jackson. It is located on the Savannah River two miles downriver from Savannah in an industrial area. Construction of Fort Jackson started in 1808, on top of a Revolutionary War fortification. The fort was still under construction during the War of 1812 but saw no action. It was completed circa 1820.

Fort Jackson was built in a swamp on the edge of the Savannah River. It is one casemate high and surrounded by a moat. Entry is by way of a plank walkway from the visitor center and then over a drawbridge into the fort. Cost of entry is \$7. In 1847 with the garrisoning of Fort Pulaski, downstream from Fort Jackson at the mouth of the Savannah River, Fort Jackson was reduced to use as a storehouse. However, the Civil War would return Fort Jackson to the limelight. The Confederate defense of Savannah was based on holding Fort Pulaski, but this all changed on April 11, 1862, when Fort Pulaski was captured by Federal troops. With Fort Pulaski in Federal hands the primary defense Savannah had against a Union advance up the Savannah River was Fort Jackson. The fort was thus rearmed and became the Confederate Army and Navy headquarters for the defense of Savannah.

Fort Jackson was shelled a few times by Federal ships and artillery batteries during 1863 and 1864 but no direct assault was mounted on it. The fort fell to Union troops on December 20, 1864, when Savannah was captured by Gen. William T. Sherman's army after their march through Georgia. Fort Jackson was

then garrisoned by Union troops until circa 1871. It remained in War Department hands until 1924, when the fort was sold to the city of Savannah for use as a park. However, it was not until the centennial of the Civil War that efforts were made to restore and preserve Fort Jackson. Today Fort Jackson is one of the historical sites operated by the Georgia Coastal Heritage Society. The fort is staffed by re-enactors who lead visitors through the life of the Confederate soldiers stationed here.

While at Fort Jackson I learned that they had some Civil War-era guns they wished to refurbish and mount but lacked funds. I told them about CDSG's grant program and after returning home I sent them material on our program. Hopefully, they have contacted CDSG about the possibility of a grant to restore these guns.

Note: The CDSG Fund has made a \$1,500 grants for the cannon restoration project.



Fort Jackson from the visitor center



A look down the moat at the drawbridge



Installing a reproduction seacoast gun and carriage



A brass field cannon positioned to defend the landward side of the fort.

Fort Pulaski

Fort Pulaski is part of the United States National Park System. It is a Third-System fort built between 1829 and 1847 on Cockspur Island near the mouth of the Savannah River. The fort is reached by a National Park bridge from Tybee Island to Cockspur Island. There is a \$7 fee for adults to enter and the fort is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The fort was built to house 140 guns but never mounted over 60. The fort is surrounded by a wet moat 32 to 48 feet wide and 7 feet deep. Entrance to the fort is by a drawbridge. Guns were mounted in casemates and on the ramparts.

The fort was not garrisoned until seized by the Georgia Militia on January 17, 1861, from its two caretakers. The Confederate's quickly turned Fort Pulaski into the main defense of the City of Savannah, which is 16 miles upriver. Built of brick, Fort Pulaski was thought invulnerable to the smoothbore cannons of its day that would have had to fire from Tybee Island. However, the rifled cannon that appeared in the U.S. Army's in 1861 could defeat brick walls from a distance beyond the reach of smoothbore cannon. During a 30-hour period starting on April 10, 1862, Union rifled artillery blasted holes through the walls of Fort Pulaski, forcing its defenders to surrender the next day. Federal troops would hold Fort Pulaski throughout the Civil War, using the fort at the end of the war as a POW camp.

Postwar, the fort was rebuilt by the U.S. Army and magazines and modern gun pits were installed in the demilune. In 1901, Battery Hambright was built to mount two 3-inch guns ¼ mile to the north of Fort Pulaski. This battery was one of the Endicott batteries that made up Fort Screven. Battery Hambright was abandoned in 1923 when Fort Screven was converted from a coast defense fort into an infantry camp. In 1924, the War Department declared Fort Pulaski a national monument and on August 10, 1933, turned the fort over to the National Park Service who, using Civilian Conservation Corps labor, restored the fort to its Civil War appearance. The fort was used by the U.S. Navy 1942-1945 but after that it reverted to the control of the National Park Service. The fort contains a very nice museum and a walk through the fort introduces the visitor to various aspects of life in the fort during the Civil War.

Over the past decade Fort Pulaski has suffered water damage from hurricane driven storm surges and high tides. These have done some minor damage to the fort's walls, moat, and grounds. At present, money has not been found to build a defense barrier to protect Fort Pulaski against future hurricane storm surges.



Fort Pulaski over the demilune



Repairs made to the wall breached by Union rifled cannon



A view down the fort's wall toward the drawbridge. The demilune is to the left



Cannon in one of the flanking casemates

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A Visit to Fort Clinch, Florida

Charles H. Bogart

In January 2018, Mary Ann and I visited Fort Clinch, on Amelia Island, just north of the city of Fernandina, FL. Fort Clinch guarded the entrance to Cumberland Sound from the Atlantic Ocean. The sound in turn provided entrance to St. Marys and Amelia Rivers. The site of Fort Clinch was first used by the Spanish in 1573 for Mission Santa Maris. Then in 1816, the Spanish built Fort San Carlos at this location. In 1847, the War Department purchased land north of Fernandina and began construction of Fort Clinch. The fort was designed as a pentagonal brick fort with both inner and outer walls.

Like Fort Gaines, AL, Fort Clinch had brick Carnot walls, which were placed in the ditch in front of *chemins de ronde*, which would shelter infantry. Artillery, in turn, was mounted on the inner walls. The destruction of the Carnot walls by siege artillery would not allow besiegers access to the interior of the fort. These two forts were the only ones of this style built in the United States and apparently were not favorably viewed.

The outer walls had five tower bastions while the inner walls contained casemates for quarters and storage beneath the artillery. The inner wall is 26-feet tall with four 245-foot walls and a 500-foot gorge wall. The outer wall was pierced with 126 musket firing ports to defend against an infantry assault. Each of the five flanking bastions had four 24-pounder howitzers to sweep the ditch of enemy troops. Atop each bastion was an 8-inch Columbiad. Within the inner court was a well, powder magazine, auxiliary buildings, and a two-story barracks. Nine galleries provide access to the outer wall. The fort was to have 77 guns, with 57 to be mounted on top of its inner walls. A dry ditch circled the fort outside the outer walls. Over 5 million imported bricks were used in the fort's construction. Fort Clinch was named in honor of Gen. Duncan Lamont Clinch, who had served in the War of 1812 and the First and Second Seminole Wars, and later as a United States congressman.

On January 8, 1861, Confederate troops seized the unfinished fort and armed its parapets with a mixture of guns. The port of Fernandina was used during 1861 and early 1862 by Confederate blockade runners. Fernandina was served by the Florida Railroad, providing a rail route north to Richmond, VA, via connecting railroads. On March 3, 1862, the Confederates abandoned Fort Clinch as a fleet of 28 U.S. Navy gunboats and transports entered Cumberland Sound. Their departure was hastened by shell fire from the gunboat USS *Ottawa*. That evening the United States flag was raised above Fort Clinch by sailors from the USS *Mohican* and USS *Wabash*. The town of Fernandina was captured by the 4th New Hampshire, 9th Maine, and 97th Pennsylvania Regiments. For the rest of the war Fort Clinch was used by the Union Army and Navy as a base to control Cumberland Sound and the St. Marys and Amelia Rivers.

During the Union occupation of Fort Clinch some work on finishing the fort was done by two companies of the 1st New York Engineers. However, with knowledge that modern cannon could quickly demolish a brick fort, the work was not pushed and the fort remained unfinished when the war ended in 1865.

A company of the 7th Infantry was stationed at Fort Clinch from 1866 to 1869 to maintain order during the early years of Reconstruction. From 1869 until 1898 the fort was maintained in caretaker status.

In May 1898, with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Fort Clinch was returned to active duty. Battery A, 6th U.S. Artillery, was assigned to man the fort. On the upper deck of the fort they mounted an 8-inch M1888 breech-loading rifle, on a modified 15-inch Rodman carriage. In addition, four 15-inch muzzle-loading Rodman guns were placed in service and a minefield was laid off the fort. In September 1898, with the Spanish fleet destroyed, the breech-loading gun was removed and the minefield deactivated. Fort Clinch thereafter reverted to caretaker service.

In 1926, the War Department closed Fort Clinch and sold the fort at auction. In 1935, the state of Florida bought Fort Clinch from its private owner and between 1937 and 1942 Civilian Conservation Corps personnel restored its 1898 appearance. In 1942, the U.S. Navy requisitioned Fort Clinch for use as a communication center and as a Coast Guard beach patrol base. In 1946, with the war over, Fort Clinch was returned to the State of Florida and the site became one of the many parks in the Florida State Park System. Immediately to the rear of Fort Clinch is nice museum, where interpreters dressed in period costumes welcome visitors into the fort.

A more detailed history of Fort Clinch appeared in "The Defenses of Cumberland Sound, 1738-1900," by William Gaines, in the *Coast Defense Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (November 2003).



Aerial view of Fort Clinch showing the Spanish-American War 8-inch BL gun emplacement on the right flank.
Florida Department of Parks.



Main entrance to Fort Clinch.



A view down the gorge wall of Fort Clinch from the draw bridge.



Spanish-American War 8-inch BL gun emplacement.



Two-story barracks.



The exterior of a bastion.



The Spanish-American War 8-inch gun emplacement is in the upper left. The building in the center housed kitchen, laundry, and latrine.



View of southwest bastion, the Carnot curtain wall, and the inner wall.



The interior of a bastion.



Chemin de ronde inside the outer Carnot wall.



Rodman cannon on the inner wall of Fort Clinch.

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2018 CDSG Conference The Harbor Defenses of Columbia River April 25-27, 2018

Mark Berhow



Fort Columbia in the morning fog

The classic Pacific Northwest spring weather patterns were in full swing in April, with periods of heavy rain earlier in the month. But, as April 25 approached, the skies cleared, with sunny skies as CDSGers gathered at the Shilo Inn Hotel in Warrenton, OR. My guess at attendance was low, so we arranged to hold our evening meetings at the Warrenton City Community Center less than a mile from the hotel. After registrations, we had an overview of the next day's events and three presentations, from Glen Williford, Ian Wolfe, and Karl Fritz.

The Columbia River was the major commercial and military entry for Oregon from the early 1800s through the turn of the century. Land was set aside in 1852 for military reservations at both Cape Disappointment and Point Adams. Concern over possible foreign invasion prompted the construction of three earthen batteries on the bluffs of Cape Disappointment and an enclosed earthwork on the low sands of Point Adams in 1863. The fortifications were essentially completed by the end of the war. The Point Adams work was named Fort Stevens, after Maj. Gen.

Isaac I. Stevens, killed at the battle of Chantilly, VA, in 1862. The forts were occupied throughout the 1870s but were only manned by caretaker detachments in the late 1880s. In 1875 the post at Cape Disappointment was named Fort Canby, after Maj. Gen. Edward R.S. Canby, assassinated by Modoc Indians in 1873.

The Columbia River defenses were listed in the Endicott Report of 1886 and construction of the new defenses began in 1896 at Fort Stevens and at a reservation at Chinook Point on the Washington side of river. Additional batteries were added in 1900 and eventually eight gun batteries were built at Fort Stevens, three batteries at the new Fort Columbia at Chinook Point, and two batteries at Fort Canby. The harbor also received mine defenses.

Several guns were removed from all three forts during 1918-20, and four mortars were moved from Fort Stevens to a new battery at Fort Canby. The coming of World War II brought a new set of defenses: three new 6-inch batteries built 1942-45, and two new 90 mm AMTB batteries; the mine defenses were also updated. Fort Stevens had the distinction of being the only continental U.S. military reservation to be fired on by an enemy since the War of 1812, when Japanese submarine *I-25* lobbed several shells at the post in June 1942. Following the war, the Columbia

River defenses were inactivated in 1947 and the reservations were declared surplus. While a portion of the Fort Stevens reservation was sold to private interests, and a portion of the Fort Canby reservation was given to the Coast Guard, the rest of the military properties ended up in state hands.

More in-depth history on these three forts can be found in three very good books available at the local gift shops. The first is *Fort Stevens, Oregon's Defender at the River of the West*, by Marshall Hanft. I believe it is only available at the Fort Stevens Museum gift shop. Hanft was a long-time researcher of Fort Stevens history and an early coast artillery historian. The other two books are *Columbia River Forts: History of Fort Canby* and *Columbia River Forts: History of Fort Columbia* by Donella J. Lucero and Nancy L. Loomis. Donella was a long time Washington State Parks interpretation specialist specializing in the Columbia River forts. These two books are well illustrated with maps and photographs. These two books appear to only be available at the Lewis And Clark Interpretive Center gift shop at Cape Disappointment.

Day 1: Fort Stevens

The group started Friday morning at Fort Stevens State Park. Except for the garrison area around the parade ground, most of the old military reservation is now part of the state park. The area is well maintained by the state. An excellent historical museum, coordinated by Lauren Neal and staffed by park volunteers, is in the old war game building, which has a great book shop. The museum contains a number of seacoast artillery related artifacts, including a rare depression position finder and an azimuth scope.



155 mm GPF at Fort Stevens

The park also reconstructed the basic outline of the Civil War earthwork on the location of the original. The walls have been formed and a sally port has been built, but the work remains unfinished.

Park Ranger John Koch opened unique Battery Mishler (2 x 10-inch DC, all-round fire) for the group. This 360° battery was built completely enclosed except for the circular gun pits and the crow's nest observation stations. It is the only one of its kind built and was used as the HECF-HDCP during WW II. The Air Force built a concrete roof over the two-gun pits in the late 1940s. The state has installed lights in the structure and conducts guided tours on special occasions. The battery had recently been used as a movie set and some of the props, obviously for some sort of a horror film, were still in one of the gun pits.



Inside one of Battery Mishler emplacements

Next, we visited Batteries Walker and Lewis (2 x 10-inch DC each). Both batteries have decayed considerably and are currently off limits to visitors. We were able to walk through parts of Battery Lewis. Next the group fanned out to visit the other structures in the historic area, including Battery 245 (2 x 6-inch shielded barbettes) with two 5-inch naval guns in destroyer gun mounts in the emplacements, and Battery Pratt (2 x 6-inch DC), with its full-scale replica of a 6-inch gun on a disappearing carriage built by long-time member Jack Buckmeir. Work continues on restoring the interior of Battery Pratt, with plans for rebuilding a functioning Hodges ammunition hoist.



Battery Lewis



Battery Pratt

After a visit to Battery Clark (8 x 12-inch mortars), the central power house, and a quick trip into the large brick guardhouse with its intact cells, we then headed out to visit Battery Smur (2 x 3-inch MP). Battery Smur is slated to get a M1898 3-inch gun barrel mounted on a replica carriage within the month after our visit. The area also included several fire control stations and pillars, the central and reserve power plants (the reserve plant has a fairly complete GE motor-generator), three generations of mining casemates, two mine loading structures, the post switch-board room, the mine cable tanks, and mine storehouse, as well as numerous foundations for the WW II-era barracks.



Battery Clark



Fort Stevens guardhouse



Fort Stevens mine tanks and switchboard room



M1898 3-inch gun on a reproduction mount ready to be installed at Battery Smur

The highlight of the afternoon was visiting Battery David Russell (2 x 10-inch DC) and Fire Control Hill, south of the battery. The battery was built 1903-04 to defend the southern approach to Point Adams and prevent naval bombardment of Fort Stevens from that point. For this reason, this battery is well to the south of the main fortification area. The state has built a large parking lot and the area is generally open year-round. The structure is clean of trash and graffiti, a fine example of late Endicott-era construction.



Battery Russell

Fire Control Hill, some 600 feet or so south of Battery Russell along a well-groomed trail, is an excellent complex of fire control structures, including the fort commander's station (1910s-30s), several other base end stations, and a barracks. These structures are in various states of disrepair, some missing roofs and walls. South of this were two searchlight positions and the SCR 296 radar for Battery 245, as well as a dummy Battery Russell. A few folks headed to the jetty area to visit the two concrete gun blocks that remain from AMTB Battery 1 (2 x 90 mm fixed, 2 x 90 mm mobile) as well as to search for a few of the more remote fire control stations to the south. We then headed back to the hotel. The Fourth Annual Workers Dinner as held that night, followed by presentations.

The State of Oregon, the Friends of Old Fort Stevens, and numerous volunteers have done a wonderful job of preserving, interpreting, and restoring the historic remains at this site.

Day Two: Fort Canby and Fort Columbia

On Friday morning we were up bright and early for a 30-minute drive across the Columbia River Bridge to the defenses on the Washington side of the river. We (eventually) gathered in the parking lot in front of the US Coast Guard gate at Cape Disappointment to begin our tour of Fort Canby. The Coast Guard



Battery Guenther



Battery Guenther mortar pit

has jurisdiction over the southern half of the cape, and through arrangements with DCM Jason Billings, they graciously gave us access their property. Our first visit was to the unique Battery Guenther (4 x 12-inch mortars). Guenther was the last mortar battery built by the US Army (1921-22), for four mortars removed from Battery Clark. Located behind some of the USCG family housing, it is not generally accessible to the public. The battery was recently cleaned of all trash and debris by a volunteer crew and we were able to look at the interesting plotting room and simple shell rooms and magazines.

In the main station area, we headed up the hill toward Battery Elijah O'Flyng (2 x 6-inch DC). Battery O'Flyng is slightly overgrown, but clear of any vandalism due to its isolated location. Further along the crest of the promontory were five sets of fire control structures. The fire control structures along the ridge between O'Flyng and the lighthouse are much more overgrown, with a treacherous trail between them.



Battery O'Flyng

Next the group was on their own to visit the remaining structures. In the state park area, a road leads up to the "second" bluff of Cape Disappointment and the site of Battery Harvey Allen (3 x 6-inch DC). The state has built an interpretive center on the front of parapet of this battery that houses exhibits on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Cape Disappointment, and Fort Canby. The center has a number of artifacts from Fort Canby, including parts of one carriage from Battery Allen and a number of 6-inch



Remains of Rodman mount and Battery Allen, Fort Canby



Powder magazine, Battery Allen

and 12-inch shells. The battery itself is clean and has one powder magazine restored with racks and powder canisters.

Behind the battery are the granite blocks that made up one of the 15-inch Rodman emplacements near the lighthouse. All other remains of the Civil War earthwork batteries have been destroyed. Out along the bluff toward the north are the remaining foundations of the BC for Battery Allen and the SCR radar facility for Battery 247. Other structural remains in Fort Canby State Park include Battery 247 (2 x 6-inch BC) and two searchlight shelters on McKenzie Head, and some fire control structures and the SCR radar site for Battery 247 near the parking lot for the trail to the North Head lighthouse.

At 1 PM the group began to gather at Fort Columbia State Park for a visit to the barracks interpretive center, which is still pretty much in original condition, with its kitchen intact and an unmodified sleeping dorm above. We headed out with Ranger Stephen Wood to visit Battery 246 (2 x 6-inch BC). The State of Washington procured two complete M1903A2 6-inch guns on shielded M1 barbette mounts from Fort McAndrew in Newfoundland, Canada, restored them, and mounted them at Fort Columbia in 1994. After touring the inside of the battery, the group toured the two mining casemates at the fort, then fanned out to visit Batteries William Murphy (2 x 6-inch DC), Frank Crenshaw (3 x 3-inch MP), and Jules Ord (3 x 8-inch DC), as well as the impressive garrison buildings above the batteries.

A number of interesting highlights were seen during this visit. Parts of two Hodges hoists from Battery Murphy are currently inside Battery 246; plans are being made for their restoration.



Fort Columbia quarters and barracks



Guardhouse and Battery Ord



Barracks enlisted sleeping bunks



Barracks ordnance display



Battery Crenshaw and one 6-inch gun of Battery 246



Shell room display inside Battery 246

The central powerhouse contains a G.E. motor-generator. The administration building, two officer's quarters, the hospital, the fire station, the quartermaster storehouse, and four NCO quarters still remain. Additional structures visited included three sets of fire control structures on the hillside above the main post. Fort Columbia is a fine intact example of a small turn-of-the-century American coast artillery post, with much of the reservation under state control.

The group then gathered back across the river at 6 PM for a banquet buffet dinner in the Warrenton Community Center, followed by the annual business meeting and two more presentations. With that, the conference officially concluded. On Sunday morning, a number of the attendees headed north to Forts Worden and Casey; a number of other attendees had visited those forts before the meeting.

My personal thanks go to all that made the journey to attend the meeting and to CDSG representative Aaron Buda, Fort Stevens State Parks Ranger John Koch, Friends of Old Fort Stevens members David Lindstrom and Theresa Buckmeir, Coast Guard DC1 Jason Billings and BM1 Timothy Edginton, Washington State Parks retired interpretive specialist Donella Lucero, and Washington State Parks Rangers Aaron Webster and Stephen Wood. Also, we all deeply appreciated the evening presentations by Glen Williford, Terry McGovern, Ian Wolfe, Douglas Crist, Karl Fritz, and Steve Kobylk.



CDSG evening meeting



2018 CDSG attendees at Battery Pratt, Fort Stevens



2018 CDSG attendees at Battery Allen, Cape Disappointment State Park



Distinctive unit insignias of the 18th (left) and the 249th (right) coast artillery Regiments



Fire Control Hill, Fort Stevens

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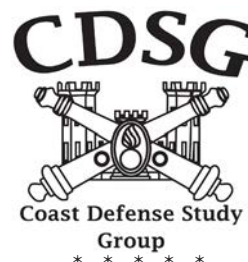
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CSDG Press Books (\$ domestic / \$ international)

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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