

# The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Summer 2022



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## Coast Defense Journal Editor

Mark Berhow

It is our sad duty to note the passing of *Coast Defense Journal* Editor Bolling W. Smith on July 30, 2022. Bolling was an essential volunteer with the CDSG both for his editorship of the *Journal* and his contributions to the historical interpretation of US coast artillery. A fuller obituary appears in the August 2022 *Coast Defense Journal*.

This leaves quite a vacancy to fill. We do not have anyone in line ready to step into that role and if the CDSG is going to continue to produce a high quality journal we will need a good effective editor. The job breaks down into two basic parts: 1) reviewing the accuracy and completeness of submissions for acceptance for publication, and 2) copy editing submissions for grammar, punctuation, redundancy, spelling, proper formatting, etc. While we have many members that can help with the first task, Bolling was uniquely adept at performing the second task. Bolling has left the CDSG with a number of edited articles to keep the *Journal* in print with original material for a while. However, we do need to find a new editor for dealing with any new submissions. The BOD is looking for interested nominations for the job. Please contact Publisher Mark Berhow (berhowma@comcast.net) with any suggestions or nominations and he will forward them to the BOD.

Memorials for BW can be directed to the CDSG Fund.

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## Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

This will be a short report this month as I only have brief notices on a few items to report on at this time.

The structural engineering report on Fort Fremont was submitted to the Friends of Fort Fremont and details the various problems with the battery structures. Though much of the structure is listed as being in deteriorated condition this was expected and is not unusual for batteries of this construction. There is a fairly high cost estimate for the recommended safety measures (\$1.5 million) and full restoration (\$5+ million). The county has already budgeted some money to at least start addressing some of the more crucial safety issues.

Regarding Plum Island/Fort Terry, the Preserve Plum Island Coalition/Save the Sound have started a campaign to have Plum Island declared a National Monument. If this comes to pass it should protect Fort Terry from any adverse actions.

The Coalition for Historic Fort Wool is campaigning to ensure that the birds will be moved and the fort made accessible to the public when the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel expansion is complete; and that the fort will be preserved from further deterioration.

## CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

### 2023 CDSG Conference

May 3 - 10, 2023

Portland, Maine

Mark Berhow, [berhowma@comcast.net](mailto:berhowma@comcast.net)

### 2023 CDSG Special Tour

September

Northern Poland

Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

### 2024 CDSG Special Tour

September

Puerto Rico

Terry McGovern, [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

### Other Meetings and Tours

August 27 - September 4, 2022

Kotor/Montenegro

ECCOFORT Study Tour & Seminar

Hans-Rudolf Neumann, [hrv.neumannqt@online.de](mailto:hrv.neumannqt@online.de)

September 16 - 19

Association Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaires Tour

Central Switzerland

Pascal Bruchez, [president@asmem.ch](mailto:president@asmem.ch)

September 20 - 25, 2022

Valor Tours

Oahu, Hawaii

Vicki Reynolds, [valortours@yahoo.com](mailto:valortours@yahoo.com)

September 23 - 25, 2022

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting

Julich, Germany

Andres Kupka, [akupka@juelich.de](mailto:akupka@juelich.de)

October 14 - 18, 2022

International Fortress Council Annual Meeting

Bergen, Norway (Zoom)

Jeroen van der Werf, [tourvauban@gmail.com](mailto:tourvauban@gmail.com)

December 9 - 13, 2022

Valor Tours

Wake Island

Vicki Reynolds, [valortours@yahoo.com](mailto:valortours@yahoo.com)

April 2023

Morroco

ECCOFORT Study Tour

Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

May 2023

Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference

Lincoln, Nebraska

Briget Hart, brigethshea@hotmail.com

September 22 - 23, 2023

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting

Kufstein, Austria

Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

September 2023

Amsterdam or Rome

ECCOFORT Study Tour

Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

As can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter, the Navy has agreed to preserve two tactical structures on Fort Story thanks at least in part to CDSG efforts.

Those of you who are on the CDSG email list will have seen the postings from Chris Zeeman of the activities at Fort Adams. Besides the continuing work on the main fort and Advanced Redoubt, the volunteer crew have also cleared the vegetation and cleaned up all the Endicott batteries south of the main fort except for one. In addition the state is having work done on the southeast Demi-Bastion of the main fort.

On the last item, I mention activities at Fort Adams frequently both because of personal knowledge of what is being done, and because information on their activities are often posted to the CDSG email list. I would strongly encourage other volunteer groups at forts to either post their preservation activities to the email list or to email me on them (or both).

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

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### Request to CDSG Membership

Norm Scarpulla

The CDSG Representative and Outreach Committee is working on gathering the 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 Name (if any), and Owner's Primary Contact Person) for your local coast defense sites (this is could be 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](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)) and to Norman Scarpulla ([nkscarpulla@icloud.com](mailto:nkscarpulla@icloud.com)). Thanks for your assistance.



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The CDSG Board is seeking volunteer chairpersons for upcoming annual conferences and special tours. The chairperson would be responsible for leading the conference committee that will arrange for access to coast defense sites and logistics (local transport, housing, meals) for our members attending. Following our policy of annual rotation to harbor defenses The BOD is looking to go to Long Island Sound (last visited in 2003), San Francisco (2006), Boston (2007), Galveston (2008), or Baltimore/Washington (2009). The Board decided to make visiting Tampa (1998) and Key West (2000) as special tours due to the small size of coast defenses there. A number of members have indicated an interest in tours to Oahu (1991) and Puerto Rico/V.I. (1992).

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### 2022 CDSG Election Result

Terry McGovern, Teller

The CDSG Teller reports the election of Gordon Bliss as the next CDSG director. Robert Grimm's term will end on October 1, 2022, while Gordon's term will begin at that time and run for the next three years. The directors on the Board for the next year will be Steve Waldron, Norm Scarpulla, and Gordon Bliss. They will select who will be Chairman of the Board for the coming year as well as select or confirm the Chairmen for all the committees. The CDSG Board of Directors thanks both Robert Walk and Gordon Bliss for their willingness to serve the CDSG in this role. Next year's Nomination Committee for the 2023 election will be Robert Grimm (Chair), Tom Batha, and Alex Hall.

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### Updating the Most Endangered Coast Defense Sites Listing

Terry McGovern

The CDSG has publicized a list of the American seacoast defense sites that are being threatened with destruction by neglect or development. We have also assembled a list of sites where preservation efforts have been successful. To review the current list, please go to: <https://cdsg.org/preservation-interpretation/> then click on the link to PDF attachments. We are updating these lists and we need your help. We need to know from you, which sites you think are the most endangered or best preserved and why you think these sites qualify to be on the CDSG's top sites listing. Please send this information to Terry McGovern at 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101 or at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net)

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**CDSG Conference at Portland, Maine**

May 2 to 6, 2023

Plans are set for the 2023 CDSG conference in May to visit the harbor defenses of Portland, Maine. The area around Casco Bay and the river bays to the north have an outstanding collection of remaining seacoast fortifications ranging from unique second and third system forts, largely intact early modern era forts, to WWII era forts. Forts Knox, Scammel, and Gorges are outstanding examples of Third System architecture. Fort Levett and Fort McKinley have a unparalleled collection of surviving garrison buildings, plus a significant number of rare artifacts remaining in the gun batteries, fire control structures, and mine structures. In all a significant collection of seacoast defense structures that are rarely seen elsewhere. Several sites are accessible only by boat and a number are privately owned, so attending this conference will be the only way most fort enthusiasts will be able to see them. The current plan is for a four-day meeting with two optional add on days to visit some of the more remote locations. Weather may change the final schedule.

While a few details still need to be worked out, most of the meeting itinerary is in place. The island visits will be a bit of a challenge as we will not have much, if any, ground transportation. Fort Scammel, Fort Levett, Fort McKinley, and Fort Lyon are now private property, and we will be required to stay together on a

guided WALKING tour of those sites. The Levett and McKinley visits in particular will involve long walks over some rough terrain. We are looking into arranging transportation on Peaks Island. We will be leaving by Charter Boat Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from Fogg's Water Taxi dock which is next the Casco Bay Lines Ferry dock in downtown Portland on Commercial Street.

At this time the tentative conference registration fee will be around \$300 per person which will include our annual banquet, private boat charters, shuttle to ferry docks, carts on Peaks Island, organizational costs, and some admission charges. We are arranging to have OPTIONAL pre-ordered lunches available for purchase for our three boat trip days. Our charter boat currently limits us to 49 total participants on those days, so please do not wait to the last minute if you plan on attending.

The Hotel for the conference will be Best Western Merry Manor Inn, 700 Main Street, South Portland, Maine 04106, 207-774-6151, Hotel Contacts: Don Haggett. A conference room will be set up for breakfast each morning and for meetings each evening. Room Block: 50 rooms, Room Rate: \$109.00 single/double, Extra Person Rate: \$10.00. Tax Rate: 9%. Free breakfast each morning included in Room rate. Cut Off Date: April 10, 2023. Guests should call 207-774-6151 to make reservations note CDSG Meeting for group rate. Hotel Web Site: [www.merrymanorinn.com](http://www.merrymanorinn.com)

For registration details and more information contact Mark Berhow at [berhowma@comcast.net](mailto:berhowma@comcast.net) or visit [cdsg.org](http://cdsg.org).



Fort McKinley, 1930s (NARA)

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## Summary of the 2022 Member Survey Responses

Three questions were posed to our membership via our 2022 election ballot to provide member's an opportunity to provide feedback to our Board of Directors. This year we are just providing a few of the longer responses. All responses were provided to the Board for their review.

***How would you rate the CDSG's current publications and activities?*** Sample responses are:

I think online presentations would increase involvement. As a caregiver it would keep me interested. I am unable to participate in CDSG activities otherwise.

Can't wait to read a new edition of the Coast Defense Journal four times a year. The variety of the articles that the Journal covers gives the reader a chance to read about and explore different locations outside of one's geographic location without the hassle of a plane trip. The writing level present in the Journal is top notch. I especially enjoy having the ability to personally contribute articles to the Journal. Too bad we can't do the Journal in color. Let's increase that budget! Activities are really hard to attend when you have to work. Not retired yet at the age of 49. Yet once again, I have to propose small in the field workshops or lectures on coast defense subjects to occur over the course of a weekend or a day, to be held at local HDs.

The CDSG communications and publications continue to be of the highest professional level standards. The evolving changes and improvements regarding yearly communications with individual members is greatly appreciated. I would like to see an article/guide in the Journal regarding identification of "unknowns" that the general public seem to be interested in. People ask when looking at concrete, what was mounted in all those holes or what gun was here. The mounting size or distance between holes, associated equipment and general wire runs and other information are not identified as a grouping in readily available reference books. Consider developing a Fortification and Ammunition Color chart or paint mix formulas chart as separate purchase reference tool.

The Journal and newsletter are outstanding publications and I have enjoyed reading them throughout the years. My work schedule prohibits me from attending tours during the school year. I have to wait until retirement.

***What should be the future of the CDSG – more of the same or new goals/programs?*** Sample responses are:

Rather than seeking to preserve entire sites, I'd like to see a focus on small attainable preservation projects, improved interpretive signage, and museum exhibits. Sponsorship (through the CDSG Fund) of preservation effort/exhibits should also require the display of the CDSG logo and involvement.

Key challenges facing CDSG are (1) degradation and destruction of fortifications; (2) fewer people interested in either research or preservation. CDSG needs to consider revising its goals and

objectives regarding membership and purpose – conferences and events need scrutiny in this area.

Perhaps looking into college/graduate school students as source material for articles. Offer an opportunity to publish scholarly research for people just on the verge of getting degrees.

I have concern about the future of CDSG. Most of the core group of long-term outstanding volunteers is aging rapidly. CDSG would not exist without these dedicated people. We need a younger generation to start training for a smooth transition before the current skill and knowledge base completely disappears. This is more than just becoming a director. It includes other departments within the organization as well, especially publications, press, preservation. My hope is that CDSG will continue to thrive in the future but the time to start preparing is now!

Do more outreach to organizations that are willing to restore, maintain and interpret Coast Artillery and Harbor Defense sites and fortifications.

Seems like the same old thing. Really need small in the field workshops or lectures on coast defense subjects to occur over the course of a weekend or a day, to be held at local HDs. We are and should be as a group the leader in coast defense research and in publications. New publications such as guides to the forts need to be published sooner rather than later. I believe with the emergence of the print on demand industry, would allow the group the ability to publish individual members books on the subject. We have way too many members that have done research on the subject. Not using this vital knowledge base would be criminal. We should also strive to become an online research resource for everything (US) coast defense.

The CDSG has failed to reach out to the owners of former coast defense sites - we need to educate those owners on the historic value and need to preserve these structures.

Our world is a niche in history, not even in sustained combat. I don't know what new goals/programs might expand the interest.

***Where should the CDSG hold its future conferences and special tours – and would you organize one?*** Sample responses are:

As a resident of Marin County (Sausalito), I endorse the idea of holding a future conference in our neck of the woods (San Francisco). I am a volunteer at Battery Townsley and I can assure you a visit to Townsley would be on of the highlights of a visit – not to mention the plethora of WW1 and WW2 sites in the area!

Perhaps a joint meeting with US Navy historians for a joint discussion on US Civil War era attacks on 3rd System fort or a deeper dive into the successes of US fortifications in the American Revolution or War of 1812.

Have organized a tour (HDNY-17) which is the most logical to my current residence location. CDSG should continue to conduct conferences at major US harbor defense locations – showcasing American fortifications is our reason for existence and must continue to be our primary focus. Local outreach needs to improve as we conduct conferences. We should strive to leave a conference location with a noticeable increase in membership and interest.

Same response every year. HDSF. And of course, I would organize a tour of HDSF or any of the outlying military reservations in the system. Anytime. Period!



The conferences are outstanding. One area for consideration is development of a “sponsor” or “mentorship” program for conference rookies. First time attendees can be intimidated to a degree when other members form their own groupings and go off on their own, leaving the rookies to fend for themselves. Maybe offer the sponsor a small discount or free lunch (for both of them) to take a rookie under their wing for at least the first day or longer. This can be done at the conf. welcoming or beforehand.

We should continue the loop of harbor defenses; however, we do need to begin screening out those locations that have seen substantial degradation of the fortifications or dramatic drop in access.

What happened to annual conferences to Tampa/Key West and Long Island Sound? We should have visited these sites several years ago based on our past rotation of harbor defenses.

We should include a work party during every CDSG conference so we can put our backs where our mouth is on the preservation of fort site

Overseas tours seem to be focusing on non-US fortifications lately. The CDSG really needs to organize a tour to Oahu (one and only tour was in 1991) and to Alaska (there has never been a CDSG tour). There has been talk of a tour to Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands for the last several years but nothing has been offered to members. If we can organize tours to the Philippines and Panama, why cannot we organize tours to Oahu, Alaska, and Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands?

A rotation around seacoast HD worked well, and kept new members excited and involved. I fear that changings beyond what we have done will not fit in the usual members budget.

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## **Update on the CDSG Fund Project: USS IOWA Battleship Barrel Memorial/Display – JEB Fort Story, Virginia Beach**

Terry McGovern

The final barrel at St. Juliens Creek Naval Annex is #270 which served on the USS *Iowa* during WWII and Korean War. This barrel is also the first production barrel of the Mark 7 series. The Veteran Association of the USS *Iowa* and the CDSG have been raising the \$150k needed to move and display this historic barrel at the JEB Little Creek-Fort Story at Virginia Beach. It will be on display near the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse. The USS *Iowa* 16-inch Battleship Barrel Memorial will honor Navy veterans that were homeported in Hampton Roads, as well as acknowledge the role of the Army veterans who defended Chesapeake Bay during WWII at Fort Story.

While the project has raised \$90k so far, we continue to seek both corporate sponsorships and individual contributions to raise the remaining funds needed to transport the USS *Iowa* Barrel #270. Interested donors (including CDSG members) can contact me at [tcmcgovern@att.net](mailto:tcmcgovern@att.net) or they can go to [www.cdsg.org](http://www.cdsg.org) using the Donate button to make a donation to the CDSG Fund in the name of this project. The CDSG is a 503(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. We hope to raise the remaining funds in the coming months to complete this project in 2022, allowing us to preserve this rare artifact which was the apex of American naval technology.



Concrete foundations that recently been constructed at Cape Henry to support the barrel and its cradle.





The remaining barrel at St. Juliens Creek Naval Annex is #270 that served on the USS Iowa during WWII and Korean War. (This barrel is also the first production barrel of the Mark 7 series).

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### **CDSG Preservation Efforts – Fort Story Coastal Batteries Structures**

Terry McGovern

The CDSG is a consulting party under Section 106 at JEB Little Creek – Fort Story, a joint Army-Navy base run by the Navy. The Navy has a regulation that all base structures need to be assessed every 5 years for their usefulness. If a structure is not being used or no party wishes to use the structure then structure should be removed to lower operating costs. As part of this review, the Navy had identified two former coast artillery structures for removal that were part of Fort Story's coast defenses during World War II. These were Building 317 (Battery 226 which had two 6-inch guns on shielded BC) and Building 402 (one of Battery Walke's powder magazines). Both were visited during the 2019 CDSG Annual Conference.



Battery 226 in 1945

The CDSG convinced the Navy not to destroy Building 317 and Building 402 by pointing out their historic importance and the fact that it would take over one million dollars (Navy estimates) to destroy them, even though there were no plans to put any new structures on their locations. The Navy agreed to place them in "layaway status" for the next seven years, and to keep the structures in a stabilized condition. The Navy recently completed the agree-upon repairs of these structures.

Without the CDSG efforts to advocate the preservation of these historic structures, the Navy's preferred plan had been to destroy them. It is important for CDSG members keep a watchful eye on other forts and batteries and advocate with their owners to preserve these structures. The CDSG does have success by speaking up!



Building 317 (Battery 226) after clean up (US Navy)





Building 317 (Battery 226) muffler exit (US Navy)



Building 402 (one of Battery Walke's powder magazines) with repaired concrete and roller doors (US Navy)

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## War Guns Replica: ‘Total distortion of history’

By: Frances Mangosing, Jane Bautista - @inquirerdotnet  
*Philippine Daily Inquirer* / 05: 30 AM June 14, 2022



**BAYWALK ATTRACTION** | The statue of former Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson seems to watch over the World War II cannons unveiled on June 12 as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project. A historian, however, says these artifacts should have not been removed from their original location on Corregidor Island. (Photo by MARIANNE BERMUDEZ / *Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

MANILA, Philippines — “A total distortion of history” was how a University of the Philippines (UP) history professor described the transfer of two World War II gun barrels from Corregidor Island to Baywalk near dolomite beach in Manila Bay to create a replica of Fort Drum and its heritage cannons.

Ricardo Jose, the country’s foremost scholar on World War II in the Philippines and Asia-Pacific, told the *Inquirer* in an interview on Monday that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) project unveiled on June 12 was “meaningless and a waste of time, effort and money.”

According to him, the cannons unveiled at the beach were two different gun barrels that came from separate artillery batteries in Corregidor — Battery Hearn and Battery Cheney, according to the project marker—and placed in a turret.

“The fact that they are spare barrels and they are not being used does not mean that they could just be taken away like that,” the historian said, noting that these were historical relics that should not have been touched.

“They were used during World War II and are signs of courage on the American and Philippine sides,” he added.

Taking the barrels away from Corregidor and placing them in Manila—which did not have any batteries during World War II—was a “senseless” transfer that took away the context of the historical artifacts, according to Jose.

“There never was a turret there in Manila Bay [so there is] no historical significance. It’s a total distortion of history,” he said.

Fort Drum, otherwise known as El Fraile Island, was one of four islands located at the mouth of Manila Bay that served as a line of defense protecting the City of Manila from naval invasion from Spanish colonial rule until World War II.

On top of the heavily reinforced and battleship-shaped island, four 14-inch, 356mm, and model 1909 guns were placed on turrets. On the other hand, the spare barrels taken from Corregidor were 12-inch, 305mm guns, model 1895.

#### Enticing visitors

In a text message, Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) defended the project, saying there was no historical distortion.

"Only the spare barrels, which have been rusting and covered by foliage already, have been refurbished and brought to Baywalk for the people to see and appreciate," he said.

According to the PVAO official, since the Spanish period, all attempts to invade Manila were through Manila Bay so colonial powers that occupied the country's capital improved their harbor defenses by placing guns, cannons and mortars on surrounding islands, including El Fraile (Fort Drum's original name), and Caballo.

"However, very few Filipinos are able to visit these islands to see and appreciate the historical role of these guns in the defense of Manila," Carolina said.

By bringing the two spare barrels and mounting them along the Baywalk area, "hopefully, tourists, both local and foreign, would be enticed to visit the islands with their children and see the many other guns and cannons," he added.

But Jose said that if the government was trying to develop interest in Corregidor, all it had to do was develop the tourist route going to the island, have a replica gun in Manila Bay and say: "If you want to see more of this, go to Corregidor."

"The people who moved it there do not have a sense of historical accuracy... it's so expensive to move those original guns, taking them out of context and then putting them in a place where there's no meaning at all," he said.



**WAR RELICS** | A replica of Fort Drum's heritage cannons has been put up along Manila Bay for people to appreciate the role of these guns in the defense of Manila. A historian, however, says the project is "meaningless and a waste of time, effort and money." (Photo by MARIANNE BERMUDEZ / *Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

"In Singapore, they have restructured the remains of an old fort into a tourist attraction but they did not touch the guns themselves and they have been maintained in their historical position," Jose pointed out.



#### Badly conceived idea

For another military historian, the DENR project "was a badly conceived idea which disregards the historical significance of the guns and creates a myth that does not accurately depict what the guns really [were] about."

"It is ironic that at a time the country and people are reeling from massive inflation and economic hardship that this wasteful, expensive and yet totally ill-conceived project was undertaken by rank amateurs who know nothing of history and historical preservation," Jose Custodio, former curator of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Museum, told the Inquirer.

"Instead of restoring how it should look like, they made a mythical thing to make it appear that the guns are from Fort Drum, which is not. This is like historical distortion," Custodio said.

Former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who came up with the idea to build a replica of Fort Drum, said at the unveiling that he wanted to let people know of its existence.

"It doesn't get visitors so it is not seen. And there was a memorandum of agreement between the DENR and Department of National Defense to bring extra [barrels from Corregidor] because they are not of use there," said Cimatu, a former AFP chief of staff.

"That's why they are here today. It's a manifestation of the nationalism and patriotism of Filipinos," he said, adding that the project also represented the continuing "Battle for Manila Bay."

In 2019, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Administrative Order No. 16 to speed up the bay's cleanup. Of the P397 million estimated cost of the rehabilitation project, around P28 million was allotted for the controversial dolomite beach that was first opened to the public in September 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.





The beach was criticized with concerned groups and individuals calling it a waste of public funds and a possible health hazard.

This prompted an assurance from the Department of Health that “no untoward incidents [would] occur as a result of the endeavor.”

Other environmental watchdog groups such as Greenpeace Philippines also raised concern about the project being a waste of money because backwash would carry the synthetic sand into the bay, while fishermen's group Pamalakaya denounced it as “white-washing the government's failure to rehabilitate Manila Bay.”

In November 2021, the beach was temporarily closed for further rehabilitation until its reopening on June 12.

—WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1610395/war-guns-replica-total-distortion-of-history#ixzz7aakVxKk1> Follow us: @inquirerdotnet on Twitter | inquirerdotnet on Facebook



## A Recent Visit to the National Archives in College Park

Karl Fritz

I got to spend the day at National Archives in College Park. It's the first time I've been there in over 2 years. For those who have not have been there since the pandemic, here's a few things to know:

- You must request an appointment to do research. According to the Cartography Branch, they have openings pretty much every day at this point.
- Your appointment will get to access to only one research room. So no bouncing between Textual Records and Cartography like I used to do.
- They are issuing new Researcher ID cards. I was asked to take the online orientation to cover proper handling of records (it's not very long or hard), and submit a request for the ID card prior to my arrival there.
- The new ID cards look a lot like ticket stubs, not picture on it, but they now have a QR code. They recommend taking a picture of it in case you lose it -- it also means you should be able to scan it on your phone. I talked to one gentleman that had laminated his... he said it smudged up the ink on the card. The cards are good for 1 year.
- NARA has been using the ID cards as copy cards, so you may have a balance left on your old card. This can be transferred to your new card.
- Switching from my old card to my new card did not go smoothly, and needed a fair amount of assistance from their customer support folks. I still haven't been able to add more funds to the new card. This would have been quite problematic for the day, but the staff (who were particularly helpful today) helped with some work-arounds so that I could still get some of what I needed done.
- When I arrived, I had to check in at the front security desk so they could verify I was on the list for that day.
- I was told that they are not currently doing 'pull times' (at least in that reading room), but the last request for records had to be in by 3:00.

It wasn't a glitch-free day, but the staff there really were going out of their way to make it productive for me. It's great to be able to get back doing research there again...

## Recovery of 9.2-inch Barrel and its Mark V Carriage in Gibraltar

Terrance McGovern

After years of prodding by the CDSG, FSG and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the HM Government of Gibraltar Ministry for Heritage undertook a project in February 2022 which involved the removal and transportation of the rare 9.2-inch gun barrel, carriage and pedestal located at the Metalrok Eco Park at 8 Flint Road, Gibraltar to a holding and restoration area at the Brewery

Crusher. They will later be erected for display at Europa Point near Harding's Battery once planning permission has been obtained.

The whole of the recovery is detailed in this blog from Keith Sheriff of the Gibraltar Ministry of Heritage (<https://www.ministryforheritage.gi/news/moving-the-92-inch-gun-pieces-73>). The blog illustrates the huge scale of the undertaking and the volunteers of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and the Gibraltar Ministry of Heritage are to be congratulated on their tenacity in completing the recovery.

Of course, this is only the first stage of the ambition to restore and display the gun and mounting at Europa Point as described in this newspaper report. The operation involved Metalrok clearing the area around the gun pieces in order to allow Monteverde's service vehicles access to the scrapyard. Monteverde service vehicles then lifted and transported the gun carriage and pedestal pieces from their present location to a temporary holding location at the Brewery Crusher eco site. They then lifted and transported the much longer and heavier gun barrel. This was a much more complicated operation as it required much larger lifting and transport vehicles having to gain access to such a restricted site.

The next steps are to treat recovered part and to assemble (with replicas for missing parts) the gun at Europa Point. They are working on gaining support from local companies in the hope someone will come to the fore. Planning approval is also need to place the 9.2-inch gun at this new site. Here is the Planning Application.

The BL 9.2-inch Mk X guns first entered service in 1899, used both as naval, and coast defense guns. They had possibly the longest, most varied and successful service history of any British heavy ordnance. The 9.2-inch guns were 'counter-bombardment' weapons designed to defeat ships up to heavy cruisers armed with 8-inch guns. They were deployed in the fixed defenses of major defended ports throughout the British Empire until the 1950's. Up to fourteen such guns were deployed for the defense of Gibraltar during WWI of which eight were still in use during WWII. These guns were finally decommissioned during the 1950's. In 1972, the Levant Battery gun pieces were removed by the Royal Engineers to be sold as scrap. A few years later, the entire gun and mounting at Spur Battery was also dismantled but this time transferred to the Imperial War Museum Duxford in Cambridgeshire, England.

Over 50 years have now passed since these several gun pieces were dismantled from Levant Battery and deposited at the scrapyard. During the last twenty years, numerous groups and individuals have campaigned for the restoration of this iconic artillery piece but with little success until now. The Ministry for Heritage, supported by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and in collaboration with Metalrok Ltd and Montverde & Sons Ltd finally made what was once considered a pipe dream into a much-awaited reality.

The Minister for Heritage expressed their deep gratitude to the managing director of Metalrok Ltd, Mr. Elias Tapiero for his generosity in bestowing this unique heritage asset upon the people of Gibraltar free of charge. He has dedicated this gift in memory of his late father, Mr. Elias Tapiero Sr. who had always expressed a wish of returning the gun to its rightful place one day. The Minister is also once again deeply indebted to Mr. Giovanni Monteverde, Managing Director of Monteverde & Sons for his unlim-

ited generosity in providing the Ministry with all the resources at his disposal in the execution of such a highly complex operation.



9.2-inch Mark X gun on Mark V carriage at the Breakneck Battery at Gibraltar.



The empty emplacement of the Levant Battery as it appeared currently with the top of Rock in the background.



The Levant Battery from above with the Straits of Gibraltar below.

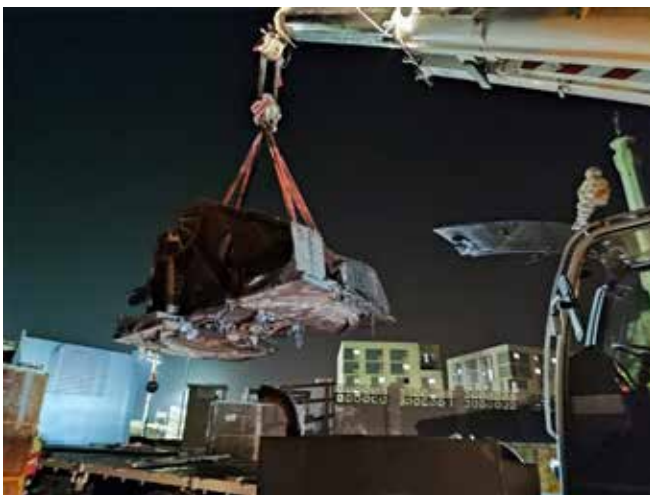




9.2-inch Mark X barrel where it has been resting in the scrapyard for the last 50 plus years.



The carriage portion of the Mark X Garrison Carriage as discovered at the scrapyard.



The carriage section being lifted onto a flatbed trailer at the scrapyard.



The big lift of the barrel from its 50 year plus resting place to the truck trailer.



9.2-inch Mark X barrel on the move to the temporary holding area at Europa Point.



The Brewery Crusher area where the barrel and carriage will be held for restoration.



Closer view of the recovery carriage parts. The guns distinctive shields were not located in the scrapyard.





### CDSG Fund

The CDSG Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group by raising funds for preservation and interpretation of American seacoast defenses. The CDSG Fund is seeking donations for projects supporting its goals.

Visit the CDSG.ORG website for more details.

The goals of the CDSG and CDSG Fund are the following:

- \* Educational study of coast defenses
- \* Technical research and documentation of coast defenses
- \* Preservation of coast defense sites, equipment, and records for current and future generations
- \* Accurate coast defense site interpretations
- \* Assistance to groups interested in preservation and interpretation of coast defense sites

Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes as the CDSG is a 501(c)(3) organization, and 100% of your gift will go to project grants. Major contributions are acknowledged annually. Make checks or money orders payable in US funds to: Coast Defense Study Group Fund or the CDSG Fund. Donations can also be made by credit card through the CDSG website at [www.cdsg.org](http://www.cdsg.org).

The Fund is always seeking proposals for the monetary support of preservation and interpretation projects at former coast defense sites and museums. A one-page proposal briefly describing the site, the organization doing the work, and the proposed work or outcome should be sent to the address below. Successful proposals are usually distinct projects rather than general requests for donations. Ideally, we desire to fund several \$500 to \$1,500 grants per year. Upon conclusion of a project a short report suitable for publication in the CDSG *Newsletter* is requested. The trustees shall review such requests and pass their recommendation onto the CDSG Board of Directors for approval. The trustees for the CDSG Fund are Terry McGovern, Quentin Schillere and Mark Berhow.

Send donations to (and made out to):

CDSG Fund c/o Quentin Schillere  
24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7285 USA

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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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), paper back 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

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*American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide*, Third Edition edited by Mark Berhow (2015), hardcover \$45 / \$95

*Historic Fortifications Preservation Handbook*, 2003 guide to preservation methods for concrete fortifications spiral bound softcover \$15 / \$70

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