



The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Summer 2023



Chairman's Message

Steve Waldron

The summer of 23 has had some uncomfortable weather extremes, so if you are inside hiding from it take advantage of the CDSG website, particularly under the About and the Recourses tabs. We are not just an outfit that sends out quarterly newsletters. CDSG.org is as good as it gets. I would also like to ask all of you to go to resources/downloads/membership brochure to print both a brochure and an application to give out when visiting historical sites or just conversing with someone who might be interested. I was fascinated by Forts since the early 60's but only found out about the CDSG through another member in the late 90's. If you really find all this interesting, please contact someone in leadership to volunteer and really become a part of a great organization.

News on a number of East Coast towers hasn't been good. Without help several will fall. But work is progressing on our May 2024 Conference in Key West and an add on to the HD of Tampa Bay. Start planning now if you would like to attend. It will require an early commitment and registration, along with a higher cost due to the extremely desirable location. But I for one cannot wait to attend this one! Hopefully see you there.

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CDSG Annual Business Meeting May 5, 2023

Terry McGovern and Steve Waldron

The CDSG Annual Business Meeting (ABM) was held at the Portland Regency Hotel on May 5, 2023, after our Annual Banquet as part of the 2023 CDSG Annual Conference to the Harbor Defenses of Portland, Maine. The annual business meeting was chaired by Steven Waldron. Steven welcomed the roughly 62 CDSG members to ABM by thanking Mark Berhow for organizing the 2023 CDSG Annual Conference and recapping some of the key CDSG events since last year's ABM in New Orleans. All three CDSG Directors were in attendance – Steven Waldron, Gordon Bliss, and Norman Scarpulla. Steven raised the issue of the 2024 CDSG Annual Conference and the need to find both a location and committee chairman for this event. The preferred location given our rotational tradition would be to visit the Harbor Defense of San Francisco but the Board so far has been unable to locate a conference chairman and the NPS has indicated they did not have the staffing to support our field trips to the historic fortifications. Some discussion occurred about moving our 2025 Annual Conference location – HD of Boston – up to 2024, but instead Chuck Ruby offered to organize our 2024 Annual Conference to the HD of Key West with Special Tour to the HD of Tampa for May 2024. The Board accepted this plan and endorsed our 2025 Annual Conference to Boston for April 2025. The Board asked the members to consider organizing an annual conference for 2026.

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2023 CDSG Special Tour

September 9 - 16, 2023

Northern Poland

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2024 CDSG Conference

May 8 - 9, 2024

Key West, Florida

2024 CDSG Conference Add-On Tour

May 10 - 11, 2024

Tampa, Florida

2025 CDSG Conference

April

Boston, Massachusetts

2026 CDSG Conference

Arrangements to be determined

Oahu, Hawaii or San Francisco, California

Other Meetings and Tours

September 7 - 10, 2023

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting
Kufstein, Austria

Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

September 13 - 18, 2023

Oahu, Hawaii

Valor Tours

Vicky Reynolds, valortours@yahoo.com

September 15 - 18, 2023

Bodensee, Limmat, & the Rhine

Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaires Annual Meeting

Col. EMG Schalbetter, president@www.esmem.ch

September 18 - 22, 2023

American Samoa

Valor Tours

Vicky Reynolds, valortours@yahoo.com

September 19 - 23, 2023
Liege, Belgium
Association Vauban Study Tour
Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

September 23 - October 1, 2023
Rome
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

October 6 - 8, 2023
St. Augustine, Florida
Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference
Bridget Hart, bridgethshea@hotmail.com

October 20 - 23, 2023
Chatham, England (U.K.)
Fortress Study Group Annual Conference
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
John Harris, chairman@fsgfort.org
Jeroen van der Werf, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

March 24 - April 4, 2024
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Israel & Cyprus
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

April 17 - 21, 2024
INTERFEST annual Meeting
Torun, Poland
Oliver Zauzig, praesident@interfest.org

May 12 - 23, 2024
Fortress Study Group
Western Greece
Eric Cauchi, eric@eternalgreece.com

September 28 - October 6, 2024
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Amsterdam
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

September 2024
Fortress Study Group Study Tour
Cartagena, Spain
Allstair Graham Kerr, psgeditor@hotmail.com

February 2025
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Southern India
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

September/October 2025
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Portugal
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

Steven then asked the committee chairman to report on the past year and plans for the coming year. The following was reported:

Membership & Promotion – Quentin Schillare reported on membership status (440 active members as of 12/31/22) and our renewal efforts for 2023 (May 2023 active members 391). Quent predicted that renewals will continue but usually 30-40 members do not renew, but the CDSG will gain that many new members during the year (current active membership is 406). Quent urged all members to help promote interested parties in joining the CDSG.

Preservation & Interpretation – Gordon Bliss reported about the current efforts to turn Plum Island (Fort Terry) into a nature preserve or park. He also told the members about ongoing preservation efforts at Fort Adams. Gordon urged all members to report to him about preservation & interpretation issues at their local fort or harbor defenses so the CDSG could get involved.

CDSG Representatives & Outreach – Norm Scarpulla emphasized the importance of site representatives to support the CDSG goals. Local interest makes things happen.” He explained the roles of site representatives and regional coordinators. Norm pointed out that we really need a site representative for Hawaii. The CDSG wants to extend its outreach to all owners of coast defense sites as educating them about the historical importance of their property may help preserve that site for future CDSG members. Please let us know the contact information for any owners.

Publications (Journal/News) – Mark Berhow reported on the status of articles for the *Journal*, which has enough material to cover through 2024. However, members should write and submit articles through the Journal publisher. We need to process articles through our editorial committee which takes more time to review. Members wanting to be part of the editorial committee should contact Mark.

Finance & Audit – Terry McGovern provided a summary of our 2022 financial results (a copy was sent to all members with the May 2023 newsletter) and read from the Audit Committee's letter to the board (Ned Libby review the books & records of the CDSG). The CDSG is in a strong financial condition given our organization's activities.

CDGG Fund – Terry McGovern talked about projects that CDSG Fund has funded during the year, primarily the USS *Iowa* Battleship Barrel memorial at Fort Story, Virginia Beach, VA. Several projects are on hold as the owners have not decided to move forward (several fire control towers) or additional funding needs to be raised to cover the total project cost. He also talked about donations to the CDSG Fund during the year. The CDSG Trustees urged the membership to offer up possible projects that CDSG Fund could provide grants.

Nominations – Robert Grimm reported that two candidates for the Board were proposed to the Board (Ned Libby and Paul Prentiss). All members were to receive ballots with voting ending on 7/31/23.

Projects & Website – Mark Berhow discussed CDSG projects (none at this time) and he urged members to let him know ideas that the CDSG could undertake. The www.cdsg.org website has been running well and new material is being added all the time.

The Board requested questions from the membership and several questions were answered. The Board also commented the passing of several long term CDSG members, including Bolling Smith. The meeting was adjourned after about 60 minutes.

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss, Chair

The main item I am reporting on for this report is the ongoing efforts to preserve Plum Island/Fort Terry. I am representing the CDSG on the steering committee of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition. In the current campaign to get it designated as a National Monument, there is a two-prong strategy being used both trying to get the President to declare it so and to generate support for the bill in Congress so designating it. The Congressional bill does appear to have some bi-partisan support. Just recently, I and other members of the steering committee had a meeting and photo-op with the Congressman sponsoring the bill at Orient Point, directly across from Plum Island. It may be some time before the current lab is completely gone from the island though as the move has been delayed multiple times and I have been told the company doing the cleanup has a contract through 2028. I still have not seen the final version of the Historic Properties Management Plan.

Regarding ongoing situations at Fort Monroe and Fort Wool, I have very little news of significance. The Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel expansion project is still ongoing and so far there is no change to the situation at Fort Wool. The steel WWII BC station there is still in danger and right now all we can do is hope that it stays up until an assessment can be done to see if it can be saved. At Fort Monroe, the proposed development project at the marina area has published a new version of the plan. It does not impact any of the tactical structures or other major buildings of significance. Also, there was a recent announcement of a grant from the National Park Service to fund research and surveying at the site of Fort George at Old Point Comfort which was the earliest masonry fort in Virginia and destroyed by a storm in 1749.

Because I occasionally make it down to help, I am on the email list for the volunteer crew at Fort Adams. They continue to regular work days to clean up the vegetation at the main fort, the advanced redoubt, and some of the Endicott batteries. I am still looking forward to when we can return to Battery Reilly, which is the only one of the Endicott batteries there that hasn't been fully cleaned up at least once. Chris Zeeman also often posts reports and pictures to the CDSG email list about these activities. I would really like to hear from others about activities undertaken by local groups at other locations as so far, I have had a paucity of reports from anyone else, though I'm sure there are groups out there maintaining their fort.

That's all I have for this report, and once again I would strongly encourage people to send me information on either preservation

activities or threats to a site so that I can let others know what is going on and potentially take action on behalf of the CDSG or provide helpful information.

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.

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Result of 2023 CDSG Election

Terry McGovern, Teller

The CDSG Teller reports the election of Ned Libby as the next CDSG director. Steve Waldron's term will end on October 1, 2023, while Ned's term will begin at that time and run for the next three years. Therefore, the directors for the next year will be Norm Scarpulla, Gordon Bliss, and Ned Libby. They will select who will be Chairman of the Board for the coming year as well as the Chairmen for all the committees. The CDSG Board of Directors thanks both Paul Prentiss and Ned Libby for their willingness to serve the CDSG in this role. Next year's Nomination Committee for the 2024 election will be Steve Waldron (Chair), Robert Grimm, and Tom Batha.

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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 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) and to Norman Scarpulla (nkscarpulla@icloud.com). Thanks for your assistance.

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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 highly 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

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Summary of the 2023 Member Survey Responses

Three questions posed to our membership via our 2023 election ballot to provide members 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.

The first question was "How would you rate the CDSG's current publications and activities". Sample responses are:

Publications are great. Hopefully, an editor of the Journal will be found and the excellent quality will continue.

Publications are excellent. I personally would like to see a history of the Coast Artillery Corps, specifically 20th century.

The online lectures (FSG Webinars) are brilliant and an excellent complement to CDSG's printed publications and activities.

Ok but more planning for preservation as all forts can't be saved. Rating system should be 1) structural integrity, 2) historical background, 3) accessibility, 4) coordinate with other agencies.

Journal has high level of scholarship. I am a new member but the CDSG seems to be somewhat "cliquish" and not very welcoming for new people.

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 also 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! And in regards to the Journal, it is now becoming the Bolling Smith tribute series. Seriously, we need our members to start writing articles in order to keep a diverse subject base. I do what I can to help the cause within my subject matter. We also, sooner rather than later, need a new editor for the Journal as well. With the passing of Bolling, the CDSG should offer his articles as a hardbound volume set. The man was one of the most knowledgeable persons in the field of coast artillery that I have ever had the opportunity to talk to. His Journal articles need to be made available as a printed collection.

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 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.

The second question was "What should be the future of the CDSG – more of the same or new goals/programs". Sample responses are:

Recruit young people, maybe provide a scholarship to attend conferences.

Education outreach to schools in the areas of major fortifications.

I enjoy the activities but would like to stay more connected. Maybe it would be good to do a Zoom gathering in October to say hello and to share stories.

Many of our members are of a "certain age" making it easy for them to donate to the CDSG Fund as a beneficiary in their retirement and/or brokerage accounts. This will help endure the Fund's long-term success. Any new programs that work toward that goal is a good one.

Activities are really hard to attend when you have to work full time. Not retired yet at the age of 50. Yet once again, I 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. Again, it 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. Then and now photo books on coast defense subjects also need to be published. What ever happened to the CDSG Modern Guide to Seacoast Fortifications project? As I have previously stated before, I believe with the emergence of the print on demand industry, would allow the group the ability to publish individual member's 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 on United States coast defense. This should be made a priority.

Preservation of coastal defenses sites and history must always be CDSG's goal.

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.

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!

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.

I have only been a member for a couple of years. Would be nice to meet local members to build some camaraderie and spread knowledge. An idea would be to link up a new member with an established member locally.

Maintain historical research, assist sites with preservation ideas and direction. Develop some sort of public awareness that historic fortifications are too valuable to remain unnoticed.

The third question was "Where should the CDSG hold its future conferences and special tours – and would you organize one?". Sample responses are:

San Francisco should be revised!

Out West – California to Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and other Pacific Islands.

Same response every year. HDSF. And of course, I would organize a tour of HDSF or any of the outlying military reservations within the system. 100% anytime.

As a resident of Marin County (Sausalito), CA, 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 one of the highlights of a visit – not to mention the plethora of WW1 and WW2 sites in the area!

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.

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?

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USS Iowa 16-inch barrel is at it's new home at Fort Story, VA

Dedication ceremony is planned for the the end of August



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CDSG Annual Conference Portland, Maine, May 2 to 8, 2023

Mark Berhow

It was a wild and stormy weekend leading up to the start of the CDSG Conference in Portland Maine at the very end of April. The Sunday before the meeting started saw over 4 inch of rain in a 24-hour period. However the major part of the storm had passed by Monday and only lingering waves of rain came through on Tuesday and Wednesday. We only had one bad day of rainy weather for the rest of the meetin,



Stopping at the Holy Donut, gourmet potato donuts on the waterfront in Portland

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. In all there is 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 might well have been the only way most fort enthusiasts to see them.

Casco Bay was one of the original deep seaports used by British and French explorers beginning in the late 15th century. A British colony was established in 1623, and fortifications were established over the years for defense against native Americans, the French, and later against the British as well.

I will keep this report relatively short on the details as the history and remaining structures are well covered for the 2005 CDSG Portland Conference. Joel Eastman's conference notes for the 2005 meeting are comprehensive and available from the CDSG. The tour notes published in the May 2005 and August 2005 *CDSG Newsletter* cover the details of our last visit, from which remarkably little has changed in the status of the sites in the past 20 years. The history of the Portland and Casco Bay defenses

is covered in a very detailed history by Bill Gaines published in the 2011 volume 25 of the *Coast Defense Journal*; a reprint was provided with the online materials collected for the conference. Ken Thompson's outstanding book *Portland Head Light & Fort Williams* (The Thompson Group, Portland, ME 1998) covers Fort Williams.

The budget process was interesting—besides the usual hotel, meeting room, and banquet arrangements—charter boats and ferry rides had to be arranged for three days, golf cart rentals were made for one island and some admission fees had to be covered. The operational costs were nearly \$25,000, which translated to \$330 per person for the 62 folks that originally planned on attending.

Tuesday May 2nd

Registration and check in was held on Tuesday afternoon at the Best Western Merry Manor Inn in South Portland, followed by an overview of the next days events and presentations on the Army's hospital buildings by Quentin Schillare and some historic views of the Portland defenses by Mark Berhow.

Wednesday May 3rd

We gathered at 7AM at the Fogg's Water Taxi Dock in downtown Portland. By 9 AM we had been shuttled to Cushing's Island and began our guided tour of the remaining structures of Fort Levett with John and Fred Spencer, our island hosts.



The hospital at Fort Levett



Battery Bowdoin Fort Levett



Battery Kendrick Fort Levett



Hoist in Battery Bowdoin Fort Levett

Cushing Island is a private community, only island residents and their guests have access through a private ferry service, so the CDSG visit was a unique arrangement. Fort Levett was an early modern-era fort constructed in the late 1897-1905 with four concrete gun batteries and a small garrison facility. A fifth long range battery was built there after World War I. Our hosts walked the group round the old parade ground which retains most of the original buildings that have now been converted to summer homes. The fortification area is the Cushings Island Conservation Corporation land and remains undeveloped. The weather was cool and breezy, but no rain. The group toured all the batteries and the remaining fire control structures. Although



Battery Foote, Fort Levett

now more overgrown than 20 years ago, the concrete structures remain in relatively good condition and retain a fair amount of ancillary power and communication wiring as well as several hoists. Time is taking a toll as the metal and concrete continues to deteriorate, and most of the wood structures have fallen into ruin. Our last stop was the switchboard room near the dock which retains much of the original boards and wiring.

We were ferried over to Peaks Island at around 1 PM as the weather began to deteriorate to a blustery cold drizzly rain mixed with snow. We headed up to Mike's Carts to rent 12 golf carts to help us move around the Island. Peaks had some fire control and searchlight structures built in the early 1900s. During the World War II years, four major gun batteries and additional fire control structures were built on the island. These structures were fairly dispersed on the Island, and many are now privately owned. The group traveled around the island on carts or by foot braving the cold wet winds to drive by the major sites. We were able to go into Battery Steele, the relatively neglected 16-inch casemated battery that is now in the island's nature preserve. The group finished up with a welcome, warm, and dry visit to the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum opened especially for us by Susan Hanley, the museum's director. The group caught the Casco Bay Lines Ferry back to Portland.



Battery Cravens (BCN 203) Peaks Island



Battery Steele (BCN 102) Peaks Island

The group gathered in the evening for presentations by Paul Drinan on Fort Gorges, Paul Lawton on the sinking and discovery of wreck of the USS *Eagle*, and Ken Thompson on Fort Williams.

Thursday May 4th:

Another 7 AM start at Fogg's water taxi dock for our journey to Cow Island and Fort Lyon. The small early modern-era fort was built after 1900 with two concrete batteries, one search light emplacement, a mine fire control secondary station, and three 3-inch antiaircraft guns. The Island is now owned by Rippleffect, a Portland based youth program that uses the island for outdoor adventures and events. Adam Shepard, the executive director, graciously gave us permission to visit the island as this was before any of their summer programs had started. We had a quick walk around the small island and we boarded the boats to head over to Great Diamond Island.



Battery Bayard Fort Lyon



Double mine secondary foundation Fort Lyon

The group gathered near the old quartermaster wharf where we met Rick Frantz, Kathryn Worley, Ben Mackey, and Bill Middleton, our guides and hosts from the Diamond Cove area and the Friends of Fort McKinley. Another early modern-era coast defense fort built during 1897-1905, Fort McKinley takes up about half of Great Diamond Island. The post had a major garrison facility, with 8 concrete batteries of up to 12-inch guns, and a large mine depot. The site had several fire control stations, searchlights, and switchboard buildings. The post was used mainly for Navy housing during the World War II years. Turned over to a private owner in the 1950s, the post buildings were eventually renovated into private residences, with most of the buildings and tactical structures remaining intact. Public visitation is generally limited to museum guided tours. The fort and its grounds in general looked much the way it did when it was a active post. The site is protected by historic landmark designation which restricts the exterior alteration of the buildings and some of the grounds.

Battery Commander's station and plotting room remains
for Battery Honneycutt Fort McKinley

Battery Carpenter Fort McKinley

We were divided up into 5 groups and escorted around the grounds visiting the structures on the South Fork and the North Fork with a break for lunch in the old post exchange building. Only about half of the tactical structures were on "common access" grounds, the rest were part of particular property lots. We were able to see most of the remaining structures except for the privately owned mine facilities and 12-inch Battery Berry, which we did not have permission to visit. We did at least view nearly all the remaining tactical structures and walk around the garrison area. Our hosts then treated us to drinks, wine, beer, chili, cheese, and dessert in one of the old quartermaster buildings. A great way to finish the day before we boarded the ferry back to Portland!



Battery Thompson Fort McKinley



Old fort commander's station Fort McKinley



Double barracks, now a hotel, Fort McKinley



Post exchange and gymnasium, now the community center, Fort McKinley

The annual CDSG Worker's Appreciation Dinner was held and the evening presentations included talks by Glen Williford on a few coast artillery subjects and two other presentations.

Friday May 5th:

A bit later start of 10 AM at Fogg's Water Taxi dock on this day to take advantage of high tide to take us over to the stone wharf at Fort Gorges in the middle of the Portland harbor. We were able to make the landing and were met by Paul Drinan. After short talk on the Friends of Fort Gorges plans for the facility, our group was able to explore most of the structure, except for sections of the second story casemate that were closed off for

safety reasons. This magnificent Third System work was largely completed by the beginning of the American Civil War, but not armed until the 1870s. It is currently owned by the City of Portland and administered by the Friends group which uses it for events and tours during the summer. The big concern is the sea is slowly undermining the ledge the fort sits on, which is leading to potential long term stability issues.



Fort Gorges

A short shuttle by the water taxi brought the group to the dock at House Island below the ramparts of Fort Scammel. Initially built during the Second System, the fort was totally rebuilt during the Third System as a unique bastioned fortification unlike any other built by the United States. The half of the island the fort is located on is now owned by a new private owner and is being used as a private event location run by Portland for camping and events. We were hosted by Stefan Scarks and after a brief introduction the group fanned out to visit the fort, which is still



CDSG 2023 Conference attendees at Fort Scammell



Fort Scammell bastion



Emplacements on a bastion Fort Scammell



interior of a bastion Fort Scammell

largely unmodified from its final state in 1870s. Stefan noted they plan to keep the historic integrity of the fort intact, while improving and stabilizing the site.

A quick trip back to Portland by 4 PM so we could get ready for our annual banquet. The banquet was held at the Portland Regency Hotel and Spa which is in the old Maine National Guard Armory Building in downtown Portland. The annual business meeting followed chaired by the current chairman of the board of directors Steve Waldron.



The Portland Maine National Guard Armory Building
Currently the Regency Hotel

Saturday May 6th:

Up and on the road by 8 AM for our journey along the southern shoreline of Casco Bay. The first stop was at the campus of the Southern Maine Community College in South Portland which is on the old military reservation of Fort Preble. Originally built during the Second System, the defensive work was to be rebuilt during the Third System, but construction was halted part way through the rebuilding. Modified with additional batteries during the 1870s, the post received three concrete batteries, a mine depot and new garrison buildings after 1897. The reservation was turned over to the city after World War II and the mortar batteries were buried to create more usable space. Several of the



Fort Preble unfinished Third System work



Battery Rivardi Fort Preble



Collapsing walls of the Third System work at Fort Preble garrison buildings remain today along with the unfinished Third System fort, some of the 1870s batteries, and two concrete batteries. The area is open to the public, but public parking is limited during active school hours. Sadly, three of the eastern casemates of the uncompleted Third System fort recently collapsed and additional casemates are being undermined by the encroaching sea.

Moving on down the coast to Portland Head and the site of Fort Williams, now a large popular city park. Portland Head received fortifications in the 1870s, which were generally replaced by 6 concrete gun batteries and a mine depot during the period



Fort Williams bandstand



Battery Blair and Portland Head Light Fort Williams

of 1897-1905. The post had a large garrison area and was the headquarters post for the harbor defenses of Portland. Unlike Fort McKinley and Fort Levett, most of the buildings fell into disrepair after the military left in the 1950s. The Town of Cape Elizabeth obtained the property in 1964, but did not decide to develop the site into a park until 1979. By that time most of the old buildings had been destroyed. The three large batteries were filled in for safety reasons, leaving a large open park area today. The main attraction is the Portland Head Lighthouse and one with beach and field access. We headed to the Batchelor's Officer's Quarters home of the Cape Elizabeth Historical Society with exhibits dedicated to the history of Fort Williams where we were hosted by Jim Rowe, Ken Thompson, and Bob Dodd. The museum has an excellent set of historic photos and displays as well as some nice dioramas of the fort and the Town of Cape Elizabeth. The group fanned out to visit the remaining structures of the fort before returning to the cars to head further south.

We gathered in the parking lot of Two Lights State Park where we were met by Ranger Kurt Schoener. Kurt led a tour of the interior of the World War II era 6-inch battery near the shoreline of the park and discussed plans for the eventual restoration of the interior for tours and events. The group divided up to visit the fire control towers in the area including one in the park. The Trundy Point Fire Control Towers are owned by Russ Keenan—one is a WW2 concrete tower and the other is a very rare surviving steel tower from the 1920's - used by Battery Foote. The nicely preserved "second" lighthouse of the Two Lights is now owned by Jim Lane, who let us climb up the old lighthouse to the fire control station installed during the 1940s. This ended the official meeting agenda.



Fire control station in a converted lighthouse at Two Lights



Battery Construction Number 201 Cape Elizabeth

Sunday May 7th:

The first add-on day to complete the visits to the fortifications around Portland was a 124-mile driving trip up to Fort Knox near Bucksport, Maine. Constructed between 1844 and 1869, the fort remains today almost entirely intact and is an outstanding



Fort Knox



Gun in casemate Fort Knox

example of Third System construction. The remaining faithful arrived at the magnificent fortification at a bend in the Penobscot River just after the park opened. The casemates and grounds are open for inspection during regular hours and there is a nice gift shop there. The view of the fort from the Penobscot Narrows Observatory is well worth the admission price.

On the return from Fort Knox to Portland we stopped at Fort Edgecomb across the Sheepscot River from Wiscasset to see the Second System earthworks and restored blockhouse, then it was on to Popham Beach to visit Fort Popham and Fort Baldwin.



Fort Edgecomb blockhouse



Lobstar Rolls!!

Fort Popham is a partially completed Third System fort built to guard the entrance to the Kennebec River, now a popular beach park. The signs of seashore erosion were present here as well. Fort Baldwin, now a state historic site, is an open access area with three concrete late Endicott period batteries (one converted for two 155mm mounts in WWII) and a WWII fire control tower.



Fort Popham



Battery Hawley Fort Baldwin

Monday May 8th:

14 hardy souls remained for the final trip out to the more remote Jewell Island with its WW II-era 200-series battery, two AMTB batteries, and two fire control towers. Twelve of the group met at Fogg's Water Taxi dock for the trip out to Jewell on two 6-man boats. Because of boat capacity limitations, the other two in the group took the public ferry to Great Chebogue Island, where Erno Bonebakker ferried them to Jewell Island on his boat. Jewell Island is now a state wildlife preserve managed by the Maine Island Trails Association. Luckily the caretaker was out there to help with the landing on the island which has no dock. After landing at Cocktail Cove the group hiked the 2 miles to the south end of the island to visit the remaining structures. Erno helped with getting the folks back on the Fogg's boats after the visit.

Meeting Summary

I was very interested in returning to visit the Portland Defenses. However, several key locations were in private hands and/or difficult to reach as they were on islands that required boat

transportation. As far as I understood it, the CDSG had lost many of its old contacts in Portland since Joel Eastman ran the last two CDSG meetings in 1985 and 2005. With no one in the group stepping up to take on the organization of this meeting, I decided to give it a try. It was interesting trying to make these arrangements from Illinois. I started a couple of years in advance to find and contact folks on Cushings Island, Great Diamond Island, House Island, Fort Gorges, and Peaks Island. Finding the boats to hire was also challenging, but it came down to using the only big water taxi operator in town and, once I had the right contact, I thought it all went smoothly. Several things required knowing the local scene, such as choosing a hotel venue, a banquet venue, buying lunches, getting the best driving directions, etc., so I had to make a best choices from a distance. Bottom line, it is helpful to have local contacts to help set up the meeting logistics, and someone familiar with what the CDSG wants and expects to make these things go smoothly. I really encourage members to step up and volunteer to chair and run these meetings in the future or we won't be able to have them!!

I was struck by how relatively little had changed in the preservation status of the historic areas in the past 20 years. Almost all of the structures present in 2005 are still here, though time and neglect has taken its toll on the metal and wooden structures at the Endicott and WWII fortifications.

However, the effect of the rising sea levels and the increase in the number and intensity of storms is starkly evident especially on those structures at or near sea level. The damage to the Third System casemates at Fort Preble has already begun, and the encroaching sea is causing damage to Fort Gorges and Fort Popham that will cause structural damage unless mitigated.

As noted at the beginning of this report, visiting all of the Portland Defenses is a challenge. Special arrangements must be made to visit the privately held Fort Levett, Fort McKinley, Fort Lyon, and Fort Scammel as well as the city held Fort Gorges—true jewels of remaining American seacoast fortification architecture—and can be difficult to do on your own!

* * * * *

USAMP Colonel Charles W. Bundy



USAMP *Colonel Charles W. Bundy* was launched in 1943 by the Marietta Manufacturing Company, Point Pleasant, West Virginia. This 2023 computer 3D printer model of her is now on display at the Ohio River Museum in Point Pleasant.

* * * * *

The National Guard And The CAC 1921

By the National Guard Bureau

Edited by Charles H. Bogart

The Coast Artillery Corps (CAC) component of the National Guard works under a somewhat greater handicap than other National Guard units because members of National Guard CAC companies are by force of circumstances always separated from their weapons, except for the period of the fifteen-day summer encampment. The difficulties brought on by this situation are met to some extent by the policy of locating most of the National Guard Coast Artillery companies in the large coastal cities where they are within comparatively easy access of CAC manned fortifications thus permitting week-end visits to the batteries if the guardsmen are so inclined.

The second step in overcoming the inherent difficulties of the National Guard CAC companies training problem was the action of the federal government some years ago in establishing rather elaborate installations of artillery equipment in certain armories. A typical National Guard CAC armory plant includes three pieces of dummy CAC armament—one 10-inch gun on a disappearing carriage, one 12-inch mortar, and one 3-inch gun on a pedestal mount. These guns and mortars, along with their carriages, are actually like the corresponding service pieces they are to man in war time in practically every respect except they are made of cast iron. It is possible, therefore, not only to drill a gun section, but to give practical instruction to the cannoneers in all the mechanics required in keeping a gun battery in operating condition.

In addition to the dummy guns there is provided a complete installation of modern fire control apparatus, including the usual observing instruments, plotting room equipment, and communication system thus permitting range finding drills for both battery and fire commands. Some of the armories also have a searchlight, a storage battery, gas engines, generators, radio apparatus, and an electrically driven ammunition hoist for 1000-pound projectiles. One of the armories has a moving target in the form of a boat, (but actually on wheels) with a storage battery as the motive power and the machinery so geared that the operator can drive it at varying speeds, permitting a thoroughly realistic tracking drill.

The training of the National Guard CAC companies consists of three parts: (1st) the fundamentals, required of all soldiers of all arms; (2nd) a small amount of Infantry work, such as close order company drills, ceremonies small arms target practice, and riot duty; (3rd) the service of the armament to which the company is assigned.

Separated from the weapons they must use in war; it is not expected that immediate readiness of these National Guard companies for duty in the fortifications will be attained upon mobilization. However, having received reasonable Coast Artillery training in the National Guard armory, they under proper supervision and guidance can quickly master their war time battery assignment, unlike new recruits with the National Guard soldier many of the subjects which are purely technical, mathematical and theoretical, can be eliminated as they have been covered during monthly training. Thus, all that is needed is to accentuate the practical side of the work.

With this understanding of their functions and limitations the National Guard CAC companies can make a good start on their job even where the equipment is limited. They can be carried part way in their training at the armory and be better prepared to undertake the intensive period of summer time training which must be counted as part of the training system for every type of reserve force. For the National Guard's CAC companies, the summer encampment of 15 days constitutes a miniature intensive war time period. Exercises are held at the regular coast defenses forts, and the necessary batteries and fortification machinery are placed at their disposal, with sufficient Army instructors to insure rapid progress. Sub-caliber target practice at moving targets is a part of the work for all of these companies, and service firing of a limited number of practice rounds is provided for those companies which can carry out the firing safely and profitably.

The Coast Artillery Corps of the Regular Army has a relatively large number of Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) in grades one, two and three. The corresponding Regular Army CAC positions are open to the National Guard enlisted men. Thus, there are very tangible inducements for men to enlist in National Guard CAC companies. The National Guard Bureau plan is to seek men who in civil life are engaged in an occupation which seems to fit them for specialists CAC duties, such as electrician or engineer. These men during training at the armory will be exposed to the particular problems which confront like NCO experts at the various CAC forts. These National Guard CAC NCOs will during their annual two weeks of training round out their specialty training to the point that they will possess the general knowledge required of such men in Regular Army CAC service. Presently comprehensive course of instruction based upon actual CAC shop work is being developed. Considerable equipment is being made available to the National Guard in the way of vocational training.

All of the Coast Artillery Corps units of the National Guard have been given definite war assignments. The CAC units of the National Guard so far as organized at this date (1921) are distributed as follows; Maine, five companies; Massachusetts, twelve companies; Rhode Island, eight companies; Connecticut, one company; New York, twenty-four companies and one regiment of anti-aircraft, less two units; Delaware, one regiment of anti-aircraft; Virginia, one company; North Carolina, one company and one anti-aircraft machine gun company; South Carolina, two companies; Florida, one company; Illinois, three batteries of anti-aircraft guns and one anti-aircraft machine gun company; Missouri, one regiment of anti-aircraft guns; Arkansas, one battalion of anti-aircraft machine guns; California, eight companies; Oregon, four companies; Washington, two companies. The National Guard Bureau reported on September 1, 1921 that the total strength of the National Guard CAC units, as of that date, was 494 officers and 9,586 enlisted men.

Finland And Estonia Adopt Blue Spear SSM For Coast Defense

Charles H Bogart

Both Finland and Estonia are purchasing the Blue Spear anti-ship missile for coast defense. The missile is mounted on a mobile launcher. The Blue Spear is a surface-to-surface missile (SSM) with a range of 180 nautical miles and carries a 250-pound warhead. Each missile is 18 feet long with a diameter of 17 inches. Its flight path is 8 feet above the sea at a speed of 600 miles per hour. Cost of each missile is \$5 million.

Blue Spear is an improved Gabriel sea skimming anti-ship SSM. The Gabriel was developed by Israel Aerospace and was first deployed in 1970. The latest Israeli Navy version of the missile is the Gabriel V, which is sold to foreign countries under the name Blue Spear. The missile has two guidance modes: Fire and Forget and Fire and Update using command data links.

Blue Spear has both sea and deep land attack capabilities and is equipped with enhanced maneuverability for attacking ships in a littoral environment. The missile system is equipped with an active radar-homing target seeker, an upgraded Integrated Network System (INS) navigation system, beyond-line-of-sight attack capabilities, and an electronic suite which is hardened against electronic countermeasure disruptions. Blue Spear is also equipped with a variety of deception means to counter it being destroyed while in flight.

As both Finland and Estonia are NATO nations it is expected that they will develop an integrated coast defense system to control the entrance/exit to the Gulf of Finland.



USS Iowa 16-inch barrel being installed at it's new home at Fort Story, VA



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

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Send donations to (and made out to):

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24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7285 USA

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1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA

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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

The Endicott and Taft Reports, reprint of original reports of 1886, 1905, 1915, hardcover, with plates included in a separate paperback \$45/ \$95

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

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

WWII Harbor Defenses of San Diego, 2021 by H.R. Everett, available from Amazon, \$40 list price, (\$50 if ordered from CDSG, domestic shipping only).

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