

The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Spring 2024



Chairman's Message

Norm Scarpulla

Our 2024 conference will be May 6-9 at Key West, Florida, with an add-on tour May 10-11 at Tampa Bay. Please see the conference information included with this Newsletter. If you plan to attend, it is important to register and to make your reservations immediately. Key West is a year-round tourist destination, so we are competing with tourists for hotels, etc. The most important reservation is for the ferry to Fort Jefferson on Tuesday May 7th. Our 2025 conference will be in Boston in late April.

CDSG had 416 active members as of end-of-year 2023. However, as of January 28, 39% have not yet renewed for 2024. Please renew! Just do it! It's easy, either by mail or website. So far in 2024, we have seven new members. Our finances are strong; please see the report included with this *Newsletter*.

All CDSG members are invited to write articles for the *CD Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter*. Instructions about format and submission are on our website. Articles of lasting value will be published in the *Journal*, while items with more temporary information and current site updates will appear in the *Newsletter*. Please keep your audience in mind. We have many readers, including about 30 international members, who may not have visited all the forts and harbors. Readers benefit from a brief review of the geography, what was once there and what it is now. If you have questions about your idea for an article, please contact me or Mark Berhow.

The CDSG promotes the study, accurate documentation, and preservation of seacoast defenses. All members can be advocates for these goals. When you visit a site or attend a historical or veterans' event, wear a CDSG shirt or hat. On our website, we have brochures and posters which you can download and print.

And ask curious people to visit our website; it is very easy to remember: "cdsg.org."

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss, Chairman

Year in Review 2023

Though there has been some upsurges in disease activity, all the public places I visited this past year have pretty much returned to normal activity. This should allow us to visit sites more easily and to work on preservation activities going forward.

The Plum Island and Fort Terry saga is still ongoing. The Preserve Plum Island Coalition's campaign to have it declared a National Monument is still being actively pursued with a prominent link on their website (www.preserveplumisland.org) to send an email to the President supporting this. Also, the bill introduced in Congress last year for this, though it expired at the end of the year, is expected to be re-introduced this year. Though the Coalition is primarily concerned with preserving it as a wildlife habitat and nature preserve

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

Please advise Terry McGovern of any additions or changes at 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 (tentative)

2026 CDSG Conference

Arrangements to be determined

Other Meetings and Tours

April 6 - 12, 2024
ECCOFORT Study Tour
Cyprus
Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de

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

April 22 - 26, 2024
Biehler Fort Group International Conference
Pozan, Poland
Mikhail Lysenka, biehler.forts@gmail.com

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

June 11 - 16, 2024
Association Vauban Annual Congress
Metz, France
Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

September 20 - 22, 2024
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsforschung Annual Meeting
Luxembourg
Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

September 28 - October 6, 2024

ECCOFORT Study Tour

Amsterdam

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

October 11 - 13, 2024

International Fortress Council Annual Meeting

Namur, Belgium

Jeroen van der Werf, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

February 8 - 23, 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

this should not be at odds with keeping the existing Fort Terry structures and should provide additional protection to them.

The CDSG paid for an engineering evaluation of the steel-framework-with-cab-on-top fire control tower at Big Stone Beach Delaware. This gave us a cost estimate for stabilizing the tower and if the landowners (The Nature Conservancy) agree to work being done on it, a fund-raising campaign to do so can begin. The is one of a very few of these that remain standing as many have fallen over the years or taken down when they are in developed areas and become unsafe.

I received an update on Fort Constitution in the Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. John Weaver has finished a history of the fort and submitted it to the State of New Hampshire. The intent is that there will be preservation work done there and Aeon Preservation Services is the consultant working on the proposal. As I understand it, there will at least be stabilization of the existing walls. This year is the 240th anniversary of the 1774 raid by colonists to capture British gunpowder and there is an event planned to celebrate that.

Apparently, there are two 3-inch coast defense guns at Fort Gregg-Adams as part of the Army's collection, but in a building which is not open to the public. We can only hope that someone doesn't decide to dispose of them as the Coast Artillery seems to be part of the Army's history that is largely ignored.

Those that attended this past year's conference in Portland, Maine saw the outstanding preservation and restoration work done at Fort McKinley. About the only structure not restored or rehabilitated is the post hospital, partly because of the cost that will be involved but also because of various ownership issues. There is still hope that it will eventually join the list of restored buildings.

At Fort Adams, besides the regular maintenance to keep vegetation from encroaching on the gun batteries, Advanced Redoubt, and outer works; the regular volunteer work crew has been expanding the cleared area around the batteries south of the main fort. Fort Washington, on the Potomac River south of DC, had a workday to clear vegetation from the areas around some of the structures. If the fort or site in your area has similar efforts in vegetation removal, please let me know about them so that I can call attention to them. I'm particularly interested if you find any tools or techniques that are particularly useful and effective for this task.

If there are any items of significance from the past year that I have failed to mention, please let me know and I will cover them in the next column.

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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2024 CDSG Key West Conference and Tampa Special Tour

Chuck Ruby

The time for this year's CDSG Conference is fast approaching, as May is only a few months away. At this year's conference we will visit nearly every type of coastal defense structure from the Civil War era to the missile age. There are Third System Forts, Endicott Period Batteries, WW2 Batteries, Hawk Missile sites and even a NIKE Missile site, as well as surviving coast artillery. We will also have some time to spend enjoying each other's company along with the company of our guests while visiting some of the other historical and social areas of the beautiful town of Key West.

There are four Third System fortifications. The main attraction is Fort Jefferson, situated in at the edge of the Gulf of Mexico. This is a marvel to see this huge fort that was built dozens of miles from the mainland. As the boat approaches, a giant 3 tier fort seems to appear from nowhere. **It is very important that you book the ferry out to the fort on Tuesday May 7th as soon as possible because the daily ferry fills up.**

The second Third System Fort is Fort Zachery Taylor another magnificent 3-tier fort that had its top two levels removed when the Endicott Batteries built into the fort's walls. Our other two Third System works are the Martello Towers, one of which is still in original condition as it was when they stopped work on it.

We will visit the Endicott Batteries inside Fort Taylor along with Battery Seminole on the U.S. Naval base. Battery Seminole is off limits to the general public but will be open to us. We are also working to get permission to visit the WW2 Battery 232 on the Key West Airport Grounds. This will be our last opportunity to visit this battery as it is scheduled to be demolished for further airport development.

Since Key West is located so close to Cuba, there were several Hawk Missile Sites built in the area. Most everything from these sites has been removed or demolished but we will be taking some time to explore at least one of them.

We will also visit a NIKE Missile Site just outside of Miami. This will be an unusual treat we have not had the opportunity to see during our last couple of conferences as we usually visit sites within view of the water and most NIKE Sites are farther inland.

An extra treat will be the opportunity to visit Downtown Key West and Key West's pristine Beaches. While the CDSG Members are visiting the fortifications, our guests will be free to visit some of the local tourist attractions or spend some time sunning on the beach. We will also have a free evening when our whole group can stroll Duvall Street and watch the sun go down at Mallory Square.

As an add on tour, we plan on visiting the defenses of Tampa Bay. There were extensive Endicott Batteries in Tampa including three that are now submerged in the Gulf of Mexico. We will be taking a boat out to visit these sites even though we will only be able to see them underwater. We will also see the only 4 remaining 12-inch mortars and two 6-inch Armstrong guns left in the U.S. Attending this tour to Tampa will allow you to visit the only remaining 8-inch railway mount in the USA.

Please register today for the Key West Conference and/or the Tampa Tour, as you will be able to visit seldom accessed batteries and it will be another 24 years before the CDSG will return to these historic seacoast fortifications. See the attached flyer for the details on how to register.

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2024 Annual Business Meeting – Thursday, May 9th @ 7pm

Terry McGovern – Secretary/Treasurer

The CDSG Board of Directors is happy to announce that the CDSG Annual Business Meeting will be held at VFW Post 3911 – Key West 3820 N Roosevelt Blvd. Key West, Florida at 7:00pm (EST) on Thursday, May 9, 2024. The board urges all members to attend to hear annual reports from the board and committees and to discuss plans for the coming years.

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The CDSG Board Elections 2024

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Nominations Committee, Robert Grimm, Tom Batha, and Steve Waldron, are seeking board candidates for the full Board to consider by May 1, 2024. The ballot will be included in the May 2024 newsletter with results due by July 31. Results will be announced in August 2024 Newsletter. The three-year term will begin October 1, 2024, at which time Norm Scarpula will be stepping down from the board. If you are interested in running or have a nomination, please contact a committee member by May 1.

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Coast Defense Study Group Press 2023 Annual Report

Terrance McGovern, Chairman

2023 Reviewed

The CDSG Press and ePress only exist through our volunteer committee member efforts. We need to thank all current the members of the CDSG Press - Mark Berhow, Terry McGovern, Jon Prostack, Tom Kavanagh, and Tom Batha for their long-term volunteer work for our organization.

CDSG ePress: We have added "Volume 37" (2023) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to our list of back issues. This volume is only available via a DVD or Dropbox which contains our entire *Journal/News* collection, which represents

over 16,000 pages of coast defense articles for only \$50, and yearly updates are available by contacting the info@cdsg.org. Our coast defense document collections, known collectively as "HD Records" (such as RCW, Engineer Notes, Quartermaster, and Annexes) is also available under our CDSG ePress label in PDF format (see references page at our web site at cdsg.org). The complete collection of these digital files is available for \$250. These digital collections are composed of scanned key National Archives coast defense documents. These are great reference items and can help you write articles for our *Coast Defense Journal*. Single harbor defenses collection of these documents is also available. A companion digital product is our "CDSG Documents" DVD/Dropbox with a great collection of coast artillery reports and manuals for only \$50.

CDSG Gear: While actually part of our Membership Committee activities, the CDSG Press handles the distribution of our CDSG Gear, such as T-Shirts (\$18), Patches (\$4), and Hats (\$20). Please purchase these items so you promote the CDSG to others and help grow our membership.

CDSG Press: Traditional printing of multiple copies of books and storing them in warehouses to be mailed to purchasers has greatly diminished in the publishing world with the advent of "Print on Demand" (POD) services. The CDSG Press has migrated to "Print on Demand" as well, allowing us to reduce upfront payments and elimination of almost all storage requirements. We only have our legacy reprints still in inventory and as these titles sell out, we are switching to "Print on Demand" printing.

Here is a summary of legacy reprint efforts to date: We have sold a total of 392 copies (99%) of our 1994 reprint book, *Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction*, out of our total press run of 396. We have several "reserve" copies that we are selling, but we need to decide if we will create a POD version. Our 1996 reprint book, *Seacoast Artillery Weapons*, has sold 471 copies (100%) out of our press run of 471. We have gone ahead and created POD version which available today for sale. Our 1997 reprint, *Service of Coast Artillery* has sold 363 units (68%) out of 532 printed, leaving 169 copies on hand. Our 1998 reprint book, *Permanent Fortification and Seacoast Defenses* which covers the Third System of U.S. fortifications has sold 191 units (56%) out of a press run of 344, leaving 153 copies on hand. Our 2001 reprint project, *American Coast Artillery Material* has sold 287 units (71%) to date out of 404 books printed, leaving 117 copies on hand. Our 2007 project, *Endicott-Taft Report* has sold 260 books/plates (61%) to date out of a press run of 427, leaving 207 copies on hand. This leaves us with four reprint titles with large stocks on hand so please purchase a copy. We are open to ideas on how to increase sales of these books.

The CDSG Press's first original book was *American Seacoast Defenses, a Reference Guide* – 1st Edition (ASD1) in 1999. This book sold very well so at 418 copies were sold. Replacing ASD1 was our 2004 project, *American Seacoast Defenses, a Reference Guide* – 2nd Edition (ASD2) has sold 503 books (100%) out of a press run of 503 by 2015. We now have the ASD as a 3rd Edition as a POD replacement.

Our "Print on Demand" efforts began 2011 with the *"Artillerists and Engineers"* book by Arthur Wade, which is printed by Lulu.com and sold by the CDSG Press, Lulu.com, and Amazon. Based on that experience, we undertook a larger "Print on Demand" project, the 3rd Edition of *"American Seacoast Defenses, a Reference Guide"* (ASD3) which is printed by Lulu.com, but only sold by the CDSG Press and we only order a limited number of copies each time to handle member's orders as we can always have more printed-on demand. Mark has updated and expanded the range of seacoast defense information for the 3rd Edition (it is also available in PDF digital form for \$40 via download link). Please place your order for the ASD3 so you will have the most comprehensive guide on your favorite subject.

We plan to continue to offer our reprint books through an "Print on Demand" service, but we do need to consider the number of future sales to justify the set-up costs to have these prints on demand titles. We have turned *"Seacoast Artillery Weapons"* book into a "Print on Demand" book, though this edition is softbound. This title is also now for sale through Amazon and other online retailers. You can also still order this book through the CDSG Press. We are considering doing the same for the *"Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction"*, but need to consider the demand for this title in making that decision.

We completed POD book titled *"World War II Harbor Defenses of San Diego"* by Bart Everett in 2021. This impressive 536-page work provides many details about coast defense efforts during WW2 that are only available because of Bart's research over the last 15 years. Bart is allowing the CDSG Press to publish this work and is donating his author's royalty to the CDSG Fund. This book is primarily available through Amazon for \$33.33 plus shipping. Also, available from the CDSG at \$50 including shipping.

2024 Plans

The CDSG Press is working on companion volume to the *"American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide"* (ASD3). This publication is currently titled *"American Seacoast Forts: A Directory to American Seacoast Forts (1885-1950)"*. This work (ASF) will focus on the history, key features, location, and the current status/access of each American coast defense fort (using site maps and old & current aerial photos). The book will also include an introduction, battery listing, and sources. Terry McGovern and Mark Berhow are assembling this work. Once we finish the 1st draft, we will be circulating it to various regional CDSG members for their review and comments. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net if you have information about your local fort or forts that you want to include and/or if you would like to review the manuscript.

Several proposals have been offered for future new CDSG Press projects. One such proposal is a collection of rare ordnance photographs and drawings from the archives of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. This collection has been donated to CDSG Fund by the late Elliot Deutsch. This publication would be professionally printed and bound which will allow for high quality grey scale and/or color illustrations (not currently possible in the Coast Defense Journal). Another member has provided a collection of Coast Artillery Training Films. We are working providing them

using electronic files via download or flash drives. We ask our membership to keep offering new ideas for the CDSG Press.

We plan to add "Volume 38" (2024) of the *Coast Defense Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter* to our DVD or Dropbox of back issues for a price of \$55. While the CDSG Press does not print new works on coast defenses that require a payment of royalties, the Redoubt Press is looking for new manuscript proposals. An example is the recently published, *"Pacific Fortress – A History of the Seacoast Defenses of Hawaii"* by Glen Williford. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net or 703/538-5403 for more information.

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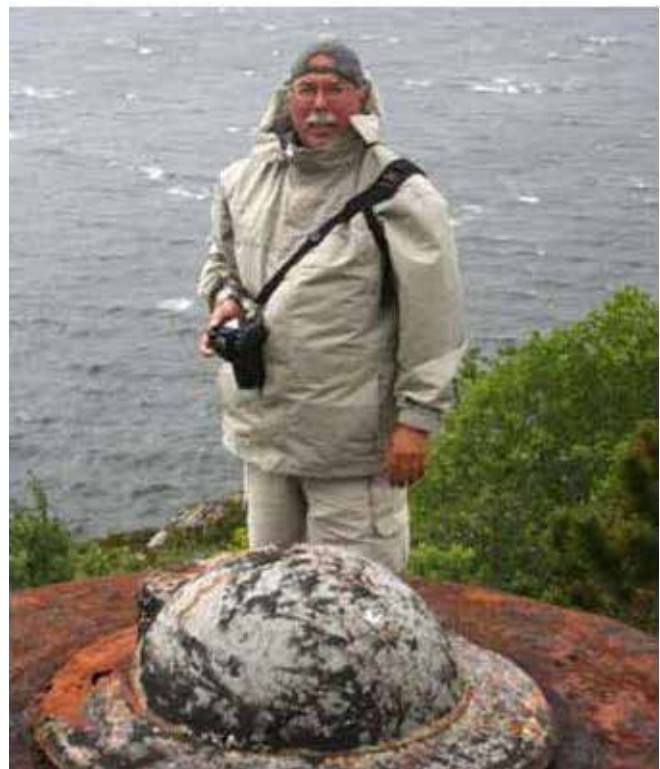
Leif Högberg

Charles H Blackwood, FSG

Very sad news for those of us who knew **Leif Högberg** or met him on the 2013 CDSG Tour to Norway: he passed away on 16 January after a long battle with cancer.

I remember him as a sociable and convivial character, helpful and full of information. As well as the tour period I had the pleasure of spending an excellent day in his company, with Svein Wiiger Olsen and Mike and Pam Fiorini touring the Norwegian forts facing Sweden. He has written a number of substantial books – *Fortet*, on Fort Oscar II at Gothenburg was one I reviewed briefly in *Casemate 125*, along with *Taggrådkust* – The Barbed Wire Coast. He produced the quarterly magazine *Fort & Bunker* for many years – the one reporting the 2013 tour was No 3/49 – colour covers, b/w interior c 30pp, full of news, activities factual articles.

The fortification world will be less bright for his passing.



Leif inspects the armored periscope on the MI 20 bunker at Brettingen during the Norway tour. Photo T McGovern



Fortet Oscar II from his book. Photo Pingo H Olofsson



Cover of Fort & Bunker 3/49, 2013



Høytorp Fort on the Norway/Sweden border. Photo CHB

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The Defense of Guam 2023

Charles H. Bogart

The Department of Defense (DOD) has come under criticism from the United States Government Accounting Office (GAO) for failure to develop an effective defensive weapon system to protect Guam from hostile attack. GAO believes that Guam needs a defense weapon system that protects against manned and non-manned air, surface, and subsurface weapons. The U.S. Army in response to this criticism has started to activate a Terminal High Altitude Defense System on Guam. However, Guam overall lacks defensive weapon systems to engage the types of air and surface attacks launched during 2023 by Ukraine against Russian warships, airfields, and support bases.

The United States Missile Defense Agency and the U.S. Army are asking Congress for \$1.5 billion in FY 2024 to develop and integrate an overall air defense system to protect the island of Guam. The U.S. Navy is also being taken to task by GAO for not deploying an effective surface inshore patrol force and land-based point defense systems to defend against surface and subsurface attack on fleet units docked at Guam.

The U.S. Army has been designated by DOD as the lead service overseeing the acquisition and execution plan for defending Guam. The Army says that it plans to stand up in 2024 a first wave air defense system that includes radars, launchers, interceptors, and a command and control system.

The U.S. Army has requested \$638 million to purchase and deploy to Guam three Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensors, multiple Patriot air defense systems, and an assortment of Mid-Range Capability missile launchers and Indirect Fire Protection Capability launchers. These weapon systems will all be tied together by an Integrated Battle Command System. The U.S. Navy will add to this weapon mix an Aegis weapon system. All of this is to be in place, depending on funding, by mid-2025.

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World War II Match Covers

Charles H. Bogart

During the WW II years, 1939-1945, pretty much everyone smoked. The tobacco tax during this time was the largest source of revenue for the Federal government. Since people smoked, they usually carried a matchbook to light their cigarettes. Matchbook covers became a choice venue for advertising a product.

During the war years, matchbooks were sold by the Army's Post Exchange and the Navy's Ship Store. Military and naval bases soon began to sell matchbooks with their base name displayed on the matchbook cover. Within a short time, Army divisions and regiments exchanges were selling matchbooks with their unit insignia on them. At this same time, the U.S. Government enacted into law a rule that mail sent by members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard could be carried for free. This mail had to have a military return address on it and "FREE" written where the stamp should have been affixed.

The United States Post Office (USPO) was established in 1775 and provided excellent service until July 1, 1971, when it was

reorganized as the United States Postal Service (USPS). Whereas the USPS demands standard sizes and material for the letters and postcards it delivers, the USPO was indifferent to a mailed object's size or construction.

Some advertising geniuses, knowing that the USPO would carry any size item placed in the mail, turned the inside of the matchbook into a postcard. I recently purchased some Coast Artillery Corps related match covers, two featuring the Presidio, and one each for Fort Rosecrans, Camp Callan, Camp Stewart, and Fort Story.

The only postal used matchbook that I have found was mailed from Army Air Force, Advance Flying School, George Field, Illinois.



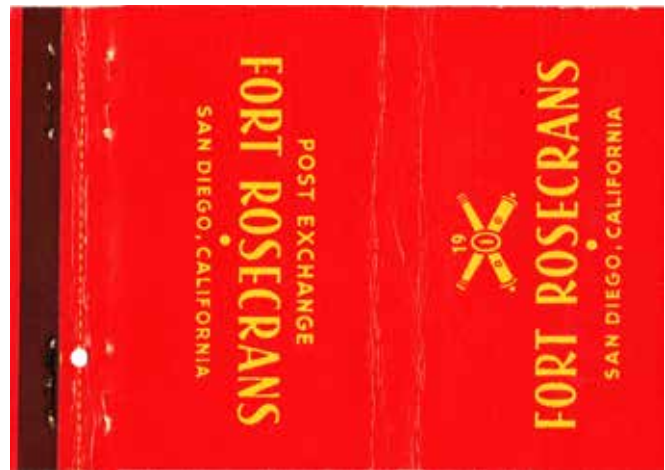
A December 1942 matchbook cover from The Presidio at San Francisco, California, proclaiming "Seasons Greetings." It shows a soldier, sailor, and Marine marching arm in arm with a banner across them that reads "Joined Together in Unity For a Victorious 1943."



The Presidio of San Francisco, California, with a sea plane flying over the Golden Gate Bridge



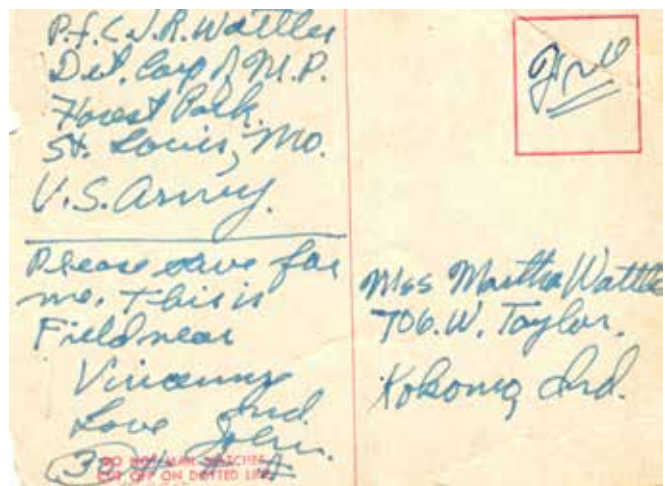
Camp McQuade, California



Fort Rosecrans, San Diego, California, with 19th Coast Artillery Regiment insignia featuring crossed cannons



Fort Story, Virginia. with a drawing of the two lighthouses, a monument commemorating the location of the first English landing, and a gun battery with a fire control tower



A matchbook cover used as a postcard. Note "FREE" where the stamp should be and the soldier's return address. PFC Watter was in a Military Police Detachment based in St. Louis, Missouri. I imagine his place of duty was St. Louis Union Station.

North Poland Fortifications Study Tour, September 2023: Part 1

Alistair Graham Kerr & Tim Wellburn

Members of the Coast Defence Study Group (CDSG), Subterranea Britannica and Fortress Study Group (FSG) converged in Berlin on 9 September for the start of a 7-day tour of North Polish fortifications, guided by local expert, Piotr Kurzawa. This covered an impressive range of military sites, including visits to the 1930s Oder-Warthe-Bogen Stellung (Germany's "East Wall"); Imperial Prussian forts; Baltic coastal artillery batteries; and a Soviet nuclear warhead facility.

Saturday, September 9th

Our first destination was **Fort Gorgast**, built 1883-89 as part of the extended fortifications of Küstrin (now Kostrzyn), a town that sits at the confluence of the Oder and Warta Rivers and, at the time, the largest railway hub in Prussia. Gorgast was one of four forts built to update Küstrin's obsolete defences, as part of Germany's military consolidation programme following unification in 1871.

Fort Gorgast was intended to control the west bank of the Oder: the other three forts, Zorndorf, Sępzig and Tschernow were located on the east bank. Designed as an artillery fort with a garrison of about 300, Gorgast was already obsolescent on completion, but had a continuing military role as a depot and barracks. It saw brief service in 1945 as a Red Army field hospital and ended its military life as an East German ammunition depository.



Battered Casemates of Fort Gorgast

It is now a museum, exhibited as a largely empty structure through which we were mostly free to wander, the main exception being those parts blown up by the Soviets! This served as a useful orientation for the larger, abandoned Fort Zorndorf which we were to visit later. Particularly interesting was the underground magazine which incorporated structural provision to mitigate the effect of an internal explosion, including three long, low tunnels which would vent blast from its surrounding lighting passage.

We then crossed the Oder into Poland. The old fortress town of Küstrin was built alongside the Oder within a wet-ditch bastioned enceinte. It was razed by the Red Army in 1945 and the site remains a public park of overgrown foundations lining grassy paved roads. We visited the south-eastern riverside bastion, restored as a museum, and inspected the adjacent reconstructed gateway and sluice. As well as housing a collection of artefacts, the museum has many fascinating historical photographs and a splendid model of the old fortified town.



Eastern Gateway of Kostrzyn Fortress

There was still just time for one more visit: to Fort Zorndorf (Polish name: Sarbinowo). Although used by paintballers and readily accessible (if you know where to find it!) the abandoned and partly demolished fort is still military property, so Piotr advised that any closer inspection was entirely a matter of personal decision and responsibility.

Fort Zorndorf was contemporary to, but larger than Fort Gorgast, with a garrison of about 600. Similarly trapezoidal in plan and built of earth-covered brick, in 1889-90 the more critical structures were strengthened with concrete. The fort was surrounded by a dry ditch 10.5m wide and 6.5m deep, protected by rifle positions and four caponiers, accessed by tunnels through the ramparts. Its artillery was mounted on an inner rampart with magazines and shelters built into traverses between the gun positions.



Fort Sarbinowo (Zorndorf): main barrack block showing demolished floors

The gorge caponier was destroyed by the Soviets, leaving a gaping hole opening onto the long central gallery which runs to the head of the fort. Internally, much of the upper floor is missing, creating some dramatic open spaces and hanging masonry. Having (responsibly) made a thorough inspection of the fort, we re-embarked on our mini-coach for the drive on to Gorzów Wielkopolski and our hotel for the next two nights.

Sunday, September 10th

The Fortified Front Oder-Warthe-Bogen (OWB) – in Polish, the Międzyrzecki Rejon Umocniony (MRU) – is more colloquially known as Germany's Ostwall (East Wall). It was a fortified military defence line between the Oder and Warta rivers near Międzyrzecz, the central section of the long defended frontier with Poland.

Built between 1934–38, but never completed, it would have been the Reich's most technologically advanced fortification system. It consists of around 100 concrete bunkers, many linked by a 32 km (20 mile) tunnel network incorporating underground barracks, magazines, workshops, generator rooms and a railway.



OWB Railway station



Train in OWB railway station

The Soviet army reached the defence line in January 1945. The Germans had been unable to replace armament they had earlier removed, nor could they operate some of the bunkers' sophisticated weapons. The Russians broke through in three days.

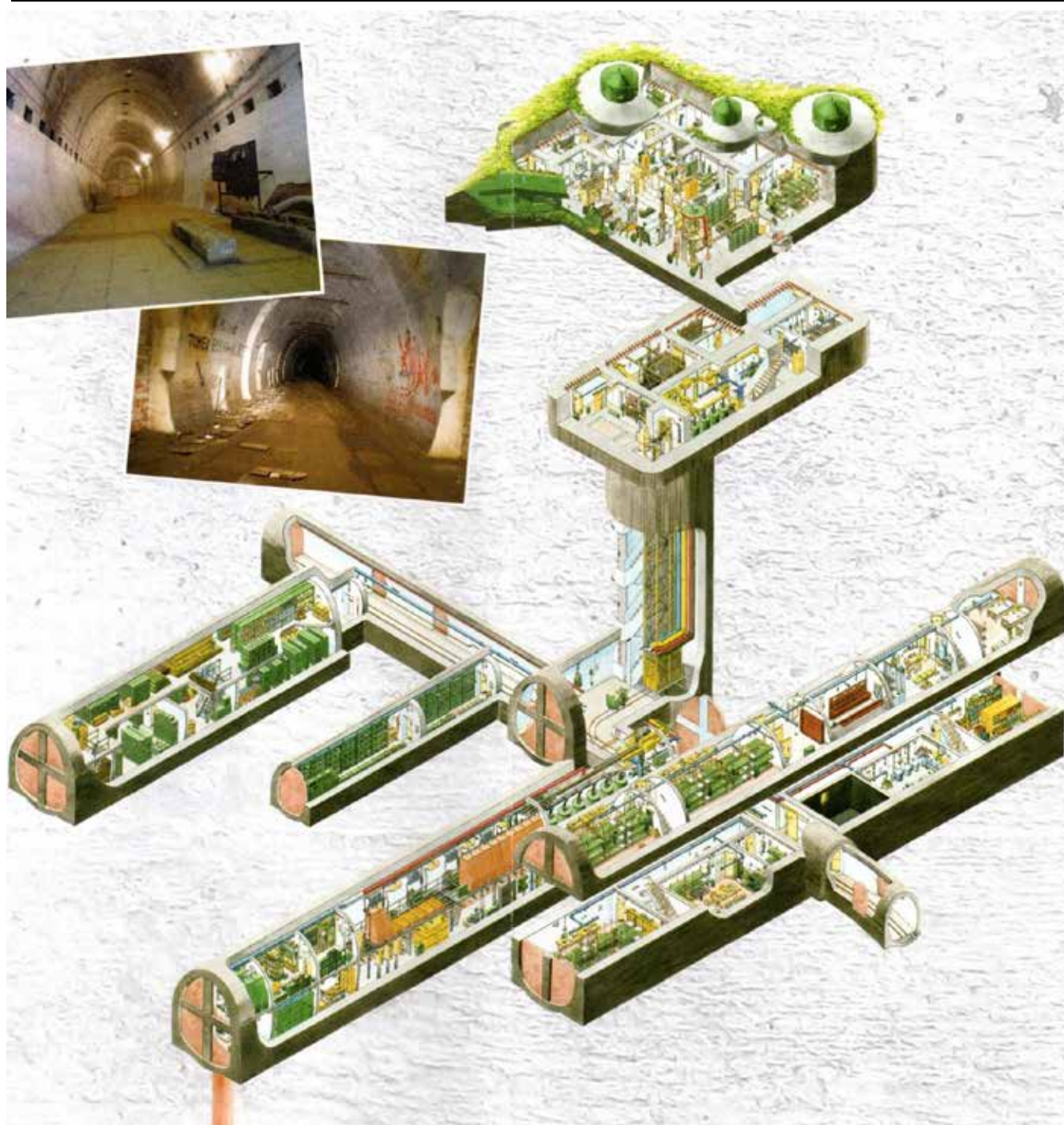


Robert Jurga's artwork enhancing a re-equipped room in museum bunker Pz.W 717

Two areas are operated as museums, and we had a guided tour starting with Combat Bunker Pz.W 717, part of the Scharnhorst Fortification Group, before descending into the labyrinth. We walked about a kilometre through small tunnels to the core railway tunnel where we rode on a short section of newly-restored – and very noisy! – railway. We then climbed another stairwell to bunker Pz.W 716, once armed with a machine gun, automatic mortar, and a flamethrower.

From here we walked back to visit the splendid new museum, passing along rows of dragon's teeth. Some of our group used some of the lunch break to ride in a restored Soviet BTR-152 armoured personnel carrier before boarding our rather more comfortable coach to drive a few kilometres to the never-completed Fortification Group Jahn, at the southern end of the OWB. We visited Combat Bunker Pz.W Nord, of which only the subterranean levels were constructed, and then descended further to inspect the tunnel system, including a seven-bay magazine and three stations.

The OWB's defensive engineering incorporated significant use of water features and our next site was a sliding/tilting roller bridge, built over the Bledzewski Canal. We were given access to the small machinery rooms and the space under the bridge to examine the operating mechanism.



7. OWB (MRU): central section bunker and subterranean supporting infrastructure. Isometric drawing: Robert Jurga

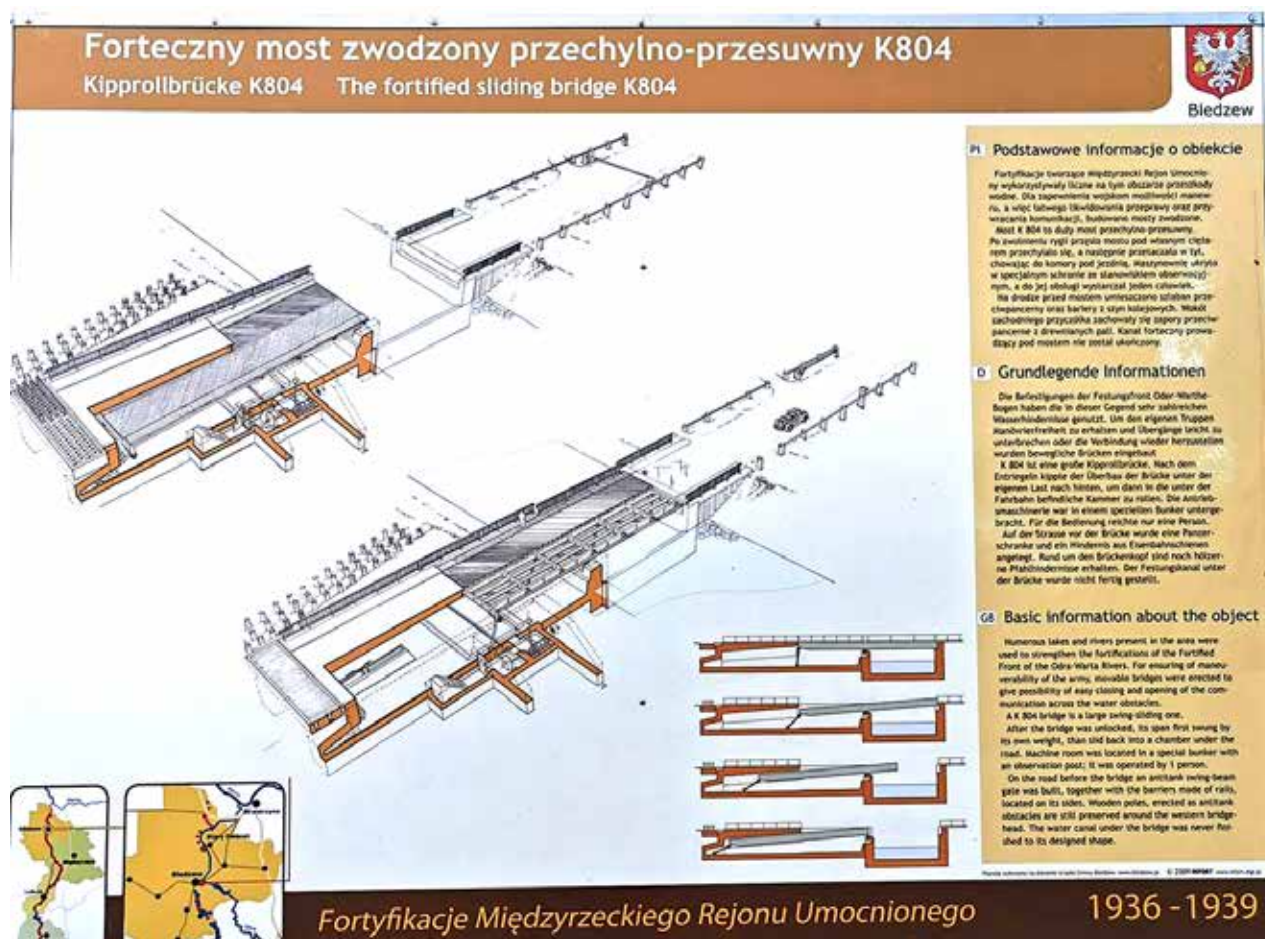
Our last visit of the day was to the northern Fortification Group Ludendorff, constructed in 1935-1936 on a ridge above a bend in the River Warthe. Comprising two main and four subsidiary bunkers, all linked with a spine tunnel, this Group had no underground connection with the main central section.

It was systematically demolished by the Russians post-war, to such good effect that two armoured cupolas were blown skyward and the shattered concrete bunkers are hard to interpret and dangerous to explore. However, we all managed the steep climb to the top of the ridge, and most made a circuit to see

the remnants, including one of the detached cupolas, intact but neatly inverted, part way down slope. Thence, back on the bus to the hotel to reward our efforts with a few beers, dinner, and a good night's sleep.

Monday, September 11th

This day was a long transit day, with two short morning stops. First at a small observation bunker, which was part of Pomeranian Wall (Pommernstellung) on the Dawa River. This bunker was



OWB Bridge signage at Bledzewski Canal.

curiously positioned in the corner of a rural cemetery. Second at a deep anti-tank ditch defense by a pair of German machine gun pillboxes of the Heinrich-Stand style as part of the border defenses of Piła city (former Schneidemühl).

The main visit of the day was to Fort Grosser Pfaffenberg (Polish: Wielka Księża Góra) the largest and most interesting of the ring of forts built to defend the town of Graudenz (now Grudziadz) on the Vistula River.

This fort, built 1889-1900, was effectively the prototype for the German Festung – or dispersed forts – which were to succeed the standardised trapezoidal ‘Biehler’ forts of the 1870-1890 period, such as we had seen at Kostrzyn. It is therefore of immense historical significance and, since 2017, has been in the care of a local Association.

The fort was constructed in stages, starting with two infantry shelters and an ammunition bunker, set into the western slope of a hillside on excavated terraces. In 1894-95 an infantry barracks was added, connected by an underground gallery to an armoured turret battery mounting four 15cm howitzers. In 1898-1900, a further infantry barracks and six guardhouses were built into the fort’s ramparts, which also accommodated five positions for pairs of ‘Fahrpanzer’ mobile 5.3cm gun turrets.

We started our visit with a welcome hot lunch of Polish chicken and sausage stew, and were then given a full and very informative tour of the fort. It was fascinating to identify standard artillery and barrack blocks, familiar from German fortress cities such as

Metz, here all skilfully built in brick. We were treated to coffee and cakes before departing for our final site of the day.



Fort magazine at Fort Grosser Pfaffenberg

This was the little-visited **Imperial Prussian gun battery at Maly Garc** on the Vistula River (see FSG Fort 43). The first of nine batteries planned for the Lower Vistula River, it was the only one completed. Artillery positions for six 10cm guns, crew shelters, magazines and ready-use ammunition lockers have survived. We crossed a field and negotiated cow pats and an electric fence to have a closer look, before continuing our journey to our hotel

in Knybawa. This overlooked a heavy fortified and surprisingly modern-looking Third Reich bridge over the Vistula River.



Armored cupolas for 15cm guns at Fort Grosser Pfaffenberg

Tuesday, September 12th

Before breakfast, the more dedicated among our group visited the bridge: strategically important as it was on the main route to the 'Free City' of Danzig – in practice a German enclave. From here we drove north towards Gdańsk (formerly Danzig), where we visited three sites, starting with **Westerplatte**.

In the mid-1920s, the Poles were permitted to establish a military depot with a small garrison on the Free City's Westerplatte peninsula. On 1 September 1939, the German battleship, *SMS Schleswig-Holstein*, on a "courtesy visit" to Danzig, opened fire on the Polish garrison, followed by a marine & land assault. In one of the first engagements of WWII, the Germans expected to overrun the position in hours. Instead, the Poles, despite being massively outnumbered and out-gunned, held them off for a week. Westerplatte's defence became a symbol of Polish resistance and is still celebrated.

Having visited the Westerplatte memorial and military remains, we took a quick look at the site of Fort Brzezno, an 1878-71 artillery fort, demolished except for its 1909-11 four 28cm howitzer emplacements, which was known as Battery Wiejska. Today, only the neglected magazines remain as all the battery's earthworks have been removed. Rounding off our brief visit to Gdańsk, we then inspected the more substantial, but tree-encroached, Battery Plażowa, 1909-1913, with emplacements for four 15cm guns on rare disappearing carriages. This battery was built on the site of the 1896 Battery Strand, with its six 21cm "Ring Kanone" fortress guns.



Archaeological excavation of one of the Westerplatte bunkers



Battery Plażowa - 15cm guns on disappearing carriages

From here we drove some 20km north to visit, first, a post-WW2 Polish coast defence battery on the cliff coast of Gdynia Redłowo and then the Naval Museum in Gdynia, a major Baltic seaport.

The **11th Permanent Artillery Battery**, constructed in 1948, is the best preserved of seven such batteries along the Gulf of Gdańsk. It comprised four Soviet 130mm B-13 naval guns – seemingly their standard coast defence weapon – in separate emplacements spaced out along the cliff top. No.2 has succumbed to coastal erosion; the other three guns remain in situ. They are mounted en barbette and still rotate! Each has a small underground magazine immediately beneath the gun platform, served by a pair of shell hoists.



Soviet 130mm B13 gun emplaced at Gdynia Redłowo

The guns were supported by the usual battery infrastructure: fire control, observation posts, power supply, ammunition storage, etc, some of which lies within a still-active military area. The site was defended by anti-aircraft guns, machine gun emplacements and a network of trenches, built of lightweight pre-cast concrete sections. Some of this perimeter defence remains accessible.

The impressive Gdynia Naval Museum contains a wealth of coast defence artefacts, displayed within and outside the building. We started with a visit to the preserved British-built destroyer ORP *Błyskawica* ("Lightning"). She was one of a pair built for the Polish Navy by JS White in Cowes, on the Isle of Wight. When launched in 1936 her top speed of 39 knots made her one of the fastest destroyers in the world. She escaped to Britain in 1939 and, manned by her Polish crew, had an active and successful war record.



ORP *Błyskawica*

After looking round *Błyskawica*, and casting an admiring eye at *Dar Pomorza*, a 1909 tall ship moored further along the pier, we walked from the pier to the Museum itself, which has some unusual objects on display: for example the Bofors 40mm double anti-aircraft gun from the ORP *Sęp* submarine; a C35/84 type torpedo, produced in Germany from 1884; and possibly a unique example of the Bomben-Torpedo BT 1000, the abandoned "Wunderwaffe" project for a jet-propelled aerial torpedo. Outside were enough guns of all vintages to keep the artillerists among us happy for the rest of the afternoon.



Gdynia Naval Museum gun park

Wednesday, September 13th

The day was devoted to an exploration of Hel Peninsula, guided by a colleague of Piotr's, Arkadiusz Woźniakowski (local fortification expert, publisher and designer of an excellent Polish fortification map series, and PhD candidate) and facilitated by three large electric buggies that would take us to many the dispersed defenses..

Hel Peninsula, 36 km long but only 100-300 metres wide, extends into the Gulf of Gdańsk like a curlew's bill. It became part of Poland after WWI, having been Prussian territory since 1772. Located at the end of the 'Polish Corridor' – created to give the new Republic access to the Baltic – it acquired great military significance and was turned into a fortified region.

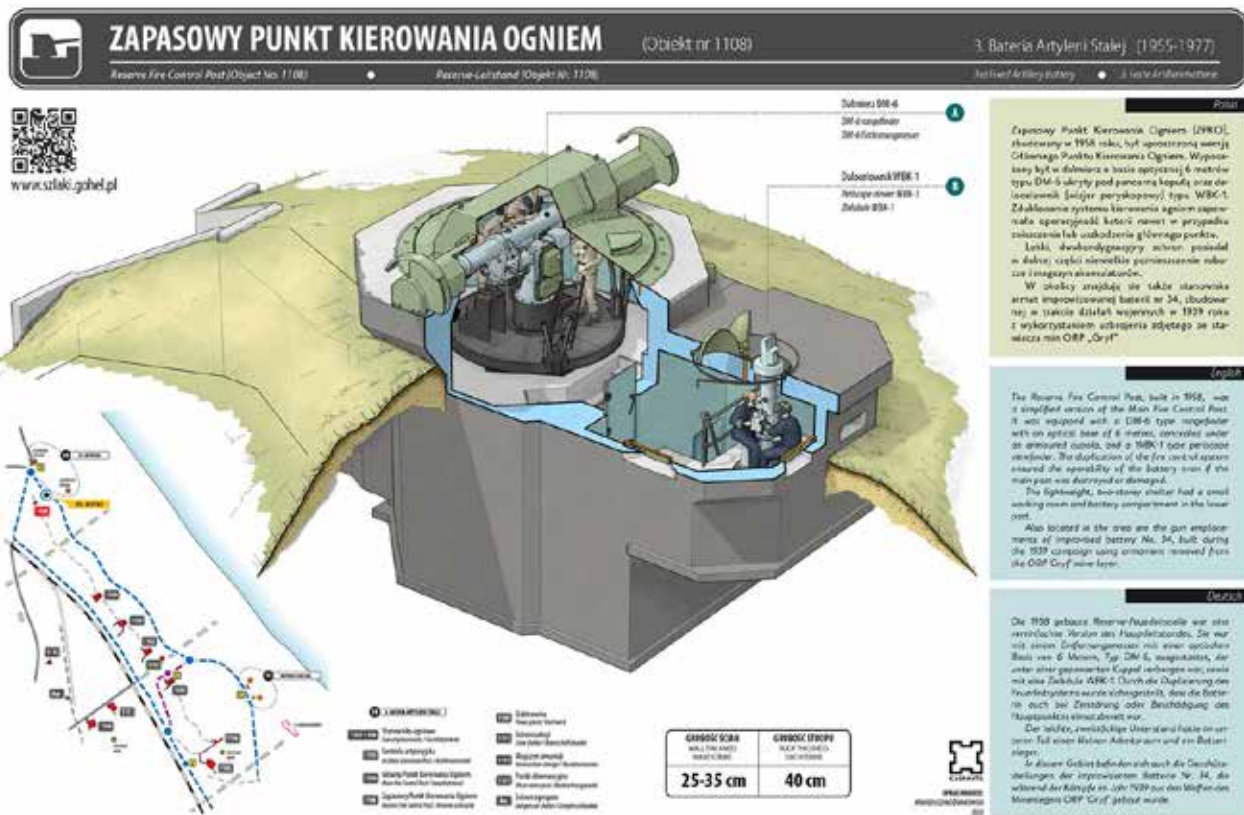
During WWII the occupying German forces enhanced the defences. Post-war, when Poland recovered the peninsula, much of it remained as a military area – some still is – and additional gun batteries were built in the 1950s. There is now a well-documented fortification trail. Most visitors keep to the main tourist thoroughfare: but not us!



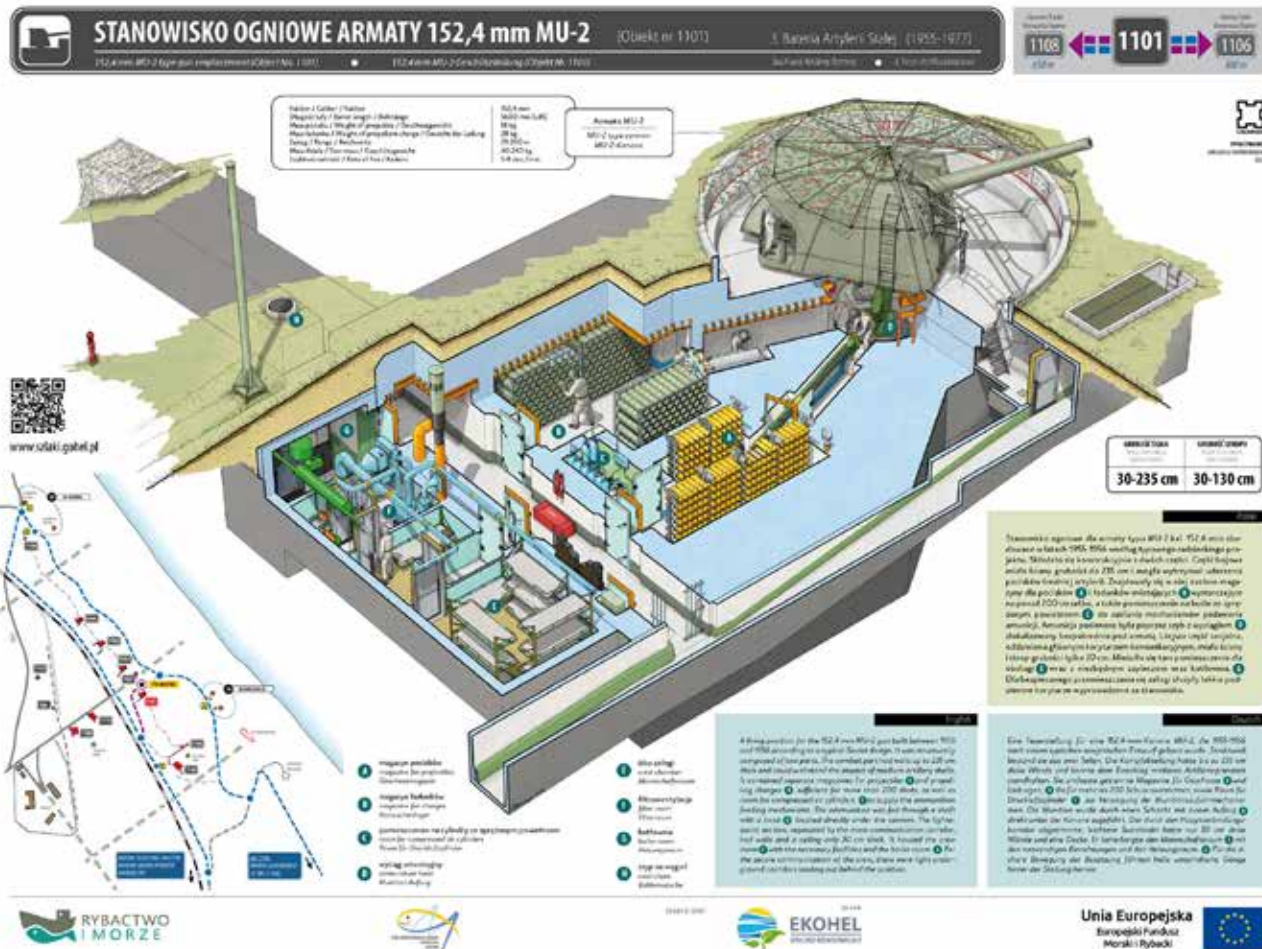
Rangefinder of reserve fire control post for Artillery Battery No.34

Our first stop was Artillery Battery No. 34, a twin 120mm Bofors gun emplacement with a fire control post on the dune behind (its armored rangefinder still in situ). These guns were from the minelayer *Gryf* that was sunk in 1939 by the Germans. From here we sped down sandy tracks through the forest to see the largest post-war Polish Battery, 1955-1958. This originally mounted four 152.4 mm MU-2 Soviet guns in steel shields, all of which were removed in 1977. However, we were able to examine the battery's main fire control post (with armoured rangefinder still in situ) and the long, stepped tunnel which linked it to the artillery HQ bunker at the foot of what passes in Hel for a hill.

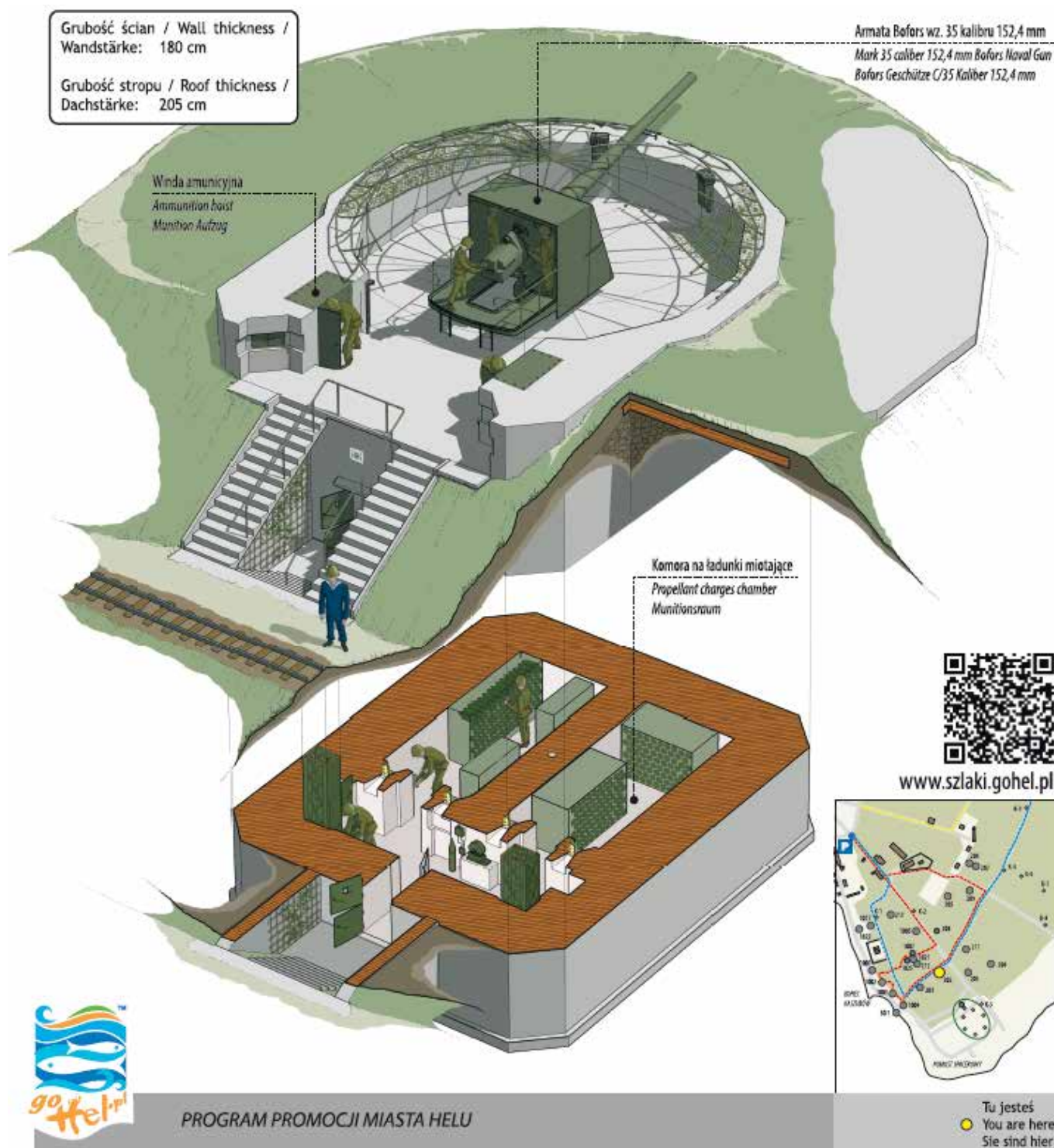
Back to the buggies again and down to No. 32 'Danish' Coastal Battery of 1932, (named after the source of the guns – its sister was the 'Greek' Battery). The first battery built on the Peninsula, it fired on German warships in 1939. Armament was two 105mm Schneider 1930 field cannon, pivoting on a central concrete platform with the gun trails running in a 360-degree circular concrete and steel surround: the Polish equivalent of the 1920s US Panama Mount. Each gun had a sand-covered shelter/magazine in rear.



Reserve fire control post for Artillery Battery No.34. Arkadiusz Woźniakowski



152.4mm gun emplacement. Arkadiusz Woźniakowski



One of the original Bofors gun emplacements of the Laskowski Battery. Arkadiusz Woźniakowski

Nearby, we found a rather more crudely constructed 1950's anti-aircraft battery with insubstantial prefabricated concrete shelters for gun and crew.

Further on down the peninsula, our next site was the 1933-34 twin 21st/23rd anti-aircraft battery of the 2nd Naval Anti-Aircraft Squadron, formerly armed with two 75mm Schneider cannon. This was a substantial structure, set in the side of a small rise, the gun floor being reached by a curved flight of concrete steps. The

gun mounts and original ammunition hoists from the magazine below remained in situ.

We encountered our first extant gun in Hel, albeit another Soviet 130mm B13, the type seen at the Gdynia Redłowo battery. This was in No.3 of the four, widely spaced emplacements of the 1948 13th Fixed Artillery Battery, the post-war reincarnation of the 1935 Polish 31st Coastal Artillery ("Laskowski") Battery.



One of the pair of gun emplacements of the 2nd Naval Anti-Aircraft Squadron

The original battery had mounted four 152.4mm Mark 35 Bofors cannon, acquired in a barter deal in exchange for 125,000 tons of coal. The largest and most powerful of the pre-War batteries, it too had fired on German warships in 1939. To adapt the Bofors emplacements to take the smaller Soviet gun, the floor of the gun pits was raised and their circumference reduced by the construction of an inner lip.



Remains of a 100mm Soviet gun in the anti-torpedo boat battery

In contrast, the 27th Fixed Artillery Battery, located close to the shoreline, was purpose built in 1955-58 as an anti-torpedo boat battery. It was armed with four 100mm Soviet cannon mounted en barbette in a series of octagonal emplacements. These were connected by a 250m cut-and-cover tunnel which we duly negotiated. Ammunition lockers were set in linked passageways running around each gun pit. The battery was decommissioned in 1977: remarkably, several of the cut-up cannon still remain in situ.

The 15m-high Fire Control Tower for this battery could not fail to attract our attention. Its unusual shape housed a rangefinder with an optical base of 4m (shown at 'A' on the illustration below) and also a periscope viewfinder (shown at 'B') – contrary to typical Soviet design. Unfortunately the entrance was locked.

A short distance away was the Reserve Fire Control Post for the 13th Fixed Artillery Battery. Of less imposing form, its history was interesting. Commissioned in 1948, four years before



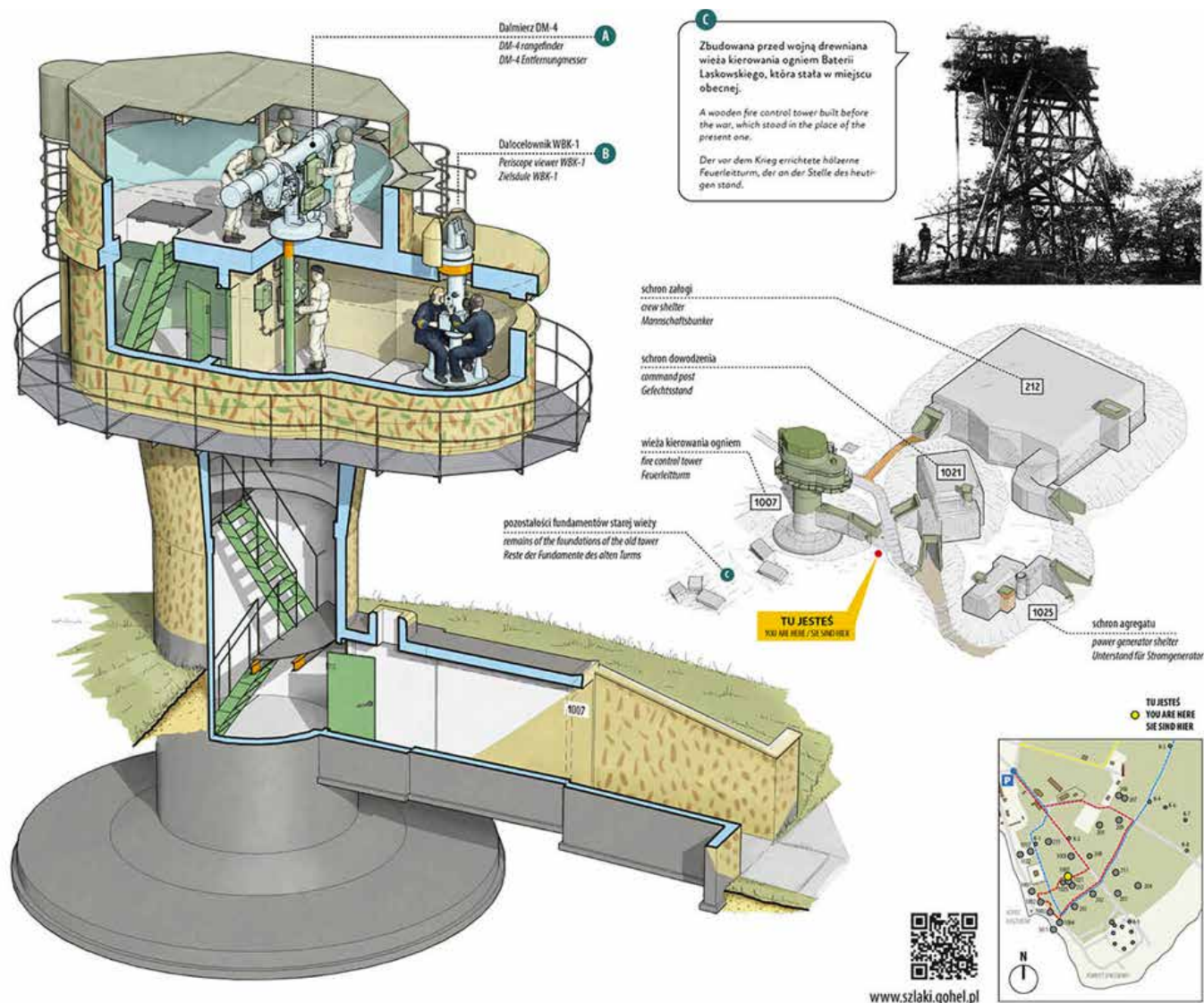
The rangefinder and periscope viewfinder positions of the 27th Fixed Artillery Battery's Fire Control Tower

the battery's main fire control was operational, and mounting a DM-4 stereoscopic rangefinder, it utilised the foundation of the former German FuMO-214 Würzburg Riese radar built around 1943, which had probably directed the gunfire of Hel's German batteries.



Reserve Fire Control Post for the 13th Fixed Artillery Battery

Our final battery visit was to the real giant of Hel's defences: the Heavy Coastal Artillery Battery "Schleswig-Holstein". This briefly emplaced three 40.6cm (16-inch) SK C/34 guns – the "Adolfkanone" – originally built for never-completed 'H' Class battleships. These were installed and fired in mid 1941, but then promptly demounted and transferred to Battery Lindemann in France.



The Fire Control Tower. Arkadiusz Woźniakowski

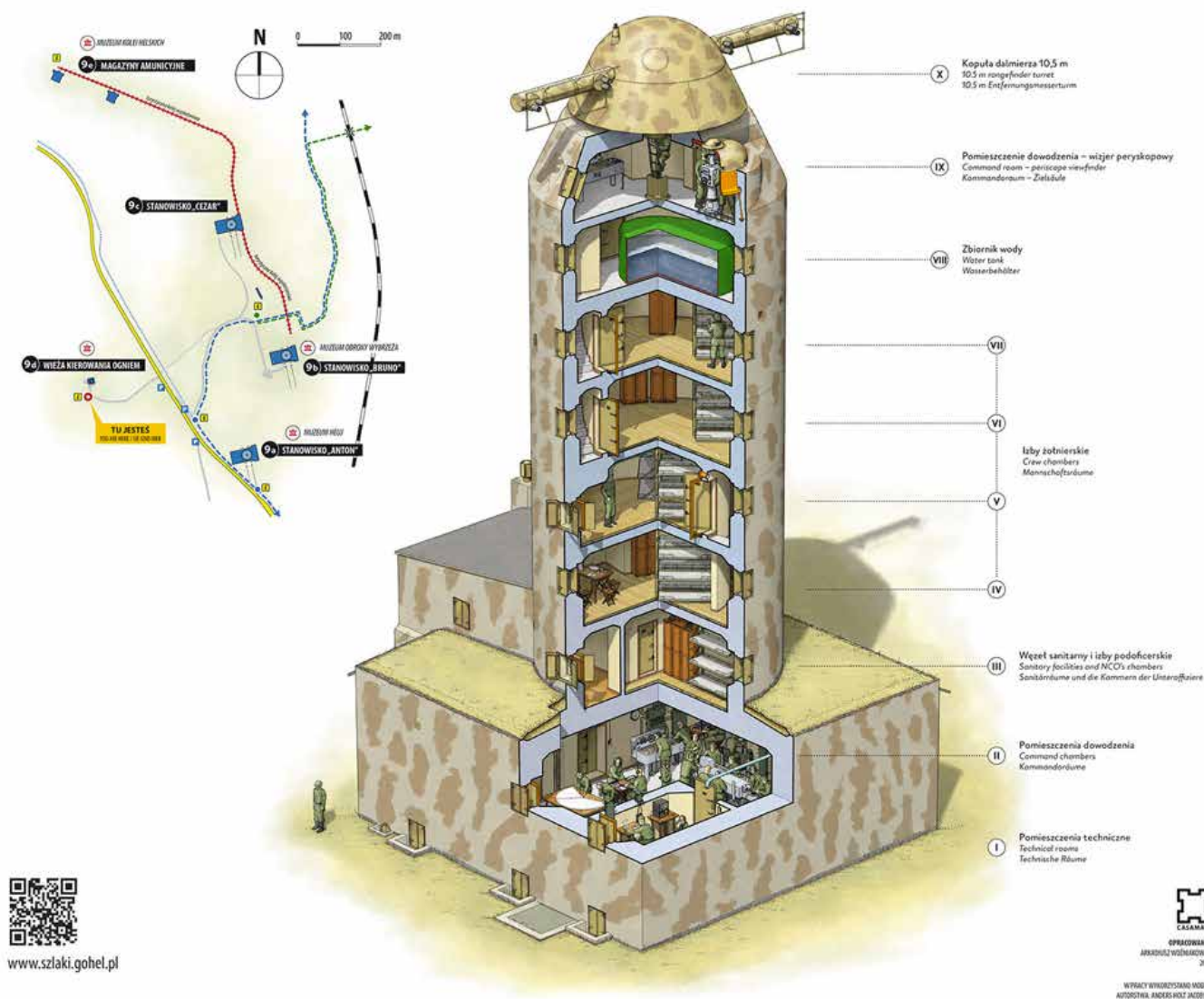
We first visited the battery's impressive Fire Control Tower: nine storeys and 25m high, with walls decreasing upwards in thickness from 100cm to 50cm (40 to 20 inches). An optical rangefinder with a base of 10.5m (34.5ft) was originally mounted in a steel cupola on top.

From here, our buggies took us to the massive concrete bunker which housed one of the three 40.6cm guns (Bruno emplacement), and is now Hel's Museum of Coastal Defense. The Anton emplacement is now Museum Hel (dedicated to Hel's non-military history as well as interesting collection of live chickens and peacocks), while Cesear emplacement has been sealed since it was used by the Polish Army until a few years ago. We had timed it well, having just time to examine the external parts of the structure, including the concrete piers supporting rails for the crane needed to install the 158 tonne barrel, before the forecast rain arrived. The scale of the gun pit, on which the armoured turret would have pivoted, was undeniably impressive. Inside the bunker were numerous rooms containing equipment, artefacts and displays, including a fine cutaway model which, along with a film, helped to explain how it all worked.



Gun Emplacement for one of the 40.6cm guns of Artillery Battery Schleswig-Holstein

Retreating from Hel, we paused mid-peninsula to examine the Polish land defence strongpoint 'Jastarnia', built just pre-WWII. This comprised four heavy main bunkers, running across the peninsula, those at either end, being located on the two shores. Oddly, the northern pair were separated by only a few yards. Just



Fire Control Tower for Battery Schleswig-Holstein. Arkadiusz Woźniakowski

to the east of these, one light bunker, and the foundations for a further three, marked an intended rear defence.



The second (from the south) of the main 'heavy' bunkers of strongpoint 'Jastarnia'



The most northerly of the four 'heavy' bunkers

Part 2 will appear in the next issue of the *CDSG Newsletter*.



One of the emplacements of the Battery Schleswig-Holstein. Arkadiusz Woźniakowski



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CDSG Logo Hats, Shirts & Patches

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.

The CDSG patches have been available for several years. Designed especially for the CDSG, these quality patches combine the Coast Artillery Corps and the Corps of Engineers symbols to reflect their involvement in U.S. coastal defenses. This logo is now on hats and a set of T-shirts which are great for showing the CDSG "flag."

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).

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Deluxe Editions of Pacific Ramparts and Pacific Fortress Now Available!

Working with Lulu Press, the Redoubt Press has prepared new deluxe print versions of Glen Williford's two books; *Pacific Fortress, A History of the Seacoast Defenses of Hawaii*, and *Pacific Rampart: A History of Corregidor and the Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays*. The new enhanced editions are printed on 80 lb paper with Lulu's black and white premium print process. The resulting books have greatly enhanced photographic print quality with much better contrasts. If you are interested in quality editions of Glen's books, here is your opportunity.

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Brick and Stone Fort Trip Report and Status Update, December 2023

John Weaver

Our Fall sojourn began at Historic Fort Wayne on the Detroit River, where we celebrated the 175th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Stone Barracks on the parade of the fort. This magnificent four-story building provided well-ventilated living space as well as some defensive capability, with loopholes overlooking the ramparts on each end of the barracks.



Historic Fort Wayne

While the City of Detroit, which owns the fort, has significantly limited the activities that the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition can provide, this event was a great success. Visitors flocked to the fort, reenactors provided infantry drills and cannon firings, and many displays were set up in the barracks. I provided in-depth tours of the masonry fort, while Coalition guides provided overview tours of the entire site. It is hoped that the relationship with the City will improve as the local politicians realize how much public support there is for the fort!

The next site visited was Old Fort Jackson just outside of Savannah, Georgia. This fort was originally built as part of the Second System of coastal defense, then modified during the Third System to provide a second-level defense to Fort Pulaski. The modifications were extensive – the barbette battery overlooking the Savannah River was modernized, and the rear of the fort, originally a wooden stockade, was enlarged and built from brick. Barracks were added, as well as other support structures.



Old Fort Jackson

Old Fort Jackson is well-managed by the Coastal Heritage Society, and they do a wonderful job. The hours that the fort is open to the public have been extended significantly and the staff are very well informed. I did an hour-long training session with the staff, and then spent another hour walking the fort with them. I highly recommend visiting this fort when in the Savannah area.

The next stop was Fort Clinch on Amelia Island, Florida, just across the state line from Georgia. This fort is also very well managed, with well-trained interpretive rangers providing guidance to visitors. A nice museum provides context and exhibits to the visitors before they enter the fort, and the fort is very well maintained.

Fort Clinch is one of only two forts that use the Carnot Wall concept, the other being Fort Gaines, on Dauphin Island outside of Mobile, Alabama. The conceptual design of the fort was based on the theories of Lazare Carnot, a French engineer, who believed that the self-defense of a fort should be divided into two parts. Defense against a coup de main (human wave) would be provided by a sacrificial wall, 7-10 feet thick, with loopholes. In a siege, it was assumed that this wall would be destroyed, but the broken brick would simply fall against the exterior slope of the fort and still provide a barrier to infantry attack. The earthen ramparts stood behind this wall and would provide defense against a siege.



Fort Clinch

The Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida was the next stop. The oldest permanent fort in the United States is very well managed by the National Park Service, with great interpretive displays and knowledgeable rangers and volunteers providing support. During the Third System, the ditch on the water side of the fort was filled in and positions for large guns were built. The seawall was converted to a "scarp" with a superior slope to provide protection for these guns. A shot furnace, built of stone, was also constructed at that time.



Castillo de San Marcos

Just south of the Castillo is Fort Matanzas, also managed by the National Park Service. This small fort is reached by a boat from the barrier island – free of charge. The boat ride and tour of the fort are both very informative and enjoyable. The fort has the added benefit of a few pieces of historic artillery being present.



Fort Matanzas

From the St. Augustine forts, we crossed Florida at its widest point to visit the Pensacola forts. The far western portion of the Naval Air Station has been reopened to the public – only a drivers license is required for access. This area contains Fort Barrancas and the Advanced Redoubt, as well as the Naval Air Museum. Fort Barrancas is open for self-guided tours, but the Advanced Redoubt is only opened on special occasions. I gave in-depth public tours of both of these elaborate forts.

Fort Barrancas stands on the shore facing the channel leading into Pensacola Bay, such that ships entering the bay are bow-on to the fort. Since ships of that time period did not have bow guns (or at least large bow guns), that left them vulnerable to fire from the fort without being able to return fire until they made the turn into Pensacola Bay.



Fort Barrancas

Supplementing the defenses of the fort was an old Spanish water battery, Bateria San Antonio, that was modernized during the Third System by raising the scarp to provide positions for larger guns. It was connected to Fort Barrancas by a tunnel under the hillside between the two structures.



Map of entrance to Pensacola Bay

In addition to the seacoast mission of the fort, Fort Barrancas also had a significant land-defense mission. The Naval Station – now Naval Air Station Pensacola – stood at the end of a peninsula, bounded by Pensacola Bay on the south and Bayou Grande on the north. Fort Barrancas anchored the southern end of a line of earthworks defending that peninsula and provided large guns for counterbattery fire.

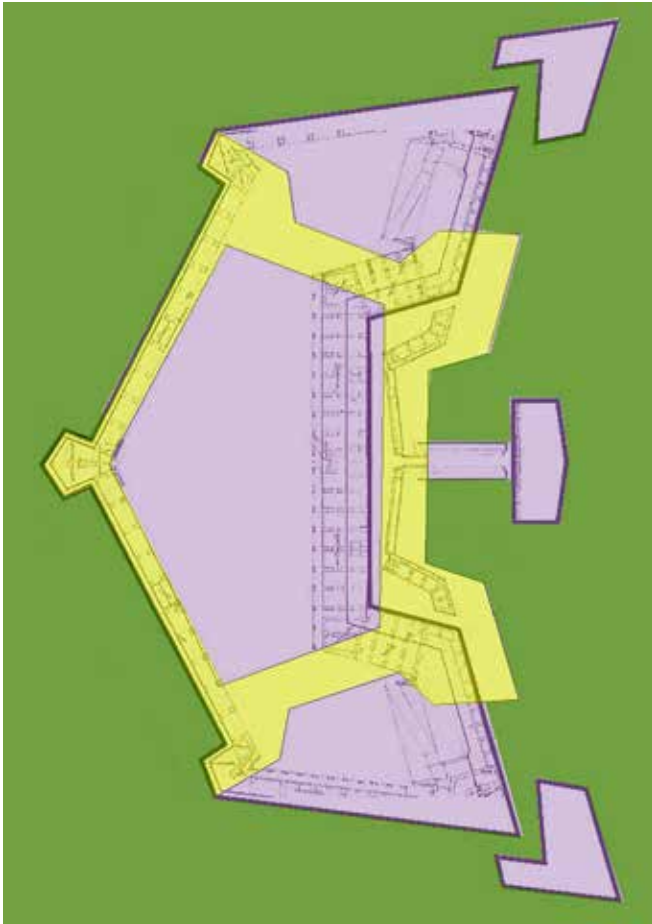
Three-quarters of the way from Fort Barrancas to Bayou Grande stands the Advanced Redoubt. It is not located in advance (toward the enemy) of Fort Barrancas, nor by strict definition is a redoubt (it has demibastions), but that was the name given to it by the engineers. It is, however, a magnificent land-defense fort with counterbattery guns on the terreplein and counterscarp galleries across from the ditch. The defenses are highly directional, looking up the peninsula from which an attacker would approach. The gorge of the fort is defended by two demibastions that would house flank howitzers.



Advanced Redoubt

I continued my public tours at Pensacola by doing a presentation and in-depth tour of Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island at the mouth of Pensacola Bay. This magnificent fort was much larger than all other Pensacola forts combined and served as the headquarters fort on the Gulf Coast. It has the unique distinction

of being designed by two engineers – not in cooperation, but in conflict! The fort was first designed by Joseph Totten who began construction without getting the approval of his superior, Simon Bernard. Bernard greatly reduced the size of the fort, providing money to build the other Pensacola forts. This left a very interesting shape to the still-large Fort Pickens.



Fort Pickens two designs

My time in Pensacola ended with a presentation to the Sons of Confederate Veterans on the design of Fort McRee – the only Third System fort that is completely gone. Only scattered bricks and a small section of wall remain. Using design drawings from National Archives and photographs of similarly-designed forts, I was able to show the construction and ultimate destruction of Fort McRee.



Fort McRee

Fort Morgan on Mobile Point, guarding the entrance to Mobile Bay from the east, was the next stop. This wonderful early-Third System fort is very well managed by Alabama State Parks. I did a presentation and provided an in-depth tour of the fort. This fort, that played a key role in the Battle of Mobile Bay, is intact except for the citadel that stood on the parade. It was destroyed in the battle and subsequently torn down, providing room for the Endicott Period battery that now dominates the parade.



Fort Morgan

We concluded the defenses of Mobile Bay by giving a tour of Fort Gaines, the other Third System fort that utilized the Carnot Wall concept. Fort Gaines is managed by the Dauphin Island Association, and is mostly intact. An Endicott Period battery also dominates its parade, and handicap-access ramps now attach the detached bastions to the fort. Otherwise, the fort is as it was originally designed.



Fort Gaines

Continuing west along the Gulf of Mexico, we took a ferry to the small but magnificent Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island, off Gulfport, Mississippi. This fort is very well managed by the National Park Service, and I gave two tours of that fort. Built to guard the deepwater anchorage that the British used to stage their attack on New Orleans during the War of 1812, this fort was never attacked and therefore is in perfect condition. As a bonus, it holds a magnificent 15-inch Rodman gun on a center-pintle mount. This is a must-visit fort if you are in the area.

Our journey concluded with a visit to Fort Pike, guarding The Rigolets outside New Orleans, Louisiana. This fort, the first of the Third System, is only open one day per year. Owned by the State of Louisiana, it is closed to the public, as are all Louisiana coastal forts. Each year, however, the Fort Pike Volunteer Fire Department opens the fort for the Fort Pike Festival and Car

Show, and I go down each year to give tours of the fort. As usual, this year had overwhelming attendance with about 3,000 people visiting the fort!



Fort Massachusetts



Fort Pike

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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
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- * 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.

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

Fort Pike is a relatively small fort with a very efficient design in the shape of a sector (like a slice of pie) with demibastions at the end of the curved front and a full bastion at the salient of the straight sides. It overlooks one of two passages between Lake Borgne (and the Gulf of Mexico) and Lake Pontchartrain. The other pass, Chef Menteur, is guarded by the near-twin Fort Macomb (originally Fort Wood).

It was a wonderful trip, but I think I slept for a week on returning home! I gave a total of 18 tours and lectures in 14 days, quite a bit for an "old fort" like me! Carol was even more exhausted, as she had to do all of the driving on the trip, due to the stroke that I had in September. Kudos and a special thanks to her for her heroic efforts in driving 3,750 miles in this fort adventure!

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 Schillare and Mark Berhow.

Send donations to (and made out to):

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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

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