



The CDSG Newsletter

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The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. – Spring 2025

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Chairman's Message

Gordon Bliss

The annual conference is coming up soon in Boston and I hope to see a good number of you there. Based on the early returns, it looks like we will have a good turnout for the conference. The conference is the one time each year that a significant number of us get together and the annual meeting held during the banquet there is one time many members get to directly talk to and question the leadership. So I am encouraging as many of you as possible to not only come to the conference but also participate in the annual meeting.

Those that are on the coast defense email list on groups.io should be getting the emails with the FSG Webinar schedule. As CDSG members, we have been granted the permission to attend these twice a month sessions and many of them are coast defense related. A number of CDSG members have given presentations as part of this. Some of the sites covered are in locations it is likely that none of us will ever be able to go to and this is an opportunity to see rare pictures of them and to directly ask the presenter questions. Some of us are already regular viewers of them and although the timing may be difficult for some (because of the time difference with England, they are in the early-mid afternoon in the US), check the schedule as they may be one of enough interest to you to take time off for.

That's all I'm going say for now; see you in Boston.

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2025 Annual Business Meeting Saturday, April 26, 2025

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Board of Directors is happy to announced that the CDSG Annual Business Meeting will be held at the Nantasket Beach Resort, 45 Hull Shore Drive, Hull, MA 02045 at 7:00pm on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The Board urges all members to attend to hear annual reports from the board and committees and to discuss plans for the coming years, as well to ask questions about your organization.

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CDSG Annual Conferences for 2026 and 2027

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Board of Directors held their quarterly board meeting on January 26, 2025. One of the issues discussed was the location of the CDSG Annual Conferences for 2026 and 2027. The Board is considering if next year's annual conference will be to the former HD of Oahu, HD of San Francisco or HD of Baltimore-Washington. The Board will make their decision on the order of these conferences at the Annual Meeting on April 26, 2025. Members wishing to assist in organizing these conferences or has

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2025 CDSG Conference

April 23 - 27, 2025

Boston, Massachusetts

2026 CDSG Conference

Arrangements to be determined

Oahu, Hawaii (May) or San Francisco, California

2027 CDSG Conference

Baltimore - Washington

Other Meetings and Tours

April 3 - 5, 2025

INTERFEST Annual Meeting

Pirmasens Germany

Oliver Zaurzig, praesident@interfest.org

April 2 - 16, 2025

Fortress Study Group Tour

Crete

David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

June 11 - 14, 2025

Association Vauban Annual Congress

Marseille France

Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

September 6 - 8, 2025

Fortress Study Group Annual Meeting

Portsmouth England

David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

September 19 - 21, 2025

Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsforschung Annual Meeting

Stade Germany

Andreas Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

September 20 - 28, 2025

ECCOFORT Study Tour

Portugal

Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumann@t-online.de

September 2025

Association Vauban Study Tour

Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

<p>October 4 - 5, 2025 La Caponniere International Forum Belfort France Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org</p>	<p>October 23 - 26, 2025 International Fortress Council Annual Meeting Alentajo, Portugal Jeroen van der Werf, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org</p>
<p>October 10 - 14, 2025 Fortress Study Group Study Tour Belgium David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org</p>	<p>February 2026 ECCOFORT Study Tour Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumant@t-online.</p>

questions about the conferences should contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net.

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**2025 Nominations Committee
CDSG Board**

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Nominations Committee comprised of Norm Scarpulla, Steve Waldron, and Robert Grimm, are seeking board candidates for the full Board to consider by May 1, 2025. The ballot will be included in the May 2025 Newsletter with results due by July 31. Results will be announced in August 2025 Newsletter. The three-year term will begin October 1, 2025 at which time Gordon Bliss will be stepping down from the board. If you are interested in running or have a nomination of another member, please contact Norm (nkscarpulla@icloud.com) or Robert (rrg@swbell.net) or Steve (swrams@hotmail.com) before May 1.

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss, Chair

Year in Review 2024

The ongoing saga of Plum Island and Fort Terry continues. The Preserve Plum Island Coalition’s campaign to have it declared a National Monument is still being actively pursued but with the change in administration, this is more uncertain than ever. Though the bill introduced in Congress last year for this did not make it to a floor vote, it did make it out of committee and it is expected to be re-introduced this year. Though the Coalition is primarily concerned with preserving it as a wildlife habitat and nature preserve this should not be at odds with keeping the existing Fort Terry structures and should provide additional protection to them. Under the current schedule, the lab is expected to be fully operational there until at least 2027 with additional time after that for decommissioning so it will still be some time before its post-lab future is certain. I had the opportunity for a visit there and we had a brief windshield tour of the Fort Terry areas. They are basically still in a state of benign neglect. The bluff at the eastern tip of the island has had significant erosion over the years, resulting in Battery Dalliba sliding down the slope and is now breaking up. Parts of the loop road around the tip are now right next to the bluff.

At Fort H.G. Wright on Fishers Island as part of developing a coastal trail from near the ferry terminal to the western end of the

island, they are cleaning up two of the Endicott batteries closest to the ferry landing (Hoffman & Hamilton) which will be right next to the trail. There have already been multiple work party sessions to clear vegetation and they are getting help from the Fort Adams crew who have a lot of experience doing this. On a tour of most of the other batteries, not much has changed other than that the gun pits of Battery Butterfield have been largely cleaned up.

Not much has happened at Fort Wool over the past year. The Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel expansion project still has at least a couple of more years to run and while the city of Hampton wants to restore visitor access to the fort, and there are people looking to create another bird habitat; I haven’t heard that any concrete steps have been taken yet.

The stabilization of the steel-framework-with-cab-on-top fire control tower at Big Stone Beach Delaware has been completed thanks to negotiations with the land owner and fund raising by the CDSG.

There are a number of other sites that have issues endangering them including, but not limited to, the HECP at Fort Stark, Fort Preble shoreline erosion and scarp collapse, Fort Standish beach/battery erosion issues, Fort Gaines beach erosion issues, Fort DuPont destruction of buildings, Fort Clinch beach erosion issues, Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip abandonment and structural issues, Fort Pike/Fort Macomb abandonment and structural issues, Fort Armistead impact of bridge collapse, Fort Howard and Fort Carroll abandonment, Fort Hancock demolish by neglect, Fort Totten demolish by neglect, Fort Michie WW2 fire control tower and abandonment and erosion issues at Castle Pinkney. I’ve mentioned these in a column this past year but have not heard any further details. If anyone has more information on any of these, please contact me.

The intent last year was that there would be preservation work done at Fort Constitution in the Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. As I understood it, at least there would be stabilization of the existing walls. Last year was the 250th anniversary of the 1774 raid by colonists to capture British gunpowder and there was an event planned to celebrate that. I have not seen a report on what may have been done there.

There was a 3-inch coast defense gun at Fort Gregg-Adams as part of the Army’s collection, but in a building not open to the public. I had a chance to inquire about it during a visit this past summer, the gun that was on display in the building was sent to Fort Sill which has the Army’s artillery collection and museum. It hadn’t been gone long as the sign for it was still in place.

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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Coast Defense Study Group Press 2024 Annual Report

Terry McGovern, Chairman

2024 Reviewed

The CDSG Press and ePress only exists because of the volunteer efforts of its committee members. 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 38" (2024) 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 17,000 pages of coast defense articles for only \$50. Once you purchase this DVD/Dropbox, *CDSG Publications 1985-2023*, you can buy yearly updates for only \$10. 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, www.cdsg.org). The complete collection of these digital files is available for \$250. These DVD/Dropbox are a digital collection of the 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 at the cost of \$50 on one or two DVD or Dropbox. A companion digital product is our "CDSG Documents" DVD/Dropbox with a great collection of key 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 thousands of 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 (97%) of our 1994 reprint book, "Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction", out of our total press run of 404. 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 all 471 copies (100%) 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 366 units (69%) out of 532 printed, leaving 166 copies on hand. Our 1998 reprint book, "Permanent Fortification and Seacoast Defenses" which covers the Third System of U.S. fortifications has sold 193 units (56%) out of a press run of 344, leaving 151 copies on hand. Our 2001 reprint project, "American Coast Artillery Material" has sold 290 units (72%) to date out of 404 books printed, leaving 114 copies on hand. Our 2007 project, "Endicott-Taft Report" has sold 257 books/plates (60%) to date out of a press run of 427, leaving 210 copies on hand. This leaves us with four reprint titles with large stocks on hand so in an effort to reduce our storage costs we are going to offer these books free to our members and charge just the cost of shipping (\$10 per book) in 2025.

The CDSG Press's first original book was "American Seacoast Defenses - 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 - 2nd Edition" (ASD2) has sold 503 books (100%) out of a press run of 503 by 2015. We now have ASD - 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" (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 FTP file transfer). 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 consider doing the same for the "Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction", but need to consider the demand for this 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.

The CDSG Press is also the sole distributor of all of the Hole in the Head Press books as Sam Stokes has donated his inventory to the CDSG. Titles included are "The Last Missile Site", "Rings of Supersonic Steel", "To Defend and Deter", "Artillery at the Golden Gate", and "Fort Baker Through the Ages". These titles focus on American's missile age and the coast defenses of San Francisco. These high-quality books are available on the CDSG website at www.cdsg.org/shop.

2025 Plans

The CDSG Press is working on companion volume to the "American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide" (ASD3). This publication is titled "**American Seacoast Forts: A Directory to American Seacoast Defense Sites (1890-1950)**". 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 histories, and many maps. Terry McGovern and Mark Berhow are currently assembling this work which will be over 1,000 pages long. We plan to issue this work in geographic volumes, both POD and digitally.

We are also reprinting as a single volume Dale Manuel's six pamphlets on southern American forts. We have John Weaver working on editing these titles and will be adding new illustrations. Several proposals have been offered for future new CDSG Press projects. Everett Bennett has provided a collection of Coast Artillery Training Films. We are working on a way to provide 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 39" (2025) 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 at this time, a sister press, the **Redoubt Press** will publish such works. 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 if you have such a title that you would like to be considered.

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CDSG Membership Recap for 2024

Quentin Schillare, Membership Chair

The CDSG has its earliest beginnings in 1978 when a few members of CAMP, then called the Council on Abandoned Military Posts, now called the Council on America's Military Past, discovered that they were more interested in the history of the brick, stone, and concrete of America's seacoast fortifications than dusty "hitching post forts" in the wilds of the Great Plains. Those discussions led to an informal interest group which organized early conferences. The group was incorporated in 1993 as a non-profit corporation dedicated to the study of seacoast fortifications.

Since its beginning 1,383 members have come and gone, many to the glorious gun block in the sky. Yet, we still have two active members from 1978, that's 47 years ago, a long time. We even have 56 members who were members when the CDSG was incorporated in 1993.

Our annual membership numbers remain steady, often reflecting the location of the annual conference. For example:

2022: 440 (New Orleans conference).

2023: 416 (Portland, Maine conference).

2024: 415 (Key West/Tampa conference).

Each year we lose members, but fortunately that has been balanced with new members. In 2022 we had 42 (it was New Orleans, after all), 30 in 2023, and 29 in 2024. As I type this, we have 413 active members so far in 2025, including three new members.

Membership includes individuals from more than 40 states and thirteen foreign countries, sixteen governmental organizations such as the Library of Congress, the U.S. Army Center of Military History, and the Naval History and Heritage Command, and private historical organizations like the Fortress Study Group in the UK. We also have four "friends" group organizations providing local support to former American coast defense organizations.

An informal discussion 47 years ago has led to an active organization for amateur and professional historians to support the remnants and artifacts of the seacoast defense of the United States. Keep it going.

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Fort Wiki Update

Mark Berhow

http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Wiki

The Fort Wiki site has been repaired and transferred with its current content and software. The older version of the underlying software is causing problems with the hosting servers, so it was returned to the original hosting site just to get it back up and running. However, the site and its pages needs to be updated to current software requirements soon in order to remain in operation. We have a volunteer who is willing to tackle this project, and hopefully he can start on this work soon as the initial work of restoring the site and stabilizing it has been completed. The current site may go offline periodically until we can upgrade the software and put it on a new and less expensing server host.

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Midvale Steel Photo Collection

Norm Scarpulla

The National Canal Museum at Easton, PA announced that they have made an inventory of their photo collection from Midvale Steel Company. Midvale was a maker of seacoast artillery barrels and projectiles. The museum has not digitized the photos, only made an inventory. The photos cover approximately 1930 to 1954. The announcement about the collection, which includes a link to make a research appointment is in the following link:

<https://canals.org/2024/11/13/the-midvale-steel-collection/>

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Return of the Oozlefinch

Mark Berhow
berhowma@comcast.net

Thanks to the work of my brother Andy Berhow and his son Jackson, a cast has been made of an original Oozlefinch statue I got from E.R. Lewis some time ago. Jackson created the mold and Andy has recast and painted 4 Oozlefinches using the color scheme from the Oozlefinch card that appeared on the last journal cover. We plan on offering these to the first 4 donations of more than \$50 dollars (or more!!) to the CDSG Fund after March 30, 2025. If you have ever wanted an Oozlefinch of your own, here is your chance. The casting and painting of these replicas is fairly time consuming, so Andy can only make a limited number and he is working on 4 more. If you miss out on this original run, please let us know and we will work on trying to stock up some more over the next year. You can always send me a email to ask about the current status of what we have in stock, and to let me know if you would like to obtain a statue after these first 4 are gone.



New replica on the left; the original is on the right.

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Original Copy of the 1945 Case Report for Sale

Member Glen Williford needs to find a new home for his original copy of the rare “Case Report” describing the service and status of the coast defenses in the Philippines during the Second World War. He is offering this copy for sale to an interested party in our organization

Titled as the *Proceedings of a Board of Officers Appointed to Evaluate War Damage to the Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays, 6 October 1945*. This was the board that examined the coast defenses of the Philippine Harbor Defenses and reported on their service and damage. It is original copy No.4 (Only one other copy appears to still exist, at least in public institution hands – the one at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center,

at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Note there is NOT a copy at the National Archives or Library of Congress).

This is one of the original series of copies made of this report. Printed report (probably a mimeograph) of 151 legal-sized pages. The photograph illustrations are original prints made from negatives of the photographs accompanying the inspection tour. Many (half?) were later registered as Signal Corps photos and are consequently filed in the Record Group 111 holdings at the National Archives/Still Photos. All seventy-seven photos illustrations (4 x 6 original prints pasted into place in the report) of the main body of the report, and all twenty-six aerial photos (10 x 10 prints) of the Appendix are included.

The report is intact texturally, even including the Coast Artillery Journal article based on the proceedings (which is missing in the Carlisle copy). It does show some age, it is beginning to yellow with age and has some small tears, bent page corners and creases, but is completely intact. It is unbound, pages are numbered. With the exception of one map enclosure and the cover of the Journal copy, it is the original black and white.

Original source of this particular copy unknown. For years it was in the hands of E.R. Lewis, before being sold to Glen Williford in 2007. He is selling it for the same price he paid for it, \$500. Price includes insured, priority mail. First valid offer will get this report. For offer to purchase or additional information contact Glen at glenwilliford@gmail.com.

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The Second Fort Madison

Ian Wolfe

The first Fort Madison was built in Iowa in 1808 on the upper Mississippi River. It was active during the Black Hawk War, and suffered a siege as part of the War of 1812. Due to its poor location and range of other problems, it was abandoned in 1813. The modern city of Fort Madison, Iowa was built around the fort site.

The second Fort Madison was built on Niku Hiva Island in Taioha'e Bay, which is the best anchorage in the Marquesas Islands (MI's). The MI's are today part of French Polynesia and lie 4,000 km SSE of Hawaii and 1,370 km NE of Tahiti. The fort was constructed over October to November 1813 by the USN forces under the command of Captain David Porter (a self styled commodore, due to the captured ships he reflagged into



Niku Hiva Island

the Navy) to protect the naval base he established in the harbour. He formally claimed the island for the USA, but upon review, the U.S. Congress said "No Thanks".

Captain Porter was on a mission to conduct commerce warfare against the British whaling ships in the mid-Pacific. At that time the area was the prime breeding grounds for large pods of sperm whales. He commanded the Frigate *Essex* and his forces captured 12 whalers (each mounting an average of 10 guns [some light swivels] for self defence). Many of these ships had, in part, American crews, who then volunteered to join Porter, increasing his strength to 240 men. Some of the captured ships he reflagged as USN vessels (Midshipman David Farragut commanded one) and were used to in turn capture more prizes (often using deception tactics that would today be illegal). Others were sent off as prizes to neutral ports or the USA.

However, he needed a base to repair and re-victual the *Essex*, and he selected Taioha'e Bay. The bay has a small circular headland jutting out from the shoreline made of volcanic rock. This feature dominates the village, the anchorage and the entrance to the Bay, and was a prime location for a fort. The summit is about 150m in elevation, and crowned with a palisade, and mounted 4 smoothbore muzzle loading cannon. I have not been able to ascertain the type of ordnance mounted, but surmise they were cannon obtained from captured whaler ships, ie a few long-range 9-12 pdrs to dominate the entrance, a couple of cannonades for close range work, and a maybe some swivels for antipersonnel use. It is probable that multiple embrasures were constructed to allow the cannon to be manually repositioned to lay on landward or seaward targets as needed.

The fort supported the Niku Hiva campaign, which resulted from Porter getting enmeshed into the tribal rivalry, endemic to the island. This campaign saw the deployment of a 6 pdr landing gun by the marines, the storming of mountain native forts, a series of ambushes, and a large amphibious landing (all accompanied by treachery from all parties). In May 1814 there was even a mutiny by the British POWs, who attempted to storm the fort, before making off in a captured ship (which they sailed to Sydney, where they told a convenient tale).

Porter's forces left in mid-1814, and the fort was abandoned. The French latter claimed the MI's and enhanced the work as Fort



The rock wall at the summit park

Collete. They eventually gave it to the Roman Catholic Church, who converted it into a school. Today it is a public park with pleasant flowering shrubs and a 20 ft high fibreglass pregnant Tiki statue on it's summit. I found a 2 m section of wall but cannot warrant that is from the old fort (photo below). However, a large rock cut magazine remains (second photo below). More information on the expedition can be read in the article "War of 1812: Commodore David Porter and the *Essex* in the South Pacific" (historynet.com).



Rock cut magazine at the summit park

In 1825, while commanding an anti piracy force, Porter captured a town in Puerto Rico in order to secure the release of one of his officers who had been illegally seized by Spanish authorities. This created an international diplomatic incident and led to Porter being court martialled. In response, he resigned his commission and was appointed the Commander of the Mexican Navy which he held for the next 3 years. Then, leveraging connections in the State Department, he was appointed Minister to the Barbary States, then in 1831, he was the Charge d'Affaires to the Ottoman Empire, and finally he was the Resident Minister in 1840. He died in Istanbul in 1843. His son, also named David Porter, became the second person to be promoted to the rank of admiral in the USN (after David Farragut).

Herman Melville jumped ship in the Marquesas Islands for 3 weeks, and from the natives, who sported complete body tattoos, he drew the inspiration for a number of his works including the novels *Typee* and *Moby Dick*. Jack London sailed his yacht *Snark* to the islands and similarly drew on these adventures for some of his literary works. Today the MI's are a remote tourist destination with good scuba diving and magnificent towering mountain scenery.



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Corregidor Update 2025

Tony Feredo

After many years of managing Corregidor Island in the Philippines, the Corregidor Foundation is no more! The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) took over the dissolved Corregidor Foundation, Inc. (CFI) in late April 2024. While TIEZA acts as the administrator of the island's day to day operation and maintenance, Corregidor Island is still under the jurisdiction of the Department of National Defense (DND) with the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) as the authority on Military Shrine matters. The challenge is now to rehabilitate the islands facilities and utilities that were hampered by its closure during the recent COVID pandemic. Sun Cruises which ran the ferry from Manila and managed the Corregidor Hotel ceased their operations during COVID and remained closed till this day.

The island is now open for tourists on limited basis. The only tour company that runs the regular day trips to Corregidor is based from Mariveles, Bataan. Guia Del Mar, runs regular "banca" (outrigger motorized canoes) trips to the island but tourist and guests need to travel all the way to Mariveles. It's a three (3) hour drive from Manila. There is an option for a pickup from Manila via an air conditioned multi-purpose van but that will add to the cost. The company conducts the tour that was patterned after the old Sun Cruises package and utilizes the existing "Tranvia" bus to go around the island. What used to be more than five (5) Tranvia buses, only two are in operation and suffer from frequent breakdowns and maintenance issues. Packed meals can also be served to the guests.

As per an inside source there is a shortlisted ferry boat operator from Manila and a hotel management team that are waiting for the go-signal on permits, accreditation and passing of maritime safety operations. The target is for them is to operate before mid-2025 but I am not holding my breath. If they pull this off—well good for any future visits.

The Corregidor Hotel needs major repairs as its abandonment in the last 4 years have taken its toll with damaged roofing and leaks that seep to the rooms. The power supply to the other parts of the island still needs to be reconnected and the main power plant located at the Engineers Ravine needs an overhaul. Some places rely on solar power but that is not enough. Take for example the lights in Malinta Tunnel. The solar lights on the sides are not even enough to illuminate the main tunnel. I was told by the engineer that they have started to fix the problem but it's going to take longer than expected. Basic utilities like the water supply and the toilets for the tourists still need some further improvements.

As for the structures and gun batteries, they have been cleaned just before our official tour. I just recently conducted a tour for the Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, his excellency ENDO, Kazuya, his wife, Consul General HANADA, Takahiro and selected embassy officers and head of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and concurrent General Manager of Mitsubishi Corporation Mr. ISHIKAWA, Harutaka. Members from the

Philippine side included the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) Undersecretary Rey Mapagu, Colonel Gerry Amagna (Head of Military Shrines) and Corregidor Admin Atty. Cate Sta Clara of TIEZA.



Tony guides the VIP tour - Tony is in black.

We took the usual tourist route. While engines of the Tranvia busses have been fixed, the body and beds need some TLC (paint and patch up). Some of the step platforms are about to give way. Stopping by at the old water reservoir and Middleside barracks, the area has been cleaned but the YMCA building is now covered by trees and brushes and needs major cutting and grooming of foliage.

Battery Way needs some TLC on the four 12-inch M1890 Mortars as the last time they had a paint job was just before pandemic broke out (2020). The concrete magazines are clean. Battery Grubbs is also in good condition but noticed some concrete that have been falling off on the walls and parapet. The guns are ok but also need a new paint job. Same goes with Battery Hearn.



Group photo at Battery Hearn - Banzai pose.

Topside is relatively the same but I noticed one wall of the cinema has fallen recently due to a typhoon a few months back. The Pacific War Memorial needs an overhaul. There are plans to make a new museum at the old Bachelors Officers quarters and repurpose the old museum as an admin office. The museum has its own generator that can run the lights and air-condition but only for a limited time. The lighthouse still stands but the surrounding areas are a mess (it used to be shops). None have opened

since the pandemic. The married officers house near the flag pole have been cleaned but those leading to the back of the lighthouse are overgrown. Moving to batteries Geary and Crockett, the areas have been cleaned of vegetation growth and the accumulated dirt and dried mud on the road has been removed allowing visitor to walk in between both batteries. The guns need new paint jobs but the emplacements have been kept clean.



Battery Crockett

All debarkation /embarkation are done thru the North Mine Wharf (North Dock). The South Dock will undergo repairs due to the pillars underneath have been compromised. I was told by the Navy personnel that the area towards Kindley Field will have a barrier soon, as there are plans by the Philippine Navy to use the airstrip in 2025. The 92nd Garage area is open but I was only able to view it from afar and it needs cleaning. The old dilapidated Villas there might be torn down to give way for possible commercial areas (part of the improvement plan). There are currently protective barriers installed at the West Entrance of Malinta Tunnel. This is due to the erosion on the upper section of the slope that causes mini landslides.



Protective barriers against rock slides at West Entrance

In spite of the delays caused by the management transitions, Corregidor remains to be a place of interest and a tourist destination. As mentioned earlier, one option is to go via the local tour company via Mariveles but use private chartered tours organized from Manila. We have conducted specialized tours handled by Philippine World War Memorial Foundation (PhilWar) and via PVAO and TIEZA. This year alone I personally led island tours for:

- The US Ambassador and Embassy Staff.
- The Japanese Ambassador and Embassy Staff
- Officers and Students from Maxwell Air Force Base (60+ px)

National World War II Museum of New Orleans Tour Group
The Cultural Experience Group from UK
Various specialized tours for smaller groups.



North Wharf with Tony guiding tour group

As for the other fortified islands, Caballo (Fort Hughes) remains to be under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Navy. Most of the older explosives have been taken out but decommissioning of the remaining material is still ongoing. If a CDSG tour is planned there for 2026, then a special request to the Navy must be submitted. I might visit the island in 2025 together with some Navy personnel. No date yet has been finalized but I will inspect the condition of the island when I get there.

As for Fort Drum (El Fraile) permission now is also needed due to stricter safety concerns. We brought a group to the fort last March via a banca ride from Cavite. Most the group members were able to go inside but some had to dive and swim to and from the fort. The bancas that were made of wood could not come close to the sally port for fear of being damaged by the waves slamming to the concrete sides. I was told by my colleague that further damage has been sustained inside due to the collapse of some of the concrete flooring. One area has been cordoned off for safety measure.

Fort Frank (Carabao Island) has been frequently used nowadays as a Close Quarter Battle (CQB) training facility of the Philippine Marines. Now special permission is required to visit. It's also used for the joint Philippine and US military exercises (BALIKATAN).



Map of Manila Bay showing the former island forts

* * * * *

Argenita, Newfoundland Update 2025

Chris Newhook

I want to give the CDSG an update on the efforts of the Port of Argenita in Newfoundland to preserve and interpret the US Army's World War II coast defenses. We have new hiking trail committee started in the area called Hike Placentia and they painted up the guns at the 282 Coastal Gun Battery site this past summer in that 'olive drab' colour the CDSG recommended!



6-inch shielded BC at Battery #282 at Fort MacAndrews

There were graffiti artists that subsequently spray painted them, but the community got up against the folks that did it, on social media, and tracked them down, and they agreed to pay for cost to repaint! It is all done now.



Site of Battery #281 with Port of Argenita in background

Also, the Port has applied for funding to develop a US Navy Commemoration Park at the other site, 281 Coastal Gun Battery. It is more off the highway to avoid traffic issues, and has the greater view of the former naval base site (but no guns!). We have received funds to do the architectural design work, hope to have that completed by June, then go back to ACOA and other govt funding to build the park. Looking to building an oval trail around the site, per the attached. Longer term plan would be to confirm the safety of the bunkers for public access, and convert that to a sort of museum with story boards to be opened in summer time only, when the provincial ferry is operational. Otherwise, envisioning benches, developed walking trail, parking, washrooms, and a lookout area. May even try someday to move

the 'hidden' gun furthest from the highway at 282 Coastal gun site, to the mount overlooking the harbour at this 281 Coastal gun site!



Proposed US Navy Commemoration Park and Trail around former harbor defenses

Once we select the landscape architects to do the detailed design, we will be asking them to get input (maybe via a focus group session or two) from local organizations such as our local historical society, hiking trail committee, Parks Canada, etc. Would CDSG like to provide input into this effort?



Battery #281 Today (6-inch guns are now at Fort Columbia, WA).

* * * * *

Old Fort McKinley Hospital building up for grabs on Great Diamond Island

Old Army hospital on Great Diamond Island could become condos. Portland is selling the last city-owned property at Fort McKinley to a developer who plans to restore the building and create 9 condos.

Hannah LaClaire
Portland Press Herald
August 26, 2024

<https://www.pressherald.com/2024/08/26/old-army-hospital-on-great-diamond-island-could-become-condos/?copylink=true>

Just off the main road on Great Diamond Island, on a small hill above the rest of the old Fort McKinley, sits an abandoned military hospital.

The once-bustling building has been vacant since the Army cleared out in 1947. Many of the windows are boarded up, while others are open, the glass entirely gone.

The porch roof has collapsed partially, and much of the brick building is obscured by trees and overgrown bushes that have taken root over the last 77 years.

But soon, it could be headed for a serious makeover.

Portland is selling the 5,300-square-foot building – the last one it owns at Fort McKinley – to Jonathan Miller of Hemlock House Development in North Yarmouth.

Miller said he wants to reimagine it as housing.

Many of the other old fort buildings – barracks lining a parade ground – already are residences. About 100 people live year-round on the island in Casco Bay, and that number can swell to 300 in the summer.

Miller declined to share specific details about the project until he has signed a purchase and sale agreement, which he said will hopefully be within the next few months.

But he said the goal is to use historic tax credits to redevelop the property into nine condos. The hospital, built in 1903, is part of the greater 111-acre Fort McKinley Historic District, part of the National Register of Historic Places.

This would be Miller's fifth historic property redevelopment in the state. His other projects include the Vickery, the Williams Block and the Edmund Bridge building, all in Augusta, and he was on the development team for the Grant building in Bath.

He's drawn to historic redevelopment, he said, because creative solutions are required to meet the National Park Service program's requirement that the historic character of a property be retained and preserved. The exterior of the building, for example, will need to be restored to the condition it was in when it was in service.

"When it's all said and done, you have a beautiful building that wouldn't have been restored ... with new construction," Miller said.

Portland put out a request for proposals in March, which said the city expected to receive fair market value for the building and land (about \$375,000 according to property records), as well as \$150,000 in back taxes and \$30,000 in maintenance fees. That put the total at \$555,000.

Miller's offer of \$201,500 was the only bid.

Greg Watson, the city's housing and economic development director, said the property's advanced state of disrepair makes the situation unique.

"I think the actual market value may be substantially lower than what the City is currently assessing the property for tax purposes (since we own it, no taxes are currently being paid)," he said in an email. "The City has tried multiple times to find a buyer for the site and this represents the best opportunity to move forward with an outcome that preserves the historic integrity of the property and adds value to the Diamond Cove community."

Miller said working in a former hospital had advantages.

"Some of the historic buildings you come across are really tight to work in," he said. "The fact that it's a hospital architecturally gives you higher ceilings, bigger windows, a more grand building to work with. It immediately makes it more interesting."

'A RACCOON HOTEL'

Fort McKinley was built by the U.S. Army's Coast Artillery Corps in 1890 as part of the national coastal defense system.

It was active during the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II, hosting as many as 1,400 troops before the Army left it in 1947.

In its heyday, the hospital included patient rooms, an operating room, a dentist's office and a kitchen, all staffed by a medical detachment unit and the Army Nursing Corps.

Charles Goldberg, a summer resident and tour guide for the Fort McKinley museum, said the hospital served all the Army personnel and dependents around Casco Bay, not just Great Diamond Island.

"It closed down when the base closed down, and it's been sitting there ever since," he said.

The fort was passed to the Navy in 1954 and then sold to private owners in 1961, according to the museum.

In 2003, the hospital went into foreclosure over unpaid property taxes.

Four years later, the hospital and the former Double Barracks were purchased by David Bateman, a Portland developer who had started buying and redeveloping other parts of the old fort in the 1990s.

Many of the fort's former buildings are now houses or condos in the Diamond Cove Home Owners Association.

On tours, Goldberg said he points to the hospital as an example of how the entire fort looked before it was redeveloped.

The Double Barracks turned into the Inn at Diamond Cove, a 42-room luxury hotel, which opened in 2015.

But the window for the hospital to receive its transformation lapsed in 2019, and the city found itself once again in charge of the building.

It won't be an easy project.

The structure is falling apart. The brickwork and the slate roof appear to be in good condition, Goldberg said, but it's hard to know the state of the interior since the windows are boarded up.

"I don't know how you'd characterize the inside except a big mess," he said.

In the almost 80 years that it's been empty, the city hasn't done much other than board up the windows. The Army packed up its belongings, and anything that wasn't nailed down has disappeared over time.

"It's pretty much a raccoon hotel now," Goldberg said.

A HUGE UNDERTAKING'

It's still so early in the process that the island isn't buzzing with conversation, but in general, people would like to see the property developed, said MaryEllen FitzGerald, the homeowner's association's liaison to the city and a former board president.

Architecturally, the building is beautiful and, because it's on a small hill, has views of the water from both sides.

"People would like to see the right developer develop it who's got a commitment to the history," she said. "It would be nice to have what is now an abandoned shell of a building returned to a productive use."

But FitzGerald said the road to restoration will involve more than just some drywall and a fresh coat of paint.

The Diamond Cove Homeowners Association has one of the few remaining overboard discharge licenses in Maine, FitzGerald said, and it poses huge regulatory and financial challenges.

An overboard discharge gives permission for households or businesses to discharge treated wastewater directly into the ocean if their location makes it so their waste cannot be taken to municipal sewage facilities. The Department of Environmental Protection banned most direct discharges of untreated waste in the 1970s and has regulated overboard discharges since.

Each building in the homeowner’s association has an allotment for wastewater and the additional building could pose a challenge, FitzGerald said.

And while the city owns the building, the association owns the land, so it’ll need to draft easements.

That’s on top of all the requirements from the National Park Service.

She’s not surprised Miller was the only bidder.

“It’s a huge undertaking,” she said.

FitzGerald lives in one of the old officer’s quarters and said there are still nods to its historic roots.

There’s all the brick, designed to withstand “munitions and missiles and such,” and her house still has the original tin ceilings and much of the original woodwork.

“It’s a charming sort of walk back in time.”

It would be nice to see the same transformation for the hospital, she said.

“It’s like going back in time,” FitzGerald said. “It’s 20 minutes from Portland, but it’s 100 miles in some ways.”

Watson, the city’s housing director, said he hopes the committee can recommend the sale be finalized at the Sept. 3 meeting.

Note: As of February 1, 2025, the redevelopment project is on hold,

* * * * *

Coast Artillery Scale Models

Terry McGovern

Over the past 12 months, Bolling W. Smith’s massive coast artillery collection has been moved to new “good homes” with the CDSG assistance. Most of his CA collection has been moved to the Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum at Fort Worden, WA, while the remained of the CA collection has moved to Fort Mott State Park, NJ. Both locations plan to establish coast artillery research libraries for the public. One part of BW’s coast artillery collection was several scale models that CDSG member, Dan Rowbottom, has created over the years. I purchased the Dan Rowbottom’s models so they could be donated to various former coast artillery forts. So far, a mortar battery model was donated to the Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe, a 5-inch balanced pillar model has gone to Fort Mott, a 3-inch AA gun model to Fort DuPont, and WWII #200 Series Battery to the Fort Miles Museum. To the right are views of some of the CA scale models that we are donating to forts.





CDSG Fund

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

Visit the CDSG.ORG website for more details.

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

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

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

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

Send donations to (and made out to):
 CDSG Fund c/o Quentin Schillare
 24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7285 USA
 Or use your credit card via PayPal on the www.cdsg.org website.

Send Fund Project requests to:
 CDSG Fund c/o Terry McGovern
 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA
 Please prepare a written request of your need and how your request relates to the goals of the CDSG.



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The CDSG patches have been available for several years. Designed especially for the CDSG, these quality patches combine the Coast Artillery Corps, the Ordnance 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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 PO Box 6124, Peoria, IL 61601
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The CDSG is a non-profit corporation formed to promote the study of coast defenses and fortifications, their history, architecture, technology, and strategic and tactical employment. The purposes of the group include educational research and documentation, preservation of historic sites, site interpretation, and assistance to other organizations interested in the preservation and interpretation of coast defense sites. Membership in the CDSG is open to any person interested in the study of the coast defenses and fortifications of the United States.

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CDSG Harbor Defense eDocuments. \$250—available by download or by mail on a USB drive.. These PDF documents form the basis of the conference and special tour handouts that have been held at harbor defense locations around the U.S. The collection includes reports of completed batteries/works; maps; annexes to defense projects; CD engineer notebooks; quartermaster building records; and aerial photos taken by the signal corps 1920-40, and other items.

Specific items in these collections can be requested from berhowma@cdsg.org.

CSDG Press Books

(Contact the CDSG for international order prices)

<i>Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction</i> , by Col. Eben E. Winslow (GPO, 1920), hard cover reprint, with 29 plates included in a separate paperback.	
Both items:	\$35
<i>Seacoast Artillery Weapons</i> (Army Technical Manual 4-210, 13 Oct. 1944), paper back reprint.	\$25
<i>The Service of Coast Artillery</i> , by F. Hines and F.W. Ward (1910), hardcover reprint	\$40
<i>Permanent Fortifications and Sea-Coast Defenses</i> , Congressional Report No. 62, U.S. House of Rep. (1862), hardcover reprint	\$30
<i>American Seacoast Matériel</i> , Ordnance Dept. Doc. #2042, (1922), Hardcover reprint	\$45
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<i>Artillerists and Engineers, the Beginnings of American Seacoast Fortifications, 1794-1815</i> , by Arthur P. Wade, paperback, (2010)	\$25
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<i>Historic Fortifications Preservation Handbook</i> , 2003 guide to preservation methods for concrete fortifications spiral bound softcover	\$15
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