

The CDSG Newsletter

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The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — Fall 2026

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Chairman's message

Ned Libby

This newsletter provides a unique opportunity to recognize a central purpose of the Coast Defense Study Group -- documenting the history of coast defenses, the development and employment of the technologies that made them effective, and the soldiers and workers who built and operated them. The CDSG is most fortunate to include many gifted researchers and authors who have created and organized a singular body of work, both printed and online, that documents American Coast Defenses and related topics in a way that sets a standard for the interest group study of any area of knowledge. The names of most of those creators can be found in this newsletter and our online store. As well, the recent web site upgrades by Hook Associates are significant contributions to our information sharing.

Of particular note, this newsletter notes the recent passing of Terry Gander, the exceptional British historian and author who leaves a prolific collection of works documenting a broad spectrum of weapon systems. If you have perused the military section of any reasonably sized bookstore or library in the last fifty years, you have seen, and as a CDSG member probably own, his work. Terry Gander has left a legacy.

A further documentary contribution in this issue is our member Mark Berhow's innovative use of AI translation to create an English language version of a key Japanese text on 19th & 20th Century Japanese coast defenses. This kind of scholarship would have been impossible until recently, and Mark has opened a new path for member research and contributions. Terry McGovern's use of AI for this newsletter to help document our Oahu conference is also a new path for CDSG works in the future.

In summary, please join me in profound thanks to all of our creators and contributors --

Thanks, Ned

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss, Chair

First, some positive news regarding Plum Island, NY and Fort Terry. Suffolk County, NY has publicly expressed interest in acquiring Plum Island and will be putting together a business plan for that purpose. It is expected that this will save Fort Terry from any overt destruction as the intent is to keep most of the island in its current natural state. They are looking for partners to help with this and possibly use part of the newer lab building there. Officially, they can't raise their hand for the acquisition until the Federal Government issues a notice of surplus which is expected early next year. In any case, under the current timeline, DHS will be on the island until at least 2030 and possibly as late as 2034.

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2027 CDSG Conference

April 27 - May 2

Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island

Chris Zeeman, c_zeeman@hotmail.com

2028 CDSG Special Tour

Panama (March)

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2028 CDSG Conference

San Francisco, California

Mark Berhow, berhowma@comcast.net

2029 CDSG Conference

To Be Determined

Other Meetings and Tours

September 4 - 6, 2026

Pima

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung Annual Meeting

Andreas Kupka, AKupka@Juelich.de

September 17 - 22, 2026

Brittany, France

Association Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaires Study Tour

Col. E>M.G. Schalbeter, president@www.asmem.ch

September 18 - 21, 2026

North-West Ireland

Fortress Study Group Study Tour

David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

September 30 - October 5, 2026

Malta

Associacao Dos Amigos Dos Castelos Study Tour

Mario Jorge da Silva, silva.mario.jorge@gmail.com

October 1 - 4, 2026

The Netherlands

Association Vauban Study Tour

Alain Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

October 7 -11, 2026
Chinon, France
International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
Jeroen van der Werf,
secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

October 14 - 17, 2026
Forte Cultura Symposium
Malta
Fliippo Cailotto, mireille.stubbings@um.edu.mt

May 2 - 8, 2027
The Dardenelles, Turkey
The Fortress Study Group International Study Tour
David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

June 2 -5, 2027
Association Vauban Annual Conference
Toulon, France
Alan Monferrand, contact@association-vauban.org

September 3 - 6, 2027
Portland, England
Fortress Study Group Study Tour
David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

May 2028
Pula, Croatia
Fortress Study Group International Study Tour
David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

October 2028
East Anglia, England
Fortress Study Group Study Tour
David Clarke, chair@fortressstudygroup.org

No significant news on the situation of Fort Wool in Hampton, VA. The Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion project is still ongoing and I have not readily been able to find a current completion date for the whole project. Hopefully, the structures on Fort Wool, particularly the endangered BC tower, will not be further adversely impacted and the island will be restored to its pre-construction state.

On the negative side, I've heard that the National Park Service has decided to destroy the components of the BC tower for Battery 234 at Fort Pickens, FL. The cab had been dismantled from the steel framework supporting it some time ago and now they apparently want to break up the cab. The BC tower was similar to the one at Fort Wool.

Further unfortunate news is that the Fourth Cliff Recreation Area (former Fourth Cliff Military Reservation), site of Battery 208 (which still has its diesel generators) and a couple of fire control towers, is planning on closing permanently in October of this year. It is currently controlled by the USAF from Hanscom AFB. If anyone has a contact that can help prevent this, please let them know. If it closes permanently, then the next step may be it being declared surplus and sold – in which case we are very likely to lose the site.

Also, sad news that the Coast Artillery Museum at Fort Worden is closing and their intent is to sell off the collection. It is too late to do anything about the closing, but it may be possible to save some or most of the collection if anyone knows of a place or group that can afford to acquire it.

Lastly, I'd like to put out a call for a person or two that would be interested in being my backup on the Preservation Committee and help in acquiring information as well as possibly filling in for me in cases or places when I can't make it. If someone is active on social media (which I'm not), or otherwise has access to contacts that I don't, that would be particularly helpful. Let me know.

If you have a Preservation issue or question, or for further information on any of the items I've mentioned, contact me at preservation@cdsg.org.

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Membership Committee Report

We invite and encourage all our members to invite other interested persons or organizations to become members of CDSG. The easiest way for new members to join is to visit our website at <https://cdsg.org/membership-registration/> and sign up. Annual dues can be paid online or by check.

Our current 2026 active membership is 360. Memberships are by calendar year. We encourage renewals in November and December for the following year.

Membership in the CDSG allows you to attend the annual conference, special tours and receive the CDSG's quarterly journal and newsletter.

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CDSG Website Upgrade Completed

Hook Associates in Lewes, Delaware has completed an extensive updating of the CDSG website. This included website reconstruction, product migration, technical modernization, content review, updated user accounts, and security improvements to provide improved performance and maintainability. This was last done 6 years ago and has to be done on a regular basis to keep up with the latest internet protocols and security requirements. This project involved considerably more than just a standard website migration. The primary objective was to modernize the website's technical foundation while preserving the organization's content, branding, navigation, and overall user experience. As we do not have this sort of expertise within the membership, we have been relying on Hook Associates to maintain our essential internet presence. The cost for the latest update was \$6,500 with a \$1,850 yearly maintenance contract. These funds generally come from our press income and are a necessary operating expense of the CDSG. If you note any issues with outdated content or missing/unfunctional links, please pass that information on to Mark Berhow (berhowma@cdsg.org).

Result of 2026 CDSG Election

Terry McGovern, Teller

The CDSG Teller reports the election of Nigel Cunningham as the next CDSG director. Ned Libby's term will end on October 1, 2026, while Nigel's term will begin at that time and run for the next three years. Therefore, the directors for the next year will be Paul Prentiss, Andy Grant, and Nigel Cunningham. They will select who will be Chairman of the Board for the coming year as well as the Chairmen for all the committees. The CDSG Board of Directors thanks both Nigel Cunningham and Robert Walk for their willingness to serve the CDSG in this role. Next year's Nomination Committee for the 2027 election will be Norm Scarpulla (Chair), Gorden Bliss, and Ned Libby.

Tours to the Defenses of the Dardanelles (Turkey)

Terry McGovern, Secretary/Treasurer

The Fortress Study Group has offered to have CDSG members to join their International Study Tour to the Defenses of the Dardanelles (Turkey) that will be held from May 3 through May 8, 2027. This seven-day, six nights tour, will focus on the Ottoman fortifications of the Dardanelles. Starting in Istanbul on May 3, 2027, with arrival and overnight on May 2nd, the tour continues into Gallipoli and Canakkale regions combining major fortress sites, coastal batteries, gun emplacements, memorial landscapes, museum and a contextual boat excursion through the Dardanelles. The tour will visit most of the many surviving WW1 coast artillery. The organizer of the tour Eternal Greece Ltd is seeking deposits now so if you are interested in attending, please let Terry McGovern know at tcmcgovern@att.net as soon as possible. Please keep in mind the 2027 CDSG Annual Conference is scheduled for April 27, 2027 to May 1, 2027, so the FSG tour willing to arrange for late arrivals.

Tours to the Defenses of the Panama Canal

Terry McGovern, Secretary/Treasurer

Our CDSG members in Panama have proposed a CDSG Tour to the Defenses of the Panama Canal given that has been 10 years since our last tour to Panama. They are proposing February or March of 2028 for this 7-day tour following a similar schedule as our 2016 tour. The first three days would be to the Pacific defenses of the canal and final 4 days would be to the Atlantic defenses and to the Panama Canal itself. The CDSG Newsletter from May 2016 contains a detailed report of the Panama tour. We are seeking the level of interest from CDSG members so we can decide on organizing this tour or not. Please contact Terry McGovern at tcmcgovern@att.net to let him know your interest in attending such a tour. We had 23 members attend the 2016 tour, so we would be looking for at least 20 members for the 2028 tour.

Summary of the 2026 Member Survey Responses

Three questions were posed to our membership via our 2026 election ballot to provide our members an opportunity to provide feedback to the Board of Directors. In this year's summary we are just providing the longer responses. All responses will be provided to the Board for their review.

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

- Excellent, especially given the inclusions of articles previously written by B.W. Smith, Bill Gaines, and Quentin Schillare.
- The publication should be twice yearly with quarterly newsletters. The conference was like drinking out a firehose! Too many sites to go to any disrepair. Going from 8:30am to 10pm is too long of day.
- I enjoy reading the journals and the annual conferences are great!
- Publications are well researched. Activities need better advertisement and outreach.
- Journal is excellent. Solid historical articles/research right up with INRO's Warship International.
- First rate. Great article and pictures. Tell us when new books come out.
- On a scale of 1 to 10, I would score it a 10. I love reading the articles. That is why I stay as a member in memory of husband.
- Good but need some improvement "tweaks".
- Publications excellent – need to make available on YouTube for new members.
- Great! Always interesting and informative.
- Extremely high quality and consistently so.
- In my opinion they are very good. Maybe less articles on the technical aspects of Coast Artillery and more on fortifications units and biographies.
- Publications are excellent. Recommend refreshed previously published articles that are technical in nature.
- The online lectures (FSG Webinars) are an excellent complement to CDSG's printed publications and activities.

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

- We seem to be doing as well as we can with providing material online. More video content would be nice.
- The CDSG needs to establish their own museum since three have closed down this year.
- Attract a younger generation by developing a video game.
- Develop a series of fly through video of guns and emplacements demonstrating how they operate.
- Widened the distribution of pamphlets.
- Set time limits on tours and reduce the number you try to visit.

- Our goals of education and support of structures are vitally important.
- Very much like and enjoy what we have been doing. Maybe something along the lines of the future of modern coastal defense could be looked into.
- Need to continue recruiting younger members to ensure the organization can flourish into the future.
- Preservation of artifacts is "okay", but the sites are what really remain. Best hope of "preserving" is increase access for both researchers and the public.
- Perhaps we should explore a variety of programs. Online for younger folks? Idea – Get a videographer to create a vide of a CDSG Conference and Tour.
- Stay with the format, and add some more of the fortification that are being allowed to fall apart. Like Fort Stevens.
- Focus on fundraising for historic preservation. Major gifts, bequests, government and corporate grants. Form a fundraising committee.
- Mostly the same but maybe pivot even more to WW2 and Civil War given their continuing popularity.
- Recruitment of new members and outreach to schools.
- Increase recruitment of younger people, increase CDSG visibility on college campus, military/gun shows, etc.
- We do need to see how to reach more new members both young and old. I like what we do, but need to get the word out to more who would be interested.
- Partner with Coastal Defense sites – get their staffs involved.
- More of the same. I feel the group is doing as much as it can – maybe more advertising? Getting the group's name out there more so we can gain more members.
- No AI created articles in the Journal or Newsletter!
- The future of the CDSG should remain on coastal defenses. I think the FortWiki website should be used to recruit people with a general interest in forts everywhere.
- Agree with recruitment of the "next generation" of historians and site caregivers.
- The CDSG should try to have some more localized events at one fort or something along those lines.
- Preservation and interpretation are critical to future of our area of study. Unless we can improve preservation and interpretation of fortifications, they will ultimately be gone.
- Recruit young people, maybe provide a scholarship to attend conferences.
- Education outreach to schools in the areas of major fortifications.
- I enjoy the activities but would like to stay more connected. Maybe it would be good to do a Zoom gathering in October to say hello and to share stories.
- Many of our members are of a "certain age" making it easy for them to donate to the CDSG Fund as a beneficiary in their retirement and/or brokerage accounts. This will help endure the Fund's long-term success. Any new programs that work toward that goal is a good one.
- The CDSG has failed to reach out to the owners of former coast defense sites - we need to educate those owners on the historic value and need to preserve these structures.
- I have only been a member for a couple of years. Would

be nice to meet local members to build some camaraderie and spread knowledge. An idea would be to link up a new member with an established member locally.

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

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

- Want a conference to Los Angeles or Puget Sound.
- I would help with a conference to Oregon or Washington State sites.
- We need to have a tour to Panama.
- Trips to Puerto Rico, Nova Scotia, and return to the Great Lakes.
- Sure, upon the return to Charleston-Savannah-Jacksonville I will organize.
- Tour to San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- I cannot commit to organizing tours/activities. All of the offerings have been fantastic opportunities.
- Tours to Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Gitmo, and Great Lakes.
- Not sure, but shorten the days. Less presentations, more visiting sites.
- Tours to Panama, Argentina/Newfoundland, and Bermuda.
- I hope we can get to San Francisco.
- Tour to Fort Bliss, Texas and Camp Hero State Park, NY.
- Need to continue USA "rounds" – to provide for new members. Also to see sites normally hard to access.
- Have conference to the Great Lakes. Could assist for a DC/Baltimore conference.
- Anywhere we have a volunteer to organize!
- Really wish we could pull off an Alaskan visit – Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Sitka, Seward – I know it may not be feasible, but a guy can dream!
- Would love to go to Alaska. Not sure it is feasible.
- We should continue the loop of harbor defenses; however, we do need to begin screening out those locations that have seen substantial degradation of the fortifications or dramatic drop in access.
- We should include a work party during every CDSG conference so we can put our backs where our mouth is on the preservation of fort site
- The CDSG really needs to organize a tour to Alaska (there has never been a CDSG tour). There has been talk of a tour to Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands for the last several years but nothing has been offered to members. If we can organize tours to the Philippines, Oahu, and Panama, why cannot we organize tours to Alaska, and Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands?
- Baltimore/Washington – Virginia Capes/Hampton Road (Yes, I live in Springfield, VA and I am centrally located for those sites.)
- I don't have any recommendations – all tour offerings have been great. I don't have enough discretionary time to take on organizing a conference or tour.

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CDSG Fund Report 2025

Terry McGovern, Trustee

In 2025, the Coast Defense Study Group Fund received \$27,012 in 54 donations from 44 individual donors. Some people donated more than once. The CDSG Fund received both restricted donations, those given with a specific purpose in mind, and non-restricted donations, those given to the Fund to use as our Board of Directors see fit.

The CDSG Fund supports grants to worthy organizations engaged in technical research, documentation, education, and preservation of historic seacoast defense artifacts and structures. It serves as a vehicle to enhance the accurate interpretation and understanding of an important part of American military history. The Fund supports the efforts of the Coast Defense Study Group, Inc., by raising funds for preservation and interpretation of American seacoast defenses. The Fund is seeking donations for projects that support these goals. Donations are tax-deductible for federal tax purposes as the CDSG is a 501(3)(c) organization, and 100% of your gift will go to our project grants. Major contributions are acknowledged annually. You can use our website (via PayPal) to make donations or you can send checks payable in US funds to the CDSG Fund to the address below. The trustees for the Fund for 2025 were Terry McGovern, Mark Berhow and Glen Milam (replacing Quentin Schillare).

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 \$1,000 to \$5,000 grants per year. Upon conclusion of a project a short report suitable for publication in the CDSG Newsletter is required as part of the grant.

During 2025, the CDSG Fund made three grants during the year. The Fund made grants for the restoration of three rare coast artillery (two 3-inch and one 90mm) at Fort Monroe, VA, for the construction of shell cart at Fort Fremont, SC, and for efforts to restore Fort Wool, VA to an historical site open to the public. The CDSG Fund also hosted the annual workers' dinner at the CDSG Annual Conference in Boston, MA to recognize the efforts of CDSG volunteers.

While we have heard about possible grant requests from various former forts during the year, we request our membership, especially our CDSG Reps, to reach out to organizations that are working to preserve and interpret coast defense sites to send use written requests for funding. The Fund has received a large grant request that will require donations from both members and outside grants. The request is for the restoration of a rare 90mm Fixed Mount currently located at the Fort MacArthur Museum in San Pedro, CA. The grant will be transportation to the East Coast and put the disassembled mount and shield together and hopefully locate a 90mm barrel for the mount.

To recap, the CDSG Fund received \$27,012 in donations during 2025 while making \$25,075 in grants, leaving the Fund with a balance of \$38,015 at the end of the year.

A breakdown of donations by type:

Giving Type	Amount
Unrestricted Donations	\$ 3,412
Fort Wool Public Access and Stabilization	\$ 3,000
Fort Monroe Treatment of Rare CA Guns	\$20,000
90mm Mount – Transport and Restore	\$ 1,500
Fort Mott Coast Artillery Research Library	\$ 100
Total	\$27,012

The Fund Trustees and Board of Directors wish to publicly thank the following individuals for making contributions to the Fund during the 2025 calendar year:

Charles Bogart	John Minitier
John Brooks	Jim Muir
John Case	Michael Nangano
J. Michael Cobb	Bruce Nordmark
Charles Dow	David Page
Stephen Fanciullo	Peter Percy
Dale Floyd	Mark Perreault
Glenn Frizzell	Paul Prentiss
Alice Grimes	William Preston
Gregory Hagge	Kevin Pugh
Alan Hardey	James Rhett
Marvin Heinze	Raymond Rollings
Gary Hunter	Raymond Ruhlmann
David Jernigan	Gene Scanlon
David Kirchner	John Scholes
Joseph Jr. Koczur	Mark Seeger
David Larsen	Joseph Sella
Daniel Lindley	Jon Seward
William Lowenthal	James Touza
George Manis	Steven Waldron
Terrance McGovern	Shawn Welch
Betsy Merritt	Chris Zeeman

The CDSG Fund also thanks Marine Specialty Painting, Portsmouth VA for making in-kind donations of their services and materials for the restoration of the rare coast artillery at Fort Monroe.

Send donations to (and made out to):

CDSG Fund

c/o Glen Milam 22150
22150 Pondsville Road
Smithsburg, MD 21783
glenmilam@myactv.net

Or use your credit card via PayPal
on the www.cdsg.org website.

Send grant requests to:

CDSG Fund

c/o Terry McGovern

1700 Oak Lane

McLean, VA 22101-3326 USA

tcmcgovern@att.net

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

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2027 Annual Conference Update

Tuesday April 27th – Saturday May 1st, 2027.

Sunday May 2nd, 2027 -

Add On – Fort H.G. Wright, Fishers Island, N.Y.

The Coast Defense Study Group's 2027 annual conference will visit the harbor defenses of Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island and New Bedford, Massachusetts. In addition, there will be an add-on day to visit Fort H.G. Wright on Fishers Island, N.Y. The conference is open to all active or current CDSG members. Check in will be Tuesday evening, April 27, 2027 in the hotel conference room. The main conference will run from Wednesday, April 28th through Saturday May 1st. The annual banquet and business meeting will be held Friday evening, April 30th.

Tour sites include but are not limited to: Fort Adams State Park, containing numerous Endicott batteries, as well as an impressive 3rd system fort. It boasts the most guns of any 3rd system work, extensive land defenses, and the magnificent Advanced Redoubt. Dutch Island (Fort Greble) normally closed to the public, with unique Rodman batteries, numerous Endicott batteries, and Civil War earthworks. Camp Varnum, a World War 2 Coast Artillery post still home to the 243rd RING. The site has 4 "disguised-cottage" type fire control stations still in good condition, as well as gun blocks for 3 batteries. Additional sites we will visit: Fort Greene (WEST/SOUTH), Fort Kearny, Fort Getty, Fort Wetherill, and Fort Burnside. HD New Bedford sites will be Fort Taber and Fort Phoenix. Additional site such as Fort Church and Mishaum Point will be added if permission is obtained to visit.

An add-on day, Sunday, May 2nd is being planned to Fort H.G. Wright on Fishers Island, N.Y. Fort H.G. Wright contains numerous Endicott and World War Two batteries, as well as a dynamite gun, protected switchboard room, and Harbor Entrance Command Post. The ferry to the island departs from New London, Connecticut for planning purposes.

Conference costs are still being worked out.

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Terry Gander

Colin Partridge

Terry Gander sadly died in May 2026 at the hospital in Alderney, Channell Islands, U.K.. He was 87 years old. His health had deteriorated quite markedly over the past three months while he was living at home ... his wife, Margaret, had died some eight years ago.

Typical Terry, to the end, he was still envisaging a joint authorship with me on German Artillery in the Channel Islands - a project we started over twenty years ago! I feel that I should now try and complete this in his memory. I made a rough list of his books over the years, starting in 1972 - it amounts some 124 titles, including joint authorships, new editions, second publishers, etc ... quite remarkable.

The funeral was held on 19th May. His son, John, was there and is determined that Terry's archive, library and photos will be preserved and go to good homes; The Henry Euler Memorial Trust here in Alderney (of which I am a trustee) will hold all of the maritime/naval material, including fortifications/coast artillery.

Terry Gander was a prominent British military historian and author best known for his extensive catalog of books detailing 20th-century warfare, artillery, and armored fighting vehicles.

With decades of research, he has authored dozens of reference books and encyclopedias covering everything from infantry weapons to heavy artillery.

Key Works: He has written extensively on both Allied and German military hardware, with notable titles including The German 88: The Most Famous Gun of the Second World War, Allied Infantry Weapons of World War Two, and Machine Guns.

Editorial Contributions: Beyond his solo books, he has contributed heavily to well-known military and intelligence publications, including the Jane's series of handbooks covering ammunition and weapons systems.

Subject Matter: His writing primarily focuses on technical specs, development history, and the combat employment of World War II armaments.

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Battery 201 Tours at Two Lights State Park, Maine

Julian Malcom



On Saturday, May 23rd, Battery 201 at Cape Elizabeth, Maine was open for public tours for the first time in about 15 years. Three volunteers were facilitating the setup and flow of people through the battery, and I gave the tours proper. For not doing much publicity, we were happily surprised to see about 150-200 people show up across about 15 tours on a cloudy day.

Battery 201, a WWII 6-inch battery at Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth, ME. Battery 201 is one of three 200-series batteries in the HD of Portland and is in the best shape and easiest to access (the other two are on islands).



We have some fire control equipment on display, and people really get a kick out of the working EE-91s we have set up throughout the battery.

The plan is to have monthly tours for the duration of the year. Improvements to displays and tour structure will continue as I get more practice.



Any tips, suggestions, or comments are always appreciated!



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Sad News From Battery 234 at Fort Pickens

from Pete Payette on the coastdefense@io.group

The Battery 234 Loop Road and Battery Cooper within the Gulf Islands National Seashore Area in Fort Pickens Management Area, Florida, is closed to all vehicle, bicyclists, and foot (pedestrian) traffic until further notice for safety purposes until the park can correct the leaning and structurally unstable historic Tower 234 that poses danger to visitors and staff. The beach access points for pedestrians from the Gulf (south) side are also be closed. The pipe gates at the entrance and exit points to the area are locked.

Historic Tower 234 near Battery Cooper in the Fort Pickens Area was built in 1943 along with Battery 234 to direct the firing of the guns placed on the battery. The tower, constructed of steel, supports a two-story compromised and now unstable concrete observation booth weighing over 113,000 pounds. A 2018 inspection found the structural integrity of the tower to be questionable, prompting the park to close until 2020 when a portion of the tower from the concrete base was removed and relocated adjacent to the base, as well as a 200-foot perimeter fence was erected to mitigate risk.



In the ensuing 6 years the tower's concrete base has become increasingly dilapidated and fallen into disrepair causing a significant and unacceptable risk to public/visitor and staff safety. Consequently, an area closure is being implemented for safety purposes. Once funding is secured to fully dismantle and remove the concrete base, tower apparatus, and debris from the site the area will be re-opened, however the timeframe for this to happen is currently indefinite.

This will mean the only tower of this type left standing will be at Ft. Wool.

An inquiry sent by the CDSG to gulf Shores received this reply

Thank you for your thoughtful correspondence and for the Coast Defense Study Group's (CDSG) longstanding commitment to preserving the nation's military coastal defense history. We appreciate your interest in the Battery 234 observation booth at Fort Pickens and your advocacy for considering alternatives to full removal of the structure.

The park previously relocated the two-story concrete observation booth, an approximately 113,000-pound element of the 1943 Coincidence Range Finder (CRF)/Battery Commander's Station (BCS) station, after structural inspections identified severe instability in the supporting steel tower. Since that time, the CRF/BCS and remaining tower components have further deteriorated, creating an unacceptable public and staff safety hazard. Effective 06-15-2026 these conditions resulted in the full closure of the Battery 234 Loop Road and surrounding area to minimize the risk to visitor and staff safety.

The National Park Service has completed the applicable compliance process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, including consultation and concurrence from the Florida State Historic Preservation Office, for the removal of the CRF/BCS and tower. This review evaluated alternatives, including potential restoration. Ultimately, the extent of structural degradation and the extraordinary costs associated with stabilizing or restoring the tower left no feasible preservation option that would meet current safety and resource protection standards.

That said, the park remains committed to ensuring that the history and significance of Battery 234 are appropriately documented and interpreted. In accordance with NPS Management Policies and Cultural Resource Management guidance, the structure and its military context was fully recorded in a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER No. FL-41) and a Historic Structures Report (HSR) so that its story endures even as safety-driven removal proceeds to implementation.

We sincerely appreciate your suggestion regarding the potential for ground-level interpretive display of the observation booth, as well as your indication that the CDSG Fund may be available to support preservation and interpretation. While the park must proceed with the removal actions required to address ongoing hazards to visitors and staff, we welcome continued dialogue with CDSG to explore future interpretive opportunities connected to Fort Pickens' World War II-era defenses and overarching Pensacola Harbor Defense Project Historic District.

Thank you again for your dedication and for reaching out with your concerns and recommendations. We value your engagement and look forward to continued collaboration with the CDSG in sharing the military history of Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Respectfully,

Rick Clark, Superintendent
National Park Service, Southeast Region (IR2)
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563
850-232-8749 (C)
GUIS_Superintendent@nps.gov

CDSG members should also reach out to the Park Superintendent about opposing the destruction of the rare WW2 Battery Commander's Tower. See contact info above

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Fort DuPont Redevelopment

From facebook spotted by Karl Fritz

A new chapter begins at Fort DuPont. The historic Tilton Building has found a new purpose. Delaware NeuroRehab has purchased the building and plans to transform it into Delaware's first comprehensive post-acute inpatient brain injury rehabilitation center.

Originally built in 1909, the Tilton Building has served many roles throughout its history, from military barracks to part of the Governor Bacon Health Center. Soon, it will once again serve Delawareans by helping individuals recovering from traumatic brain injuries, strokes, and other neurological conditions.

The project represents another important step in Fort DuPont's ongoing redevelopment, demonstrating how historic buildings can be thoughtfully adapted to meet today's needs while preserving the character of this remarkable campus.

We look forward to seeing this next chapter unfold.

<https://www.facebook.com/FortDuPont/posts/a-new-chapter-begins-at-fort-dupontthe-historic-tilton-building-has-found-a-new-/1505026468322991/>.facebook.com/FortDuPont/posts/a-new-chapter-begins-at-fort-dupontthe-



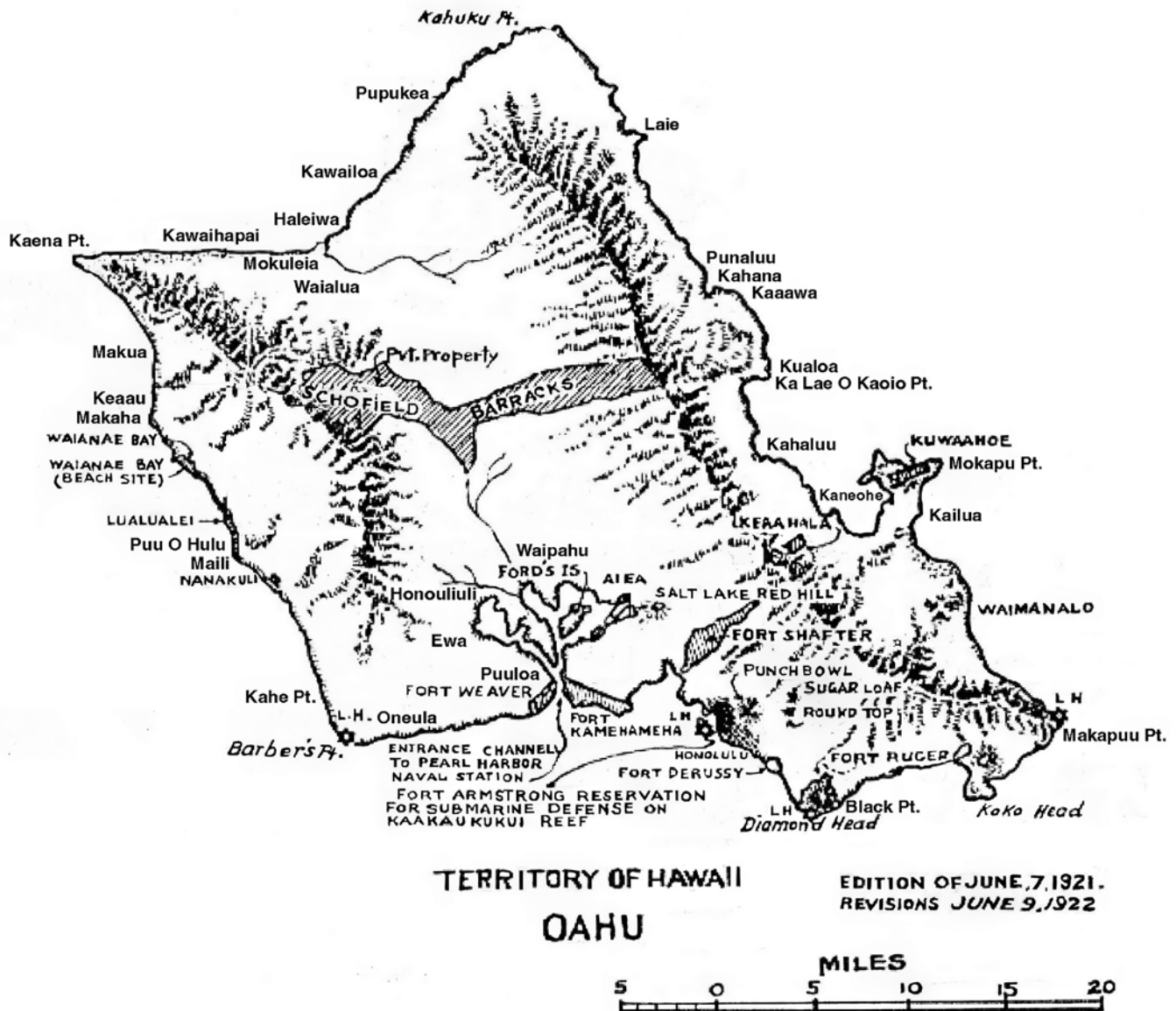
HARBOR DEFENSES OF THE DELAWARE

Part 1: Days 1 to 3

The Coast Defense Study Group (CDSG) held a successful annual conference to the coast defense of Oahu from May 5 – 10, 2026. After two years of intense planning, our 62 members were able to visit almost every major site (both inside and out) that our original plan contained. All 15 different site owners came through for us and we owe them special thanks as almost all of these sites are not open to the public and lay behind locked gates and security systems or guards. While we have thanked them directly, I have listed them at the end of this report so they get credit for putting up with us wandering around and taking photographs of these former coast defense sites. One of key factors to the conference's success were the Royal Star drivers of our bus and supporting vans. They came through for us as there was

We visited over 50 historic structures during our 5 days of field trips and held 15 nightly presentations, I thought I would let AI (with my prompting) do the work of telling the rest of the CDSG membership who did not attend the conference what happened each day. So, the conference begins

The steady hum of conversation at the mandatory 7:00 PM May 5, 2026 orientation briefing in the plain, utilitarian conference room of the Best Western-The Plaza Hotel felt a world away from the postcard-perfect beaches of Waikiki. Surrounded by the



industrial warehouses and car lots of North Nimitz Highway, 62 members of the Coast Defense Study Group (CDSG) sat shoulder-to-shoulder under flickering fluorescent lights. The air was thick with anticipation for the detailed orientation that would reveal what fortifications they would visit over the next five days. Terry McGovern, the conference chairman, laid out the daily plan and “rules of road” to the CDSG members. Glen Williford, co-founder of the CDSG, then gave a great presentation on the “History of Oahu’s Coast Defenses” so our members would have a good grounding in the sites we would visit over the next five days. For decades, Hawaii’s legendary coastal fortifications had been a “holy grail” for CDSG members—locked behind welded steel doors, hidden deep within active military bases, and entirely out of reach to the public.

The island’s defenses began as a direct result of America’s annexation of the territory, following up rapidly on the 1905 Taft Board recommendations. What started as basic Endicott-period open emplacements designed to repel traditional naval broadsides evolved through the tense pre-war years into a dense, heavily reinforced network of casemated batteries designed to withstand 1-ton armor-piercing projectiles dropped from high-altitude naval bombers. The culmination of these frantic building efforts during World War II resulted in Oahu having the strongest, most complex network of coastal defenses protecting any American harbor by 1945. Members of the CDSG had spent years combing through the National Archives, translating yellowed blueprints and long-classified maps into a master itinerary. That night, the maps were coming to life. The next day, those rusted doors were opening.

Day One: Breaking Ground in the West

The expedition began after breakfast on May 6 as a single, 63-seat coach bus pulled away from the airport hotel. Heading west, the landscape shifted from urban sprawl to the rugged volcanic terrain of the island. The first stop was Fort Barrette on Kapolei Hill, where the group stood inside the concrete footprints of Battery Hatch. Built between 1931 and 1934, these two immense 16-inch guns on barbette carriages were designed to hurl 2,700-pound shells 28 miles out to sea, shielding the western approaches of Pearl Harbor’s naval base. Members walked the massive casemates, examining the underground power room, marveled at the wooden plotting board that still remains in the battery’s PSR, and discussing the complex logistical feat of moving such heavy ordnance to an isolated volcanic hill during the interwar depression years. They noted the reinforced concrete



One of the emplacements of Battery Hatch



Inside one of the emplacements of Battery Hatch



The plotting room and battery commander's station of Battery Hatch



Glen Williford and the plotting board of Battery Hatch

walls and the underground magazines, still smelling faintly of damp earth and old oil. Today, Battery Hatch is largely an empty shell, preserved structurally but picked clean of its mechanisms, showing the steady toll of rust and weathering from decades of exposure to the salty trade winds. After consuming our lunch while arrayed around the battery site, we thanked the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation's crew. They cleared the vegetation, broke open the locks, and cut through the welds on the casemates' doors so we could explore the battery.

The true significance of the conference hit home at Battery Arizona at Kahe Point above the Honolulu City landfill site. Here, the members stood in awe before the silent remains of the 14-inch triple-gun naval turret, salvaged from the sunken battleship after the December 7 attack. In a race against a projected Japanese invasion, the Army moved this turret to the volcanic ridge at Kahe Point and constructed a massive underground, bombproof concrete bunker cut deep into the Kahe Point ridge, almost completing it just as the war ended in August 1945. Once operational, the three 14-inch guns were designed to fire 1,500-pound projectiles at surface targets up to 19 miles away. Positioned 300 feet above sea level, Battery Arizona commanded a wide, unobstructed arc over the southern and western waters of Oahu, effectively covering the naval approaches to Pearl Harbor from the west. A central concrete barbette well—matching the depth and diameter of the battleship's internal structure—was cut deep into the rock. CDSG members marveled at the sheer scale of the engineering, tracing the paths from the power room, powder magazine, and shell room into administrative area with a large plotting room. A steel ladder extended up into the darkness allowing one to reach the two-level Battery Commander's Station located behind the turret. Some members attempted to climb the 70-foot vertical ladder but the physical effort proved to be too much. The concrete was rough to the touch, bearing the marks of the gunite sprayed on the tunnel walls by wartime construction crews. Because the battery is on restricted land, the preservation state of Battery Arizona is remarkably intact. It is mostly free from the ever-present graffiti that plagues more accessible ruins, though humidity has left a thick layer of oxidation on the remaining exposed ironwork and the battery's power room has



Battery Arizona's filled in turret ring



Battery Arizona Entrance Portal



Battery Arizona Power Room



Battery Arizona Battery Commander's Station



Battery Arizona Powder Magazine

been completely burned leaving scorched and crumbled machinery on the floor. Waste Management, who runs the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, were great hosts as they gave us the keys to battery's entrance portals and allowed us to ferry our members up the landfill's roads to the battery. They allowed us to visit the tunnels that are under the turret site as long as we wanted to, but our demanding schedule had us ferrying our members in vans and jeeps down to the waiting coach after just two hours.



Battery Arizona Powder Hoists



Battery Arizona Plotting Room

Our next site on the leeward (west) shore was Pu'u O Hulu, where our members inspected the incomplete casemates of Battery #303, a prime example of the late-war 6-inch shield gun battery that was to replace the obsolete, 7-inch naval guns of Battery Hulu. Battery Hulu was built in 1942 as an emergency coastal defense post following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The military armed this site with two obsolete 7-inch / 45-caliber naval guns salvaged from old pre-dreadnought battleships. Battery #303 was authorized in 1944 to replace Battery Hulu with two



Our Royal Star bus at Battery Hulu

6-inch guns mounted on Model M4 Barbette Carriages (these guns were never installed). These carriages would allow for a high 45-degree elevation, which extended the ballistic range to 27,000 yards to lock down the leeward coast. These emplacements were cleverly tunneled directly into the mountain ridge, offering near-perfect camouflage from both naval and aerial observers. From this vantage point, our members could look out over the Pacific, realizing exactly why tactical planners chose this site to control the western waters. Our host, Frankie Domingcil, the caretaker for the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) for the City and County of Honolulu, made sure the two batteries were ready for our visit. After viewing the underground areas of the two batteries, our members scrambled their way up the hillside to Battery #303 battery commander's station that is located 75 feet above the battery. Sweat soaked through shirts, but the challenge of navigating through the overgrowth kept everyone moving forward while worrying about falling down the steep hillside.



Frankie Domingcil at Battery Hulu

Our members climbed aboard our bus and the coach made its way slowly down the switchbacks to the main road for our ride back to the conference hotel. After a quick dinner at such choices as McDonald's, IHOP, L&L Hawaiian Bar BQ or Big Kahuna's Pizza, our members returned to the hotel meeting room for nightly presentations until 10 pm when our exhausted members made their way to their hotel rooms to prepare for another day of field trips.

Day Two: Inside the Steel Ring of Pearl Harbor

May 7th was defined by strict military precision, leaving the hotel promptly at 8:30am. To meet the rigid security requirements of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the group moved as a single tactical unit. Armed with pre-cleared background checks managed by Ned Libby, they rolled past armed guards and sturdy gates to the very heart of the US Navy's Pacific stronghold, where the Army's oldest Hawaiian defenses once stood guard at Fort Kamehameha.

The day was a rapid-fire tour of heavy artillery history, highlighting the Endicott-Taft designs. Guided by Captain Krug USN and LtCol Villamor USAF, our group explored the massive concrete works of Battery Hasbrouck—which once housed eight devastating 12-inch mortars designed for high-angle plunging



Battery Hasbrouck Pit A



Exploring the Corridors of Battery Hasbrouck



Indicator Display at Battery Hasbrouck

fire against thin ship decks—now lost in an overgrown tract of jungle. Our members climbed over the entirety of the abandoned battery and explored deep into its underground rooms that were converted during World War II into the HDCP for Pearl Harbor. We next traveled to Batteries Hawkins (two 3-inch rapid fire guns) and the nearby mine casemate for Pearl Harbor. We



Battery Hawkins



Fort Kamehameha Mine Casemate

also got the chance to view the delict garrison housing for Fort Kamehameha which are subject to a very long dispute between the USAF and historical societies over tearing down these historic quarters. The bus next took us to Battery Jackson (two 6-inch disappearing guns) and the nearby Fort Commander tower (where our members got yelled at for climbing to the top of the tower). Chased back to our bus, we made our way to Battery Selfridge, which once mounted two 12-inch M1895 guns on disappearing carriages. Used by the Hawaiian Air National Guard until recently, the large concrete emplacement is now abandoned. Built between 1907 and 1913, this battery was Pearl Harbor's primary defense for many years. We were greeted by Colonel Horton of the HANG and this team who showed us around the multi-story concrete structure as Colonel Horton told us of his interest in restoring the battery so it could be used as museum and other community uses. Our members enjoyed both visiting and eating their bagged lunch around the historic battery, which



Battery Jackson



Fire Command Tower at Fort Kamehameha



Battery Selfridge



Shell receiving tables at Battery Selfridge

was named for the first human to die during a powered aircraft crash at Fort Myer, VA in 1908.

Our bus rumbled down the access road and passed under the approaches to Honolulu International Airport to reach Battery Closson, which once mounted two formidable 12-inch M1895 guns on long-range barbette carriages. Captain Krug had made special arrangements for us to tour the interior of the battery as originally the Navy had denied our request to do so several times. While heavy tropical bushes choked the exterior facade, the interior of the massive World War II bunker was completely free of vegetation. Stepping inside, the air turned cool and stagnant. Flashlight beams swept across bare concrete floors and wide, single-level corridors engineered for rolling heavy shell carts. The original 12-inch artillery components were long gone, but the empty walls revealed fascinating modern artifacts of faded room



Battery Closson emplacement



Main Corridor in Battery Closson

numbers, painted tactical markers, and simulated breach points—the distinct remains left behind from when elite units used the vacant complex for Special Forces Close Quarters Battle (CQB) training. After photographing the empty magazines converted to shooting rooms and gun casemates filled with abandoned military storage lockers, the group stepped back out into the blinding sun, leaving the silent concrete sentinel.

Our bus rolled over the floating bridge to Ford Island to allow us to document the rarely seen Batteries Henry Adair and Charles T. Boyd which were built in 1917 as the first U.S. military presence on Ford Island. Designed with 6-inch guns to protect Pearl Harbor from land attacks, they were deactivated in 1925. Today, Battery Adair is most famous as a makeshift bomb shelter during the December 7, 1941 attack. In the late 1930s, the Navy had built Quarters K—the commanding officer's residence—directly



Entrance to Battery Boyd

on top of the battery, using the gun emplacements as a massive basement. During the chaos, neighborhood children and wives sheltered inside while their husbands rushed to duty. The Admiral still lives there so we were not invited in, so we continued to Battery Boyd. The Army equipped the casemated emplacement with two 6-inch Armstrong guns to protect Pearl Harbor from infantry invasions. However, the installation became obsolete within eight years. By 1925, the Army removed the guns and transferred the empty structure to the Navy, who repurposed it into an ammunition storage facility. During the December 7, 1941 attack, Japanese bombs destroyed nearby hangars. Though packed with live Navy munitions, Battery Boyd miraculously escaped a direct hit. Today, the empty concrete shell still stands on San Jacinto Street as one of Pearl Harbor's oldest surviving military structures.

The day concluded on Sand Island, where everyone wandered

around the remaining emplacements of Battery Harbor, which the Army built in 1942. It was an emergency defense constructed right after the Pearl Harbor attack to protect Honolulu Harbor from a Japanese invasion. Because standard weapons were scarce, engineers scavenged four obsolete 7-inch Navy ship guns to arm the site. To hide the underground ammunition bunkers from enemy spy planes, the military cleverly camouflaged them to look like a locomotive and a train station (not really but AI has mixed today's playground with how the battery looked during WW2). The battery was dismantled in 1945, and the site is now part of the Sand Island State Recreation Area. We viewed the concrete gun rings and the towering 50-foot steel HECF structure standing along the harbor entrance.



Sand Island HECF



Sand Island gun emplacement

The Royal Star coach's door hissed open, and the CDSG members climbed aboard. They swapped historical notes during the short, twelve-minute ride from Battery Harbor to the Best Western-The Plaza Hotel. Dropped off at the lobby, the group quickly scattered to nearby local joints for independent dinners. By 7:00 PM, everyone reassembled in the hotel's "ballroom," fueled up and ready for an evening of coastal defense presentations. These ranged from King Kamehameha's commandos and fortifications to Coast Artillery Corps legacy of "precision fires" to a comparison between American and Germany artillery during World War II.

Day Three: From the Punchbowl to the Mule Tunnel

On May 8, the tour focused on Oahu's southern defenses, starting with the solemn, panoramic heights of the Punchbowl, also known as the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. During World War II, the Punchbowl crater served a coast defense role. To defend Honolulu's harbor, the military installed 360-degree concrete Panama mounts armed with mobile 155mm GPF guns. They also began building Battery 304, an underground bunker meant for two 6-inch shield guns. However, the war ended before the big guns could be installed. Stepping off the bus, we were greeted by the Cemetery Director, John Horton, who guided us to the remains of the cemetery's coast defenses. The highlight of our visit came when we bypassed the manicured lawns of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific to tour the remains of Battery 304. Standing before the large, concrete underground structure, the members swapped stories of its incomplete history—how the war ended before its 6-inch shield guns could



Battery 304 gun emplacement



Battery 304 lateral tunnel

ever be installed. Walking inside, they chuckled with appreciation seeing the historic tactical rooms now neatly packed with cemetery lawnmowers, tractors, and maintenance gear. We were able to visit the outdoor site for one of gun emplacements where we viewed downtown Honolulu and Waikiki Beach. After a brief search for the remaining Panama Mount, we returned to our bus to go to our next stop.

Descending to the coast, the group visited Fort DeRussy's Battery Randolph, taking in the historical displays at the US Army Museum of Hawaii housed right inside its massive, 12-foot-thick reinforced concrete walls—walls that easily resisted demolition attempts after WWII. The sheer density of the cement, mixed with local volcanic basalt rock, stands as a testament to the indestructible nature of early 20th-century military masonry. Several of our members were dressed in period coast artillery uniforms so they joined the display at the shell table to show how the large 14-inch shells (those on display are made of foam) were moved to the 14-inch disappearing guns that used to fire the 1,660-pound armor-piercing shells up to a maximum range of 14.2 miles. Our members explored the galleries detailing ancient island warfare and Oahu's coastal "Ring of Steel" artillery defenses. They examined World War II Pearl Harbor artifacts and studied the decorated legacy of the local Nisei soldiers. The group mapped out the museum floor plan to identify where the subterranean plotting rooms once operated. Our demanding tour schedule had us pulling members out of the museum's gift shop to board the bus as we thanked Jenna Scholz, the museum's curator, for arranging our visit.



Battery Randolph shell room display



7 inch Naval gun on display at U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii

The climax of the day awaited at Fort Ruger, embedded in the iconic slopes of Diamond Head, the birthplace of Oahu's coast

artillery in 1909. The group spent hours navigating the labyrinth of Battery Harlow, which once held eight 12-inch mortars, but today is just used for storage. The ultimate highlight was viewing the rare mechanical indicators that transmitted range and azimuth settings from the plotting room via numeric dials above



Battery Harlow



Intact mechanical indicator display mechanism at Battery Harlow

the mortar pits. We enjoyed eating our lunch arrayed around the battery's pits and magazines.

Stepping out of the tropical sun and into the cool, dark depths of the Mule Tunnel was our next stop as we used vans to take us into the Diamond Head crater. Flashlights illuminated the damp concrete walls of the old Harbor Defense Command Post (HDCP) for the Honolulu area. In this underground complex, officers once sat at plotting boards, synthesizing data from remote fire control stations to direct the island's massive firepower against potential enemy fleets. The echo of boots on the historic concrete floors brought the tense, wartime atmosphere vividly back to life.

Originally, our special van was to take our members up the steep road to the top of the rim to visit Batteries Dodge and Hulings, but our hosts were unable to find the keys to allow us access to these land defense casemates. The batteries were each designed to house two 4.7-inch Armstrong quick-firing rifles on pedestal carriages. Unlike traditional open-air coastal batteries, these fortifications housed their guns inside fully covered bomb-proof



Entrance to Battery Dodge



Entrance to Battery Birkhimer



Hawaii Emergency Management Crisis Center

bunkers integrated into the ridge. The front of each casemate featured a narrow embrasure opening that allowed the 4.7-inch Armstrong rifles to fire outward while remaining shielded. Today, these historic embrasures are permanently sealed with hollow cement blocks, and heavy iron gates keep the interior passageways tightly locked. Instead, the van took CDSG members to Battery Birkhimer inside Diamond Head crater. Our members examined the subterranean fortification, which was specifically engineered in 1916 to house four 12-inch mortars. The operations manager for Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), which uses the bomb-proof bunker as its active command center today gave us guided tours of the interior of the former battery. The group noted how perfectly the three-to-six-foot-thick reinforced concrete walls now protect modern emergency telecommunications networks. Stepping back out, the members marveled at how a century-old heavy artillery battery evolved into the state's modern crisis center.

Back aboard our bus, we made our way across the crater's floor to the subterranean tunnels of Battery 407, engineered as a World War II H-Type layout carved directly through the solid volcanic basalt of Diamond Head. Our members walked beneath a natural rock overburden up to 100 feet deep that was designed to protect the military installation from heavy aerial bombardment and naval gunfire. Soldiers from the Hawaii National Guard escorted the group through the arched, concrete-lined corridors to show how the 1943 fortress has been retrofitted into a modern Joint Operations Center. The highlight of the tour was examining the empty barbette casemates that project over the cliffside of Diamond Head. These casemates, designed to protect the two 8-inch Mk VI M3 naval guns on high-elevation M1 barbette carriages, that were never delivered before the war



Rear Entrance to Battery 407



Battery 407 gun emplacement

ended in 1945, were designed more for protection from rockfalls, than direct enemy shell fire. Looking over the Pacific Ocean, our members speculated how these guns would have protected Oahu from enemy warships. Retracing our steps we made our way out the underground tunnels to our bus with much thanks to the Hawaiian National Guard, especially to Major Randall Duldulao, who organized getting our permission to visit all the sites at Fort Ruger/Diamond Head.

The bus took us back to the Best Western-The Plaza Hotel for another night for a quick dinner and then presentations on coast defense subjects until 10pm in the "ballroom". This night's talks ranged from Oahu's prefabricated pillboxes to Hawaii's defenses against chemical attacks.

The concluding second part of this report covering Days 4 and 5 will appear in the next issue (winter 2026) of the CDSG Newsletter.



Battery 407 interior corridor

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The History of Japanese Seacoast Fortifications Translated to English

Mark Berhow

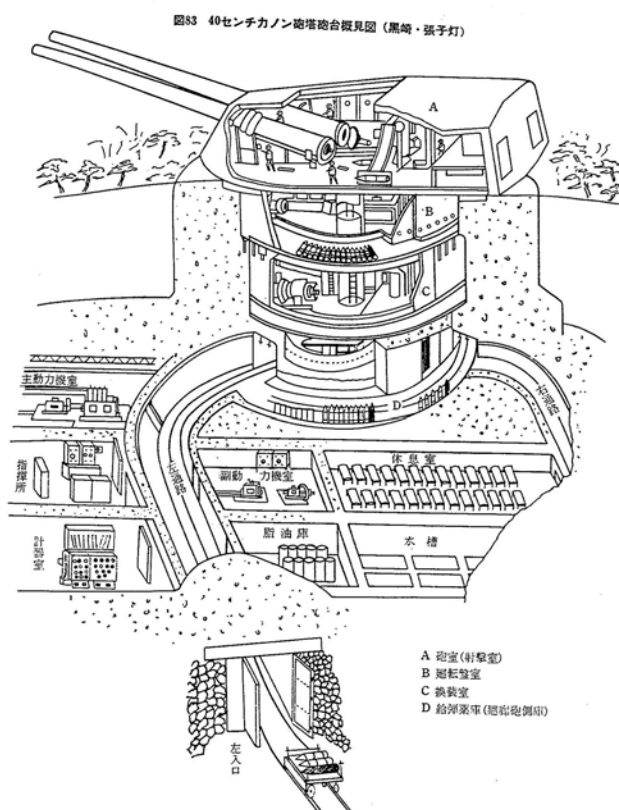
berhowma@cdsg.org

Japan undertook a number of seacoast fortification construction projects similar to those carried out by the United States, resulting in many seacoast artillery batteries and installations. These were decommissioned after the Pacific War ended, yet numerous structures remain near Japan's key harbors and waterways. Several publications on this subject have appeared in the post-war years.

One book by retired Army Colonel Asami Johogi drew my interest as it appeared to be a comprehensive survey of the various Japanese seacoast fortification efforts from 1850 to 1945. The book was initially published in 1971 and I consider it the Japanese equivalent to E.R. Lewis's 1970 overview of U.S. seacoast fortifications. It provides an in-depth review of Japanese fortification construction programs, weaponry, structures, and tactical arrangements. Each major harbor "fortress" region is then analyzed, detailing the primary and secondary fixed batteries built. The book concludes with a summary of battles involving fortified locations in the Pacific during the war. Overall, it serves as an excellent introduction to Japanese seacoast defenses.

Several years ago, I acquired a good PDF version of this 350-page book. Unfortunately, the text was in Japanese, which I could not read. I was only able to examine the maps and diagrams and infer the locations they represented. Recently, I tried using the online Google Translation service and discovered it could provide reliably accurate Japanese-to-English translations, which I applied to this book. I formatted the English version in Adobe InDesign, including all illustrations, and created an electronic PDF file. It is important to note that there are distribution restrictions under Japanese copyright law, which lasts 70 years after the author's death, and unlike the U.S., Japan lacks a broad fair use doctrine.

For more detailed information please contact me by email.



The 40 cm turret battery at Kurosaki on Ikishima.

* * * * *

All of This and No Combat Infantry Badge

Charles H. Bogart

There is no award that holds higher honor in the eyes of an infantryman than the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB). During the course of World War II the United States Army had difficulty in recruiting men to serve in the infantry branch. To recognize that men serving in the infantry branch were more likely to be killed or wounded than members of the Army serving in other branches the War Department on 27 October 1943, established the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). To further increase the prestige of the infantry man the U.S. Congress on 10 June 1944, approved an extra ten dollars in monthly pay to every enlisted infantryman awarded the CIB. To be eligible to receive the CIB a person has to meet three requirements:

1. Be a member of the Infantry branch and satisfactorily perform the duties of an infantry man.
2. Be assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat.
3. Have actively engage the enemy in ground combat.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, on 7 December 1941, the size of the U.S. Army began to expand rapidly. The Coast Artillery Corps during 1942 activated almost 100 new units, all most all within its anti-aircraft section. Among the new units activated was the 45th Coast Artillery (AA) Brigade. The 45th CA (AA) Brigade raised its unfurled its Brigade's flag on 1 June 1942, at Camp Steward, Georgia. In early April 1943 the 45th CA (AA) Brigade moved to Camp Shanks, New York, and on 22 April 1943 the Brigade departed the Port of New York for North Africa. The 45th CA (AA) Brigade came ashore in North Africa at Casablanca in early May 1943. Once ashore the 45th CA (AA) Brigade moved to Oran where it assumed responsibility for the anti-aircraft defense of Fifth Army headquarters and its ports and bases. The 45th CA (AA) Brigade also had as a second responsibility of providing ground security at the places its guns protected.

On 22 September 1943, the 45th CA (AA) Brigade landed in Italy and assumed the anti-aircraft defense of the Port of Naples. The Luftwaffe still had fight left in it and during the fall and winter of 1943 Naples and its port facilities were subjected to almost nightly air attacks. It was not until May 1944 with 5th Army's breakthrough of the German Gustav Line and its advance north to the German Gothic Line that the threat of Luftwaffe attacks upon 5th Army logistical centers and supply lines became of marginal significance.

In 1944, as part of a U.S. Army service wide reorganization of the CAC, the 45th CA (AA) Brigade on 8 April 1944, became the 45th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade (45th AAA Brigade). The 45th AAA Brigade continued to perform the same mission for Fifth Army as it had carried out as the 45th CA (AA) Brigade.

In August 1944, Fifth Army lost a number of its infantry divisions by transfer to the United State Seventh Army for em-

ployment in Operation Dragoon, the August 1944 invasion of Southern France. Fifth Army with its front lines expanding in width, as it advanced up Italy's boot, found itself with less infantry to man a larger front line. The question facing Fifth Army was where to find more manpower to serve on the front line. With the Luftwaffe now but an occasional intruder over Italy Fifth Army solution to this manpower shortage problem was to use the men of the 45th AAA Brigade to help man the front lines.

On 5 November 1944, 45th AAA Brigade was relieved of its duties of providing anti-aircraft defense to Fifth Army. Headquarters 45th AAA Brigade now became Headquarters Task Force 45. The mission of Task Force 45 was to provide manpower to help man Fifth Army's front line. Task Force 45 assignment was to take over a portion of the front line held by the 34th and 91st Infantry Divisions. For the manpower to hold this portion of the line Task Force 45 used men from the 91st AAA Group; 435th AAA AW Bn. and 439th AAA AW Bn., and 107th AAA Group; 536th AAA AW Bn. and 898th AAA AW Bn. Later men from the 403rd AAA (G) Bn., 351st AAA Searchlight BN., 434th AAA AW Bn., and 900th AAA AW Bn. were incorporated into Task 45. Total strength of Task Force 45 during its existence varied between 3,000 to 8,000 men.

Task Force 45 stood down on 13 February 1945 and the 45th AAA Brigade was also deactivated on that date. On 14 February 1945, the former officers and men of Headquarters 45th AAA Brigade became the staff of Headquarters 473rd Infantry Regiment. While the former Coast Artillery members of Task Force 45 became members of the 473rd Infantry Regiment companies. All of these CAC men now took off of their uniforms their CAC branch insignia and put in their place the Infantry branch insignias. Now and only now did these CAC men, now infantry men, and after serving four months in the front line, become eligible to receive the CIB. The 473rd Infantry would be assigned to the 93rd Infantry Division and fight with that Division to the end of the war. On 14 September 1945, after seven months of service, the 473rd Infantry was stood down, and thus ended the saga of some CAC men who traded their label cross cannons for cross rifles.



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Call for Papers

Council on America's Military Past
Bridget Hart

The Council on America's Military Past seeks authors for the Journal of America's Military Past (JAMP), a peer-reviewed journal published three times a year since 1966. We welcome articles on biographies, unit and facility histories, battles, equipment, and other topics related to America's military past. For submission guidelines, questions, or to submit an article, visit campjamp.org/publications or email editorjamp@gmail.com.



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 \$1,500 to \$5,000 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, Mark Berhow and Glen Milam.

Send donations to (and made out to):

CDSG Fund c/o Glen Milam
22150 Pondsville Road, Smithsburg, MD 21783

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.



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 joining the CDSG.

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).

CDSG hats, T-shirts and patches ordering information

Black T-shirt with white ink:

Size & # ___L ___XL ___2XL ___3XL

Red T-Shirt with white ink:

Size & # ___L ___XL ___2XL ___3XL

Khaki T-Shirt with black ink:

Size & # ___L ___XL ___2XL ___3XL

Navy T-shirt with yellow ink:

Size & # ___L ___XL ___2XL ___3XL

Total Number: _____ times \$ _____ = Total \$ _____
(domestic \$20 each)

CDSG Cloth Patch: _____ times \$ _____ = Total \$ _____
(domestic \$4) each

CDSG Color Decal: _____ times \$ _____ = Total \$ _____
(domestic \$2) each

Hats: _____ times \$ _____ = Total \$ _____
(domestic \$20) each

Be sure to include your name and shipping address.

You can also order online at cdsg.org/shopping/

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