



The CDSG Newsletter



The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. – Summer 2020



Chairman's Message

Danny Malone

There is not a lot to discuss in this issue of the newsletter and what there is bad news on the coast defense front. Thanks to the political Kabuki dance concerning Covid 19, the restrictions within the state of Louisiana remain in place, and though reduced, are still highly restrictive. There are restrictions on the number of people in a group, restaurants, hotels, and other public venues which restrict our ability to have an informative and fun conference this year in New Orleans. There is also the strong possibility that restrictions could become more severe with little possibility of their being removed before the conference. For this reason, the CDSG Board of Directors has determined it is in the interests of the members to make a decision on canceling this year's New Orleans's conference. A decision, with input from scheduled conference attendees, will be made Aug 30 on the conference's fate. Hopefully, the situation will stabilize by the time of the Charleston Conference.

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

In the current pandemic environment, many activities are curtailed and access to sites is restricted but some activity is still happening. Since the state allowed a limited re-opening of Fort Adams in June, the regular volunteer crew has been there most Saturdays cleaning up and clearing vegetation as those of you who are on the email list will have seen from Chris Zeeman's photos. At Fort H.G. Wright on Fishers Island, Matthew Edwards is organizing a local support group and has a short article on what is going on there in this issue of the Newsletter.

Regarding Plum Island and Fort Terry, the Preserve Plum Island Coalition has unveiled their vision concept for the island. The cantonment area of Fort Terry is shown as part of a general public access area with specific mention of a Fort Terry Historic District. The tip of the island where most of the gun batteries are located is shown as a nature preserve with student and research access including mention of access to historic structures. I would assume (and hope) that this includes the CDSG. Though this may not be ideal from the CDSG point of view, I think it is reasonable and the current coalition is likely our best chance the keep Fort Terry from ending up as a private development.

Back in the fall of 2018, a small group of us visited Fort Warren at the invitation of Jessica Rowcroft, an engineer and preservation planner with the Massachusetts DCR, in order to provide information as well as advice on what was important to devote resources to for preservation. Recently we heard back from her that the National Park Service has hired a Cultural Resources Management firm to complete the initial part of a Historic Structure Report. In addition they have received a grant to perform stabilization design work for

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2020 CDSG Conference

Rescheduled November 4 - 9, 2020
New Orleans

Quentin Schillare, qschillare@kc.rr.com

2021 CDSG Conference

April 21 - 25, 2021

Charleston/Savannah

Gary Alexander, gary_a_alexander@nps.gov

2021 CDSG Special Tour

May 29 - June 5, & June 5 - 12, 2021
Sweden

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

Other Meetings and Tours

September 10 - 13, 2020

Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungforschung Annual Meeting
Kufstein, Austria

Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

September 12 - 19, 2020

ECCOFORT Study Tour
Armenia

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

April 10 - 23, 2021

ECCOFORT Study Tour
Morocco

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

April 21 - 23, 2021

Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference
Charleston, SC

Bridget Hart, bridgethshea@hotmail.com

May 27 - 28, 2021

International Fortress Council Annual Meeting
Luxemburg

Kees Neisingh, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.com

May 29 - 30, 2021

Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungforschung Study Tour
Paris & Lille, France

Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

<p>June 6 - 7, 2021 Assn Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaries Tour Ticino & Lake Como Pascal Bruchez, president@asmem.ch</p>	<p>September 16 - 20, 2021 Assn Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaries Tour Walloon - Liege Pascal Bruchez, president@asmem.ch</p>
<p>June 7 - 11, 2021 Association Vauban Annual Congress Rochefort, France Charles Rofort, c.rofort@orange.fr.</p>	<p>September 23 - 27, 2021 Association Vauban Annual Congress Piedmont - Val D'Aoste Alain Monferrano, congress@association-vauban.org</p>
<p>September 11 - 19, 2021 ECCOFORT Study Tour Kotor & Montenegro Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de</p>	<p>September 24 - 26, 2021 Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsforschung Annual Meeting Wesel, Germany Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de</p>

the exterior envelope. So we can look forward to improvements at Fort Warren. Separately, the work to install a new HVAC system at the Halibut Point fire control structure and attached barracks which are used as the visitor center has been completed (there were major problems with the previous system and the building eventually had to be closed). Although the site is currently closed, this will allow it to be reopened when the pandemic situation allows.

The CDSG has agreed to help fund an interpretive sign for the fire control tower on Appledore Island (HD of Portsmouth, NH) which is currently part of the Shoal Marine Laboratory. The director of the Lab supports the project and though currently they have to focus on opening and operating the lab in the next two months, it is expected that the sign project will go ahead before the end of the year.

There is a update on Fort Wool and it's closure elsewhere in this issue.

That is all I have that I can remember for right now, but as you can see, there is still a fair amount of activity going on even with a number of places on lock-down. If something is going on in your area, please email me so that I can mention it in the next newsletter.

If you have a Preservation issue or question, or for further information on any of the items I have mentioned, contact the Preservation Committee Chair, Gordon Bliss, at preservation@cdsg.org.

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Pacific Region Representative Update

Mark Berhow

As you all know, the current pandemic has resulted in the closure of most public sites during March and April. Sites began reopening in June, but most visitors' centers remain shuttered as of the end of July and many activities have been cancelled or curtailed.

At the HD of Puget Sound, volunteer work at Fort Casey and Fort Ebey on Whidbey Island continues, but Representative Steve Kobylk notes that further scaled up restoration efforts at Fort Casey will be discontinued. The restored plotting room and bunk house may be open on special occasions, but the dates and times will be limited. Events and activities at Fort Worden are scaled back, but the rentals are open for business. The Coast Artillery Museum remains closed.

At the HD of Columbia River, Fort Stevens volunteers have continued work on the displays in Battery 247. The battery will be open for limited hours, but the museum remains closed.

At San Francisco, all the visitors' centers at Golden Gate National Recreation Area are closed. The park is generally open to visitors with limited ranger programs. There are no new developments on any restoration efforts, though the volunteers at Battery Townsley continue their efforts.

There is no news from Los Angeles and San Diego. The Fort MacArthur Museum and the Cabrillo National Monument visitors' centers are closed until further notice.

We are always looking for representatives and site visit reports from the Pacific coast forts! Please contact me or Norm Scarpulla for more details at info@cdsg.org.

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Update on the St. Babs XXXVIII Conference in New Orleans

Scheduled for November 4-8, 2020

The Novel Coronavirus is still with us. We have not yet cancelled the 2020 conference. A special board of director's meeting is scheduled on August 30 to make that decision and consider postponing the meeting to 2022. Current federal, state, and local remediation policies are quite limiting. The state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans are in "Phase 2: Safe at Home" response to the virus. Various officials have told me they are uncertain when that will change. Many of us are living with similar restrictions: indoor social gatherings are limited to <25 people; outdoor events <50; 100% masks, 6-foot social distance; only necessary travel; and restaurants are providing take-out service with limited indoor seating. Sharing meeting space, rental cars, and historical sites with people we do not normally deal with can be medically risky. On the plus side, we are lucky that most of the locations on the schedule are abandoned and site managers indicate we can visit them if we adhere to Phase 2 strictures. The board will consider these factors and determine if a much-restricted conference this year is in the best interests of CDSG members. The defenses of New Orleans and the lower Mississippi River have been in place since the late 18th century (Fort St. Philip) and although a little more weather beaten, they will still be there when next we visit.

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Result of 2020 CDSG Election

Terry McGovern

The CDSG Teller reports the election of Steve Waldron as the next CDSG director. Danny Malone’s term will end on October 1, 2020, while Steve’s term will begin at that time and run for the next three years. Therefore, the directors for the next year will be Richard Wong, Robert Grimm, and Steve Waldron. They will select the Chairman of the Board for the coming year as well as the chairmen for all the committees. The CDSG Board of Directors thanks both Matthew Bell and Steve Waldron for their willingness to serve the CDSG in this role. Next year’s Nomination Committee for the 2021 election will be Alex Hall (Chair), Tom Batha, and Danny Malone.

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2020 Annual Business Meeting November 7, 2020 @ 8pm

Terry McGovern – Secretary/Treasurer

The CDSG Board of Directors is happy to announced that the CDSG Annual Business Meeting will be held at the Copeland Tower Suites & Conference Center (Comfort Inn & Suites) located at 2601 Severn Avenue, Metairie, LA 70002 at 8:00pm (EST). If the 2020 Annual Conference to the defenses of New Orleans is cancelled, then the annual business meeting will be conducted via Zoom on the same day and time. Information on accessing the Zoom meeting will be emailed to all CDSG members two weeks before the annual business meeting. The board urges all members to attend to hear annual reports from the board and committees and to discuss plans for the coming years.

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Request to CDSG Membership

Norm Scarpulla

The CDSG Representative and Outreach Committee is working on gathering the current contact information for all the coast defense site owners in the USA. We need this information for our outreach efforts to both inform site owners on the value of protecting these sites for future generations as well as to encourage them to become members of the CDSG. We ask you to send us this contact information (Site Name and Location, Owner’s Name, Owner’s Address, Owner’s Telephone Number, Owner’s Email Address, Website Name (if any), and Owner’s Primary Contact Person) for your local coast defense sites (this is could be a fire control station to an entire fort as our database will be organized based on ownership, i.e. one entry per owner). Please send this information to Terry McGovern (tcmcgovern@att.net) and to Norman Scarpulla (nkscarpulla@icloud.com). Thanks for your assistance.



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Updating the Most Endangered Coast Defense Sites Listing

Terry McGovern

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

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Summary of the 2020 Member Survey Responses

Three questions posed to our membership via our 2020 election ballot gave members an opportunity to provide feedback to our Board of Directors. Here is a sample of responses. All responses were provided to the board for their review.

The first question was "How would you rate the CDSG's current publications and activities." Sample responses are: 10 out of 10! / Very satisfied and informative. Considering our passion is very “niche” type of thing I believe current publication and activities are excellent. / They are good, but an expansion to digital media could increase the group’s positive exposure. / I have found the publications and conference agendas to be very compelling and executed professionally. I was attracted to the group by its web/online platform and by the quality of its materials. / Yes, on the magazine outstanding. Any chance of a book on 20th Century U.S. Coast Artillery, installation, EM & officer training, schools, experiences, WW1 and WW2? / Good. The CDSG Journal is great, it can only be better with more contributions. / Great publications, but maybe allow members to “opt out” of receiving the hardcopy journals to save \$ on printing and shipping costs. / Canonize (as in beatify) B.W. Smith (even though he still walks among us) / 8 out of 10! / A wonderful resource for academics and amateur alike / I (we as a group) need to give BW a break and send him more good articles. I have some in mind but have not done them yet. / I am extremely satisfied with the quality of the publications / Mark and BW doing a great job / More preservation and work party activities / The CDSG Press should publish a guide book on America’s seacoast fortifications / The publications that are available are excellent and timely. If we reprint TM 4-210, recommend printing the 1940 edition. Also, it may be useful to reprint the 1940 edition of TM 4-205 to include the large Change 2 from 1944 that lists all the projectiles and fuse combinations. Matt's idea about expanding the "print on demand" section is very good. / The CD Journal is the best non-profit, volunteer publication hands down.

The **second question** was "What should be the future of the CDSG – more of the same or new goals/programs." Sample responses are: Outreach to site owner to promote preservation and interpretation is key – more of it / More grants by the CDSG Fund / The publications and communal spirit are the heart of the CDSG. We should be sure to keep these parts whole and strong as we try to be more vocal with preservation and interpretation events. / I am less interested in coast defense structures dating before WW2 – More about what went on at both coasts during that conflict. / Definite emphasis on increasing youth interest and membership. They are the future. What happened at Fort Wool is a major catastrophe. Anything we can do to prevent further pillaging? / More local meetings of CDSG members and work parties to protect fort structures. / More of the same. / CDSG should explore different methods of telling the story of coast defense. / Articles on concrete plants, composition rebar, cement, and different emplacement construction techniques. Identify the "holes" in concrete and what equipment would be installed in the holes. / I would like to see "video shorts" added to the website that invite members and the viewing public to visit different sites. Four-minute short digital videos like that employed by the American Battlefield Trust's "In 4" series would be great. / I would stick with the current program. / Same, keep it simple – Trying to go beyond the abilities of the organization in scale with it led to unequal effort among member and possible disaster for all. / Youth outreach and studies plus our other programs. / Any copies of the Journal being sent to selected libraries and forts with a view to more publicity for the association and thus hopefully increased membership? / More of the same. / I think things are going as well as they can be. The group seems to do as much as it can regarding our Coast Artillery history, perhaps more outreach to site owners and managers to encourage the promotion of our history, if not done already. / Would like to see more AAA & Nike articles and articles on coast defense legislations & congressional hearing testimony, fortification bills, modernization bill (1940) testimony, presidential authorizations, etc. / I agree with Steve Waldon's campaign pitch: more emphasis on the AA defenses and Nike program. / More of the same – and try to raise more money for presentation. Start by putting a donation button on website, with option for monthly donations via credit cards. / Perhaps two conferences annually? / Increase focus on education outreach focused on restoration and preservation / Finding new ways to share the organization's expertise – Social media connections to site-owners / Do more serious fundraising and political lobbying to save more of these historic sites – many will be lost without action! / Perhaps CDSG could plan more regional "mini-conferences," that way CDSG members could meet more often and build relationships / Coast Defense Site owner database needed / Membership Growth – Get today's site owners to join / Require each member to recruit one new member each year / 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 / Formation of local CDSG chapters to assist in "care and feeding" of sites would be great / More advertising for new members and more efforts in preserving former coast defense sites. / (1) We need interested and capable members and (2) we need to have more outreach to other

organizations that are actively supporting our goals and interests. For example, the CDSG website should have a link to AGFA - it does not, but AGFA links to CDSG. We should have links to Ft Mac, Ft Miles, etc. We should focus on web pages where active preservation, restoration and interpretation are taking place.

The **third question** was "Where should the CDSG hold its future conferences and special tours – and would you organize one?" Sample responses are: 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. No sense going where we are not welcome. / 2022 conference to San Francisco – I would like to organize a conference. / How about a special tour or conference on the West Coast for a change – specifically the SF Bay area! / I would love to be more involved. Portsmouth HD was visited not too long ago. I would love to help next time! I am very interested in Bermuda and the Great Lake Fortifications so those would be great destinations. / Long Island Sound – Portland Maine – Sweden / During the pandemic, in-person events may be difficult – Virtual tours could help increase the group's profile and bring positive exposure to our defense sites. Following the pandemic, a virtual tour program could continue to make people aware of our coastal defense heritage. / Being a West Coast guy, I would like to see something focused on the Seattle area's Nike defenses explored. Several launch centers remain hidden in "plain view"! / If one was in my area I would volunteer to help. / Keep the current rotation going. Glad to help organize a future conference after NOLA. / Not sure – health and mobility issues prevent my attending. / I would be able to assist with Columbia River and Puget Sound tours. / Russian coast defenses (pre-WW1) if existent. / San Juan, Puerto Rico and Key West, Florida. / Washington State, Alaska, and Hawaii. / Key West, Lake Champlain, Quebec, St. Augustine – Jacksonville. / Bermuda, Canada East Coast, and Key West. / Any fort is a great fort – correct? / As a relatively new member, I have not yet experienced most of the regular locales in person. I am in favor of maintaining the roughly 20-year rhythm, or accelerating how often each locale is visited by having twice as many conferences and tours offered each year. / Would love to go on a special tour of Alaska coast defenses – Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Seward, Sitka, etc. I can help with San Francisco tour when that come around. / Hawaii would be a good special tour / Tours to Latin America / Hawaii would be good / Fort at Key West and Fort Jefferson / Conferences to Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands / Tour to Florida – Fort Clinch, St. John's Bluff, Saint Augustine, etc. plus Tampa / We should include a work party during every CDSG conference so we can put our back where our mouth is on the preservation of fort site/ What happened to the tour to the defenses of Australia and New Zealand? / Worried about the virus might stop CDSG conferences and tours for several years. / It is time to have conferences to Portland, Maine, and Long Island Sound.



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Status Report on Mid-Atlantic Forts during COVID-19

Mid-Atlantic CDSG Regional Representative
Terry McGovern

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has spread into everyone's daily lives. The same holds true for the historic forts of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Below is a summary of the current status of the major defense works and any new developments.

Delaware River & Bay

Fort Mifflin (PA) – <http://www.fortmifflin.us/>. The fort itself is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Several outdoor events are planned for August and the fall. Beth Beatty continues as the executive director since 2010. Given the impact of the virus the fort is seeking more donations and grants to continue its operations.

Fort Mott (NJ) – <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/fortmott.html>. The fort was open but is now closed (as of August 7) indefinitely due to staffing issues. Three caretakers will be on site to protect the fort. Let's hope this closure will not turn out to be permanent as the wonderful fort has been threaten in past with permanent closure. Andy Grant continues as our CDSG representative at Fort Mott.

Fort Delaware (DE) – <https://destateparks.com/History/FortDelaware>. The fort is operating under several limitations as listed below:

- Fort Delaware is currently open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only.
- To ensure guest safety and social distancing, a limited number of guests is allowed on the ferry and tram at one time, and visits are limited to two and one-half hours. Guests must leave Pea Patch Island at the designated time for their group.
- No ferry service to/from Fort Mott, NJ, until further notice.
- Masks are required on the ferry and tram, and in areas where social distancing is not possible.
- Please reserve online. Walk-up tickets are limited and may not be available without advance reservations.

DNREC reports several developments at the fort: There have not really been any major developments since the solar panels that were mounted on the blast apron for Battery Torbert. Those panels are still operational, and our power at the fort comes completely from that at this point. We did recently rebuild some of the staircases on top of Battery Torbert (essentially to get down onto Battery Allen or Alburdis), but due to the pandemic, we are not doing any tours through any parts of the Endicott-era section at the fort. We do occasionally take visitors for special tours up to an area that allows them to see the gun platform for Battery Torbert and to explore the fire control tower on Front 5. Brick repointing continues inside the fort to stabilize the structure. We are planning to widen the tram path giving access to Fort Delaware. The original torpedo storehouse located on Pea Patch Island has been condemned due to irreparable structural issues. It has not been decided if the building will be demolished, or simply allowed to become a ruin.

Fort DuPont (DE) – <https://fortdupont.org/>. The Fort Dupont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation now owns and manages the fort. They are charged with economic development of the former military reservation while restoring the historic fortifications and garrison structures. The master plan has divided the fort into several districts, each with different development plans. The current focus has been the area along the old Delaware Canal (where a marina, hotel, retail, and new homes are to be built). The former fort is currently open, but its structures are closed to the public. Focusing on the current status of the former coast defenses: Battery Gibson/Read (2-8in DC/2-12in BC) has been locked down to keep neighborhood kids from playing/partying on or in the battery. The interior of Batteries Rodney and Best (16-12in mortars) have been completely cleaned out by the Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation, along with the old switchboard room and the mine casemate. The buildings that made up Fort DuPont's mine complex are used for storage. The long-term goal is to get all the batteries at Fort DuPont restored, much like Fort Mott and Fort Worden.

Cape May Military Reservation (NJ) – <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/capemay.html>. Cape May State Park is open, and one can search for the remains of the WW2 emplacement and structures. Battery 223 remains on the beach while you can search for the 155 mm and 90 mm batteries' locations. The main site is Fire Control Tower No. 23, which opens daily from 11am to 2:30pm. For a small fee you can climb to the top of the tower. Masks are required.

Fort Saulsbury (DE) – <http://www.fortsaulsburyde.com/>. The fort continues to be privately owned and is not open to the public. There was a plan to purchase the former fort and turn it into a museum, but those plans fell through. There has been no preservation or interpretation at this site. It appears to be the same condition as CDSG visited during our conference in 2015.

Fort Miles (DE) – <https://destateparks.com/History/FortMiles>. Cape Henlopen State Park is open, and the Fort Miles Historical Area is conducting tours of Battery 519 from Tuesday to Saturday (three times per day) following the proper virus regulations. The Fort Miles Historical Association has acquired a 640-pound relic from the USS Arizona for display in the Battery 519 museum. This allows Gary Wray to claim that they now cover WW2 from the attack on Pearl Harbor to the signing the surrender of Japan on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay (the museum has one of the 16-inch barrels from the USS Missouri on display).

Potomac River & Baltimore Harbor

Fort Howard (MD) – <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/programdivision/community/edgemesparrowspoint/forthoward.html>. The original fort reservation is split between the Baltimore County Parks (61 acres), which contains the former coast defense batteries, and the Veterans Administration (94 acres), which contains the former garrison area. The county park remains open during daylight hours, while the former garrison area remains closed. Several failed efforts to convert this area to residential and mixed use have left the former VA hospital and garrison buildings headed for demolition by neglect. We have lost track of Ray Scott who was working to stabilize the batteries

as he is no longer a CDSG member. The batteries are locked up and the site is unmanned.

Fort Carroll (MD) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv69ltUegME>. Little has changed on this 3.4-acre artificial island and abandoned hexagonal sea fort in the middle of the Patapsco River. It continues to be privately owned and is not open to the public as it slowly becomes a ruin. Beside gaining permission to visit from Beverly Eisenberg, you need to deal with access problems and birds. The draw bridge between the wharf and sally port has collapsed so you have to try to directly approach the sally port with a small boat. Once inside you need to contend with a lot of birds and their guano (and related smell). Birds and vegetation have taken over the fort. See the link below for a good drone view of the fort.

Fort McHenry (MD) – <https://www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm>. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Park Service has closed the visitors center, restrooms, and the fort itself to the public, while the parking lot and grounds are open from 9am to 5pm. Otherwise, nothing is new at this NPS site.

Fort Armstead (MD) – <https://youtu.be/3Rbm7MgIV9Y>. This Endicott-Taft Period fort, located at Hawkins Point, defended Baltimore's harbor from 1901 to 1920. In 1926, the fort became a Baltimore City Park and in the 1970s the city added a fishing pier and large parking lot, but at some point, it appears that city "lost" this park, as it does not even have its own listing on the city's website. One online review of the park states "Littered with prostitution (male & female), drug use, and cats. Covered with graffiti and piles of garbage. One nasty place and ridiculous to even call it a park. Clearly neglected by the city. Ruined history". Unfortunately, Fort Armstead Park might win the award for the worst preserved and interpreted Endicott-Taft fort in the USA. See the YouTube video that gives you a good feeling on the park's condition today. The park is open every day, but be careful.

Fort Smallwood (MD) – <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/parks/fort-smallwood/>. This Endicott-Taft Period fort is located in northeastern Anne Arundel County near Riviera Beach and Pasadena, MD, on the outer Patapsco River as it meets the Chesapeake Bay. It was part of the defenses of Baltimore Harbor from 1896 to 1928, when it became a park. This fort had only two batteries and one has been destroyed. Now, an Anne Arundel County Park it is open daily during daylight. There have been no new developments.

Fort Washington (MD) – <https://www.nps.gov/fowa/index.htm>. The primary defense of Washington, DC, on the Potomac River, this former fort covers the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Systems, as well as the Endicott-Taft Period. It is located south of DC in Prince Georges County. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Park Service has closed the visitors center, restrooms, and the fort itself to the public, while the parking lot and grounds are open from 9am to 5pm. Otherwise, nothing is new at the NPS site. The local CDSG member may have a work party this winter depending on the virus.

Fort Hunt (VA) – <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forthunt.htm>. This Endicott-Taft Period fort, located across the Potomac River from Fort Washington, was active from 1899 to 1920. Later used for other military uses, it was transferred to the NPS in 1948. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the

National Park Service has closed the restrooms to the public, while the batteries, parking lot and grounds are open from 9am to 5pm. Otherwise, nothing is new at the NPS site. The local CDSG member may have a work party this winter depending on the virus.

Chesapeake Bay & Hampton Roads

Fort Monroe (VA) – <https://fortmonroe.org/visit/>. This 3rd system and Endicott-Taft fort is open to the public, but the Casemate Museum and new Fort Monroe Visitor Center are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The surviving coast defenses are the same as we visited in 2019 during the CDSG Annual Conference. The two interpretive signs that the CDSG Fund provided a grant for at Battery Parrott and Battery Irwin were installed in late 2019. Mr. Reed and Mr. Kelly are no longer working at the Casemate Museum and it understood the FMA is seeking candidates for those jobs.

Fort Wool (VA) – <https://hampton.gov/2052/Fort-Wool>. Much has changed at this 3rd system, Endicott-Taft, and WW2 fort since the CDSG Annual conference visited the island fort in April 2019. The City of Hampton did not renew their lease for the island with the State after operating the historic site for 35-years. The state then decided the island was unsafe for public access so public boat tours were discontinued. The nearby HRBT began their 5-year project to build a second crossing which displaced nesting seabird on South Island. The state decided that Fort Wool would be good place, along with several barges, to build a nesting habitat for these seabirds. The outcome for now is a new seasonal nesting habitat, while the public cannot visit the historic structures on Fort Wool nor will any stabilization of these structures take place resulting in a future historic fort in ruins. We are especially concerned about the WW2 Battery Commanders Tower (one of the only two left in the world) and the 3rd System gun casemates. Both have serious structural issues that need to be addressed before possible collapse. The CDSG is working to assist local advocates for Fort Wool through the Coalition for Historic Fort Wool (Dedicated to the Restoration of this Historic Site to the Public) to gain public support and funding to return Fort Wool to its status as a public historic site.

Fort Norfolk (VA) – <https://www.virginia.org/listings/HistoricSites/FortNorfolk/>. This is part of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, operations and is open to the public after passing through security. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the fort is closed to the public. The historic 2nd system fort has not changed since the CDSG Annual conference visited the fort in April 2019.

Fort Story (VA) – https://www.cniv.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/jeb_little_creek_fort_story.html. Part of the JEB Little Creek – Fort Story, a joint army-navy base run by the navy, is not open to the public, except to visit the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse via shuttle buses (10am to 4pm). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the lighthouse is closed and so is the shuttle. The surviving coast defenses are the same as we visited in 2019 during the CDSG Annual Conference. The CDSG has been able to convince the navy not to destroy Building 317 (Battery 226 – 2 x 6-inch on shielded BC) and Building 402 (one of Battery Walke's powder magazines). They will be in put in layaway

status for the next seven years, during such time they will be in a stabilized condition.

Fort John Custis and Fisherman Island (VA) – https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Eastern_Shore_of_Virginia/. Controlled by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, this former WW2 fort's surviving coast defenses are the same as we visited in 2019 during the CDSG Annual Conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USFWS has closed the visitor center and restrooms to the public, while the batteries and grounds are open from 9am to 5pm. Due to lack of staffing there has been no changes to the site, except vegetation is taking over the batteries.

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Fishers Island Update

Matthew Edwards
stormsurge@gmail.com

Fishers Island is the largest and easternmost of four islands that block the eastern entrance to Long Island Sound. Although part of New York State, ferry service to the island is from New London, Connecticut. From 1898 to 1958, the west end of the island was Fort H.G. Wright. Currently, ownership of the land and buildings is a mix of private and local government. Local residents have formed the Friends of Fort H.G. Wright to promote the preservation of the fort.

Notable recent events include:

- The Friends negotiating with the Fishers Island Ferry District to start a long-term project to clear brush and trash from the batteries.
- The Henry L. Ferguson Museum and the Ferry District are planning to create a public walkway along the northwest shore of the island connecting the ferry terminal area to Battery 215 at Race Point, the western tip of the island.
- Restoration of Building 100, once an Ordnance Storehouse, by its private owner for use as a creative public space by Fishers Islanders to complement and expand other cultural resources and Fishers Island organizations.
- Restoration of Building 209, once the Torpedo Storehouse (storage for fixed mines) through a joint partnership with the Fishers Island Ferry District (the building owner) and a local non-profit. The second floor has been leased to the non-profit, who is constructing six apartments for the exclusive use of year-round residents of Fishers Island. The first floor will continue its role as the freight office for the Ferry District, as well as leasable space to a commercial tenant. Progress on the Building 209 project can be found: <https://fishersisland.net/walsh-parks-apartment-project-ferry-freight-building-209/>
- The Henry L. Ferguson Museum on Fishers Island currently has a virtual exhibit, *The Coastal Forts of Eastern Long Island Sound*. The exhibit was prepared by Pierce Rafferty, the museum director and author of the 1998 pictorial history of Fort H.G. Wright, *Guardian of the Sound*.

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The Coastal Forts of Eastern Long Island Sound: The Ferguson Museum Fishers Island 2020 Annual Exhibition

Peter Williamson

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum on Fishers Island has opened its annual exhibition, which focuses on the history and current status of the five forts built to defend the Eastern Entrance to Long Island Sound. Due to Island concerns about Covid-19, it is a virtual exhibition on their web site, which can be found at:

<https://fergusonmuseum.org/2020/05/annual-exhibition-2020-the-coastal-forts-of-eastern-long-island-sound/>

Each fort is dealt with separately, including the often-overlooked Forts Mansfield and Tyler. The exhibits are aimed at the general public with emphasis on nature, but there are some good images showing the current conditions of a number of batteries. Each fort section contains a basic plan of the military reservation, plus a few vintage images of at least some batteries. CDSG members were obviously consulted, and are fully credited for images, especially from the 2003 St. Babs Conference.

The centerpiece of the Fort Tyler section is a series of images supplied by B.W. Smith, showing a group of picnickers touring the abandoned fort circa 1904. Its subsequent use as a bombing practice range is described via newspaper articles and government announcements. Fort Terry has images from the museum's vast postcard collection. The batteries are not covered in much detail, but there are some excellent images of the buildings currently in use. The main focus is the ongoing struggle to decide the future use of the island after the government closes the Animal Disease Center. Fort Michie is obviously focused on its current use as a bird sanctuary, with extensive coverage of Helen Hays and the tern nesting program. Several images show the 16-inch gun of Battery Davis in action, as well as the new dock built [with support from CDSG preservation funds] to replace the collapsed dock that CDSG members will recall from previous tours.

Fort H.G. Wright is similarly covered, with a heavy emphasis on the post-military development and re-use of the main reservation. The history is briefly covered, with special mention of the Dynamite Gun emplacement. The current status of the main gun line is evident from a series of images. Its history of social "pit parties" from 50 years ago will strike non-islanders and conservationists as decidedly unapproved. About the only thing not served during the party era would have been artillery punch. Finally, Fort Mansfield receives unusually good coverage, both for its military history as well as the effects of numerous storms on the very shape of Napatree Point. A series of survey maps makes clear the changes, and a skillfully done series of images overlaying the original fort onto the current topography is most revealing.

For CDSG members, probably the most interesting sections are the videos linked to most of the forts. Fort Tyler shows the current status in both a float-by as well as a landing. Fort H.G. Wright has color home movies from the 1938 NY National Guard exercises firing both antiaircraft as well as the big guns. By far the most interesting footage is from Fort Michie, again in color, taken in 1949 showing the fort in close to pristine condition. Fort Terry has no video for some reason. Fort Mansfield is limited

to animation of how Napatree Point has been reconfigured by storms over the years, but there are plenty of still images showing the two surviving batteries.

The exhibition was curated by Pierce Rafferty. It draws upon his personal collection of postcards, acquired in the course of research for his book *Guardian of the Sound*, which remains an excellent source for information and images related to the island forts of Long Island Sound. The museum and its sponsors have provided Pierce the opportunity to update his research and present it in a highly informative way to a new generation of island residents.

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North Florida Land Trust Has Acquired Land Near the Theodore Roosevelt Area and Spanish American War Fort

This land will eventually be sold to the National Park Service to add to the national park system.

Jacksonville, FL, June 13, 2020 - North Florida Land Trust has now acquired approximately three acres of land located near the Theodore Roosevelt Area and the 1898 Spanish-American War fort. The nonprofit land conservation organization purchased 2.7 acres of land at the request of the National Park Service from Cathy and Fred Whatley. Another 13,658 square feet of land in a nearby parcel was donated to NFLT by Dave Coderre. This is the second sale the Whatleys have made to NFLT. The first was 440 acres on Big Talbot Island in 2012. "The National Park Service was very interested in the land and asked if we could help them by purchasing the land from the Whatleys who wanted to sell now," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. "We will hold onto and protect the land until the National Park Service is ready to take possession. Eventually, we will sell it to add to the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve."

The smaller parcel of land donated by Coderre will later be used by the NPS for public parking to allow access to the 1898 Spanish American War Fort which NFLT gifted to the NPS in 2018. NFLT served as the acquisition and fundraising partner of the NPS and purchased the historic property in 2016 through donations from the City of Jacksonville, the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, and the community.

The 2.7 acres are directly adjacent to the Theodore Roosevelt Area and the NPS could use the property to create a new trailhead for the Willie Browne Trail. The trail is named after Browne, who acquired 600 acres from his father at the age of 16 with the condition that the land remains in its natural state. Browne lived in a cabin on the property, with no electricity or running water, until his death on Dec. 14, 1970. He donated the 600 acres to The Nature Conservancy in 1969, a year before his death, and his only request was it be named after President Theodore Roosevelt, who Browne admired for his conservation efforts. The National Park Service took over ownership and management in 1990.

Jim McCarthy added, "We are glad we were able to again work with the National Park Service to save and conserve land to add to the national park system. We look forward to continuing our relationship to preserve natural spaces for future generations."

North Florida Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to protect the natural resources, historic places, and working lands (farms and ranches) throughout north Florida. Founded in 1999, NFLT has preserved tens of thousands of acres of land through donation or purchase of land as well as conservation easements. NFLT is funded largely by private and corporate contributions and works closely with willing landowners and public agencies at all levels of government, not-for-profit partners, and foundations. For more information, visit nflt.org.

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Fort Mott State Park in Salem County closed until further notice

Visitors encouraged to go to nearby Parvin State Park, Tall Pines State Reserve

By Pat Ralph
PhillyVoice Staff

<https://www.phillyvoice.com/fort-mott-state-park-pennsville-salem-county-new-jersey-closed-further-notice/>

Starting on Monday (August 10), Fort Mott State Park in Pennsville, Salem County will be closed to the public until further notice. That includes all use, including passive recreation.

The decision was made "to provide support to other nearby parks that are experiencing increased visitation," according to the New Jersey State Park Service.

In the meantime, park-goers are encouraged to visit Parvin State Park in Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, where swimming and camping are both available, and Tall Pines State Reserve in Sewell, Gloucester County.

Located along the Delaware River, the 124-acre park was part of a three-fort coastal defense system designed for the Delaware River in the late 1800s after the Civil War in anticipation of the Spanish-American War. The fortifications can still be seen today by visitors to Fort Mott State Park.

Troops were regularly stationed at Fort Mott from 1897 until shortly after World War I in 1922. New Jersey acquired the fort as a historic site in 1947, and it opened the state park to the public in 1951.

The park also features historical and natural interpretive programs and tours, trails, fishing and picnicking areas, and a seasonal passenger ferry to Fort Delaware and Delaware City.

New Jersey state and county parks reopened to the public in May after being closed for a period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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CDSG Fund project: Corregidor's "Bottomside" 12-inch M1895 barrel

Terry McGovern

If you have attended one of the CDSG Special Tours to Corregidor over the past 30 years, you most likely visited several coast artillery related sites in the "Bottomside" area of the island as part of your tour. Located today behind the island's hostel and half-buried in the jungle is a 12-inch M1895 barrel which has resided in this location since WW2. This barrel is thought to be a spare for Battery Cheney (several miles away), on its way back from being relined stateside, but never made it back to the battery due to the outbreak of WW2. Keep in mind that the barrel is 38 feet long and weighs about 60 tons. Only CDSG members and a few other visitors know of this barrel's existence and it has never been on public display. Even the Corregidor Foundation's manager on site did not know of the barrel's existence and it is about 100 yards from his office!

My discussions with Corregidor Foundation, Inc. (CFI) about the preservation and interpretation of this barrel led to a challenging idea to put the barrel to use generating publicity about Corregidor and promoting additional tourism to Corregidor from the United States. The first step called for the CDSG Fund to request permission for the CFI to loan this 12-inch M1895 barrel to the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA), an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia government, so they can display the barrel at Battery Parrott, at Fort Monroe, Old Point Comfort, VA, in United States. This barrel is the same type mounted at Battery Parrott from 1928 until 1943, when its disappearing guns were removed. The second step was to ask the FMA if they were willing to display the barrel in front of Battery Parrott, the most prominent place in this famous joint National Park Service – Commonwealth of Virginia historic site. The proposed plan, beside displaying the gun tube at Battery Parrott, calls for interpretive displays tracing the history of the barrel from Corregidor. Other displays would detail the famous battle the Coast Artillery Corps (Fort Monroe was the headquarters and school for the Coast Artillery Corps) fought on the island during WW2, while promoting tourism to Corregidor and the CFI. The history displays would use several rooms in the currently empty emplacement.

The CFI Board has responded that they would be happy to lend the barrel to the FMA and the FMA's executive director responded they would be happy to display the barrel and provide the displays. The key factor in both the CFI and FMA approving our proposal is that they will not be funding the transport of the barrel from Corregidor to Fort Monroe, it will be up to the CDSG Fund to seek donations and grants to pay for the barrel's transportation. This project will require heavy equipment and a vessel to move the barrel from its current location to the North or South Corregidor Dock and then to a ship in Manila Bay to carry the barrel to Newport News on the East Coast of the United States. Working out the logistics of this move (including gaining Philippine export approval and American import approval) and raising the funds to transport the barrel will require a "very heavy lift" for the CDSG Fund.



12-inch M1895 barrel located behind the hostel in the "Bottomside" area of Corregidor (McGovern Collection - February 2020).

The CDSG Fund is seeking CDSG members to volunteer to work on this long-term project. We need help in working out the logistics of such a move, determining what governmental approvals we will need, and the estimated cost. We will also need volunteers to work on securing donations and grants to pay for the movement of the barrel. If you would like to get involved in this challenging project or have questions about this project, please contact Terry McGovern at 571-228-4193 or tcmgovern@att.net.



Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia - Battery Parrott is on the point to the far right.



Battery Parrott is in the background across the moat from the old Fort Monroe. The barrel will be displayed between the emplacement and main road so it will be visible to all visitors to the park.

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Update on Special Tour to Swedish Defenses in 2021

Seeking your Interest – Please let us Know
Terry McGovern

The CDSG and FSG have been working on organizing special tours to Sweden’s defenses in 2021 (subject to developments with the COVID-19 pandemic), but we need to learn if you are interested in attending one, or two, or all three of the proposed Swedish tours. Wait, you might say, how can there be three fortification tours to Sweden in the same year! This is due to each group’s different focus, mode of transport/lodging, and duration of tour. By having three options we hope to better serve every member’s needs.

These tours are being organized by Sweden’s leading tour organizer to their impressive defenses, Lars Hasson. He has designed a 9-day tour to the “best” of Sweden’s modern defenses for the CDSG which would take us across the breath of Sweden. He is also organizing an 8-day tour for the FSG that would overlap with the CDSG tour so our two groups would travel together for 4 days. You could attend just the FSG tour or just the CDSG tour or both tours for a total of 13 days. Lars is also organizing a 4-day “add-on” tour for those who really want to see all the major Swedish defenses. If you joined all three tours you would have 17-days of Swedish and Danish fortifications and artillery, and you would truly become an expert on these defenses.

The CDSG’s 9-day tour is planned to start and end at Stockholm’s Arlanda International Airport. You need to book and pay for your own flights. The round-trip fare from Washington, DC, recently was \$840 via Iceland. We would use shared rental cars, as the size of the tour group would be limited to around 15 members. Total in-country costs are estimated to be \$1,400, subject to the number of attendees. The planning dates are June 2 to 11, 2021, but we might move to the end of summer based on virus developments.

The first day we will visit Landsort Fortress, with both 15.2 cm turrets and more modern 12 cm turrets before travelling to the 7.5 cm coastal battery at Hemliga. The next day we will visit Vaxholm Fortress, which has a whole complex of defenses on several islands. We will visit the Fortress Museum and Oscar-

Fredriksborg Fort as well as the Vaxholm Line. On the third day we would drive and boat taxi to the remarkable Siaro Fortress, an underground island fort with two 15.2 cm guns, before we fly and boat taxi to Arholma to stay overnight within Battery Arholma (10.5 cm coast defense work). Day Four has us back to Stockholm and the 7.5 cm casemates of Gavic Furuviik. Day Five the tour continues on to the 15.2 cm turrets with a 7.5 cm battery at Hemso Fortress. We then fly to northern Sweden to the Boden Fortress with very impressive series of forts carved from bedrock (Rödberget Fort and Fortress Museum) on Day Six. Day Seven is then off to the Kalix Line and the 15.2 cm guns of Kamlunge Fort, before going to the twin 15.2 cm turrets of Siknas Fortress. On Day Eight we fly to Stockholm’s Arlanda airport for flights home.

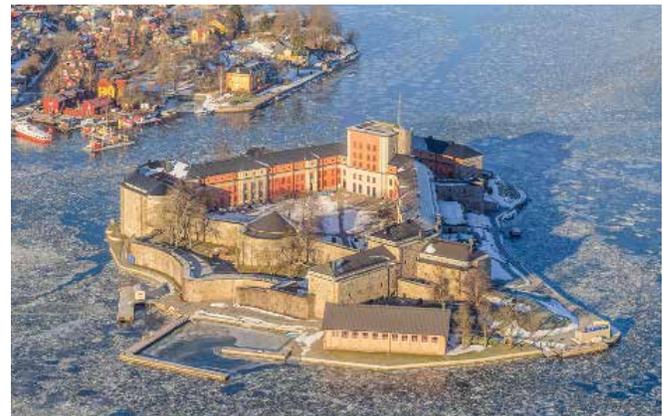
Please let Terry McGovern, 1700 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101, or tcmcgovern@att.net, know if you are interested in attending one, two, or all three tours. If we get enough interest from CDSG members, we will start collecting a deposit for the tour. Please let me know your questions.



10.5 cm coast defense Battery Arholma.



Rödberget Fort and Boden Fortress.



Vaxholm Fortress, home of the Swedish Coast Artillery Museum.

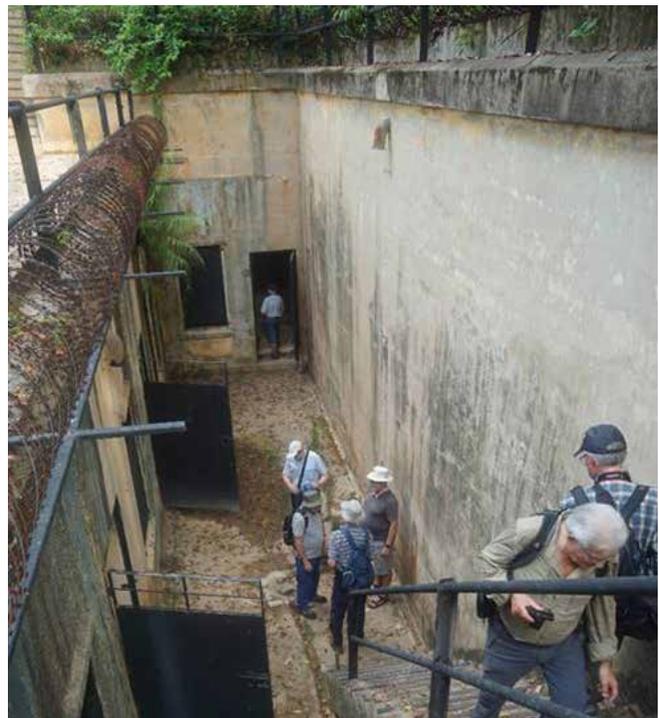
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CDSG Tour to Singapore's Coastal Defenses – February 9 to 12, 2020. Day Two

Terry McGovern

Continues from the last issue of the newsletter.

Day Two (Feb 11) began with breakfast and taking our minibus back to Sentosa Island. We meet Alvin, who directed us to Mount Imbiah on the western side of the island. As we climbed to the top of the hill, we were confronted by lion guarding the way, but being nimble we were soon past this obstacle to reach the remains of the 1890 redoubt. Built inside these infantry defenses is Imbiah Battery, which mounted a single 9.2 in Mk. X BL gun on a Mk. V mounting, which was put into service around 1912. When Fort Connaught received its higher angle 9.2 in guns in 1936, this battery was decommissioned and structures on Mount Imbiah were used for quarters and reserve magazine for the island. Our group quickly spread out to visit the emplacement, magazines, and fire control stations. This battery is open to the public and promoted as one of the hiking trails for those visiting Sentosa Island. We rejoined our minibus and headed off to the eastern end of the island – Mount Serapong.



Tour member explore the shell store and powder magazines at Imbiah Battery.



A dangerous lion guards the road to Mount Imbiah. We lost no tour members.



Position finding cells at Imbiah Battery, built inside the old infantry redoubt.



Imbiah Battery, emplacement of a single 9.2 in Mk. X BL Gun on a Mk. V Mounting.



Plan for Imbiah Battery showing the infantry redoubt and the position finding cells and posts.

Mount Serapong is the highest hill on Sentosa Island and it overlooks Keppel Harbour, so it played an important role in the harbor's military defenses. The hill has two peaks – Mount Serapong itself and Serapong Spur – each receiving coast defenses. Let's cover Mount Serapong first. An infantry redoubt was constructed in 1880 to deny this key location to any attacking force which could then control Singapore primary commercial harbor. The redoubt was converted into a coastal battery in 1887 by installing two 8 in BL guns. The battery was up-gunned in 1908, when the 8 in guns were removed and this replaced with new emplacements for two Mark X 9.2 in BL guns on Mark V 15° barbette mountings. In 1937, this battery was abandoned due to the more modern three-gun 9.2 in battery at Fort Connaught. The Fort Connaught Battery Observation Post was then built between the two empty emplacements, while a battery plotting room was constructed underground at the base of the hill (with a ladder rising to the battery's casemates). After WW2, the BOP became the Keppel Fire Command to the end of British Coast Artillery in 1956. Given this "layering" of defenses, we relied on Alvin and our Singapore colleagues for guidance on what to see and how to find it. We were able to discover various structures from each of Mount Serapong's five periods of defenses. Given the limited time we were forced to move on to the Serapong Spur site before we could visit all the structures at Mount Serapong (an opportunity to return again!). We preceded down the road about 200 yards to our next site – Serapong Spur.



Map of Blakang Mati Island (now Sentosa Island) and Mount Serapong and Serapong Spur.



9.2 in Emplacement No. 2 at Mount Serapong Battery with four members viewing the remains of the 8 in BL emplacement in the background.



9.2 in Emplacement No. 1 at Mount Serapong Battery.



Fort Connaught Battery Observation Post (later the Keppel Harbour Fire Command) at Mount Serapong.



The 1886 casemates at Mount Serapong. These casemates were modified several times to serve evolving roles over the fort's phases.



Inside the casemates are shell stores and powder magazines with connections to the emplacements via shell lifts and access ways.



Access shaft from the Fort Connaught Plotting Room to the casemates and then access to the battery observation post.

The Serapong Spur site was first used for an emplacement for a single 9.2 in Mark X BL gun on a Mark V 15° barbette mounting which came into service around the same time as the two 9.2 in guns at Mount Serapong. This battery was deactivated in 1937 when Fort Connaught's newer 9.2 in guns were completed. Soon after it was decided that more 6 in guns were needed to defend Keppel Harbour, so the 9.2 in BL Spur Battery emplacement was modified for a Mark VII 6 in BL gun as was its magazine. This new gun was to become the No. 1 Gun of the battery. The No. 2 6 in BL Gun Emplacement and its magazine would be built 50 yards northwest (uphill, so the upper gun was superposed over the lower gun) of the original Spur position. The 9.2 in battery command post for the Spur Battery 50 yards northwest of the new No. 2 gun would be enlarged to make it the 6 in battery observation post. An edict issued in 1937 stated that all eighteen 6 in BL guns and six 9.2 in BL guns in Singapore were to have all-round traverse. This is how the new Serapong Battery with its Mark VII 6 in BL guns and their Mark II 15° CPMs were built. Later, probably in 1941, overhead semi-circular concrete splinter protection was constructed at the Serapong Spur emplacements. On the January 18, 1942, the Serapong Battery was bombed and the No. 2 Gun and its concrete splinter cover were damaged. The gun itself was replaced from reserve stocks. On February 14, 1942, came the order to destroy the guns of Mount Serapong. The No. 2 gun was destroyed first, being spiked with a gelignite charge at 1200 hrs. Later, at 1700 hrs, its magazine was detonating completely, leaving a large crater and severely damaging the emplacement above and to the left of it, as well as five men injured in the blast. The No. 1 gun remained available for action until the morning of the 15th, when it in turn, was spiked. All equipment in the battery command post was also destroyed.

Given the lack of time, we only had time to explore Emplacement No. 1, so we will need to return to see the badly damaged Emplacement No. 2 and the battery observation post. We were able to visit Emplacement No. 2 where, the overhead protection from WW2 has collapsed, making access more difficult. The new emplacement for the 6 in gun was placed in the front part of the old 9.2 in gun location, so we needed to pass through this emplacement to reach the 6 in emplacement. The old 9.2 in work provided the underground shell store and magazine, as well as

shell lifts to the new 6 in battery. We were summoned to make our way down the hill to our awaiting minibus, which would take us to the other end of Sentosa Island to visit Fort Siloso. The defenses of Mount Serapong and Serapong Spur proved to have much to explore and really deserved a full day of our attention, but that would have to be for our next tour.



Serapong Spur 9.2 in emplacement with the collapsed 6 in gun overhead protection.



Serapong Spur 6 in Emplacement No. 1, built into the old 9.2 in emplacement.



The first step is a long one! This is the Serapong Spur 9.2 in shell store and magazines, which were converted for the use of the 6 in Emplacement No. 1 in 1937.

Our minibus drove us to lunch at a group of restaurants along the Siloso Beach Walk, with such fine dining options as McDonalds. After lunch, the minibus took us to Fort Siloso, which used to be known as Sarang Rimau (Tiger's Nest) at the western point of Blakang Mati (now Sentosa Island). This location would give Fort Siloso and another new fort, Pasir Panjang, on the opposite side of the harbor entrance, commanding positions covering the western entrance to New Harbour (now known as Keppel Harbour). Unfortunately, we were faced with our first heavy rain during the tour. We took shelter in the lobby of the Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa until the rain diminished and we could walk to the Fort Siloso Sky Walk. This impressive structure is a fort visitor's dream, as the Sky Walk raises you via elevators to the level of the top of Mount Siloso and then you can walk through the sky directly to the fort. No climbing hills here!!!

Construction of Fort Siloso began in 1879 to mount three 7 in RML guns and two 64-pounder RML guns. Later, a controlled submarine mine defense would be added with a mining post near the island's point, including an observation station, testing (control) room, and engine room. By 1889, the fort would see an upgrade of its armament with the addition of another 7 in RML near the single 7 in RML at the top of Mount Siloso, and a single 9.2 in Mark IV gun with underground magazines being installed next to the casemates, while the 64-pounders were retired. The advance of coast artillery armament caused another upgrade to Fort Siloso when the lower 7 in RML were retired and replaced with two 12-pounder QF guns. The two upper 7 in RML were replaced with two 6 in QF guns by 1900. By 1909, the 9.2 in gun was removed and the 6 in QF guns were to be moved to the location of the 9.2 in gun. At the same time, the battery command post at the top of Mount Siloso was expanded. In 1932, Fort Siloso's armament began another upgrade. The battery command post was enlarged into that is seen today on Mount Siloso. The 6 in QF guns were retired from service, as new Mark VII 6 in BL guns on Mark II CP mountings were emplaced where the 6 in QF guns had been.

The coming of WW2 saw the addition of a twin 6-pounder emplacement at Siloso Point as an AMTB, along with three searchlight emplacements on stilts on the beach at Siloso Point. When the emplacement was completed, no twin 6-pounders were available, so a single 12-pounder was used instead. Fort Siloso joined the battle for Singapore on February 11. Its guns engaged Japanese forces along the west coast, and fired on the oil tanks on Pulau Bukom to destroy them before the Japanese took them. The fort was bombed, shelled, and mortared, but its guns kept firing. Upon surrender, Fort Siloso guns were spiked and support equipment was disabled. The only gun the Japanese restored was the 12-pounder at Siloso Point. The British replaced the two 6 in guns and emplaced a twin 6-pounder at Siloso Point after the war. Fort Siloso's use as a coast artillery establishment ended in 1956. In 1975, the fort opened as tourist attraction, part of converting Sentosa Island into center for tourism.

Upon exiting from the Sky Way, we visited a restored 7 in RML position before moving to 6 in QF emplacements, where a replica 6 in barrel is being lifted, while the magazines have been restored with displays. The battery observation post has been restored to its WW2 appearance, including a sound show. Descending the

stairs, we reached the casemates, where each casemate has been turned into a collection of displays that tells the WW2 story of Fort Siloso and Singapore. Beyond a display of real BL barrels is the former 9.2 in emplacement that was converted to mount two 6 in guns. One emplacement has a replica gun with a static gun crew performing firing drill all day long. The remains of the 9.2 in emplacement can be seen between the two 6 in gun emplacement. At this point, the rain started again so we hustled down to the underground engine room and submarine mining station. Most of these rooms are vacant and for some reason the generating equipment on display last time I visited Fort Siloso has disappeared. Continuing down the staircase, we emerged at the AMTB emplacement at Siloso Point. This emplacement has a replica 12-pounder with a collection of dummy shells. Access to the director tower was limited to the lower floor as the ladders were blocked. Fending off the rain, we headed to the former site of the two lower 7 in RML and the former mono-rail station which today contains displays of the 1942 and 1945 surrender ceremonies. We made our way back to our minibus so we could visit our last site for the day. We appreciate that the Sentosa Development Corporation has preserved and interpreted Fort Siloso rather than turning it into a more profitable hotel and resort.



Fort Siloso Sky Walk makes climbing hills as easy as pushing a button!



Replica 7 in RML at Fort Siloso.



Fort Siloso's Battery Observation Post (upper level), while the lower level is for directing the fort's seacoast searchlights.



6 in QF emplacement with a replica 6 in barrel being lifted at Fort Siloso.



The BOP is ready to provide direction for the fort's 6 in guns during WW2. These guys have been on duty since 1942!



The shell room and magazines for the 6 in QF battery at Fort Siloso.



Fort Siloso's protected casemates with BOP above and a collection of BL coast artillery below.



Replica 12-pounder gun at the AMTB at Siloso Point. They have a lot of cased ammo in an exposed position but no shells!

As we boarded the minibus, we had an opportunity to thank Alvin Chia for all his interest and support for our tour to defenses of Sentosa Island. Again, without his help we could have explored only a fraction of the sites on the island. We now headed to Mount Faber Park, back on the main island and behind our hotel. Starting in 1937, two new fire commands would defend the sea approaches to Singapore - Changi and Faber. Changi Fire Command covered the eastern approaches to Singapore and the proposed naval base, and Faber Fire Command covered the southern and western approaches to Singapore. Faber Fire Command (7th Coast Artillery Regiment) controlled the Pasir Laba, Buona Vista, Labrador, Siloso, Connaught, Serapong, and Silingsing Batteries. Changi Fire Command (9th Coast Artillery Regiment) controlled Johore, Beting Kusah, Changi, Sphinx, Tekong, and Pengerang Batteries. We had already visited the



Director tower at Siloso Point. Used for both the AMTB and seacoast searchlights.



Map of Fort Siloso show the Sky Walk and various components of the fort.



Entrance to Faber Fire Command Plotting Room. New gate, new lock, and new sign to keep us away.



Our tour members frustrated by the failure to enter Faber Fire Command Plotting Room ponder what to do.

Changi Fire Command at Changi Hill, so we wanted to see what remained of the Faber Fire Command on top of Mount Faber, which at one time had the Faber Fire Command Post, the Faber Fortress Observation Post, the Faber Fortress Plotting Room, and the nearby BOP for Bunoa Vista Battery (2-15 in guns). We already knew that the Faber Fortress Plotting Room still existed and we had requested permission from the National

Parks Board to visit this underground complex, but they turned down our request due to safety concerns. Chris Lee directed our minibus to the entrance to the Fortress Plotting Room and all our tour members hurried to see if we could enter (we knew we could not). They were disappointed as a replacement gate had been installed just six months before. We looked around for the other fire control and command positions but without knowing exactly where to look and with all the park improvements located on the most likely spots, we were unable to locate any of these structures. After a long day the group was ready to return to the hotel and independently seek food and sleep.

This article will conclude with Day 3 in the next issue of the newsletter.

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Fort Ward Bakery Community Hall Update

<https://fortwardhall.org/>

FORT WARD, BAINBRIDGE ISLAND – Spring 2020 finds us in a changed world, delayed a bit by COVID-19 but on the cusp of completing this six-year restoration project and dedicating the Fort Ward Community Hall for public use. Yay! In case you've missed our posts on social media over the winter, here's some of what we did:

- All original doors and windows back in place
- Windows trimmed out to historically correct specs
- Vintage lighting installed throughout the building
- Custom baseboards with a vintage profile added
- Louvres covering exterior vents

We have two, maybe three little yarns left to spin in the saga of the Fort Ward bakery restoration – our 6 months of solitary confinement in the Station S basement, restoring those grand original front doors; the bakery's new iconographic sign yet to be unveiled, a moment some 16 years in the making; and (finally) some really, really, big news that will cap this whole thing off.



Willy from Parks restores the bakery's original front doors and fanlight window, lost from the building in the 1960s but rediscovered throughout the neighborhood and now back in place.



Window trim detail.



Window trim and skirt. We had 5/4 poplar specially milled by Edensaw in Port Townsend, and devised a hybrid design based on trim in the fort's historic masonry and frame buildings.



A completed window. A lot went into this -- reopening the window opening (which had been bricked over by the Navy in the 1940s, period-correct wood windows by Pella, trim by us.



Louvers to fill the vent openings on the back of the building (awaiting paint).



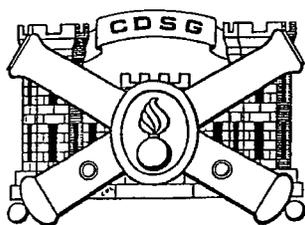
Our beautiful new hardwood floor, with all materials donated by Port Madison Wood Floors.



Vintage lighting before installation.



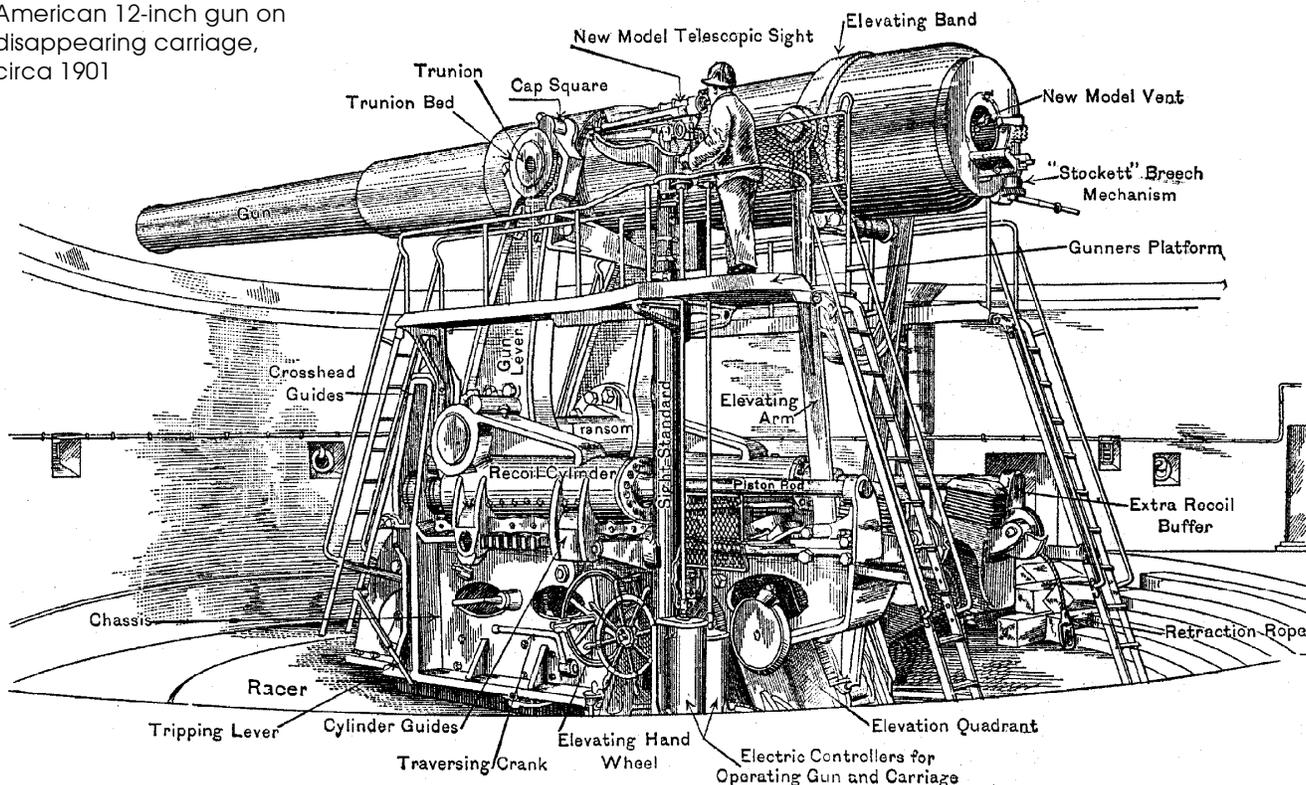
Fort Ward bakery restoration nearing completion. Almost there!



COAST DEFENSE STUDY GROUP

DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS

American 12-inch gun on disappearing carriage, circa 1901



CDSG Membership Benefits:

- The Quarterly *Coast Defense Journal*
- The Quarterly *CDSG Newsletter*
- Annual Conferences held at fortification sites around the United States
- Special tours to fortification sites around the world

The Coast Defense Study Group
 24624 W. 96th Street
 Lenexa, KS 66227-7285 USA
 membership@cdsg.org
CDSG.ORG

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CDSG Fund

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

Visit the CDSG.ORG website for more details.

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

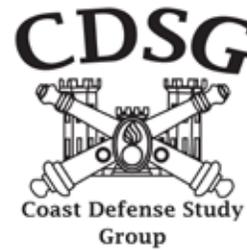
- * Educational study of coast defenses
- * Technical research and documentation of coast defenses
- * Preservation of coast defense sites, equipment, and records for current and future generations
- * Accurate coast defense site interpretations
- * Assistance to groups interested in preservation and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

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Send donations to (and made out to):
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 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.



* * * * *

CDSG Logo Hats, Shirts & Patches

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

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The Coast Defense Study Group cdsg.org

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

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

CDSG Publications
PO Box 6124, Peoria, IL 61601
berhowma@cdsg.org

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.

Annual dues for 2020 are \$45 domestic printed, \$55 for Canada printed, and \$90 for international printed. Join/renew online at cdsg.org.

Checks payable to: The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. (CDSG)
Send to: Quentin Schillare, Membership Chairman
24624 W. 96th Street, Lenexa, KS 66227-7285
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CSDG Press Books (\$ domestic / \$ international)

Notes on Seacoast Fortification Construction, by Col. Eben E. Winslow (GPO, 1920), hard cover reprint, with 29 plates included in a separate paperback. Both items: \$35 / \$45 (currently sold out, but please inquire)

Seacoast Artillery Weapons (Army Technical Manual 4-210, 13 Oct. 1944), paper back reprint. \$25 / \$35

The Service of Coast Artillery, by F. Hines and F.W. Ward (1910), hardcover reprint \$40 / \$60

Permanent Fortifications and Sea-Coast Defenses, Congressional Report No. 62, U.S. House of Rep. (1862), hardcover reprint \$30 / \$45

American Seacoast Matériel, Ordnance Dept. Doc. #2042, (1922), Hardcover reprint \$45 / \$65

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

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

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

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