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SECRET

HARBOR DEFENSES

of

KEY WEST

Inclosure No.11 to Tab B.

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1. HARBOR DEFENSES

1. The Harbor Defenses are to protect the harbor facilities, naval shore installations, and shipping in Key West Harbor from gunfire in minor naval attacks.

In a general discussion of ~~these~~<sup>this</sup> and other southern harbor defenses see discussion - Harbor Defenses at unimportant ports to be eliminated.

The Commanding General, Seventh Army, recommends this harbor defense be dropped and the defense of Key West undertaken by mobile armament in emergency. The Navy has not been consulted.

2. The major elements of the defense are shown in appendix<sup>1</sup> attached.

3. The tactical organization of the harbor defense is shown in Appendix 2 attached. The obsolete equipment is shaded in red; the incomplete armament in blue.

4. The last revision of the harbor defense project was in 1945.

II. ARMAMENT

1. The main armament of the harbor defense is shown in Appendix 3. The fields of fire of the various batteries are shown in Appendix 1.

2. Major Armament. There is no major armament.

3. Minor Armament. Battery construction No. 231 is a modern 2 gun 6-inch (LR) battery located near the shore line at Fort Taylor. The battery site is good except that the all around fire of the guns is masked on both sides by old battery emplacements which were to have been removed but have not been. The seaward field of fire of the battery is satisfactory to the south but is masked to the north by towers, water tanks and various obstructions for about 90° centered on true north. The battery is complete except for the tubes.

4. Battery Construction No. 232 is a modern 2 gun 6-inch (LR) battery located in the Salt Ponds eastward of Key West. The location was apparently selected to secure an all around field of fire; however, the site is too low, the battery is subject to flooding in storms and will be partially masked if construction is undertaken to seaward as is reported likely. It is not a good site and maintenance is difficult. The battery is complete.

5. There are two four gun (2 fixed and 2 mobile) 90mm. ANTB batteries, one on the old fort at Fort Taylor and one at an improvised emplacement at West Martello Tower. Both batteries are well located - however, the north-west channel is not well covered and an additional battery is really necessary at East Martello to complete the defense. The mobile guns are in local storage; the fixed position.

6. There is no antiaircraft defense in this harbor defense except the organic automatic weapons. The area antiaircraft defense in this area, a small isolated unit, should be a harbor defense responsibility and at least one AA battery should be added to the defense eventually.

III. MINE DEFENSE.

There is not mine defense.

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IV. FIRE CONTROL

1. Fire Control System- normal horizontal and vertical base with auxiliary equipment. The harbor defense has 2 outlying base end stations distributed at 2 locations and on 2 sites, located on steel towers. There are 2 Height Finders and 5 DPFs within the harbor defenses. Observation instruments stored locally. Protected HECF and HDCP are located at Fort Taylor.

2. Radars- 1 SCR 682 installed at HDCP and installed at Fort Taylor ready for operation except trained personnel. Exercised as required by regulations. 2 SCR 296 sets reported as excess. Towers are in position.

3. Communication - Switchboards etc.- NORMAL. Modernized throughout since 1941. Fire control telephones stored locally in emplacements.

4. Radios- normal allowance - stored locally at Fort Taylor.

5. Harbor Defense Searchlights. There are 12 60" M1942 portable searchlights with spread beam attachment and power plants and 4 trailers M1 - all stored locally except two light in position for emergency use. There are 3 demountable steel towers and 3 fixed seacoast searchlights, towers.

V. RESERVATIONS1. Key West Barracksa. Description

Key West Barracks initially acquired in 1833 comprises a reservation of 26.52 acres of government-owned land. It is the site of the headquarters of the Harbor Defenses of Key West, Florida, and other installations.

b. Housing

The post has barracks, with capacities of:

In permanent barracks	159 enlisted men
In T/O type barracks	46 enlisted men

There are 7 permanent sets of married officers quarters, and 7 other officers can be accommodated on the post in permanent buildings. There are 11 permanent sets of married N.C.O. quarters. The bulk of the permanent buildings are about 100 years old and in poor condition.

c. Shop and Storage Facilities

There are 6 permanent and 3 temporary warehouses and 6 permanent and 1 temporary shop buildings. Storage facilities are adequate for storage of those items which should be stored locally.

d. Other Activities on the Post which Effect the General Problem

The Navy has a permit to occupy 2.13 acres of the post, including the buildings thereon. This acreage is not included in that given in above.

e. Conclusions

In the event the recommendations of the Board are accepted and the Project for the Harbor Defenses of Key West is modified to provide for protection by mobile artillery, this post will be of no future importance to the harbor defense of the United States and would be surplus to harbor

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defense needs. If this recommendation is not accepted and the Harbor Defenses of Key West remain unchanged, this post would then be essential to the harbor defense and should be retained. If the Harbor Defense remains, all activities (other than emplaced artillery), now at Fort Taylor should be transferred to Key West Barracks. Land and buildings at Key West Barracks temporarily under Navy control, but no longer needed by them should be secured if this consolidation of posts is effected.

## 2. Fort Taylor (subpost of Key West Barracks)

### a. Description

Fort Taylor, initially acquired in 1845, comprises a reservation of 68.04 acres of government-owned land. It is the site of Battery No. 231 (not completed), and AMTB Battery, the HECF, the HDCP, and other installations.

### b. Housing

Fort Taylor has T/O housing with an enlisted capacity of 670. There are 5 permanent sets of married officers quarters. In addition, 5 officers can be accommodated on the post in T/O bachelor officer quarters. There are 9 permanent sets of married N.C.O quarters.

### c. Shop and Storage Facilities

There are 3 permanent and 5 temporary warehouses and 2 permanent and 1 temporary shop buildings. There are 2 old unarmed emplacements which are utilized for storage. Storage facilities are adequate for storage of those items which should be stored locally.

### d. Other Activities on the Post which Effect the General Problem

- (1) The Navy leases of parts of the Reservation.
- (2) Rifle Range.
- (3) Coast Guard signal station.

### e. Conclusions

The reservation is considered to be of future importance to the harbor defense of the United States and should be retained, for future use as a site for mobile artillery. All buildings now on the post should be removed and all men and supplies at the post should be transferred to Key West Barracks if the Harbor Defense remains.

## 3. West Martello (Sub Post of Key West Barracks)

### a. Description

West Martello was initially acquired in 1897 and comprises a reservation of 18 acres of government-owned land. It is the site of an AMTB Battery and other installations.

### b. Housing

West Martello has barracks with capacities as follows:

In T/O type barracks	112
In hutments	12

### c. Shop and Storage Facilities

(1) There are no permanent warehouses or shop buildings. No storage facilities are needed.

### d. Other Activities on the Post which Effect the General Problem

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(1) Part of reservation (5.23 acres) is used for a CAA Communication Center - by permit.

(2) Interior Department Experimental Station.

e. Conclusions

This reservation is considered to be of future importance to the harbor defense of the United States and should be retained for future use as a site for mobile artillery. All building should be removed.

4. Salt Pond (Subpost of Key West Barracks)

a. Description

Salt Pond Area, initially acquired in 1942, comprises a reservation of 85.8 acres of government-owned land. It is the site of Battery 232 and other installations..

b. Housing (including hospitals)

Salt Pond Area has modified T/O barracks (camouflaged as beach houses) with an enlisted capacity of 117. Two officers can be accommodated in T/O quarters.

c. Shop and Storage Facilities

(1) There are no shop buildings and none are needed.

d. Other Activities on the Post which Effect the General Problem

Land to the front of Battery 232 previously of little value, has recently been purchased commercially as a suitable site for hotel and homes. Unless this land and lands also to the north is acquired by the government, the field of fire will be masked and the effectiveness of the battery for training will be negligible.

e. Conclusions

This post is not considered to be of future importance to the harbor defense of the United States and should be disposed of after the armament is removed. (If the harbor defense remains, the guns emplaced here should be transferred to the untubed emplacement at Fort Taylor.)

5. Other Sites

There are, in addition, 3 small fire control stations, battery, search light or radar sites of small acreage located on the flanks of the harbor defense.

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These are covered in detail below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Acreage</u>		<u>Action</u>
		<u>Owned</u>	<u>Leased</u>	
East Martello*	S. L. Station	17.10		Retain as AMTB site
Stock Island	F. C. Station	1.03		Action pending
Fleming Key	F. C. Station		Navy Permit	Action pending
Miami Beach	Panama Gun Mounts	.01		Action pending

\*All government property except 2 towers is under permit to Navy. After final determination is made of surplus Fire Control and Searchlight installations, all of the above sites marked "Action Pending" should be disposed of except in those cases where the determination indicates that retention is essential.

VI. SUPPLY1. General Supply System

Except for the Ordnance Warehouse which is located at Fort Taylor, Key West Barracks is the supply center for the harbor defense. Supplies from ZI depots are normally sent to Miami by rail and shipped from there by commercial trucking to Key West a distance of 163 miles. During the war a limited amount of supplies also came in by boat. Perishable subsistence supplies are secured from the Navy station at Key West. All subposts and outposts are supplied by government motor vehicles from the supply center.

2. Storage Facilities for Armament and Equipmenta. Proximity to Central Storage

The Harbor Defenses of Key West, Florida are remote from General and Branch Depots. Any supplies which should be sent to those depots for central storage, would have to be trucked a distance of 163 miles before they could be shipped by rail.

b. Adequacy of Local Storage

Storage facilities, in general, are extremely old and in poor condition. However, they are adequate for present needs.

3. Rail Facilities

Rail lines lead into Miami (the railhead), 163 miles distant.

4. Water Transport

Outposts are not supplied by water transport.

5. Motor Transport

There appears to be no excess of administrative or tactical vehicles, the number assigned also appears to be adequate for normal requirements.

6. Special Problems

a. Termites present a problem in maintaining buildings including warehouses.

b. Local pilferage possibilities necessitate careful guarding of property.

c. Hurricanes and unusual tropical climatic conditions cause difficult maintenance problems.

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d. Local material and supply costs are excessive.

e. Water is piped to Key West from a distance of 135 miles, and is purchased from the Navy.

VII. TRAINING

1. The harbor defense is suitable for training. National Guard and ORC training is contemplated employing the 6-inch and 90mm. ANTB armament.

2. There is no regular army training contemplated under present instructions.

VIII. PERSONNEL

1. The personnel situation is as follows:

Coast Artillery	Off.	WO.	EM.	Civ.	Total
First Army minimum estimate	6	2	41		49
Allotted	5	1	32		38
1459th Area Service Unit					
Allotted	10	1	47	70	128

2. The Coast Artillery Personnel, if carefully used, is sufficient for the caretaking of the armament.

IX. MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

1. No caretakers. Special work and maintenance are handled from Key West Barracks.

2. Special maintenance problems or special methods. There are 2 outlying base end stations distributed at 2 location and on 2 sites, with communication lines and buildings distributed over approximately 7 miles.

3. Boats - There are 3 boats in the harbor defense.

## KEY WEST

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Harbor Defenses of Key West be eliminated as no longer required, the defense mission to be undertaken by mobile armament, installed equipment and surplus buildings be removed but the land as indicated below be retained for the National Defense.

2. Reservations. That action as indicated below be taken with reference to the posts named.

Key West Barracks - Dispose of post including all buildings and land.

Fort Taylor - Dispose of all buildings emplaced artillery and installed equipment but retain land.

West Martello - Dispose of all building but retain land.

Salt Pond - Dispose of post including all buildings, emplaced artillery and land.

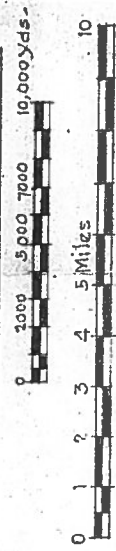
East Martello - Retain land.



**SYMBOLS**

- GUNS ~
- 6" GUNS ~
- 30 MM ~
- MILITARY POSTS & RESERVATIONS
- CITIES & TOWNS
- SHORE LINES

**GRAPHIC SCALES**

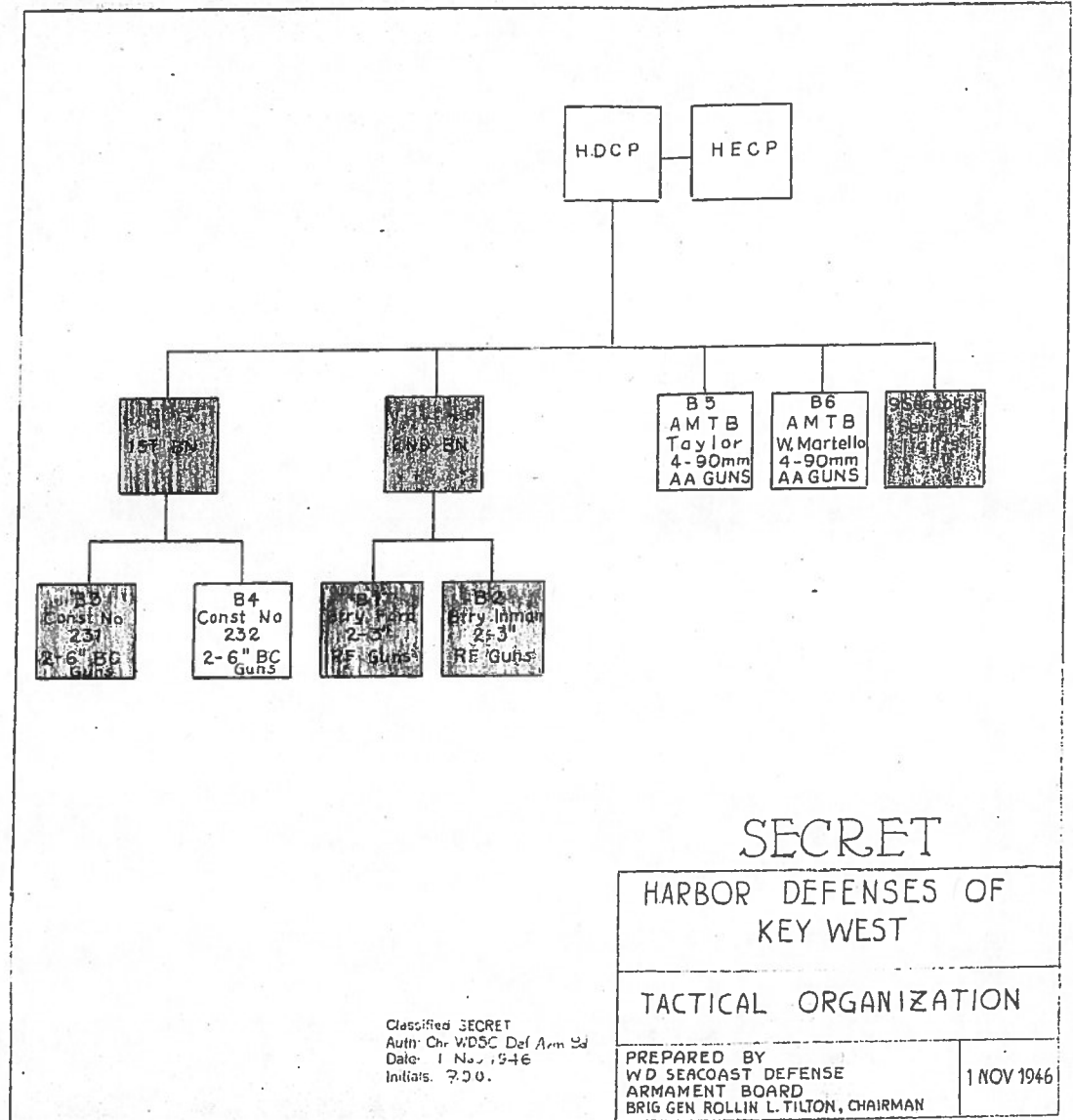


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WAR DEPARTMENT	DATE DRAWN BY
SEA COAST DEFENSE ADJUTANT BOARD	10-17 OFFICE, CHIEF OF
HEADQUARTERS HARBOR DEFENSES	ENGINEER
OF KEY WEST, FLA.	46 TAYLOR
FIELDS OF FIRE	







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HARBOR DEFENSES OF KEY WEST

PRINCIPLE ARMAMENT

PORT	TACTICAL NUMBER	NAME OF BATTERY	NUMBER OF GUNS	GUNS	CARTRIDGE	MAXIMUM RANGE	FIELD OF FIRE	POWER PLANT	AIR CONDITIONED	FLYER CONTROL	RADAR
Taylor	3	Construction No 231	2	6" *	M4		0° (S)	3 Diesel(125KVA)	Plotting Room	HB	No
Salt Ponds	4	Construction No 232	2	6" M1	M3	27,100	0° (S)	3 Diesel(125KVA)	Plotting Room	HB	No
Taylor	5	AMTB	4	90mm	2 M3 2 M1A1	19,000 **	245°	2 M7	No	M9 Director M1 E. F.	No
Martello	5	AMTB	4	90mm	2 M3 2 M1A1	19,000 **	150°	2 M7	No	M9 Director M1 E. F.	No

\* Tubes not available

\*\* Effective range 7,500 yards due to limitations of director

AUXILIARY ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT

Depression Position Range Finder.....	5
Height Finders.....	2
40mm Guns.....	4
50 caliber Machine Guns.....	19
30 caliber Machine Guns.....	6
60 inch Searchlights.....	12