

The CDSG Newsletter

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The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. – Winter 2021

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Membership Minute

Quentin Schillare

As we move into the second month of 2021 the membership of the Coast Defense Study Group has grown a bit. We now have 403 individual members and 19 organizational members for a total of 422. This total includes 18 new members, including two who have rejoined after a short break. It is unknown what impact the coronavirus has had on membership. Membership depends on several variables. Some members join and renew to have access to our quarterly publications, others sign up to be eligible for a conference or special tour, and still others with an interest in the history of seacoast fortifications find us on the Internet or from a friend. Regardless, membership supports all CDSG activities. Things are quiet now, but they will pick up in October with the Charleston/Savannah conference followed six months later in late March 2022 with our visit to New Orleans.

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2021 Nominations Committee for the CDSG Board

Terry McGovern – Corporate Secretary

The CDSG Nominations Committee, Danny Malone, Tom Batha, and Alex Hall, are seeking board candidates for the full Board to consider by May 1, 2021. The ballot will be included in the May 2021 Newsletter with results due by July 31. Results will be announced in August 2021 Newsletter. The three-year term will begin October 1, 2021, at which time Richard Wong will be stepping down from the board. If you are interested in running or have a nomination, please contact Danny Malone (roland1369@aol.com) Tom Batha (tdbatha@gmail.com) or Alex (greenguy352@yahoo.com) before May 1, 2021.

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Preservation Committee Report

Gordon Bliss

Year in Review 2020

The year of the pandemic has had a major impact as most sites were closed and activities were stopped. Though initial restrictions have been eased in most places, activities are still much more limited than usual. Despite this, some activities and events have still gone on, both positive and negative

On the positive side, a provision made it through Congress as part of the pandemic relief act that removed the requirement to sell Plum Island (Fort Terry) to the highest bidder. This means that after the Animal Disease Center leaves, the island will go through the normal excess property process, under which it is likely to end up as some form of nature preserve. Though this does not actively

CDSG Meeting and Tour Calendar

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

2021 CDSG Special Tour

August 21 - 29 and August 25 - September 3, 2021
Sweden

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

2021 CDSG Conference

October 12 - 17, 2021

Charleston/Savannah

Gary Alexander, oozlefinch@att.net

2022 CDSG Conference

March 30 - April 3, 2022

New Orleans

Quentin Schillare, qschillare@kc.rr.com

2023 CDSG Special Tour

September

Northern Poland

Terry McGovern, tcmcgovern@att.net

Other Meetings and Tours

April, 22 - 24, 2021

Kehl/Strasbourg

Interfest Annual Meeting

Oliver Zauzig, president@interfest.de

May 10 - 15, 2021

Frenn vun der Festungsgeschicht Letzeburg Study Tour

Charentes-Maritime, France

Patrick Schaul, comite@ffgl.lu

May 27 -28, 2021

Luxemburg

International Fortress Council Annual Meeting

Kees Neisingh, secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

May 29- June 6, 2021

Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungsforschung Study Tour

Paris & Lille, France

Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de

June 7 - 11, 2021

Rochefort, France

Association Vauban Annual Congress

Charles Rofort, c.rofort@orange.fr

<p>September 11- 19, 2021 ECCOFORT Study Tour Kotor/Montenegro Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de</p>	<p>April 10 - 23, 2022 ECCOFORT Study Tour Morroco Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de</p>
<p>September 16 - 20, 2021 Assn Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaries Tour Wallon - Liege, Belgium Pascal Bruchez, president@asmem.ch</p>	<p>May 29-30, 2022 Assn Saint-Maurice d' Etudes Militaries Tour Ticino & Lake Como Pascal Bruchez, president@asmem.ch</p>
<p>September 23 -27, 2021 Piemont - Val D'Aoste, Italy Association Vauban Annual Congress Charles Rofort, c.rofort@orange.fr</p>	<p>June 2022 ECCOFORT Study Tour Armenia Hans-Rudolf Neumann, hrv.neumannqt@online.de</p>
<p>September 24 - 26, 2021 Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungforschung Annual Meeting Wesel, Germany Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de</p>	<p>September 2023 Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Festungforschung Annual Meeting Kufstein, Austria Andres Kupka, akupka@juelich.de</p>
<p>November 2021 Charleston Council on America's Military Past Annual Conference Bridget Hart, brigethshea@hotmail.com</p>	

help preserve the fort structures, it does likely keep them from being actively damaged and opens the possibility of stabilization work down the road.

On the negative side, turning of Fort Wool in Hampton Roads into a migratory bird nesting area has the potential to seriously damage the fort. This was done because of the construction work on the expansion of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel disrupting the existing nesting area. Large amounts of sand were placed on the ground around and in the fort to facilitate the bird nesting. Now, there is also discussion of putting sand on top of the battery structures to provide additional nesting area and of bringing down the WWII battery commander tower. A group has been formed to raise concerns about some of this activity and has requested the relevant agencies respond to these concerns and follow appropriate historical preservation regulations.

Although Fort Adams was closed for a while at the beginning of the pandemic, once it reopened volunteers have continued clearing vegetation and general cleanup. A particular emphasis this past year has been on the Endicott mortar battery which has now had all of the trees and excess vegetation removed. Those of you who are on the groups.io email list will have seen Chris Zeeman's pictures of the progress. Also in my general area, the Massachusetts DCR has finished rehabilitation and installation of a new HVAC system at the FC tower and attached barracks at Halibut Point (HD of Boston and Portsmouth).

Annual Preservation Soapbox

Given the closure and possible lack of maintenance and oversight for at least part of this past year, when it is safe to visit local sites it would be helpful to let me or the Representative Committee know of changes at local coast defense sites. The Preservation and Representative Committees can get more involved in helping to

protect a site, but only if we know about it. Weather and other natural causes may have had an effect on a site without people being aware of it.

Another area that can help is information sharing for preservation. I mentioned some specifics about this in the review column from last year. This year, a lot of us have gotten used to virtual meetings and in general using online methods as a substitute for in-person activities. We should try to leverage this increased familiarity to include presentation sessions and discussion groups. I do not have specifics to offer right now, but would welcome concrete suggestions on how we might set some of these up.

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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Valor Tours' Bob Reynolds Passes Away at 99

Vicky Reynolds Middagh

Born in the jungles of Burma after WWI, Bob Reynolds grew up in London. He flew Lancasters for the RAF during WWII and participated in the night bombing raids over Berlin and later the Berlin Airlift. He migrated to the U.S. in 1947 and married Nancy MacBurney in Chicago, where they began their life together. He joined the sales and marketing department of BOAC (now British Airways). In 1968 he accepted a position with the Pacific Area Travel Association which took him all over the Pacific rim. During that time, he told the Department of Tourism for the Philippines that Corregidor would be their No. 1 tourist attraction and to keep it open. They did. He later went to work

for the Hong Kong Tourism Association and was known as “Mr. Hong Kong.” Finally, in 1975 he fulfilled a dream of starting a tour company to take veterans and their families back to the battle sites of WWI and WWII, incorporated as Valor Tours in 1977. Valor Tours continues today in Sausalito with his daughter Vicky at the helm. Bob was also involved with fundraising, placement, and dedication of memorials and monuments all over the Pacific, including the American Memorial at Guadalcanal. On January 7, 2021, Bob passed away, from complications of COVID19. Bob is survived by his daughter Vicky Reynolds-Middagh, his son Roger Reynolds, and grandsons Michael and Chris, all living in Marin County, California. On ValorTours website is a special Tributes page to Bob, where we will post your email comments, sent to Valortours@yahoo.com. Thank you.

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**US Army Combat Studies Institute (CSI)
publication - US Army Order of Battle
1919 - 1941 - Vol 2 by LTC S Clay**

Ian Wolfe

The CSI has made this publication available via download from the Army University Press website (<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Books/>). Enter the title into the search box at top right of the website window. The document contains the following chapters with a large amount of useful information on the CA between the wars:

- Part V. Coast Artillery Organizations
- Chapter 24. Coast Artillery Major Commands
- Chapter 25. Coast Artillery Brigades
- Chapter 26. Coast Artillery Regiments and Battalions
- Chapter 27. Army Mine Planters

All four volumes of this title in PDF form are also in the CDSG ePress documents collection.

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New Book on the Spice Islands Forts

Simon Pratt

Spice Islands Forts is a 300-page, fully-researched historical account of the contest for mastery of the Spice Islands, illustrated with over 200 color maps, images, and photos.

For thousands of years, the Spice Islands of today's Indonesia were the world's only source of two rare spices – nutmeg and cloves. The demand for them was insatiable, but they grew only in remote tropical island groups at the far edge of the world. The search for the origin of these spices kicked off the Age of Discovery, which began in the 15th century and went on to map our world. By 1650, the islands held one of the densest concentrations of colonial forts anywhere in the world.

The Spice Islanders themselves were no strangers to warfare, but when the first European fort was built in 1522, it presaged a century of conflict and carnage as the Portuguese, Spanish,

Dutch, and English fought each other and the local sultans for control. Fortifications were widely built to maintain that control, and it is their story this book tells, across a span of 500 years. The few dozen forts that still stand have survived centuries of battles, earthquakes, monsoons, and neglect, while others are lost to history; buried in jungle or under the towns they once commanded. These crumbling, largely forgotten strongholds set amidst towering volcanos and emerald seas have a story to tell as witnesses to a fascinating period of history.

Spice Islands Forts tells the story of these forgotten colonial outposts for the first time, and includes stunning drone photography, a catalogue of this magnificent historical architecture, and useful tips for adventurous travelers.

MoshPit Publishing, PO Box 147, Hazelbrook, NSW 2779, Australia. Themoshshop.com.au, 2020, ISBN 9781922440945. \$49.95US from Amazon.com.

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**Army Ground Forces Association
Update**

Shawn Welch

The Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) is a non-profit historic preservation and interpretation group based at Battery Gunnison in the Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, New Jersey. AGFA's website has changed quite significantly. For the first time we have posted the “restoration reports” that we provide the NPS when we finish projects (or have projects in progress after approval to proceed). Most of these “reports” began as “proposals” and then become the “as built” for the NPS to include any required approval documents. So far there are seven of them posted. Two of the reports are “work in progress,” so they will be updated when completed. The page with the links to the PDF is <http://armygroundforces.org/restoration.html>

To help people learn more about the Coast Artillery, we built a references page. Many of the manuals and documents on this page are of originals we own and have scanned. Some are not available anywhere else <http://armygroundforces.org/Historic-CAManuals.html>.

We have a page with a few historic videos and images at <http://armygroundforces.org/FtHancock-HistoricImages.html> We also have a page with information about Fort Hancock and Battery Gunnison/New Battery Peck with both modern and historic maps in PDF format <http://armygroundforces.org/location.html>

The main AGFA page is www.armygroundforces.org

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Fort Stevens Oregon Update

David Lindstrom

Due to Covid pandemic and the Governor, the museum/FOOFS gift shop was shut down in March, and they still are. Consequently, the truck and Battery Mishler tours are also shut down. So, that leaves the Friends of Old Fort Stevens (FOOFS) with just wood and ice sales to keep them going. As FOOFS cut funding for most of its projects, they are able to hang on. Whenever possible, over the summer Laura, the FOOFS store manager,

did an “open-air” pop-up store on the museum’s deck. She did pretty good. The state park set up a disc golf course throughout the historic site, called Columbia Shores, and it’s bringing in a lot of first-time visitors and more local folks. Needless to say, Laura sold a lot of discs with our logo on them! In lieu of the normal indoor museum displays, I developed a set of outdoor displays printed on PVC material. They worked out great, and visitors seemed to gravitate to them. We kept them up as long as we could, knowing that winter storms would weaken their temporary supports.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is hurting from Covid shutdowns. While basic park staff are still employed, a lot of seasonal workers were not brought back, putting more pressure on the full-time rangers. It seems that most of the support personal in the Department’s Salem office were let go as well. OPRD does not receive funding from Oregon’s general fund, but from recreational vehicle fees, camping fees, and the Oregon Lottery. The lottery is the largest contributor, but with bars and restaurants shut, revenue is way down and OPRD is hurting.

Last winter FOOFS and park staff agreed to plan for new museum displays. FOOFS funded a consultant, and we had one meeting before Covid shut everything down. So, the idea is still out there, but on the shelf for now. Renovation became necessary because the model railroad display had to be taken down, leaving a large vacant space. The model RR club that built and maintained it folded, and they informed us that the wiring was failing and a fire hazard. I developed some temporary displays to fill the space until something more permanent can be funded. The display fixtures I used are patterned after what I observed at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, where the battleship USS *Olympia* is located. It is hard to know the future of the renovation, as FOOFS funding is dependent on our ability to use all of our revenue streams and win some grants.

This spring park management told FOOFS that the museum’s furnace had failed, and that they had no funding to replace it. Future museum renovations and gift shop operations are dependent on functioning heat! So, the only FOOFS project for 2020-21 will be to fund a new furnace. The work was completed at the end of December.

In the meantime, just in case Covid continues to prevent us from meeting, we are setting up a Zoom account. Regarding meeting size restrictions, closings, and reopening’s, Oregon is continually going back and forth on park management and function.

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Congressional Leaders Save Plum Island from Auction Block

Nature Conservancy Commends Extraordinary Bipartisan Effort

Newsroom, The Nature Conservancy
December 21, 2020 | Washington, DC

May Yeung

Phone: 347-387-4250

Email: may.yeung@tnc.org

https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/ny-plum-island-saved-from-auction-block/?src=s_two.ch_ny.x.x.&sf134626426=1&fbclid=IwAR353gYl_QjatGftuT5h-tqQ7dt_YqCYsZ5o8oFlkfz5tJ0tnzFPa0u6UK4A

The Nature Conservancy and partners are heralding a landmark win for the United States’ people, lands, waters, and wildlife. The Omnibus Budget bill Congress finalized today will save Plum Island from the auction block. A jewel of the Atlantic, the island and its nationally significant natural and historic resources were jeopardized in 2008 when the normal federal process to repurpose the island was skirted, and the island was slated for private sale.

Thanks to an extraordinary, 12-year bipartisan effort among members of Congress, federal agencies, state and local governments, conservation organizations, cultural groups, and historic preservation groups, this national treasure can now be preserved and potentially opened to the public. The signing of the budget bill will prevent the public sale of Plum Island to private interests and developers, which would have caused irreversible harm to rare habitats, interfered with archeological study of the island’s use by Native Americans, and threatened the historic remains of Fort Terry.

Now, the many organizations that have fought for Plum Island’s preservation can help bring about a vibrant future for the island. Located off Long Island’s North Fork, Plum Island is historically Algonquin territory that became home to a 19th century lighthouse and Army post commissioned in 1897. Since the 1950s, it’s been the site of a federal laboratory, conducting advanced research on contagious animal diseases, which has helped to protect the nation’s agriculture. The Plum Island Animal Disease Center is slated to move to Kansas in 2023, which is why the island’s future has been uncertain.

The island’s beach and coastal areas have enjoyed unusual protection from human and vehicular traffic in the last 70 years and, in the process, have become oases for endangered and rare species of plants and animals such as piping plovers, which nest there, and roseate terns, which breed in large numbers on nearby Great Gull Island and forage in Plum Island waters. Some 227 bird species have been counted on Plum Island, and its waters include one of the few remaining seagrass meadows in Long Island Sound. It’s also the largest seal haul-out area in southern New England, where the rocky coast hosts several hundred grey and harbor seals each winter.

“Our longtime push to save Plum Island from some ‘high bidder’ or anyone else who might neglect its natural resources, environmental value, our local stakeholders and concerned communities is now realized—Plum Island is saved and its sale is finally off the table,” said U. S. Senator Charles Schumer. “It would have been a grave mistake to sell and develop Plum Island’s 840-acres of habitat, which is home to many endangered species. That’s why preventing the unnecessary sale requirement was a top priority of these negotiations. Now the people of Long Island will have their say in its future—and rightfully so.”

“Today we can finally and fully celebrate preserving Plum Island. This exquisite environmental treasure has been spared a headlong rush to sell to the highest bidder. We will continue to fight to preserve this special gem from future development.

Plum Island is a unique environmental resource that is home to hundreds of species of wildlife and numerous important historical sites that must be preserved for future generations to enjoy," said U. S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. "I thank Connecticut's environmental advocates, including Save the Sound and The Nature Conservancy for their tireless work in this effort. I also thank my colleagues from the New York and Connecticut delegations for their partnership in securing this important provision."

"After years of fighting to keep the unnecessary sale of Plum Island off the table, Long Islanders can finally celebrate the preservation and protection of this rare national treasure for generations to come," said U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. "This victory belongs to local activists and conservationists who knew all along that this was a fight we couldn't afford to sit out."

"Not only does Plum Island offer diverse wildlife, a precious ecosystem and critical habitat for migratory birds, marine mammals, and rare plants, but it is an essential cultural and historical resource as well. The current law, which mandates the sale of the island to the highest bidder, is the wrong path forward. It's an honor to deliver this huge win that will reverse that law and help preserve Plum Island's rich history and tap into its limitless potential for generations to come," said Congressman Lee Zeldin.

"When I first ran for Congress, I made a commitment to clean up Long Island Sound and protect the neighboring ecosystems, including those on Plum Island," said Congresswoman Nita Lowey. "While our current administration has tragically gutted environmental protection laws, it is essential that we protect at risk animals and their habitats from further threats. With the passage of the omnibus, Plum Island will not be sold to the highest bidder, and we can prioritize the conservation of this jewel in Long Island Sound. The island will continue to be a haven for species of conservation concern and a natural resource appreciated by the public."

"This is a tremendous victory for Plum Island and the people of Connecticut, and it is in large part thanks to the hard work and advocacy of the local groups fighting to protect this ecological treasure. Plum Island is home to a rare natural ecosystem that should never be up for sale to the highest bidder. Congress has an obligation to protect this island and its natural resources," said Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. "That is why as a leader on the House Appropriations Committee, and now the Chair-designate, I fought to include this language in the fiscal year 2021 spending bill to preserve Plum Island and prohibit the mandatory sale of this ecological treasure. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring this rich environment is protected well into the future."

Bill Ulfelder, The Nature Conservancy's New York executive director, said, "The Nature Conservancy is proud to have worked closely with members of Congress from across the country and diverse partners to save Plum Island. Historically Algonquin territory, the fate of Plum Island was caught in a bureaucratic quagmire for 12 years, but one thing was always clear: the tremendous support for conserving this extraordinary place with a fascinating history. This victory would not have been possible without the leadership of federal, state and local leaders, as well as the tireless advocacy of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition. The Nature Conservancy especially appreciates Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Senators Blumenthal, Gillibrand, and Murphy,

and Congressmembers Zeldin, Lowey, DeLauro, and Courtney for their unwavering commitment to preserving the island's remarkable wildlife and heritage and protecting good jobs that benefit the local economy."

Frogard Ryan, The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut executive director said, "The people of Connecticut have long depended upon Long Island Sound's natural resources – that is why the Conservancy works with federal, state and local partners to protect and manage its critical coastal and marine habitats. I was lucky enough to visit Plum Island to better understand its ecological importance as a haven for migrating seals and shorebirds. We are so thankful that our Senators Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Murphy along with Representative Joe Courtney have been proactive leaders on this critical conservation opportunity, and that the Long Island Sound Congressional Caucus, co-chaired by Congresswoman DeLauro with Rep. Zeldin and Rep. Suozzi have similarly been such staunch supporters of efforts for Plum Island and the health and environmental quality of Long Island Sound."

While more work is needed to realize the full potential of Plum Island's future, the most critical hurdle to its preservation and economic redevelopment has been cleared. Preventing the public sale of the island was the most important step in ensuring a bright future for Plum Island.

In a report requested by and prepared for Congress, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Sound and the Preserve Plum Island Coalition released a vision and plan for Plum Island with broad support from representatives from the Montaukett and Shinnecock Nations, U. S. government agencies, scientists, nonprofits, academics, military history buffs, and many other stakeholders. Released in July 2020, the vision includes sanctuary areas for wildlife, preservation of the lighthouse and historic fort, an educational facility, and a campus for research.

This future would retain jobs and allow residents and tourists to take guided tours of the island for the first time. The Plum Island Envision report is viewable online along with more information about the island's unique ecosystems, history and economic potential at preserveplumisland.org.

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters and oceans at an unprecedented scale, providing food and water sustainably and helping make cities more sustainable. Working in 72 countries and territories: 38 by direct conservation impact and 34 through partners, we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners. To learn more, visit www.nature.org or follow @nature_press on Twitter.



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Fort Rosecrans Post Exchange

Ken Glaze and Joe Janesic

Some good news out of San Diego. The navy is restoring the 1909 Fort Rosecrans post exchange. It will now be an office building, but the exterior and major interior details will be maintained in their original condition. The original interior roof beams will remain exposed, the gutters are new copper, and the current front door will be replaced with a more period-accurate door. There is an effort to ensure proper historical documentation and displays are placed inside the building, including a reference to the two bowling lanes that were in the basement.



In all, this looks like it is a well thought out restoration, which will allow the navy to have a modern set of offices, while retaining the exterior's historical appearance. The only sour note in this project is the lack of original interior details, but most of those appear to have been destroyed in a previous remodel. They appear to be doing the best they can with what they have. The project was slated to be finished by the end of October 2020.



The building is being restored (sort of) for use as the new base security headquarters. The exterior work is fantastic and the interior will be adaptively reused with some of the architectural and structural elements exposed. I have been working with two other local historians who have in the past published works related to the post to create a narrative for exhibits that will be included as displays, showing the history of the post exchange, its importance to the daily life, and the former use of the building.

Our thanks go out to those members of the CDSG who have answered by request for pictures. With your help we were able to develop what I think will be a quality story about the importance of these buildings. A number of the images submitted by CDSG members showed the interior and exterior of buildings nearly identical to those at Fort Rosecrans. We even managed to find some images of the interior of the bowling alley of the post exchange at Fort Whipple, in Prescott AZ (below), which was built by the same contractor and used the same equipment provider for the bowling alley in the basement. The upper floors of that building were used as a post exchange and theatre, so there is some difference in that respect.



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111-Year-Old PX Building at Naval Base Point Loma Renovated For Use

by KAREN SCANLON AND MARY ELLEN CORTELLINI
Published - 01/20/21 – San Diego Community Newspaper
Group: sdnews.com

By mid-1904, the construction of San Diego's Army post was completed. Barracks buildings, hospital, officers' quarters, bakehouse, and a guardhouse ran along the hillside in the lee of the Point Loma peninsula. But something was missing at Fort Rosecrans, and at many U.S. Army posts of the era. A feel-good place for soldiers to gather.

"Before the mid-1890s, a soldier was issued his basic kit of uniform and ration, three meals a day, and a place to sleep," says military historian Joe Janesic, Coast Defense Study Group, Los Angeles. "For anything extra, the nearest store at many posts was miles away."



At left, the 1909 Post Exchange and gymnasium building was a feel-good place for soldiers to gather at Fort Rosecrans. A few yards to its right stands the guardhouse. (U.S. Army Photograph, via Ken Glaze and the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation Archive.)

“The solution: A regional commander would contract a vendor called the post sutler who held exclusive privilege to provide goods and services to soldiers. These sutlers were enormously corrupt, and often soldiers became indebted to them. The post exchange grew out of the need to better serve enlisted personnel.”

Construction of the Fort Rosecrans Post Exchange, a large, red-brick building, began in 1908, its architectural style unlike the Colonial Revival of other nearby structures.

According to *San Diego Union and Daily Bee*, April 5, 1908, the Fort Rosecrans Post Commander, Major G.W. Gatchell, stated: “The post exchange is established at most army posts for the purpose of making the life of soldiers more enjoyable. The building is large enough to contain a gymnasium, library, and a lunch counter...where soldiers can buy pies and cakes...” and other non-essentials.

And so it was. The building was completed with a main floor, basement, and a half second story finished as an interior balcony. Costly, up-to-date gymnastic paraphernalia, including traveling rings, horizontal bars, weight machines, vaulting horses, and two punching bags sat on hardwood platforms. Installation was such that all apparatus could be removed or suspended from the ceiling and the floor used for dancing.

In the basement were two bowling lanes installed in 1909 by the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co. The company installed billiards and pool tables elsewhere in the building.

The authors contacted Brunswick to ask if photos existed of the alleys installed at former military posts, in particular, at Fort Rosecrans. Brunswick’s vice-president of capital equipment, David M. Sella, researched their archives but said nothing was available prior to the 1930s.

Communications continued with Sella, and Brunswick gifted two vintage bowling pins for San Diego’s renovated building. Local craftsman, Jim Craig, constructed a handsome wooden wall mount for one of the pins, which is included in a permanent history exhibit presented to the Navy by the authors.

Most of the Army’s early post exchange buildings were constructed from the same government blueprint. Furthermore, according to *San Diego Union and Daily Bee*, Feb. 22, 1909:

“The work of installing the bowling alleys at Fort Rosecrans will begin this morning... they are the same as were recently built in the gymnasium building at Whipple Barracks near Prescott, Ariz. by Brunswick’s LA rep, S. P. Dysinger.”

The authors contacted the Arizona Historical Society, which was able to provide photographs of Fort Whipple’s bowling lanes. Since no photographs of the Fort Rosecrans alley have been discovered, they can rely on the Fort Whipple replica.

The Post Exchange and gymnasium served soldiers until Fort Rosecrans property was transferred to the U.S. Navy in 1959 for a submarine support facility. Soon after, a renovation scraped the sporting equipment, a second story added, and the building was employed otherwise.

For the past 20 years, the handsome brick building stood empty and forlorn, until the 2020 renovation. The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed a public grand opening, but today, the Security Department at Naval Base Point Loma occupies the former Army Post Exchange building.

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Site Report: Fort Armistead, Baltimore, Maryland– November 22, 2020

CDSG Rep: Terry McGovern

Fort Armistead was a harbor defense fort, active from 1901 to 1923, that defended Baltimore Harbor, Maryland. I visited this former fort, now a City of Baltimore Park, on Nov. 22, 2020, with my wife, Meg Hogan, for about an hour to check on current conditions, as it had been several years since I last visited the fort.

Getting to the park is complex due to road and industrial construction over the past decades. Upon reaching the park, we were greeted by an official sign (see photo). Before discussing the current condition of the former fort, below is short history.



History

Fort Armistead was built from 1896 to 1901 as part of the Endicott Program. The other forts of this period in the Harbor Defenses of Baltimore Harbor include Fort Howard, Fort Carroll, and Fort Smallwood. Fort Armistead is in the Hawkins Point section of the city. The fort was named for Maj. George Armistead (1780-1818, later promoted to colonel), commander of Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore with the British Royal Navy in September 1814, in the War of 1812. Fort Armistead had four gun batteries: Battery Winchester with one 12-inch M1888 disappearing gun, Battery McFarland with three 8-inch M1888 disappearing guns, Battery Irons with two 4.72-inch 45-caliber Armstrong guns on pedestal mounts, and Battery Mudge with two 3-inch M1898 guns on masking parapet (retractable) mounts. The fort also included a mine casemate and

mine command station to control a submarine minefield in the harbor (see site map below).

Battery Irons' two 4.7-inch guns were disarmed in 1913 and the guns sent to Fort Ruger in Hawaii to be used in the land defenses. Battery Mudge's 3-inch guns were scrapped as part of the general withdrawal from service of the 3-inch M1898 gun type. Battery McFarland's three 8-inch guns were removed in 1917 for potential use as railway artillery in WW1, while Battery Winchester's 12-inch gun was sent to Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, NY, to replace a gun sent to the WWI railway artillery program. After WWI, the fort was declared surplus and abandoned by the army in 1923 as the new coast defenses located at the Virginia Capes eliminated the need for harbor defenses for Baltimore Harbor. Five years later it was turned over to the City of Baltimore's Department of Recreation and Parks. In WW2, the fort site was briefly reclaimed by the US Navy for ammunition storage. In 1952-54, a mobile four-gun 90 mm anti-aircraft battery was stationed on the site.

The fort then returned to its status as a city park. The property during subsequent decades was given various improvements and landscaping projects, including construction of a fishing pier, boat ramp, and parking lot. In 1975-1977, the Hawkins Point area was impacted by the construction of the Outer Harbor Crossing carrying the Baltimore Beltway (Interstate 695) over the Patapsco Harbor, where the Francis Scott Key Bridge now towers over the 1890s-era seacoast defense site below. Various large industrial and chemical facilities (with rail lines) were built and abandoned around the park during the last 50 years.

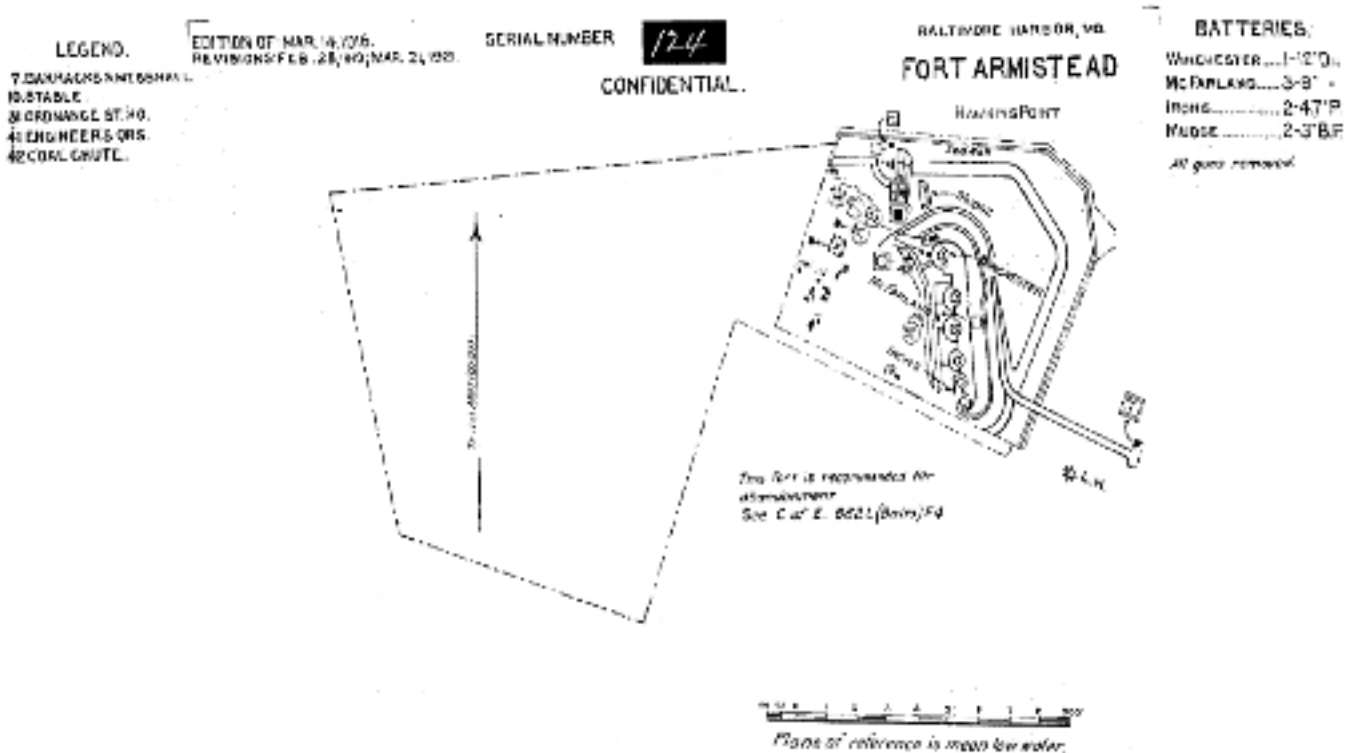
Current Status

The CDSG last visited Fort Armistead in 2009. For those members that attend that conference, the condition of Fort Armistead has not improved. The access road to park is in very

bad condition with several wrecked cars and a burned-out boat in the roadway. None of the supporting buildings survive, just the concrete batteries. The park access road cuts through the gun line between Battery Mudge and Battery Winchester, then leads down to the waterfront, where there is a large parking area to support the boat ramp and fishing pier. Offshore one can see abandoned Fort Carroll in the middle of the Patapsco River.

For an isolated park, it was very busy the day we visited. Large flocks of seabirds and numerous feral cats were checking out the mounds of garbage strewn around the parking area. The fishing pier was in use as well and several boats were being launched and retrieved at the boat ramp, all normal park activities. It seemed that most of the vehicles at the park were involved in less straightforward activities, as most were occupied by individuals as others moved from car to car conducting some sort of business transactions. At this point, my wife declined to leave the car and accompany me on a walk through the fort's gun line. Upon reaching the emplacement's blast aprons, one could see deteriorating concrete, much graffiti, and garbage spread along the entire gun line. All the emplacements were overwhelmed with shrubs, trees, and weeds (due to the time of the year at least the leaves were down) and the access road to the magazines was partly blocked by large trash items illegally dumped and large pools of water. The primary emplacements were open for inspection, though the interior and exterior walls were covered with graffiti and the floors were covered with glass and aluminum containers, as well as syringes and condoms. Years of vandalism and lack of maintenance have taken their toll on the concrete structures.

One is usually heartened to see other visitors at abandoned Endicott batteries, and there were at least a dozen fellow lovers of coast defenses in various parts of the gun line as I explored each room that day. I had my CDSG membership brochures in hand to disburse to these potential members until I realized they



seemed to be unhappy about the presence of my camera. I decided to move on rather than promote the merits of the cold and hard concrete and steel defenses. Crossing the access road to visit the former mine casemate and remains of Battery Mudge, I was deterred by several gentlemen negotiating a business transaction next to the mine casemate that involved something in plastic bags. At this point I headed back to my car (and my wife, who very much wanted to leave the park) as I really did not want to make any new friends that day.

It is very sad to see Fort Armistead in its current condition. The location of the park on the very edge of the city limits and the physical barriers (river, highways, industrial neighbors) makes it very hard for city residents to visit the park, causing the already stretched Baltimore city administration to ignore the park. There are no park personnel assigned to the park and it is open 24/7. I am worried that someday they will bury the historic batteries as a public nuisance as the park is only seen as recreation facility (boat ramp and fishing pier), not a history site. The CDSG should add Fort Armistead to its list of Most Endangered Coast Defense Sites (see list at www.cdsg.org).

Searching the internet with a web browser for "Fort Armistead Park" will result in a number of articles and you-tube videos which show the current state of affairs at the park.



Battery McFarland (three 8-inch DC) with potential CDSG member.



Battery McFarland magazine entrance.



Battery Irons, Fort Armistead with abandoned chemical plant in background.



Battery McFarland inside magazine.



Main gun line at Fort Armistead, Battery McFarland (three 8-inch DC)



A resident of Fort Armistead - not sure of the species! (from the internet, as not there the day I visited)



Battery McFarland shell lift and shot cart storage.



Battery Winchester (one 12-inch DC) emplacement.



Battery McFarland emplacement No. 2.



Drone image of Fort Armistead on a nice day during summer. The wooded area behind the parking lot is the gun line. To the right of the access road is Battery Mudge and the mine casemate.

* * * * *

Saint Barbara: Patron Saint of Artillerists

Wikipedia, United States Field Artillery Association,
The British Royal Artillery Association
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Barbara
<https://fieldartillery.org/>



Saint Barbara was an early Christian Greek saint and martyr. She is the patron of miners, tunnellers, armorers, military engineers, gunsmiths, artillerists, and anyone else who worked with cannon and explosives. She is invoked against thunder and lightning and all accidents arising from explosions of gunpowder. St. Barbara was adopted by military artillerists in field artillery and naval artillery in many European countries including Britain, Spain, Portugal, and Italy. The United States Artillery Association maintains the Order of St. Barbara for recognizing service in the artillery branches.

The CDSG has nicknamed it's annual conferences "St. Babs" after the patron saint of artillerists.

In the one of the most cited accounts of her life, Barbara was the daughter of a rich heathen named Dioscorus. She was carefully guarded by her father who kept her shut up in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. Offers of marriage which were received through him she rejected. Before going on a journey her father commanded that a bathhouse be erected for her use near her dwelling, and during his absence Barbara had three windows put in it, as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, instead of the two originally intended. When her father returned, she acknowledged herself to be a Christian; upon this she was ill-treated by him and dragged before the prefect of the province, Martinianus, who had her cruelly tortured and finally condemned her to death by beheading. The father himself carried out the death-sentence, but in punishment for this he was struck by lightning on the way home and his body consumed. A pious man called Valentinus buried the body of the saint; at this grave the sick were healed and the pilgrims who came to pray received aid and consolation.

The traditions vary as to the place of martyrdom: Symeon Metaphrastes and the Latin legend given by Mombritius makes Heliopolis in Egypt the site of the martyrdom, while other accounts, to which Baronius ascribes more weight, give the location as Nicomedia, an ancient Greek city in modern day Turkey. Other accounts place her in Phoenicia, near present-day Baalbek, Lebanon. There is no reference to her in the authentic early Christian writings nor in the original recension of Saint Jerome's martyrology. Despite the legends detailing her story, the earliest references to her supposed 3rd century life do not appear until the 7th century, and veneration of her was common, especially in the East, from the 9th century.



Altar Statue, St. Barbara Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois

By the ninth century she was publicly venerated both in the East and in the West, and that she was very popular with the Christian populace. The legend that her father was struck by lightning caused her to be regarded by the common people as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms and fire, and later by analogy, as the protector of artillerymen and miners. She was also called upon as intercessor to assure the receiving of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist at the hour of death.

St. Barbara became the "patron saint of armorers and gunsmiths." She is invoked against thunder and lightning and all accidents arising from explosions of gunpowder. It was thought possible that she was selected as a patron saint for artillery because in early days cannon usually blew-up on discharge and therefore artillerymen were always liable to sudden death from explosions of gunpowder.

In the Greek and present Roman calendars, the feast of St. Barbara falls on 4 December, while the martyrologies on the ninth century, with exception of Rabanus Maurus, place it on 16 December. St. Barbara is often depicted in art; she is represented standing in a tower with three windows, carrying the palm of a martyr in her hand; often also she holds a chalice and sacramental wafer; sometimes cannon is displayed near her. Saint Barbara is often portrayed with a sword, miniature chains and a tower.

As one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, Barbara continues to be a popular saint in modern times, perhaps best known as the patron saint of armorers, artillerymen, military engineers, miners and others who work with explosives because of her legend's association with lightning, and also of mathematicians. A 15th-century French version of her story credits her with thirteen miracles, many of which reflect the security she offered that her devotees would not die before getting to make confession and receiving extreme unction. Her association with the lightning, which killed her father has caused her to be invoked against lightning and fire; by association with explosions in artillery and mining.

Her feast on December 4 was introduced in Rome in the 12th century and included in the Tridentine Calendar. In 1729, that date was assigned to the celebration of Saint Peter Chrysologus, reducing that of Saint Barbara to a commemoration in his Mass.

In 1969, her feast was removed from the General Roman Calendar, because the accounts of her life and martyrdom were judged to be entirely fabulous, lacking clarity even about the place of her martyrdom. But she is still mentioned in the Roman Catholic Church's List of Martyrology, which, in addition, lists another ten martyr saints named Barbara. Saint Barbara is venerated by Catholics who face the danger of sudden and violent death at work.

St. Barbara and the Armed Forces of the old British Empire

Saint Barbara is the Patron Saint of the Gunnery Branch of the British Royal Navy. The church at HMS *Excellent* (also known as Whale Island) Portsmouth, Hampshire, England, the former Gunnery School of the Royal Navy, is called St. Barbara's. On the dining-table in the wardroom at Whale Island, a silver statuette of Saint Barbara smiles down on successive generations of gunnery officers who will not let her, or the Navy, down. Their job is to

get straddles with full-gun salvoes of a reasonable spread; Saint Barbara herself arranges the hits.

St. Barbara was also the Patron saint of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps of the British Army, a church being dedicated to her initially at Hulsea Barracks Portsmouth, later being moved to Backdown in Surrey, when the Corps moved its training establishment there. The Irish Army venerates her as the patron saint of the Artillery Corps where she appears on the corps insignia, half dressed, holding a harp, sitting on a field cannon.

Saint Barbara's Day—December 4—is celebrated by the British (Royal Artillery, RAF Armorers, Royal Engineers), Australian (Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, RAAF Armorers), Canadian (Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians (EOD), Canadian Air Force Armorers, Royal Canadian Artillery, Canadian Military Field Engineers, Royal Canadian Navy Weapons Engineering Technicians), and New Zealand (RNZN Gunners Branch, RNZA, Royal New Zealand Army Ordnance Corps, RNZAF Armorers) armed forces. It is celebrated by the Norwich University Artillery Battery with a nighttime fire mission featuring multiple M116 howitzers.

St. Barbara and the U.S. Armed Forces

The Order of Saint Barbara is an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery. Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery along with their military and civilian supporters are eligible for membership. The order is managed by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and two levels of recognition exist. The most distinguished level is the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara and those who are selected for this honor have achieved long-term, exceptional service to the field artillery surpassing even their brethren in the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service and sacrifice symbolized by Saint Barbara.

The feast of Saint Barbara falls on December 4th and is traditionally recognized by a formal dining-in or military dinner, often involving presentation of the Order of Saint Barbara to new members. Saint Barbara's Day is celebrated by United States Army and Marine Corps Field and Air Defense Artillery, many Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians. The units and sub-units celebrate the day with church parades, sports days, guest nights, cocktail parties, dinners and other activities. Although they do not celebrate her saint's day, she is also the patron saint of US Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance men.



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

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