### May, 1994

## COAST DEFENSE STUDY GROUP JOURNAL

## THE SIX-INCH PART OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF 1940 Text by Robert D. Zink Artwork by Gerald W. Butler

Author's Note: Magazine details in this article are based on Reports of Completed Works or personal visits to 48 magazines of the 89 projected and the 68 for which concrete work was completed.

#### BACKGROUND

Neither the Gun Foundry Board nor the Endicott Board made specific plans for guns smaller than eight inch. About 1895, planning began for protection for the electrically controlled minefields and for closing narrow or shallow channels. By the early 1900s, 3" to 6" guns were being installed in various places principally to keep minesweepers out.

Many of the 4.72", 5" and 6" guns were removed from the batteries in 1917-1918 for use as mobile field or railway artillery in France. By about 1921, the early 3", 4" 4.72" and 5" guns had been declared obselete. Most Armstrong-built 6" guns were scrapped, and most 6" in disappearing carriages were stored. Nearly all of the six inch guns that had been removed from barbette carriages were reinstalled as the six-inch pedestal mounted or barbette carriage gun had been established as the standard size weapon for defending minefields and narrow channels.

#### PROTOTYPING

In 1940, the modernization plan for the 20 continental U.S (CONUS) harbors to be defended called for 16" guns as primary and 6" guns as secondary armament. Battery Construction Number (BCN) 224, built at Fort Story, Virginia, 1940-41, was taken as "prototype" for the six-inch part of the program, though this battery was prototype only in the distance between guns (210 feet, center to center). In fact its magazine, shown in figure 1, was identical with a World War I temporary battery with new permanent magazine at Fort Tilden, NY, which had 296.6 foot gun spacing. These two batteries had M1900 guns on M1900 barbette carriages. Except as clearly noted, BCN 224 is ignored for the remainder of this article.

### CENTRAL TRAVERSE MAGAZINES

We generally think of World War II U.S. Army equipment and construction in terms of vast numbers of identical things - one million trucks or ten million rifles or two hundred million bullets or hundreds of airfields. There were planned to be 50 six-inch batteries in the CONUS and about 40 more defending U.S. territories and lend-lease bases. Apparently 68 were completed as far as construction (concrete) of the emplacements, fire control and other ancillary structures. About 46 batteries were completed including guns, and it should be noted that due to production priorities, most of the 22 "not quite complete" batteries lacked only the guns and a few minor items that were obviously useless until the guns were installed. Figure 2 contrasts BCN 224 with what seems to be representative, referred to here as the "standard" battery plan.

#### Page 22

The magazine structures contained, among other things, three 125 kilovolt-ampere 3 phase diesel-driven 440 volt 60 cycle alternators and all their auxiliary equipments, motor-generator or hydraulic equipments to control the gun carriage and an ammunition allowance of 600 rounds AP and 400 rounds HE projectiles and their associated propelling charges, primers, etc. Fire control provisions included Gun Data Computer (GDC) M8C or M8G, a plotting board as backup, the off-gun parts of Data Transmission System M7 (M1 and M3 carriages) or Cable System M12 (M2 and M4 carriages), assorted spotting and correcting boards and devices and in many batteries, a Fire Control telephone switchboard. See figure 3 for the key to rooms and equipment of the "standard" magazine structure and figure 4 for an isometric view of a late "standard" magazine.

Observation post equipment associated with this fire control system were Depression Position Finder M2 or Azimuth Instrument M1910A1, which transmitted data to the GDC directly (the data reader served only as a backup). Radar data was inout manually.

These batteries had no troop quarters, though in some Alaska defenses there were quarters connected by short tunnels.

### CENTRAL TRAVERSE MAGAZINE DIFFERENCES

Excepting the "prototype", the completed and all but a few of the planned battery structures had many features in common: central traverse magazine, room sizes in the magazine, rooms for ancillary equipment (such as hydraulic pumps or motor-generator sets), rooms for engine-generator sets, cooling radiators, fire control functions (2 room layouts).

When one looks at the structures, there are several differences, as shown in figure 5.

BURSTER COURSE: The burster course was atop an eight foot sand course or cushion which was above the roof, or was above an 18" sand course above the roof, or was around the edge of the roof (referred to here as "edge" burster), or was combined with the ceiling (apparently to conserve money and material) to make a 6 to 7 foot roof/burster in one layer. Figure 6 illustrates the various ceiling / roof - burster types.

MUFFLER GALLERY: The muffler gallery was located at the side of the power room, however in some batteries there was none. Mufflers were mounted in the gallery, or just outside the gallery pointing up, or just outside the structure in a "T" shaped concrete support. In a "folded" battery (figure 7), the muffler gallery toward the front of the battery, just behind the magazine rooms.

POWER ROOM LOCATION, "normal" or "folded" (Right-hand folded in figure 7). There were also "Left-hand folded magazines, with "rear" entrance next to No. 2 gun lobby.

FRONT WALL THICKNESS: 3 feet or 7 feet or 7 feet tapering to 3 feet at the ends, as shown in figure 5.

ROOF / CEILING THICKNESS: 6-6.5 feet or 3.5 to 4 feet, as shown in figure 6.

REAR ENTRANCE: Depending on terrain (such as a hill near the rear of the structure) the rear entrance was short and straight (as in figure 4) or very long (in one case, BCN 314, about 65 feet from power room to rear doors) or with a sidewalk bent just outside the rear doors or at the side of a "folded" battery. PURPOSE and DIMENSIONS of the room immediately to the right (in standard battery) of the plotting room: spotting or spotting and radio or switchboard, spotting and radio - 10x20.5 (figure 4) or 15x26 feet (figure 5).

BATTERY COMMANDER STATION (BCS) often is a separate structure, a tower or manhole, perhaps hundreds of yards distant. In several cases, BCS is sited atop the magazine on "legs", the legs & most of BCS buried in fill. In a few cases, a BCS on top of the magazine is connected into the magazine internally, shown in figure 8. In at least one case, a manhole BCS (BCN 248) is in front of the battery, downhill.

Some of these differences go together - the 3 to 4 foot roof and 3 foot front wall are part of a package including an elevated burster course with sand cushion, found in early batteries. The six foot burster / ceiling with 3 foot front wall and "edge" burster were later modifications. The last magazines had six foot ceiling, no separate burster, and 7 foot front wall. An apparent later subset of the last group had electric cable chase 18" deep cut into the front wall.

A "folded" battery has no rear entrance, typically because there was a hill immediately behind or on top of it.

CERTAIN MAGAZINES HAVE WHAT SEEM TO BE UNIQUE FEATURES:

BCNs 202 and 204 have BCS built directly on the top of the magazine, with the BCS entry via a ladder in the wall of the front corridor of the magazine, as shown in figure 8.

Battery Jewell (209) at Boston has an extra room to the rear of the spotting/switchboard room.

For BCN 217, the walkway turns off at a 45 degree angle from the rear doors.

BCNs 218 and 220 have an "8-foot cube" box BCS set into a notch in the front top of the burster, not shown.

BCN 223 magazine is identical to 230 (and others) except at 223, the rear door is about 3' farther aft so the 8' thick walls extend farther.

Battery Gates (229) was converted from a 6" disappearing gun battery. As a result, it is "different" in almost every way imaginable except gun models - and the guns are only 105 feet apart. The battery is shown in figure 9.

The BCN 268 rear walkway turns at a sharp angle to avoid the hill to the rear.

The plan view in the Report of Completed Works for BCN 296 shows a "mirror image" of the "usual" magazine plan, that is, all rooms are in reverse position. left to right. The crossection drawing shows the gun decks and front corridor are on one level, the rest of the emplacement is on a level 10 foot lower, as shown in figure 10.

BCN 298 at Dutch Harbor has an extra room connected to the rear entrance, and apparently to the muffler gallery, with fuel tanks in or under the extra room.

BCN 301 BCS is atop the magazine, with entry to magazine rear down 4 feet from entrance and BCS entry up 8 feet. Also, there is an unlabelled room to the rear of the SSR room, which shows on no other battery for which I have RCW.

- 14

BCN 314 BCS is built into the top of the magazine, with entry from the rear corridor, a ladder up from just right of the power room entrance, figure 5. This battery has the rear door about 65 feet farther to the rear than is normal, with wingwalls extending about 50 feet farther to the rear.

Most 6" (and 8") batteries built on Oahu during WW II were tunnelled into cliffs or ridges and therefore do not conform to these drawings except in the distance between guns and in the approximate sizes of rooms for a given purpose. A number of these have a concrete canopy over each tunnel entrance protection from falling rock rather than from enemy fire.

Possibly the best place to study battery construction is (was?) at Cape May State Park at the southern tip of New Jersey. The sand beach on which BCN 223 was built has been washed away (over 220 yards of width of beach is gone) to just behind the battery so the exterior shape and the pilings below, and cable ducts and gun block construction, may be seen (for perhaps a few years yet) along with the Panama mounts just in front of the battery.

### ARMAMENT

For all these batteries except Gates (229), the guns are 210 feet apart.

The guns to be used in all the modern batteries (except that prototype) were to be M1903 or M1905 guns from long obselete, and mostly scrapped, disappearing carriages. The guns were modernized (hence, M1903A2/1905A2) to the extent of removing trunnions, modifying the forcing cone (section between the powder chamber and the origin of rifling) and adding provisions for gas ejection and scavenging (air expulsion of powder gasses). The guns were mounted in newly designed barbette carriages of four models differing only in methods of control, and outer diameter of the gun, but vastly different from the older (M1900) barbette carriage. In these new carriages, the guns were intended to have a maximum range of approximately 26,000 yards.

It was apparent soon after planning began that the supply of M1903 and M1905 guns was insufficient for the program, and a new gun, the 6" T2 (while in development, to be the 6" M1 when approved for service use) was developed, to fire the same ammunition as the M1900, M1903A2 and M1905A2. This more modern gun was smaller in diameter in the cradle section and weighed less but gave the same ballistics. Due to development time, along with higher priority given to other gun models, not very many (T2)M1 were produced before the end of the war cut off the program.

Because of the smaller diameter of the T2(M1) gun, a smaller cradle could be used, resulting in newer carriages. The M3 and M4 were identical to the M1 and M2 carriages except for the smaller cradle and wider elevating racks; the cylinders were closer together.

The M1 and M3 carriages used Waterbury Hydraulic Elevation Drives ("speed gears" which were a constant speed input / variable delivery rate output hydraulic system) for the elevating mechanism. A handwheel ("follow the pointer") regulated pumping rate by changing the tilt angle of a driving plate in the pump part of the speed gear. Elevation angles for all four models were from about -5 degrees to about +47 degrees. Loading position was +10 degrees.

The M2 and M4 carriages had Atlantic Elevator Co. allelectric drives for the elevating mechanism, therefore were remotely controllable (i.e. could be directly driven by the computer for both loading and firing positions of the gun in elevation).

The M1 and M2 were declared "limited standard". The M3 and M4 were declared "standard".

All four models used "match-the-pointer" control of speed gears for training (azimuth) over 360 degrees.

On-carriage Fire control included Telescope M31 and Telescope Mount M35.

Subcaliber 75mm guns were provided (T16 for M1903A2, T17 for M1905A2, T18 for M1 gun).

The service ammunition was Army armor-piercing (AP) 105 lb at 2800 ft/sec muzzle velocity (27,150 yards range), Army high explosive (HE) 90 lb 2770 ft/sec (20,995 yards range), and Navy AP 108 lb (not supplied to (T2)M1 batteries)(17,000 yards range). The powder charges were single section separate-loading bag charges: 37 lb. M17 for 105 lb projectile, 33 lb. M16 for the 90 lb. and 108 lb. projectiles. Loading was by hand ramming, from a four wheel loading cart.

### CAMOUFLAGE

Information on camouflaging these batteries is difficult to locate. The "camo" General Plan for BCN 241 at Los Angeles is included as figure 11. In general terms, a folding "umbrella" covered the weapon. The magazine structure was made to look as much as possible like local terrain features by plantings of local vegetation types and by painting. Where paths or roads intruded, they were carried across the magazine or weapon when necessary.

## EXISTING MATERIAL

Apparently, all but two (Battery Schwan (263) in San Juan and BCN 207 at Fort Dawes) magazine structures still exist though a few are "camouflaged" by newer uses.

Three sets of power room equipment (engine-alternator sets, etc.) existed a few years ago, one near Boston (BCN 208), one at Fisherman Island (Fort John Custis), the third near Los Angeles (BCN 241). None of the equipment is in operating condition (auxiliary equipment missing or major equipment rusty from disuse. The BCN 241 units at Fort MacArthur were run as recently as 1970 so are probably in the best condition.

Six weapons are still in existence, two at Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, near Pensacola, Florida; two at U.S. Naval Facility, Argentia, Newfoundland; and two at Fort Columbia, Washington. The armament at Fort Pickens came from BCN 227 at Fisherman Island, that at Fort Columbia from BCN 281 at Argentia. The weapons still at Argentia are to remain as a Canadian memorial. THE SIX-INCH LONG RANGE BATTERIES OF WORLD WAR II

HARBOR	FORT/LOCATION	BATTERY COM	PLETE	CONFI	GU	RA F	TIC FW	DN B
Portland	Two Lights St H	201 Pk	A	UAN	G	15	T. AA	D
	Jewell Island	202	С	UAN				
	Peak's Island	Cravens, 203	С	UAN				
Portsmouth	Ft. Dearborn	204	С	SSR	Y	R	31	I
	Ft. Foster	205	A	SSR	Y	R	31	IE
Boston	East Point, Nak	nant 206	С	S	Y	R	31	S
	Ft. Dawes	207	Α	S	Y	R	31	IE
	Fourth Cliff	208	С	S	Y	R	31	IE
	Outer Brewster	Is Jewell,209	С	UAN,	е	ext	ra	room
New Bedford	Mishaum Point	210	С	UAN				
Narraganett	Ft. Nat. Greene	e 211	С	S	N	R	31	S
Bay	Warren Point	212	С	S	N	R	31	S
	Ft. Burnside	213	С	SSR	Y	R	$\mathbf{8T}$	I
Long Isl. Sd	Wilderness Pt	214	В	SSR	Y	R	81	I
	Ft H G Wright	215	С	S	Y	R	31	ΙE
	Camp Hero	216	С	UAN				
Long Isl. Sd	Ft. Terry	217	A	SSR	Y	R*	·8 <b>'</b>	I
New York	Ft. Wadsworth	218	В	S	Y	R	81	I
	Navesink Highla	ands 219	С	S	Y	R	31	IE
	Ft. Tilden	220	A	S	Y	R	81	Ι
Delaware	Ft. Miles	Herring, 221	С	S	Y	R	31	S
	Ft. Miles	Hunter, 222	С	S	Y	R	31	S
	Cape May	223	C	SSR	Y	R	81	I
Chesapeake	Ft. Story	Worcester, 22	4 C	Uni	qu	le		_
Вау	Ft. Story	Cramer, 225	C	S	Ν	R	31	S.
	Ft. Story	226	C	SSR	Y	R	81	I
	Ft. John Custis	3 227	C	S	Y	R	31	s -
	Ft. John Custis	\$ 228	В	S	¥.	В.	87	1
<b>0</b> 1	Ft. WOOL	Gates, 229	A	Conve	ert	ec		2
Charleston	Ft. Moultrie	230	В	SSR	Y	R	81	1
key west	Ft. Taylor	231	В	UAN				
Demanala	Salt Ponds	232	C	UAN	37	n	~ /	-
Pensacola	Ft. MCRee	233	B	SSK	Y	R	8.	L T
Colvector	Ft. PICKENS	234	B	SSR	Y V	R	81	і тр
Galveston	Ft. San Jacinic	230		2	I V	R D	3. 01	T Ci
San Diago	Ft. Pagagrang	230		5 995	r v	R	0	т Т
Sall Diego	Ft. Rosecrans	4J/ Uumphrou 22		SSR	L N	к D	0 2/	L C
	Ft. Fmory	Crant 220		2 2	N V	л D	21	ठ गम
Los Angolos	Pt Vicente	U C Barnog 2			T	R	5	-1. Es
TOP WIGHTER	Ft. MacArthur	2/1	40 C. λ	C	v	т	o1	т
	Bolsa Chica	Harrison 242	Ĉ	TIAN	T	ц	0	T
San Francisco	Ft Miley	243	Δ	C C C	v	Τ.	g /	т
bun iluncised	Milagra Ridge	245	Δ	S	v	T.	81	Ť
Columbia Rive	orFt. Stevens	245	Ĉ	SSR	v	R	81	Ť
war a wanter die die die Ve	Ft. Columbia	246	Ř	S	v	P+	-ğ/	Ť
	Ft. Canby	240	с С	SSP	v	R	20 21	Ť
Puget Sound	Ft. Ehev	248	č	S	v	R	31	ŝ
ragee bound	Camp Havden	249	č	S	v	T.	81	Ť
	Ft. Havden	250	ŇR		*		5	-
	Ft. Havden	251	NB					

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May, 1994

# COAST DEFENSE STUDY GROUP JOURNAL

Page 27

HARBOR	FORT/LOCATION	BATTERY	COMPLET	re conf	IGURATIC	N
San Juan	Ft. Mascaro	Buckey,	261 0	UAN	ſ	
	Ft. Mascaro	Pence, 2	262 0	C UAN	[	
	Pta. Escambron	Schwan,	263 0	C UAN	ſ	
	Pta Cangrejos	Lancaster	; 264 0	C UAN	ſ	
Roosevelt Roa	ads Isla Pineros	265		C UAN	ſ	
	Martineau Hill	266	N	1B		
	Pta Arenas	267	1	1B		
	Pta Lima	268	C	C UAN	*	
	Cabo San Juan	311	1	1B		
	North Point	312	N	1B		
	Dolphin Head	313	1	1B		
	Ft. Segarre	314	C	C UAN	[*	
	Hill 411, St Th	nomas 315	1	1B		
Trinidad	Ft. Read	271-275	1	1B		
Argentia	Ft. McAndrew	281	C	2		
	Ft. McAndrew	282	C	2		
Bermuda	Stone Hill	283	C	C UAN	f	
	Ft. Victoria	284	C	C UAN	ſ	
Jamaica	Portland Bight?	285	N	1B		
later, to	Roos Roads, Vieg	ques East B	End N	1B		
Sitka	Ft. Babcock	290	8	38%C UAN	ſ	
	Ft. Peirce	291	ç	98%C UAN	ſ	
	Ft. Rousseau	292	8	37%C UAN	ſ	
Seward	Ft. McGilvray	293	ç	99%C UAN	ſ	
	Ft. Bulkley	294	8	37%C UAN	Ĩ	
Kodiak	Ft. J.H. Smith	295	4	1B		
	Ft. Tidball	296	C	C S	Y R 3'	IE *
	Ft. Abercrombie	e 297	1	1B		
Dutch Harbor	Ft. Learnard	298	C	C UAN	f -	
	Ft. Schwatka	299	1	1B		
Kaneohe Bay	Ft. Hase	French, 30	)1 (	C SSR	Y R 8'	I*
	Lae O Kaoio	Cooper, 30	)2 (	C In	tunnels	
Pearl Harbor	Puu-O-Hulu	303	ł	IC In	tunnels	
	Punchbowl Crate	er 304	1	IC IN	tunnels	
	Koke Saddle	305	1	1B		

The Table presents the best information I have found on the individual batteries. Complete "C" data relates to concrete, not including armament, but "%C" includes armament. "Complete" data from 1946 "Tilton Report": A -Incomplete, recommend Completion; B-Abandon, Incomplete; C-Complete (% includes armament), NB Not Built. Magazine configuration:(my own abbreviations) see plans; for column labels, (RNP) room next to plot: Spot/Spot,Swbd,Radio; (MG) Muffler Gallery: Yes/No; (E) Entrance: Rear/Left/Right; (F) Folded; (FW) Front Wall 7',3',Taper 7' to 3'; (B) Burster: Separate, Integral with Ceiling, (IE) Integral, with Edge burster around top of front wall. (UNK) unknown, (UAN) Unknown but assumed "normal" or "standard"..

Sources: Letters Files, National Archives, RG77, Entry A52-87 boxes 1-22; Personal Observation; Reports of Completed Works, Forms 1 & 7 and "Tilton Report" (for which I lack the formal title).







- SCALE

# 'STANDARD' CENTRAL TRAVERSE MAGAZINE LAYOUT

ROOMS	DIMENSIONS (FEET)	EQUIPMENT
A. STOREROOM B. AIR COMPRESSOR ROOM C. SHELL ROOM (100 RDS, HE) D. SHELL ROOM (400 RDS, AP) E. POWDER ROOM (600 CHARGES) G. MUFFLER GALLERY H. POWER ROOM I. WATER COOLER ROOM J. PLOTTING ROOM K. SWITCHBOARD, SPOTTING & RADIO ROOM * L. AIR LOCK M. CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE ROOM N. LATRINE	7X9 10X 12 7X8 9X21 15.5X20 6X44 34X22 11X22 19X 16 • 4X7 7X 10 8X 11	<ol> <li>PLOTTING BOARD, M3</li> <li>RANGE SCALE STORAGE</li> <li>DATA TRANSMISSION JUNCTION BOX</li> <li>PANEL &amp; SWITCHBOARD 65 &amp; 75</li> <li>AIR CONDITIONING UNIT</li> <li>C.W.S. CANISTERS</li> <li>DISTRIBUTION PANEL</li> <li>125 KVA DIESEL GENERATOR SET NO. 1</li> <li>125 KVA DIESEL GENERATOR SET NO. 2</li> <li>125 KVA DIESEL GENERATOR SET NO. 3</li> <li>STARTING AIR COMPRESSOR, ELECTRIC</li> <li>STARTING AIR COMPRESSOR, GASOLINE</li> <li>AIR RESERVOIR TANKS (3)</li> <li>STEAM BOILER &amp; OIL BURNER UNIT</li> <li>EXHAUST FAN</li> </ol>
<ul> <li>SWITCHBOARD, SPOTTING AND RADIO ROOM (OR) SPOTTING ROOM</li> </ul>	1 15X26.5 10X20.5	10. EVAPORATIVE COOLER NO. 1 17. EVAPORATIVE COOLER NO. 2 18. EVAPORATIVE COOLER NO. 3 19. SCAVENGING AIR COMPRESSOR 20. SCAVENGING AIR COMPRESSOR
F. FRONT CORRIDOR O. CENTER CORRIDOR P. REAR CORRIDOR	7X 144 4/6X54 13.5X 16	21. AIR RESERVOIR TANKS (2) 22. AIR RESERVOIR TANKS (2) 23. WOODEN DOORS 24. STEEL PLATE DOORS 25. AMMUNITION RECESS (TYPICAL OF GUN 1 & GUN 2) 26. BASE RING & RECESS 27. POWDER ROOM CHARGE SHELVING 28. SHEEL DOOM DROOM CHARGE SHELVING 29. SHEEL DOOM DROOM CHARGE SHELVING
INDEX AND KEY FOR BATTERY LA	YOUT	29. GUN NUMBER ONE 30. GUN NUMBER ONE 30. GUN NUMBER TWO

INDEX AND KEY FOR BATTERY LAYOUT

Figure 3





OR SPOTTING AND SWITCHBOARD ROOM (26X15 OR SO)

# MAJOR VARIATIONS BETWEEN MAGAZINES

Figure 5



(NOT TO SCALE) Figure 6



Page 35



### Page 36



Figure 9

Biggs

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BATTERY GATES (229) FORT WOOL, VIRGINIA (CONVERTED FROM 6-INCH D.C. BATTERY)

SIDE VIEW OF BATTERY LOOKING TOWARD GUN NUMBER 1



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Figure 11