

# The Guardian at Angels Gate



# Fort MacArthur

## Defender of Los Angeles

by Mark A. Berhow and David Gustafson

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Fort MacArthur Military Museum  
City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
3601 S. Gaffey Street  
San Pedro, CA



An executive order—issued September 14, 1888—set aside a strip of land adjacent to the boundary of the newly incorporated city of San Pedro, California. Signed by President Grover Cleveland, the order designated the area of “the old government reservation” to be used as a military reservation. It is from this point in time that Fort MacArthur traces its military career. As a part of the US Air Force’s Los Angeles Air Force Base, the post continues in its purpose of public service to the citizens of the United States of America.

*The Fort MacArthur Museum is charged with preserving its military past. Towards that goal this history has been compiled to preserve the history of this important post. Much of this work was derived from materials prepared by Col. Gustafson for distribution to the Army personnel and visitors of Fort MacArthur in the late 1970s. Additional material was obtained from the San Pedro Bay Historical Society, the Los Angeles Air Force Base Historical Section, the March Air Force Base Museum, and the Coast Defense Study Group, Bel Air, Maryland.*

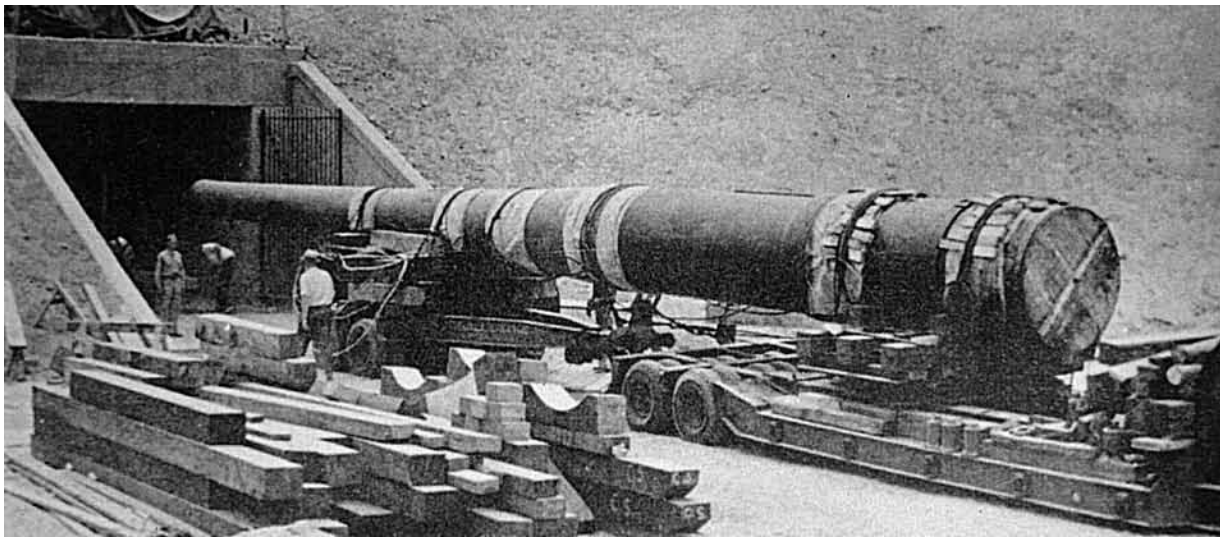
Cover photo: Battery Osgood firing, circa 1920s.  
Frontspiece photo: Sign facing Gaffey Street, Middle Reservation of Fort MacArthur, 1994



The 63rd Coast Artillery Regiment on the parade ground of Fort MacArthur, December 1939  
*Robert Vanderpool Collection, Fort MacArthur Museum*

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Installing a 16-inch gun barrel in a casemated gun battery, circa 1944.

## Chapter 1

### Historical Background to 1914

First mention of the area in recorded history was made in 1542 by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator. While charting the west coast of North America and seeking a northwest passage connecting the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, he entered in his log a notation that he had sighted “A Bahia los Humos” or Bay of Smokes at this latitude.

Some sixty years later, November 26, 1602, Spanish Explorer Sebastian Vizcaino visited the bay and named it in honor of Saint Peter, Bishop of Alexandria.

Not until Spanish sovereignty in the Pacific seemed to be threatened by Russian expansion in the northwest did Spain make any attempt at colonization of the land known as Alta California.

In 1769 King Charles III of Spain ordered out the first of several expeditions to establish colonies and spread Christianity in the unexplored region. Don Gaspar de Portola, the Governor of the Californias, was chosen to lead the expedition.

Among the group of soldiers, artisans and Franciscan missionaries accompanying the expedition were many who stand out in the later history of California: the Franciscan monk, Fray Junipero Serra, who established many of the missions in California; Lieutenant Don Pedro Fagas, who later became Governor of Alta California; and one of the “Soldado de Cuera,” Juan Jose Dominguez, whose faithful service destined him to become the first grantee of Rancho San Pedro.

Although this first expedition nearly met with disaster, it was successful in founding the Presidio of San Diego and establishing the first of Father Serra’s missions, the mission San Diego de Alcalá.

With the establishment of the mission San Gabriel in 1771, Spanish supply ships began making regular use of the San Pedro Bay. By the time the Pueblo de Los Angeles was founded ten years later, the harbor bustled with activity. The exact date the Spanish government first established a small government reservation along the bluffs is not clear; however, an area of 500 vara square was set aside so that the public had access to the embarcadero, or boat landing.

About the year 1790, Father Serra had a single adobe shelter built on the site near where the Peat Engineer offices now stand. This one room structure was used as a storehouse for supplies and cargo and later became the terminus of the stage line between the port and the Pueblo of Los Angeles.

Richard Henry Dana visited the port several times around 1830 and in his book *Two Years Before the Mast* gives graphic account of the difficulties of hauling cargo up and down the bluffs, terming it the “Hell of California.”

Thirteen years after Juan Jose Dominguez accompanied the first expedition into Alta California, he retired from the military service. He petitioned his former commander, Governor Fagas for a grant of land, and in 1784, he was granted the first provisional concession for a rancho outside the mission and pueblo lands. This was Rancho San Pedro.

During intervening years controversy developed over a portion of the area known as Palos Verdes between Dominguez and a former Spanish Army Captain Dolores Sepulveda. Details of the facts underlying the contested land are not clear; however, records disclose lengthy litigation and court battles between the years 1817 to 1841.

Finally in 1841 a decree by Mexican Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado established the major boundaries of the two adjacent Ranchos, and the San Pedro area came under control of the remaining heirs of Captain Sepulveda. This decree confirmed the claim of previous Governor Jose Figueroa, in which the following clause appeared:

“They shall leave free on the beach at San Pedro, 500 varas square to the cardinal points, where houses may be built by persons obtaining permission. None, however, can prevent the use of pasture by those engaged in traffic of horse to the port.”

The last Mexican governor of Alta California, Pio Pico, confirmed the San Pedro public landing reserve in 1846.

By the time the official word that hostilities had commenced between the United States and the Republic of Mexico arrived in the hands of the American Navy commander, Commodore John D. Sloat, stationed in Monterey Bay in July, 1846, both Sonoma and Yerba Buena (San Francisco) were already under the control of the “Bear Flaggers,” a band of American freelancers under the nominal command of US Army Lt. John C. Frémont. By mid-July, the American flag was flying over all the communities around the Monterey and San Francisco Bays. In early August, the new American Navy commander in the Pacific, Commodore Robert Stockton, sent Frémont and his men by ship to take San Diego, while he and his marines secured Santa Barbara. On August 10th, Stockton landed at San Pedro and on the 12th rode into Pueblo de Los Angeles at the head of a small column of sailors and marines and raised the American flag. Stockton then sent word east overland with the intrepid scout Kit Carson that California had been secured for the Union in a bloodless campaign.

But Stockton’s message of peace was a bit premature. Lt. Archibald Gillespie, the military commander in charge of Los Angeles, and his men managed to infuriate the local Californios. A revolt was planned by some of the leading Mexican government officials in the area—José Castro, José Maria Flores, and Andrés Pico—and on September 23 Flores surrounded Gillespie and his garrison demanding their surrender. Gillespie held out until the 29th but had to bow to the inevitable. He and his men marched dejectedly down to the San Pedro landing to await a rendezvous with a Navy ship. When Captain William Mervine, USN, arrived in the *USS Savannah* on October 6, Gillespie proposed the combined force retake Los Angeles. As the Americans walked past the Domínguez ranch house on the afternoon of the 8th, they were met and defeated in a sharp battle by Flores and his men. The whipped men waited at San Pedro for the arrival of Commodore Stockton on the 25th. Meanwhile, the Californios chased the American garrisons out of both San Diego and Santa Barbara. A full scale revolt was in the making.

Stockton decided to consolidate his forces at San Diego, which he reclaimed on November 18th. He planned a two pronged land assault on Los Angeles—Frémont would march south from Monterey and Stockton and his sailors would march north from San Diego. The Californios were in a quandary. They had few men and little ammunition. They divided their meager forces into three groups: a northern detachment under Castro to watch for Frémont, a southern detachment under Pico to watch Stockton and a reserve force under Flores at Los Angeles.

As the Commodore prepared for his campaign in early December word arrived of the approach of another American column, a 100 man detachment under the command of Col. Stephen W. Kearny who led the “Army of the West” overland from Fort Leavenworth, secured the territory of New Mexico, crossed the great Sonoran desert, and was making their way across the Southern Californian mountains. Stockton sent a small detachment under Lt. Gillespie to guide Kearny to San Diego and they linked up on December 5th. Kearny learned of the nearby location of Pico and his men at a little Indian village of San Pasqual and was talked into a rash attack the next morning. It was a disaster for the Americans. Nineteen soldiers were killed or mortally wounded in the battle and many more, including both Kearny and Gillespie, were wounded. The Californios could not press their advantage, but managed to trap the Americans on a hill for the next three days until help arrived from San Diego.

Once at San Diego, Kearny was quickly apprised of Stockton's plans and, after a brief rest, the small army marched north towards Los Angeles on December 29th. Flores decided to make a stand on the bluff overlooking a crossing of the San Gabriel River, but a sharp series of charges by Stockton's and Kearny's men drove them from their position on January 8, 1847. Another small battle occurred at a mesa next to the Los Angeles River the next day, but this too ended in the flight of the Californios. On January 10th Stockton triumphantly re-entered Los Angeles and Gillespie raised the flag he took down 3 months earlier. Flores, Pico and their men fled north looking for Castro, only to find Frémont's slow moving column entering the San Fernando valley. The remaining Californios met with Frémont and signed the Treaty of Cahuega on January 13th, ending the hostilities in the west.

Once the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed and ratified in early 1848 formally ending the war, ceding California to the United States, the federal government reserved all lands held as public property by the government of Mexico in the area. The "public landing" clause listed in the establishment of the Rancho Palos Verdes was the legal cornerstone for establishing the 500 varas square "government reservation" at San Pedro landing. Initially, no use was established for the reserve, it was surveyed and pretty much forgotten about for the next few decades.

In the middle of the nineteenth century Phineas Banning arrived in San Pedro, and a great deal of credit has been given to him for early development of the area. By 1854, he had developed a thriving business in handling the majority of the freight and passenger service between Los Angeles and the port. However, a few years later, a storm severely damaged his warehouse and wharf, and Banning decided to abandon the San Pedro area, moving his terminal to a another location called New San Pedro, later renamed Wilmington. The new area grew slowly, but received considerable impetus at the outbreak of the Civil War.

Military activities in the West in 1861 were under the command of the Department of the Pacific, with headquarters at the Presidio in San Francisco. Even before the start of hostilities, it became apparent that a strong military presence would be required in Southern California to control the strong Secessionist elements made up of recent emigrants from southern states. The First Dragoons from Fort Tejon under Major James Henry Carleton were ordered to Los Angeles to support Captain Winfield Scott Hancock, the quartermaster and one-man garrison. Shortly thereafter, Major Carleton was promoted to Colonel and given command of the First California Volunteer Infantry, stationed first at Camp Latham near present Culver City.

When Phineas Banning learned that the Army had decided to establish a camp in Southern California, he offered a large site of his Wilmington property holdings to the government for a dollar a year. The Army units in the Los Angeles area were concentrated at Camp Drum at Wilmington. The name honored the Adjutant General of the Department of the Pacific, Richard Coulter Drum. The reason given for not using the San Pedro government reservation was the lack of water.

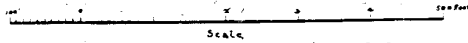
In December, 1861, Col. Carleton received orders to organize an expedition to the Rio Grande to assist New Mexico and Colorado forces in repelling a Confederate army of Texans who had captured several Union posts along the Rio Grande and were planning an advance west through Arizona and eventually into California. The planning for this expedition, to be known as "The California Column," was performed by Colonel Carleton and his staff at Camp Drum. The operation was launched in April, 1862, and was successfully concluded in August after the retreat of the Texans. This march of 2300 men and a massive supply train across the California and Arizona deserts in the heat of summer will always be recognized as a masterpiece of military planning and execution.

Camp Drum was initially a tent encampment. After the completion of nineteen permanent buildings on the land donated by Phineas Banning and B.D. Wilson, it was redesignated "Drum Barracks." Drum Barracks occupied a rectangle measuring 1500 by 1723 feet, enclosing 59.4 acres. It served as the main training, staging and supply base for military operations in Southern California and Arizona, mostly against hostile Indians, gradually diminishing in importance after the war until it was deactivated in 1871. After the post was abandoned, the property was subdivided and the buildings gradually deteriorated or were demolished, except for the junior officers quarters, now the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum one of the few remaining Civil War structures remaining in the Western United States.

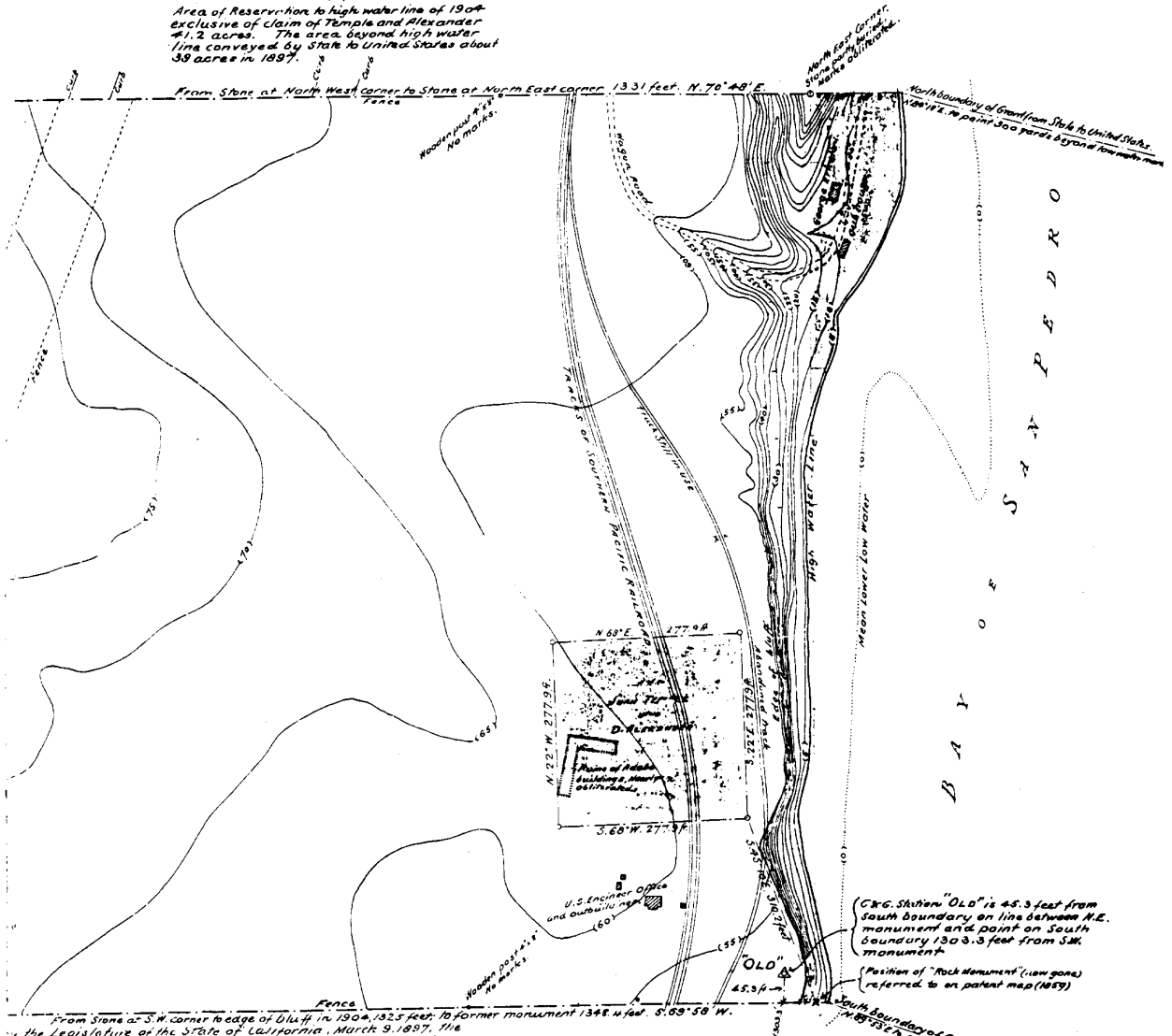
In the 1870s and 1880s, the Los Angeles area population grew as it emerged as an important rail- way transportation center. The need for better harbor facilities spurred a debate over where to build such facilities, Santa Monica or San Pedro. The Southern Pacific even built a line over the land of the Government Reserve, prompting the action in 1888 of transferring the property from the Department of the Interior to the War Department. Eventually, it was decided to built the harbor facilities at San Pedro, which was then annexed by the City of Los Angeles. Jetty construction by the US Army Corps of Engineers began in 1890. The harbor, whose new jettied entrance was nicknamed "Angels Gate," continued to grow in importance. By the turn of the century the need for a deep-water harbor became self evident. In 1910 the breakwater protecting the harbor entrance was completed and soon transformed San Pedro Harbor into one of the largest and busiest on the west coast of the United States.

From the time President Cleveland signed the executive order setting aside the land for a military reservation, almost two decades passed before definite steps were taken to convert the semibarren gov- ernment reserve into what is now Fort MacArthur, although legal wrangling over the privately owned area where the hide house was located was not settled until 1922. In 1897 the tideland adjacent to the Government Reservation was transferred from the State of California to the War Department. Preparations were being made to defend the new harbor facilities.

**SAN PEDRO MILITARY RESERVATION**  
CALIFORNIA



Area of Reservation to high water line of 1904 exclusive of claim of Temple and Alexander #1, 2 acres. The area beyond high water line conveyed by State to United States about 38 acres in 1897.



From Stone at S.W. corner to edge of bluff in 1904 132.5 feet to former monument 1348.4 feet S. 85° 58' W. by the Legislature of the State of California, March 9, 1897, the area to an area along the front of this reservation 300 feet wide the low water line was ceded by the State to the United States and south boundaries of this area are indicated. Angeles Cal. November 20, 1905.

of this date  
*[Signature]*  
 Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

Survey by H. H. Burton, Superintendent, June 21, 1904.

**2447**

The San Pedro Government Reservation, 1905



## Chapter 2

### Fort MacArthur—the Early Years 1914-1939

It has been a basic military policy of most nations, including the United States, to secure their borders against possible attack through the construction of defensive fortifications. Except for an attack from Canada or Mexico, all potential American adversaries would come from overseas. Thus America sought security against an attack through fortification of her maritime frontiers. Fortifications were viewed both by Congress and the public as a way to avoid foreign entanglements and war. This thinking had a strong influence on American national defense policy and during certain periods fortification construction was nearly a substitute for any other form of military policy.

Seacoast fortification was attractive to the United States government. Few military principles were as enduring as that of the superiority of guns ashore over those afloat. The United States had a long shoreline, a weak navy (at least until the early 20th Century), and a concern about foreign attack. The use of seacoast fortifications also complied with another long standing American military tradition—militia forces. Seacoast fortifications, once constructed, could be maintained by a caretaker force.

In 1883, the Navy began a new construction program for the first time since the Civil War. The Navy's new ships were designed to be offensive rather than defensive weapons. This change in naval policy, along with the advances in weapon technology, required a new system of coastal defenses which would safeguard the harbors and free the Navy for its new role. In 1885 President Cleveland appointed a joint Army, Navy and civilian board to evaluate proposals for new defenses that was headed by Secretary of War William C. Endicott. The board recommended a massive \$127 million construction program. Funding for construction of a more modest building program began in 1890, under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers, of gun batteries and mine fields at 29 important harbors—including San Diego, San Francisco, the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt convened another board, this one under his Secretary of War William N. Taft, to update and review the progress on the earlier board's program. Most of the changes recommended by this board were technical; such as adding more searchlights, electrification including lighting, communications and projectile handling, and a more sophisticated optical aiming technique. The Board also recommended the fortification of key harbors in the newly acquired territories of Cuba, the Philippines, Panama, and Hawaii. These two modern programs gave the United States a coastal defense system that was equal to any other nation by the beginning of World War I.



Barracks, Fort MacArthur, 1923 (George Ruhlen Collection, Fort MacArthur Museum)

War Department planners realized the need to provide adequate harbor defense for the fast growing Los Angeles sea terminal at San Pedro Bay. Troubles in the Far East, and tensions heightening in Europe caused War Department planners in 1908 to project plans for a strong harbor defensive installation at San Pedro. The plan was approved in 1909 by Congress, adding it to the existing construction programs. The plan called for the construction of gun emplacements to hold four 14-inch guns, eight 12-inch mortars, and four 3-inch guns, with facilities to plant and maintain a mine field at the harbor entrance as well as buildings for a four company artillery post. However, the Government Reserve was deemed to be too far inland to be an effective site for the emplacement of the guns. Money was authorized to buy additional property at location more seaward. In 1910 a large section of land at Point Fermin was purchased from William G. Kerchoff and George H. Peck for \$249,000.

Four years later, on October 31, 1914, the first construction work began on permanent harbor defenses at San Pedro. The Army practice was to name posts after deceased military officers, hence: "Under the provisions of paragraph 201, Army Regulations, the military reservation at Point Fermin, Cal., is named Fort MacArthur, in honor of Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur, Jr., United States Army, who died September 5, 1912".—General Orders No. 1, War Department, 1914.



Construction of a 14-inch gun battery at Fort MacArthur, 1916  
(US Army Corps of Engineers photo)



Arthur MacArthur, Jr.

Arthur MacArthur, Jr. was born in Springfield, Mass. June 1, 1845; son of Judge Arthur MacArthur. In 1849 he moved with his family to Milwaukee, Wis., and there attended school until August 4, 1862, when he was appointed by Governor Salomon as First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 24th Wisconsin Volunteers, two months after his 17th birthday.

His first battle was Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862, in the 37th Brigade, 11th Division, 3rd Corps, though his unit was scarcely engaged. At Stones River, Tenn., December 30-31, 1862, his regiment was part of the first Brigade, Sheridan's 3rd Division, McCook's right wing, Army of Cumberland. The unit held during a key part of the fighting, thanks in part to Adjutant MacArthur's leadership, and he was commended for bravery and presence of mind by both his regimental commander and his brigade commander.

At Chickamauga he was again second in command, where the unit was caught up in the general Federal retreat to the town of Chatanooga following the battle of September 20, 1863. There the Army of the Cumberland received a new commander, Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant. On November 25, after assaults on both enemy flanks failed, Grant sent the Army of the Cumberland against the center of the Rebel line on Missionary Ridge. The attack succeeded, sending the Southern army packing for Georgia. The 24th Wisconsin was in the middle of the assault, and Arthur MacArthur led the regiment carrying the unit's colors.

In a letter to his father dated November 26, Arthur wrote "[I] had the honor of planting the colors of the 24th Wisconsin immediately in front of Bragg's (the Confederate Commanding General) headquarters. I showed the old flag to General Sheridan immediately upon his arrival on the top of the ridge . . . While I was carrying the flag a whole dose of canister went through it, tearing it a frightful manner. I only received one scratch and that through the rim of my hat."

Maj. Gen. Phillip Sheridan said "Take care of him boys, he has just won the Medal of Honor." For his gallantry Arthur was promoted to Captain and later awarded the Medal of Honor as predicted by Sheridan.

Arthur was promoted Major, January 25, 1864 and, after the wounding of the regimental commander on May 15, he was promoted to Lt. Col. and given permanent command of the regiment, just two days after his 19th birthday. He commanded the regiment at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain June 27, 1864, where he was wounded twice, at Peach Tree Creek, and during the sieges of Atlanta and Jonesboro.

At the battle of Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864, he had perhaps his finest battlefield performance. As a part of Opdyke's Brigade, in Stanley's Division, the unit had just stacked their arms and begun cooking dinner, when the rebel army struck. The enemy smashed through the Union lines in front of MacArthur's men. The young colonel threw his 340 men into the gap. The Wisconsinites surged forward with fixed bayonets. In the fierce fighting that followed, MacArthur was wounded three times and forced to relinquish command. His successor was killed in the battle. MacArthur's audacious counterattack had slowed the rebel attack enough until the rest of the brigade arrived to stop the advance.

Maj. Gen. David Stanley, commanding the IV Corps, wrote "I will not absolutely say that the 24th Wisconsin saved the Battle of Franklin, but I can testify from the evidence of my own eyes that they had a great deal to do with it. In this feat of arms they were gallantly and well led by their boy-colonel Arthur MacArthur."

He did not rejoin his regiment until early 1865, and was mustered out with his regiment in Nashville on June 10, 1865. He was brevetted Lieutenant Colonel of Volunteers for distinguished services at Perryville, Stones River, Missionary Ridge and Dandridge, Tenn., and Colonel of Volunteers for distinguished service at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., and in the Atlanta Campaign March 12, 1865.

On February 23, 1866, he joined the regular Army and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 17th Infantry and the same day was promoted First Lieutenant. He accepted the commission April 30, 1866, was promoted Captain of the 36th Infantry July 28, 1866. He spent the next 31 years at lonely garrisons in the South-western states. He was married in 1875. Promoted, finally, to Major and Assistant Adjutant-General July 1, 1889; then Lieutenant Colonel March 26, 1896.

After the War with Spain began, he re-entered the Volunteer Army as Brigadier General May 27, 1898, and was promoted Major General of Volunteers August 13, 1898. He succeeded General Elwell S. Otis in command of the division of the Philippines February 5, 1901, and on June 15, 1901, issued a proclamation of amnesty to the natives.

MacArthur was promoted to Brigadier General January 2, 1900, and Major General February 5th, 1901. Upon his return from the Philippines, he commanded the Department of Colorado, at Denver from December 30, 1901, to March 27, 1902; then commanded Department of the Lakes at Chicago, Ill. to March 24, 1903; and commanded Division of the Pacific and Department of California to February 15, 1905. During the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, he was in Japan as Military Observer with the Japanese Army, going later to India to secure military information. He returned to the United States August 2, 1906 and was in temporary command of the Pacific Division and Department of California. He advanced to the rank of Lieutenant General, September 15, 1906, to October 26, 1906 where he remained in command of the Pacific Division to April 30, 1907. Finally he returned to Milwaukee, Wis., under orders to date of retirement June 2, 1909.

On September 12, 1912, MacArthur attended a reunion of the old 24th Wisconsin. While addressing his comrades, he grew pale and collapsed, uttering the words "comrades, I am too weak to go on" and died. He was 67 years old. His body was draped with the tattered battle flag of the regiment, it was the same flag the young Arthur had carried up Missionary Ridge nearly 50 years before.

Arthur MacArthur's third son had an even more distinguished career with the United States Army. Douglas MacArthur, West Point Class of 1904, was promoted to Brigadier General during World War I, served as Army Chief of Staff, the Head of the US Military Academy at West Point, became a General of the Army and led U. S. forces to victory in the Pacific during World War II. He was military commander of occupied Japan and led the American forces during the first half of the Korean War. During the early part of 1941, Douglas MacArthur wrote to the post commander this letter regarding the naming of the fort after his father:

October 7, 1941

Dear Colonel Hicks:

It is a real pleasure to enclose with this note a picture of my father, Arthur MacArthur, for inclusion in the year book of your command. The picture was taken in 1907 shortly after his appointment as Lieutenant General, the highest rank then provided by law in the United States Army. There is a particular appropriateness in your suggestion as the construction of the harbor for Los Angeles and its military defense were initially his own strategic conception. Early in the century when commanding the old Pacific Division he deemed it essential that the Port of Los Angeles should be developed and militarily protected. At that same time the city itself probably numbered less than one hundred thousand inhabitants and its miraculous growth since can be partially attributed to the commercial impetus which followed the consummation of the plan. When the War Department decided to fortify the harbor the Chief of Coast Artillery, General Weaver, proposed that the Fort should bear his name and upon approval of the Secretary of War and the President, Fort MacArthur came into being. It is a gracious coincidence that it is now manned by the 3d Regiment of Coast Artillery. This unit served with great distinction under General MacArthur's immediate command during the insurrection in the Philippines as a unit of the 2d Division of the VIIIth Army Corps. It was equipped and fought as infantry and its record was outstanding. I have heard my father state that he had never commanded a unit which was more distinguished by its fortitude and its fighting efficiency. I am sure were he alive today he would be pleased indeed to know that the ramparts which bear his name are manned by the unit which had fought so bravely under him on old battlefields.

With cordial good will,

Most sincerely,  
(signed) Douglas MacArthur

The land comprising the Fort MacArthur Reservations was physically divided into two sections separated by about 5 city blocks of private residences and a sloping hillside: The old Government Reservation, located between Pacific Avenue and San Pedro Bay roughly between 22nd and 28th Streets, was the site of the quarters, barracks, and other buildings housing the permanent garrison and was renamed the Lower Reservation. The Point Fermin lands, located along Gaffey Road roughly between 30th Street and Point Fermin, was the site for the actual gun emplacements, and was renamed the Upper Reservation.

The construction of concrete batteries hold the 14-inch disappearing carriage rifles and the 12-inch mortars began in 1915. In the fall of 1917 the guns themselves arrived. The arrival of each gun tube was an important event. Each of the 14-inch tubes weighed about 110,000 pounds. This weight was much heavier than "housemovers" normally handled. Some days the guns were moved only a few feet. Snaking the tubes up San Pedro hill became increasingly difficult with the arrival of each new weapon. The pavement was deeply gouged and rutted as the wheels of the housemover dollies were driven into pavement by the concentrated weights.

Upon completion of the construction in 1919, the fort had four 14-inch rifles, eight 12-inch mortars and four 3-inch rapid fire guns. The 14-inch guns hurled a 1560 lb. shell 14 miles out to sea. Protected by walls of 20 ft. reinforced concrete and earth walls, the guns were mounted on ingenious disappearing carriages which appeared over their parapets only long enough to fire. Underground concrete bunkers next to the gun emplacements protected the ammunition. Each of the four guns received a separate name: Batteries Osgood, Farley, Merriam and Leary. The 12-inch mortars were similarly emplaced further back from the ocean and were designed to deliver their 700 lb. shells in high arcs to land on the

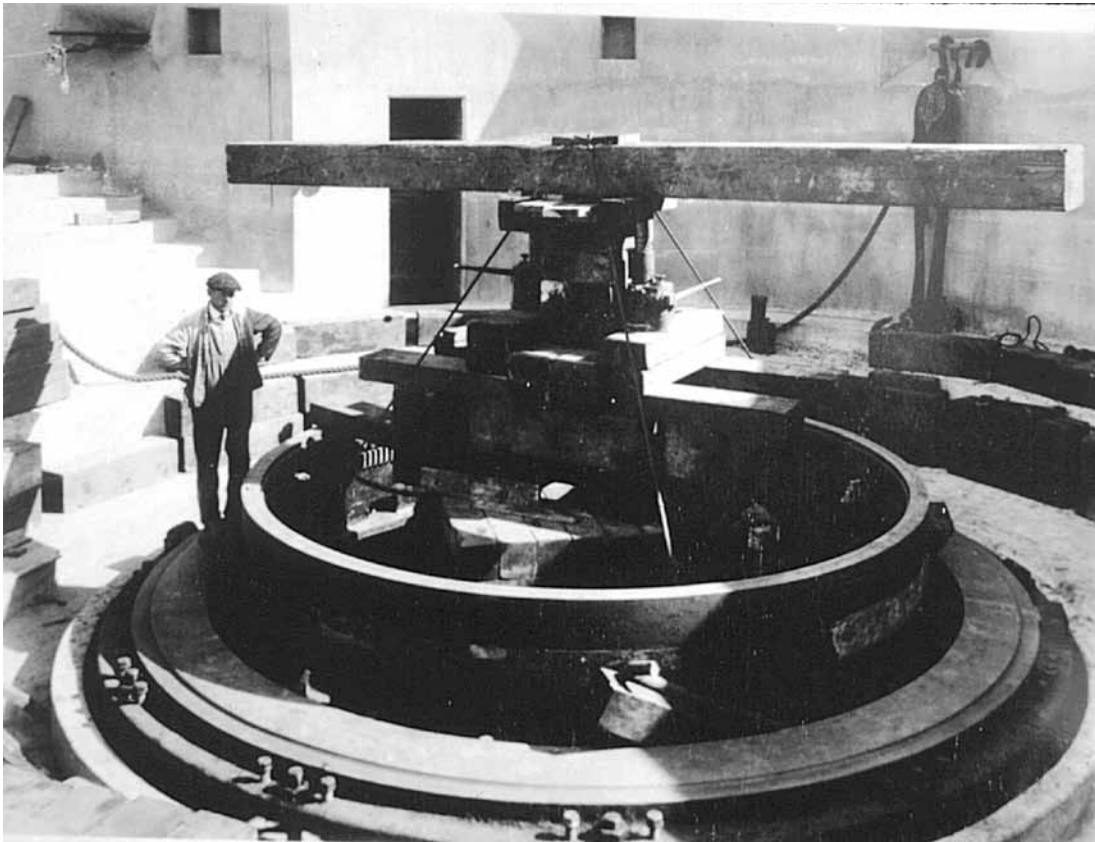
lightly armored decks of approaching enemy ships to a maximum range of 11 miles. The eight guns were divided into two batteries John Barlow and Saxton, each consisting of two pits of two guns each.

The 4th Company, Fort Winfield Scott, California (originally the 38th Company of Artillery), consisting of two officers and ninety-eight enlisted men, commanded by Captain Stanley S. Ross, Coast Artillery Corps, arrived at this post for station March 23, 1917. This company was redesignated the 1st Company, Fort MacArthur, and assumed the mission of post operating company. The unit was later redesignated as the 3rd Company, Anti-aircraft, prior to its departure for France in November 1917. Three new companies were organized on July 10, 1917, under provisions of General Orders No. 62, War Department, 1917. The Second Coast Defense Command, California, National Guard, consisting of eight companies, band and sanitary detachment, was drafted into Federal Service August 5th, 1917, under authority of the President's Draft, dated July 30, 1917, and General Orders No. 16, War Department, 1917, and proceeded to Fort MacArthur August 14, 1917.

United States involvement in WWI accelerated the building program at the Fort, and during the winter and spring of 1917-18 many temporary buildings were constructed in what is now the Los Angeles Unified School District area on the Upper Reservation. These buildings and tents housed the Training Center which furnished the major portion of the 4,000 men Fort MacArthur trained and started on their way to France prior to the Armistice.

Several units of the California National Guard were mobilized into federal service in the latter part of 1917 and stationed at Fort MacArthur. The first group of "draftees" arrived from Texas for basic training in the spring of 1918, forming the 19th Coast Artillery Regiment (Provisional). On May 13, 1918, the first group of trainees from the reception and training center departed for France as members of the 52nd and 53rd ammunition trains. More than 4,000 soldiers at one time were stationed at the fort before the end of the war. Demobilization following the end of "the war to end all wars" soon left only skeletonized units maintaining the armament of the post.

Along with the buildings constructed on the Upper Reservation, temporary barracks also were built on what was known as Deadman's Island, once a protrusion of 14 acres off the seaward tip of Terminal Island. These were used to house members of the 21st Company, California National Guard, from Glendale, California (redesignated the 9th Company Coast Artillery) who manned four 3-inch pedestal mounted guns of Battery Lodor mounted there in 1917. These guns were to be used to provide protection for the planned mine field at the harbor entrance. Facilities for the planting of mines, a wharf, a tramway, a loading room and a magazine, were built on the land next to the Lower Reservation. However, the deployment of mine field was canceled by the Army in 1919 and the facilities were put to other uses. About seven years later, the guns of Battery Lodor were removed and put in storage, and the island was removed to clear the harbor entrance for the deep-water port.

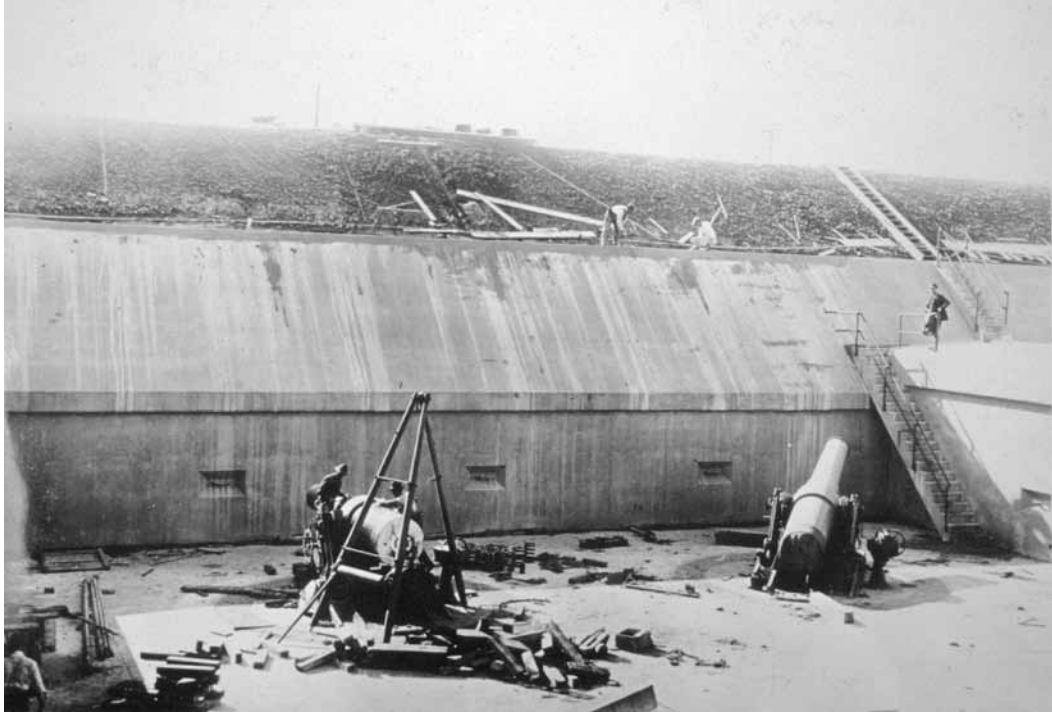


Laying the base ring at a 14-inch gun battery at Fort MacArthur, 1916  
(US Army Corps of Engineers photo)



Moving a 14-inch gun barrel, 1921 (Ruhlen Collection)



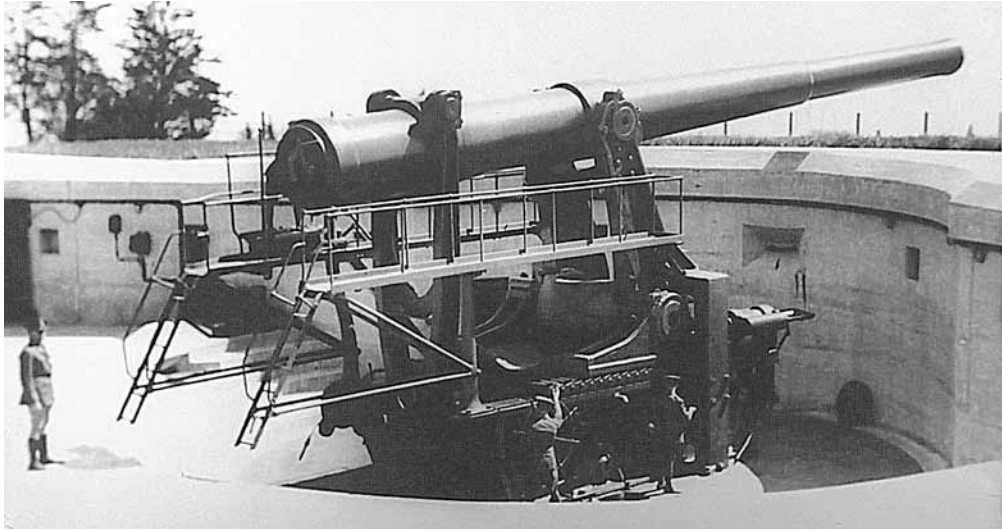


Installing the 12-inch mortars at Fort MacArthur, 1916 (US Army Corps of Engineers photo)



Battery Barlow-Saxton, 1916 (US Army Corps of Engineers)





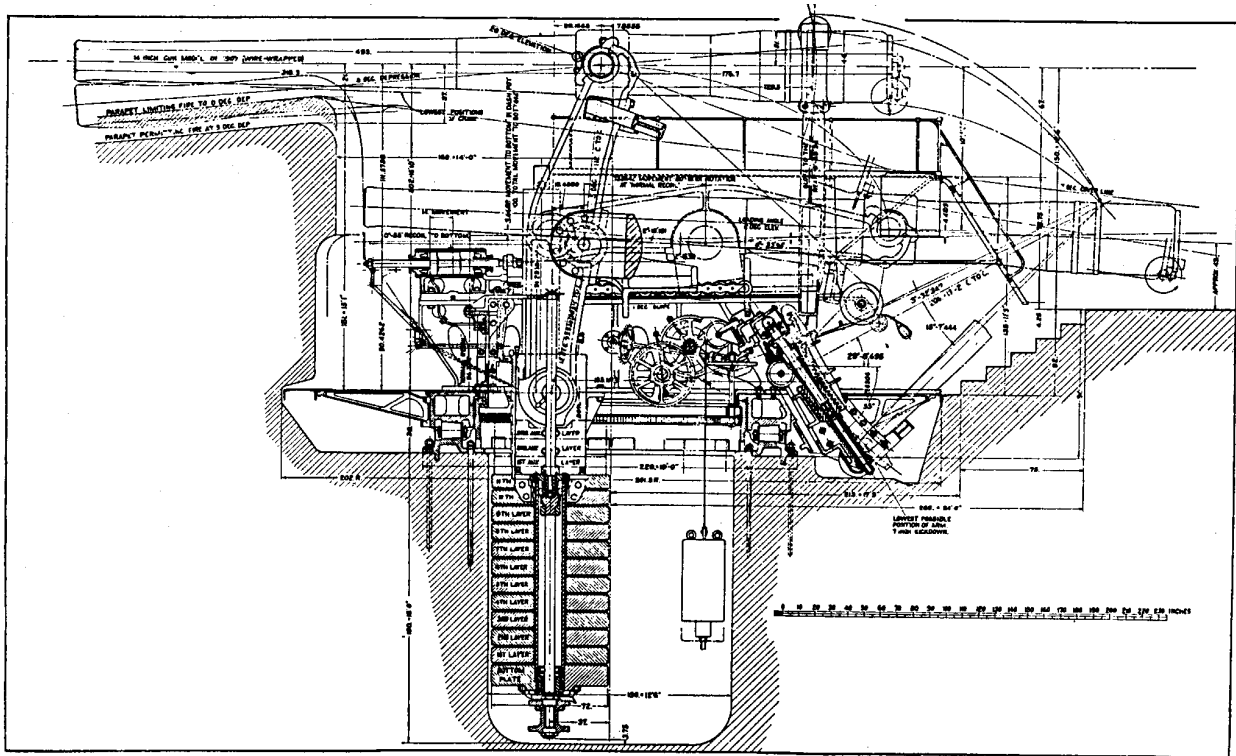
Battery Osgood, 1923 (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)



Battery Osgood, 1920s (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)



Battery Osgood, 1920s (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)



DISAPPEARING CARRIAGE MOUNTING A 14-INCH 34-CALIBER GUN.

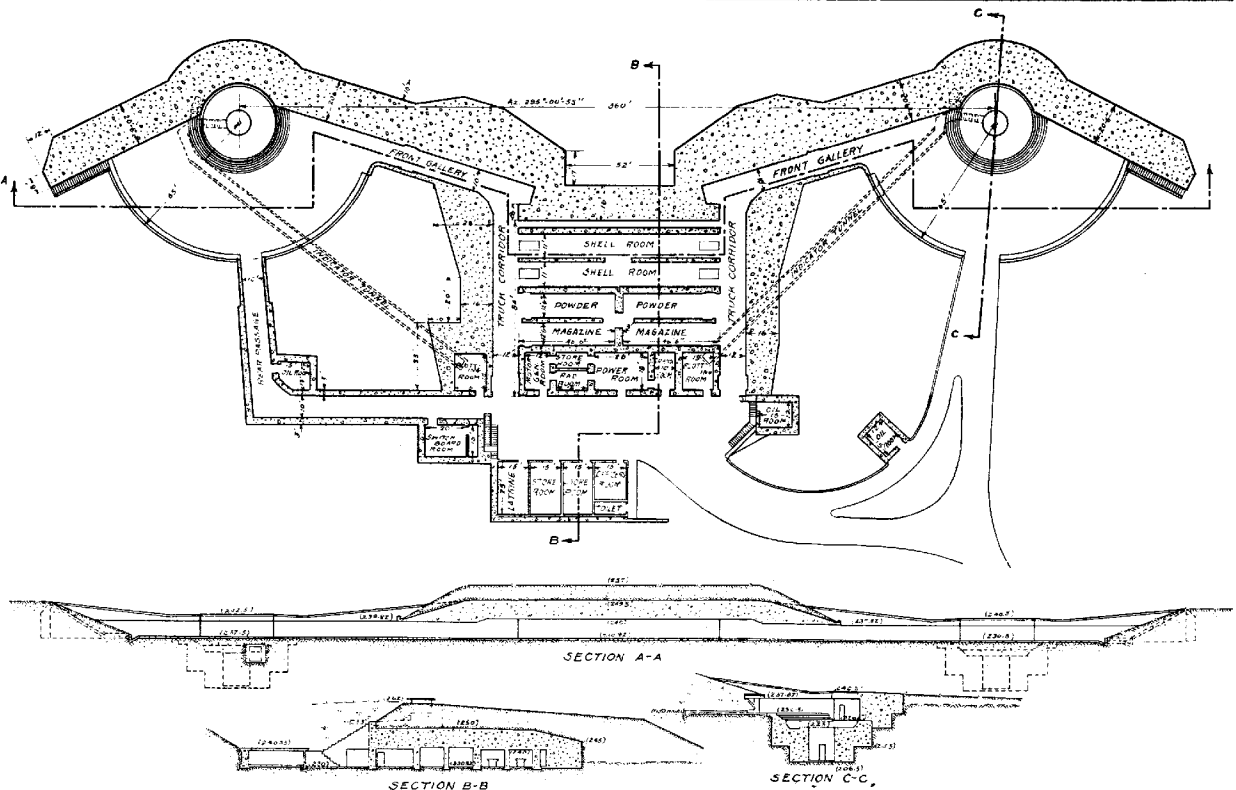
Drawing of 14-inch disappearing gun (above) and a diagram of Battery Osgood-Farley (below)  
(National Archives)

REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS ~ SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS.  
BATTERY PLAN  
CORRECTED TO OCTOBER 6, 1919.

COAST DEFENSES OF LOS ANGELES CAL.  
FORT MACARTHUR.  
BATTERIES OSGOOD AND FARLEY.  
NO OF GUNS TWO CALIBER FOURTEEN INCH CARRIAGE DIS. L.F.

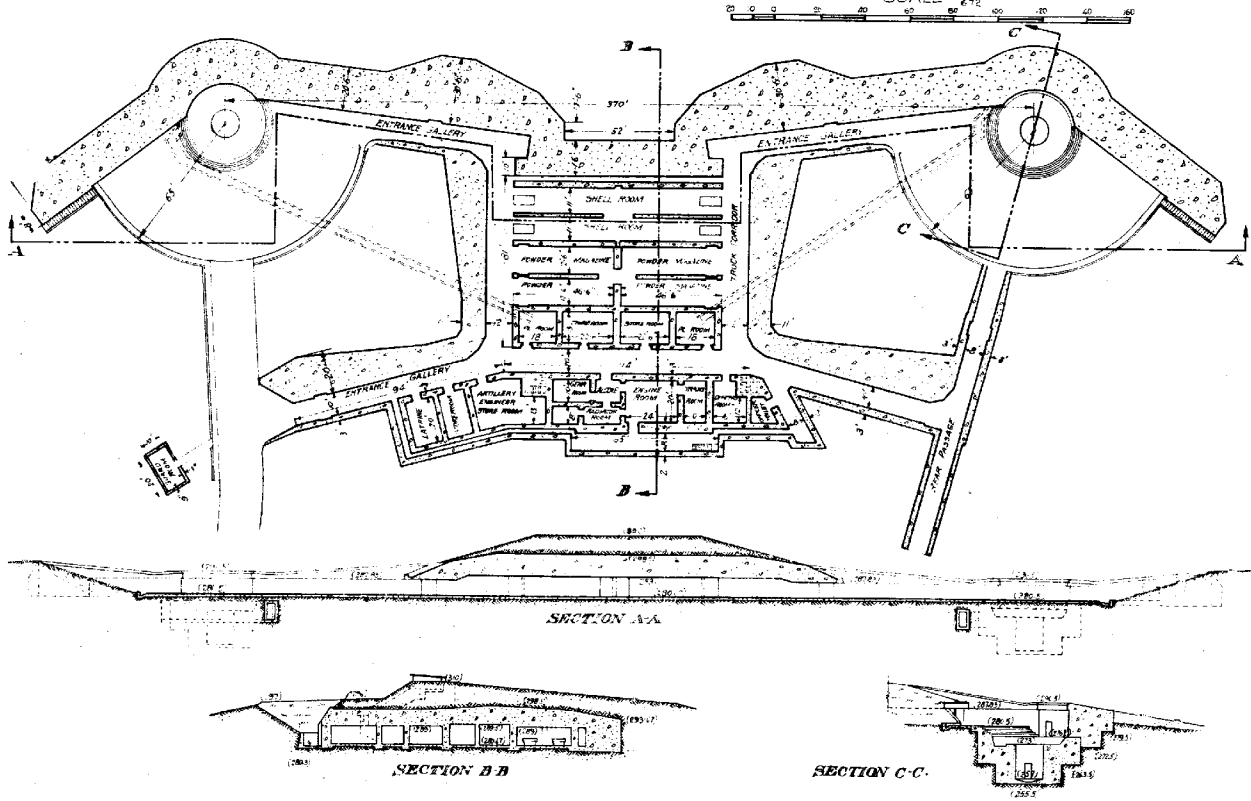
FORM 7

Scale 7/20  
0 50 100 150 200



REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS - SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS.  
 BATTERY PLAN  
 CORRECTED TO OCTOBER 6, 1919.  
 FORM 7.

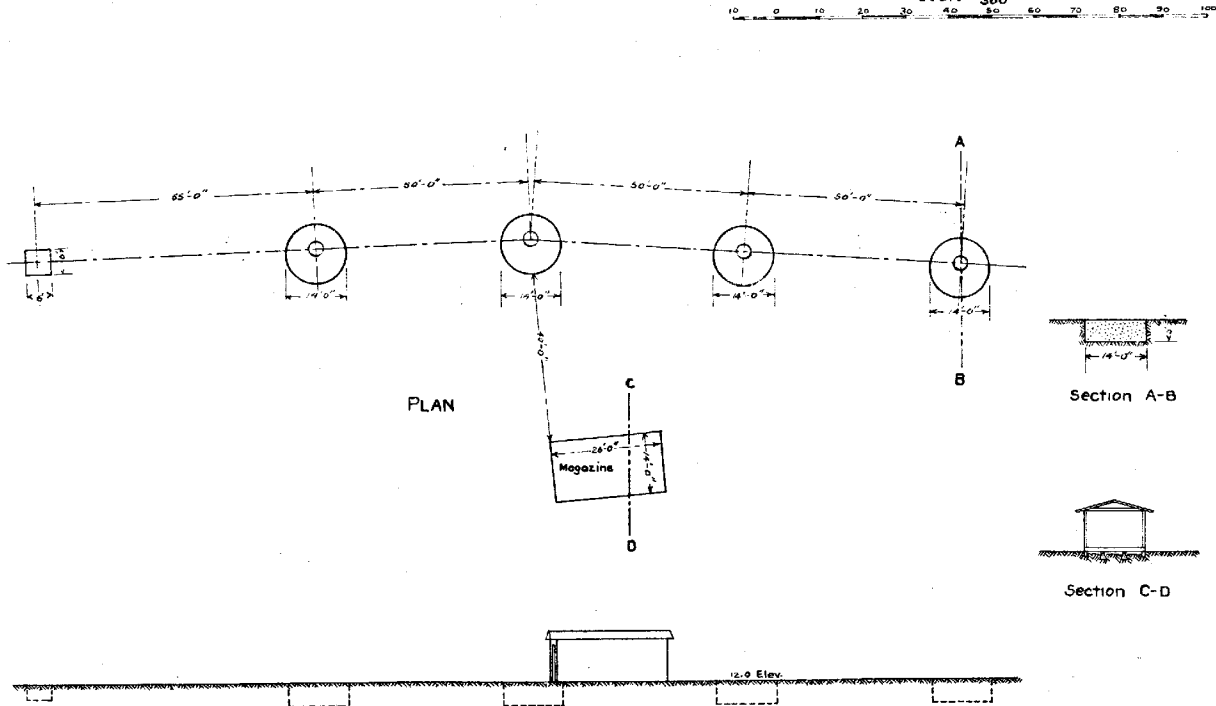
COAST DEFENSES OF LOS ANGELES, CAL.  
 FORT MACARTHUR, CAL.  
 BATTERIES LEARY AND MERRIAM.  
 NO. OF GUNS TWO, CALIBER FOURTEEN INCH, CARRIAGE DIS. I.F.  
 SCALE



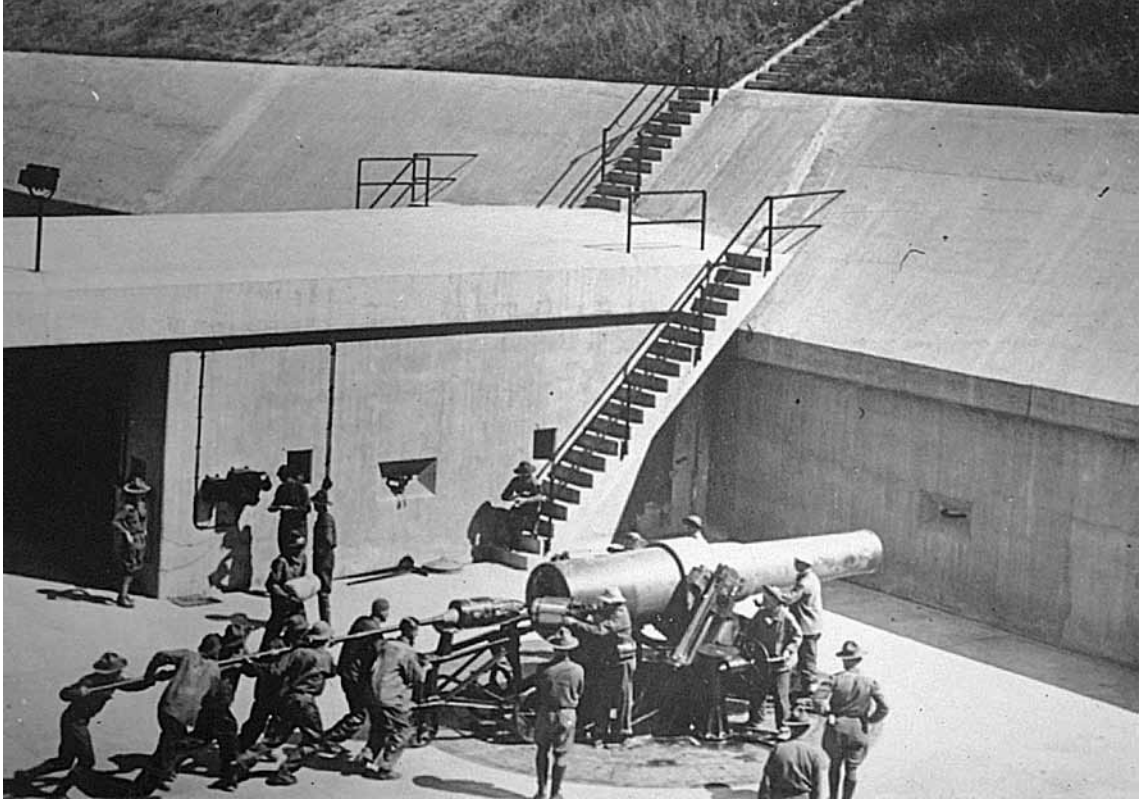
Battery Leary-Merriam (above) and Battery Lodor (below) (National Archives)

REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS - SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS.  
 BATTERY PLAN  
 CORRECTED TO APRIL 3, 1919.  
 FORM 7.

COAST DEFENSES OF LOS ANGELES, CAL.  
 FORT M<sup>C</sup>ARTHUR  
 BATTERY LODOR  
 NO OF GUNS FOUR CALIBER THREE INCH CARRIAGE BARB.  
 Scale  $\frac{1}{360}$



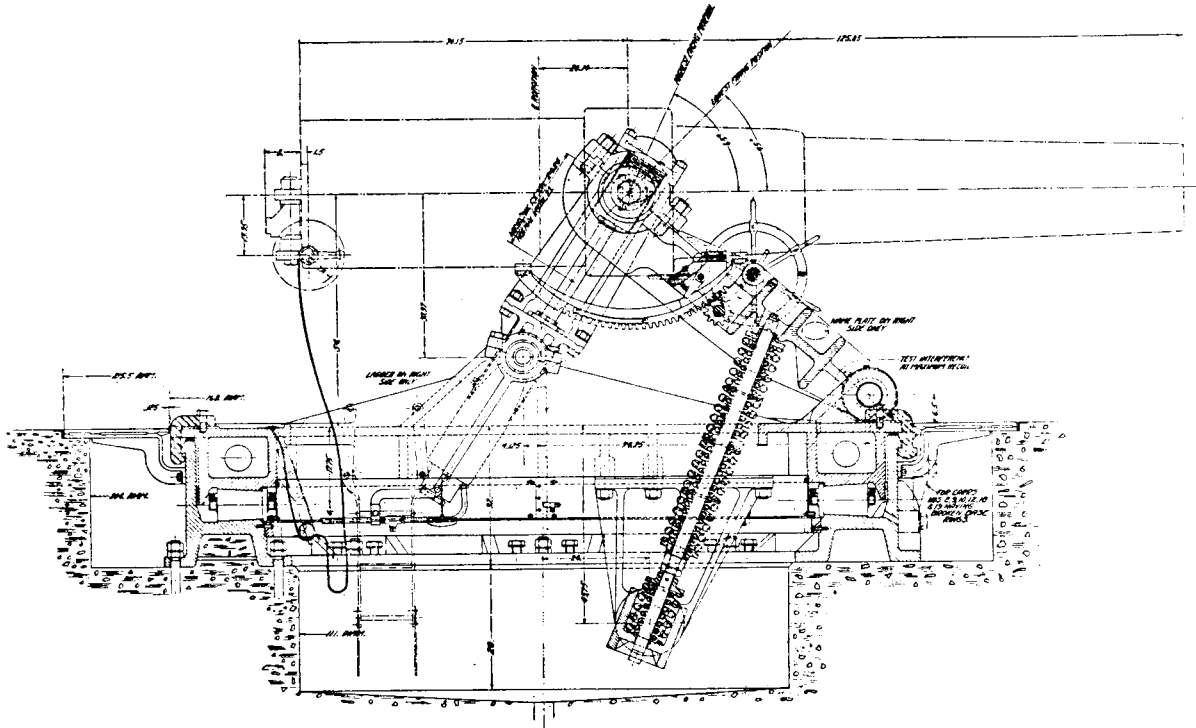
REAR ELEVATION



Battery Barlow-Saxton, 1920s (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)



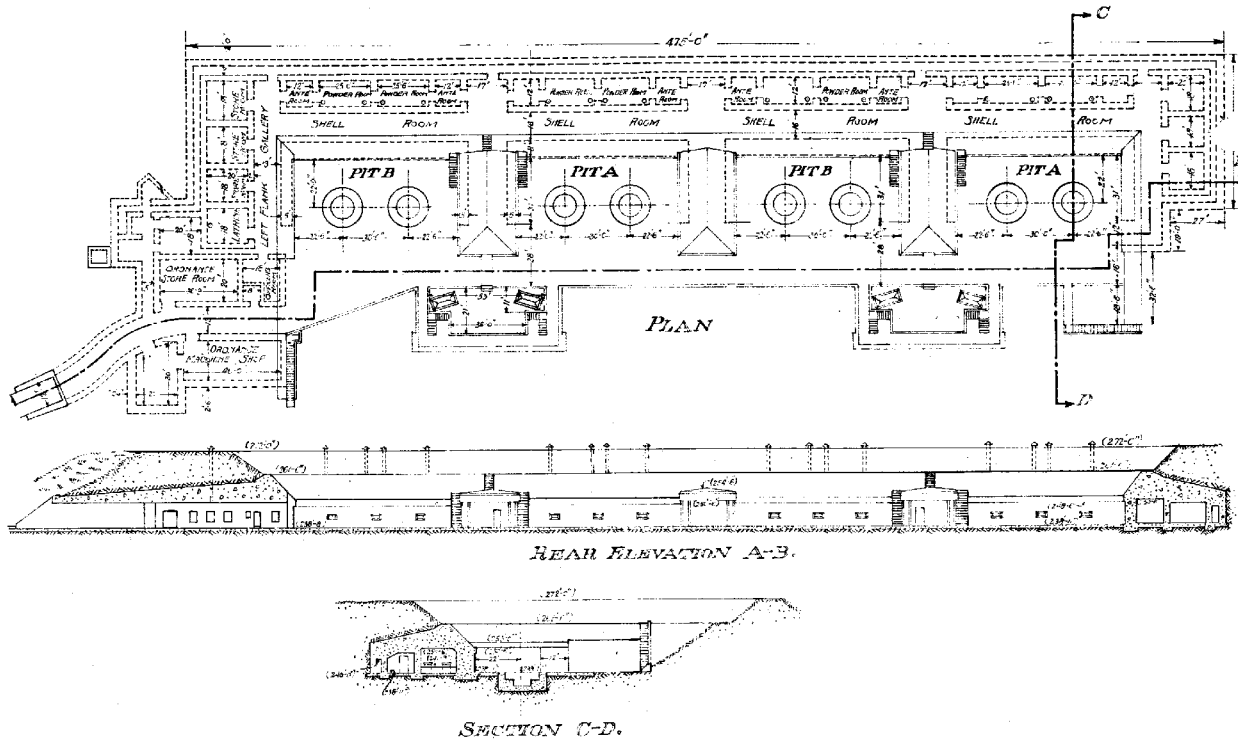
Battery Barlow-Saxton, 1920s (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)



Drawing of 12-inch mortar (above) and a diagram of Battery Barlow-Saxton (below)  
(National Archives)

REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS - SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS.  
BATTERY PLAN  
FORM 7.

COAST DEFENSES OF LOS ANGELES, CAL.  
FORT MAC ARTHUR, CAL.  
BATTERIES SAXTON AND JOHN BARLOW.  
NO OF GUNS EIGHT, CALIBER TWELVE-INCH CARRIAGE MORTAR  
SCALE = 1/8" = 1'-0"





Soldiers, 1920s (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)



Officer's Quarters, Fort MacArthur, 1923 (George Ruhlen Collection, Fort MacArthur Museum)



Officer's Quarters, Fort MacArthur, 1923 (George Ruhlen Collection, Fort MacArthur Museum)

## Between the Wars

As Fort MacArthur returned to its peacetime mission as a Coast Artillery post, interest and attention to the problems of the Fort diminished on both local and national level. There were, however, occasional flurries of excitement.

The U. S. Army Hospital at Fort MacArthur was constructed in 1918 with an original capacity of 23 beds. Further construction in 1942 and again in 1952 increased the designated bed capacity to 60.

During an inspection trip in April 1924, Brig. Gen. Henry D. Todd, Commanding Ninth Coast Artillery District, stated that the guns at Fort MacArthur were too few and too short ranged to fulfill the mission of defense of the harbor. Although his statements were true, the nation as a whole was more interested in disarmament, and locally, the robbery of the paymaster's safe at the fort a few months later created more interest in the newspaper columns.

Also in 1924, the Coast Artillery Corps was reorganized and the regimental structure was re-instituted. The bulk of the units that were once part of the old 3rd Regiment of Artillery were already stationed on the Pacific coast, so on July 1, the units were gathered as the 3rd Coast Artillery Regiment was constituted in a ceremony at its new headquarters at Fort MacArthur, with Major George Ruhlen, Jr., commanding. The Third had a long illustrious history which dated back to the origins of the Army in the Revolutionary War. It had been disbanded along with the other regiments of artillery in 1901.

Concern over Los Angeles' meager defenses prompted the allotment of two new 14-inch railway guns to Fort MacArthur. In 1925 the first one arrived at Fort MacArthur with much publicity and fanfare. These guns were mounted on special carriages that could be moved by rail to their firing positions. They could fire their 1400 lb. projectiles a distance of 27 miles. They were initially stored on the Lower Reservation on a side spur that had a single special firing platform built in 1926. During the next few years, a few practice and test firings of that gun and the other big guns were conducted. The blast of firing was felt in the homes, in many sections of San Pedro. The command made an effort to give advance warning to residents and householders, and gave every assistance to them in filing of claims for damages. But, each time firings were held, many householders either disregarded the warnings or failed to take recommended precautions. The outcry against the firings by some of the residents soon reached fever pitch. By 1928 the firings became a political issue, and the War Department was forced to issue orders that no further firings would be permitted at Fort MacArthur. A second 14-inch railway gun arrived in 1929 and was quietly parked next to its sister on the Lower Reservation.

The summer of 1926 was a busy time at Fort MacArthur with the initiation of the Citizen's Military Training Camps (CMTC). Under that program, men between the ages of 17 to 24 received military training for 28 days each summer. They were fed, housed and clothed and received instruction in basic military subjects. Many of these individuals, after four of these summer sessions and additional tests and instruction, were offered reserve commissions in the Army. During the lull between the wars, Fort MacArthur was used to house companies of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and was also used by the California National Guard for its summer training camp.

Meanwhile, although strict neutrality and isolationism was the popular theme politically during the thirties in the United States, the War Department foresaw the need for a different, improved type of harbor defense. Theory emphasis shifted from the heavy coastal defense weapons to that of anti-aircraft and anti-submarine defense warfare. And, although the large guns were still an important part of the defense system, three batteries of the 63rd Coast Artillery (AA) were assigned to Fort MacArthur from Fort Scott, Calif., in March 1930. As the number of men assigned to the 3rd Coast Artillery continued to diminish, the 63rd became the largest unit on the post. The men of the 63rd made frequent trips



out to the Mojave firing range (later renamed Fort Irwin), and to a practice area near March Airfield in Riverside (later named Camp Haan) for antiaircraft artillery gunnery practice.

While the antiaircraft defenses at Fort MacArthur were being strengthened with the assignment of additional personnel during the mid-thirties, members of Headquarters Battery, Third Coast Artillery, received training in firing the big guns, but not at Fort MacArthur. In 1937, the two 14-inch railway rifles were moved south and fired from a training site at Don, California (in what is now Camp Pendleton, forty miles north of San Diego). Commenting on the successful firings, the Los Angeles Times stated that these two rifles were the only two modern long range heavy railroad guns in the continental United States. The next year they were brought up north and fired from a position just to the north of Santa Barbara.

Two new emplacements for the railway guns were built on fill in the mudflats below the Lower Reservation, along with a new connecting spur to the main rail lines in 1937. After the area around the mounts was filled in, the guns were “camouflaged” in special breakaway buildings.



14-inch Railway gun at the Don Shoot, 1938 (George Ruhlen Collection, Fort MacArthur Museum)

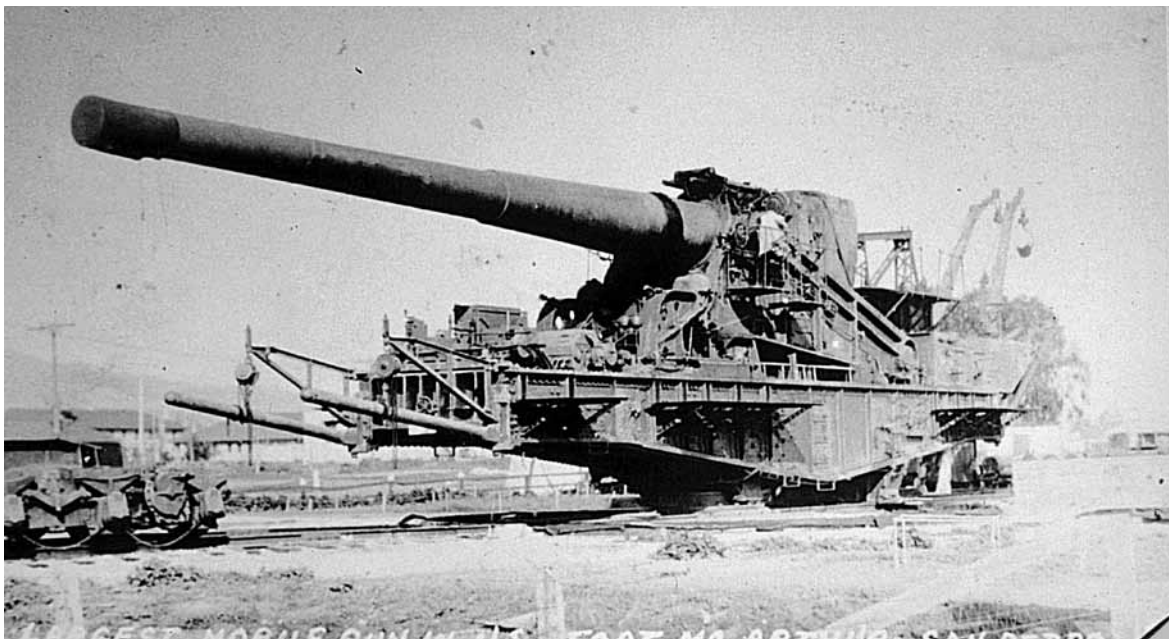




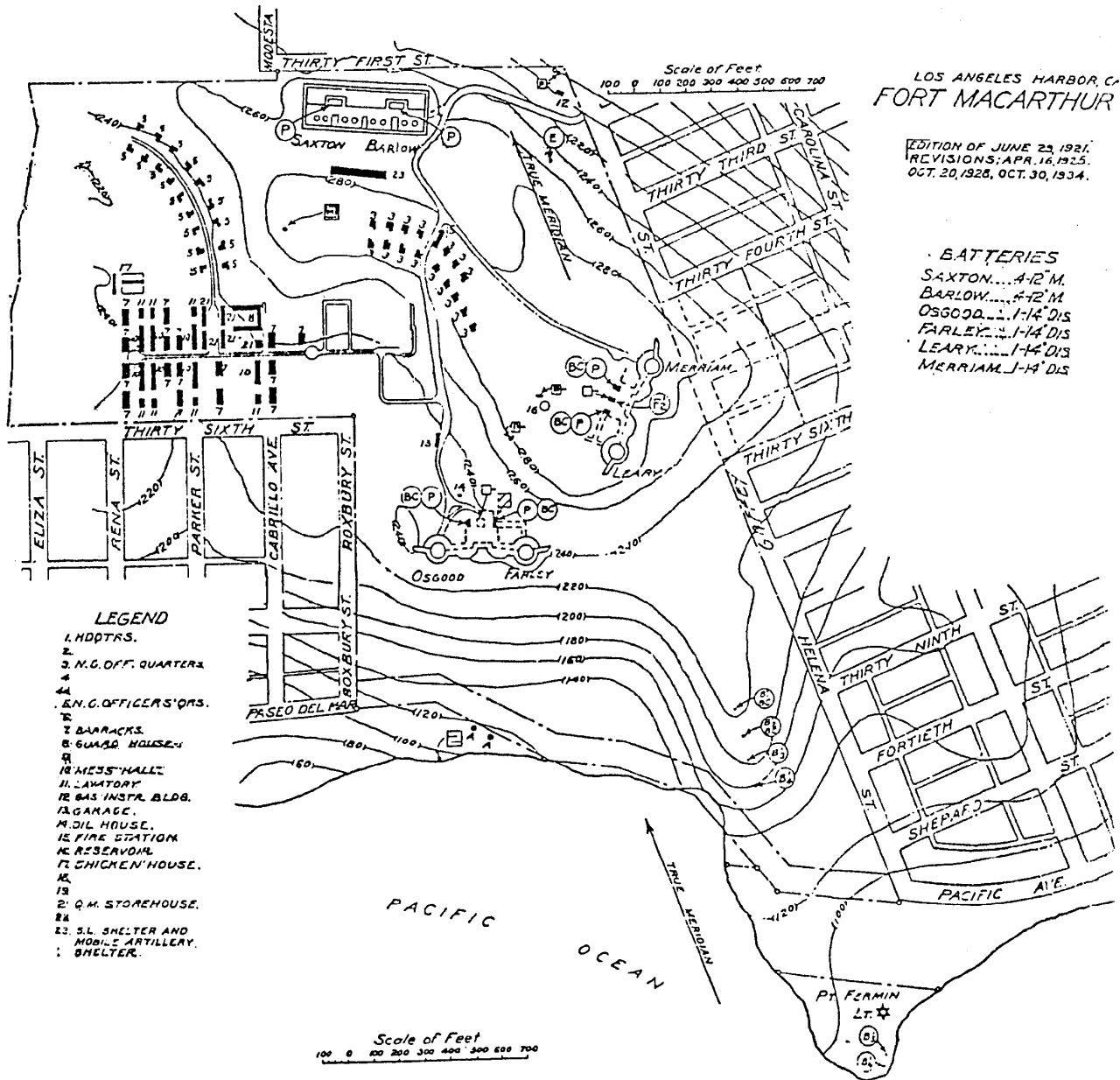
14-inch Railway gun at the Don Shoot, 1938 (George Ruhlen Collection, Fort MacArthur Museum)



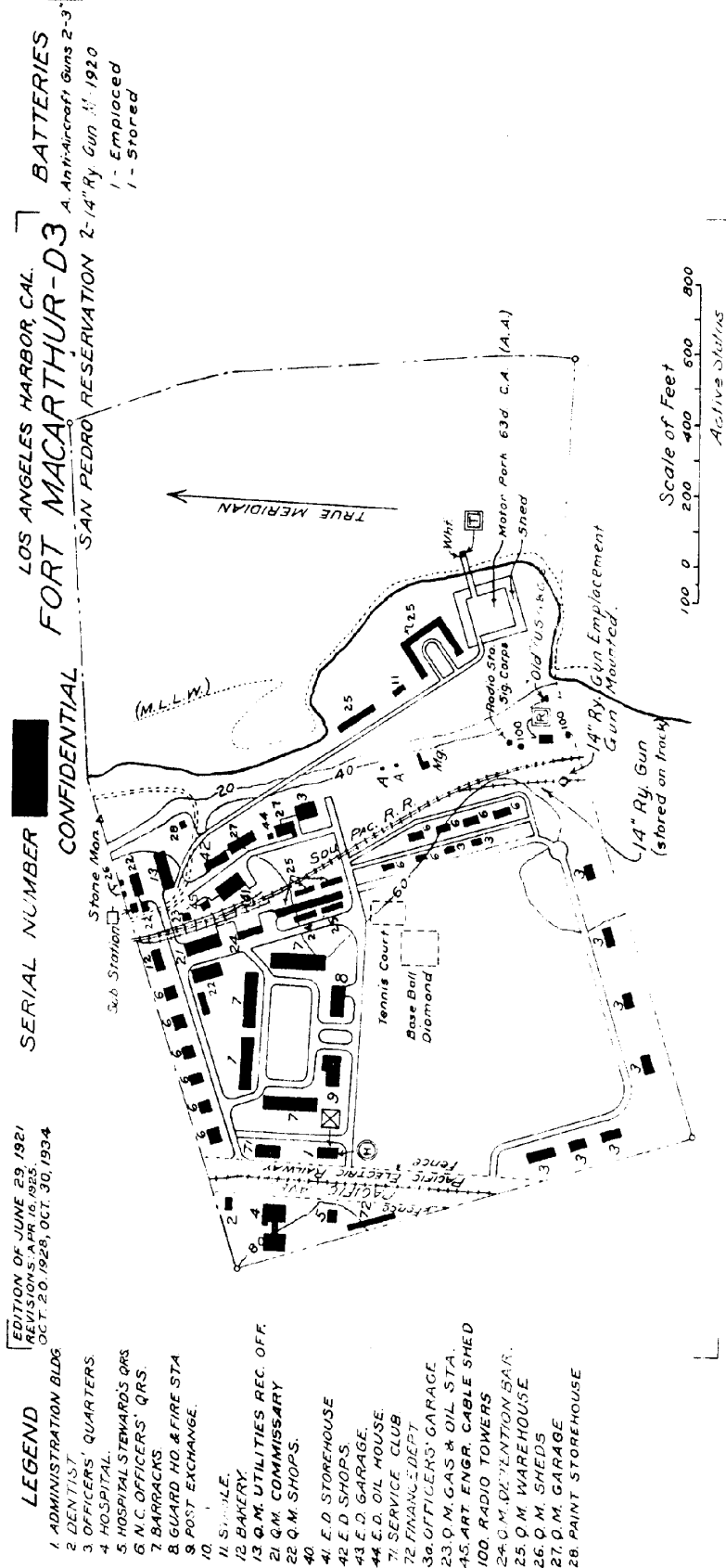
14-inch Railway gun at the Don Shoot, 1938 (George Ruhlen Collection, Fort MacArthur Museum)



14-inch Railway gun at Fort MacArthur 1930s (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)



The Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur, 1921  
Confidential Blueprint Series, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, D1 and D2, National Archives



EDITION OF JUNE 29 1921  
REVISIONS: APR 16 1925  
OCT 20 1928, OCT 30 1934

- LEGEND**
- 1. ADMINISTRATION BLDG
  - 2. DENTIST
  - 3. OFFICERS' QUARTERS
  - 4. HOSPITAL
  - 5. HOSPITAL STEWARDS' QRS
  - 6. N.C. OFFICERS' QRS
  - 7. BARRACKS
  - 8. GUARD HD. & FIRE STA
  - 9. POST EXCHANGE
  - 10.
  - 11. STABLE
  - 12. BAKERY
  - 13. Q.M. UTILITIES REC. OFF.
  - 21. Q.M. COMMISSARY
  - 22. Q.M. SHOPS
  - 40.
  - 41. E.D. STOREHOUSE
  - 42. E.D. SHOPS
  - 43. E.D. GARAGE
  - 44. E.D. OIL HOUSE
  - 71. SERVICE CLUB
  - 72. FINANCE DEPT
  - 30. OFFICERS' GARAGE
  - 23. O.M. GAS & OIL STA
  - 15. ART ENGR. CABLE SHED
  - 100. RADIO TOWERS
  - 24. O.M. DELINTION BAR.
  - 25. O.M. WAREHOUSE
  - 26. O.M. SHEDS
  - 27. O.M. GARAGE
  - 28. PAINT STOREHOUSE

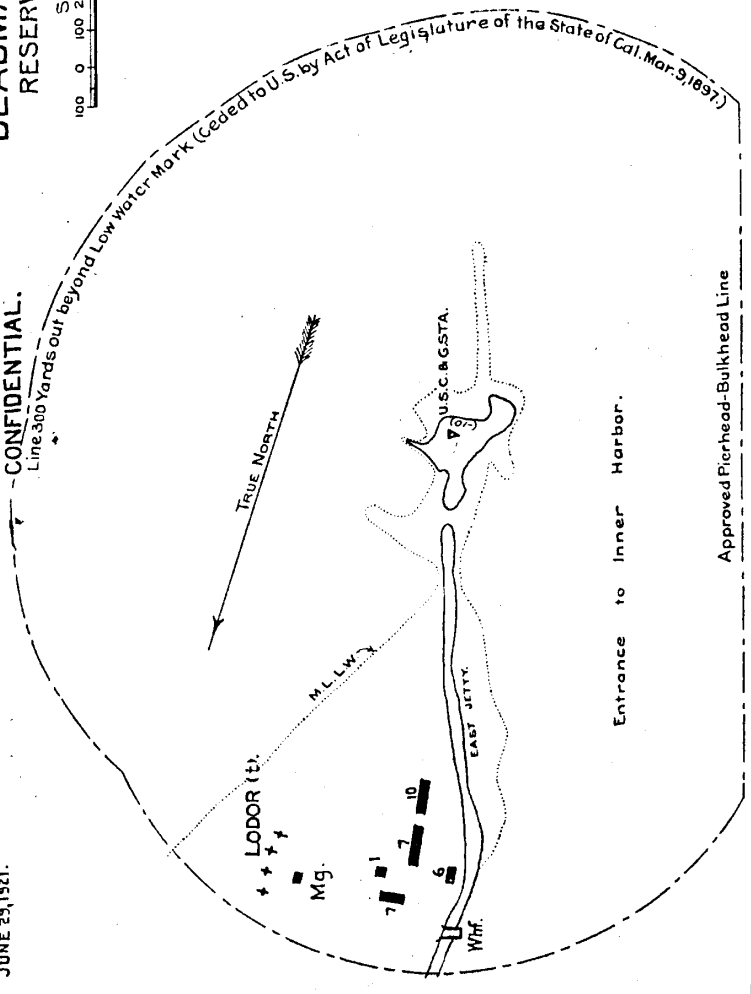
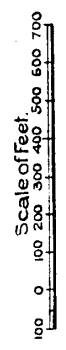
The Lower Reservation of Fort MacArthur, 1921  
Confidential Blueprint Series, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, D3, National Archives

LOS ANGELES HARBOR, CAL. BATTERIES.  
**DEADMAN'S ISLAND**  
 RESERVATION POINT.

SERIAL NUMBER **124**  
**CONFIDENTIAL.**  
 Line 300 Yards out beyond Low Water Mark

EDITION OF JAN. 17, 1916.  
 REVISED SEPT. 12, 1918;  
 JUNE 23, 1921.

- LEGEND.**
- 1. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.
  - 6. QUARTERS.
  - 7. BARRACKS.
  - 10. MESS HALL.



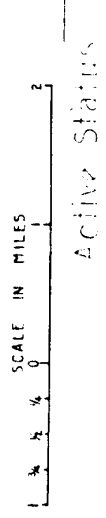
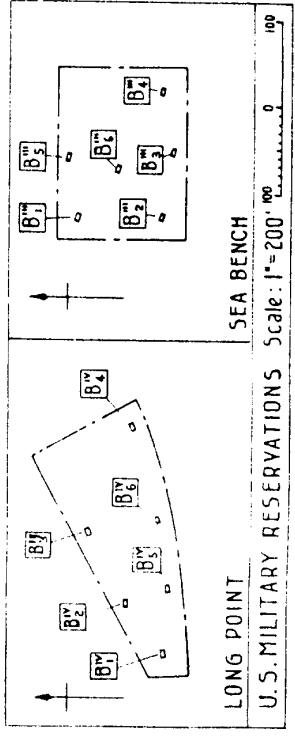
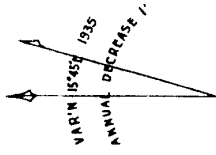
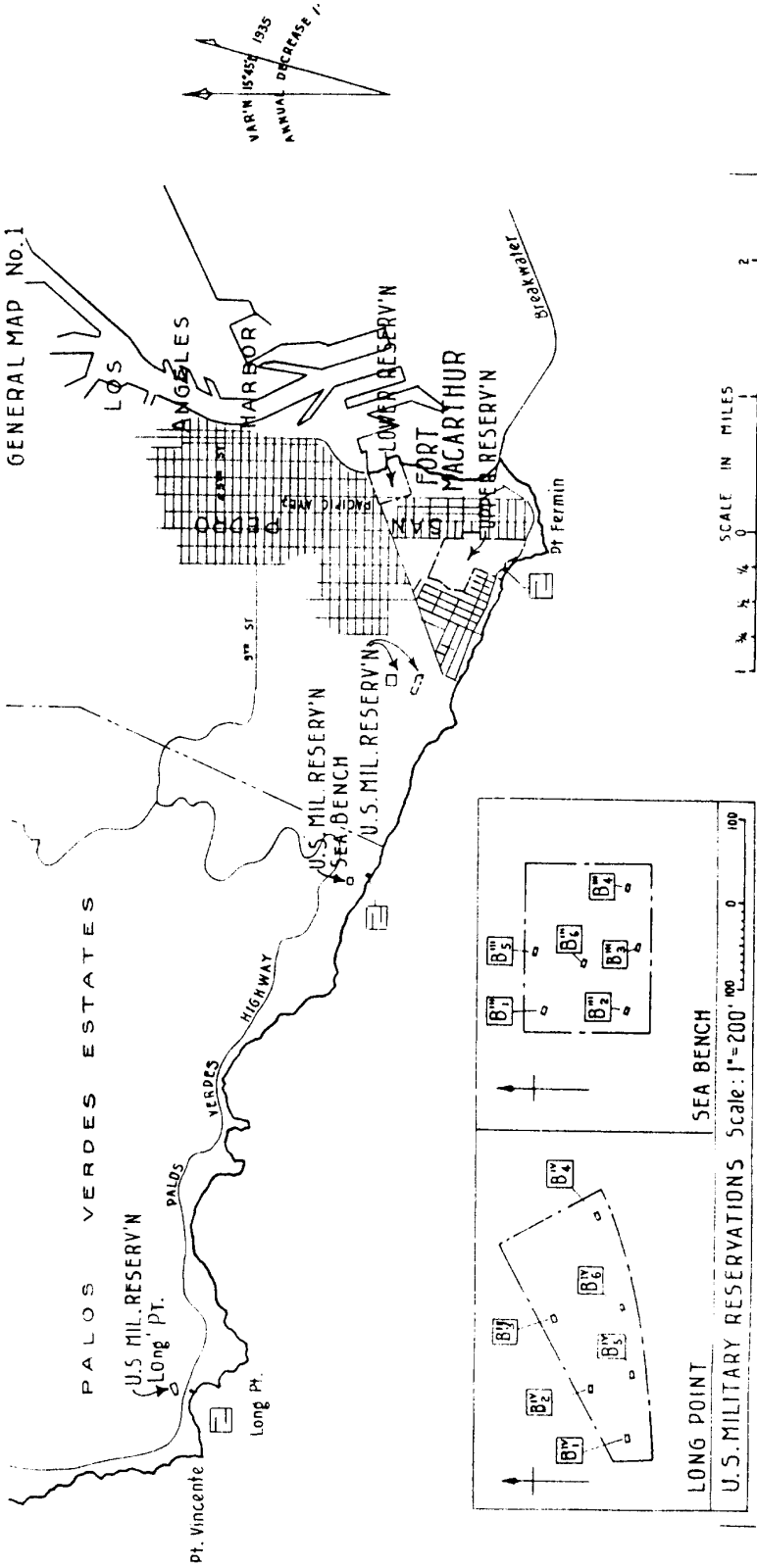
Deadman's Island, 1921  
 Confidential Blueprint Series, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, National Archives

EDITION OF OCT. 20, 1928.  
REVISIONS: OCT. 30, 1934.

SERIAL NUMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

LOS ANGELES HARBOR  
FORT MACARTHUR  
GENERAL MAP No. 1



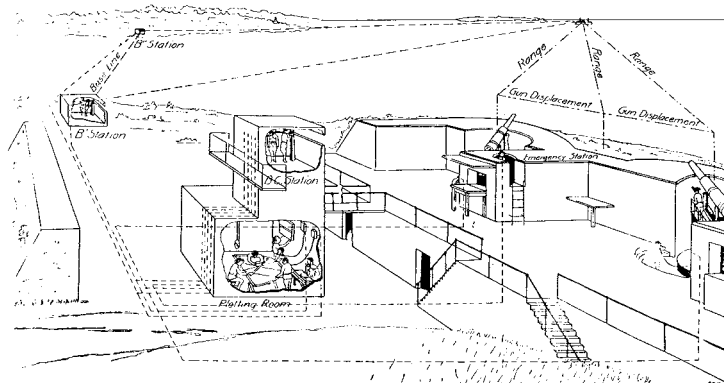
Location of the reservations of Fort MacArthur, 1934

## Coast Artillery Fire Control

The battery's guns were aimed (pointed) using preset systems collectively referred to as fire control. Fire control was defined as the exercise of those functions of command connected with the concentration and distribution of fire, including the assignment and identification of targets. The determination of the target and the number of batteries assigned to that target was determined at the Group level of tactical command or higher. Once the battery received its target designation, it was responsible for determining the range from its guns to the target. Position finding systems were used in determining the range and direction of a target, assigned by the fire command (which was later renamed the group command) from a battery or directing point. Originally, all position finding operations originated at the gun itself, but beginning around 1900, telephone communications and new instruments allowed for the use of accurate trigonometric position finding equipment. The following systems were used in the C.A. Service for position finding:

- The Horizontal Base which consisted of a surveyed baseline between two base end stations (for example B' and B'') which mounted accurately calibrated instruments for measuring angles or directions from the BES to a designated target. The baseline was always delineate from B' to B'', clockwise from 0, which was true south. Targets were tracked by observing successive positions of the target at 20 second time-intervals (noted at all positions by the ringing of a time interval bell). Tracking information from both BESs were relayed to the plotting room by telephone. The target location was then plotted on a plotting board that had been made to represent to scale the field of fire of the battery, on which was located the baseline, B' and B'', and the directing point of the battery. Plotting involved the location of on the plotting board of successive positions of the target observed by the BESs and then the determination of the predicted point (predicted target location at the moment of firing) and the set forward point (predicted target location at the moment of impact). The set forward point was then used to determine the firing coordinates for the guns, after a series of plotted points have been made.
- The Vertical Base position finding system was based on the solution of a right triangle, one leg of which was the height of the observing station above the target and the other leg being the distance to the target. This system required only one instrument, a depression range finder, or DPF was used to determine both azimuth and range. The DPF was calibrated by sighting on a datum point that was located on the coastline at the mean low tide line.
- The Self-Contained Base used coincidence range finders of various lengths to determine both the range and azimuth of the target. This system was often employed for small caliber weapons (3-inch and 5-inch) of short range (less than 10,000 yds.).

The most frequently used was the horizontal base system. Most crews were very good at what they did, even those National Guard crews that only trained once a year. The big guns could be fired at rates approaching a round every minute and often hit their target with in the first few rounds of practice.



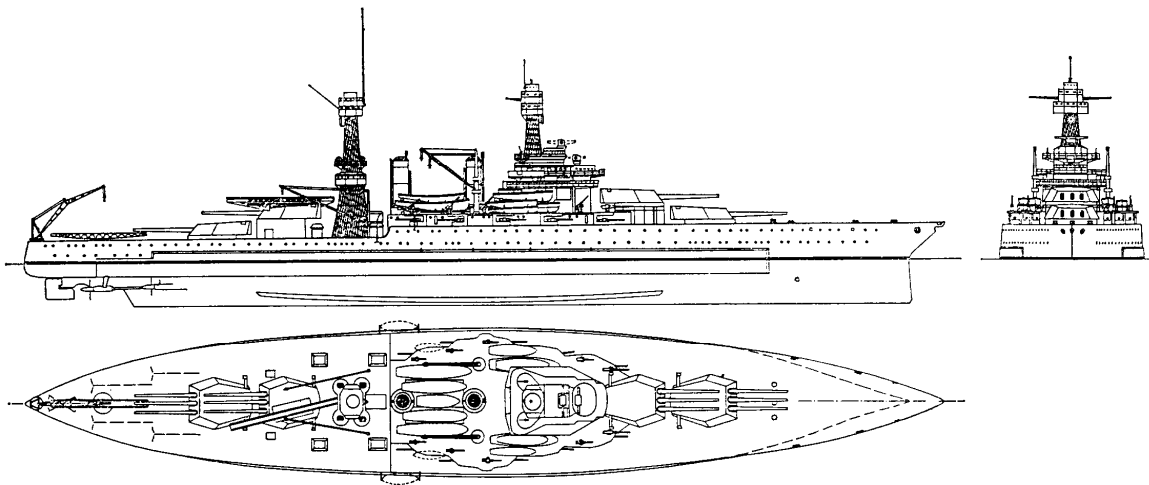
Elements of a horizontal base position finding system.

## Coast Artillery and Battleships

Harbor defenses were built to prevent enemy fleets access to useable harbors. When new harbor defenses were constructed, they were always designed to oppose the largest and most powerful ships that any foreign power might possess. This meant that the largest coast artillery weapons had to be on par with the largest naval weapons then afloat. Thus, the foremost foes of coastal defenses was always the capital ship, exemplified in modern times by the battleship. In order to properly understand coast artillery and harbor defenses, one must have some understanding of the ships they were designed to oppose. In order for harbor defenses to be effective, it was felt that they must possess weapons that had hitting power and ranges that were equal to or greater than that of the weapons mounted in the battleships. When designing harbor defenses, most nations, including the United States, often used their own battleships as models for the ships the coast artillery weapons might oppose. Thus, the weapons used to rearm the Los Angeles coastline in 1917 were 14-inch guns on par with current standard size weapons carried aboard American battleships.

The USS California, a Tennessee-class battleship under construction at the same time as the Army was building Fort MacArthur, was a state-of-art example of the times.

### BB 44 USS California



California (1936)

illustration from *Battleships and Battlecruisers 1905-1970* by Siegfried Breyer, Doubleday & Co., NY, 1970

Laid down:	25 Oct 1916
Launched:	20 Nov. 1919
Completed:	Oct. 1921
cost:	over \$6,000,000
Built:	Mare Island, California Displacement: 34,000 tons (loaded)
Dimensions:	600 ft. x 97 ft. 3 in x 30 ft. 3 in
Guns:	12 x 14-inch (four turrets), 14 x 5-inch (single mounts), 4 x 3-inch AA
Torpedo tubes;	2 x 21 inch submerged
Armor:	8 to 14 inch belt, 9 to 18 inch turrets, 16 inch conning tower
Machinery:	4-shaft turbo-electric drive, 8 Bureau Express boilers, 28,500 hp, 21 knots
fuel capacity	2200/4656 tons fuel oil
endurance:	10,000 miles at 10 knots
compliment:	1083

## The United States Navy in San Pedro Bay

The US Navy played an instrumental role in securing California for the United States during the Mexican War of 1847. Indeed, the shorefront next to San Pedro Bay was used extensively as a landing site for Marines and Army soldiers during those campaigns. Yet, despite the growing economic importance of the Los Angeles area and the increasing interest the United States had in the Pacific Ocean area during the years that followed, the Navy did not maintain any appreciable presence at San Pedro until 1919, and did not establish an official Naval Base there until 1940.

Unlike the Atlantic Coast of the United States, the Pacific Coast has only few good natural harbors, of which only four were useful as deep sea ports. San Francisco Bay, San Diego Bay, the mouth of the Columbia River, and Puget Sound were the only harbors which were deep enough to accept the larger draught ships. But even these ports had their problems: Puget Sound was often obscured in smoke and fog, portions of San Francisco Bay were troubled with shoals and fog, the sand bars at the mouth of the Columbia were treacherous to navigate, and San Diego Bay was too shallow. The other river estuaries of the Pacific coast, like San Pedro Bay, were too shallow or too small to develop into major ports.

Following the War with Mexico, the Navy developed a yard and base in San Francisco Bay, the only one on Pacific coast for many years. Despite the acquisition of Hawaii and the Philippines at the turn of the century, it wasn't until after the First World War that the United States Navy based an appreciable number of ships on the Pacific coast.

World War I brought the first official Navy presence in San Pedro with the establishment of a Naval Reserve Force office in downtown San Pedro in 1917. It was the possibility of war with Japan in 1919, however, that brought the first large number of Navy ships to San Pedro. That war scare prompted the Navy to decide to establish a Pacific Fleet and station over 200 more ships on the Pacific coast. The fleet was to be home ported in San Diego, but that bay was too shallow for the draughts of the big battleships. The battleships were therefore anchored in the sheltered area protected by the breakwater at San Pedro. The Fleet Anchorage would remain there until 1940. In addition, a base was established at San Pedro's Pier one in 1919 for the repair and refitting of the Navy's submarines. The last submarine left San Pedro in 1922, but the base was subsequently used to refit Navy destroyers.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, there was much discussion by the Navy about moving the Fleet anchorage to another place, with better facilities. The City of Los Angeles struggled to keep the anchorage where it was, by continuing to improve the harbor. In 1935 the city leased a small public landing field on Terminal Island to the Navy to service the battleships scouting planes. Later, this field was named Reeves Field. In 1938 the field became a Fleet Air Base and finally a Naval Air Station, before officially closing in 1947.

In 1938, a congressional board recommended that Navy improve its shore facilities on the west coast. As of this time, the Navy did not own any land around San Pedro Bay. The City of Los Angeles, despite its efforts to keep the battleship fleet in San Pedro, proved to be reluctant to give any land to the Navy. Finally, the City of Long Beach sold the Department of Defense a strip of land on its side of Terminal Island for \$1.00. The subsequent Naval facilities—the base and dry-docks—were built on land fill next to this strip. It was in this year that increasing tensions in the relationship with Japan brought about the decision to move the Pacific Fleet to Hawaii.

In May 1941 the Naval Operating Base San Pedro was officially named Roosevelt Base. During the war years 1940-1945, the following facilities were established around San Pedro Bay; Naval Dry-docks, Naval Station, Naval Air Station, Fuel Annex, Hospital, Recruiting Center, Supply Depot, and Training Center.

During the years 1946-47 the San Pedro Bay facilities were renamed Naval Operating Base, Long Beach, which was comprised of the Naval Station, L.B., Naval Receiving Station, L.B. and the Naval Shipyard, L.B. Except for a brief period during 1950, the base was in operation through out the Cold War years and played an important role in the area's economy. In 1990 the US Congress began a series of military base closures. The Long Beach Naval Station was closed in 1995, the Shipyard in 1997.

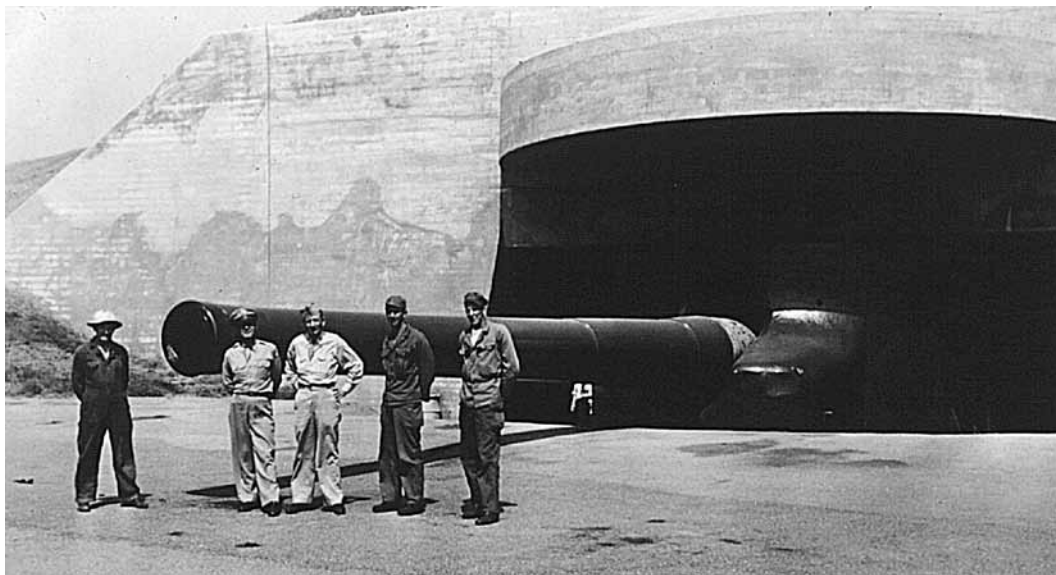


### Chapter 3

## Fort MacArthur—the War Years 1940-1949

By the late 1930s, there was considerable doubt in military circles as to the effectiveness of the most of the existing harbor defense armament guarding the United States. Of the heavy artillery at Fort MacArthur only the two 14-inch railway guns could be classed as modern armament. The 14-inch rifles of Batteries Osgood, Farley, Merriam and Leary had a slow rate of fire compared to current naval armament. The range of both the 14-inch disappearing guns and the 12-inch mortars of Batteries Barlow and Saxton was so short that they were considered to be ineffective against most heavy caliber naval capital ships. In addition, the fire control methods used with these batteries involved extensive hand plotting. This method was very accurate against stationary or very slow targets, but was only of marginal effectiveness against high speed ships.

The troubles in Europe and Asia in the late 1930s prompted further action. Recognizing the limited effectiveness of the existing weapons, a new harbor defense construction was initiated to rearm the major seaports of the United States with modern weapons to match the range and firepower of the capital ships afloat at that time and with extensive overhead protection against bombardment by airplanes. In 1940, the Army's Harbor Defense Board prepared a report which surveyed the state of existing defenses and proposed an updated construction program to protect American naval installations and major harbors in the continental United States (CONUS). The Board proposed to use 16-inch guns and mounts developed in the 1920s in a new casemated battery design as the main armament to defend these harbor locations. In all, the report proposed to build 27 new 16-inch gun batteries, revamp 20 existing 12-inch and 16-inch gun batteries and build 50 new 6-inch gun batteries at 18 locations around the CONUS. The board recommended the abandonment of 128 older Endicott and Taft era batteries after the new program was complete. The new plan was approved in September of 1940. The Los Angeles harbor area was to receive 5 new gun batteries along with an extensive system of fire control stations. This harbor defense construction program, produced a comprehensive set of seacoast fortifications at 33 locations, the most extensive and uniform construction program ever undertaken by the United States.



16-inch gun at Battery Bunker 1948 (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)

In September 1940 the selective service act was passed to build up the Armed forces of the United States. On February 9, 1941, the first 1,000 draftees from the Middle West arrived at Fort MacArthur. News reporters and newsreel cameramen were at the Fort to record both the arrival of the draftees and the first public appearance of Leopold Stokowski, world famous conductor-composer in his new role as instructor of Army bandsmen. He led the Third Coast Artillery band in a musical greeting to the draftees.

In June 1941 Fort MacArthur again attained national prominence. By executive order, the government had assumed control of the North American Aviation Company plant in Inglewood which had been forced to stop aircraft production because of labor trouble. Army troops from Fort MacArthur were sent to the scene on June 9th. Within a matter of hours the disturbance was quelled. The workers returned to their jobs on the morning of June 10.

Three months later Fort MacArthur completed another step in its campaign to increase its effectiveness. On September 9, 1941 the first sentry dog unit of the K-9 Command was formed at Fort MacArthur. It was first organized on a trial basis in December 1940. The first dogs for the unit were recruited directly from their owners at Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles after extensive newspaper publicity. Sgt Robert H. Pearce was designated head trainer, and the unit became the nucleus of the internationally famous K-9 Command, US Army.

## WAR!

At the 1135 hour, Sunday December 7, 1941, Colonel William W. Hicks, Commanding Officer, Harbor Defense of Los Angeles, the Third Coast Artillery, and Fort MacArthur, learned of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He immediately ordered all fortifications manned, all mobile batteries moved into previously selected positions and service ammunition issued to all units. The strength of the post at that time was 163 officers and 1,869 enlisted men. Realizing the importance of Los Angeles as a prime military target in any move by the Japanese directed against the west coast, the officers and men of Fort MacArthur braced themselves for imminent attack. Liaison was established with law enforcement agencies and top civil officials in Los Angeles. Soon after news of the attack on Pearl Harbor reached the public, there was an influx of curious citizens in the Harbor area. Although perhaps well-meaning, their presence crowded the area and tended to hamper operations. During the remainder of December 7 and throughout the following day numerous conflicting reports were received regarding the presence of Japanese submarines, surface craft and airplanes in the coastal waters. With each report, gun crews were alerted and scanned the ocean and sky.

Additional 155 mm and 3-inch antiaircraft guns were added to the Los Angeles defenses. The military "dug in" and prepared an extensive set of plans for tunnels to turn Fort MacArthur into an underground fortress. Only a few of these tunnels were completed and only those on the Upper Reservation have been documented. Reinforced only by wood, the tunnels have all but collapsed today.

Throughout the early months of 1942, numerous sightings of enemy submarines were reported in the coastal waters, and several vessels reported torpedo attacks. There were a number of actual attacks on American shipping by Japanese submarines. The freighter *Absaroka*, loaded with lumber, was torpedoed off Point Fermin and the *SS Montebello* was sunk by torpedo and shell fire off San Simeon.

Although none of Fort MacArthur's big guns ever went into action, the day following the torpedoing of the *Absoroka*, Battery "F", 105th Field Artillery Battalion, fired 10 rounds of smaller ammunition at what was reported to be an enemy submarine approximately 4,000 yards off shore near Redondo Beach California. It was believed to be the same submarine which had torpedoed the freighter the previous day. All trace of the submarine had disappeared after the shelling. The unit was cited for its action against the submarine at the end of the war.

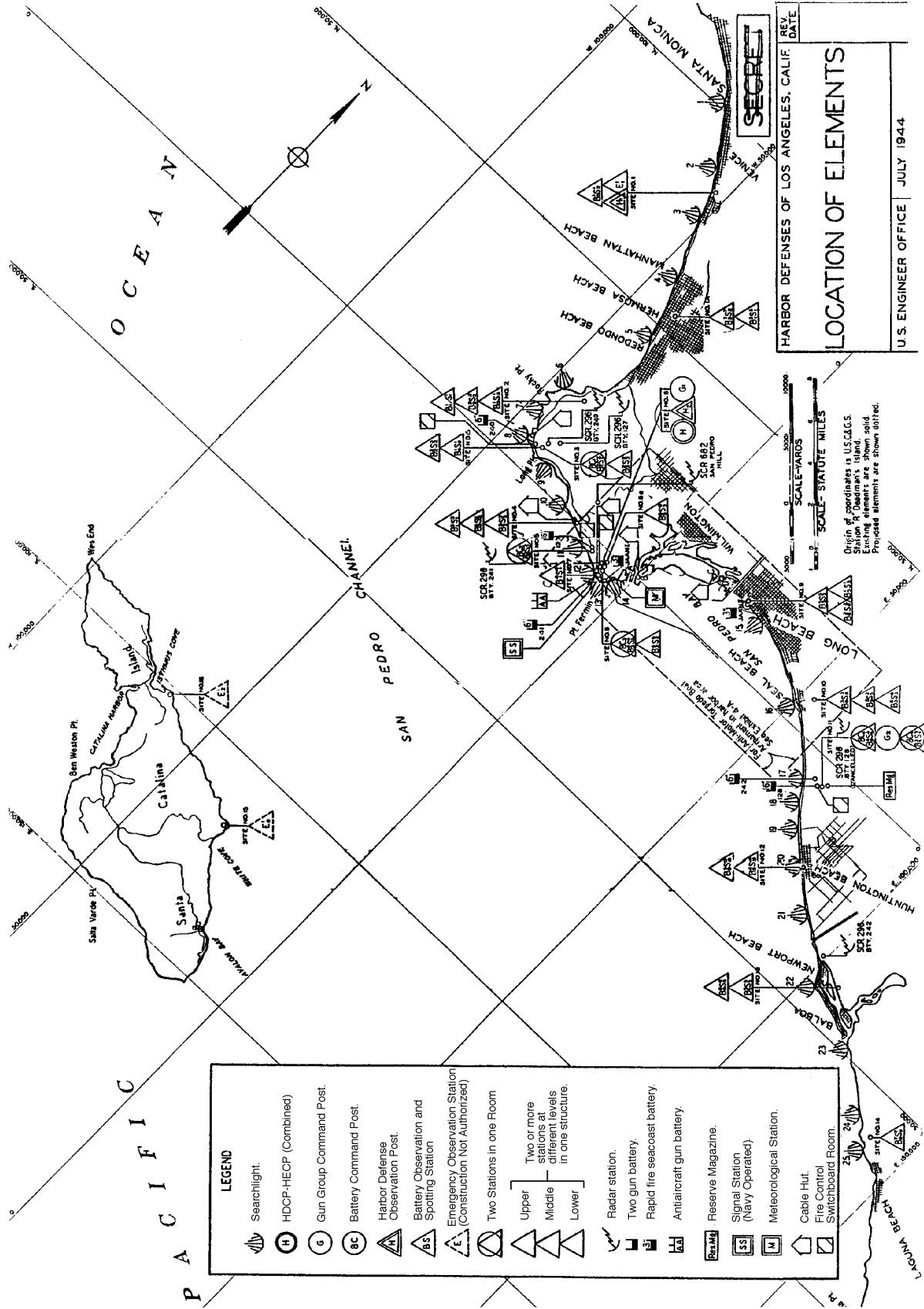
On the evening of February 23, 1942, a submarine surfaced about one mile off shore north of Santa Barbara and fired 15 rounds into the oil field installation at Elwood. There were no casualties; however, one derrick was hit and destroyed, and one pumping unit was damaged. The shelling lasted, in all, about 25 minutes. Naval Operations Base sent three planes and two destroyers to the area. The planes dropped flares and depth charges to keep the submarine submerged until the destroyers arrived. At 0451 on February 24, the Navy reported that the patrol vessel *Amethyst* had made contact with a submarine three miles southwest of Point Vicente and was dropping depth charges. The *Amethyst* also reported that she had evaded a torpedo aimed at her.

As the war effort pulled into high gear, the Army built a new Reception Center facilities on the fill area below the Lower Reservation of Fort MacArthur. This area became known as "Bottomside." The United States Pacific offensive during summer of 1942 gathered momentum. Following the Battle of Midway (considered to be the turning point of the war in the Pacific), enemy submarine incidents in the coastal waters decreased rapidly. As the threat lessened, an Artillery training mission was added to the operational mission of Fort MacArthur. More than 200 officers and 2,500 men were trained and sent overseas by August 1945.

Construction on the new harbor defense gun emplacements began in late 1942. Two huge twin 16-inch gun concrete emplacements with substantial overhead protection were built at White Point (Battery #127, later named Battery Paul D. Bunker) and Bolsa Chica (Battery # 128). Three new twin gun 6-inch batteries were built at Point Vicente (Battery #240, later named Battery Harry C. Barnes), on the Upper Reservation (Battery #241) and at Bolsa Chica (Battery #242, later named Battery Harry J. Harrison). The 16-inch guns had a range of over 26 miles and the 6-inch guns had a range of about 15 miles. In addition, new anti-motor torpedo boat (AMTB) weapons were added to the Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles Arsenal in 1943. These guns were to protect the harbor against attack by swift torpedo boats, and also to function as additional anti-aircraft weapons. Sixteen 90mm and eighteen 37 mm guns were installed in batteries around the harbor area.

As these new weapons were readied, the older guns were inactivated. The 12-inch mortars of Batteries Barlow and Saxton were the first to be inactivated in 1943. In January 1944, Batteries Osgood, Farley, Merriam and Leary were inactivated. Battery Leary-Merriam's emplacement structure was converted into the Harbor Entrance Command Post and Harbor Defense Command Post (HECP-HDCP) to monitor all incoming traffic. As the war moved closer towards Japan, the harbor defense construction program was delayed. Eventually, work on the 16-inch battery at Bolsa Chica was suspended, and though the other new batteries were essentially completed, they were immediately put in caretaker status.

There was also a great deal of building construction on both the upper and lower reservations to house the men temporarily stationed at the fort. Additional barracks were built on the Upper Reservation while a number of new administrative buildings, for the Reception and Training Center, were built on the Lower Reservation.



Location of Harbor Defense Structures, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, July 1944  
 Annexes to the Harbor Defense Plan, Harbor Defense of Los Angeles, National Archives

Located as Fort MacArthur was near the movie industry capital of Hollywood, the post canteen attracted its share of celebrities, who volunteered their time to visit and entertain the men. A number of talented musicians, playwrights and actors were stationed at the post during the war years. Several members of the Fort MacArthur garrison put together an entertainment review of comedy sketches and songs called the "Yardbird Review." The show was so successful that it was revamped and opened to the public as "Hey, Rookie!" The money raised by the show was used to fund various recreational improvements at Fort MacArthur, including the construction of a swimming pool on the Upper Reservation.

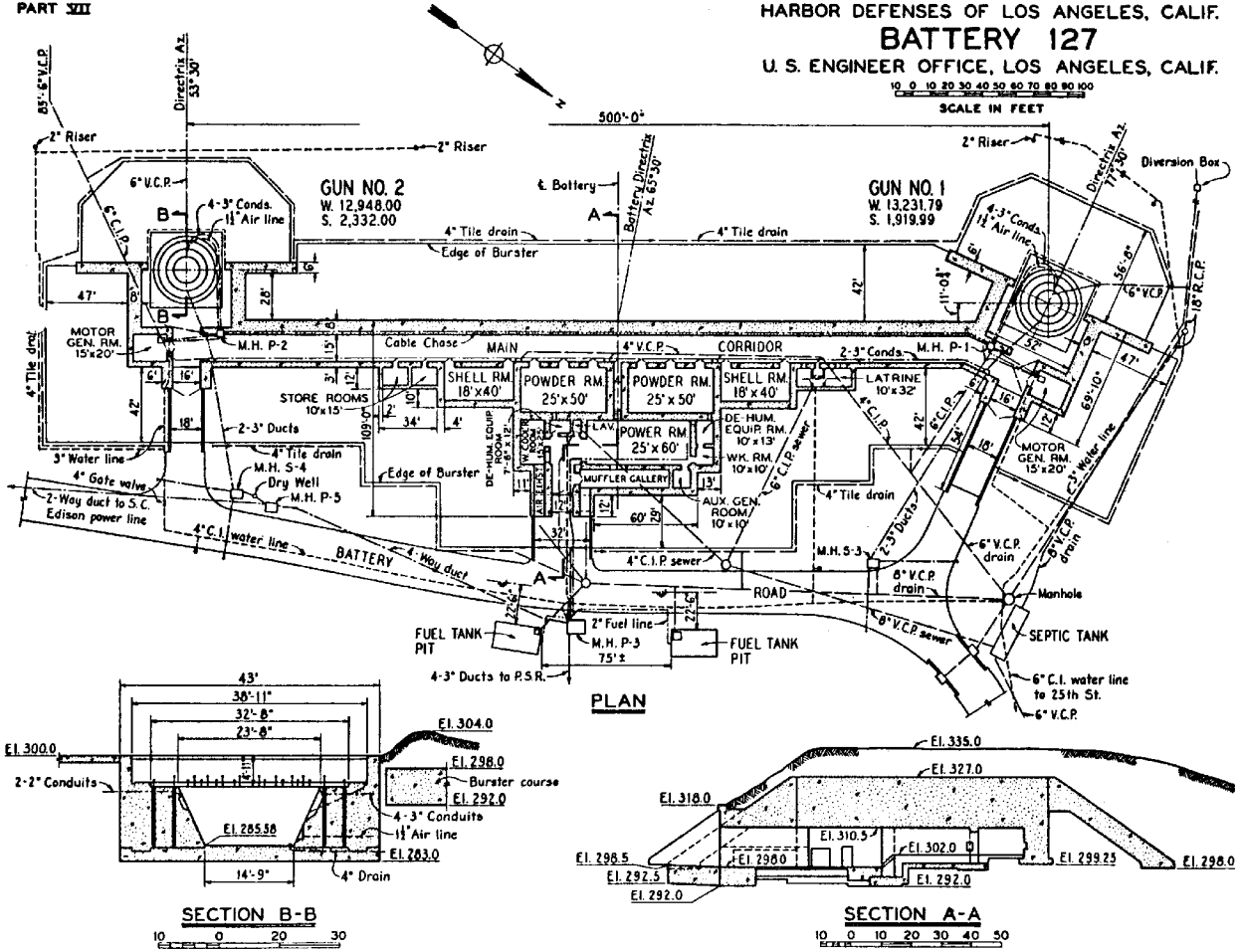
A separation center was activated at Fort MacArthur on July 1, 1945, the month before the surrender of Japan. Many of the same facilities of the Recruit Reception and Training Center which had been used to transform civilians into soldiers were now put to use to process soldiers back into civilian life. The Recruit Reception and Training Center itself did not close until April 1, 1946. It had been in operation less than six years, but in that time some 750,000 men had been inducted into the Army through its facilities. The Separation Center at Fort MacArthur became fully operational after the surrender of Japan. It closed in less than a year later on April 16, 1946. Sergeant Howard O. McIntosh had the honor of being the 150,710th serviceman discharged at Fort MacArthur since the center was activated.



3rd Coast Artillery Memorial, Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)

PART XII

HARBOR DEFENSES OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
**BATTERY 127**  
U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

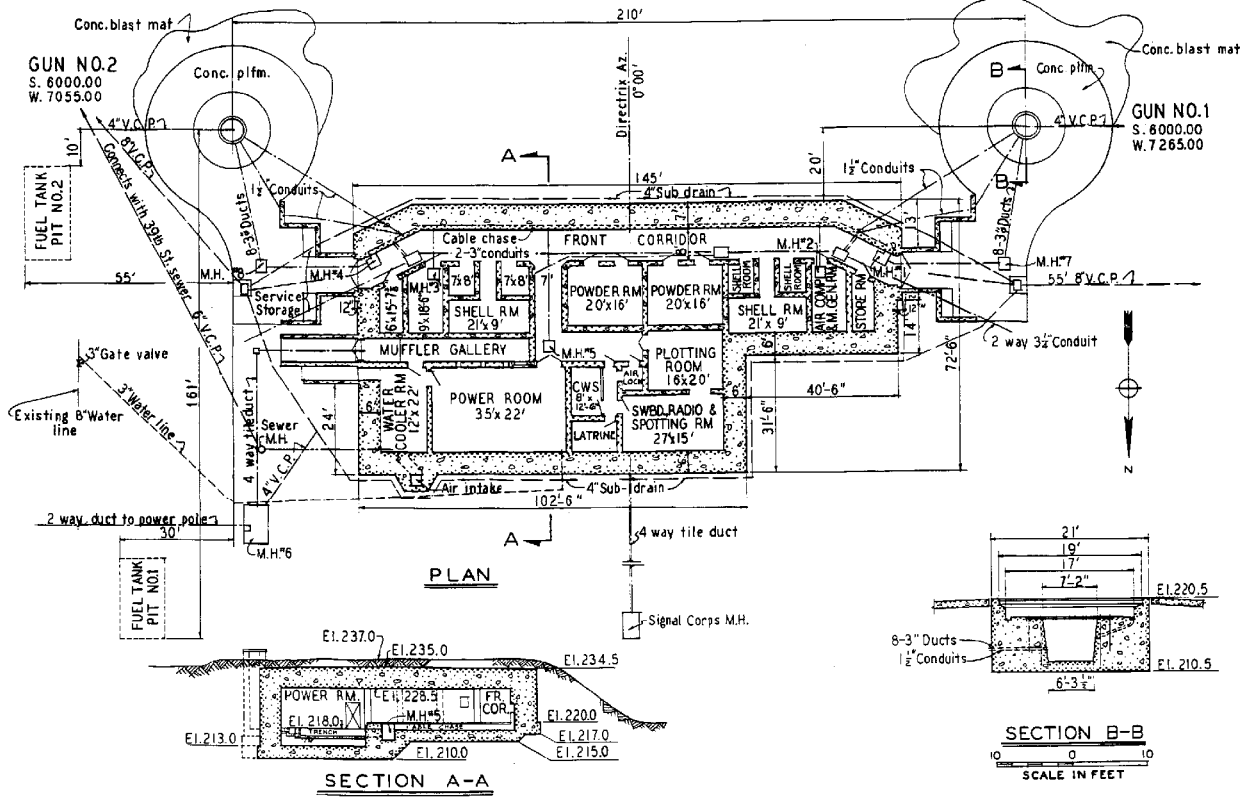


Battery plan for Battery Construction Number 127 (Battery Paul D. Bunker) (National Archives)



Navy 16-inch gun on an army proof carriage at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland (M. Berhow 1995)

**BATTERY 241**



Battery plan for Battery Construction Number 241 on the Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur (National Archives)



World War II-style 6-inch gun at Battery 246, Fort Columbia, WA (M. Berhow 1994)

## Camp Haan

by Cindi L. Noel, March Field Museum

Fort MacArthur was not the only Coast Artillery post in the Los Angeles Basin. During the World War II years, it was joined by a Antiaircraft Artillery training camp located in the arid hills south of Riverside. The camp was built to accommodate the large influx of draftees into military service as Coast Artillery antiaircraft men.

Built in late 1940 adjacent to March Field and Old Perris Highway (now Interstate 215), Camp Haan Coast Artillery (AA) Training Center was named in honor of Major General William George Haan, United States Army (1863-1924), and officially became operational on January 10, 1941. The arrival of troops in force, however, began January 19, 1941 with the deployment of two Coast Artillery (AA) brigades: The 101st (AA) Brigade—composed of three Minnesota National Guard Coast Artillery (AA) regiments (the 215th, 216th and 217th), and the 37th Antiaircraft Brigade (consisting entirely of regular army units)—including the 65th Coast Artillery (AA) regiment, at that time located at Fort Scott; and two battalions of the 78th Coast Artillery (AA); one of which was then stationed at March Field.

Created for Coast Artillery Antiaircraft training, Camp Haan troops were equipped with 3-inch guns, searchlights and automatic (AA) weapons of smaller caliber. Being so close to an Army Air Base allowed for frequent utilization of March Field aircraft during training maneuvers. By October of 1941, Camp Haan was the only Coast Artillery (AA) training center on the Pacific Coast - boasting 6 exchanges, 5 chapels, 1 hospital, 353 wooden buildings, 2,459 floored tents, 18 miles of sewer and 28 miles of streets.

One item the camp could not claim, however, was its newspaper, which was provided by March Field. On September 4, 1941, The Post Beacon began publishing two separate editions— “The March Field Post Beacon” and “The Camp Haan Post Beacon,” which would carry Coast Artillery (AA) news along with that of the Air Corps. The cost: \$1.75 per year, by mail.

In late November 1941 Camp Haan's two (AA) brigades were deployed to Los Angeles and San Francisco for air raid defense maneuvers, leaving a skeletonized camp when, two weeks later, Pearl Harbor was attacked. They did not return, but were sent to various locations in the Pacific and Aleutian Islands. Shortly thereafter, on December 20, 1941, the (AA) Headquarters at Camp Haan suspended operations, although they were reactivated in March of 1942. It was after this period that Camp Haan also became classified as an Army Service Forces Depot and a Prisoner of War Camp.

After the war, the camp became a separation center until, on August 31, 1946, it was officially declared surplus. Today, the area where Camp Haan once stood contains The Fifteenth Air Force Headquarters, the Veterans Administration National Cemetery, The Lt. General Old Golf Course, and the Arnold Heights Housing Development. All that remains are a few scattered foundations of the camp that was, at its peak, base for as many as 80,000 personnel.



## The "Great Los Angeles Air Raid"

By Major David Gustafson

reprinted from "The San Pedro Bay Historical Society Shoreline" Vol.7, No. 2 (Nov. 1980) pp. 11-12

During the evening of February 24, 1942, while the kids were making balls of tinfoil from cigarette and chewing gum packages for the war effort, parents were discussing the Japanese submarine attack north of Santa Barbara that took place the night before during Roosevelt's "Fireside Chat." Those residents involved in the maritime community knew of the torpedoing of the *Agwiworld*, *Emidio*, *Samoa*, *Larry Doheny*, and the *Montebello* off the California coast. Many San Pedrans witnessed the attack on the *Absoroka* just off Point Fermin the day before Christmas. Other families had folks working with the Navy and had heard the "scuttlebutt" about the patrol vessel *Amethyst's* contact with a Japanese submarine three miles southwest of Point Vicente where she dropped depth charges and avoided a torpedo. Many San Pedro wives had been taught how to operate the old "deer rifle." Los Angeles was operating under blackout conditions.

The 4th Interceptor Command of the Army Air Corps had established three air raid "alert" signals to be sounded on the newly installed sirens. "Yellow" signified unidentified aircraft activity. "Blue" indicated enemy aircraft had been identified, and "Red" relayed word that identified enemy aircraft were headed for a specific target locale.

At 2:23 am on February 25, 1942, signals were received to bypass the "yellow" alert and to press the buttons that would sound the "blue" alert. Tests of the newly installed sirens had been made using the unwavering "all clear" signal but not many operators knew how to sound the wavering signal that meant an attack was eminent. The resulting discordant wailing awoke a sleepy Los Angeles to view the sweep of searchlights across the sky. Minutes later anti-aircraft gun crews fired the first of 1,433 rounds of explosive ammunition into the sky. Three million people in the Los Angeles area thought the war had come to their front doors. As shrapnel fell in the streets, tin-hatted block wardens roared at anyone whose house emitted even a pinpoint of light. For two hours the din continued and then the guns fell silent. Locals remember the raid as "Spectacular," "Exciting," and "Terrifying."

The *Los Angeles Times* reported the next morning their account of the raid: "Roaring out of the brilliant moonlit western sky, foreign aircraft flying both in large formation and singly flew over Southern California early today and drew heavy barrages of anti-aircraft fire - the first to sound over United States Continental soil against an enemy invader." The second paragraph continued: "No bombs were reported dropped." The *Herald Express* rolled presses with a "WAR EXTRA" and printed a two-line block headline: "BATTLE ENEMY RAIDERS OVER L.A." The *Times* account further reported, "At 5 am the police reported that an airplane had been shot down near 185th and Vermont Avenue." Details were not available unfortunately, as it was found out later, neither was the enemy aircraft.

Although no bombs were dropped, Los Angeles had not escaped the "raid" without casualties. Five fatalities and numerous injuries resulted from the panic and there was structural damage from anti-aircraft shells which had failed to explode in the sky but functioned rather effectively when they reached the ground. There were reports of some zealous Angelenos joining in the fray with whatever firearms they had around the house.

The stories of what generated L.A. Air Raid are abundant and vary from a group of US Navy patrol aircraft which wandered off course to a civilian pilot that was disoriented. Others think that a Japanese submarine launched the aircraft that triggered the raid. Army Air Corps historical documents also admit that the alarm might have been caused by meteorological balloons known to have been released over Burbank. The War Department officially said that the alarm was real. The Navy stated officially the Los Angeles "attack" was merely a case of "jittery nerves." The Army and the Navy exchanged accusations and, at length, the Secretary of War theorized that no military planes but rather 15 "commercial" planes flown by enemy agents had crossed over Los Angeles. He further stated that "It is better to be too alert than not alert enough." The raid may have been triggered by one of the hundreds of barrage balloons in the area that had escaped its moorings. Anti-aircraft gunners reported the "target" as being slow moving and ascending rapidly. As the target rose, the speed increased, which would be natural for a loose barrage balloon.

The real cause for the "raid" and the resulting expenditure of ordnance may never be known, but as one resident expressed it: "Those soldiers sure put on one hell of a show!"

## Japanese Attacks on the American West Coast during WW II

The six months that followed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor were ones of special concern to the residents of the states of Washington, Oregon and California, especially to those who lived along the coast. The unbroken string of Japanese victories that continued into the beginning of 1942 seemed to bring the war closer and closer to American shores. Concern over the possibility that the Japanese would attack the mainland American cities brought a consistent flow of rumor, misinformation and false alarms, especially in the Los Angeles area. Innumerable stories of the sighting of Japanese submarines, planes, and ships, hostile Japanese encounters with American Navy, Army and civilian personnel, victorious sinkings of Japanese submarines, Japanese espionage agents operating secret signaling devices and plotting sabotage abounded and persist to this day. Most of the stories are fictitious, but there was enough activity along the shoreline to give credence to some of the stories and form the basis for others.

Historians have examined the historical records of the armed forces of Japan and the United States and from these records have pieced together the activities of the Imperial Japanese Navy against the mainland United States during those months. The Japanese Navy conducted four sorties against the North American shores with its 6th Fleet submarines during the period December 1941 to October 1942. No surface units of the Imperial Navy got any closer than the fleet sent to attack Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and fleets sent to Midway and the Aleutian Islands in May of 1942. The only American soil that Japanese troops actually landed on was the Aleutian islands of Attu and Kiska in June 1942.

### Japanese Submarine Attacks:

The first submarine sortie involved the stationing of 9 submarines off the coast from Cape Flattery south to San Diego Bay in mid-December 1941. Four of these submarines were involved in 8 or 9 attacks on American merchant ships which resulted in the sinking of two and the damaging of one, the *Absaroka* off Point Fermin, that month. A planned simultaneous shelling of American shore facilities on December 24th was called off by the Japanese high command and the submarines returned to their base in the mid-Pacific.

In February, 1942 two submarines returned to prowl the coast. The I-17 lobbed 9 shells at the Elwood oil field north of Santa Barbara on February 23. Although the I-17 carried with it a small seaplane, the commander's log did not record any use of the scout plane on that trip. Thus, there is no evidence that any Japanese were involved in the "Great LA Air Raid" of February 24th. Both subs returned to base by early March.

The American military had an advantage over the Japanese in early 1942. The Japanese military and diplomatic codes had been broken. As the Japanese planned their next offensive in the Pacific in April and May, the US Navy soon learned its objective: Midway. As a part of that plan, the Japanese sent diversionary sorties against the Aleutian Islands and two submarines, the I-25 and the I-26 towards the North American coast. The main Japanese fleet was soundly defeated at the Battle of Midway on June 4th, but the submarines continued their run. On the 20th of June one submarine torpedoed a lumber ship off the Canadian shore and shelled a signaling station at Estevan Point on Vancouver Island. On the night of June 21, a submarine surfaced and fired several rounds towards Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River, the first attack on an American continental military post by a foreign power since the War of 1812. After attacking a tanker off the southern Oregon coast, the two subs returned to base.

The last sortie was made by I-25 in August, 1942, in retaliation for the previous April's Doolittle raid on the Japanese home islands. On the night of September 9th, the little plane carried by the submarine was pulled out of its hanger, assembled, and loaded with incendiary bombs. The pilot flew over the forested lands behind Brookings, Oregon, and dropped his bombs, starting a small fire which was quickly extinguished the next day. After playing cat and mouse with American patrol craft for the rest of the month, the I-25 attacked two freighters on October 4th and 6th, before returning to base. It was the last sortie conducted against the mainland by the Japanese Navy.

Despite numerous claims of submarine sinkings by the US forces stationed on the west coast during 1941-1942, all the submarines sent there by the Japanese Navy were reported as returned safely to base. After these sorties, the Japanese Navy used their submarines to resupply isolated garrisons and for protection of their larger fleets, they did not approach the American shores again.

### Operation FU-GO—the Japanese Balloon Bombs:

In 1942 the Japanese military developed another way to bring the war to the American mainland. Earlier research had shown the existence of a great northern air current, the “jet stream” that ran from west to east across the northern hemisphere. Japanese scientists calculated that balloons loaded with explosive payloads could be floated from Japan to the North American continent, where special devices would trigger the release of the payload. The Japanese command hoped that these bombs would start a series of forest fires—during the 1930s a number of well-publicized disastrously large fires had occurred in the Pacific Northwest forests—and demoralize the American public.

After two years of development and building, the Japanese perfected their balloon weapon—FU-GO, a 30 foot diameter hydrogen-filled balloon made of a special laminated paper material carrying both incendiary and high-explosive bombs along with an ingenious altitude control and timing device. The balloon was designed to float across the jet stream in 50-60 hours, staying above 30,000 ft., then the timer would ignite a slow burning fuse in the bombs, drop them, and cause the balloon itself to explode. Over 9,300 of these balloons were launched from November 1944 to April 1945. The Japanese calculated that if even only 1,000 of the balloons made it to the North American shores, there was a good chance at least one large forest fire would be started.

However, the FU-GO balloon plan failed in both of its objectives. The FU-GO’s altitude control device was defective and most of the balloons descended harmlessly into the Pacific. FU-GO’s threat of starting massive forest fires never materialized. The bulk were launched in the dead of winter—not the best time for starting forest fires. Evidence of only slightly more than 300 actually landing in North America have been found, some as far north as Alaska and the Yukon, as far south as Mexico, and as far east as the great plains of Canada and the United States and out to Michigan. Most of these did not release their bombs before touching down. Apparently none of the weapons ever started a forest fire. Although the Western Defense Command was soon aware of the bombs, they kept the reports strictly confidential, so there was little news in the American public press and no public panic. The Japanese ended the program in frustration.

The only recorded casualties caused by FU-GO occurred in May, 1945. A group on a church school picnic near Bly, Oregon, found one of the bombs in the forest. In the process of examining the device it exploded, killing 5 children and an adult. A quiet information campaign followed warning people not to touch strange objects if found, but to report them to the local authorities.

Due to the liberal amount of rumour, the number of fictitious stories of Japanese attacks on the American mainland during World War II far out-number the actual accounts of submarine raids and balloon bombs.

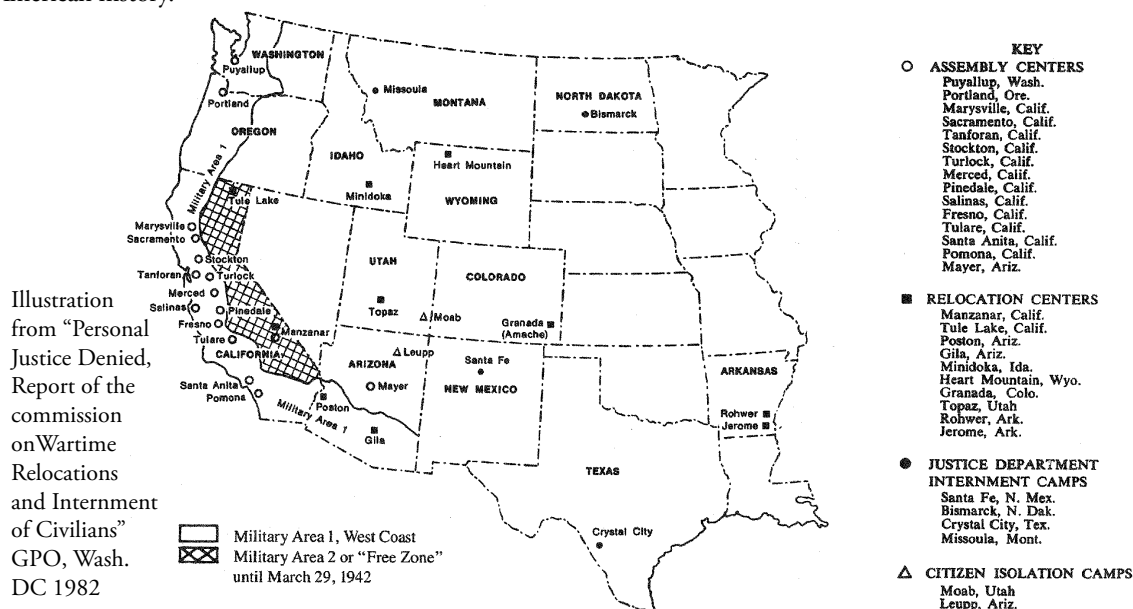
## Relocation & Internment of Japanese-Americans during WW II

On February 19, 1942, ten weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, which gave military authorities the power to exclude any and all persons from designated areas in order to provide security against sabotage. Shortly thereafter, all residents of Japanese ancestry, regardless of whether or not they were citizens, were prohibited from living, working, or traveling in the West Coast of the United States. This was done despite the fact that there was not a single proven case of any act of sabotage, espionage and fifth column activity committed by an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, or by a resident Japanese alien living on the west coast.

Why did this happen? A number of factors played into this decision. There existed a great deal of antipathy and hostility by many who lived on the West Coast towards the ethnic Japanese, and indeed towards all ethnic groups of Oriental extraction. These opinions had been a part of the public life on the West Coast for the previous century. Immigration from Japan had been restricted in 1908 and banned altogether in 1924. Japanese immigrants were banned from becoming citizens or owning land. In 1942 many misconceptions infected the views of a great many of the other west coast residents.

Secondly, there was a very real fear of Japanese attacks on the West Coast due to the string of Imperial Japanese military victories which continued during the early months of 1942. Thirdly, there was a wide spread belief that Pearl Harbor attack had been aided by sabotage and fifth column activity of a large number of ethnic Japanese living in Hawaii, which was not true. The familiar anti-Japanese rhetoric was quickly promulgated by a number of west coast politicians who pressed the War Department and the President for firm control measures which moved quickly from control of aliens to the general evacuation of all ethnic Japanese. Finally, General John L. DeWitt, Commander of the Army Forces on the West Coast, recommended that all ethnic Japanese be removed as a military necessity. He was initially simply interested in only identifying and rounding up only those resident aliens of all belligerents—Japan, Italy and Germany—who were involved in suspicious activity.

From March to June 1942 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were sent to assembly centers run by the US Army for relocation. Families could take with them only what they could carry. They were transported to relocation centers—spartan barracks in camps located in rather desolate locations mostly in the Great Basin area. While an effort was made to provide adequate housing facilities, jobs, schooling and health care, much of what was provided was not as good as what the relocatees had left behind. The experience was an indignity and carried a stigma that no other Americans living in the United States suffered. By October 1942 over 100,000 evacuees were in the relocation camps. Many were subsequently released for work, college, or Army service, but none were able to return to the West Coast until the ban was lifted in December 1944. It was an unfortunate episode in American history.





Selma Harrison Calmes Collection  
Fort MacArthur Museum

### Major Harry J. Harrison at Fort MacArthur

*The US Army began the practice of naming Coast Artillery gun batteries after deceased US Army officers (and other American dignitaries) in 1902. By 1945, the practice had almost ended. However, a few of the new WW II-era batteries were named, including three of the five new batteries built in the Los Angeles area. Battery Harry J. Harrison (Battery Construction Number 242), Bolsa Chica Military Reservation, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, was named after Harrison, who served at Fort MacArthur 1940-1942.*

### General Order No. 51, War Department, Washington, DC, 10 June 1946

Section II. Coast Artillery Batteries—The Coast Artillery seacoast batteries situated at the locations indicated are named as follows:

Name: Battery Paul D. Bunker  
(named in honor of Colonel Paul D. Bunker, Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. Army)  
Former Designation: Battery 16" BC Tactical 2, Construction 127  
Location: Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, Fort MacArthur, San Pedro, California

Name: Battery Harry J. Harrison  
(named in honor of Major Harry J. Harrison, Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. Army)  
Former Designation: Battery 6" BC, Tactical 5, Construction 242  
Location: Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, Fort MacArthur, San Pedro, California

AG 600.5 (13 DEC 45)

## Harry J. Harrison

10246 HARRY JOHN HARRISON (B-Pa 23 Jan 10; A-Army), Class 1935, Rank 64 (*From Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Supplement, Volume III 1930-1940, edited by Lt. Col. E. E. Farman.*)

Military History:—Ft Mills PT, Btry Comdr 60 CA, 22 Apr-10 Jun 40; PX Off, 26 Jun;—(Capt AUS 9 Sep 40)—(Ft MacArthur Calif, 3 CA, 28 Nov 40)—Dec 40; Btry Comdr, 2 Dec 4—20 Aug 41; ExO, 21 Aug 41—4 Jan 42; CO Long Point Btry, 5 Jan—15 Feb 42; CO USAMP “Hunt”, 28 Feb—19 Oct 42; Ft Benning Ga, Cp Blanding Fla, Bn Comdr 508 Prcht Inf, 20 Oct—(Maj AUS 9 Nov 42)—31 Dec 42: CP Blanding Fla, Ft Benning Ga, Cp Mackall NC, Bn Comdr, 1 Jan 41—(Lt Col AUS 20 May 43)—(ETO, England, France, Germany, Jan 44)—27 Mar 44; Regt ExO,—(BSM)-22 Jun 44; (Lt Col AUS terminated 28 Sep 44); ExO 1 Bn 109 Inf Regt, 12—17 Nov 44. KIA—Wiltz Germany, 17 Nov 44, a-24. (PH)

Harry John Harrison  
NO.10246 CLASS of 1935

Died November 17, 1944, at Wiltz, Germany, aged 34 years.

HARRY JOHN HARRISON, known to his friends as “Honest John” was born in Braddock, Pennsylvania On January 23, 1910. After graduating from Braddock High School in 1927 he enlisted in the Army and competed for the Army appointments to West Point. Here he made an outstanding record both in athletics and academics. Many of us will remember him as an All-American Lacrosse goalie—intercepting a Navy shot and running the length of the field to score for Army.

After graduation he, along with eleven classmates, reported to Fort Monroe, Virginia. Harry was the first “Ink” to be selected to command a battery with two classmates as battery officers. The performance of the unit in their annual target practice was considered for the Knox Trophy Award. His next assignments included Fort Story and the Philippines. Here he commanded the Mine Planter “Harrison.” Returning to the United States in 1940 he served with the 3rd Coast Artillery and was selected for Leavenworth but the war brought about the cancellation of his orders since he was one of the few officers qualified for Mine Planter duty. However, the inactivity of commanding a Mine Planter was not for Harry—he volunteered for jump duty and was assigned to the 508th Parachute Regiment and, after a series of events including the D-Day jump in Europe, was killed in action on November 17, 1944. He is buried in the Gettysburg National Cemetery beside his brother who was killed in action in Africa.

In 1937 Harry married Catherine Carswell, daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. R. M. Carswell, United States Army. They had three children; Selma Stewart, Harry Clifford, and Robert Bowen. Catherine married Mr. Richard Thompson on July 1, 1955 and the family is living at 1006 North College, Claremont, California.

During his service Harry made a host of friends and proved that he was a sincere, kind, and loyal officer, husband and friend. — from “Assembly” October 1956.

### Memories of Fort Macarthur in the Early 1940s and Information on Harry J. Harrison

*Based on Catherine Carswell Harrison's reminiscences*

*and supplemented with other information by Selma Harrison Calmes, MD*

My parents met in May 1937 on the USAT (US Army Transport) *Republic*, bound for Manila from New York. My mother was traveling with her family, father Col. Robert M. Carswell, mother Eleanor Carswell and a much younger and very mischievous brother, Bruce. My maternal grandfather was to command the Guard Battalion on Corregidor, which was made up of Filipino officers and soldiers who guarded the Bilibid prisoners on Corregidor. He later, on this tour of duty, became assistant to the legal advisor for the High Commissioner of the Phillipine Islands, Mr. Sayre. He had been assigned to Corregidor previously, in 1923.

My mother had just finished her junior year at Westhampton College, Richmond, VA. Once the ship sailed, she checked the passenger list for any bachelor officers going to Corregidor and found only "Harry J. Harrison." However, she got busy reading the newly-published *Gone with the Wind*, a bon voyage gift from a friend. Romance had to wait until *Gone with the Wind* was finished! My father, meanwhile, was busy socializing with other members of his West Point class of '35 who were on board. (All were already married.) Finally, the two were introduced by my mother's brother, Bruce, before the *Republic* got to San Francisco. The long voyage across the Pacific and later the small social world of Corregidor led to their marriage May 23, 1939, after my mother had finished college at the University of the Philippines. The wedding was on Corregidor at the chapel, and a special boat brought guests from Manila. I was born on Corregidor in February 1940.

My father was in the Coast Artillery and was to command the mine planter *Harrison*, which planted the mines preventing enemy access to Manila Bay. The mines supplemented Corregidor's massive guns, which all pointed out to sea. These gun positions proved difficult when the Japanese approached in World War II over land from Bataan to the north. The following material related to Ft. MacArthur is extracted from some reminiscences my mother wrote recently. I've added supplemental, explanatory material. Her direct quotes are in italics. Editorial transitions are in parentheses.

*Selma was 6 months old when we sailed from Manila on the USAT Republic. I had orchids pinned from one shoulder to the other. Juni (the housekeeper) and Conception, her daughter who had been Selma's amah (nanny—one of the perks of duty in the PI were multiple servants; our family had 3), came down to the dock to say goodbye. Annabel and Harry Julian and Mother and Dad were there, of course. We had extended one year, meaning we had been there (Corregidor) 3 years. I loved it there, so did Harry.*

In Honolulu, where we docked overnight, we had a visit from Harry's younger brother Wilbert, "Bill," who was stationed at Schofield Barracks.

*Our stateroom (on the Republic) was small—2 bunks on one side, one on the other. A small wash bowl on one side opposite the door and a narrow bunk on the side where the porthole was. Not much room in the middle. And one of Mother's friends had given Selma a big white horse made out of toweling. No room for it—we had to put it through a wire coat hanger and hang it from the wood slats that held our life jackets.*

There were common bathrooms, but at least they no longer had to take sea water baths, which they had to do on their trip to Corregidor in 1923.

*(We arrived in San Francisco...) While in San Francisco, we rented a small apartment, and Harry set about looking for a car. The salesmen took us on the worst hills—I was scared to death we were going to roll backwards down a hill when we had to stop at a stop sign. Harry finally decided on a Dodge. So we got our things together and started the drive to Ft. MacArthur in San Pedro. We stopped at the Redwoods and Yosemite Park on the way down.*

My father was reassigned to the 3rd Coast Artillery at Fort MacArthur, commanding Battery E.

*We rented a house on a hill overlooking LA Harbor (2918 South Gaffey Street). We could see the Pan Am Clipper land in the Harbor. In Manila, we had seen it take off. We had a small yard with poinsettias and a fruit tree. I didn't know much about cooking. I could make chocolate fudge and meat loaf. My neighbor, Mrs. Crickmer, was English and (was) a wonderful cook. She taught me a lot and often, when Harry was on duty and I had to eat dinner alone, she brought me a plate of dinner, often roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Her husband was a pilot in LA Harbor. When I took "Miss Snookie" (baby Selma) out in her stroller, she embarrassed me by calling every man in uniform, "Daddy." They would look around, worried!*

The threat of war was clear at this time. The draft had begun, and factories were gearing up for war production for the allies—and, presumably, for America's later entry into the war. President Roosevelt had tolerated strikes in the defense industry for months, due to conflict at the national level about the rights of workers to strike, the need for improved workers' benefits and the nation's immediate needs for production of war materi-

als. A 'wildcat' strike at the North American Aviation plant in Inglewood, which was producing desperately needed twin-engine bombers for England, led to the end of Roosevelt's patience. He signed an executive order commanding the secretary of war to use 2500 federal troops for strike-breaking. Troops from Ft. MacArthur were sent to break up the strike on June 9-10, 1941. Harry's Battery E cleared Imperial Highway. Only two hours after the army took over they had cleared highway and factory entrances, which pickets had blocked, so the workers were able to re-enter the factory. In this particular strike, there was clear evidence of Communist Party activity. A small group of workers with ties to the Communist Party walked out of negotiations, precipitating the strike.

*We lived there when Pearl Harbor happened. Harry had been ordered to the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth. You can't be a General unless you go there, so Harry was quite happy. He was to leave in a couple of days. After Pearl Harbor, his orders were changed, much to his disappointment.*

A war duty soon assigned to my father was to search all the Japanese vegetable farms at Palos Verdes, looking for radio transmitters or other evidence the farmers had contact with the enemy. Only one was found (to the best of my mother's memory), in a wooden shack somewhere on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, but apparently contact with the enemy was being made with that receiver. All war duty wasn't bad however. Hollywood's stars supported the troops' morale by visiting Ft. MacArthur. Actress Madeline Carroll arrived in January 1942 and was made an honorary private. She later invited officers to her home for dinner. Mother was jealous that she had a "crush" on Harry, but he didn't think much of her, stating, "But she had dandruff all over her shoulders!"

*Most people thought the Japs would invade the West Coast. There were soldiers with rifles at every street corner between the upper and lower parts of Fort MacArthur. We had blackouts every night. Our neighbor Mr. Crickmer gave us information not found in the news, especially about ships sunk in Pearl Harbor. I was worried one day when a lot of P-38s flew over. I had never seen the divided tail that they had.*

*Harry decided it was too risky for me and the children to stay in San Pedro. He arranged for us to go to his parents in Braddock (near Pittsburgh), PA. The train trip was difficult with 2 small children and trains were crowded with military. (I) Had to change stations in Chicago, (and) had to manage (both) children and baggage.*

*We came back to San Pedro after being in Pittsburgh several months. Harry was then ordered to Point Pleasant, West Virginia, to take charge of a mine planter being built in New Orleans. He was to train the crew until the ship was ready.... He had to leave later to pick up the completed mine planter. They traveled in a convoy from New Orleans around to Dover, Delaware, where the mine planter would be stationed. Some ships in the convoy were damaged and some (were) sunk by German subs, but the mine planter was OK.*

*Harry was unhappy with his assignment. His classmates were in Europe and were being promoted, and he would not be promoted on a mine planter. He made several trips to Washington, trying to get a change. He asked me if I thought he should transfer to the tank corps or the paratroopers. I told him he had to decide, as it was his career. I didn't like the idea of either choice. He was finally transferred to the parachute infantry, and ordered to Fort Benning, GA, for parachute training....*

Harry Harrison then went into the 82nd Airborne. He was executive officer of the 508th Paratroop Regiment in the D-Day airborne assault in Normandy. He and his men were dropped out of their zone and had many adventures in the early, confusing days of the Normandy invasion. After a conflict with his CO, Roy Linguist, he was transferred to First Battalion Headquarters, 109th Infantry. He was killed in the bloody Battle of the Heurtgen Forest near Vossenak, Germany, soon after arriving in November 1944. First buried in Belgium, he was later moved to the National Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA, beside his brother Oscar, who was killed in the North Africa campaign. His brother Bill survived the Pacific front.



## After the War

Like many other military installations, Fort MacArthur was reduced to practically caretaker status. There were barely enough troops to maintain the new armament, and much of the old armament which had long been a fixture at Fort MacArthur was in the process of being dismantled and sold for scrap. The mortars of Batteries Barlow and Saxton were the first to go. Then disappearing rifles of Batteries Osgood, Farley, Merriam and Leary were the next to be disposed of. Then the 14-inch railway guns, the "Big Berthas of the Pacific," left Fort MacArthur, never to return. Finally in 1946 the two 16-inch rifles of Battery Paul D. Bunker, built in 1943 for \$1,500,000 were sold for \$17,000 and cut up for salvage scrap. The only remaining guns at Fort MacArthur were the 6-inch guns of Battery #241, which remained until 1956.

It was apparent that the day of seacoast artillery was past, outdated by the airplane, the missile, and new amphibious landing techniques. By 1950, almost all of the big guns were scrapped, all the harbor defense commands dismantled and the Coast Artillery Corps abolished as a separate branch of the Army. The old coast defense reservations were either converted to other uses by the military or declared surplus.

By June 1948 the personnel strength at Fort MacArthur had dropped to 300 troops. These troops were primarily concerned with overseeing the dismantling of the large guns, and maintaining the anti-aircraft and mobile batteries. To many it appeared that Fort MacArthur, denuded of its large seacoast artillery, was about to sink into the lassitude so characteristic of military installations in a caretaker status. However, due to the planning, vision, and ability of some of the leaders at Fort MacArthur and the Headquarters, Sixth US Army, Presidio of San Francisco, such was not the case. Fort MacArthur came back to life with the implementation of what was called the "Fort MacArthur Plan."

During the days of the "Great Demobilization" of 1945 and 1946, the US Army, reluctant to lose all the training and experience vested in its wartime soldiers, strongly urged all of the soldiers to join the Organized Reserves when they were separated from service. Thousands did join the Organized Reserves, but as time passed it became more and more apparent that the Reserves required increased training in order to maintain their effectiveness.

It was difficult to refurbish old skills and learn new ones under the existing Reserve setup. Most of the Reserve Training Centers had limited areas available for field training. Field training facilities were available at Regular Army posts, but most Reserves were reluctant to leave their jobs or families for the time required to travel to those posts and return home.

The "Fort MacArthur Plan" essentially was an effort to encourage the Reservists to report for the required training by encouraging them to bring their families with them. When the idea was explained to General Mark W. Clark, Commander of Sixth US Army, in 1948 he gave his enthusiastic support. General Clark won approval from the Department of Army for a trial program of the "Fort MacArthur Plan" at Fort MacArthur in November 1948. When the Reservist reported on Saturday morning for his monthly training, he would settle his dependents in the Hostess House facilities before reporting to his training area. The Reservist trained with his unit, handled equipment of his specialty, and became familiar with the equipment and tactics he might be called upon to use in any future emergency. In the meantime, his dependents utilized the facilities of the fort.

The Plan was such a success that Fort MacArthur on weekends looked almost as busy as when the Reception and Training Center was in full operation during World War II. About one thousand Reservists were training at the fort each weekend, and the program was approved for adoption nationwide.

In February 1949 the fixed defenses at Fort MacArthur wrote their own epitaph in flames. Most of the heavy coast defense ordnance was gone, and with the demise of the ordnance, large stocks of smokeless powder for the guns had to be disposed of. The powder was useless for any other purpose and was an expense to maintain. Therefore, it was burned. The smoke and flames wrote an end to one period of the history of Fort MacArthur, but events were soon to bring a new era to the fort.



Fort MacArthur Lower Reservation 1960s

## Chapter 4

### Fort MacArthur—the Final Army Years 1950-1982

On June 25, 1950, North Korea broke an uneasy truce with South Korea by driving south across the 38th parallel. The United States at once brought this transgression before an emergency session of the Security Council of the United Nations. The temporary absence of Soviet Russia, which was boycotting the Council, cleared the way on June 25 for prompt passage of a resolution terming the action of the North Koreans a breach of peace. Taking this resolution as justifying the immediate extension of aid to the victims of aggression, President Truman ordered U. S. forces to give support to the South Koreans. The Reserve training that had been initiated under the “Fort MacArthur Plan” proved invaluable in this crisis.

The United States Army was developing a new continental defensive system to replace the scrapped seacoast artillery. The new system featured the Nike surface-to-air missiles for defense against bomber formations. The advent of the Korean War hastened its deployment. Fort MacArthur became the headquarters of the Army’s air defenses in the Los Angeles area.



Nike Missles at the Chatsworth site, 1960s (US Army photo)

## The U.S. Army NIKE Missile Program

It was apparent by the end of World War II that any attack on the continental United States in the latter half of the 20th Century would first come from the sky; the big guns that used to protect the coastline from attack by overseas armadas could not be used to stop new armadas that could fly overhead and a new defense system, based on ground-launched surface-to-air missiles (SAM), was developed to replace it. The SAM system was utilized under the same tactical considerations as the big seacoast guns had been during the previous century—as a deterrent against an attack by another nation.

Project “Nike” (named after the winged goddess of victory in Greek mythology) was based on a 17 August 1944 memorandum written by 1st Lt. Jacob W. Schaefer in which he proposed the design of a rocket that could be controlled from the ground. Development was started in 1945, but slowed by the end of the war.

The deteriorating international situation in Europe and Asia during the years 1948-49 prompted new concern over the state of American continental defenses. The nearly nonexistent United States AA defenses needed to be upgraded. The Nike missile was still in the development stage, so gun units would have to be used until the missiles could be deployed. The outbreak of the Korean War finally brought about new changes. On 1 July 1950, the Army Reorganization Act combined all the Army’s artillery units into a single arm. It also established the Army Antiaircraft Command (ARAACOM), which was responsible for manning, training and equipping the Army’s AA units.

The development of the Nike missile system was brought back up to speed in 1950. In December, 1953, the first Nike-Ajax surface-to-air missile battery became operational at Fort Meade, Maryland. These supersonic missiles were the first ground based anti-air missile systems to become operational in the United States. As soon as the required storage shelters, fire control equipment, missiles, and trained crews could be prepared the Nike-Ajax missile batteries replaced the gun batteries as the backbone of the Army anti-aircraft defense. Construction of the Nike battery sites was carried out during the years 1952-1954, followed by the “conversion” of AAA units to missile units. In 1954 the US Air Force’s Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD, which was later unified with Canadian and nominally Mexican air defenses as NORAD, the North American Air Defense Command in 1957) was established, to better integrate the tactical command for responding to an aerial attack threat. By 1957 all of the Army’s AAA units were converted to missile units and on 21 March 1957 ARAACOM became ARADCOM—the Army Air Defense Command—in light of its new mission. All units were henceforth carried the designation “Air Defense” Artillery. Beginning in 1958 units of the National Guard were trained to operate the Nike sites to accommodate manpower cuts in the regular Army. This transfer of Nike sites from regular Army units to National Guard units would continue throughout the Nike period.

The Nike-Ajax was the first ground-based supersonic anti-aircraft missile system to become operational in the United States. The Nike-Ajax had a range of about 30 miles. It was initially rocketed to supersonic speed by a solid rocket booster and sustained in flight by a liquid-fueled rocket motor. Nike missiles employ the so-called “command guidance” system in which the major control equipment is ground-based and not part of the expendable missile. Separate radars simultaneously located and tracked both the target and the Nike missile. Data from these radars was fed to the electronic data processing equipment which sent “commands” to the missile in flight to guide it to intercept the target. The Nike missiles were deployed in underground magazines at sites in a circular pattern around key American industrial and military locations.

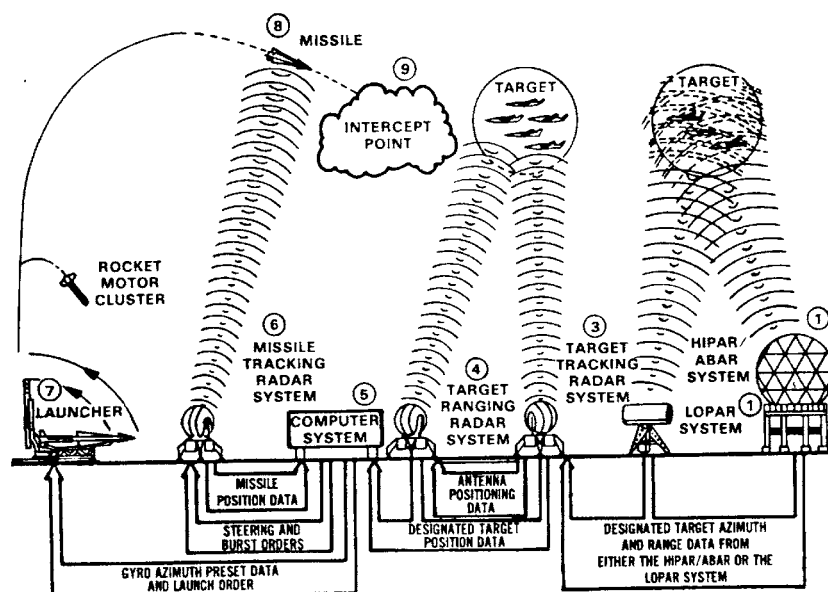
In 1953, just as the Nike-Ajax missile system was being implemented, research and development began on a longer ranged surface-to-air missile. The Nike-Hercules was an improved version of the Nike-Ajax. The Hercules had a longer range and was completely powered by solid fuels, eliminating the troublesome and dangerous liquid fueling procedure of the Nike-Ajax. It also had the capability of being armed with a nuclear warhead. Conversion of the system proceeded during the years 1957-1964. Improved versions of the Nike-Hercules missiles system were deployed beginning in 1961. Nike-Hercules batteries had an improved acquisition radar system. The new Nike-Hercules system also brought with it an improved command coordinating system. Beginning in 1960, the missile batteries of each Defense Area was coordinated from a center located at the area’s Army Air Defense Command Post (AADCP). These systems operated under the tactical command of the Air Force’s Semi-automatic Ground Environment system (SAGE) which acted as the NORAD Sector Control Center (NSCC) in managing air battles.

On November 16, 1951, the Headquarters III Corps arrived at Fort MacArthur and assumed command of the installation. A little over a year later, on November 21, 1952, the Headquarters 47th Artillery Brigade arrived at Fort MacArthur on permanent change of station orders and assumed command of anti-aircraft defenses of the Southern California area. The units under its direct command were the 466th Antiaircraft artillery Battalion (AAABn) with 75 mm guns, the 77th AAABn, the 544th AAABn, and 551st AAABn, all with 90 mm guns. The 77th was later replaced by the 720th AAABn, California National Guard. By 1957, these units, along with the 933rd AAABn, were converted to Nike battalions.

One Nike battery was emplaced at White Point and on the Upper Reservation in 1954 along with 15 other sites in the greater Los Angeles area. On completion the Nike missile sites of the 47th Artillery Brigade presented a “ring of supersonic steel” around an area of 25,000 square miles. Nike sites were located from the mountains near Chatsworth on the northwest to Garden Grove on the southwest, from the San Gabriel Mountain Range on the north to the coastal areas of the Palos Verdes Peninsula on the south.

Headquarters III Corps departed from Fort MacArthur for Fort Hood, Texas, on April 15, 1954. At that time the mission of Fort MacArthur became twofold. As Headquarters Southern California Sub-district of the California Military District, and Headquarters Fort MacArthur, the post had the mission of command supervision and training of all U. S. Army Reserve units and personnel, and ROTC units in Southern California, as well as the mission of providing logistical support to the 47th Artillery Brigade. As a part of the Reserve mission, the post at one time maintained some 60,000 personnel records in the Reserve Personnel Management Division of the AG Office.

On September 1, 1954, by direction of the Secretary of Defense, elements of all military services with air defense capabilities were combined into a single air defense system with headquarters in Colorado Springs. The new command, CONAD, was directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with the US Air Force as executive agent, and included the US Army Air Defense Command, the US Air Force Air Defense Command, and US Naval Forces. This reorganization provided for closer integration of all elements of the air defense system to secure greater defense in depth and better utilization of available information and facilities.



Nike-Hercules operation

On September 27, 1955, Battery “D” 554th AAA Missile Battery at Point Vicente had the honor of being the first Nike site to be shown to non-military personnel. In addition to numerous civic leaders, fifty newsmen from all over the Los Angeles area attended the unveiling. This action did much to gain public acceptance and understanding of the part the Nike missile batteries played in the air defense.

On June 1, 1957, the 720th AAA Battalion (90mm gun) was reorganized and redesignated as the 720th Missile Battalion (Nike-Ajax). This was the first National Guard unit to ever be designated as a missile unit. On September 14, 1958, the 47th Artillery Brigade (AD) turned over operational control of four Nike-Ajax missile batteries to the California National Guard. Battery A—Site LA40 at Long Beach, Battery B—Site LA57 at Torrance, Battery C—Site LA70 and Battery D—Site LA73 at the dual Playa Del Rey site. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery were established at Site LA40 at Long Beach. This was the first time a National Guard unit assumed operational control of a Nike missile battery and was to serve as a model for the eventual takeover of all Nike sites by the National Guard.

In November 1958, the 47th Artillery Brigade scored another first with the introduction of Army sentry dogs to guard missile sites. Four specially trained sentry dogs and their handlers were assigned to guarding the Chatsworth Nike-Hercules site. These men were members of the first group of 28 dogs and handlers sent by the U.S. Army Air Defense Command to Fort Benning for training in August 1958. Approximately 500 dogs and handlers were required to put the sentry dog program into operation at the nation’s Nike sites.

Beginning in 1957, the second generation Nike missiles were deployed around the United States. Conversion of the sites in the Los Angeles area proceeded during the years 1957-1964. Only nine of the sites were converted to Nike-Hercules. The new Nike-Hercules system also brought with it an improved command coordinating system. The Missile Master facility at Fort MacArthur became operational in December 1960. Prior to that the 47th Artillery Brigade (AD) achieved a nation-wide first in September 1958 when operational control of four Nike-Ajax missiles sites previously manned by the 865th Missile Battalion were turned over to the California National Guard’s 4th Missile Battalion, 251st Artillery. This turn over of Nike sites to the Army National Guard served as a standard and a pathfinder for the turnover of the Nike sites in the United States to the National Guard.



Guard Dog & Handler, 1960s (US Army photo)

Improving public relations within the area where the Nike batteries were located became more of a challenge as the Nike-Ajax missiles were replaced with the more powerful Nike-Hercules missiles. The possibility that nuclear warheads were to be stored at the Nike-Hercules sites was disturbing to many people. It took an expensive education program and several years of a perfect safety record before many people accepted the fact that the nuclear warheads—stored, handled, and if ever necessary, fired by trained crews, offered no danger to the communities they defended.

The action of Fort MacArthur personnel in late January 1956 in dispatching troops and disaster relief items to aid flood control authorities in the Los Angeles area won extensive praise from civilian leaders. Less than a year later the Army joined civilians in fighting forest fires in the Malibu area. The main Army efforts had to be devoted to protecting the Nike sites that were threatened by the fires. No Nike site was damaged, but the flames came close to one site.

In 1958 the title (Air Defense) was added to the designation of the 47th Artillery Brigade. Some 2,000 officers and men made up the 47th Artillery Brigade which was comprised of the Brigade headquarters, the 108th Artillery Group, and the 12th Artillery Group at Pasadena. The 12th Group was composed of two missile battalions: the 1st Missile Battalion, 56th Artillery in Pasadena and the 4th Missile Battalion, 65th Artillery located in Van Nuys. There were two battalions directly under the command of the 108th Group: the 3rd Missile Battalion, 57th Artillery and the 4th Missile Battalion, 251st Artillery. The latter was manned by personnel of the California National Guard.

The 47th Artillery Brigade (AD) also participated prominently in planning for the turn over of Nike-Hercules missiles sites to Army National Guard. Because of the security requirements connected with the nuclear warheads, the turnover of the Nike-Hercules sites was much more complicated. Nevertheless, the required planning and procedures were completed, and the first of the Nike-Hercules sites of the 47th Brigade was turned over to the Army National Guard in 1962.



Nike Site LA-43C (Upper Reservation, Fort MacArthur) 1960s (US Army photo)

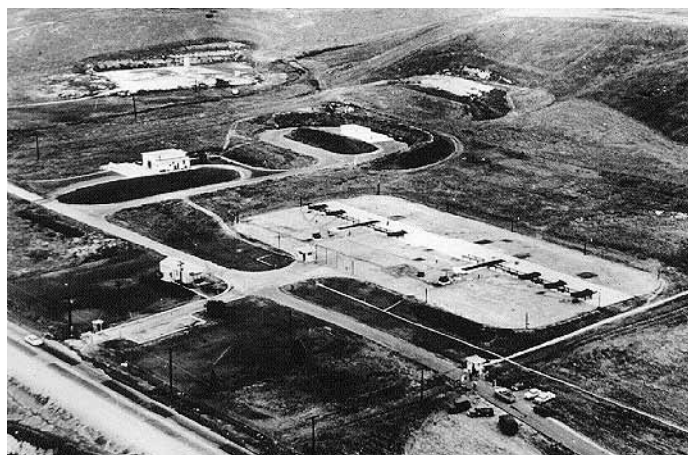
In May of 1959, the 720th AA Battalion (CARNG) was redesignated as the 4th Missile Battalion (Nike-Hercules) 251st Artillery, California Army National Guard. Batteries B and C remained Nike-Ajax batteries. Batteries A and D were reorganized, but remained at their original stations. On March 6, 1963, Batteries A and D entered Nike-Hercules training at USARADCEN, Fort Bliss, Texas, and returned on April 29, 1963.

On May 1, 1963, Batteries A and D closed their Nike-Ajax sites (Long Beach—Site LA40 and Playa Del Rey Site LA73) and moved to new stations. Battery A moved to Site LA32—Stanton, and Battery D moved to Site LA43—Fort MacArthur, for on-site training with active Army crews. On June 27, 1963, Batteries A and D assumed the Nike-Hercules operational mission at Stanton and Fort MacArthur (Sites LA32 and LA43). On January 2, 1964, Batteries B and C began Nike-Hercules training at Fort Bliss, Texas. On April 23, 1964, Batteries B and C left their stations at Sites LA70 and LA73 (Playa Del Rey) and assumed operational control of the Nike-Hercules sites at LA55—Point Vicente (Battery B) and LA29—Brea (Battery C).

In July 1963 Fort MacArthur became the main link in the Defense Communications chain in the immediate Los Angeles area for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and other governmental agencies with the opening of the Commercial Refile Communications Center.

Fort MacArthur received many requests from civil agencies for assistance and support during various emergency situations. Typical of these was a request made in August 1964 by the U. S. Forestry service for manpower assistance in fighting a forest fire in the rugged Santa Monica Mountains which destroyed several homes and endangered many others. On August 17, fifty soldiers dispatched from the Fort upon approval of Commanding General, Sixth U. S. Army, to lend assistance. The fire was brought under control the following day, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognized the post for its assistance in a resolution passed on August 24.

On numerous occasions Fort MacArthur received requests to support exercises and maneuvers held in the desert areas of California. The 1964 Operation Desert Strike, one of the largest exercises to be held in the Sixth Army area, was supported by the installation with personnel, supplies and transportation.



Nike Site LA-43L (White Point Reservation, Fort MacArthur) 1960s (US Army photo)



Fort MacArthur's mission of providing administrative and logistical support to Air Defense, Reserve and ROTC units was expanded on July 1, 1965 to include support to Reserve and ROTC units in Arizona and Southern Nevada, as well as Southern California. Budget requirements to carry out those missions exceeded \$40 million annually.

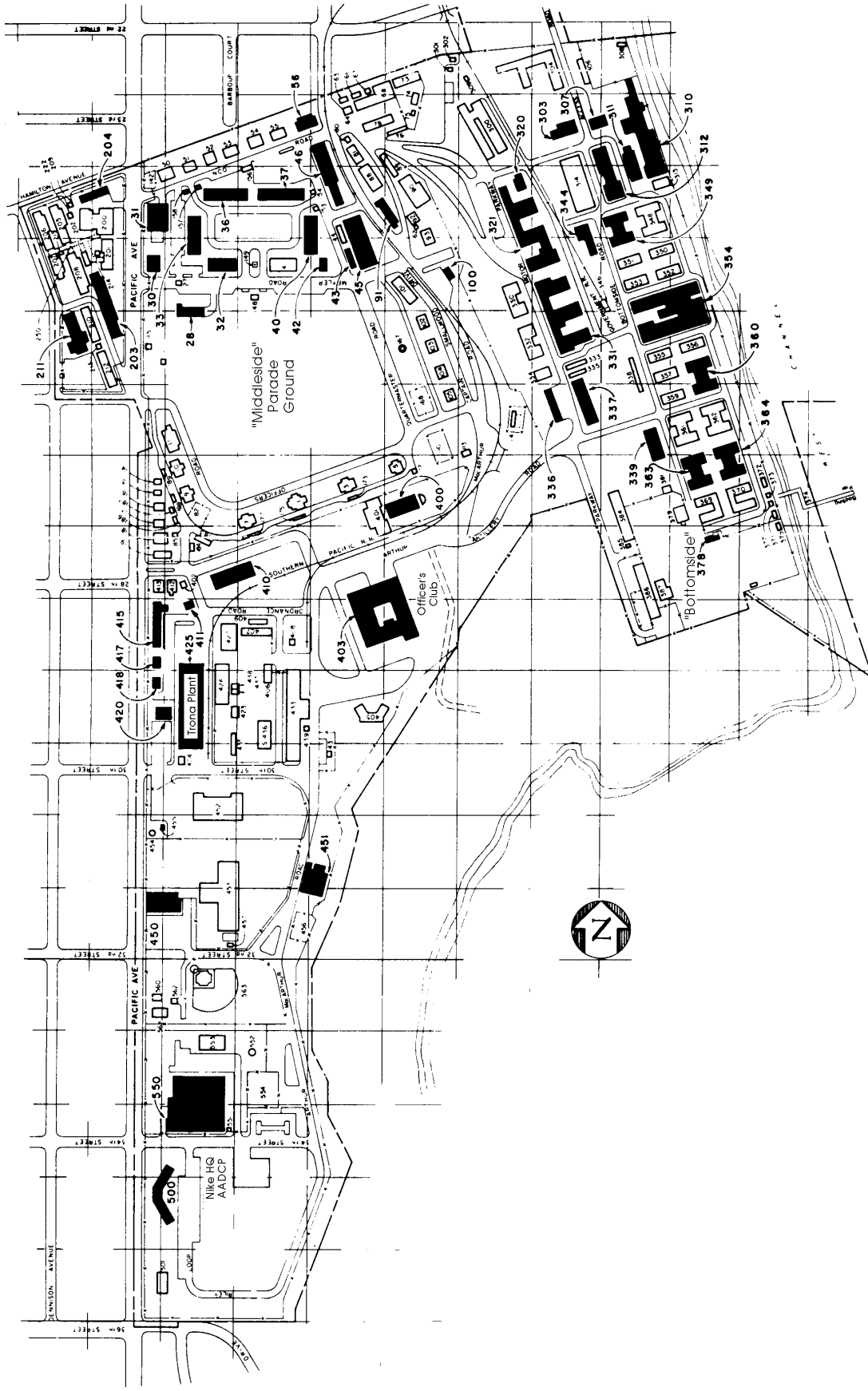
As the Vietnam war escalated during the latter part of 1965, there was a sharp increase in the number of Reservists utilizing the training facilities at Fort MacArthur. Meanwhile, the new Army Community Service Program was established which provided assistance and guidance to dependents of military personnel residing in the area apart from their sponsors. In early 1966, the personal notification to next of kin of deceased Army personnel was put into effect, with Fort MacArthur being the central control point for the densely-populated Southern California area.

On November 15, 1968, as part of the internal reorganization of the Army Air Defense Command (ARADCOM), the 47th Artillery Brigade was transferred east. The Army Air Defense command at Fort MacArthur became the 19th Artillery Group (Air Defense). This change was made to align ARADCOM units in accordance with a reorganization of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

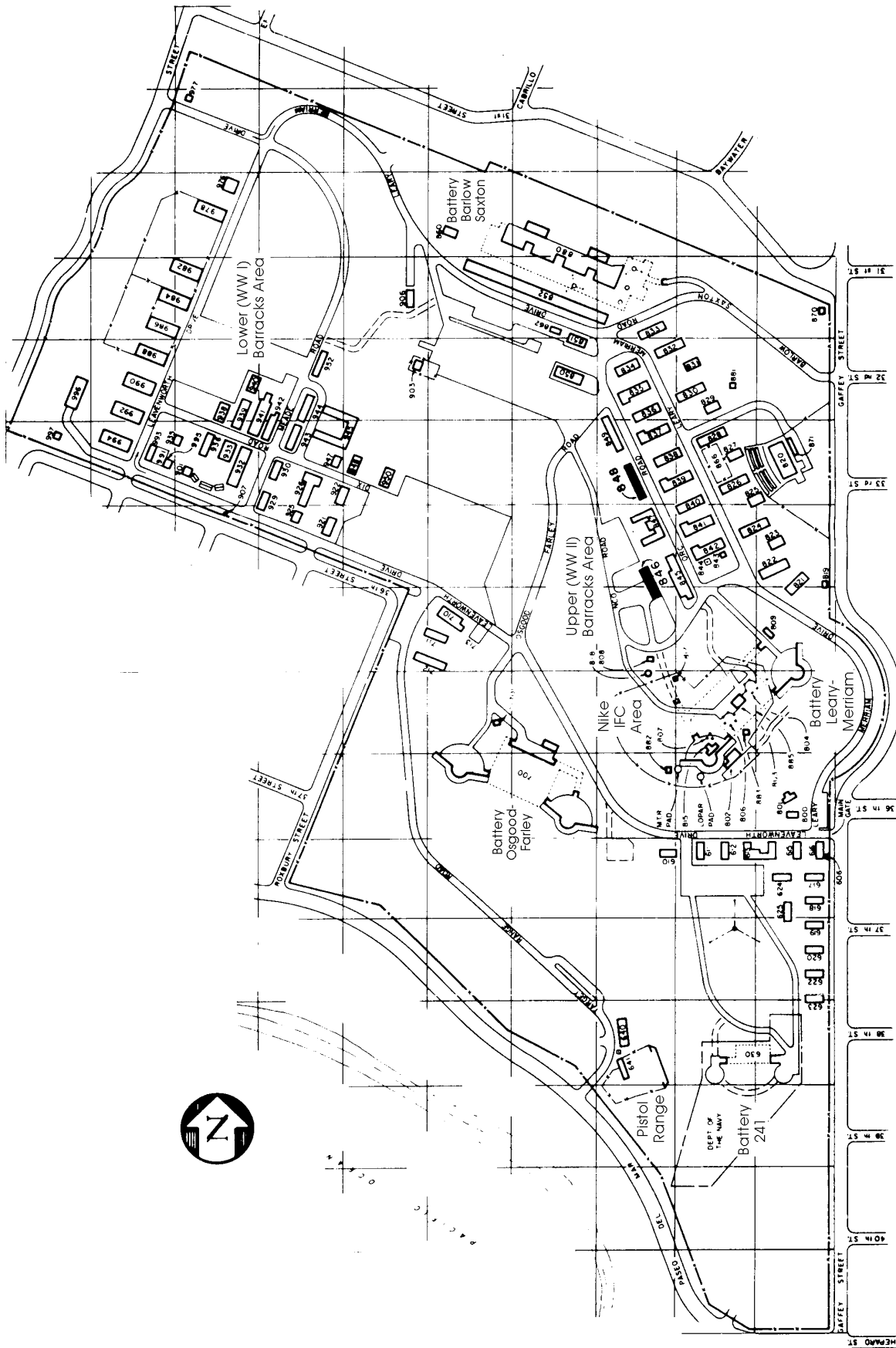
In addition to the purely military aspects of its operation, Fort MacArthur continued its tradition of community involvement. The 72d Army Band played in numerous parades and was available for various gatherings in the area. No parade held up to 1974 was considered complete unless a marching contingent from Fort MacArthur was present. The soldiers and civilian personnel contributed freely of their time in sponsoring or monitoring youth activities.



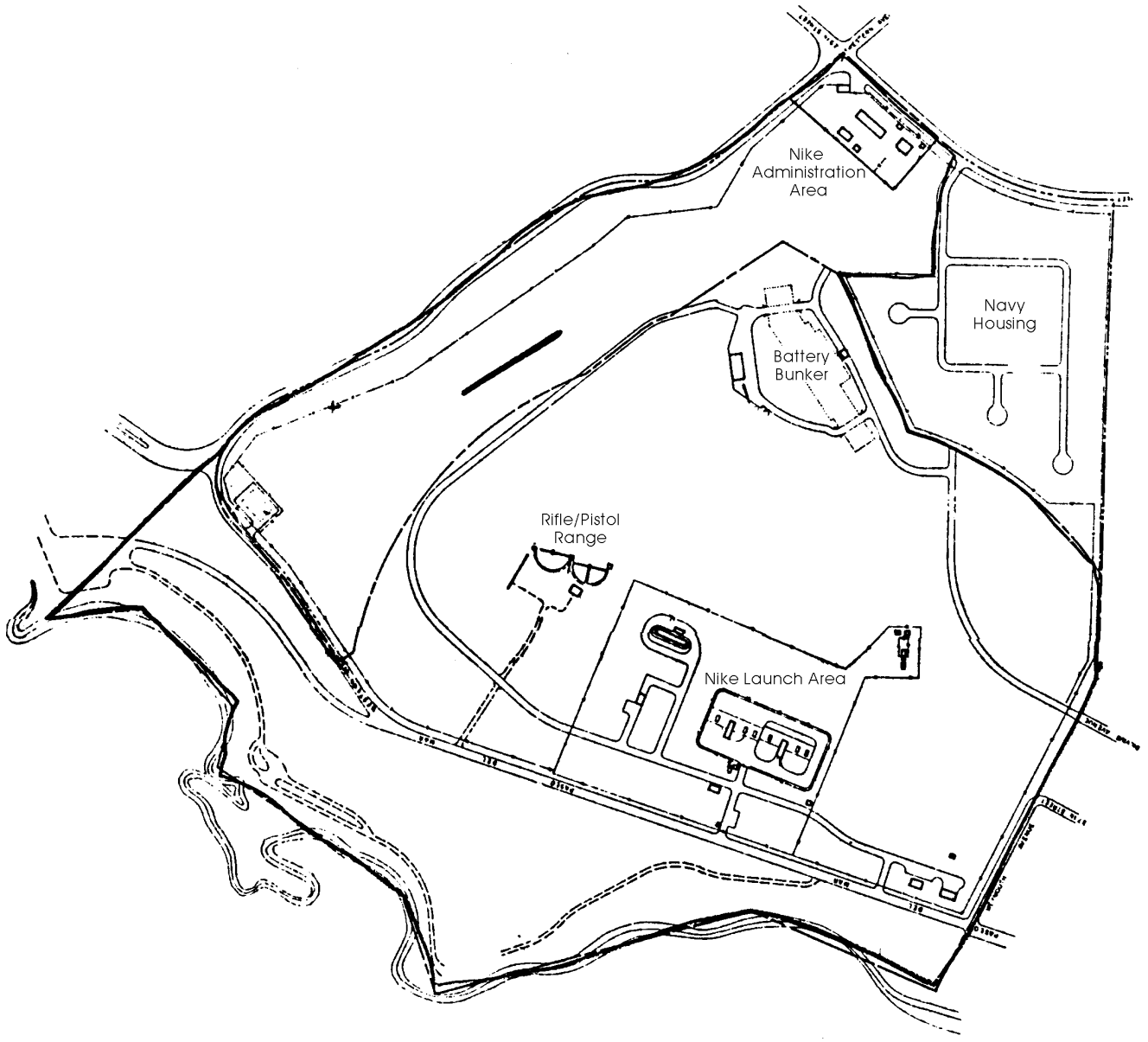
Nike Launch site LA-55L at Point Vicente on the Palos Verdes Peninsula



Lower Reservation of Fort MacArthur, 1972  
Fort MacArthur Museum Archives



Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur, 1972  
 Fort MacArthur Museum Archives



White Point Reservation of Fort MacArthur, 1972  
Fort MacArthur Museum Archives

## The Army Closure of Fort MacArthur

Changing military and fiscal priorities in the late 1960s and early 1970s brought an end to the Army's major use of Fort MacArthur. The Nike-Hercules missile system was designed for defense against attack by large formations of bombers. As the perceived threat changed from bomber attack to missile attack, the usefulness of the Nike-Hercules diminished. New SAM systems were developed to fulfill the role of anti-missile defense and be used in conjunction with the Nike-Hercules system, but they eventually proved to be unsatisfactory. Finally the large manpower requirements of the SAM batteries and their apparent inability to defend against ICBMs spelled the end of all SAM programs including the Nike Program. In 1967, a gradual decrease in ARADCOM units began. In February 1974 ARADCOM ordered all existing CONUS Nike batteries closed by the end of the year. ARADCOM itself was inactivated on 30 June 1975. The new strategic American continental defense was based on its ICBM nuclear deterrent and naval might abroad.

On February 4, 1974, Department of the Army announced that the post would be closed as an economy measure. The remaining missile sites in and around Los Angeles were closed, the land excessed, and the 19th Artillery Group deactivated by July 1, 1974. Meanwhile, in the Spring of 1974, the Post Commander submitted an administrative and logistical plan requesting that the Middle Reservation of Fort MacArthur be retained for support of active and reserve Army units in Southern California.

On June 25, 1974, Department of the Army announced that the plan was accepted for implementation and the fort would not be closed entirely. All land, except the Middle Reservation (97 acres with 115 buildings), was declared excess to Army needs and was to be disposed of in accordance with governing procedures. These excessed areas were:

Lower Reservation	53 acres	54 buildings with 333,000 sq ft
Hospital Area	5 acres	19 buildings with 73,879 sq ft
Upper Reservation*	116 acres	103 buildings with 325,000 sq ft
White Point	150 acres	25 buildings with 51,000 sq ft
Point Vicente	88 acres	25 buildings with 46,000 sq ft
<hr/>		
Total	412 acres	226 buildings and 828,879 sq ft

\*(Less 2 acres to Coast Guard. Battery Osgood-Farley was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites and part of the reservation was designated for the construction of Korean Friendship Bell, a gift from the Republic of South Korea.)

On January 1, 1975, Fort MacArthur was realigned as a subinstallation under Fort Ord. Plans were then implemented to reduce the military and civilian workforce and close out the Upper and Lower Reservations as well as the hospital area. On July 1, 1975, Fort MacArthur was officially inactivated as a separate installation and became a sub-post of Fort Ord. The Post Commander of Fort MacArthur became the Deputy Post Commander under the Commander, Fort Ord and 7th Infantry Division. The remaining work force was designated US Army Support Detachment, Fort MacArthur (USASDFMA), and all activities were consolidated on the Middle Reservation.

In 1978, the Army announced that it would transfer its support units from Fort MacArthur to the Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center and would declare the remaining land excess.

## Chapter 5: Fort MacArthur Today

The lands that made up the parts of the Fort MacArthur military reservation in San Pedro, California contain a number of historically significant structures that were part of the US Army's defenses of the continental coastline during the years 1914-1974. By the time of its closure as an active Army post in 1982, Fort MacArthur had served for nearly 70 years and was an integral part of the nation's military defenses, spanning the era of large seacoast artillery to anti-aircraft missiles. Part of the post is still used today as a subpost of the U.S. Air Force Base at Los Angeles.

The post's primary mission was to protect the harbor facilities of the city of Los Angeles from hostile forces with emplaced seacoast artillery. Due to the late development of San Pedro Bay as a harbor, Fort MacArthur had the distinction of being the only coastal defense post in the contiguous 48 states to receive a complete set of the late modern type of armament installed under the "Taft Board" Fortification Program. The other harbors in the Lower 48 States had been armed under the earlier "Endicott Board" fortification program, while the other "Taft Board" construction was carried out at the overseas possessions.



The grounds of the Fort MacArthur Museum, Angels Gate Park (photo by Mark Berhow, 1999)

Structures remain from every major event and development during those years—the large concrete gun batteries built to defend the Los Angeles Harbor during the first World War (one of the few collections of such defenses built on the shores of the continental US during this era), the barracks built to house the men of the permanent garrison, temporary barracks built to house the men mobilized during the World War I, temporary gun defenses used between the two World Wars, barracks built to house the men mobilized during World War II, extensive underground tunnels built in case of invasion by the forces of Imperial Japan, newer concrete gun batteries built during the later World War II years, and the missile defenses built during the Cold War years.

The historical aspects of Fort MacArthur have not been forgotten. Battery Osgood-Farley was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 by the US Army. Championed by the San Pedro Bay Historical Society and the US Army Reserve, Battery Barlow-Saxton and the parade ground area of the Lower Reservation were added to the list in 1980. In 1985, the corridors of Battery Osgood were opened as the Fort MacArthur Museum to preserve, interpret, and protect the history of Fort MacArthur and American coastal defenses. Visitors can visit the other remaining defensive structures on a self guided tour of the reservation provided by the Museum.

The reservations hold an important collection of artifacts tied to both the Army lifestyle and to the Army's role in the protection of the American continental coastline from invasion. The remains on the Fort MacArthur reserves, which are in good condition for the most part, clearly trace the development of American coastal defenses, from the all gun era of the turn of the century to missile era of today, and many of these sites can be restored for interpretive purposes. Three phases of American defenses can be viewed all with in a short distance of one another, which gives Los Angeles one of the finest visual interpretations of American coastal defenses in the nation.



Saluting gun and flag pole, Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur (Fort MacArthur Museum)

## The Middle Reservation: Fort MacArthur Annex, Los Angeles Air Force Base, USAF

The US Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center, located at the Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo, was looking for a site for housing for its military personnel, many of whom could not afford to buy or even rent housing in the expensive Los Angeles market. The Air Force saw Fort MacArthur as the solution to its problem, and asked the Air Staff to place a hold on the land. In September 1979, the Department of Defense approved the transfer of Fort MacArthur from Army to Air Force jurisdiction. In 1982, the transfer was completed as the last regular Army personnel moved out and Fort MacArthur's 94 years of Army service formally ended. However, detachments of the California National Guard continued to use a few of the buildings for a number of years. The last actual Army unit, a Military Police detachment, left Fort MacArthur in 1993.

The Middle Reservation of Fort MacArthur is a housing and recreation facility for the personnel of the Los Angeles Air Force Base. After some initial delays, Congress appropriated funds for construction of military housing at the Fort, and 370 townhouses were built there between November 1981 and December 1985. In addition, 33 existing homes at the Fort were renovated. Fort MacArthur was



Parade ground, Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Patton Quadrangle, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)



officially transferred from Army to Air Force control on Oct. 1, 1982, and Air Force families began moving into the first of the newly built townhouses at that point.

While the construction of townhouses at Fort MacArthur alleviated the housing problem for Air Force personnel in Los Angeles, it did not completely solve it, and even before construction was finished, Space Division began looking for a place where it could build another 170 units. It targeted 50 acres at White Point, which the Army had declared excess in 1975 and turned over to the City of Los Angeles. The city was unwilling to transfer this land to the Air Force, but a compromise was eventually reached, whereby the Air Force received title to 11.34 acres at White Point and 22.09 acres of nearby Bogdanovich Park. Completion of this construction gave Los Angeles Air Force Base a total of 573 units of military family housing at Fort MacArthur, Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest. The housing on and near Fort MacArthur made the base a more attractive installation for military families and also helped it survive base closures conducted under the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990. Additional housing is being constructed on the upper part of the old White Point Reservation in 1998-1999.

The Los Angeles Air Force Base houses and supports the headquarters of the Air Force Materiel Command's Space and Missile Systems Center. The center manages research, development and acquisition of military space systems. It traces its ancestry back to the Air Research and Development Command's Western Development Division, which was activated July 1, 1954 in Inglewood, CA. The original mission of the Western Development Division was to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile, but responsibility for developing satellite systems was added in February 1956.

The mission of providing the supporting infrastructure for space and missile programs at Los Angeles Air Force Base belongs to the 61st Air Base Group. The 61st traces its lineage back to the 6592nd Support Group, which was organized to support the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division on Nov. 16, 1959, almost five years before Los Angeles Air Force Station was called into being. The 61st Air Base Group includes the 61st Mission Support Squadron, the 61st Communications Squadron, and the 61st Medical Squadron. The Space Systems Division's successors remained at Los Angeles Air Force Station, which was redesignated as Los Angeles Air Force Base in September 1987.

Most of the original post buildings surrounding the parade ground still remain including the officer's quarters, the barracks, the post exchange, the guard house, and the headquarters buildings. The Air Force has maintained the exterior of these buildings and that section of the post looks today much as it did when it was built. The parade ground area has been designated a National Historical District.



Barracks, Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Officer's Quarters (duplex), Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Officers Quarters, Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters (duplex), Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996  
(photo by Mark Berhow)



Old Post Headquarters, Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Harbor Defense Headquarters building (1940s), Middle Reservation, Fort MacArthur 1996 (photo by Mark Berhow)

All the buildings located on the “Bottomside” reservation were demolished and removed in the late 1970s. Most of the “Bottomside” was built on fill land below the Lower Reservation. the fill was dredged out for use as a municipal boat basin, the rest of the land is used as a public park. The buildings of the hospital area have all been demolished and the area is currently vacant.

### The Upper Reservation: Angels Gate Park, City of Los Angeles

The Upper Reservation was designated by the city as a multipurpose-use area known as Angels Gate Park. The park is the home of the Korean Friendship Bell and is jointly administered by the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District. A small section that was once part of the Upper Reservation around the Point Fermin lighthouse is also a city park.

The WWI barracks area and the WWII barracks area on the Upper Reservation were a part of the garrison life of the Coast Artillery soldier of the 1920s and 1930s and the Air Artillery man of the 1950s and 1960s. The barracks also played a role in the training of the CMTC, ROTC, and the National Guard soldiers during those years. Significantly, the barracks themselves were built as part of the two great American Army mobilizations of the 20th Century, for World War I and World War II. Of equal importance were the frantic defense measures taken during the early years of World War II, in which it was proposed to build an entire underground barracks and hospital to survive a possible attack by the forces of Japan. Some of these tunnels and trenches were actually built and a number of significant remains can still be seen on the Upper Reservation grounds. Taken together these structures interpret the roles the US Army played in the homefront during these years.

Currently the park has soccer fields, a number of picnic areas, a youth hostel, a maintenance yard and a cultural center. The old army structures are often used as sets in Hollywood film and television productions.

*Battery Osgood-Farley* is the only unmodified, publicly accessible battery of its vintage in the continental United States. The condition of the battery is excellent when compared to other gun batteries around the nation’s shoreline. The battery is now home to the Fort MacArthur Museum, a component of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreations and Parks. The battery is in excellent condition.



“Old Fort MacArthur Days” 1993 at the Fort MacArthur Museum (photo by Mark Berhow)

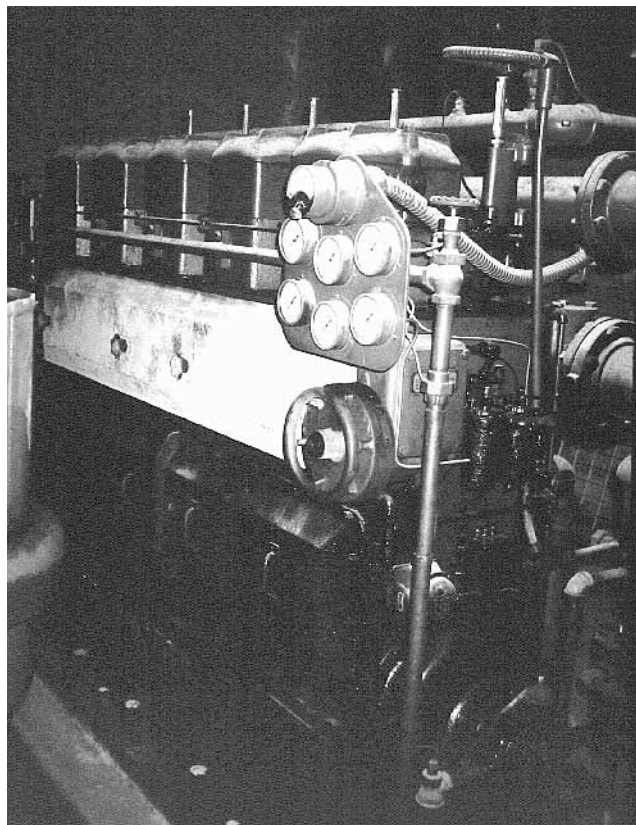
The power room has been nearly completely restored with much of its original equipment. Work is progressing on the creation of a full size reproduction of the gun once mounted in Battery Osgood, and to restore a powder magazine, a shell magazine and a plotting room in the battery. As these projects are accomplished, Battery Osgood-Farley will be one of the most fully restored modern-era gun battery in the United States.

*Battery Leary-Merriam* is unique in that it was associated with all three phases of these defenses, first as a gun battery, then as the HECP/HDGP, and finally as Nike site 43 IFC. Currently used by the Marine Exchange and the Angels Gate Cultural Center, it has been slightly modified.

*Battery Barlow-Saxton* is the only “Taft-era” mortar battery built in the continental United States.

*Battery 241* still holds its 3 Worthington-powered General Electric generators and much of the other power equipment, one of the few batteries that retains its original power equipment.

*World War I cantonment buildings* As the only major Army facility in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, Fort MacArthur served as the recruiting and training center for Southern California during World War I. A cantonment area composed of barracks, mess halls, latrines and a hospital was built on the Upper Reservation to house the new recruits. During the 1930s, the barracks were used to house the men of the Citizens’s Military Training Corps (CMTTC), the Reserve Officer’s Training Corps (ROTC) and the National Guard during their regular training sessions at Fort MacArthur. Most of the WWI cantonment barracks still remain. The Los Angeles Unified School District has jurisdiction over the northern half of the Upper Reservation. Currently, the district uses the area for several functions including: the Wilmington Skills Center, facilities for both San Pedro and Angels Gate High Schools, the Point Fermin Outdoor School, a storage area, and a maintenance yard.



Generator in BCN 241, Angles Gate Park 1990  
(photo by Mark Berhow)



The Fort MacArthur Museum, 1999 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Battery Farley and Angels Gate Park, 1999 (photo by Mark Berhow)

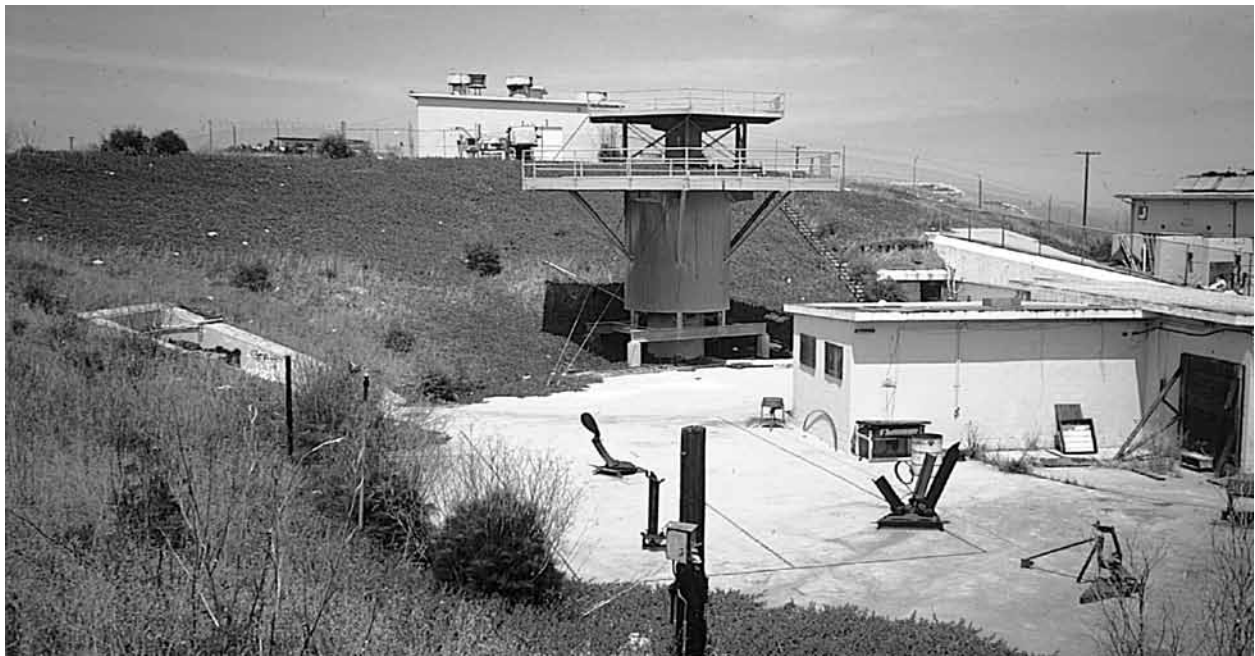


Battery Osgood-Farley, 1970s (Fort MacArthur Museum Collection)





Battery Barlow-Saxton 1999 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Battery Leary 1986 (photo by Mark Berhow)



BCN 241, Angels Gate Park, 1991 (photo by Mark Berhow)



WW I Barracks area, Angels Gate Park 1991 (photo by Mark Berhow)



WW II Base End Station, Angels Gate Park 1991 (photo by Mark Berhow)



## The White Point Reservation: White Point Park, City of Los Angeles

The area was acquired for US Army beginning in July 1942, but litigation dragged on to 1945 before settlement was reached. Battery Bunker was constructed during the years 1942-1944, and the guns were subsequently scrapped in 1948. The area was then used as a target range. In 1954, the White Point Nike site was constructed with underground magazines, a generator room, a ready room and sentry posts. It was completed by 1957. The site was manned by the 3rd Battallion of the 57th Artillery from 1955-1962. The site was upgraded for Hercules missiles during 1962-63. The Administration buildings, missile assembly and test buildings and the canine (guard dog) facilities were built during 1963-65. The facility was declared surplus in 1975, and was eventually deeded to the City of Los Angeles. Nike Site 43, with launch facilities at White Point and Control facilities at Angels Gate, is still largely intact.

The original White Point Park Master Plan was specifically amended to include the preservation of Battery Bunker and all Nike related structures. In 1987, the US Air Force commissioned a study on the site which was published as “Historical Cultural Resource Survey and Evaluation of the Nike Site at Fort MacArthur and White Point, Los Angeles, California,” by Roger Hathaway. In that survey, Hathaway determined that the site was “of exceptional importance” and should be included on the National Register of Historic Places. The City, however, has done little to develop the site, and it remains in 2001 in an abandoned and neglected state, with Battery Bunker welded shut and the Nike buildings heavily vandalized.

Even though the White Point Master Plan details that the Nike structures should be preserved, no details or specifics are given. The Air Force historic resource study concluded that the site should be included on the National Register of Historical Places as outlined above, but this has not been carried out. This site represents the last major development phase in coastal defenses and is an important interpretive site as it contains both a gun emplacement and a Nike site which allows for a direct visual tie between the use of guns for coastal defense to the use of missiles.

Currently in 2001, the Fort MacArthur Museum Association is waging a fight to preserve the Nike structures and one of the base end stations from demolition. The Association is seeking to have the site placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Battery Paul D. Bunker (BCN #127), White Point Park 1994 (photo by Mark Berhow)

## Other Sites



Battery Barnes (BCN #240), Point Vicente 1993 (photo by Mark Berhow). The Point Vicente site (Btty 240 and Nike site LA-55L) is currently a holding of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, with plans are being made to develop the site into a golf course.



Base End Station, Point Vicente 1994 (photo by Mark Berhow)

The Bolsa Chica site is now mostly in private hands, the battery structures were destroyed 1993-1995 for a housing development.



BCN 128, Bolsa Chica, being demolished 1993 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Battery Harrison (BCN 242), Bolsa Chica, being demolished 1993 (photo by Mark Berhow)



Panama mounts at Bolsa Chica 1990 (photo by Mark Berhow)

Appendix 1  
Army Commanders of Fort MacArthur, 1914-1976

NAME	DATES		
Capt S. S. Ross	23 Mar 17	- 4 Aug 17	
Col E. E. Blake	4 Aug 17	- 20 Dec 17	
Lt Col J. W. Abbott	26 Jan 18	- 10 Jun 18	
Col J. M. Williams	19 Jul 18	- 5 Jun 19	
Col G. Blakely	3 Jul 19	- 1 Sep 20	
Col H. J. Hatch	20 Nov 20	- 8 Apr 22	
Maj Isaac E. Titus	4 Jun 22	- 1 Aug 22	
Maj George Ruhlen, Jr.	12 Nov 22	- 5 Jul 25	
Maj L. B. Chambers	5 Jul 25	- 11 Sep 26	
Lt Col W. G. Peace	25 Oct 26	- 19 Jan 29	
Col R. F. Woods	19 Jan 29	- 23 Feb 30	
Maj K. B. Lemmon	28 Aug 30	- 4 Feb 31	
Lt Col H. A. Cross	4 Feb 31	- 1 Jul 31	
Col H. S. Miller	1 Jul 31	- 14 Dec 32	
Col Charles H. Hilton	9 Jan 33	- 20 May 34	
Lt Col Homer R. Oldfield	21 May 34	- 9 Aug 36	(Also CO 63d Coast Arty)
Lt Col C. M. Thiele	9 Aug 36	- 6 Aug 38	
Maj H. D. Derweiler	9 Sep 38	- 1 Feb 39	
Col E. A. Stockton	2 Feb 39	- 17 Oct 40	
Col Allen Kimberly	10 Nov 40	- 29 May 41	
Col William A. Hicks	18 Jun 41	- 29 Sep 45	
Brig Gen Evans R. Crowell	30 Sep 45	- 24 Nov 46	
Col Richard W. Hocker	25 Nov 46	- 12 Apr 48	
Brig Gen Leroy H. Watson	22 Jun 48	- 1 Sep 50	
Col Sidney F. Dunn	1 Oct 50	- 15 Nov 51	
Maj Gen W. B. Kean	16 Nov 51	- 1 Jul 52	(Also CG III Corps)
Maj Gen Ira P. Swift	31 Aug 52	- 27 Feb 53	(Also CG III Corps)
Maj Gen Hobart R. Gay	6 Apr 53	- 3 Apr 54	(Also CG III Corps)
Col David M. Dunne	4 Apr 54	- 30 Aug 54	
Col Wilson Potter, Jr.	31 Aug 54	- 31 Mar 55	
Col Robert D. Durst	1 Apr 55	- 27 Aug 56	
Maj Gen Frank Roberts	28 Aug 56	- 2 Dec 57	
Col Milo I. Gray	1 Feb 58	- 31 Jul 59 (Sic)	
(Other records indicate	1 Feb 58	- 31 May 59)	
Col William Vestal	1 Jun 59	- 31 Jul 59	
Col Donald Lewis	1 Aug 59	- 30 Jun 60	
Brig Gen John T. Honeycott	24 Nov 58	- 28 Jun 61 (Sic)	(Also CG 47th Arty Bde)
(Other records indicate	1 Jul 60	- 28 Jun 61)	
Col Bernard E. Hagen	30 Jun 61	- 5 Aug 61	
Brig Gen C. DeW. Lang	7 Aug 61	- 4 Aug 62	(Also CG 47th Arty Bde)
Col Harper B. Cowles	5 Aug 62	- 30 Jun 64	
Col Mark F. Brennan	1 Jul 64	- 30 Jun 67	
Col Patrick D. Mulcahy	5 Jul 67	- 31 Jul 69	
Col Salvo Rizza	1 Aug 69	- 31 Jul 70	
Col George A. Clayton	1 Aug 70	- 23 Jul 71	
Col Gerald H. Shea	24 Jul 71	- 31 Jan 72	
Col Robert E. Boughn	1 Feb 72	- 31 Aug 73	
Col Clarence E. Gentry	1 Sep 73	- 31 Jul 75+	
Col Harry L. Sutton, Jr.	1 Aug 75	- 19 Aug 76*	
Col Robert L. Freeland	20 Aug 76	- *	

+ Served as Commander until 15 May 75, then through a realignment of Fort MacArthur from a Headquarters to a sub-installation of Fort Ord, the Commander was redesignated as Deputy Post Commander to MG M. C. Ross, Commander of Fort Ord.

\* Deputy Post Commander to Post Commander of Fort Ord:

MG M. C. Ross 15 May 75 - 29 Oct 76

MG Robert L. Kirwan 1 Nov 76

## Appendix 2

### Gun Defenses of the Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles 1917-1948

#### Taft Period (built 1915-1919)

Location	Battery name	#	guns	carriages	const/	trans/	disarm	note
Ft. MacArthur-U	(Henry B.) Osgood	1	14" M1910MI	Dis M1907MI	1916	1919	1946	(1)
	(Joseph P.) Farley	1	14" M1910MI	Dis M1907MI	1916	1919	1946	
	(Henry C.) Merriam	1	14" M1910MI	Dis M1907MI	1916	1919	1946	
	(Peter) Leary (Jr.)	1	14" M1910MI	Dis M1907MI	1916	1919	1946	
	John (W.) Barlow	4	12" M1912	Mor M1896MIII	1915	1919	1945	
Deadman's Is.	(Rufus) Saxton	4	12" M1912	Mor M1896MIII	1915	1919	1945	(2)
	(Richard P.) Lodor	4	3" M1903	Ped M1903	1919	1919	1927	

#### Post-WWI Period (built 1920-1934)

Location	Battery name	#	guns	carriages	const/	trans/	disarm	note
Ft. MacArthur-U	AA	2	3" M1917	Ped M1917	193?	193?	1942	(3)
	"Hogsdon"	2	155 m	FM	1928	1928		
Ft. MacArthur-L	AA	2	3" M1917	Ped M1917	1920	1920	?	(4)
	"Erwin"	2	14" M1920MII	RY M1920	1926	1926	1945	
White Point	AA	2	3"	Ped	1920	1920	?	

#### WWII Temporary (built 1942-1943)

Location	Battery name	#	guns	carriages	const/	trans/	disarm	note
Santa Barbara	1	2	155 m	PM	1942			
Ventura	2	2	155 m	PM	1942			
Oxnard	3	2	155 m	PM	1942			
Port Hueneme	4	2	155 m	PM	1942			
Pacific Palisades	1	2	155 m	PM	1942	1942	1944	
Playa Del Rey	2	2	155 m	FM	1942			(5)
El Segundo/ Hyperion	2	2	6" (Navy)	Ped	1942	1942	1943	(5)
	2	2	155 m	PM	1943			(5)
Redondo Beach	3	2	155 m	FM	1942	1942	1943	
Manhattan Beach	"Eubanks"	2	8" MkVIM3A2	RYM1	1942	1942	1945	
Rocky Point	4	2	155 m	PM	1942			(6)
Long Point	5	2	155 m	PM	1942			(7)
Ft. MacArthur U	6	2	155 m	PM	1942			
Bolsa Chica	7	2	155 m	PM	1942			
Costa Mesa	8	2	155 m	PM	1942			

#### WWII Period (built 1942-1945)

Location	Battery name	#	guns	carriages	const/	trans/	disarm	note
Point Vicente	Harry C. Barnes	2	6" M1903A2	SBC M1	1942	1943	?	(#240)
White Point MR	Paul D. Bunker	2	16" MKIIMI	CBC M1919M4	1942	1944	1948	(#127)
Ft. MacArthur-U	#241	2	6" T2M1	SBC M4	1943	1945	1956?	
	Anti-Aircraft	3	3" M1917-A2	Ped M1917MII	1942	1942	194?	(3)
	Gaffey Bulge (3a)	4	90m M1	F+M M3, T3	1942			
Ft. MacArthur-L	JAAN #1 (4)	2	3" M1903	Ped M1903	1942	1942	1945	(2)
	Navy Field (3b)	4	90m M1	F+M M3, T3	1942			
Bluff Park, L.B.	&	2	37m	M				
	JAAN #2 (4b)	2	3" M1903	Ped M1903	1942	1942	1945	(2)
	Bluff Park (4c)	4	90m M1	F+M M3, T3	1942			
Bolsa Chica MR	&	2	37m	M				
	Harry J. Harrison	2	6" T2M1	SBC M4	1943	1944	1945	(#242)
Terminal Island	#128	2	16"	CBC	1943	NC		(8)
	Terminal Island (4a)	4	90m M1	F+M M3, T3	1942			
Breakwater	&	2	37m	M				
	Dolphins	10	37m	M	1942			(9)

#### NOTES:

- (1) Battery Osgood's gun was originally a M1910 14-inch gun. After a short period, it was removed, converted into a M1910MI and remounted in 1923.
- (2) Battery Lodor was at another separate location, on a sand spit connecting the northern tip of Terminal Island and Deadmans Island. In 1927, the guns were taken out and put in storage and Deadmans Island was removed to widen the harbor entrance. In 1942, Lodor's guns were replaced in the two parts of Battery JAAN. JAAN#1 was located on the Lower Reservation next to the jetty, while JAAN#2 was located in Bluff Park, Long Beach next to Ocean Drive at Lindero St.
- (3) Four AA emplacements were constructed in 1920: two on the white Point Reservation and two on the bluffs on the Middle reservation. Sometime in the 1930s two more emplacements were built and armed on the cliff edge on the Upper Reservation. In 1942 a new three gun AA battery was built behind Battery 241. Two of those guns had carriages originally emplaced at White Point. Additional AA weapons were listed in the 1944 Annex were as follows:
  - Battery 127: 4 - 40mm, 4 - .50 cal. MG
  - Battery 128: 4 - 40mm, 4 - .50 cal. MG
  - Battery 240: 2 - 40mm, 2 - .50 cal. MG
  - Battery 241: 2 - 40mm, 2 - .50 cal. MG
  - Battery 242: 2 - 40mm, 2 - .50 cal. MG
  - JAAN 1: 2 - .50 cal. MG
  - JAAN 2: 2 - .50 cal. MG
  - AMTB 3-A: 4 - .50 cal. MG
  - AMTB 3-B: 4 - .50 cal. MG
  - AMTB 4-A: 4 - .50 cal. MG
  - AMTB 4-C: 4 - .50 cal. MG
- (4) In 1926, a single emplacement for the 14" railroad gun was built on the Middle Reservation for the gun which arrived in 1925. A second gun arrived in 1930. In 1936 two emplacements were constructed for the guns on the Lower Reservation and the 1926 emplacement was abandoned.
- (5) The El Segundo site was originally armed with 2-6" Navy pedestal mounted guns, these were later removed and the gun mount modified to hold 2-155mm GPFs, which were transferred from a field mount location in Playa Del Rey.
- (6) Three Panama mounts were constructed at the Rocky Point and Costa Mesa sites, but the sites only received two guns.
- (7) Received the unofficial name "Battery Tucker" from its crew.
- (8) The concrete structures of both Battery Harrison and Battery 128 were destroyed during 1993-95 for a private housing development.
- (9) Btrys # 2, 4, 5, 6, 8. The platforms have been destroyed.

## Battery Names:

Under authority of Paragraph 2, General Orders, No. 15, War Department, 1916, the following batteries at this fort were named:

- Battery "Osgood", in honor of Brig. Gen. Henry B. Osgood, United States Army, who died March 12, 1909.
- Battery "Farley", in honor of Brig. Gen. Joseph P. Farley, United States Army, who died April 6th, 1912.
- Battery "Leary", in honor of Brig. Gen. Peter Leary, Jr., United States Army, who died February 13, 1911.
- Battery "Merriam", in honor of Maj. Gen. Henry C. Merriam, United States Army, who died November 18, 1912.
- Battery "Saxton", in honor of Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxton, United States Army who died February 23rd, 1908.
- Battery "John Barlow", in honor of Brig. Gen. John W. Barlow, United States Army, who died February 27, 1914.

Under authority of Paragraph 2, General Orders 117, War Department, 1917:

- Battery "Lodor", on Reservation Point, was named in honor of Brig. Gen. Richard Lodor, United States Army, who died May 9, 1917.

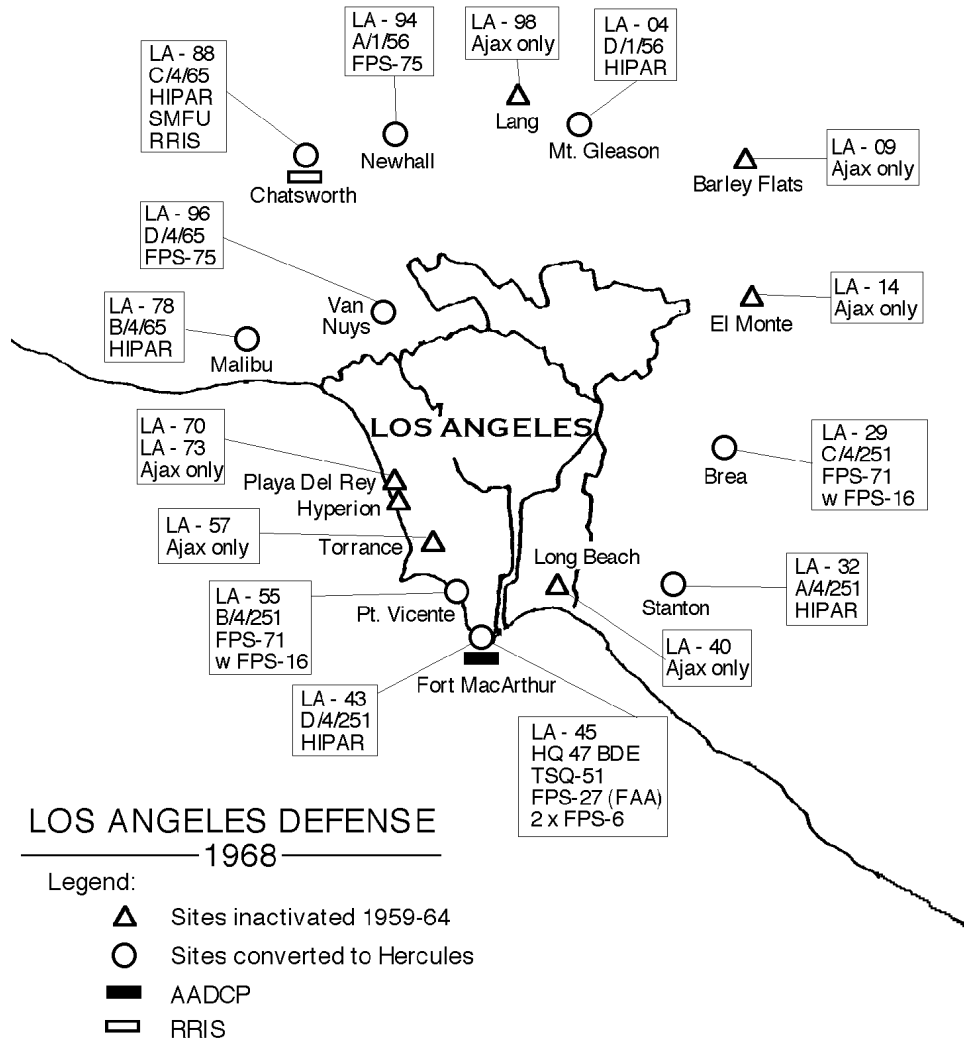
Under authority of Section II, General Orders 51, War Department, 10 June 1946, the following batteries were named:

- Battery 16-inch BC Construction 127 was named Battery Paul D. Bunker in honor of Colonel Paul D. Bunker, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army.
- Battery 6-inch BC Construction 242 was named Battery Harry J. Harrison in honor of Major Harry J. Harrison, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army.

Under authority of Section II, General Orders 1, War Department, January 1948:

- Battery 6-inch BC Construction 240 was named Battery Harry C. Barnes in honor of Colonel Harry C. Barnes, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army.

## Appendix 3 Los Angeles Defense Area Nike Missile Sites



**Abbreviations:** AN- Army/Navy major piece of equipment, ADA- Air Defense Artillery, BDE- Brigade, Gp-Group, HQ- headquarters, HHB-Headquarters battery, Bn-Battalion, CAARNG- California ARmy National Guard.

**Battery and Defense Area Designations:** Sites were numbered on a 0 to 100 point “compass” centered over the defense area, with “0” being north. “IFC” denotes a battery integrated fire control facility, “L” denotes a battery launch facility, “R” denotes a radar facility, “H” denotes a headquarters facility, “A” denotes an Administration site.

**Battery Integrated Fire Control Radars:** Individual battery control radar equipment for Nike-Ajax consisted of TTR-target tracking radar, MTR- missile tracking radar and ACQR- acquisition radar were located at all batteries. Conversion of batteries to Improved Hercules batteries added one of the following new ACQR systems: HIPAR- high power acquisition radar or ABAR-Alternate battery acquisition radar, which may have been of several types including; AN/FPS-75 (with modifications) issued in place of HIPAR, AN/FPS-71 and AN/FPA-16 (which integrates FPS-71 with LOPAR), or AN/FPS-69, as well as LOPAR-low power acquisition radar (a revamped Ajax ACQR) and TRR-Target Ranging Radar. The different ACQRs are noted in the table.

**Army Air Defense Command Posts (AADCP) radars and control units:** AADCP had additional equipment for battery control to prevent multiple batteries from firing on the same target. Los Angeles received a Missile Master unit (AN/FSG-1) in 1960 which was later replaced by a Missile Mentor Fire Command and Control Integration Unit (AN/TSQ-51) in 1966-67. Los Angeles also had an AN/FPS-27 (FAA) radar which was a high powered search radar operated by the FAA and the USAF and connected to the AADCP. The AN/FPS-27 was supplemented with a AN/FPS-6, a long ranged high power height finding radar. These radar sets were used to help discern possible targets before they were in range of the Nike

batteries. The Backup Control Center at Chatsworth consisted of a Secondary Master Fire Unit (SMFU) which was an alternate command post and a Remote Radar Integration Station (RRIS) which provided gap filler radar information to the Missile Mentor.

The heading for each battery site contains the following information: Defense area site number, location, year site activated, (year site converted to Hercules), year site deactivated, number and types (A, B or C) of launch pits, type of acquisition radar (ACQR designations for Ajax-only sites, additional HIPAR or ABAR designations for the converted Hercules sites).

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LA-04	Mt. Gleason (Palmdale/Pasadena)	1954-(1959)-1974	1B, 2C	HIPAR
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IFC Located in the Angeles National Forest, 9.8 miles west of the Mill Creek Forest Station.  
 L&A Located in the Angeles National Forest, 6.8 miles west of the Mill Creek Forest Station.

Both sites are currently used as correctional Facilities by Los Angeles County. The launch site magazines have been destroyed, but nearly all the other buildings remain.

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LA-09	Barley Flats/Mt. Disappointment	1955-1961	1B, 2C	ACQR
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IFC Mt. Disappointment, at end of fire road  
 L&A Located in the Angeles National Forest, 2 miles North of Angeles Crest Highway at Barley Flats.

Launch site magazines have been destroyed, the site is currently utilized by the L.A. County Sherrifs Dept. The Admin buildings remain in good shape. They were used as a probation camp until 1992. IFC site is currently used as a radio relay station, a couple of buildings remain.

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LA-14	El Monte (Whittier Narrows)	1956-1959	2B	ACQR
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IFC 3600 Workman Mill Road. Located on the hill above the present Rio Hondo Police Academy.  
 L&A Located at 1200/1201 Potereo Road.

The Admin site is curenly a U.S. Army Reserve Center. The Launch area is located across Potereo Rd in Whittier Narrows Park (behind tennis center) and is used as a County work yard. The IFC site has been destroyed and is now a radar relay station.

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LA-29	Brea (Puente Hills)	1955-(1961)-1971	1B, 2C	ABAR
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IFC Located in the Puente Hills 5 miles up Site Drive off Central Avenue.  
 L&A Located in the Puente Hills approximately 5 miles up Site Drive off Central Avenue.

This battery had an AN/FPS-71 and an AN/FPA-16 ABAR unit. These sites are currently Shell oil fields and are largely destroyed or buried.

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LA-32	Stanton (Garden Grove)	1956-(1958)-1974	2B	HIPAR
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IFC Located at the corner of Katella (Peterson?) and Knott in the city of Stanton.  
 L&A Located at the corner of Knott and Chapman in Garden Grove. 11751 Western Av.

This site was evidently constructed for the protection of the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station located just west of the Site LA32 complex. IFC site destroyed, L&A site used by CAARNG.

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	Fountain Valley	1956-1957		Temp site
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IFC Located at Santa Ana Army Air Base (now John Wayne Airport)  
 L&A Located at Santa Ana Army Air Base



RP-39	San Pedro Hill AFS (Z-39)	1950-1980	USAF-FAA
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R Located on San Pedro Hill off Crest Road. This was a radar site only.

This was a gap filler radar for Site LA-78C and a NORAD radar site with an AN/FPS-27 unit. It was manned by both Army personnel and USAF 670th RS unit. This site still has a number of functioning radars used by the FAA and the Weather Service.

LA-40	Long Beach Airport (Lakewood)	1958-1963	1B, 2C	ACQR
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IFC Located at the Southwest corner of Spring and Clark Street at the Long Beach Airport.  
 L&A Located at the Southwest corner of the Long Beach Airport, near the intersection of Spring and Kilroy Airport Way.

The IFC site has been destroyed for a hotel development. The Launch site was used for a number of years as an emergency communications facility for Long Beach city departments. It was recently destroyed during the construction of the Kilroy office complex. The Admin area remains in use by the CAARNG, but is scheduled for development.

LA-41	Long Beach (Signal Hill)	1959-1974		
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H Located at 2200 Redondo Road

The site was the HHB for the 4th Brigade of the 251st ADA (CNG). Now it is used by the California Army National Guard 240th Signal Battalion, and for the Support Facilities of the 40th Division.

LA-43	Ft. MacArthur/White Point	1956-(1961)-1974	2B	HIPAR
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IFC Constructed on top of Battery Leary-Merriam on the Fort MacArthur Upper Reservation.  
 L&A The facility is located directly below Battery No. 127.

The HIPAR power room with its commanding view of the Los Angeles Harbor at the IFC site, has been converted for use by the Marine Exchange. The generator and the operations control buildings are being utilized by the Angels Gate Cultural Center as artist studios. The various tower pads are in a state of general disrepair, but all are present except the HIPAR tower. The launch area at White Point is currently abandoned and sealed shut, the buildings remain but have been heavily vandalized. The administrative area, built in 1963, was destroyed some years ago and the area developed for USAF housing.

LA-45	Fort MacArthur	1952-1974		AADCP
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H located on Pacific Ave. between 22nd St and 36th St. in San Pedro.

The site contained the HQs for the Los Angeles Defense Area- the 47th ADA BDE (1952-1969), the 108th AD Group (1956-58) and later the 19th ADA Group (1969-1974). It was also the site of the HHB of the 3rd battalion of the 57th ADA and after 1968, the HHB of the 1st battalion of the 56th ADA. It was the location of the area's Missile Master (AN/FSG-1), and Missile Mentor (AN/TSQ-51) command centers and was connected to the NORAD communication net which had an AN/FPS-27 (FAA) radar unit and two AN/FPS-6 radar units. The site is now owned by the USAF. The Nike Headquarters Building 550 has been demolished.

LA-55	Palos Verdes/Pt. Vicente	1956-(1958)-1974	2B	ABAR
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IFC Located at the southeast corner of Crenshaw and Seacrest Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes.  
 L&A Located between Hawthorne and Palos Verdes Drive, SE of the Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall.

This battery had an AN/FPS-71 and an AN/FPA-16 ABAR radar unit. The IFC site has been destroyed and is now Del Cerro Park. The launch site is now the corporation yard for the city of Rancho Palos Verdes and the administrative site is used as RPV City Hall .

LA-57	Torrance/Redondo Beach	1956-1963	1B, 2C	ACQR
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IFC Located at 1102 Camino Real, Redondo Beach.  
L&A Located behind 25225 Crenshaw Blvd. at the east end of Torrance Airport.

Launch area magazines are being used by the City of Torrance; the all the L&A buildings have been recently destroyed. The IFC site is now Hopkins Wilderness park.

LA-70	El Segundo/Hyperion	1956-1963	1B, 2C	ACQR
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IFC Located at West Pershing, near LAX  
L&A Located at 9014 Pershing Dr., Los Angeles.

There were a total of 24 launchers at this combined launch site for both LA 70 and LA 73. The Admin area is currently the home of Jet Pets at 911 So. Falmouth Ave. The Launch area and all six magazines have been destroyed. The IFC site has also been obliterated.

LA-73	Playa Del Rey/Hyperion	1956-1963	1B, 2C	ACQR
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IFC Located at Manchester and Redlands.  
L&A Located at 9014 Pershing Dr., Los Angeles.

The L&A area was co-located with LA70. The IFC site is now apartments and commercial establishments.

LA-78	Malibu (Santa Monica Mtns)	1954-(1959)-1974	1B, 2C	HIPAR
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IFC Located at 24666 W. Saddle Peak Road off Piume Rd.  
L&A Located at 1900 Rambla Pacifica.

Both sites are now owned by the Dept. of the Interior. The IFC site has been extensively modified for use by various communications equipment and radars. The L&A site is currently leased by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Most of the structures remain at the site, though they have been modified to some degree. The elevators still work on all three launch platforms.

LA-88	Chatsworth/Oak Mountain	1956-(1959)-1974	1B, 2C	HIPAR, SMFU, RRIS
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IFC Located on Oat Mountain.  
L&A Located on Brown's Canyon Road.

The IFC is intact, but abandoned. It is part of a reserve that has numerous Los Angeles Country radio relay antennas and a PACTEL relay tower. It is not publically accessible. The L&A site is under the control of the State of California and was the location of a California Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. Most of the Nike structures remain in good condition at both the IFC and L&A sites.

LA-94	Los Pinetos/Newhall	1955-(1961)-1968	1B, 2C	ABAR
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IFC Located in the Angeles National Forest off Sand Canyon Road.  
L&A Co-located with IFC site.

This battery had an AN/FPS-75 ABAR. The IFC and L sites are used by ITT Gilfillon as radar sites. The Admin. site is used by LA County Fire Department.

LA-96	Van Nuys/Sepulveda	1957-(1961)-1971	1B, 2C	ABAR
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IFC Located on San Vicente Mountain next to Mulholland Dr.  
L&A Located at 15990 Victory Blvd.

This battery had an AN/FPS-75 ABAR. The IFC site is partially intact in San Vicente Mountain Park, the L&A site is largely intact and is used by the California Air National Guard. A section of the L area is used by the Army National Guard.

LA-98 Magic Moutain/Lang (Saugus) 1955-1963 1B, 2C ACQR

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IFC Located in the Angeles National Forest on top of Magic Mountain.  
L&A Located south of State Highway 14 in Soledad Canyon (Lang).

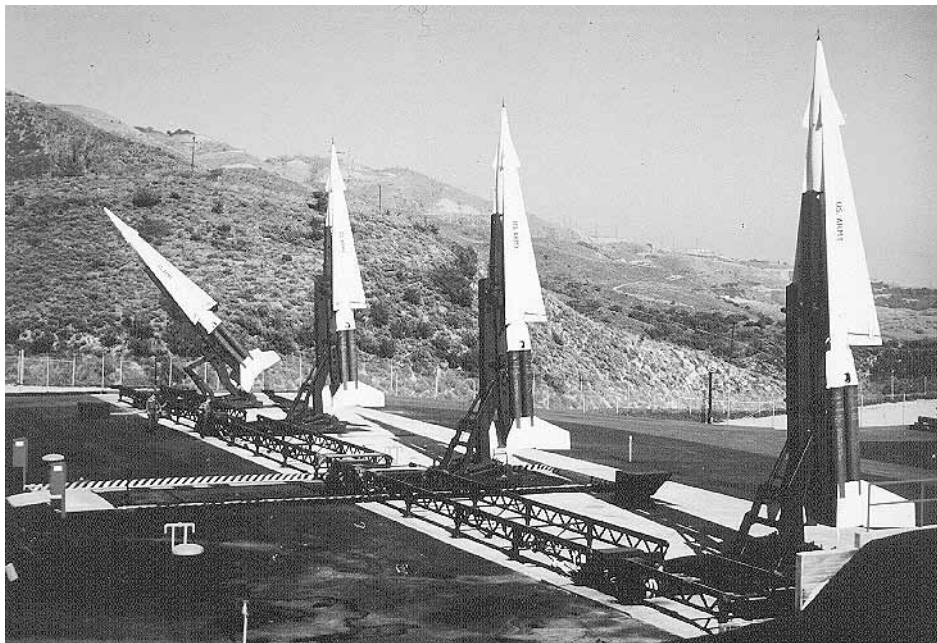
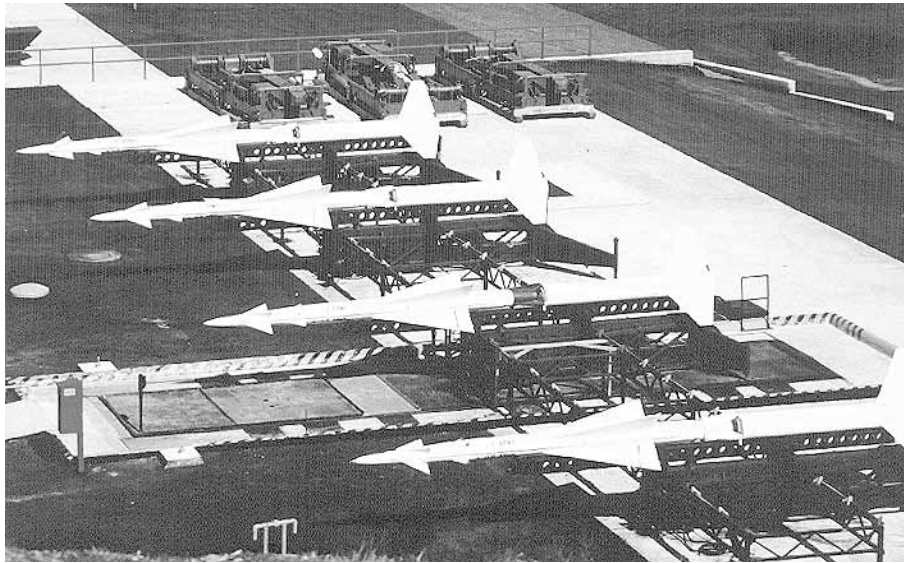
Though the battery was closed by 1963, the Admin area was used till the early 1970s. IFC site is now used as microwave relay. The L&A site is being used by a cement company and may be extensively modified.

Pasadena Army Support Center 1950-1963

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H located at 125 S. Grand Ave. in Pasadena

This site was the HQ for the 12th Artillery Group and the HHB of the 1st Battalion of the 56th ADA from 1956 to 1963.



Nike Ajax (above) and Nike Nercules (below) photos taken in the early 1960s (Fort MacArthur Museum collection).

Appendix 4  
 The Third Coast Artillery: A Historical Sketch, 1925  
 By MAJOR GEORGE RUHLEN, JR., C. A. C.



Distinctive Insignia,  
 3rd Coast Artillery Regiment

The Third Coast Artillery was organized July 1, 1924, under the provisions of General Orders No.8, War Department, February 27, 1924, by reconstituting the former Third Regiment of United States Artillery which was broken up in 1901 when the artillery of the Army was formed into a corps. The companies of the Coast Artillery Corps constituting the Third Coast Artillery were batteries of the Third Regiment of Artillery, and all have been in existence since the respective dates of organizations as combat units.

The artillery arm of the service has been in continuous existence since 1775, prior to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Artillery was present and participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill. There was a Third Regiment of Artillery in the Continental Army, which was disbanded at the close of the Revolution. During the War of 1812 one of the regiments of artillery was known as the Third Artillery and was commanded by Colonel Alexander Macomb, who afterwards became general in chief of the army. This regiment enjoyed a brief though highly distinguished career, serving like its revolutionary predecessor, from the first to last in the face of the enemy. In 1814 the regiments of artillery were formed into a Corps of Artillery composed of battalions and companies.

The history of the Third Regiment of the United States Artillery dated from the reorganization of the army pursuant to the Act of Congress approved March 2, 1821. This act reduced the military establishment and fixed the line of the army at four regiments of artillery and seven of infantry. The Third Regiment of Artillery was organized from the Corps of Artillery formed by the Act of March 30, 1814, from the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers organized in 1794, from the First Regiment of Artillery organized in 1802, and the Second and Third Regiments of the Artillery organized in 1812.

C. A. C. Serial Designation 1901	Designation in 3rd Regiment of Artillery (Organized 1821)	Battery Designation in 3rd Coast Artillery July 1st, 1924	Original Date of Organization
25th Company	A	A	1812, Jones Co. 3rd Art.
26th Company	B	B	1794, Kalteinen? Co. Corps ARE
27th Company	D	D	1794, Mitchell Co. Corps ARE
25th Company	E	E	1821, Barrene?/Huger Co. 2nd Art.
31st Company	I	C	1812, Russell Co., 2nd Art.
34th Company	M	F	1847, M, 3rd Art.
35th Company	N	G	1899, N, 3rd Art.
36th Company	O	HQ Btry	1899

Note: Batteries B and D are the oldest Coast Artillery batteries in the Army.

During the War of 1812, Battery A was engaged at Fort Oswego, N. Y., May 5-6, 1814, where on May 5th it repulsed the landing of British troops in small boats by a deadly artillery fire. Battery B was stationed at Fort Johnson, South Carolina, from 1812 to 1816. Battery D was stationed at Fort Nelson, Norfolk, Virginia, and was present during the British attack and repulse on the navy yard at that place June 22, 1813. Battery I (now C, 3rd Coast Artillery) was stationed at Petersburg, Virginia, in 1812, and at Craney Island, Virginia, in 1815.

Among many distinguished officers who served with the Third Artillery were General W. K. Armistead, the first colonel of the regiment; Roger Jones, for many years Adjutant General of the Army; Albert E. Church, the honored Professor of Mathematics at West Point; Robert Anderson, the hero of Fort Sumter, was an officer of the regiment for thirty-two years; Erasmus D. Keyes; George G. Meade, the Union commander at Gettysburg; Thomas W. Sherman; Braxton Bragg, afterwards lieutenant-general in the Confederate service; Wm. T. Sherman; Stewart Van Vliet; Jubal A. Early; George H. Thomas; John F. Reynolds, who was killed while commanding his Corps on the first day of Gettysburg; E. O. C. Ord; Samuel G. Field; A. E. Burnside; Romeyn B. Ayres; Beekman DuBarry, subsequently commissary general; Henry J. Hunt, the distinguished artilleryman of the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War; Horatio G. Gibson; E. B. Williston; Ramsay D. Potts; Sedgwick Pratt; Walter A. Bethel, recently Judge Advocate General of the Army; Peyton C. March, Chief of Staff during the World War; Wm. A. Kobbe; George P. Scriven and George O. Squier, both Chief Signal Officers of the Army; Jas. M. Ingalls, the ballistician of international reputation; Wallace F. Randolph, the first Chief of Artillery; Charles T. Menoher, commander of the Famous Rainbow Division during the World War and later commander of the Ninth Corps Area; William G. Haan; John D. Barrette; Henry D. Todd, Jr., commanding Ninth Coast Artillery District under whose command the regiment is now serving. Besides those named there are many who rendered conspicuous and distinguished service.

In 1821 the Third was stationed along the Atlantic seaboard from Annapolis, Maryland, to Charleston, South Carolina. One company of the regiment, G, now Battery C, 62d Coast Artillery (AA), furnished the first garrison of Fort Monroe in 1824, when that fort was established. In 1827 the station of the Third was changed to the New England Coast with headquarters at Fort Independence, Massachusetts. In 1831 B and E took station at Fort Monroe, whence next year B was sent to Charleston, South Carolina, to assist in putting down the nullificationists; proceeding thence to the disturbed Seminole and Creek Indian districts of Florida and Alabama and was present when the Florida War broke out, precipitated by a tragic event familiarly known as Dade's massacre. On December 28, 1835, Brevet Major Francis L. Dade, 4th Infantry, with C of the Second Artillery, and B of the Third while marching from Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, to Fort King, Florida, was ambushed by Seminole Indians near the crossing of the Withlacoochee River, Florida, three privates only escaped, one of whom belonged to B Company and although badly wounded made their way back to Fort Brooke with news of the massacre. Upon receipt of this intelligence, the steps of the whole regiment were at once directed toward the scene of hostilities where A, D, and E arrived in June, 1836; I already was in the theatre of operations. B, after its annihilation, was reorganized in Massachusetts, and joined the regiment in the field in January, 1837, being engaged with the enemy at Camp Monroe, Florida, February 8, 1837. Numerous engagements with hostiles took place during the year.

The regiment fought back and forth across the Florida Peninsula during the seven long years the war lasted and until nearly all the Indians had been killed or expelled. Forty-seven thousand square miles of Florida territory was occupied by an enemy by nature vindictive and revengeful, treacherous and subtle, striving for their rights and lands. The theatre of operations was a wilderness and every hummock and swamp a citadel. Driven from one fastness to another the enemy were rarely seen, and it was impossible to bring them to bay except they wished it. The service was distressing beyond description. The heat the greater part of the year was intense; the water bad; the food poor. The innumerable annoying and venomous insects of the swamps rendered existence intolerable. Malaria and yellow fever were prevalent. The climate was an enemy more successful than the Seminoles and "its victims counted not by single files but by platoons if not battalions." The service of the regiment, the patient endurance and fidelity of the soldiers, the intelligence, zeal and activities of its officers, and the successes which crowned its efforts, well entitled them to the trite but hard-earned encomium, that they had done their duty. Eleven officers and 158 enlisted men fell victims to the climate or were struck down by hostile bullets and tomahawks. The casualties of the Third, whose services in the war were longer than that of any other regiment, were greater than those of any other organization, excepting only the 2d Dragoons.

The war being over, the Third, in 1842, occupied the stations from Smithville, South Carolina, to St. Augustine, Florida, where it remained until the Mexican War.

The Mexican War again brought the Third into the field. A, E and I, with other troops were sent in 1845 to Corpus Christi, Texas, forming General Zachary Taylor's army of occupation. A and I as part of the Artillery Foot Battalion were present when the opening gun of the war was fired at Palo Alto, May 8, 1846, and on the following day again were engaged at Resaca de la Palma. The Artillery Foot Battalion, serving as infantry, under command of Brevet Lieut. Colonel Thomas Childs, Captain 3d Artillery, formed the right of the American left wing; near the center of the line. During the height of the battle this battalion was advanced to support the 18-pounder battery on its right. This battery consisted of two 18-pounder guns mounted on siege carriages drawn by ten yoke of oxen and was commanded by Lt. Churchhill, 3d Artillery. A strong demonstration of cavalry was made against this part of the line and the enemy column continued to advance against a severe fire from our artillery. The battalion was instantly formed into a square and held ready to receive the cavalry charge; but when the advancing squadrons were within close range a withering fire of canister from the 18-pounders and the fire from the square dispersed them. A brisk small arms fire was then opened on the square, but a well directed volley

from the front face of the square silenced all further firing from the enemy in that quarter. This was the first case in which American infantry resorted to the square for motion and protection against cavalry. Darkness settling down closed the action on the right of the line, the enemy having been driven back from his position and failed in every attempt against our line. At Resaca de la Palma the artillery battalion formed the reserve and wagon train guard and as the enemy was driven from his position was ordered to pursue. The retreating Mexicans were rapidly followed to the Rio Grande River, few prisoners were taken but a number of the enemy were supposed to have been drowned in attempting to swim the river. E, during this time, equipped with four 6-pounder guns, was at Fort Brown, now Brownsville, Texas, forming part of the garrison which for 160 hours stood off and finally repulsed an overwhelming besieging force. Shortly afterwards it was mounted as light artillery. Braxton Bragg, commanding, with George H. Thomas and John F. Reynolds as assistants. A wonderful trio! The first the victor of Chickamauga; the second at Nashville; and the third the incomparable commander of the First Army Corps who fell in the forefront at Gettysburg.

Under the Act of May 13, 1846, authorizing 100 privates per company, many companies in the field were broken up, the men transferred and the officers sent home to recruit. This happened to I, July 7, 1846. Its place was filled by B which arrived at Mier, Mexico, July 31, 1846, under command of Captain Vinton.

In the movement against Monterey A and B were part of the artillery battalion, armed as infantry, which together with the 8th Infantry and Light Battery A, 2d Artillery formed the 1st Brigade, 2d Division (General Worth). This division led the advance, leaving Carnargo on the Rio Grande the last of August, 1846. E, mounted as light artillery marched with the 1st Brigade, 1st Division (General Twiggs). The distance to Monterey is 180 miles and that region for the most part was described as rough, dry, desolate and dreary. In the attack of September 21st on Monterey, Worth's division was charged with the duty of the turning movement and main attack. A and B formed part of the storming column sent against Loma de Federacion, which gallantly carried the position and promptly turned the captured guns on the adjoining Mexican fortifications. Throughout the day they toiled up the steep slopes, through the cold rain exposed to the violent storm of the elements and the fire of the enemy on the heights. As the sun went down the joy of victory was so great that it made the hardships seem a pleasure, and even the wild storm did not abate the expressions of their triumph. The American losses were slight. Experience has shown that heights are generally carried without entailing heavy losses. On the following day at 3:00 A.M., A, under Captain Vinton, headed the advance up the heights of the hill Independencia and at daybreak arrived within 100 yards of the crest before being discovered by the enemy. A well delivered fire followed by the bayonet gave the works to the Americans. The enemy fled in confusion closely pursued by A Company. The Bishop's Palace, a dominating strong point was taken and thence from house to house into the center of the city which then capitulated on the twenty-third.

While Worth's division was attacking the left of the Mexican line, E under Bragg, with the 1st Brigade, 1st Division advanced against the Mexican right. The gallantry of this light battery was never surpassed. Its fire could make but little impression upon the substantial earthworks and heavily built houses of the city, but whenever the enemy showed themselves in the open they were at once assailed by a rapid and accurate artillery fire which quickly caused them to seek shelter.

Soon after this event nearly all the regular troops, including A and B, and many of the volunteer commands were transferred to General Scott's Army destined to the attack on Vera Cruz, and the City of Mexico. Worth's division left Saltillo for the Rio Grande January 9, 1847. Light batteries C and E alone of the Third were left to General Taylor. The former under the command of Captain Braxton Bragg, who was transferred November 7th, and the latter under Captain Thomas W. Sherman, who had been arbitrarily kept out of its command by General Taylor, but who was now assigned to his proper station, joining February 14, 1847, just in time to take part in the battle of Buena Vista.

The American forces being divided and Taylor left with only 4600 men, of whom only 476 were regulars, General Santa Anna determined to act and attacked with the Mexican Army. The result was the Battle of Buena Vista, fought February 22-23, 1847, which shed unfading luster on the American arms and particularly upon the artillery.

The pass of Buena Vista, called by the Mexicans La Angostura, breaks through a lofty mountain chain running from east to west six miles south of the city of Saltillo. It varies in width from one and one-half to four miles and is about eight miles long. The western side of the pass was so cut up by deep gulches as to be impassable for any troops. On the eastern side were several plateaus, separated by ravines running from the mountain slopes to the middle of the pass. Most of these ravines could be crossed by infantry but with difficulty. It was upon these plateaus and around the heads of the ravines that the main part of the fighting of Buena Vista was done. The line of battle extended eastward along the middle of the larger of these plateaus for about 3000 yards at the beginning of the battle but shifted considerably throughout the engagement. It was along this extended front that General Taylor placed his small army, and against them marched Santa Anna's Mexican forces of over 14,000 especially formidable in artillery and cavalry, which were the favorite arms of the Mexican General.

The battle opened on the afternoon of the 22d of February, 1847 and continued throughout the 23d. The volunteers on our left gave way and fled, but the center and right held. The American artillery was every where upon the field; gallop-

ing from place to place, into action for a few moments directing a destructive fire against overwhelming numbers of the enemy and then rushing to another position. It was late in the afternoon of the 23d when the critical and deciding moment came. The powerful Mexican reserve, several thousands strong, advanced on our right and center in a perfect blaze of fire driving our troops before them. It was a single column composed of the best soldiers of the Mexican Republic and having for its advanced battalions the veteran regiments. There was nothing impeding the progress of the enemy but the pieces of Lieutenants Thomas of E Battery and O'Brien, B, 4th Artillery; and though their infantry supports were gone, they fell back no faster than the recoil of their guns would take them. The advance of the enemy column, however, was not retarded for they were troops of the old line. It was a critical moment and a most perilous situation. Still onward came the Mexicans; no troops could have behaved better than they did. Canister tore through them, but there was no faltering; the wide gaps opened in their ranks were immediately closed up, and the men still pressed on. Just as the Mexicans reached the muzzles of O'Brien's guns and closed about them Captain Bragg with C Battery, closely followed by Captain Sherman with the rest of E, their horses jaded, came onto the plateau through the retreating infantry under whip and spur and wheeled into battery. Captain Bragg, with it rueful look at the retiring infantry, remarked to General Taylor, as he was doing this, "I will lose my guns, for I have no supports." "Oh," replied Taylor, "Major Bliss and I will support you." It was on this occasion that the famous remark, "A little more grape, Captain Bragg," is purported to have been passed, but far from wasting time on imaginary grape, General Taylor called out in clarion voice, "Give them hell, Captain," and hell broke loose. The guns belched forth a storm of iron and lead which prostrated everything in their front. In the words of a participant on that day, "Nothing could withstand the terrible fury. The struggle was most desperate. The whole air vibrated with the rushing current of balls. The Mexicans fought as they never fought before, and with utter disregard for life. Each moment the artillery fire seemed to grow more destructive. At length the head of the Mexican column began to fall back; not by retreating, but by being shot away. Others pressed on to fill the places of the fallen; but they too went down." Finding it utterly impossible, notwithstanding all were advancing to gain ground against such a tempest, the whole column faltered a moment, then gave way, and in confusion retreated to cover of the deep ravine in front. But even there the hail of canister and shell found them, and drove them out in headlong flight.

General Taylor in his official report stated that Captain Bragg with his artillery had "saved the day," and General Wool's report stated that "without our artillery we could not have maintained our positions a single hour."

A and B after leaving Taylor's army at Monterey proceeded to Tampico, an important point of entry and the capital of a district held under military government with Colonel Gates of the Third as governor. Here regimental headquarters and D remained during the whole war, D being equipped part of the time as a 6-pounder horse-battery and particularly distinguished itself in action on the Calabosa River July 12, 1847, and proved the salvation of the Louisiana volunteers who were attacked while crossing the stream. I was being recruited and M was not yet organized.

A and B landed at Vera Cruz with General Scott's army and took part in the siege March 9-28, 1847. At General Scott's request Commodore Conner of the Navy permitted the marines of the squadron, under Captain Edson, to join the Army; they were attached to serve with the Third Artillery. During this siege, Captain Vinton of B Company was killed in the trenches by an 8-inch shell. It was one of those singular cases in which death resulted from the close proximity of the projectile in flight. His clothes were not even disarranged. The projectile afterwards recovered unexploded, now rests on his grave at Providence, R. I. The capture of Vera Cruz was an affair wholly of engineering and artillery in which the companies of the Third alternated in daily service at one or more of the 10-inch siege mortar batteries.

In organizing the army for the advance upon the City of Mexico, A, B, G, and K serving as infantry were in the Third Artillery battalion under command of Lt. Colonel Belton, 3d Artillery, in the 1st Brigade (Colonel Garland); 1st Division (General Worth) and here the battalion remained during the war. The battle of Cerro Gordo was fought April 17-18, 1847. The city of Puebla was entered without resistance May 15, 1847. A was stopped at Perote and I took its place in the battalion, it having participated in the battle at National Bridge. June 11-12, 1847. B, G, I and K formed the foot battalion of the Third and advanced with the army from Puebla, August 7, 1847.

The battle of Contreras was fought and won by Twiggs division a little after sunrise, August 20, 1847. The reinforcements from Worth's division—Garland's brigade—ordered during the night, barely reached the field when ordered to return to their former position. Worth's division on the right then moved against the fortified village of San Antonio and Churubusco. The Third advanced on the extreme right and men from this regiment were among the first to enter the bridge head redoubt, having climbed over the parapets on the left face under heavy fire. Using one of the captured guns they pursued the retreating enemy along the highway towards the City of Mexico.

The fruitless armistice which followed this event having been terminated, the battle of Molino-del-Rey was fought September 8, 1847. Molinos-del-Rey (The King's Mills) were a huge mass of red sandstone buildings used as a cannon foundry and powder factory. Heavy thick walls extended three or four feet above the roofs, and the yards and courts between the detached buildings were closed by thick, strong doors barred by heavy wooden beams and guarded by stone or earth barricades, all was commanded by the castle of Chapultepec on a height in rear.

Garland's brigade was placed on the right of the American line opposite the Molino. A selected storming party of 500 including 50 men of the Third formed next on the left. Advancing at 3:00 a.m., this column when close to the front of the mills came under a heavy cross fire of musketry at close range and suffered many casualties, 12 of the 14 officers of the command fell during the first five minutes. Quickly reinforced by Garland's brigade they fought their way into the buildings breaking through barricaded gates and doorways while exposed to a close fire from enemy on the roofs and behind barred windows. The enemy when driven from one position would retire to another, contesting every inch of ground, roof, floor and walls. After two hours of stubborn fighting the main buildings were taken and the Mexicans captured or driven out. It was a brilliant but costly victory, one quarter of the American command were casualties.

Chapultepec alone remained to be fought—September 12-14, 1847—and all the Third with the army was engaged. The Second and Third Artillery having suffered such heavy losses at Molino del Rey, were temporarily formed into four companies. They moved with Worth's division along the causeway driving back the enemy until at San Cosme garita night put an end to the battle. The next day the Capital City was entered.

The war was practically ended when the City of Mexico was captured, September 14, 1847. There were a few brushes with the enemy besides the heavy fighting already mentioned. A equipped as field artillery was present at Huamantla, October 9, 1847, at Atlixco, October 19, 1847, and at Matamoras, near Puebla, November 23, 1847. These were the last among Santa Anna's guerrilla warfare and A won high encomiums for its conduct.

The army evacuated the City of Mexico June 12, 1848, and Vera Cruz July 16, 1848. Worth's division, the last to leave the Mexican capital assembled in the Grand Plaza at 6:00 a.m., the American flag was hauled down and saluted by B Battery, then by a Mexican battery, after which the Mexican flag was hoisted. M saw no fighting in the war. Leaving New York for the scene of hostilities October 12, 1847, it was wrecked and put into Charleston, S. C., November 5. Left Fort Moultrie December 17, and arrived at the City of Mexico early in 1848, where also was established regimental headquarters. Colonel Gates remained as governor of Tampico and Captain Martin Burke temporarily commanded the regiment. At this time the companies of the regiment were distributed as follows: A, Perote; B, G, H, I, K, L, M, City of Mexico; C, E, Walnut Springs near Monterey, Mexico; F, Monterey, California, where it arrived early in 1847; D, Tampico. C and D were equipped as horse artillery; A, E, and H as field artillery; the rest were armed as infantry. The regiment except C, E, and F was concentrated at Fort Monroe and thence distributed to the New England stations which they had left thirteen years before the Florida War. E left Fort Brown, Texas, October 26, 1848, for Fort Trumbull, Connecticut.

Soon afterwards the Seminoles who had been left in Florida became restive. Accordingly, in September, 1849, B and D embarked for Palatka, Florida, near the scene of disturbance. Here they remained marching through the swamps until order was restored, when they returned to their stations in 1850. The regiment now looked forward to the enjoyment for a while at least of a quiet life. But this hope was short lived. In the nature of things it could not long be indulged in. We had acquired on the Pacific Coast a vast and unsettled territory by conquest; it was inhabited by savages or semi-savages. The army was needed to keep them in subjection.

In October, 1848, M sailed for California around Cape Horn to join F. The movement of the regiment, though contemplated was deferred. But our recently conquered subjects were restless and had to be kept in order. With this object in view B was sent early in April, 1853, to Texas, where it remained until early in 1854. This was a fortunate circumstance as it missed one of the direst calamities that has ever befallen our army on the seas.

The deferred movement of the regiment to California was ordered in 1853. On December 21st, Headquarters, the band, A, D, G, H, I, K and a large detachment of recruits embarked for California, via Cape Horn on the steamer *San Francisco*. The vessel was new, its machinery excellent and it was believed to be seaworthy. Of the 600 aboard, 500 belonged to the regiment. On the 22d the vessel was at sea. The 23d ended with a fresh breeze, cloudy and threatening weather. Out of the ominous calm that night a wind came up with terrific force from the northwest. Mountainous waves swept over the ship, disabled the machinery and soon rendered the vessel unmanageable. At 9:00 a.m., the 24th, a huge wave struck, stripping everything from the upper deck including the saloon, in which a large number of soldiers and other passengers had taken refuge. It is estimated that 175 souls perished at this time. Nothing could exceed the terror of the situation. To add to the horror of the storm the vessel sprung a leak and was kept afloat with difficulty. On the 25th the brig *Napoleon* was spoken but sailed away to Boston. On the 26th another vessel was sighted but lost in the night. The men now began to die from exposure and exhaustion. On the 28th the bark *Kilby* of Boston stood by the wreck and on the following day ran a hawser and took off 108 passengers. That night the storm freshened, the hawser parted and the *San Francisco* drifted out of sight. After vainly searching two and a half days the *Kilby* sailed for New York. At 9:30 a. m., 31st, the British ship, *Three Bells*, of Glasgow, was spoken and lay to. The storm raged unabated. On January 3, 1854, the *Three Bells* was joined by the *Antarctic* of Liverpool. On the 4th and 5th all survivors were transferred to these two vessels. The *Three Bells* sailed for New York. The *Antarctic* carried her 142 survivors to Liverpool, England, which port was reached January 23; the first American troops to land in England. On February 1st they embarked on the steamship *America* and arrived at Boston, February 16th.



Nothing daunted, the Third was soon again enroute, this time by the Isthmus of Panama. Headquarters, B and L, embarked at New York, April 5, 1854, on the steamer *Illinois* and arrived at Benicia, California, May 5, following. The band with D, G, I and K were not so fortunate. Embarking on the steamer *Falcon* they nearly repeated the experience of the *San Francisco*, but though disabled the vessel managed to make Hampton Roads where the troops were landed at Fort Monroe. In May, 1854, they were picked up by the steamer *Illinois* and finally, after many tribulations reached the California shore.

A and H marched overland from Fort Leavenworth, May 29, 1854; wintered at Salt Lake City, resumed the march to California April 4, 1855. The summit of the Sierra Nevada mountains was crossed July 1st; Benicia was reached July 12th. Almost immediately afterwards A was sent to Fort Yuma, California, where it remained for three years.

From 1854 to 1861 the Third was actively employed in marching and scouting over the Pacific Coast through its length and breadth. There was not an Indian tribe from the Rockies to the Pacific whom they did not visit. Scarcely had D landed at Benicia when it was sent on an expedition against the Indians of the Pitt and McCloud rivers. B marched against the Yakimas in October and November, 1855. During the same year D was engaged against the Klamath and M against the Puget Sound Indians. In the action at Hungry Hill, October 31-November 1, 1855, Lieutenant Horatio G. Gibson, commanding D was wounded. It was only recently that General Gibson, for many years colonel of the regiment and the oldest living graduate of West Point, answered the call of the Great Beyond. In the winter of 1855-56, B was sent against the Rogue River Indians, then on the war path. They were attacked at their village, Mackanootney, Oregon, March 28, 1855, routed and their village burned. On April 28th, following they were met and defeated again. In June, 1856, they sued for peace. General Scott in orders from Army Headquarters complimented the troops for their gallant conduct in the war. In the same order the services of M on Puget Sound were mentioned with commendation. E also was doing good work in Minnesota under its indefatigable Captain T. W. Sherman. The Indians at Yellow Medicine Agency began to manifest an ugly disposition. Sherman took their breath away by appearing among them with his battery, thus, in the language of General Order 14, Hdqrs. of the Army, 1857, "by his promptness, judgment and firmness preserving the country from a war with the tribes of the Sioux Nation."

In May, 1858, after two years of quiet the Indians in Washington Territory suddenly went on the war path. The uprising was entirely unexpected, but the news spread and the neighboring tribes flew to arms. Safety to the frontier settlements required the chastisement of the Indians. Accordingly an expedition was fitted out for this purpose under Colonel Wright, 9th Infantry. The Third composed the major part of the troops and they were rapidly concentrated. A from Yuma; B, Rogue River; D, San Diego, where it had taken station February 1, 1858 and M the Presidio of San Francisco with other troops were united at Walla, Walla, Washington. The only remaining company at the San Diego Mission, Company D, Francis O. Wyse [commanding], which had arrived Feb. 1, 1858, was ordered north in June to join Col. Wright's expedition. The departure of the soldiers created considerable consternation in San Diego, as it left the southern border exposed to Indian depredations, or worse, to pillage by desperadoes of every nation whose crimes forced them to seek refuge in the unsettled territory to the south of the line. The citizens were called upon to lend assistance to the local corps of state guards. The departure of Company D ended the use of the San Diego Mission as a military post. The Indians were vastly more numerous than the troops, but the later were armed with smooth-bores which were ineffective within the range of the [soldier's] rifle-muskets. The Indians were signally defeated at Four Lakes, September 1, Spokane Plains, September 5, and Spokane River [not an actual battle], September 8, 1858. The principal chiefs were captured and hanged and the tribes so humbled that they have never gone on the warpath since. In general orders from Headquarters of the Army, General Scott testified his appreciation of the regiment in most eulogistic terms.

In 1859 the dispute over the British Columbia-Washington Boundary Line, and who should own the San Juan Islands, seemed likely to precipitate a war with Great Britain. Accordingly August 8, 1859, A, B and D left Fort Vancouver, Washington, and joined other troops at Camp Pickett on the southern, while British troops occupied the northern end of the [San Juan] island. In this position the forces of the countries glared at each other; but there was no fear of immediate hostilities. After General Scott arranged for joint occupation, the [Third] companies mentioned returned to Fort Vancouver in December, 1859.

Early in 1860, Company H and detachments from I and M, were sent on an expedition into Nevada, where they attacked and defeated the Indians, under Young Winnamucca, near Truckee River, June 2, 1860. In July of the same year A, B and M left Fort Vancouver, Washington, scouted through the Snake River Country, met and routed the Indians at Harney Lake, Oregon, and returned to Fort Vancouver in September.

When the Civil War was precipitated the Government was extremely anxious about the temper of the states on the Pacific Slope, particularly California. This led to energetic measures to secure the safety of San Francisco. All of the companies of the Third on the Coast, except D were at once concentrated in that harbor. In October, 1861, regimental headquarters and five companies including M were embarked for New York via Isthmus of Panama. This left A, B, and I at San Francisco, and D at Vancouver, the latter proceeding in February, 1862 from Camp Pickett, San Juan Island, to Alcatraz, San Francisco.

Here B and D remained during the whole war. I was sent east in 1864, and equipped as a light battery. A, in February, 1862, equipped as light artillery, proceeded to Camp Drum, Wilmington, California, and there joined General Carleton's column which marched in 1862, from California, across the deserts to Tuscon, Arizona, and then into New Mexico, where it served as a light battery until 1865 when it was transferred to Boston Harbor. While in New Mexico the light battery saw exceedingly hard service. It marched much of the time, when not as artillery against the Indians as cavalry. No company of the regiment saw harder service during the war than A.

We now turn to the companies in the great theatre of the Civil War. E came from Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, in May, 1861, and was present at Blackburn's Ford July 18, and again at Bull Run July 21, 1861. At Bull Run it had to content itself with engaging the enemy at long range. It assisted with other batteries to cover the retreat of the army. In these engagements it lost three men killed and two wounded. Soon afterward E started on an expedition to the South along the coast of South Carolina and Florida, where it kept active until February, 1864. It was engaged June 10, 1862, at Secessionville, South Carolina, at Pocatigo, October 22, where hard fighting was done. It joined in the assault and repulse at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, July 18, 1863, and was engaged in the siege of that place July 18 to September 7, 1863. On the evening of July 12, 1863, from a position on an advanced point on Morris Island the battery opened fire on an enemy steamer lying in Charleston Harbor and succeeded in completely disabling it. On February 20, 1864, it was present at the sanguinary battle at Olustee, Florida, and suffered great loss. All the officers were wounded; 12 men were killed, 21 wounded and 6 missing. This terminated the service of E in the South. In April, 1864, it was assigned to duty with the Army of the James, being part of the artillery brigade of the 3d Division. It was present at Port Walthall Junction May 19-20, 1864, and all the battles in which that army was engaged, afterwards in the entrenched lines at Bermuda Hundred and on both sides of the James River, and in the works before Petersburg from August to September. It was present at Laurel Hill, October 7, 1864, when the 10th Corps repelled Longstreet. It was present at both attacks on Fort Fisher, North Carolina, having several skirmishes with the enemy. In March, 1865, E with the 10th Corps joined General Sherman's Army engaging in the pursuit of General J. E. Johnston, until the final surrender of the Confederate forces. E remained in South Carolina until August, 1868, when it marched to Atlanta, Ga., where the battery was dismounted March 2, 1869. The troops were sent to St. Augustine, Florida, for station from which place it moved to Fort Pulaski, Georgia, August 6, 1869.

When McClellan's army moved to the Peninsula in 1862, the batteries of the Third including M were attached to the Army artillery. M was engaged at Newbridge, Virginia, June 19; Mechanicsville, June 26, and Gaines' Mill, June 27, 1862. At the latter place it was on the right, about 500 yards in front of the line where it fought with great gallantry and under great disadvantage, the battery commander being wounded, and all the horses killed. During the change of base to the James River, it fought at Turkey Bend, June 28-29; at Turkey Bridge, June 30; at Malvern Hill, June 30-July 1, 1862, during which all its lieutenants were wounded. It was present at Fredericksburg, Va., December 11-15, 1862, but the jammed condition of the street prevented its going into action. In March, 1863, when the 9th Corps was sent West, M accompanied it. The corps arrived at Vicksburg in season to take part in the siege of that place and afterwards, July 10-16, in the siege of Jackson, Mississippi. From this time until March 16, 1864, M operated in the West. On May 24, that year it again rejoined the Army of the Potomac. All this time it formed part of the artillery of the 9th Corps. It took part meanwhile in Burnside's campaign in East Tennessee in 1863, was engaged at Philadelphia, Tennessee, October 16th, Campbell Station, Tennessee, November 16th, was in position in the trenches during the siege of Knoxville, Tennessee, November 17th-December 5th; in pursuit of Longstreet's Army at Blain's cross-roads, Tennessee, December 17, 1863; and again at Strawberry Plains, Tennessee, January 2, 1864. its next fighting was in the Wilderness, under General Grant, from May 5 to 14, 1864, whence it was sent back to the defenses of Washington where it was joined by I. They remained in a condition of preparedness for active service; but from this time on, except when Early made his attempt on Washington in July, 1864, nothing seriously demanding their attention occurred.

Following the Civil War the batteries and companies of the regiment were moved from station to station throughout the United States. The stations of the regiment alternated between the North Atlantic, and South Atlantic and Gulf Stations. By the Act of Congress, July 28, 1866, the term battery was applied to all artillery companies. Prior to that time the designation battery was used only for the companies equipped as field artillery.

In 1876, the year of the Custer Massacre, several batteries were ordered to the Department of the Platte, which embraced the Middle Western States. They were returned to their seacoast stations after quiet had been restored.

The most desperate and extensive strike that has yet occurred in the country was that of 1877, by the employees of the principal railroad trunk lines, the Baltimore and Ohio, the Pennsylvania, the Erie, the New York Central, and their western prolongations. Freight traffic was entirely suspended and passenger and mail service was greatly impeded. When new employees sought to work militia had to be called out to preserve order. Bloody riots were common occurrences. In July, at the requests of the governors of the states involved, President Hayes dispatched regular troops including the Third, to Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. Faced by these forces the rioters in every instance gave way without bloodshed and normalcy was restored.

In 1896 the regiment was transferred from the Gulf Stations to San Francisco, where it was stationed at the outbreak of the Spanish War. On Feb. 2, 1898, Battery D, 3d Artillery, Capt. Charles Humphries [commanding], which had been occupying San Diego Barracks for a year or so, was moved to Point Loma where a new post, Fort Rosecrans, was under construction. Modern sea coast batteries were nearing completion and artillery soldiers were needed to finish the work of mounting the 10-inch seacoast armament; the approaching threat of hostilities with Spain accelerated the work on the task. Battery D remained to garrison the post as the work continued, thus becoming the first organization of the Army top be stationed at Fort Rosecrans, as it was the last to serve at the San Diego Barracks.

In June, 1898, a battalion of four batteries, under command of Major (later Major General, retired) William A. Kobbe, Third Artillery, sailed for the Philippines as part of the Third Manila Expedition. The battalion participated in the attack and capture of Manila and later served creditably during the Philippine Insurrection.

A, consisting of four officers and 191 enlisted men embarked at San Francisco, California, August 20, 1898, on the steamer *Humbolt* for service in Alaska. One officer and 72 enlisted men were debarked September 3, at St. Michaels, while the remainder of the battery proceeded to Ciocle City, arriving September 29th. The following August, A returned to San Francisco.

The Act of March 2, 1899, added two batteries to each artillery regiment. N and O were organized at Presidio of San Francisco.

The Boxer uprising in China called for the presence of all available troops. A, D, I and O embarked at San Francisco, July 28, 1900, on the transport Hancock and arrived at Taku, China, August 20th; then moved by rail the following day to Teinsin where camp was established in the compound of the German concession. September 7th the battalion moved to the Chinese Government enclosure designated Liscum Barracks, named in honor of General E. H. Liscum who was killed at the battle of Teinsin July 13th. Here the battalion was assigned to the 2d Brigade, China Relief Expedition. The batteries of the Third were the only Coast Artillery organizations which participated in this expedition. The brigade being discontinued October 21st, the batteries were transferred to Manila, which port was reached November 20. Therefrom they were immediately sent into the field and actively participated in numerous engagements with the Insurrectos.

The Act of February 2, 1901, discontinued the regimental organization of the artillery arm and constituted an Artillery Corps, consisting of coast and field artillery, comprising 126 companies of coast artillery and 30 batteries of field artillery, which were given serial numbers in their respective branches. The strength of each coast artillery company was fixed at three officers and 109 enlisted men. The serial numbers assigned to the batteries now comprising the Third Coast Artillery are given at the beginning of this sketch. They were stationed as follows: 25th, 27th, 31st, and 36th Companies, Philippine Islands; 26th Company, Fort Flagler, Washington; 28th Company, Presidio of San Francisco; 34th Company Fort Stevens, Oregon; 35th Company Fort Moultrie, S. C.

The four companies in the Philippines returned in April, 1903; 25th and 27th Companies took station at San Francisco; 31st, Fort Caswell; 36th, Fort Moultrie. 28th Company was stationed at Camp McKinley, Honolulu, H. I., from April 30, 1904, to July 11, 1905, whence it proceeded via San Francisco to Fort Rosecrans, San Diego, California, for station, arriving July 25, 1905. 35th Company served in the Philippines from 1908 to 1910, returning after its tour to Fort Monroe. 36th Company was transferred in C 1909 to Fort Du Pont, Delaware, from which place it was sent to the Philippines.

All of the companies of the old Third stationed at San Francisco on the occasion of the disastrous earthquake and fire of April 16, 1906, were called out and rendered invaluable assistance in preserving order and guarding property. Their services were officially recognized by resolution of the California State Legislature.

From 1911 to the outbreak of the World War during disturbances in Mexico E saw considerable service in the field along the Mexican border of Lower California, preserving the neutrality of the United States and serving as border patrol. C was present with the First Separate Brigade at Galveston, Texas, in 1911.

In compliance with War Department instruction of June 27, 1916, and General Orders No.31, War Department, July 24, 1916, the serial designations of coast artillery companies were changed from a single series to separate series for each fort. Subsequently in July, 1917, this arrangement was again changed and companies were designated serially for each coast defense. Under this system the identity and origin of the old organizations were lost and confusion entailed in attempts to compile historical data and chronicle of events pertinent to the World War. The Chief of Coast Artillery perceiving the chaotic condition into which records had become involved instituted an exhaustive research and study of the organization of all coast artillery units which work was performed in an excellent manner by the late Colonel R. H. C. Kelton, Coast Artillery Corps. As a result of his research the historical continuity of the coast artillery organizations was established and General Orders No. 21, War Department, 1922, issued, which order restored to the old companies the serial numbers assigned in 1901.

The World War having demonstrated the advantage and need of regimental organization in the coast artillery, General Orders No. 8, War Department, 1924, issued, effecting the arrangement of the Coast Artillery Corps, not already so

formed, into regiments. In carrying out the provisions of this order the former seven regiments discontinued in 1901 were reconstituted by placing in each regiment as many as practicable of the batteries which formerly belonged to it. Eight of its former batteries were assigned to the Third Coast Artillery.

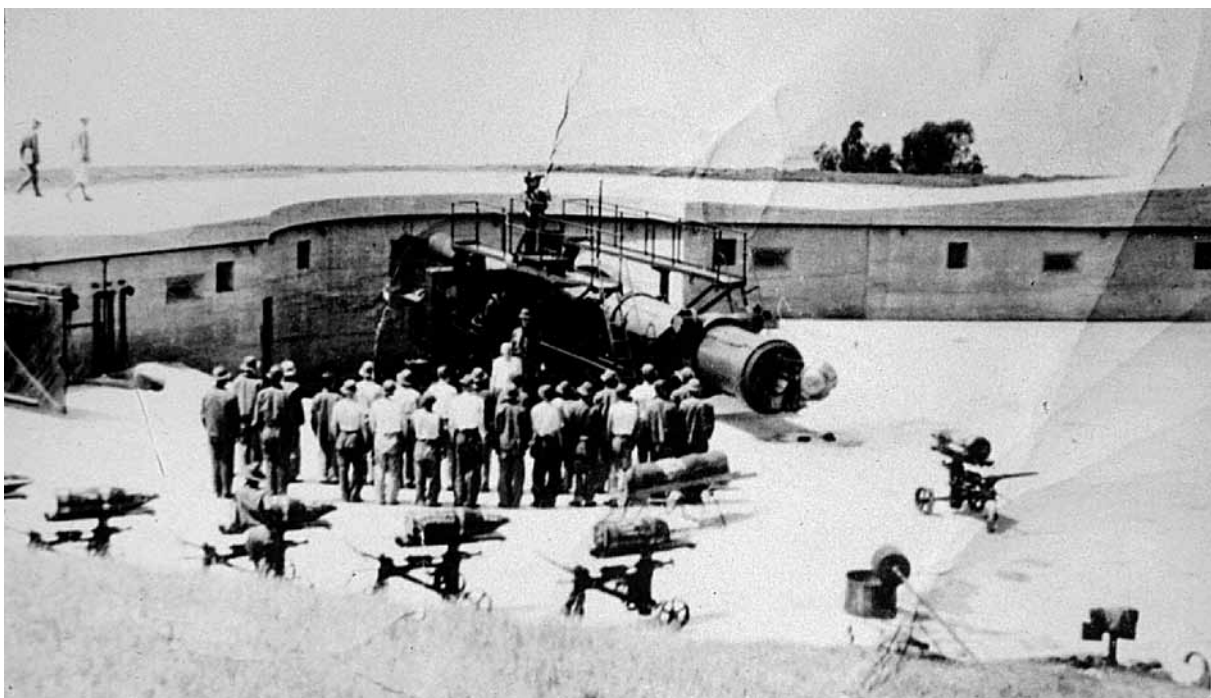
At the outbreak of the World War the batteries of the regiment were stationed as follows: Headquarters Battery, Coast Defenses of Manila and Subic Bay; A and D, Coast Defenses of San Francisco; B, Puget Sound; E, Fort Rosecrans, San Diego; C, Fort Caswell, N. C.; F, Fort Stevens, Oregon; G, Fort Monroe, Va. A was assigned as Battery C, 18th Artillery, which regiment was disbanded in December, 1918; D was sent overseas in November, 1917, as the 4th separate antiaircraft battery and saw active service on the western front; C became Battery E, 53d Artillery, manned railway guns and participated in action in the Champaigne sector, Aisne-Marne defensive, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. The remaining batteries remained at their fixed batteries and served as nuclei for regiments and other units organized for war service.

When additional companies of coast artillery were formed in 1901, the 92d, 93d and 94th, now batteries of the 14th Coast Artillery, were organized by transferring alternate men from the 28th, 34th and 30th Companies, respectively. Former batteries G, H, I, K and L of the Third Artillery were assigned to the 62d Coast Artillery when that organization was expanded into a regiment in 1922. The former band is the band of the 6th Coast Artillery; former batteries C and F are batteries E, 1st Field Artillery, and A, 3d Field Artillery, respectively.

The Third Coast Artillery was constituted with fitting ceremony at Fort MacArthur, California, July 1, 1924: Major General William A. Kobbe, retired, was the guest of honor, representing the old Third Artillery, in which regiment he served for over thirty years. He reviewed the organization and presented its colors. Colonel Ben H. Dorcy, retired, whose first service was as private and corporal, Battery E, represented the enlisted men of the old Third and presented the battery guidons. The reorganization was made an occasion for local celebration in which naval, veteran and all civil organizations of the community were present and participated.

Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, including Batteries A and B, are stationed in the Coast Defenses of Los Angeles, Fort MacArthur, California; the 2d Battalion, Batteries C and D, in the Coast Defenses of San Diego, Fort Rosecrans, California; the 3d Battalion, Batteries E, F and G, in the Coast Defenses of the Columbia, Fort Stevens, Oregon.

The Third Artillery stood upon its record. It ever did its whole duty and never intrigued to impose that duty on another. The history and traditions of that organization are perpetuated in the reconstituted regiment. Our duty is to emulate the devotion to service of the rank and file who have gone before and preserve the heritage bequeathed by those artillerymen who were prepared for any service that duty might call.



## The Third Coast Artillery

### A Historical Sketch, ADDENDEUM 1924-1960

*with material from "History of the Third Coast Artillery," prepared by Donald C. Hawley (1942), and "Air Defense Artillery," the Army Lineage Series, compiled by Janice E. McKenney, Center of Military History, Washington, DC 1985.*

In March of 1930, Battery "A", Battery "B", and Headquarters Battery were disbanded and only Headquarters Detachment of 22 men remained at Fort MacArthur. This caretaking detachment continued here until July 1935 when Headquarters Battery was authorized with a strength of 132 men.

On July 1, 1939 "A" Battery was re-activated with 124 men, but Headquarters Battery was reduced to 32 men. On Feb. 1, 1940, "D" and "E" Batteries were demobilized, together with two Headquarters Detachments. "D" and a Headquarters Det. which had been at Ft. Rosecrans since before 1930 were inactivated, and the men transferred to the 19th Coast Artillery Regiment. "E" and "F" and a Headquarters Detachment at Ft. Stevens, Oregon were similarly inactivated and their men transferred to the 18th CA. On July 1, 1940, "B" Battery was re-activated at Fort MacArthur. On Dec. 2, 1940, "C", "D", "E", "F", Headquarters Battery 1st Battalion, Headquarters Battery 2nd Battalion were activated. Also Med. Det. 3rd CA. The 63rd CA Band which was scheduled to go with the 63rd CA to Fort Bliss, Texas, was allowed to remain and the men transferred to the 3rd CA Band which was activated. In the Middle of December 1940, Battery "B" was redesignated Battery "D" and vice-versa, as of December 2, 1940. Battery "G" was activated June 1, 1941.

During this period the only active service seen was the participation, by a provisional battalion composed of a large portion the regiment, acting in company with the 15th Infantry, in the quelling of the riot at North American Aviation, Inc., factory at Inglewood, Calif., on June 10, 1941, and restoring to production of that important plant.

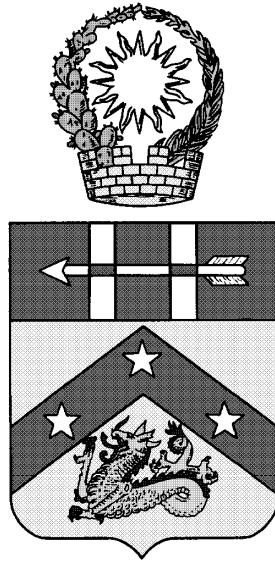
On August 21, 1941, the regiment was changed from a Type B to a Type A Harbor Defense Regiment, but the 3rd Battalion added by this change remained inactive until February 14, 1942, when it was activated. On October 1, 1942, Battery "C" was redesignated Battery "D" and inactivated; and Battery "D" was redesignated Battery "C". When the War broke out on December 7, 1941, the regiment at once went on a War footing.

On 18 Oct. 1944, the 3rd Coast Artillery Regiment was broken up into independent battalions; the 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 3rd were redesignated the 520th, 521st and 522nd Coast Artillery Battalions respectively. On 1 Dec. 1944, the 520th was redesignated the 3rd Coast Artillery Battalion. As the Army demobilized, the Harbor Defense units were all inactivated. All the above battalions were disbanded at Fort MacArthur on 15 Sept. 1945, though some of the individual batteries remained active until 30 June 1946.

The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 brought some of the old units of the 3rd back into action, though under other designations such as the 3rd AA Battalion (automatic weapons) attached to the 3rd Infantry Division, the 18th AA Battalion, and the 43rd AA Battalion (automatic weapons) attached to the 10th Infantry Division.

On 12 Aug. 1958 many of the old battalions and batteries of the 3rd Coast Artillery Regiment were brought back together to reactivate the 6 battalions of the the 3rd Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) Regiment and the 3rd Artillery Group, which would serve to man Nike batteries in Pittsburg, PA, Detroit, MI, in Illinois, and Norfolk, VA, throughout the 1960s and early 1970s.

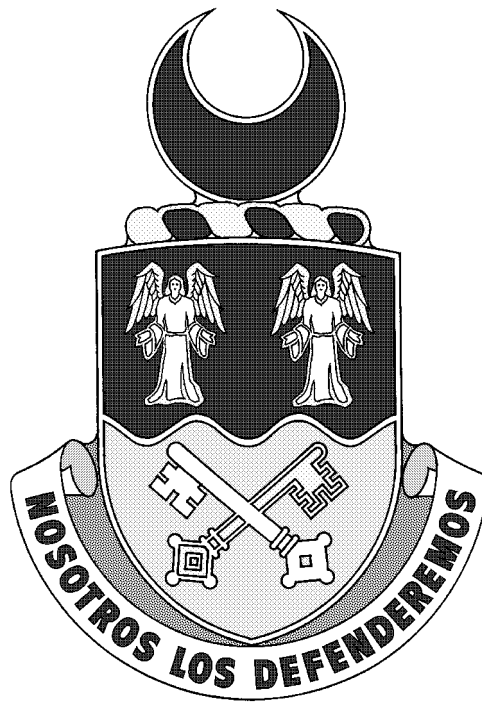
On 15 Dec 1961 all units which were ever designated "3rd Artillery" (including the 3rd Field Artillery units) were consolidated, reorganized and redesignated as the 3rd Artillery Regiment. The 3rd Artillery Regiment was split up on 1 Sept. 1971 into the 3rd Field Artillery Regiment and the 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Elements of the the 3rd ADA are still active units today, some most recently served during operation Desert Storm in 1991.



## Coat of Arms of the Third Coast Artillery

Derived from *Antiaircraft Battalions of the U.S. Army*, by James P. Sawicki  
Wyvern Publications, Dumphries, VA, 1991.

- Shield: *Or*, on a chevron *gules* above an imperial Chinese dragon of the like armed *azure* three mullets argent, on a chief of the second two pallets of the fourth an arrow in fess counterchanged.
- Crest: Out of a mural crown or masoned *gules* a garland the dexter branch cactus the sinister palm proper encircling a sun in spendor argent.
- Motto: *Non Cedo Ferio* (I Yield Not, I Strike).
- Symbolism: Scarlet is used for artillery. The two white stripes on the scarlett chief, the colors of the campaign streamers for the War of 1812, commemorating the participation of several companies of the regiment. The arrow alludes to the Indian wars. The chevron and stars indicate service in the Civil War. The stars also refer to the numerical designation of the regiment. The dragon represents service in China; the claws and teeth are blue to indicate that elements of the regiment served in the China Relief Expedition as infantry.
- The mural crown, cactus, and palm signify the regiment's participation in the Mexican War and elements of the regiment in the Philippine Insurrection. The sun in its glory commemorates the laurels earned by the during its days of glory.
- Distinctive Insignia: an adaption of the crest and motto of the coat of arms (see drawing on page 81).



## Coat of Arms for the Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles

from the *Coast Artillery Journal* Volume 69 (Feb. 1929) pp. 151-152

**Shield:** Parti per fess wavy *gules* and *azure*, in chief two angels habited of the second and *argent* and winged *or* proper and in base two keys in saltire of the fourth and third.

**Crest:** On a wreath of the colors (*or* and *gules*) a crescent *gules*.

**Motto:** *Nosotros Los Defenderemos* (We Shall Defend Them).

**Symbolism:** The escutcheon combines San Pedro (Los Angeles Harbor) and the City of Los Angeles, both of which are defended by the guns of Fort MacArthur, and is an excellent example of “canting” heraldry. Los Angeles being represented by the two angels and of symbolic heraldry, San Pedro being represented by the keys of St. Peter.

Los Angeles Harbor or San Pedro Harbor is in the lee of Point Fermin, which was a point of note with the early explorers. Cabrillo in 1542 named it “Bahia de los Humos,” and it appears on the charts of Vizcaino, 1603, under the name of “Ensenada De San Andres.” In 1734 the Spanish Admiral Gonzales gave it the name of San Pedro, which name continues in use today. It was a regular loading and unloading place for vessels from the date of the founding of the Pueblo of Los Angeles in 1781. The motto refers to both the port and the city “We shall defend them.” On account of the Spanish origin of the community in which the harbor Defenses are situated, the motto, “Nosotros los defenderemos,” is in Spanish.

The crest pertains to the first organization to garrison these Harbor Defenses in 1917, the 38th Company, Coast Artillery Corps, known in 1812 and the years following as Capt. S.B. Archer’s Company.

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