



# Newsletter

Summer & Fall, 2010

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next newsletter.**

## From the Editor: Fran Kramer

Aloha,

The HAMS Executive Director, Vicki Olson, is currently relocating her home, and I have offered to write a note in place of her usual letter. She will be writing you again in the next newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new editor of the *HAMS Newsletter*. I enjoy working with words and graphics, and have a background in digital graphic design and marketing. When Vicki approached me about producing the newsletter, I found the offer hard to resist, despite often vowing to cut down the amount of time I spend on the computer. I look forward to this role in addition to my volunteer activities at the museum.



Please address to me any questions or comments concerning editorial aspects of the newsletter. As you can see, we have changed the look and feel of the formatting, and have added some new features such as the sidebar and information on "What's Hot" and/or "What's New" at the museum gift shop. In the future, we want to continue publishing knowledgeable and interesting articles pertaining to the museum, Battery Randolph, and Ft. DeRussy. If you have any ideas for upcoming articles, would like to write an article, or want to make suggestions on improving the newsletter, I would love to hear from you! I can be reached at (808) 457-9753 or through email at francesekramer@aol.com.

In the past two months the Army Museum has lost two its outstanding volunteers, creating a big hole that will be hard to fill. David Crittenden and David Baumgartner each played significant roles as volunteers while dedicating many hours to the museum. The enclosed short obituaries can hardly express the loss. We miss them very much, and will keep them and their families in our prayers.



## In Memoriam:

### Remembering David Crittenden & David Baumgartner



David Crittenden, an outstanding volunteer at the Army Museum, passed away on September 6, 2010. Since the year 2006 David worked over 800 hours at the reception desk and nearly achieved a perfect attendance. His ability to speak to our Japanese visitors in their native tongue was a tremendous asset to this museum. David always volunteered to assist with all the special events at the museum such as the Gallery of Heroes induction ceremonies and the opening of the General Shinseki Gallery phase II. In 2009 David was awarded the Glenna Marie Champion Award for outstanding service.

A native of Boston, David retired after 42 years as a school administrator in the DOD school system.

For the volunteers among us, Dave will be remembered as a joker. We will never forget all the jokes he used to tell. He laughed so much when he played with his pseudo bottle of mustard or Ketchup or when he set out fake mice and spiders for Diane before she came to relieve him.

Often he joined the museum store staff on Friday night for our Pau Hana when we smoke cigars and re-make the world. We loved so much his quiz about the old war movies and his favorite sport, boxing. We will remember his slow walk, and his attaché case carrying his newspapers, the *Advertiser* and *USA Today*. He was proud to get the mail from the museum.

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David Baumgardner was formally designated a US Army Volunteer on February 3, 2010. His official duty was security officer. This is the first time a volunteer had been assigned the duty as a security officer. The results were outstanding, and best of all, David enjoyed doing it. Expertly cruising along in his motorized wheelchair, he was often seen patrolling the museum to keep an eye on things. He counted the weapons on display, and kept a watchful eye on anyone he felt looked suspicious. On several occasions he had to tell kids to be mindful their surroundings and to keep their voices low. He was so vigilant he was even able to hear coughing of the occasional ghost reputed to haunt the dark halls and crannies of Battery Randolph. He could reproduce that cough very well, as those volunteers who also heard it can testify.



David was born in Los Gatos, California on December 27, 1941. As a small child in the mid 1940's, he contracted polio which confined him to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. This did not stop him from having a full life in the workforce. After spending many years in California and Atlanta, Georgia, David retired as a Genzyme Medical manager and moved with his wife, Kat, to Hawaii to be near his grandchildren. All of us were inspired by his optimistic and humorous outlook on life, and not least, his smiling face—something which no doubt contributed to his looking much younger than 68! David was especially fond of cats. He owned many over the years, and was often regaling the other volunteers with stories about them. David passed away on October 26, 2010.

David, when we hear more unexplained coughing in the museum, we will have to wonder...



## Rebuilding the Parapets:

An Old Look with a New Purpose

By Judi Bowman & Fran Kramer

On July 6, 2010, the Army Museum of Hawaii celebrated the completion of reconstruction meant to replicate the original parapets of Battery Randolph. The creative design offers both a good likeness of the old battery of 1911 and badly needed office and storage space for the growing museum. The new look reflects the numerous contributions of many groups and individuals.

When Battery Randolph was built in 1911, it was crowned with two large parapets that protected the 14 inch guns from naval attack. Each parapet was solid concrete, 12 feet high and 20 feet thick. The parapets were destroyed in 1969 when an attempt was made to demolish Battery Randolph.

In 1976, Battery Randolph was converted to a museum which grew and grew. It wasn't long before exhibit galleries, offices and a sundry of storage occupied nearly every square foot of useable space. There was no room to spare for new exhibits and collecting more artifacts—critical aspects of the museum's mission. Also, thousands of historical objects had been collected which help tell the story of the U.S. Army in Hawaii and the Pacific Region. For lack of space many of the artifacts were crammed into what was Battery Randolph's 980 sq. ft. projectile storage room. After being cited by the U.S. Army Center of Military History for inadequate storage of Army artifacts, and no space to accommodate future donations, the museum's recertification was in jeopardy. Over the years, few solutions for expansion seemed feasible, and there was never enough money. Yet something had to be done.

Then, funds were provided by the Center for Military History (CMH,) the organization that manages all US Army museums, and the Hawaii Army Museum Society (HAMS.) The museum was extremely fortunate to receive the generous contributions of one donor, Dr. Lawrence K. W. Tseu, an internationally known philanthropist from Hawaii. At Oxford University he is on the Chancellor's Court, Board of Regents, and is a Fellow and the Chairman of the Tseu Medical



Research. Dr. Tseu also serves on the Board of Regents at Chaminade University. He has received many honors for his professional work as a dentist and as philanthropist. Dr. Tseu's contributions to build the parapets, as well his funding for the General Eric Shinseki Gallery honor the legacy of military service left by his family. Dr. Tseu's father volunteered at the age of 17 to enlist in the U.S. Army during WW I, eventually soldiering in seven major battle campaigns and receiving three purple hearts for being wounded in action. Other family members who served were his oldest brother who was in the Navy in WW II, another brother who served during the Korean War with the 82nd Airborne Division, and the youngest brother who served in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War. Dr. Tseu himself was in the Air Force, rounding out participation in four different branches of military service by his family.

Dr. Lawrence Tseu

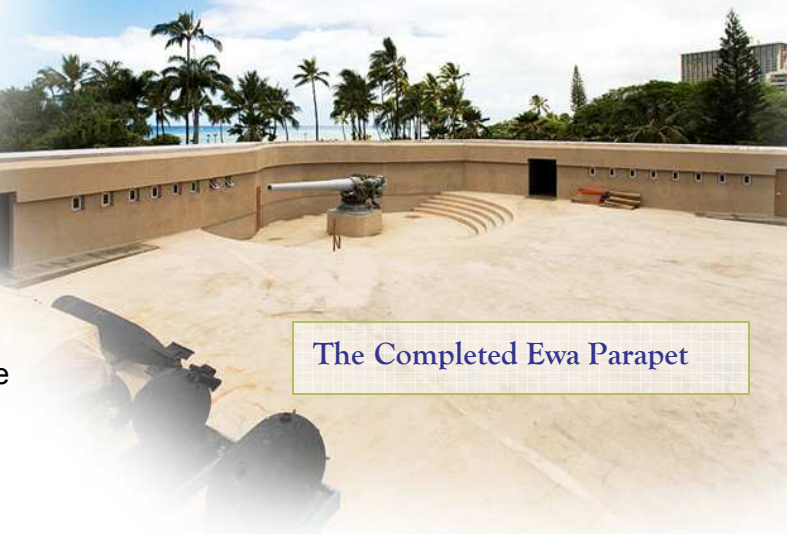


Another significant contribution of another sort came in the form of work from two U.S. Army Reserve Units, the 284<sup>th</sup> Eng. Co. (V) and the 302<sup>d</sup> Eng. Co. (V). These units were comprised of soldiers from California to Puerto Rico. As part of their annual training, the units took on the task of replicating the parapets. It took only 63 days to complete the project.



The replica parapets created approximately 7,200 sq. ft. of new space. Nearly 2,000 sq. ft. is earmarked for new exhibit galleries and a multipurpose room. And, most importantly, over 3,000 sq. ft. will house the Army's growing collection of historical property for many years to come.

The completion of the parapets is another fine example of both the Army's adaptive reuse of its historic buildings, and of the contributions made by generous people and groups who support the Army Museum of Hawaii. A big mahalo to those mentioned and the many others we cannot forget.



The Completed Ewa Parapet

### Prepared for the Wrong Kind of Attack:

Battery Randolph and Soldiering on the Sands of Waikiki Beach, 1920-1941

By G. Alan Knight

As HAMS members know, the purpose of the batteries at Coast Artillery (CA) installations was to protect harbors and adjacent coastal cities by being able to defeat any offshore armored enemy warships. Fort DeRussy was just one of several CA installations on Oahu charged with protecting the naval base at Pearl Harbor and Honolulu. At time of the construction of Batteries Randolph and Dudley at Fort DeRussy, and batteries at other sites in the Honolulu area, the primary enemy threat was seaborne. It was expected to materialize in the form of enemy battleships and heavy cruisers which could be

successfully targeted by the 14-in guns of the coast artillery. Light cruisers and destroyers also posed a potential threat that could be eliminated by CA guns of smaller caliber. Thus, it was planned to equip Battery Randolph with 14-in guns.

In 1913 the first of Battery Randolph's 14-in M1907A1 guns arrived, a massive piece whose emplacement required prodigious effort by the assigned soldiers. It was successfully test-fired on 25 November 1914. In 1915 the second gun arrived, was emplaced, and on 15 August 1916 was test fired. The guns were mounted on Buffington-Crozier "disappearing" type carriages.

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Soldiering at Ft. DeRussy



The guns were maintained in loading position below the crest of the frontal parapet when not in use. A heavy lead counterweight was used to raise the gun into firing position and when fired, the gun's recoil pivoted the gun back to the loading position below the parapet's crest. On the occasion of the initial test firing of both guns, residents of a Waikiki Beach its early stages of commercial and residential development found the noise and blast effects from discharge of the guns to be an unpleasant experience which they would continue to experience throughout the operational life of the battery—despite Army efforts to minimize the irritation of the citizenry.

During World War I, it could be fairly said that coastal defense preparations in Hawaii took place in an area best be described as a “backwater.” The island of Oahu was never threatened by the enemy though readiness was maintained through frequent full-service target practice. Starting in 1917, funds were appropriated for construction at Fort DeRussy officer and NCO quarters, enlisted barracks and a multi-purpose building housing post headquarters, a post exchange, and a movie theater. For the lower-ranking enlisted men of the Coast Artillery Corps (CAC), the new living arrangements were a welcome change from being billeted in tents. Construction efforts continued through 1920. By then Fort DeRussy had already become widely known throughout the CAC for its beach at Waikiki.

The first CA companies posted to Fort DeRussy were the 10th and 55th Companies. The 10th was assigned to serve Battery Dudley and the 55th to serve Battery Randolph. In what would become the first of countless re-organizations, the two companies were re-designated in 1916, with the 55th Company becoming the 2nd Company, Fort DeRussy. In August 1917 the two were again re-designated with the 2nd Company at Battery Randolph becoming the 10th Company, Coast Defenses of Oahu until 1921.

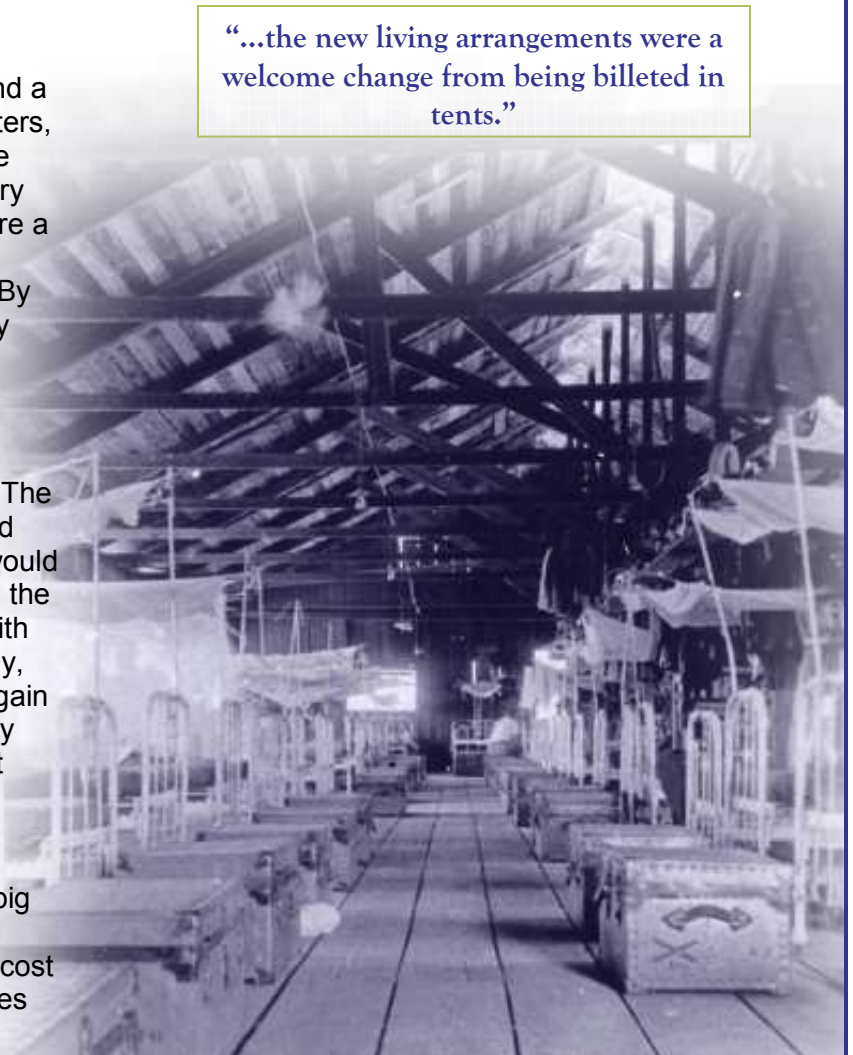
By the mid 1920s a series of factors coalesced to reduce the practice of using the big guns of Battery Randolph and the post's anti-aircraft battery. A post-World War I era of cost containment had begun in government agencies

and the Army was particularly hard-hit by this initiative. Target practice using the 14-in guns was costly and while the potentiality of a threat from Japan was noted by some, its immediacy was not. In short, coastal defense operational readiness in Oahu was maintained at a modest tempo. Additionally the government had continued to receive a barrage of complaints from citizens after target practice. Adverse news items in the Honolulu paper appeared sporadically, and countless claims against the government were received from area civilians who had experienced property damage, albeit generally minor.

Yet another constraint impacting the frequency of target practice was barrel erosion on the 14-in guns. One historian cites a message from the War Department's Chief of Ordnance who, on 24 September 1918, noted that the

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“...the new living arrangements were a welcome change from being billeted in tents.”





“Lower-ranking enlisted personnel were billeted in barracks on the post.”

accurate life of a 14-in gun, based on AEF experience in France, was estimated to be only 150 rounds, using a full charge. The result of these factors was a decision to maintain the proficiency of gun crews by using dummy or sub-caliber rounds. In 1927 this decision was challenged by Ordnance Corps officers who deemed the failure to fire these guns as a readiness issue and urged periodic firing. Nonetheless, target practice using full-service charges with the 14-in guns which had halted by the mid-1920s did not resume until shortly after the outbreak of war in December 1941.

Interestingly, the 14-in guns of Battery Randolph were of the same caliber as those of the two enemy battleships, *Hiei* and *Kirishima*, assigned to the Japanese carrier attack force that targeted Pearl Harbor and other Oahu installations on 7 December. During the 1930s, as the Imperial Japanese Navy launched newly-built battleships, changes were made at Battery Randolph to increase the maximum elevation of the guns and increase their maximum range.

The CAC reorganized again in 1924. The designating of elements as serially-numbered separate companies was abolished and these companies were re-designated as either headquarters batteries or lettered firing batteries

of the newly-constituted sixteen coast artillery regiments. The First through Seventh Regiments of United States Artillery were re-activated and re-flagged as the First through the Seventh Coast Artillery (Harbor Defense) Regiments. The 15th and 16th Coast Artillery Regiments (Harbor Defense) were assigned to Oahu with the 15th being assigned to the defenses of Pearl Harbor and the 16th assigned to the harbor defenses of Honolulu. Both the 10th and 55th Companies were inactivated and transferred, less personnel and equipment, to the new regiment, with an effective date of 30 June 1924 for the 10th and 1 July 1924 for the 55th.

A series of convoluted changes followed in which the 10th, now re-designated was assigned to the 1st Coast Artillery Regiment in Panama, and the 55th, similarly re-designated, was assigned to the 5th Coast Artillery Regiment whose mission was the harbor defenses of Southern New York. Personnel of the now-inactivated 10th Company were assigned to Battery A, 16th Coast Artillery Regiment, a unit formed with the lineage of the 90th Company formerly assigned to harbor defenses of Manila and Cubic Bays in the Philippines. In 1925 the five Coast Artillery regiments in Oahu were organized into a brigade designated as the

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Hawaiian Separate Coast Artillery Brigade. During the period between the wars, Battery A was assigned to Battery Randolph and at certain periods, also to Battery Dudley. Additionally it manned Fort DeRussy's anti-aircraft battery.

The interwar years, though impacted by government fiscal austerity, were not totally devoid of the adoption of new and improved technology. After World War 1, Coast Artillery was augmented by reconnaissance aircraft to identify and provide warning of approaching enemy warships. Eventually, when equipped with radio, these were able to direct long-range fire of coastal defenses such as Battery Randolph.

### **What was soldiering like for CAC personnel assigned to the military installation at Waikiki Beach during the interwar years?**

Personnel were transported to Honolulu by ships of the Army Transportation Service. Sadly, ten percent of household goods shipped to Hawaii at government expense in the 1920s experienced damage during Quartermaster Corps handling. Married officers and non-commissioned officers assigned to Battery Randolph in 19-0 occupied bungalows of wood frame construction on Fort DeRussy. There were also nine sets of NCO quarters occupied by senior married personnel. All quarters had a garage as automobiles were considered a necessity in order to get around on Oahu. Lower-ranking enlisted personnel were billeted in barracks on the post. The challenges of getting Battery Randolph's guns ashore for emplacement had required creating an opening in the offshore reef and the dredging of a channel up to the beach. This created a superb area for swimming and a deep water "tank" for diving. In 1915, after the guns were received, a high-diving tower, officer and enlisted bathhouses and a bathing pier were constructed with troop labor. According to the late historian William H. Durance, Fort DeRussy, "...became the envy of every post on the island." Not surprisingly, in athletic contests on the post, between posts, and in competition with the Navy and Marine Corps, Fort DeRussy soldiers tended to excel at swimming and diving events, often beating their competitors.

Life for the officers in these years appears

to have been relatively relaxed, though the tempo of training quickened throughout the 1930s as anxieties mounted regarding Japanese intentions in the Pacific. The normal tour of duty was two years, although an officer could volunteer for an additional year of foreign service at the end of his tour. Married officers normally had servants and the typical live-in maid, usually from one of the neighboring islands. A maid was paid a salary of around \$60 a month. Alternatively, an enlisted man might be assigned (although that practice had long been officially banned). A cook and laundress were frequently hired, completing the "inside" servant "staff." Officers assigned to Fort DeRussy not only had access to a practice golf course at nearby Fort Ruger but were invited to join the Oahu Country Club or Waianae Golf Course if they desired. Officers could and did join in Honolulu's active civilian social life. At both forts there were monthly dances and bridge tournaments. Officers with school-age children often sent them to the prestigious Punahou School in Honolulu where, in the 1930s, tuition for a child was \$150 per year.

One Coast Artillery officer's wife at Fort DeRussy, in the months prior to outbreak of war, has left an account of a way of life totally foreign to today's personnel. Peggy Hickok, newly married to a captain, alludes to the lack of a need to visit the commissary to obtain groceries. She simply left the grocery list at a designated place on the lanai. An enlisted man would pick-up the list, shop, and take the purchased groceries to the officer's quarters. He might even store the groceries in the refrigerator or pantry, as appropriate. Peggy and her husband went swimming on (Waikiki) Beach every morning. Given the level of "domestic help," this Army wife found time to practice on her piano, write, and attend courses at the university.

Unencumbered by recollections of the social scene is the account of MAJ Philip S. Gage who commanded Fort DeRussy from August 1927 to August 1930. A no-nonsense Coast Artilleryman, 1909 graduate of the U.S.M.A, and a veteran of wartime service in France, Major Gage focused on everyday duties. Both batteries were inspected monthly and during his period in command, there were 28 special inspections including one held for

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the benefit of the visiting Secretary of War, another for a former Congressman, and 21 firing practices with Battery Randolph's 14-in guns conducted using sub-caliber or dummy rounds.

Enlisted men signed up for three year tours in Hawaii with the Coast Artillery. In the peacetime Army, a recruit could select from a limited number of available choices: the regiment or battery in which he would serve and where he would be stationed. Fort DeRussy housed a Coast Artillery Recruit Training Center which received new soldiers for that branch recruited on the mainland. It provided them with a month's intensive training, and then assigned them to Battery Randolph, Battery Dudley, or other Oahu units. The Recruit Training Center opened in 1920 and continued in operation until early 1942.

Private Ted Choley, who served in the Coast Artillery Corps on Oahu from 1936 to 1938, has left an account about the morning of a typical duty day. It began with reveille at 6.00 a.m. followed by roll call. Breakfast followed, after which personnel reassembled at 7.30 a.m. to receive their duty assignments for the day. Choley makes no comments on the quantity or quality of food provided in the mess hall at Fort DeRussy though perhaps earlier mentioned problems had ceased. However, there is some evidence that the rations issued in Oahu left much to be desired and it is likely this situation existed at all of Oahu's Army installations. In his unpublished autobiography, Brig. Gen. George Van Horn Moseley, commanding the 11th Artillery Brigade at Schofield Barracks in 1926, complained in a letter to his superiors about the frequent issue of old canned goods from World War I stockpiles. In the letter of complaint, Moseley enclosed a can of decades-old potatoes and commented that to provide such food was "an outrageous breach of faith with our enlisted men." Duty assignments mentioned by Choley ranged from training on serving the guns of the battery to practicing infantry tactics with the rifle issued to each soldier. These drills included instruction and practice in defending the battery from land attack. There were of course the usual details involving grass and tending shrubbery. At noon lunch was served. In terms of training in infantry tactics, the men of Battery Randolph along with other

personnel of the 16th Coast Artillery Regiment regularly participated in the annual Hawaiian Department and CA brigade field training exercises.

Enlisted men also had high expenses for clothing during the interwar years because the Army in Hawaii was a spit-and-polish outfit. Uniform items such as a tailor-made Class A uniform and the campaign hat were just a few of the expenses that impacted the rather meager pay of enlisted soldiers, particularly the privates who made less than \$20 a month. According to historian Brian Linn, "The blocked felt campaign hat in which long-term soldiers took so much pride might represent a year of financial scrimping." To some degree, this uniform situation was a result of the Army continuing to issue the regulation olive drab uniform due to having immense stockpiles on-hand, left-over from World War I. The War Department insisted these stocks be exhausted before going to Congress to request funding for the purchase of new cotton uniforms for troops serving in the tropics. Commanders in Hawaii, recognizing the poor cut and quality of the olive drab uniforms, were loath to have their troops wear these government-issue garments at parades, reviews, and inspections. For their part, the troops were generally reluctant to wear ill-fitting, hot and uncomfortable issue clothing, and taking pride in their appearance, they made the necessary financial sacrifices to look their sharpest.

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## Get it at the Museum Store!

***WHAT'S HOT: Hat s--One of our best selling items with over thirty-five designs, the designs include veterans hats, all branches of the service, 442 RCT "Go for Broke", 25th Inf Div, Army Museum, and specialty hats including women's caps and "boonie" hats.***



***Other military designs include Top Gun, Seal Team, Rangers, Airborne, and Special Forces. Best of all is the one price for all designs, \$14.95. And don't forget the "Hooah" Army and "Ooh Rah" Marine hats!***





The night life of Honolulu continually provided off-duty amusements, savory and unsavory, for soldiers in the Honolulu area. The "aloha spirit" was dispensed in many ways. For soldiers assigned to Battery Randolph or the sister battery at Fort DeRussy, downtown Waikiki was only a short walk. By the 1920s this area had become a busy center of entertainment and commerce. Though a longer walk or ride, the Army-Navy YMCA across from the Iolani Palace grounds, established with funds contributed by community members, became a popular hang-out for off-duty troops. While not well paid by mainland standards, the enlisted man in interwar Oahu was fairly well-off in comparison with many local civilians and in the competition for the attention of eligible local women, soldiers had an advantage resented by local males. Respectable local women would not date enlisted men, making the acquisition of female companionship difficult. In the 1930s, "Honolulu had a dozen Army-approved and inspected brothels like the New Senator and the Ritz where a soldier paid three dollars for sex with a white prostitute," according to Linn. Alcohol was a significant problem during prohibition. Repeal of the 18th Amendment and the opening of on-post beer gardens at Fort DeRussy and the other installations helped reduce the problem.

In an effort to promote individual physical, mental, and moral fitness and maintain unit readiness, to combat the less desirable off-post attractions, and to curb venereal disease, the Army went to considerable effort to promote a healthy lifestyle through athletic contests, to include competing with teams from other area installations, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Teams were fielded in baseball, football, and swimming. The interwar years saw much interest in boxing and there were competitions at battery level. Trophies were awarded at regimental, brigade, and department levels as soldiers traveled back and forth to Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks, Fort Ruger, and to the Pearl Harbor Naval Station.

There were a number of ceremonial events of note during the interwar years. Prince and Princess Tsuneori Kaya, members of the Japanese royal family, passed through Honolulu in 1934. A battalion of the 16th Coast Artillery including troops from Fort DeRussy's batteries

rendered honors when the couple arrived and again, when they departed.

In May of that same year, Battery A (assigned to Battery Randolph), 16th Coast Artillery, put on a performance for tourists on Waikiki Beach by firing two salvos at a target being towed at high speed off-shore. Battery A at that time served both Batteries Randolph and Dudley but in this instance, and for reasons of economy and to minimize aggravation to area residents, only the 6-in guns were fired. On 26 July 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt arrived aboard the heavy cruiser, U.S.S. Houston. In his honor a massive review was held at Schofield Barracks. Battery A officers and men of Fort DeRussy participated.

Finally, a change of Hawaiian Department command in March 1935 occasioned another large review. The incoming commanding general, Major General Hugh A. Drum, witnessed virtually the entire Hawaiian Separate Coast Artillery Brigade pass in review. The brigade, numbering approximately 2,500 men, constituted about 25% of the entire Coast Artillery Corps, and was organized into three regiments. The 16th CA Regiment (Harbor Defense), commanded by Col. George L. Wertenbaker, included personnel assigned to Battery Randolph.

In 1936 personnel of Battery Randolph and those of all other units of the Hawaiian Separate Coast Artillery Brigade were finally

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approved and authorized by General Drum to wear a distinctive shoulder sleeve insignia which had been designed by a brigade chief of staff. It consisted of an ellipse of scarlet rimmed with gold on which was a silhouetted outline of Diamond Head in black with a gold projectile superimposed on it in the center of the ellipse. Scarlet and gold were the Coast Artillery colors and the gold projectile was adopted from the CAC branch device.

In November 1940, Battery D at Fort DeRussy, which for some time had assumed sole responsibility for Battery Dudley, was relieved of these duties and assigned the mission of manning the increased number of searchlights and fire control stations of the Honolulu harbor defenses and additional searchlights sited in the Kaneohe Bay area. As a result, Battery A once again assumed responsibilities for Battery Dudley along with continued manning of Battery Randolph.

Despite the possibility of war looming, Battery Randolph's guns would not be fired with full-service charges until after the outbreak of hostilities, and then only for target practice. However the Army's troop strength in Hawaii underwent increases starting in 1935, suggesting a growing War Department concern with defense of the island. A moderate augmentation of the 16th Coast Artillery Regiment occurred in that year. On 28 November 1941, the Hawaiian Coast Artillery Command and Fort DeRussy received a War Department urgent message that war with

Japan was imminent. Throughout Oahu the Army was placed on alert with the primary concern being that of preventing sabotage by elements of the Japanese foreign-born (Issei) and Japanese-American (Nisei) populations which were viewed with official government suspicion. Guard details at Fort DeRussy's two batteries were increased and public utilities also were given extra security. The Japanese attack was launched and concluded without Battery Randolph firing, though by 8.20 AM on the morning of the attack the installation was fully alerted and personnel of Battery A had both the 14-in guns of Battery Randolph and the 6-in guns of Battery Dudley fully manned and ready to fire on a Japanese invasion fleet that was expected to appear imminently.

The Japanese attack, launched from aircraft carriers, signaled the beginning of the end for shore-based CA batteries. Battery Randolph's 14-in guns, unsuited for combating an aerial attack, would have a very limited remaining operational life.

**Note:** *The author gratefully acknowledges the help of Curator Judi Bowman of the museum in preparing this article which has made extensive use of research by historians including Brian McAllister Linn, the late William H. Dorrance, William C. Gaines, George A. Larson, and museum staff member Dorian Travers, all of whose published and unpublished work is housed in the museum's reference library. The George Van Horn Moseley Papers in the Manuscript Division, National Archives, were also used.*

## Why Bring in the Big Guns?

Potential U.S. Enemies at the Time of Ft. DeRussy's Construction (1909-1911)

By Robert E. Kramer

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the United States government was in the process of fortifying its major seaports and recently acquired overseas possessions. The Endicott Board of 1885 and the later Taft Board of 1906 had determined which cities to protect and which weapons to use. Honolulu was selected to receive new coastal defenses because of its close proximity to the newly built naval base at Pearl Harbor, which in itself was a main justification for

annexation of Territory of Hawaii by the U.S. just a few years earlier. Hawaii's strategic location made it a coveted prize to any country with global ambitions, a fact not lost upon by the other major world powers of the era having the greatest involvement in the Western Pacific areas, namely Great Britain, Japan, and Germany.

Great Britain had already developed a world-wide assortment of colonies, and as a

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result, had constructed the world's largest Navy of that time to ensure safe communication between the home country and its possessions during war. Because oil had not come into general use yet as a ship fuel in the early twentieth century, Great Britain needed facilities for coaling of its steamships, and Hawaii was an ideal location, sitting in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Japan, after its victory over Russia in 1905 in the Russo-Japanese war, was rapidly becoming the most industrialized power in the Far East, and consequently strived to find new raw materials and markets for its emerging industries. Therefore, it was seeking additional territories for itself as suppliers and markets.

The third world power with Pacific and Asiatic inclinations and a large Navy at the time was Germany. Although its main interests were in Europe and Africa, it did possess numerous islands and territories in the South Pacific, such as Samoa, the Caroline Islands, and the Marshall Islands.

While U.S. relations with Great Britain, Japan and Germany were relatively civil during the first decade of the twentieth century, the growing ambitions of the four countries portended conflict sooner or later. All these nations, including the U.S., were in the process of rapidly building up their respective navies to protect their overseas colonies and the sea lanes connecting them with the mother countries. Britain, of course, had maintained a world-wide naval presence for centuries and Germany maintained a substantial naval task force at Tsingtao, China, with two large cruisers and other supporting warships commanded by Admiral Graf Spee. The U.S. needed to maintain communications with its newly acquired (in 1898) possessions from Spain, namely Guam and the Philippines. Japan established itself as the major Asiatic naval power with its defeat of Russian naval forces in the war ending in 1905.

Given the strong presence of three dominant countries in the Pacific, it was simply prudent for the U.S. Government to allow for the possibility of armed conflict with any or any combination of these countries, all of whose

navies were building state-of-the-art battleships and battle-cruisers with main battery guns of 12 to 14 inch diameter. These ships were heavily armor-plated to protect their vital components such as engines and ammunition stores.

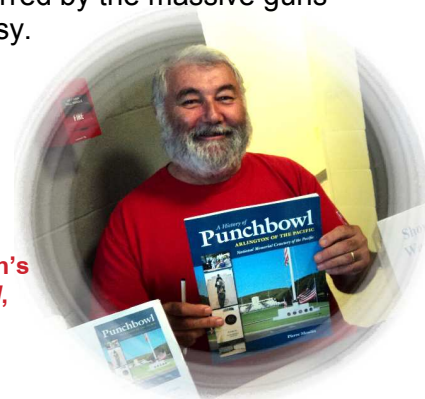
Therefore, any defensive guns in a coastal fort had to be equally effective as those of their opponent's. This was the reason that the enormous 14-in guns were chosen for Battery Randolph at Ft. DeRussy.

World War I broke out in 1914; the year Ft. DeRussy's big guns were first test fired. That same year, for logistical reasons, the German East Asiatic Squadron home. Most of the Squadron would be destroyed by a superior British task force at the Battle of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic, and its commander, Admiral Graf Spee, killed in that action.

While the U.S. was neutral until 1917, relations with Germany deteriorated almost from the beginning principally because of that nation's use of unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic area. When the U.S. finally joined the war, Germany emerged as the enemy and Britain and Japan as our allies. On the very day that the U.S. entered the war in April, 1917, a German cruiser, the SMS Geier, was seized in Honolulu harbor and the crew taken as prisoners of war.

As there were then few possible opponents in the Pacific area, Fort DeRussy's guns never fired in anger in that or any other war. The development of aircraft in the years before World War II largely made elaborate sea coast fortifications obsolete. When Hawaii was finally attacked by Japan in 1941, aircraft delivered the major blows undeterred by the massive guns sitting at Ft. DeRussy.

**Check out  
historian Pierre Moulin's  
new book, *Punchbowl*,  
a hot seller at the  
Museum Store.**





# Hawaii Army Museum Society

P. O. 8064

Honolulu, HI 96830-0064

To:

## Hawaii Army Museum Society News (HAMS)

### HAMS' 2010 Officers and Trustees

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### HAMS Events for 2010



**Gallery of Heroes**

March 5, 2010

**Golf Tournament**

June 25, 2010

**The Award Breakfast**

November 10, 2010

**HAMS Board of Trustees  
Meetings for 2010:**

Feb. 1, Apr 26, July 26, & Oct 25

**HAMS Executive  
Committee Meetings for 2010:**

Jan 25, Feb 22, March 15, April 19,  
May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16,  
Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, & Dec 20

*Meetings are held at noon at the  
Waialae Country Club*

**New hours of operation for the U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii  
and the Museum Store are:**

**Tuesday through Saturday from  
9 AM until 5 PM.**

**Museum Store:  
808-955-9552**

**Store Manager:  
Sheldon Tyau**