



THE BATTERY

SPRING 2012



The Fort Miles Historical Association is a nonprofit group that has its mission to preserve, protect, and defend all aspects of Fort Miles working with community and state stakeholders and other interested parties. The FMHA also has its goal to work as an active partner with the State of Delaware to develop the historical potential of Fort Miles.



Board of Directors

President

Dr. Gary Wray

Vice President

Bob Frederick

Secretary

Ted George

Treasurer

Merlin Beil

Board Members

Bev Dalecki

Dan Lyons

Joe Kosaveach

Joe Johnson

Bob Fellows

Brian Lindsay

Jack Goins

John Roberts

Harry Winn



The only photo of Battery Smith known to exist. Taken by Donald Hazen.

From the Desk of the President

By Dr. Gary Wray

Welcome to the Spring 2012 FMHA Newsletter! We have been very busy over the last six months with several new ventures. As John Roberts will discuss further in the Newsletter, our Bunker Buster crew has been very busy with many new additions to our Museum, including a new plot board and the installation of the HVAC geothermal system. Read more about those in John's column.

If you have been following our progress in the local press, you know that we achieved our goal of raising the necessary money for moving the battleship Missouri barrel #371 (middle barrel of turret one) from outside Norfolk Naval Base (St. Juliens Annex) to Fort Miles. For those not up on the story, it has always been part of our Fort Miles Strategic Plan to have a 16" gun at our gun park (we had two here during WWII in Battery Smith behind the Biden Center) and we have worked for years to be able to secure one of the 116 ton/66" long monsters for DE! But we had

no luck until last May when we found out that eight of the final 16"/50cal Mark VII barrels from the Iowa class battleships were on the ground near Norfolk Naval Base at St. Juliens Creek and were available. After learning that, our FMHA Board of Directors moved into action, working with DE State Parks, to make every attempt to get one of the barrels for our gun park at Fort Miles and for the state of Delaware. We (Jim Hall of Parks and me) wrote a logistical and financial plan and submitted for approval to the US Navy at the Washington (DC) Navy Yard for one of the Missouri barrels. And, when the Navy accepted our plan we then launched our fundraising activities!

These are not just any 16" gun barrels, but rather three of the eight at Norfolk were on the Missouri the day (September 2, 1945) that the Japanese delegation boarded her in Tokyo Bay to surrender to the Allied Powers (the Missouri barrels were replaced in the mid-1950's after the Korean Conflict). And now, thanks to the hard work and effort of a lot of folks, we are going to have a piece of that famous day and that famous ship in our Fort Miles gun park! With this addition, and the completion of our Fort Miles Museum, we will become a WWII destination!

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Nick and

Laurie Carter, Mike Rawl, Stu Bras, Bill Manthorpe, and several others of our Missouri Barrel Fundraising Committee, including members of the Delaware State Parks team, we went from \$0 on June 1, 2011 to \$122k by December 1, 2012! So Phase I of the effort has been a great success! Many thanks to the General Motors Foundation, Sussex County Council and over 100 donors, big and small, who contributed to make this happen both for DE and for Fort Miles.

Phase II of our fundraising will be for the next year or so to raise the necessary funds for restoration and final placement of the static display of our Missouri barrel. More about this later in the Newsletter.

We have several big events coming up for welcoming our new barrel to DE. It will leave the ground at Norfolk on the afternoon of March 6 for transit by rail in April across Chesapeake Bay on the railroad barge to Cape Charles and then up the peninsula to Georgetown DE for a big event on Monday April 16, 2012 from 1:30pm-4:30pm. Georgetown will shut down the Town Circle as it does for Return Day for the barrel and it will be stopped on the RR crossing at Rt. 9 (Market St) with the celebration on the Circle. After some speeches, we will march down the street led by the Sussex Tech Band and WWII reenactors to the barrel for

photo ops! It should be a wonderful day, marked by the return of several veterans who were on the Missouri that famous September day and some of the pilots that were involved in the famous flyover of the fleet that day.

After events on the Circle welcoming the barrel to Sussex County, the barrel will then move the 15 miles by the Delaware Coast Line RR from Georgetown to Lewes a couple of days later. She will cross over the swing bridge over the Lewes/ Rehoboth Canal and then be off loaded to a trailer for her final move into Cape Henlopen State Park and Fort Miles. On Saturday, April 28 2012 we will have our big event welcoming the barrel to CHSP/ Fort Miles and the official unveiling of the barrel at 1pm.

After all the festivities on Saturday April 28, the work begins on getting the barrel ready for final placement which will take at least two years to complete. We estimate that the Phase II of our fundraising we will need to raise \$250k to finish the project for the static display, including money for continuing upkeep of the barrel. If you would like to participate in Phase II of our Missouri Barrel #371, send your donation to FMHA, Box 52, Lewes, DE 19958. We have located the four big pieces we need for the static display (girder, slider, yoke and breech) at Dahlgren VA and over the next year will be working to both raise the money to bring them to Fort Miles and then to get them ready for the static display. When we are done with this barrel project we will have the best static display of a 16"/50 Mark 7 outside the one on the parade ground at Dahlgren... in other words, the best outside the US Navy! This display along with our completed Fort Miles Museum will make us a true WWII destination in the United States. If you want to contribute to our effort, and purchase a paver for the Missouri barrel, see the information included with this Newsletter. I would ask you to also visit the Missouri website at www.savemissourigun.org to find out more information.

While the barrel has taken a lot of our effort over the last several months, we have also been pressing ahead on the installation of the new state of the art HVAC geothermal system inside Battery 519, our museum. We were able to secure a Department of Energy grant last year for \$175k, working with the city of Lewes and Delaware State Parks. This system will allow us to use the bunker every day of the year and will make it more

available for tours, especially during the winter months. Our "bunker busters" work every Thursday and Friday under BOD John Roberts on important projects both inside and outside the bunker. Check John's column inside this newsletter for more information and the work that they have been doing recently to get the system, and many others, established.

We have also been heavily involved in getting our membership renewed for the next two years. If you have not renewed your membership Ted George, FMHA Secretary will be sending you a letter soon with a "gentle reminder." We have been calling old members and sending out "reminders," but this last letter will be the last you will receive if you have not renewed. We need all of our members with us as we move forward during these exciting times. Our dues still remain very low to keep membership high... still only \$20 for a two year membership... less than it costs to grab a fast food dinner. Your tax deductible contribution to FMHA assures us of the money for our "Bunker Busters" to have the funds to do the necessary things they do to get our Museum into the 21st Century! We are also involved in recruiting FMHA members for training as tour guides inside our Museum. If you would like to be trained as a tour guide, contact me at my email address (gdwray@hotmail.com) or call me at 302-645-0753. We have two upcoming training sessions: Saturday, March 31, 2-4pm at the Biden Center and the other on Wednesday evening, April 4 6-8pm also at the Biden Center. We would like to train at least 20 FMHA members as tour guides so if you are interested, please give me a call.

As I previously mentioned, April 28th is our big opening Spring event at Fort Miles. There will be lots of tours during the day, many re-enactors (including many Germans!), and lots of fun for all. We will have our Wall of Honor Ceremony at 3pm and the Barrel Dedication at 1pm. If you have not already purchased a paver for a loved one in our Wall of Honor(WOH), you should do so. There are not many places in the country where the service of our heroes can be recognized, and Fort Miles is one of those few spots. For \$200 (again, tax deductible) you can purchase a paver and participate in our WOH ceremony. Again, this contribution not only helps recognize our heroes but the money goes right back into our Museum work. We are including a WOH application in the Newsletter and BOD Bob Fellows does a wonderful job coordinating the program for FMHA. If you have any questions

about the WOH, you should contact Bob.

Speaking of our FMHA Board of Directors, I would like to them a pat on the back for all the time and effort they put into our organization as volunteers. Our group, you will remember, was chosen as the Governor in 2008 at the State of Delaware Volunteers of the Year. I am happy to report that we have continued to increase our volunteer hours since that time doing the work of the Association. Our BOD meets the third Saturday of every month to do the Associations business. If you would like to attend a meeting, you are welcome to do so. The meetings move around so you will need to contact me (gdwray@hotmail.com) to find out where the meeting will be located for a particular month. After our HVAC geothermal system is in place inside the Museum (Battery 519) which we project for the spring of 2012, all of our meetings will be inside the bunker.

So, as you can see, FMHA is continuing to be a very active member of our local Lewes community. Our group works hard on a variety of fronts to make our Fort Miles Historical Area one of the finest in the country and something all Delawareans can be proud. When FMHA was first created in August 2003 by co-founders David Main and Bob Frederick, with the able assistance of the late Delaware State Parks Historian Lee Jennings (and a little help from GDW), we have grown into a large group of several hundred, all supporting the goal of "preserving, protecting and defending" all aspects of Fort Miles. I am happy to report that in December, 2011, the Delaware Department of Tourism identified the top 50 most historic places in Delaware and Fort Miles was selected as one of the top 12 most historic places in Sussex County. So, due to the hard work and effort of our group, with able assistance and support of the folks in DE State Parks, we have gone from a dark, dank, musty critter-infested casemate to a wonderful Museum with a great gun park. We have much more to do and we hope that you will be with us as we create the best WWII Museum inside a WWII facility in the county. I look forward to you joining us on our exciting journey through both Delaware and United States history and I hope to see you at our two April 2012 events!

News From the Publicity Committee

By Bob Fellows



Lewes library display publicizing the 16" USS Missouri gun

The FMHA Publicity Committee completed its third display in the Lewes library. This recent display was to publicize the 16" Missouri gun being brought to the Fort Miles location. The first two displays (one at the Lewes library and one in the Ocean View library) used the M1901A1 Azimuth instrument as a centerpiece. Wooden fire control towers, 3-inch shells and a model of the U-858 German submarine complemented the exhibit.

The centerpiece of this latest display, in the Lewes library, was a large model of the battleship USS Missouri. This museum quality model was built and on loan by Mr. Neil Midkiff, Naval Academy graduate, Class of 1970. Also in that class was Mr. Nick Carter, who was responsible for obtaining this model. The publicity this display generated was far reaching and the timing was perfect. The display told the story of one of the 16" guns that will actually be displayed at Fort Miles on the April 28, 2012. This gun, #371, was on the USS Missouri during the WWII surrender ceremony, September 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay. Truly a piece of history now will be located at Fort Miles historic site.

The Wall of Honor (WOH) paver program is in full speed ahead! A total of 150 pavers have been purchased to date. Each engraved paver will be prominently displayed in Battery 519, America's first WWII Museum at an actual military site. The cost of each paver is \$200.00 and is tax deductible. The fourth WOH ceremony will be held at 3 PM on April 28, 2012.



Wall of Honor paver display

FHMA members, George and Dottie Wiker, have taken the lead to develop a biographical journal to tell the story behind each person on the paver. This journal will be located next to the paver display. Then, when visitors look at the paver, the paver will be able to speak to them through their story. Many stories have been received and can be read at the April 28th event inside Battery 519. This WOH paver campaign will help support what will ultimately be the best museum inside an actual WWII facility in our country.

My thanks to the Wiker's for their dedication in compiling this journal.

Coastal Bursts

From the re-enactors of the 261st Coast Artillery

Here we are at the start of another year at Fort Miles. It already in its third month promises to be a successful one.

My military duties have taken me away from Fort Miles on a full time basis as of January, but I still have the pleasure of seeing the incredible progress being made by the FMHA as I guide tours in 519 each weekend. I started working with the Fort Miles project in 2005, and came on as a full time interpreter for the site in 2009. For three years I have worked closely with our volunteers on a day-to-day basis, and it has been my honor and pleasure to do so. While I still remain a part of the project, I do miss seeing our intrepid crew every week as each Thursday and Friday they achieve their goals and set new ones to work toward. As you can see from John Roberts' article, the work being done by the "Bunker Busters" is truly staggering. I know I speak for everyone when I say "great job guys... keep up the excellent work!"

My focus for the last three months has been on the re-enactors of my unit, the 261st Coast Artillery and the event



planning for the April 28th and 29th re-enactment. This year's spring event promises to be an exciting one. With the help of FMHA member and 261st re-enactor Dr. Donald Hattier and 261st members Rob Riley, John Kelly, Scott Wallen and Anthony Valenti, this event will dwarf all events past. As of this newsletter date, we are expecting 100 re-enactors to include US and German units, no less than 10 pieces of military hardware (Jeeps, trucks, and half-tracks both US and German) and displays spanning the many different roles played by soldiers serving during World War Two. Of course Battery 519 will be open for tours, and we will be firing the 3 inch gun all weekend! The planning for this event has been

nothing short of daunting, taken head on by the aforementioned individuals. We hope that you'll come out and enjoy the result of their hard work.

Finally I would like to congratulate and say "THANK YOU" the entire membership of the FMHA, and everyone who so generously donated to the Missouri Barrel Project. Because of you we are able to bring another impressive and irreplaceable piece of American history to Fort Miles to be preserved and admired by generations. You are the people who are making this happen... the lifeblood of this project... and it wouldn't be possible without your support. On we go to a great 2012!

"Bits" From the Bunker Busters

By John Roberts and Joe Kosaveach

Restoration progress and projects

Folks, we've been rather busy inside Battery 519, and other areas. Our crew of dedicated and skilled volunteers are showing up regularly every Thursday and Friday, and we've added a few new members as well!

Bifold Door Project

During the war, there were a set of bifold doors at each end of the corridor. The gun rooms were at outdoor ambient conditions, while the rest of the battery was conditioned via a heating system and four dehumidification systems. These doors provided the environmental barrier between the two, allowing shells and powder to be stored at constant temperature and dry conditions.

These doors were removed shortly after the war was over. Fortunately, we have the original plans for these doors, and our crew has faithfully reproduced these, right down to the straight slot screws and the original style strap hinges! The latter was produced by modifying modern hardware to match the design on the drawings.

As of 2/29, two of the four panels are built, the other two panels are in progress, and one door has been hung on its new hinges. We expect these to be completed by our April event.

North Entrance Project

The plan is to put a door in the center of the wall of the north gun block, facing the ocean. This allows us full public access to the entire battery, and the public will get the full visual impact of the 420 foot long corridor.

We've augmented the security system. Now, the entire battery is monitored. Any break in from any of the access points will be immediately reported to the park rangers. We've also added additional electrical power for outdoor security lighting and some remote capability that will allow us to turn on the lighting from a single point near the north door. Site prep and door installation is expected to be completed by the April event.

Cable chase covers

The east wall of the corridor has a channel in it, originally used for

utilities. We're reusing it for that again, and we were leaving the ends open for the dehumidifiers. A nice idea, but left the project looking uncompleted. Now the entire cable chase is covered from one end to the other. We're leaving the units in the corridor, as they will soon be removed after the completion of the HVAC systems.

Communication recess covers

Along the corridor are four rectangular recesses, two in the east wall, two in the west wall. These recesses housed the terminations of the original communication systems. We are presently using these chases, along with the conduits embedded in the floor, for our period correct phones in the gun room, as well as modern commercial phone service and fiber optic lines.

Fred Noll has done an amazing job of recreating the mesh covers for these recesses as well as restoring the hinges. The original hinges were cut off flush with the concrete, and Fred's creativity found a way to reattach the appropriate hardware, bringing these features back to life.

Sound system in the gun room

We are going to install a 3000 watt sound system under the gun to replicate the sound of the gun being fired. Fred also did a great job of installing a grated floor under the gun barrel, below which will be mounted six concert grade speakers.

Reproduction M3 Plotting Table

One of our new volunteers, Dan Brown, is in the process of replicating the original M3 plotting board used in 519's plotting room. Dan has done an outstanding job of researching this feature, and is building an excellent and exceptionally faithful replica of the original plotting board. Now we'll be able to demonstrate faithfully how the firing solutions for our guns were actually calculated! Furthermore, the team is working on completing the plotting board in the orientation building as a teaching aid.

The Diorama

Mark Stanzilis started this project, and Mike Hills has joined in to build a diorama of the entire Fort Miles installation at Cape Henlopen as it was in 1942. This display is impressive, right down to the buildings, the towers, the roads and the tracks! Good work guys!

Searchlight repairs

Our 70 year old searchlight needed a major repair item: a new radiator! Over the years, the tubes had corroded through and many were plugged. As such, it would leave puddles of coolant and would occasionally overheat.

Thanks to Rick Ackerman, Tim Gladden and about \$1700 from our own coffers, we removed the old radiator (which weighs over 300 pounds!) and sent it off to the radiator shop. Bowen's in Seaford had a custom core made and spent three days cutting all the bolts that wouldn't come loose! The result looks great, they even fabricated new grill rods, as the original ones needed to be cut to take this apart. This is an all bolted construction radiator, and clearly was built to military specs. We gave it a test run at Joe Johnson's shop on February 23rd, and it ran flawlessly. The phone calls were pouring in from as far as west Georgetown, north of Rt 16 and Rt 1, and Dewey Beach! Since we have the only one on Delmarva (I believe), it wasn't hard to figure out whose it was!

Geothermal HVAC installation

Last year, we obtained a grant to install a geothermal HVAC system in Battery 519. Between the grant and a nice chunk kicked in by Parks, we have enough to install 3 of the 5 zones, along with the full well field.

One of our challenges was boring the holes through the walls of the bunker to allow the geothermal lines to go from the fields to the equipment. This was several days of backbreaking work, as this concrete is far stronger than what is typically used in normal construction. I can say, with authority, the rumor that inferior concrete was used is utterly false!

Fred Noll has also built new gates with grates for the muffler gallery ventilation chases. This will significantly improve security in these areas, as well as having a period correct appearance. We have the plans for these, but we needed to make some alterations to meet our ventilation requirements. Thankfully, these are subtle, and even the most discerning eye will have trouble telling these from the originals!

This system will provide heating and dehumidification to the entire building. Even without the additional zones, we'll have enough for the current number of people we expect. Temperature and humidity will now be constant,

con't on page 7

Have you ordered your Paver yet?

For the "Wall of Honor" at the Fort Miles Museum
LEWES, DELAWARE

Now you can support the new Fort Miles museum, receive a tax deduction and have your name or that of a loved one honored on a handsome brick paver. Each engraved paver will be prominently displayed in Battery 519, America's first WWII museum at an actual military site.

More than 10,000 visitors each year will see your paver, and we will send a tribute card to whoever you designate, telling them of this special honor.

The tax-deductible cost for each paver is just \$200, including delivery and installation in a well-lighted entrance area. This first phase of the "wall of Honor" will accommodate just 500 pavers and orders are being accepted on a first-come basis. Be sure to reserve your paver now by returning the form below.



About Fort Miles

America's first on-site WWII museum is located on the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the Delaware Bay, where massive armament was secretly installed during WWII to turn back possible invasions by German naval forces and protect the key port of Philadelphia.

Prominently displayed at the museum is one of Battery 519's two 12 inch cannons, large enough to propel a shell 17 miles, as

well as searchlights powerful enough to light the beach of Cape May, NJ. Visitors can also climb a coastal tower and tour an actual "cantonment" where soldiers lived and worked - an active city of 2,500 men and women. The coastal towers along the Delaware shoreline were the "eyes" of Fort Miles - strategically placed to triangulate readings if enemy ships were located. Your donation to the "Wall of Honor" helps support the Fort Miles museum.

YES, I want to purchase a paver at the Fort Miles Museum. All donations are tax deductible. Enclosed is my check made payable to: the Fort Miles Historical Association.

\$ _____ for _____ paver(s)

Engraving Instructions

LIMIT 3 LINES OF 16 CHARACTERS PER LINE- spaces, punctuation & symbols count as characters

1

2

name _____ phone _____

street _____ city _____

state _____ zip _____ email _____

Send orders to: FMHA Wall of Honor
c/o Horizon Philanthropic Services
P.O. Box 802
Lewes, DE 19958
Questions? Call 302.644.0107

Donations brought the Missouri's 16" barrel home...

...help us finish what we started.

- Yes, I would like to support the USS Missouri Project!

Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible gift of:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Ensign | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Lieutenant | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Rear Admiral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Commander | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 Admiral |

your name(s) as you wish to be listed		phone
street		city
state	zip	email

Cut along this line and mail to the address below:

Fort Miles Historical Association
PO Box 52
Lewes, DE 19958

Donors of \$500 or more will be given an on-site memorial paver and \$1,000 or more will also receive a certificate for framing.

Thank you for supporting the USS MISSOURI PROJECT and to help preserve the last remaining cannon from an important iconic American battleship.

Fort Miles Historical Association Board Members

Merlin Beil
Bev Dalecki
Bob Fellows
Bob Fredrick

Ted George
Jack Goins
Joe Johnson

Joe Kosaveach
Brian Lindsay
Dan Lyons

John Roberts
Dr. Gary Wray

Campaign Leaders

Nick Carter, *Chair*
Joe Johnson

William H.J. Manthorpe, Jr. — Capt., USN (RET)
Dr. Gary Wray

perfect for a museum setting.

It'll be nice to retire all those noisy basement dehumidifiers. Installation commenced in late January. Completion date is to be determined.

Restoration of Barracks T603

Given the expected turnout for the April event, we realized we won't have enough building space in the cantonment area. Our plan is to clean up and repower T603 as a mess hall, temporarily.

Thanks to Tim Phillips and the rest of the crew, T603 now has electrical power, and with that, all the buildings now have electricity! Next we need to clear the deck of the post WWII pipes, floor covering, remove the loose paint from the walls, do some structural repairs, etc. Not sure we'll get to the windows, but this should be a nice place to hang out and grab a bite!

And a hearty thanks to our crew!

Thanks go out to Harry Winn, Bob Fellows, Bob Wheatly, Fred Noll, Joe Kosaveach, Jack Hliva, Steve

Tarantolo, Dan Brown, Joe Johnson, Tom Anderson, Mike Hills, Rick Ackerman, Tim Gladden, Tim Phillips, Don Hattier, Gary Wray, Merlin Beil, Mark Stanzilis, and a whole host of others! If I forgot you, I do apologize deeply! The work these folks have done for us is nothing short of remarkable. It's the result of a deep passion for something important to our history.



Bifold doors



Restoration of Barracks T603



Grated floor under gun barrel



Searchlight repairs

Boring holes for geothermal lines



Thinking about joining the FMHA?

Help us preserve, restore and protect this remarkable site--become a member of the Fort Miles Historical Association simply by filling out the form below and mailing it with your check to the address listed below.

.....

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Please check one:

- General 261st Coast Artillery (life member) \$1,000.
- Colonel , 261st Coast Artillery \$500.
- Major, 261st Coast Artillery \$250.
- Captain, 261st Coast Artillery \$100.
- Small Business \$75.
- Dual/Family \$20.
- Individual \$15.
- Student \$10.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of: \$_____

Make Checks payable to:

Fort Miles Historical Association
Dr. Gary Wray, President
120 E. Wild Rabbit Run
Lewes, DE 19958

Cut along this line if only mailing one application

We are also seeking volunteers to learn how to give battery tours, and/or run our Sperry searchlight. Our goal is to have a substantial group of members that can assist the Fort Miles staff with tours and other related programs. Volunteers will receive all the training and informative materials needed. So, if you've taken a battery tour and feel it might be something you would like to help with, fill out this bottom form, and mail it to Dr. Gary Wray at the address just above. If you would like further information, please call Dr. Wray at 302-645-0753.

- Yes, I would like to become a volunteer!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Fort Miles Historical Association
120 East Wild Rabbit Run
Lewes, DE 19958



Battery Smith 16" gun