



# THE BATTERY

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SUMMER 2013

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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.



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

“push the vision.” Yes, Lee has not been with us for three years but he is constantly with us in our vision for what Fort Miles can be. I would also like to thank the FMHA Board of Trustees who have served to support the effort with both their votes and their pocketbooks and their “sweat equity.” I would also like to thank the staff and administration of DE State Parks as nothing would be happening with Fort Miles without their active and supportive efforts. And that support starts at the top with Chazz Salkin, the head of DE State Parks for these last many years. We have just learned that Chazz will be retiring in the Fall of 2013, and he will be missed by FMHA. We wish him well.

Our FMHA Board has been changing recently and we have welcomed some new faces. Frank Ali was recently elected to the Board and he brings a spark of energy and new perspectives. We have also asked George Ward to take up the mantle of Publicity and he has agreed. George did yeoman work in filming for FMHA the lifting, shipment, and arrival of the Missouri gun barrel in 2011. Others will soon also be asked to join our Board to continue to give us new “blood” and insights. I would remind our readers that our Board meets inside the Museum every third Saturday of the month at 830 am and all are invited.

Several members have stepped off the Board over the last year or so and I would like to thank each for their active support and contributions. Jack Goins served several years with

us and was a great addition and a great supporter. Jack, in his previous life, had been Cape Henlopen Park Superintendent and is known to many in our community. Bob Fellows also recently stepped down and Bob did great work with our Publicity program. Bob still works on our important Paver Program and does a great job with that important task for FMHA. Another new member, Mike Dunkes, is working actively with our Fundraising Committee, led by Board member Harry Winn, and Mike just finished a wonderful brochure on our Missouri Barrel/Static Display project that will become an important part of our new Museum. Board member John Roberts continues his sterling work with the “Bunker Busters” and those guys have just finished “harvesting” several tons of copper wire that we are going to turn into cash for some displays inside the Museum. If you would like to join John and the “Busters” and give Fort Miles some of your valuable “sweat equity” contact either John or me and start the process. Any and all are welcome to join us in working inside the Museum with the multitude of projects that the group is presently working on.

Over the last two years we have received great support from our DE Legislature. We have given tours of our Museum to many of them and our efforts working with them have paid off with their active financial support. In 2012 we were able to receive \$250k in the Bond Bill for planning our Museum and historical complex.

Working with State Parks staff, we used that money to hire the Becker Morgan Architects in Dover to be the lead architect on our project. We also asked the PRD group from Alexandria VA to help us with Museum design and a marketing team to help us work on a marketing plan for our Museum and complex. We met several times last year and last spring and I am happy to report that, in the most recent session of the General Assembly, we received another \$250k to help us complete our planning. Thanks to the efforts of several local Legislators, we also received \$70k to bring the remaining important pieces of the static display we need to complete our final spectacular display of the Missouri Barrel. Those big pieces are at Dahlgren VA and it is our plan to have them delivered here to Fort Miles before the end of the year. So, the DE Legislature has been very good to us over the last two years, thanks to hard work and effort of lots of members of FMHA. The Legislators know now what we are all about in our goal to establish the best WWII Museum inside a WWII facility in the country. And we are well on our way to completing that goal! Much remains to be accomplished, but lots has been done over the last ten years!

On Wednesday, August 14 our FMHA team met with Becker Morgan

## Meet Our New Publicity Chairman By George Ward

I was appointed chairman of the publicity committee at the FMHA board meeting July 20, 2013. Gary Wray asked me to introduce myself to FMHA members.

I grew up in the Baltimore area and developed an interest in history and photography. In high school at Gilman, I was a member of the Civil War Club, the Photography Club and on the audiovisual committee.

At University of Richmond, I joined the newspaper staff and worked at the school radio station. In my junior year in the business school, I started working part time at WRVA-TV, which became WWBT, as a news film editor and news photographer. I was hired full time at WWBT before joining

Architects, our marketing team and Parks staff in an all day meeting to have our first “look” at the Museum entrance and the final placement of Missouri Gun Barrel static display. Wayne Sharp, lead architect of BM walked the group through a 3D look at the Museum entrance and the static display right outside and, in a word, it is going to be spectacular! We are about a year or so from “moving dirt”, but the plans are exciting! We will be informing our community of the plans later in the fall of 2013. We will have some artist renderings of what the Museum and the exciting entrance will look like at our October 19 Open House at the Museum from 10a-4p.

As I mentioned in the above paragraph, we will be holding our Tenth Anniversary Open House on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Museum. We would invite all of our FMHA Family to come out and see what new things have been done inside the Museum and also see the most recent plans of what we have in store for the near future. At 3pm in the South Powder Room we will hold a Wall of Honor induction ceremony for those folks who have purchased pavers in the recent year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers over the years who

WMAR-TV Channel 2 in Baltimore, where I was a videographer for 26 years. I always enjoyed sharing Baltimore's great history with new reporters, such as where the first blood of the Civil War was shed, or how railroading began in Baltimore. I retired from WMAR in 2003 and started a video production company with my wife, Ann.

Ann will work on publicity for the fort. She majored in journalism at University of Maryland and was on the staff of the Diamondback, the campus newspaper. After graduation, she was a reporter/copy editor at the Baltimore Afro-American before joining United Press International in the Baltimore bureau. She closed the Baltimore bureau of the financially troubled UPI in January 1992 when she was hired as a copy editor for The (Baltimore) Sun. She worked at The Sun until she retired in 2003.

have worked both inside and out of Fort Miles to get us to the exciting place we are right now. Our “Bunker Busters” led by John Roberts have done wonders and they give of their time and effort every Thursday and Friday working on important projects. If you would like to join them, contact either me or John and come and pitch in! I would also like to thank member Harry Winn for his yeoman efforts over the last year both working with the “Bunker Busters” but also working on several important Board duties such as his working directly with Parks staff in updating our important MOU with Parks and his detail work in working with both Parks and the USN in securing the final pieces of the Missouri Barrel Project.

So, we are at a “sweet spot” right now with FMHA. The State Legislature has recognized our hard work and effort and is now supporting us financially with our Museum planning. Our State Parks partners have been very supportive and active with us, shoulder to shoulder, to develop the best WWII Museum inside a WWII facility in the country. It is an exciting time and much has been accomplished over the last ten years, but much is still to be done to realize Lee Jennings vision! I would like to thank everyone for all the support over the last ten years and just watch us in the next ten!!

We moved to the Milton area in 2010 for many of the same reasons other retirees do. We heard Gary Wray speak about the effort to save the Missouri barrel at the Milton Historical Society. We made a donation and I joined FMHA. I told Gary I would like to volunteer. When he learned of my background, I was recruited to shoot video of the gun lift and its transportation to Delaware.

I have also helped, in a limited way, with the Bunker Busters and enjoy getting to know them and the history of Fort Miles.

We look forward to promoting Fort Miles as it becomes a world-class museum.

## Wilmington University Retreat at Fort Miles

By George Ward

About 20 Wilmington University faculty and staff attended an annual retreat Monday (Aug. 4) in an underground bunker at World War II era Fort Miles in Cape Henlopen State Park.

Participants from the university's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences discussed meeting strategic goals for the upcoming year; reviewing faculty credentials and professional experiences; encouraging faculty participation in development activities; and continuing to foster relationships with partner schools.

Deb Berke, the university's Director of Psychology Programs, explained why the group held its retreat at Fort Miles. Her husband, John Roberts, is a board member of the Fort Miles Historical Association and head of the "Bunker Busters," volunteers working to restore the fort to its World War II appearance.

"This is such an interesting place. I knew the fort was holding events,"

she said. "We wanted to do something different. It would be great if we could learn something. We are educators."

Dr. Gary D. Wray, president of the association, welcomed his Wilmington University colleagues, telling them he has been teaching history at the university since 1987. He told the association's history, saying it started 10 years ago with four members and now has 320.

The group's goal is "to create the best World War II museum in the best World War II facility in the country," Wray said.

Fort Miles was built in the early days of the war and housed more than 2,000 men and women who guarded the Delaware Bay and cities such as Wilmington from enemy surface ships. It was armed with 16-inch, 12-inch and smaller guns.

After watching a video of the fort's history, the WU group took a tour of the bunker led by Joe Kosaveach, an association board member and a Bunker Buster. Kosaveach showed the educators a 12-inch gun in the bunker, an anti-aircraft gun recovered from a German U-boat sunk off the Rhode

Island coast in 1945 and other exhibits. Chris Trowbridge, dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, said the university offers classes at 14 locations in Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland, including Dover Air Force Base and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst military facility in New Jersey.

The social sciences college offers undergraduate programs in legal studies, organizational dynamics, government and public policy, criminal justice, psychology and behavioral sciences as well as graduate degrees in counseling, human services, administration of justice and homeland security, he said.

"The master's degree in homeland security is one of the reasons we are at McGuire," Trowbridge said. "We're always looking for new ways to match students with the right degree. It really is about providing access to great programs and giving students the opportunity to succeed."

"Students from all over the country can now take courses and programs online, with the same expert instructors and real-world academics as in the classroom," he added.



FMHA President Gary Wray addressing the group and telling them of the history and future of Ft. Miles.

Photo Credit: George Ward



FMHA board member Joe Kosaveach telling the group about the mines that were placed at the mouth of Delaware Bay to prevent enemy warships from entering during WWII. Photo Credit: George Ward

## "Bits" From the Bunker Busters

By John Roberts and Joe Kosaveach

Folks, things have been busy around Battery 519. We've had several projects in the works.

### Power room carpeting

Thanks to Frank Ali, our theater is now carpeted! Frank managed to get the industrial grade carpeting donated, and all we had to do was pay for installation. Not only does this cut down in the reverberations even more than our new ceiling, it makes for a more comfortable floor. As such, we have made this area off limits as a shop space, and thanks to Frank, he donated a nice vacuum cleaner to help us maintain this floor!

### Revelator restoration

Fred Noll has restored the Revolver. This is the rusty hulk in the south gun room. We're still not sure what it was used for, but now, it looks new, and most importantly, it's fully operational! I even went for a ride on the thing to change a light bulb. So, the first serious load was a person. Nice work!

### Powder stretcher

Jack and Steve have started work on the powder stretcher. This is how the powder bags were transported from the powder rooms to the gun rooms. Alas, we don't have the original plans for this item, so, we spent over an hour going through the Fort Saulsbury training video, collecting as many details as we could. As an example of their work, these guys, along with others on our team, built the bifold doors at the south end of the corridor.

### Flak 38 exhibit

Thanks to Joe Kosaveach, Steve, Jack, Fred and others, the proper support has been made, including cutting the recesses into the decking for storage. A shell catcher has also been added. And, thanks to Don Hattier, we have spent 20mm shell casings in the shell catcher. It's looking better all the time.

### WWII Telephone system

We now have an ample supply of EE91

telephones! These were used in each gun room, each plotting room, and in all of the towers. Additionally, we have a period correct, and more to the point, a functional switchboard. As of now, we can communicate between the plotting room and the gun room.

There is also a sound system in place. This allows visitors in the gun room and the plotting room to hear the entire phone conversation from both sides. This will bring the entire plotting and firing operation to life.

### Portable plotting table

Thanks again to Dan Brown and his outstanding work; he is responsible for our full size plotting table as well as the tower model, he's now building two portable plotting tables (one of which is very nearly complete). These will go out to schools and help us take the Fort Miles experience to a larger audience.

### HVAC update

As of this entry, Battery 519 is dry and warm. We've had some challenges with the controls of this system, as hardly anyone tries to maintain the environment in a cave. Thanks to some creative engineering and experimental controls setup, we succeeded at meeting our temperature and humidity targets. By the time you read this, the final setup will be in place, and these issues will be put to bed.

The air in the Battery no longer smells like a moldy basement, it smells clean. The air is at a constant 50% relative humidity and about 70 degrees. We can actually sit through a movie in shorts and T shirts and are quite comfortable.

The next goal is to install systems in the north end of the Battery. The present design takes this to the north end of the north shell room. This is, as with everything, dependent on funding.

### Burster apron drains

One of the most notable features on Battery 519 are the burster apron overhangs. These protect the gun emplacements from incoming enemy fire.

At the top edge of these aprons is a gutter. Its purpose is to keep rainwater from running over the edge and along the bottom surface. At each end of these gutters is a downpipe. This conducts rainwater away from the retaining walls and away from the gun emplacement.

When we got to this building, none of these drains worked, and one of downpipes was missing. Furthermore, all of the pipes had come loose from the building and were haphazardly reattached in years past.

We were able to obtain the new piping to match the originals, and more importantly, we were able to locate cast conduit clamps that are similar to what was there originally.

These are now cleared out, reattached to the concrete in a manner similar to the originals, and the tops of the pipes are regouted to the burster apron. This will help keep the rainwater drainage away from the glass in the south gun room and away from whatever we construct for the north gun room opening.

### Copper harvesting

We had an opportunity to salvage a significant amount of abandoned underground copper cable. This was located along Igloo Road, and was installed in the early 1960s to supply power to the SOSUS operation located in Battery Smith, Battery Herring, and the present day Biden Center, as well as other locations. Over time, the overhead power lines feeding this run were aging, and this was abandoned in the early 1980s.

When we looked into this, we discovered over 12,000 feet of heavy gage copper cabling. Also, Joe Johnson had a contract to install electrical power to an atmospheric monitoring station behind Battery Smith, and he discovered another abandoned power line.

Thanks to excellent cooperation between FMHA and the Parks maintenance staff, we have been able to pull over half of this cable out of the ground. Our crew, with an investment in a powered wire

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# Have you ordered your Paver yet?

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



### 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.

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.

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:

\$100 Ensign                       \$1,000 Captain

\$250 Lieutenant                       \$5,000 Rear Admiral

\$500 Commander                       \$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  | Ted George  | Joe Kosaveach | John Roberts  |
| Bev Dalecki  | Jack Goins  | Brian Lindsay | Dr. Gary Wray |
| Bob Fellows  | Joe Johnson | Dan Lyons     |               |
| Bob Fredrick |             |               |               |

### Campaign Leaders

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Nick Carter, <i>Chair</i> | William H.J. Manthorpe, Jr. — Capt., USN (RET) |
| Joe Johnson               | Dr. Gary Wray                                  |

stripper, recovered 5420 pounds of copper, with a reclamation value of \$15,555.40! These monies are in a state account, earmarked just for Fort Miles. The plan is to use these monies to make replica 12 inch shells for the south shell room and start on the reinstallation of the overhead monorail system to deliver these shells from the shell room to the gun.

This represents an outstanding collaboration between FMHA and the bunker busters and the staff at

CHSP as well as Parks management. This is a shining example of what can be accomplished with a good partnership. Expect to see more of this in the future!

**As an observation from our legislators**

As Gary will elaborate, we had a number of legislators come through Battery 519 as a tour to see what this place was all about. Everyone was seriously impressed with what they saw, and even more so when they discovered how few resources we had

to accomplish all of this. This went a long way to getting funding for our final product.

It's a great thing when our efforts are appreciated in such a productive manner, and something all of us should be very proud!



## 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 level, (life member) \$1,000.
- Colonel level, \$500.
- Major level, \$250.
- Captain level, \$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 \_\_\_\_\_

**News from the Fort Miles Staff**  
**By Shawn Heacock**

As I sit and type this column, it's a rainy, wet Thursday with very little going on. The park is slow and even my office is quiet. I know it won't last long, summer is in full swing and people will be here to fill the park this weekend. But for the moment the quiet is nice. It has given me time to look back on this last year at Fort Miles and our programming successes.

Delaware State Parks' fiscal year starts on July 1, which means that I now have all of last year's numbers. In FY2013, Fort Miles provided 258 programs with a total attendance of 6,303. Of those programs, 149 were for private and school groups with a total attendance of 1,909. The Orientation Building had 8,830 visitors who got information about Fort Miles from our interpreters. These are good numbers, and I hope that the upward trend will continue through the coming year, provided the weather starts working with us.

Speaking of attendance, this is the first newsletter since our April re-enactment. On April 27, about 50 re-enactors, portraying both American and German soldiers during World War II, set up the barracks, practiced drills, worked the guns and relived the surrender of U-858. The public came

out in force to see them; we estimate around 1,500 people attended the event with almost 700 touring Battery 519! It was one of the biggest events that we have ever had at Fort Miles and none of it would have been possible without the volunteer commitments of FMHA and the 261st Coast Artillery re-enactors. I've been making plans for the next big spring event since the morning of April 28; I think it's going to be even better. Keep your eyes and ears open for updates as we move through the fall.

One of the best ways to keep in touch with the goings on at Fort Miles is to 'Like' us on Facebook (we are the FORT MILES - all capitals - page). I've been posting modern-day and historic photos and working to build an online community. Another interesting thing on the Facebook page is that volunteer researcher Mike Hamilton has been putting up photos of some of the post-WWII uses of Fort Miles, including never-before-seen photos of the Bumblebee Rocket Program that took place at Battery Herring around 1945-46. This early rocket program had a great influence on the development of new weapons systems. I hope Mike keeps up the good work and I am very glad that he is sharing all of his knowledge.

Well this column is starting to get a bit wordy, so I will just leave you with a couple of new things that we are working on. First, I have been

talking to the Diamond State Ghost Investigators, the group that does the very successful paranormal tours of Fort Delaware. They are interested in expanding their operation to include a weekend here at Fort Miles. I'm excited for the possibility, since I believe it will get a different group of people interested in the history of Fort Miles and really expand our attendance.

Second, The Lewes Educational Coalition, a group of Lewes museums and educational sites, has arranged for a group of 32 teachers to take a tour of many of the sites in Lewes and learn what we can offer for educational field trips. Fort Miles and the Seaside Nature Center received a bump in field trip attendance from this group last year and I hope that this year we will do even better!

Finally, with the help of a new graphic designer, Fort Miles has had new templates designed for our educational signs and waysides. Over the next few months we will be researching, writing and placing new signs throughout the cantonment area and Battery 519.

I thank all of you for the support that you give Fort Miles. Without a group of dedicated supporters and volunteers, this site would not be able to operate. I look forward to the successes of this ongoing partnership.



The cantonment area before restoration work started. Notice the fence and tree in the right hand corner.



The center rear entrance of Battery 519 before the trees were cut down and the doors were replaced.



Our 12 inch gun before being restored and brought into the Battery.

**Old Photos of Battery 519 from 2004**



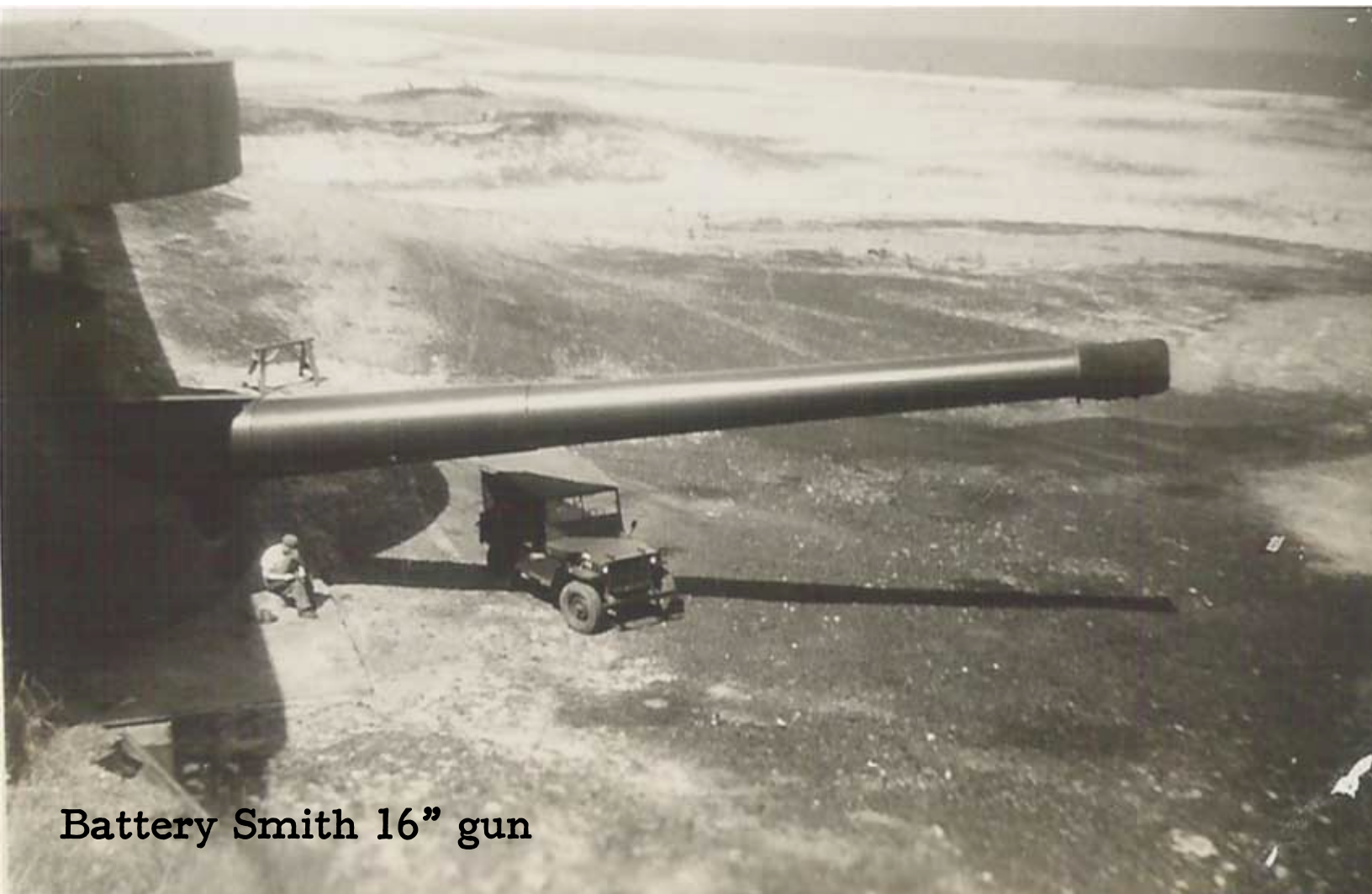
Standing around the center of the battery looking towards Gun Block 2. These are the remnants of one of the rooms that the Navy added after the war.



Standing in front of the Shell Room for Gun Block 2, looking up the hallway towards the the gun room that now houses our 12 inch gun. This is one of the rooms that the Navy added after the war.



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



Battery Smith 16" gun