



Eye on the Delaware

The Newsletter of Fort Mott State Park



21st Coast Artillery
HQ Battery

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2006

Special Days of Interest:

- **June 17th**
1pm
Army's Birthday and
All Access Tour
- **July 22nd**
11am until 4pm
Coast Defenses Day
- **August 5 & 6**
10am until 3pm
School of the Soldier
- **August 19th**
1pm
Aiming the Guns

Inside this issue:

- Looking for Volunteers! 2
- This Spring and Summer at Fort Mott 2
- Pictures from Coast Defenses Day 05 2
- Memorial Day And Fishing Derby Pictures 3
- New at the Helm 3
- Always on the Lookout 3
- New Aerial Photograph of Fort Mott 4

Move Over 7th, Here Comes the 21st Coast Artillery

On Saturday July 9th 2005, at noon a small ceremony was held behind Battery Arnold. The ceremony marked the change of units stationed at Fort Mott from Battery E, 7th Coast Artillery to Headquarters Battery 21st Coast Artillery. Although taking place 65 years after the actual ceremony happened, it allowed the public to see the drill and ceremony the U.S. Army is steeped in.

The ceremony was conducted by Lieutenant Colonel Shawn Welch, Major John Lassiter and Captain Jonathan Prostak, each portraying personnel from regimental command. At noon the detachment of the 7th Coast Artillery marched in to have their detachment flag and distinctive unit crests changed to reflect the new designation as the 21st Coast Artillery.

After the ceremony, the fortifications were open for tours and the many locations were staffed by uniformed personnel. B.W. Smith of the

Coast Defense Study Group brought items from his personal collection for display. In all, over 1,400 visitors enjoyed the day at Fort Mott.

This year's Coast Defenses Day will be held on July 22 from 11am until 4pm. This year's theme is the preparation of Fort Mott for World War Two. Between 1938 and the outbreak of World War Two, many upgrades were conducted at Fort Mott. An improved telephone

system and work on Battery Arnold's guns are two projects that were completed.

A new event this year on August 5 and 6 will be the School of the Soldier. This event, open to children under 15, is going to allow participants to "join the Coast Artillery Corps" for a weekend. Training on marching and what it meant to be a soldier in the Coast Artillery Corps and be stationed at Fort Mott will be covered.

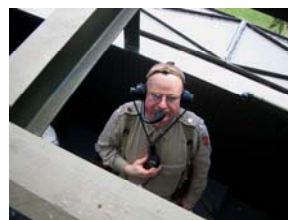


HQ Battery (Detachment), 21st Coast Artillery
ILT A. Grant, SSG G. Weaver, SGT S. Turner, PFC L. Winchell, PVT P. Morrill, ISG M. Murray, PVT M. Bonaccorsi & PVT T. Minton

Pictures from July 9th, 2005



B.W. Smith demonstrating the proper use of telephone equipment.



LTC Welch with his EE-70 Head Telephone in the Fire Control Tower.



Cadets Charlie and Jeffery Dougherty helping out with logistics.

Looking for Docents, Guides and Living History Personnel



FORT MOTT WANTS YOU! Fort Mott and the State Park Service are looking for volunteers to help with day to day activities as well as special events.

Currently, we are looking for anyone with an interest in history. We are also looking for those who enjoy providing living history.

Training for giving tours will be provided and if you are interested in living history, we will show you how to get involved during one of our work weekends or events.

If you are interested, please contact the staff of Fort Mott at: (856) 935-3218, email: ftmott@comcast.net or just stop by and fill out an application.



Quotable Quotation:

When a thing is done, it's done. Don't look back. Look forward to your next objective.

- General George C. Marshall

This Spring and Summer at Fort Mott

This Spring and Summer will see the return of many popular events.

One of the most popular reoccurring programs is the All Access Tour where we take visitors into parts of the fortification that are normally locked up. For the All Access Tours we ask that you bring a flashlight to help you see in some of the dark areas of the batteries. The dates for the All Access Tour are 9 April and 26 August. Although only two dates are currently listed, look for more to be added to our event calendar.

On Saturday, June 17th at 1pm, join us for cake to cele-

brate the U.S. Army's birthday to be followed by an All Access Tour.

This year's Coast Defenses Day will held be on Saturday, July 22. This years theme is going to be the preparation of Fort Mott for World War II. The event will take place from 10am to 4pm.

A new event, School of the Soldier, is for children who want to be honorary members of the Coast Artillery Corps for a weekend. Pre-registration is required for the event.

The Fort Mott Fishing Derby will be held on Sunday, September 17th. Pre-

registration is required on this event also.

Look for additional living history programs at Cape May Point State Park over the summer provided by Fort Mott staff.

ATTENTION!
Guided Tours of the Tower and the fortifications are Available!

If you would like a guided tour of Fort Mott please stop in the Welcome Center and inquire when the next one will take place.

More pictures from Coast Defenses Day 2005



2nd Lieutenant Sara Pompper of the Army Nurse Corps makes sure the men of HQ Battery stay healthy during the event.



Under the guidance of First Sergeant Mike Murray, the detachment practices drill and ceremony before the ceremony.



Major John Lassiter arrives for duty from McDonough, Georgia.

Memorial Day 2005



A group of Civil War re-enactors march to Finns Point National Cemetery to hold a small ceremony.



Members of Fort Mott's staff raise the flag to full staff at noon.

Get Hooked! 2005 Fishing Derby Photos



The Derby's Winners Circle showing their prizes



A young fisherman displaying his catch.



With some help, a young lady casts her line into the river.



Despite the heat, many families come out



A young angler bringing a fish to be measured.

New at the Helm: Superintendent Vince Bonica

In early September, Fort Mott State Park had its own change of command. After two years as Superintendent of Fort Mott, Dean Cramer turned over the reins to Vince Bonica. Superintendent Bonica is currently the Superintendent of Cape May Point State Park and will also add Fort Mott State Park to his area of responsibility.

Superintendent Bonica is a native of Metuchen, New Jersey and a graduate of Unity College in Maine. Prior to working for the State Park Service, Superintendent Bonica worked as a ranger for

Somerset County Parks. It was while working there that Superintendent Bonica worked with a former Fort Mott superintendent, Superintendent Patricia Cianflone.

Joining the State Park Service in 2003, Superintendent Bonica's first assignment was to Liberty State Park. In 2004 he transferred to Cape May Point State Park.

Now with seven months under his belt, some of the projects he looks forward to are the interior restoration of the Post Administration Building (BLDG 9) and the fabrica-

tion of shell carts for display and interpretive purposes.



Fort Mott's new Commanding Officer, Vince Bonica

Always on the Lookout

Did Great Uncle George or Grandpa Jim serve in the Army at Fort Mott? Didn't you used to have this old picture of the soldiers around one of the guns at Fort Mott? Well, if you think you have anything Fort Mott related, we would really appreciate to talking to you!

This past year has been very good to us at Fort Mott State Park. We have had two people come in and share some of the photographs of their

relatives who once called Fort Mott home.

For everyone who is hesitant to part with their cherished heirlooms, all we do is scan your pictures into the computer while you watch. We will even give you a copy of your pictures on a CD if you would like.

It is from pictures and other items that we are able to fill in some of the holes we have in Fort Mott's history.

Fort Mott was more than a military base, it was a home to hundreds of soldiers and their families. There are many great stories out there about what happened at Fort Mott and it is through people's collections that these stories can be told.

So, if you have any photos or memorabilia on Fort Mott, let us know. Thank you in advance.

Guarding the Delaware River since 1896

FORT MOTT STATE PARK

Fort Mott State Park
454 Fort Mott Road
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Phone: 856-935-3218

Fax: 856-935-7818

E-mail:

ftmott@comcast.net



Located in Pennsville, New Jersey, Fort Mott State Park is the site of a former U.S. Army coastal defense fort. Established in 1896, Fort Mott was built to strengthen the defenses of the Delaware River. Fort Mott consisted of five gun batteries ranging in size from 3-inch rapid fire guns to the massive 12-inch rifles on disappearing carriages which could fire a thousand pound projectile 9 miles down river. An army base until 1944, Fort Mott now provides recreational activities as well as historic structures and fortifications. The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail's Delsea Region Welcome Center is located in the former Ordnance Building which provides local and site specific displays.



NOTE:

**FERRY WILL CEASE REGULAR SERVICE TO
FORT DELAWARE, SUNDAY, 30 JULY, 2006**
REGULAR SERVICE WILL RESUME IN 2007

SPECIAL NIGHT BOAT ON JULY 29TH AND AUGUST 19TH AT 7PM
Call Ft Delaware for reservations: 302-834-7941

New Aerial Photo of Fort Mott



New aerial photograph located at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

This photograph was taken on September 4th, 1936. Notice the guns of Battery Arnold and Battery Harker are still emplaced and are "in battery" (up). The building to the right is one of the two barracks for the soldiers stationed at Fort Mott. In 1936 Fort Mott was in "Caretaker Status".

Fort Mott on the Web
[http://www.state.nj.us/dep/
parksandforests/parks/fortmott.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/fortmott.html)

Other Sites to Check Out:

www.cdsg.com

[www.armygroundforces
.org](http://www.armygroundforces.org)

www.ftmac.org

