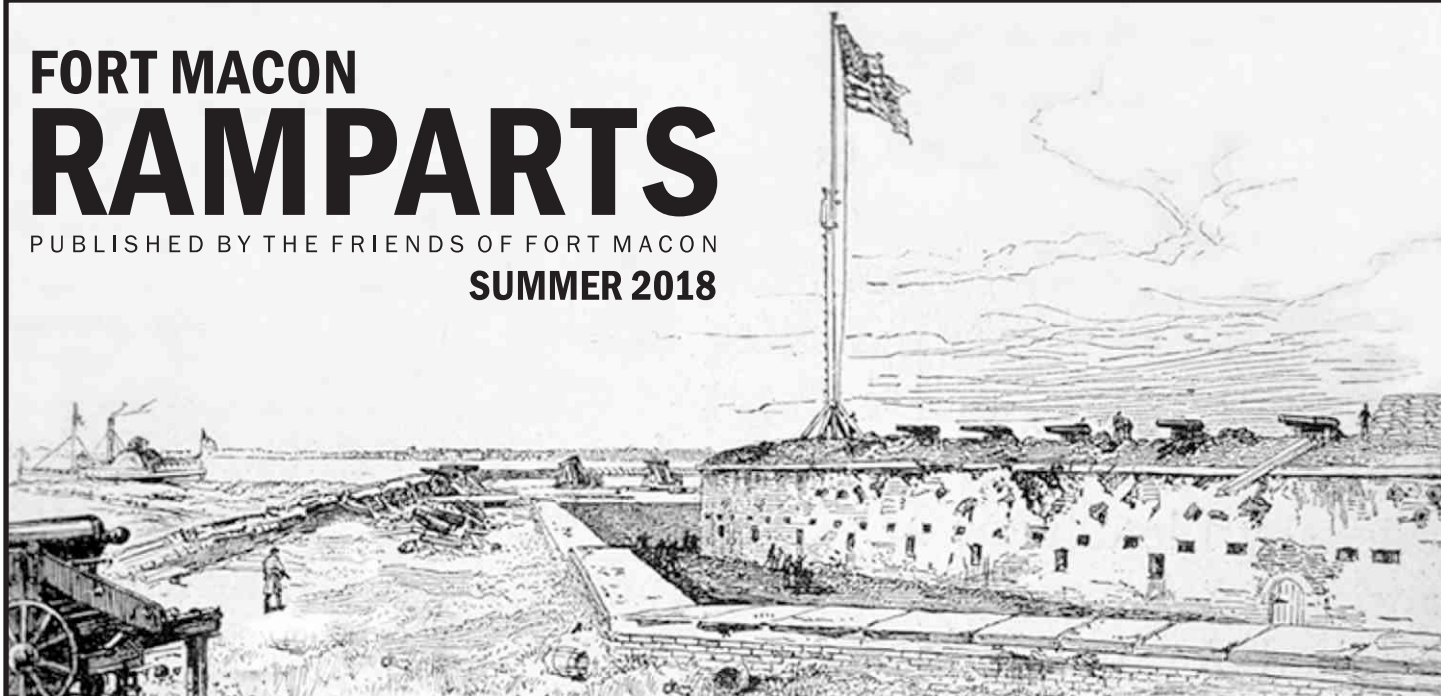


# FORT MACON RAMPARTS

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF FORT MACON

SUMMER 2018



## In this issue:

Fort Macon and  
World War II in  
Pictures  
*Paul Branch*

Membership Dues

Message from Friends of  
Fort Macon President  
*Cindi Davia*

Monthly Lunch Meetings

Our Business/Professional  
Members

What's Happening?

## Fort Macon and World War II in Pictures

*Paul Branch*

Recently, Fort Macon State Park has begun doing more interpretation of the U.S. Army occupation of Fort Macon in World War II. Many park visitors only associate Fort Macon with the War Between the States, so the mention of the army using the fort in World War II sometimes leads to blank stares. "Why would we need Fort Macon in World War II," visitors frequently ask. In actuality, the army leased the fort and park from the state of North Carolina for the duration of the war emergency and actively occupied them from December, 1941 to November, 1944. The army's mission in doing so was to guard Beaufort Harbor, the state port, naval facilities and merchant ship anchorages in the surrounding area from the threat of small-scale attacks, coastal raids and possible landings from German U-boat submarines. Artillery positions, searchlights, plotting towers, military roads and barracks were established in the park, while the old fort served as headquarters and harbor entrance control post. Additional defenses were also established on Cape Lookout. First and last, elements of the 244th, 54th, 2nd, and 246th Coast Artillery regiments occupied the park and its defenses during the course of the war. As it would turn out, however, German U-boats did not attempt to engage the defenses during the war and operated instead against shipping offshore.

What follows is a small sampling of the more than 300 photographs in the Fort Macon State Park archives concerning World War II that were donated to the park by veterans who served at the fort or were copied from their originals. These photographs illustrate an uncertain time when war was not just "over there", but was also right here just off our coast.

With the end of the war in 1945, the army removed all traces of its occupation and returned Fort Macon State Park to the state of North Carolina the following year.

\*\*\*\*\*

The date on your mailing label  
indicates the month and year  
that your membership  
expired or will expire

\*\*\*\*\*



*This photo, taken at the same time as the previous photo, shows piles of lumber and building supplies in the parade ground as civilian contractors brought in by the army busily install flooring, doors and windows in the fort casemates to make them suitable for the soldiers to live in.*



*Two weeks after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor propelled the U. S. into World War II, the army dispatched coast artillery soldiers to take over Fort Macon State Park for the duration of the war emergency. Here soldiers of First Battalion, 244th Coast Artillery, are moving into the fort in December, 1941, and setting up their living quarters in the fort casemates.*



*One of the guns of Battery B, First Battalion, 244th Coast Artillery being placed into position in the sand dunes a few hundred yards southwest of Fort Macon, December 24, 1941. The battalion was armed with eight Model 1918 G.P.F. 155 mm guns in two batteries (A and B). Battery A was emplaced near Pine Knoll Shores while Battery B took position in the dunes south of the present maintenance area of Fort Macon State Park.*

*A gun crew of Battery B, 244th Coast Artillery, preparing their 155 mm gun for firing from its sand dune emplacement southwest of Fort Macon.*







*Sighting the 155 mm gun in the sand dunes southwest of Fort Macon. A shell is being brought up on a trolley in the background.*



*Close view of the shell trolley and shells. The 155 mm gun could fire these 95-pound projectile at a range of about 10 ½ miles.*



*Battery B gun crew posing with their 155 mm gun in its emplacement southwest of Fort Macon in the summer of 1942. Note the camouflage netting over the gun position.*

*Soldiers of the 244th Coast Artillery posing at their 155 mm gun position southwest of Fort Macon, 1942. Note the World War I-style helmets still in use this early in the war.*





*Another view of Battery B soldiers posing with their 155 mm gun.*

*Soldiers on guard outside the fort, December, 1941. The old cistern is in the background at the right.*



*Soldier group inside the fort, December, 1941.*

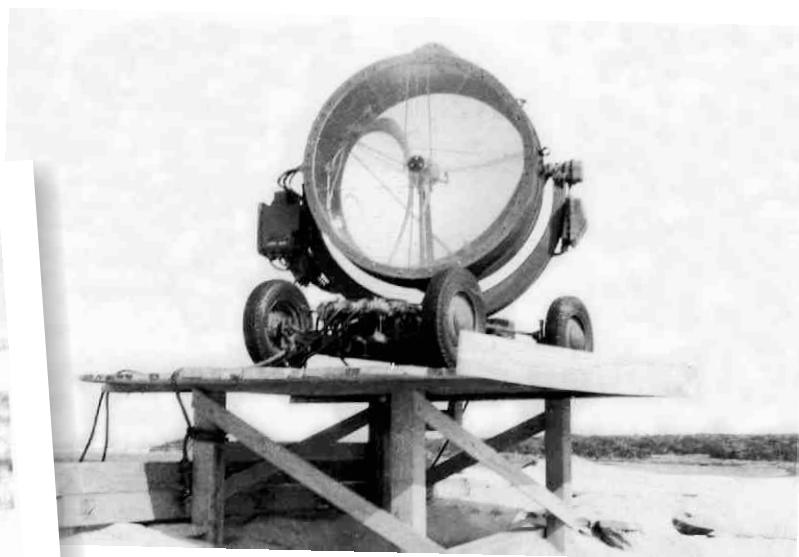
*Base End Station tower near the park bathhouse. These were used to sight targets and calculate their bearing.*



*Two 60-inch searchlights were positioned near the park bathhouse.*



*Scanning the horizon for targets.*



*50-caliber machine gun.*



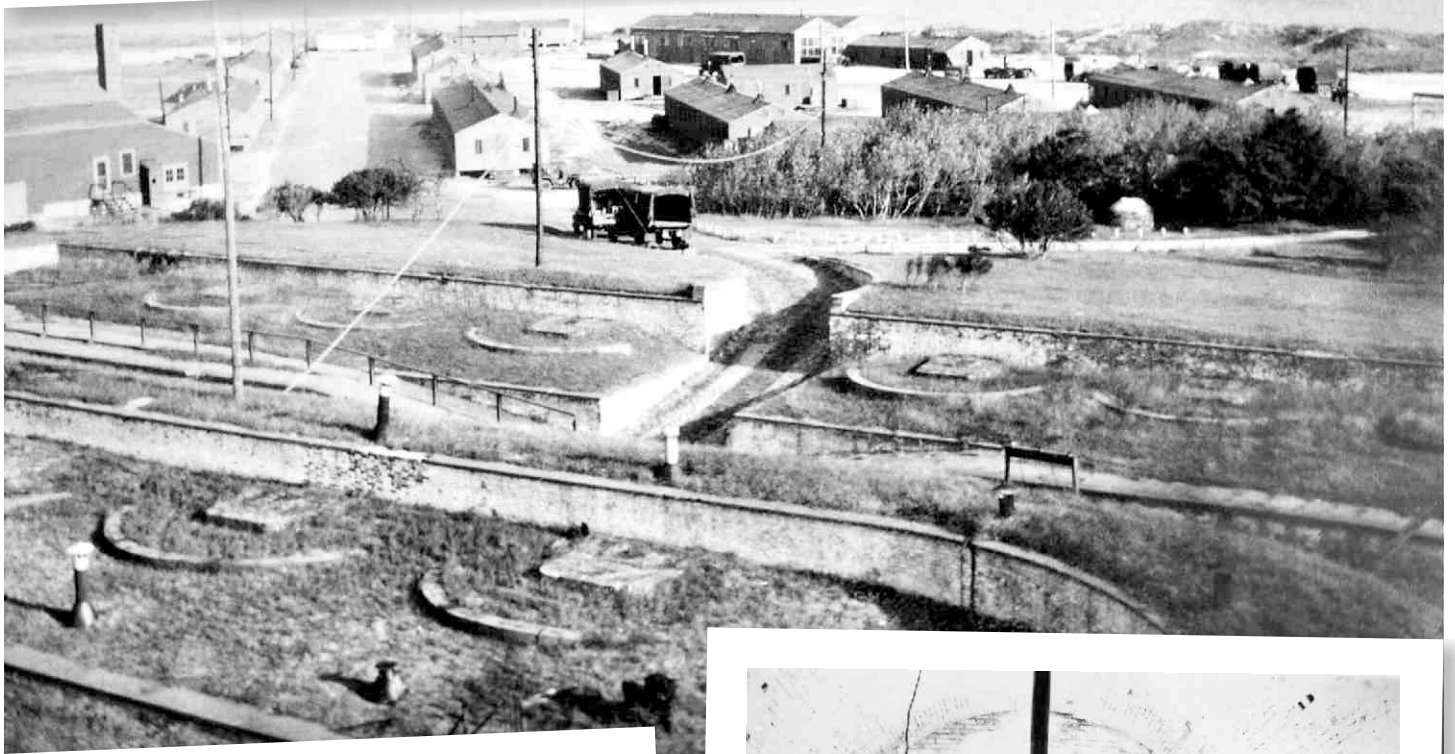
*Later in 1942, the 155 mm cannons defending Fort Macon and Cape Lookout were withdrawn and replaced by two 5-inch guns at Cape Lookout and two 6-inch guns at Fort Macon.*





*A Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) tower was built on top of the fort to identify and monitor ship traffic approaching Beaufort Inlet or a protected merchant ship anchorage established between the inlet and Cape Lookout.*

*Looking northward from the HECP tower toward the fort entrance and the barracks complex built by the army. The present park visitor center occupies this area today. The fort parking lot is at the upper right.*



*The interior of one of the Fort Macon barracks.*



*Interior of a casemate, 1943. The typical number of men assigned to each casemate was 10 to 15. This was far better than the typical occupancy of 20 to 40 men sleeping on 4-man bunk beds in Fort Macon in the 19th century.*

# Membership Renewal Dues 2018/2019

**Follow these instructions to renew your membership!**

**The address label on the newsletter references your Membership Type:**

I = Individual (\$15)   F= Family (\$15)   C = Contributor (\$30)   D= Donor (\$50)   S=Sponsor (\$75)  
Individual Lifetime (\$200) or Business Lifetime (\$500)

**Then the amount of your last membership dues is listed.**

**The last item is the date of your most recent dues payment.** If this date is prior to 2018, this will be your last Rampart until you update your membership. Unless you are a Lifetime Member, this is an annual membership.

**To renew your membership, you can tear off the portion of the RAMPART with your address label on it.** Circle the Membership Type that you are choosing. Add your email address to the right of the Membership Type section. Then mail this along with your check to the address on the RAMPART. You may also renew memberships and make donations on our updated website.

We would like to add your email address to our information as this will help reduce mailing costs and enable us to notify you of events in a more efficient and timely manner. We promise that we will NOT share this information with anyone and will only use it to notify you of Fort Macon/Friends of Fort Macon events.

*Thank you, Sheila Leppert*



## A Message from Friends of Fort Macon President....

Hello all, I am hoping you, and yours are having a fantastic summer. We've had a very productive Spring and Summer at Fort Macon. Our 3rd Annual Mosquito Run was a huge success, and we were so glad to welcome all new participants. The re-enactments, cannon firings, and summer concert series have started - and there's much more fun to come. We've started to blaze the connector trail to meet up with the Atlantic Beach sidewalk system. I am so pleased! It's a welcome to our park for all those who enjoy strolling our beautiful island of Bogue Banks. Come over and see us soon.

Your volunteer with cheer, *Cindi Davia*  
President, Friends Of Fort Macon



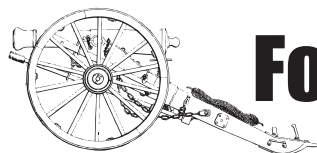


## *Come to Our* **MONTHLY LUNCH MEETINGS**

You may be missing a great opportunity if you haven't attended the **first Wednesday (of the month) lunch meetings at Golden Corral Restaurant.**

Not only is there a short update on the "State of Fort Macon" by Superintendent Randy, there's always a fascinating talk by an expert that you may not want to miss.

If you have attended some or all of these very interesting talks, you know how informative and amusing the speakers are. Added to that, the lunch cost is very reasonable (for Seniors), and the other diners are most convivial – a guarantee that you will truly enjoy your lunch meeting program.



## *Friends of* **Fort Macon**

**Friends of Fort Macon**  
2303 East Fort Macon Rd  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

### **OUR BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**

**Atlantic Veneer**  
Beaufort, NC

**Munden Funeral Home  
and Crematory**  
Morehead City, NC

**Coastal Press & Signs**  
Morehead City, NC

**Al Williams Properties**  
Atlantic Beach, NC

**Stampers Jewelers**  
Beaufort, NC

**David P Robertson, DDS**  
Morehead City, NC

**Chalk and Gibbs**  
Morehead City, NC

**Charlotte Metrolina  
Civil War Roundtable**  
Charlotte, NC

**Casper Marine Service**  
Swansboro, NC

**Randall Parker**  
Morehead City, NC

**Amos Mosquitos**  
Atlantic Beach, NC

**Brad Piner, CPA**  
Beaufort, NC

**Carteret County**  
Carteret County, NC

**Historical Society**  
Carteret County, NC

**Clinton Toms III,**  
Durham, NC

**New Bern Historical Society**  
New Bern, NC

**New Life Photos | JJ Davidson, Inc**  
Greenville, NC

**North State Haberdashery**  
Mint Hill, NC

**Outer Banks History Center**  
Manteo, NC

**Outer Banks Lighthouse Society**  
Morehead City, NC

**1st NC Volunteers**

**Realty World First Coast Realty**  
Atlantic Beach, NC

### **What's Happening?**

Stay turned to the Friends of Fort Macon  
website: [friendsoffortmacon.org](http://friendsoffortmacon.org) and our Facebook page for updates and what's new.