



Fort Worden's Coast Defense History



By the Numbers

1,070lb

The heaviest projectiles were 12-inch armor piercing shells

400lb

Barrels of concrete were shipped from Belgium to build the batteries

41

Seacoast Guns of different sizes

12

Total Batteries

★ Highlights

Army operated from 1898-1953

1904- Fort Worden became Headquarters of the Harbor Defense Command of Puget Sound

Named for the captain of the ironclad USS Monitor Admiral John L. Worden

👤 What did the fort protect?

Following the Civil War, major advancements were made in naval technology. At the turn of the 20th century, forts like these were built across the country to update the United States' Coast Defense Network. Fort Worden was one of five fortifications built in the Puget Sound area. Locally, these posts were established to prevent a hostile fleet from reaching the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, and to provide protection for developing cities in the area.

📅 Fort Timeline

1902 ● **First Soldiers Arrive**

Lived in tents for two years

1907 ● **Power Plants**

Provided electricity to the post

1911 ● **Garrison of 600 men**

Army and WA National Guard

1918 ● **WWI Field Training**

There was a garrison of several thousand men at Fort Worden. Many were sent overseas.

1920 ● **Balloon Hangar**

High winds ended this program within a year

1940s ● **Army and Navy**

Shared the Harbor Entrance Command Post

1943 ● **4,500 Soldiers**

Were garrisoned during WWII

1949 ● **Amphibious Brigade**

Trained for a year before assisting with the Invasion at Inchon in 1950

1953 ● **Decommissioned**

Army Fort; The Navy remained at HECP until 1958

1958 ● **Dept. of Institutions**

Opens Fort Worden Diagnostic and Treatment Center for troubled youth

1973 ● **State Park**

Dedicated at State Park and Conference Center the next year

✳ Keeping up with Technology

Disappearing Guns

1904



Offered breech loading of shells and powder behind the walls



Anti-aircraft Guns

1920



By the 1920s, large guns were mostly obsolete



Long-range Radar

1957

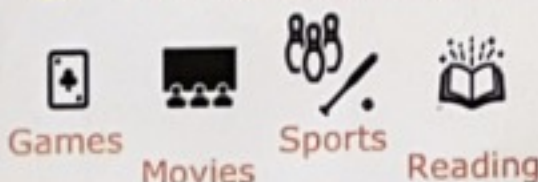


On Battery Benson- part of the Seattle Nike Missile Defense

👥 Life at the Fort

When soldiers were not training, they assisted in the grounds work and daily maintenance of the fort. To keep moral up, they were also given time to visit Port Townsend and participate in recreational activities.

🎮 Recreation



Photos courtesy of Coast Artillery Museum