

Fast Facts: HDNY in Oct 1943

From 1940 to 1945, each month between 40% to 60% of all US Shipping to Europe left from New York Harbor. The other key harbors were Portland, ME; Boston, MA; Chesapeake Bay, VA; Sonny Point (Charleston), SC.

Over 5,100 ships were sunk in the Atlantic by German U-Boats, aircraft and surface ships from 1939 to 1945.

German U-Boats landed saboteurs on US shores on two occasions in NY and FL.
German U-Boats mined the entrance to NY Harbor at least once.

A gun strike on substations of the fledgling US electric grid was feasible - a serious threat to NYC and Philadelphia industrial capability

There were approximately 13,000 combat soldiers assigned to the HDNY - approximately 5,500 of them at Fort Hancock.

Harbor Defense of New York (HDNY) Forts

Fort Hancock (HQ)
Navesink Highlands

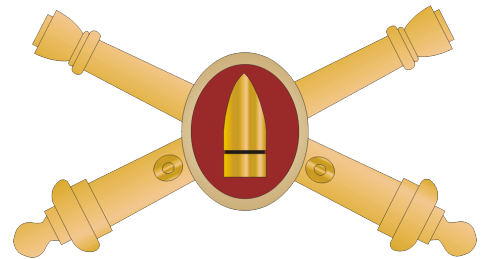
Fort Wadsworth (Staten Island)
Miller Field
Swineburne Island

Fort Hamilton (Brooklyn)

Fort Tilden (Long Island)
Norton Point

Fort Totten (Queens)

Fort Jay - Governor's Island (Forts Schyler & Slocum were removed late 1920s)



Army Coast Artillery Branch Insignia

HDNY Key Headquarters Organizations

Harbor Defense Command Post (HDCP) - Located at Fort Hancock in Mortar Battery
Joint Army/Navy operation - Army Brigadier General in command

Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) - Main HECP at Fort Wadsworth
Advance HECP #1 at Fort Hancock at Battery Potter (incoming shipping)
Advance HECP #2 at Fort Tilden (exiting shipping)
Joint Army/Navy operation - Navy Captain in command

Battery Gunnison/New Peck primary mission is HECP and secondary is Gun Group 1

Fast Facts: HDNY in WWII

Battery Gunnison/New Battery Peck Conversion

(Source: Battery Peck Emplacement Book)

November 1942 - New York Harbor Defense Board recommends moving Battery Peck guns to Battery Gunnison and modernizing both Batteries.

Conversion of both Batteries ordered on 22 Feb 1943.

Battery Gunnison becomes "Battery Peck" and old Battery Peck becomes "Battery #8".

Gun #1 (M1900 6-inch #27 - now #23) relocated to "New Battery Peck" - 8 April 1943

Operations begin transitioning from Old Battery Peck to New Battery Peck.

Gun #2 (M1900 6-inch #28 - now #22) relocated to "New Battery Peck" - 21 May 1943

Battery Peck becomes fully operational in June 1943

Gun barrels #27 and #28 scrapped and replaced by M1900 6-inch Guns #22 and #23 from Battery Livingston (Fort Hamilton) installed June 1948

"Battery #8" receives two barbette mounted 90mm guns and two mobile 90mm guns for use against aircraft and shipping.

Sinkings in the Atlantic during WWII

Miller, Nathan. **War at Sea - A Naval History of World War II**, New York: Scribner, 1995

Year	Battle of Atlantic Total Allied Sinkings	Battle of Atlantic Allied Sinkings By Submarine
1939	222	114
1940	1,059	471
1941	1,299	432
1942	1,664	1,160
1943	597	377
1944	205	132
1945	105	56
Total	5,151	2,742

Terraine, John. **Business in Great Waters: The U-Boat Wars, 1916-1945**, London: Leo Cooper, 1989

Year	Total Allied Sinkings	North Atlantic Sinkings
1939	221	19
1940	1,059	349
1941	1,299	496
1942	1,662	1,066
1943	597	285
1944	205	31
1945	97	19
Total	5,140	2,265

New York-Philadelphia Sector

The Harbor Defenses of New York

*"I am responsible for the safety of twenty-million people
and the industrial heart of the nation"*

BG Philip Gage, Commanding, HD NY

Chain of Command

President of the US - Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Secretary of War - Henry Lewis Stimson

Army Chief of Staff - General George C Marshall

Eastern Defense Command Commander - LTG George Grunert

NY-Phila Sector Commander - MG John Louis Homer

NY Sub Sector/HDNY Commander - BG Phillip S Gage

Fort Hancock & 245th Coast Arty Regiment Commander - COL Joseph Haw

Major Army Units at Fort Hancock - October 1943:

(approximately 5,500 officers and Enlisted personnel)

Major Units at Fort Hancock - October 1943:

HQ and HQ Btry, Harbor Defenses of New York

7th Coast Artillery Regiment (less 2nd Battalion)

245th Coast Artillery Regiment (HD) (Less 2nd Battalion and Battery L)

265th Coast Artillery Regiment (HD)

A Battery, 288th Coast Artillery Battalion (Railway)

5th Mine Planter Battery (USMP Ord)

19th Mine Planter Battery

1225th Second Corps Area Service Unit

Fort Hancock Medical Detachment (Hospital)

95th Ordnance Company (Railway Artillery)

22nd Quartermaster Company (Truck)

113th Infantry Regiment (HHC[-] at Ft. Wadsworth, Det HHC at Fort Hancock, rest spread around southern NY/NJ/DE)

113th Infantry Regiment (HHC moved to Ft. Hamilton 19 Mar, 3rd BN in Eatontown)

Fort Hancock, NJ

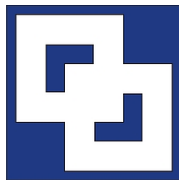
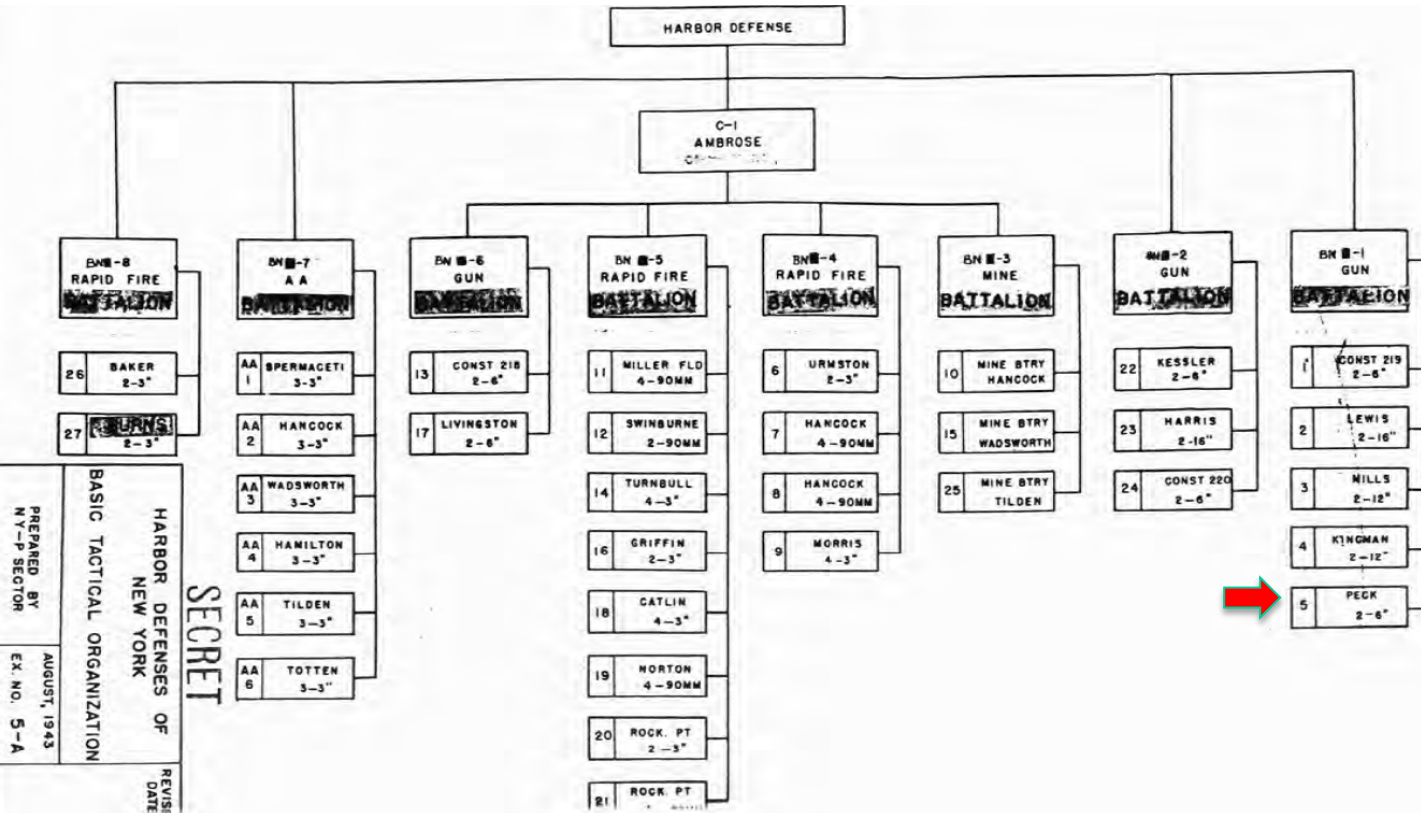
Fort Hancock (Sandy Hook) is named in honor of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, who served with distinction in the Mexican War and the Civil War. He died 9 February 1886. The installation (peninsula) was officially renamed Fort Hancock 30 October 1895. The first parcel of government land at Sandy Hook was acquired by the Colony of New York in 1762 to build what became known as the Sandy Hook Lighthouse. By 1817 the majority of the peninsula was purchased by the Secretary of War. Final purchases were made in 1892 from Plumb Island to the installation entrance (fee booth area). Rights of Way were also purchased in 1893. Construction of the modern fortifications began in 1890 on the site of the old mine casemate that dated from 1880. This was followed with the first all concrete gun and mortar emplacements in the nation. Construction of the Main Post cantonment began in 1897. The permanent Coast Artillery garrison was established in 1898 under command of Lieutenant Colonel Tully McCrea of the Fifth Artillery.

Battery McCrea at Ft. Drum, Philippine Islands, was named after LTC McCrea.

New York Sub-Sector Organization

Effective 4 May 1943

The organization chart below shows the full combat organization by "Battery" of the Harbor Defense of New York. The chart shows that "groups" have become "battalions". The red arrow below points to Battery Peck (formerly Gunnison)



The two insignia to the left are shoulder sleeve patches. They signify the major commands within HDNY.

2nd Coast Artillery District (New York-Philly Sector)

2nd Service Command

The five insignia below are unit distinctive insignia and are metal pins to be worn on service uniforms and hats.



Harbor Defenses New York

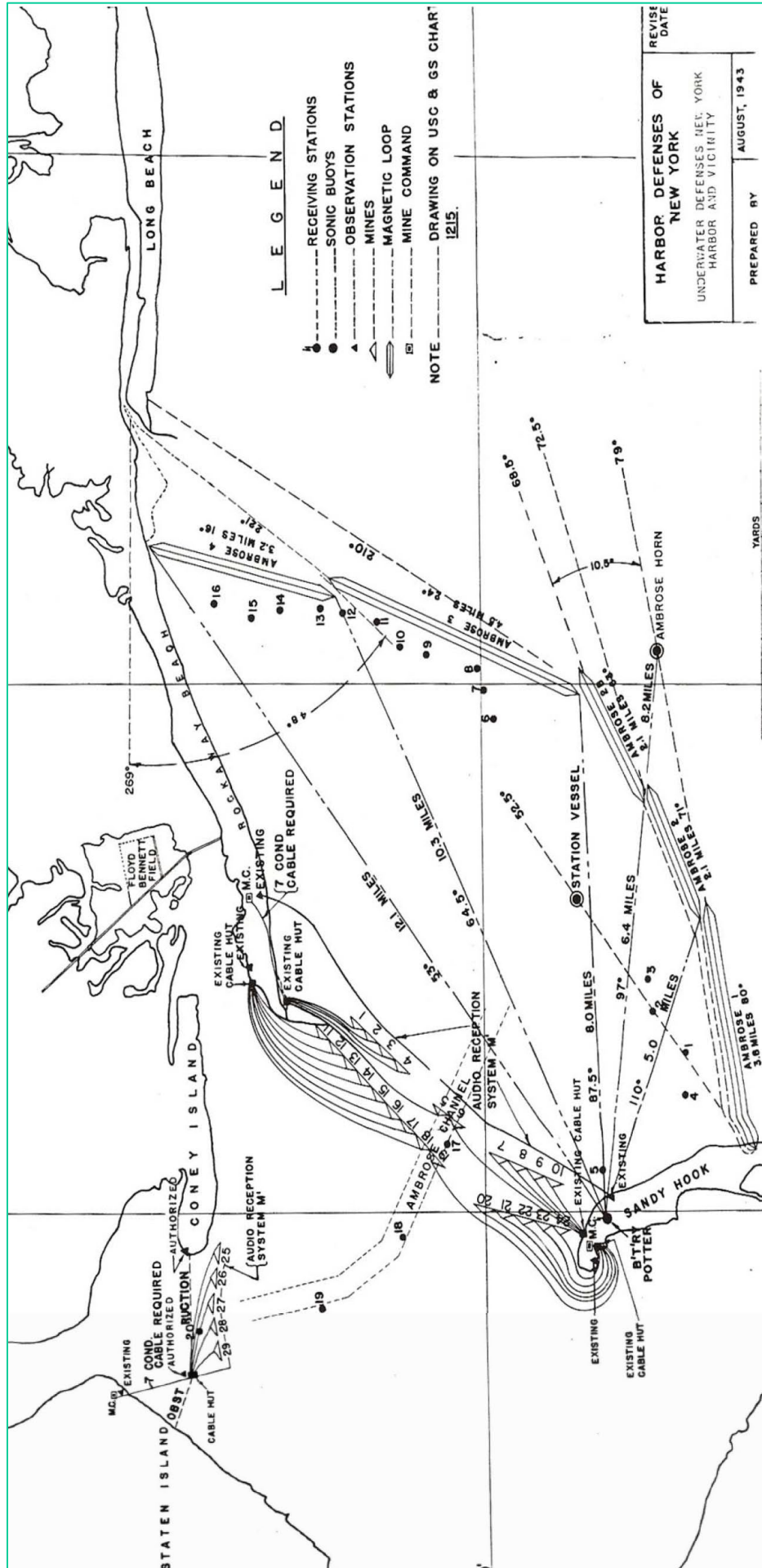
7th Coast Artillery Regiment (HD)

52nd Coast Artillery Regiment (Railway) (Split to 287th and 288th Coast Artillery Railway Battalions in 1943)

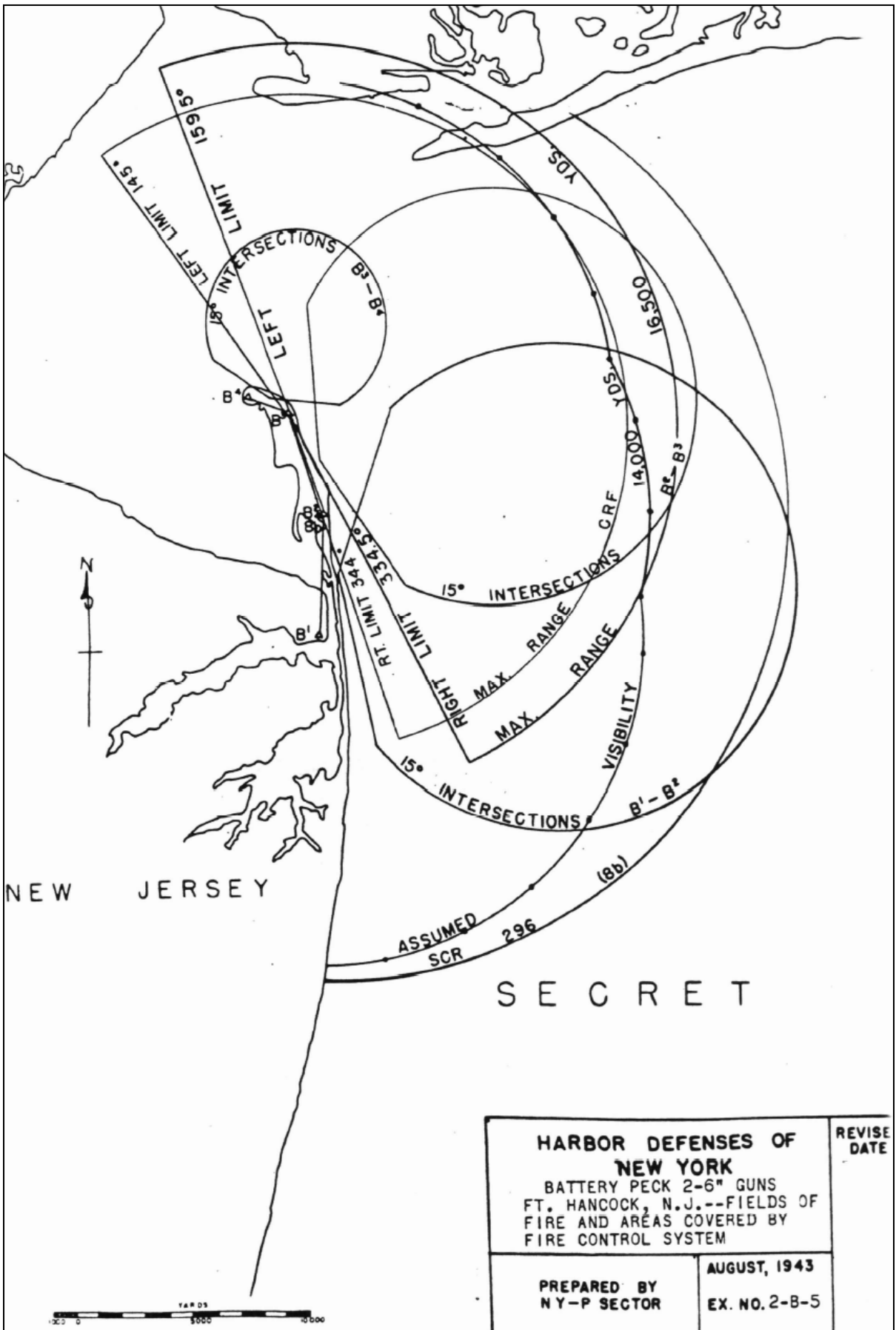
245th Coast Artillery Regiment (HD)

265th Coast Artillery Regiment (HD)

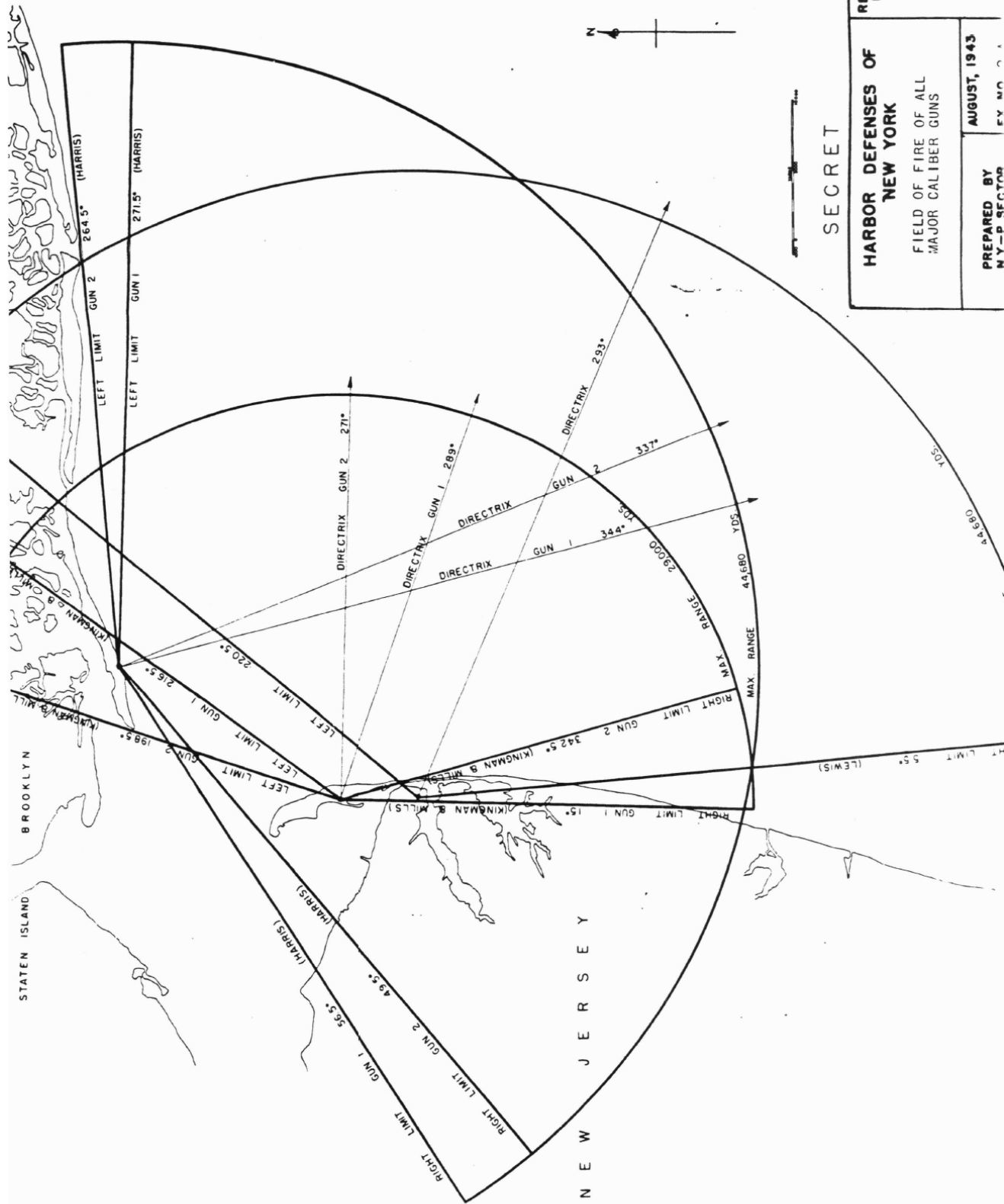
Submarine Mnie Defenses HDNY



Battery Gunnison/New Battery Peck



Major Caliber Guns - New York Harbor



SECRET

HARBOR DEFENSES OF NEW YORK FIELD OF FIRE OF ALL MAJOR CALIBER GUNS	REVISOR DATE PREPARED BY NY-P SECTOR AUGUST, 1943
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Fast Facts: HDNY in WWII

HDNY SPECIFIC NEWS

7 August 1943, U-566 shoots down two PV1 Ventura patrol bombers over Cape Charles, VA during a bombing attack on the submarine. The PV1s were based out of Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York. (<http://uboat.net/boats/u566.htm>)

Twenty-nine tested and qualified women drivers of Red Cross Motor Transport Corps are now driving vehicles up to 2.5 tons at Fort Hancock (*SandyHook Foghorn*, 21 Oct 1943, page 4)

On 20 October 1943 - Two (2) minesweepers failed to stop upon orders of the Guardship. Two (2) "Bring-To" shots were fired from Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Ships did not stop. 3rd Naval District expected the minesweepers and issued orders to the Navy Officer, Harbor Entrance Control Post, to cease fire from the shore batteries. (*History of HECP Fort Wadsworth*, July 1945, page 11)

On 20 October 1943, "Bring To" shot was fired on a merchantman. The freighter stopped, and then resumed its course at a slow speed. Harbor patrol intercepted and ordered the ship to return to the Guardship for proper clearance. (*History of HECP Fort Wadsworth*, July 1945, page 11)

GENERAL WAR NEWS NEWS

The Navy announces the "Battleship X" is really the USS South Dakota which shot down 32 Jap aircraft in the Battle of Santa Cruz October 1942. The ship's former captain is now Rear Admiral Thomas Gatch. (*NEWSWEEK*: 11 Oct 1943, pg 20)

Editorial by MG Paul Malone (Retired) notes Infantry is still the Queen of Battle and stated while the Nazis have 25 Armored Divisions and 10 motorized divisions, they have over 265 Infantry Divisions. He stated the US Army has the same general distribution of forces. "The Doughboy is the paramount soldier". (*NEWSWEEK*: 11 Oct 1943, pg 26)

Captain Clark Gable is awarded the Air Medal for five bomber missions over Europe. (*NEWSWEEK*: 18 Oct 1943, pg 9)

** For the first time the Eight Air Force raids deep into Germany with about 500 bombers to strike Emden. (*TIME*: 4 Oct 1943, pg 25)

** U-boat packs are resurging in the Atlantic. Two destroyers and seven merchant ships were sunk by U-boats. Several convoys were attacked with significant losses in both warships and merchant ships. Brazil reported eleven sinkings total off Brazilian coast. (*TIME*: 11 Oct 1943, pg 23-24)

U-Boats sink eleven ships off Canada - boats are well armed. (*NEWSWEEK*: 11 Oct 1943, pg 20-21) One Nazi U-Boat with at least 10 deck guns damaged a B-24 Liberator. (*TIME*: 11 Oct 1943, pg 25)

Army and Navy announce total casualties were 115,201 with 21,940 killed in action. Public told to expect higher losses in 1944. (*NEWSWEEK*: 11 Oct 1943, pg 40)