

Sail4th250 Tall Ships Review
Fort Hancock, New Jersey

On 3 July 2026, Army Ground Forces Association and the National Park Service at Fort Hancock celebrated America's 250th Anniversary during Sail4th250 Tall Ships event. (<https://sail4th.org/>)

Sail4th250 hosted over 30 "tall ships" in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. Many of these ships had anchored in the Sandy Hook Bay the evening of 2 July. Our focus was to provide the public an opportunity to use high quality optical fire control equipment (four M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments) to look at the Tall Ships and take pictures with their phones/cameras through these instruments.

The temperature was exceedingly hot - real feel was 105 degrees! We had the shade of the trees and at times there were cool breezes from the bay.

The National Park Service personnel had two "pop-up" tents with many materials for exhibit and sale as well as a guide to the Tall Ships at anchor.

The members of AGFA who participated in the event were Callum Bujdos, Donna Cusano, Paul Cusano, Richard King, Joel Gonzalez, Anne Lutkenhouse, Pat Ragosta and Shawn Welch.

The educational objective was to demonstrate how the M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument works and help visitors take pictures of the Tall Ships through the instruments. We had a EE-91 telephone and EE-8 field telephone connected to enable visitors to use communications equipment for the Coast Artillery. On display were binders outlining our restoration projects to include the work done at Battery Gunnison/New Battery Peck, the Harbor Defense Command Post (HDCP)/mortar battery.

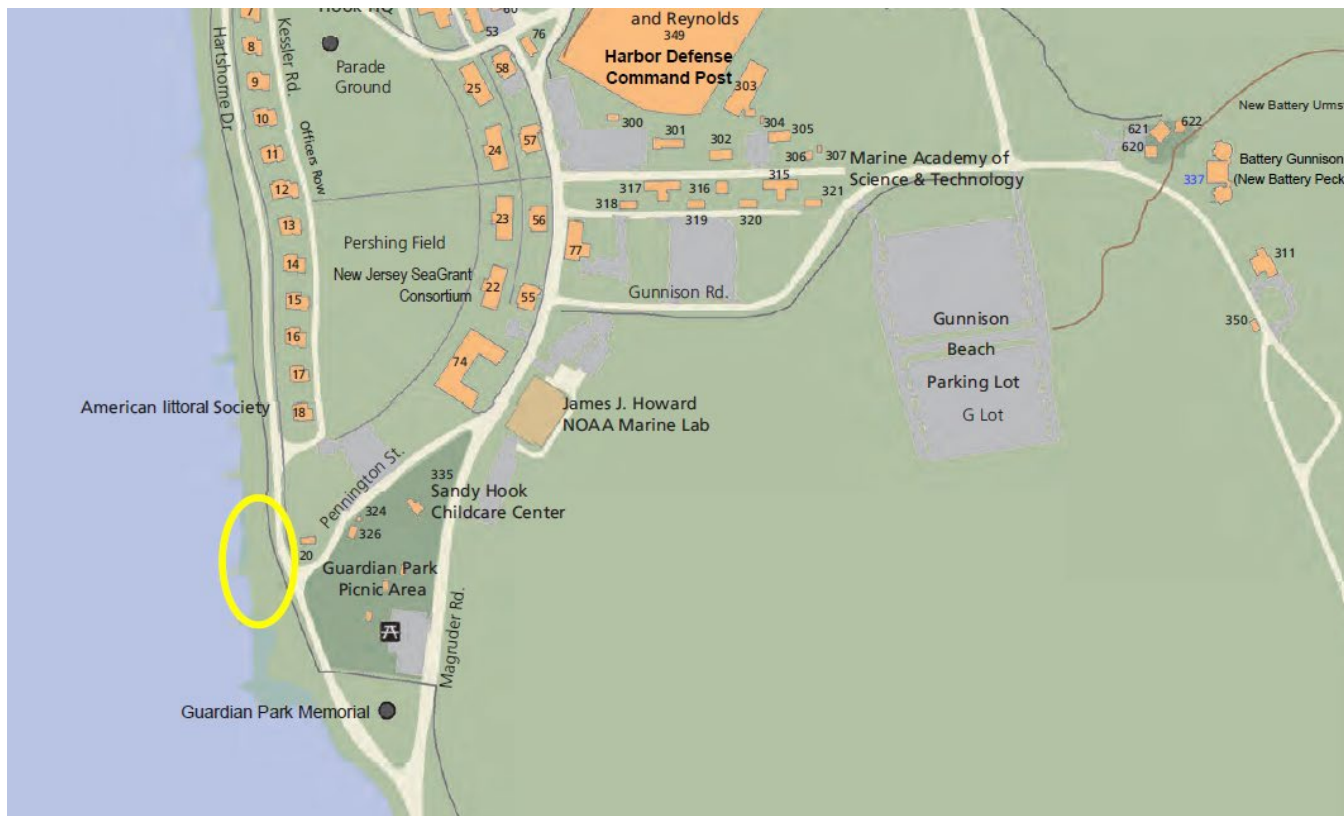
The photo below shows the team.



The photo below was taken from across Hartshorne Drive looking out towards the Tall Ships. Three of four M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments are visible in the picture



The map below shows the general location of Fort Hancock with the area in yellow oval identifying our location for the event.



Below is the key for all the Tall Ships in the Sandy Hook Bay. The large red arrow points to the approximate area the AGFA/NPS team was located off the map.



Below is part of the Park Service Ranger Team that was with us during the day.



Below is a visitor looking at the tall ships through an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument. A second M1910A1 is located to the right.



The photo below shows the Tall Ships more clearly as a visitor looks at them through an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



Below visitors are using their cell phone cameras to take pictures of the tall ships through the M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments.



Below is a photo of several of the Tall Ships taken through an M1910A1.



Below SGT Cusano explains an M1903 Springfield Rifle to a visitor. The M1903 along with the M1 Garand were the standard rifles issued to Coast Artillery soldiers in 1943, which is the time period of our interpretation.



The photo below shows the entire area of the four M1910A1 instruments and logistics support such as ice water-filled Universal-brand Thermos from the 1940s.



Below is a M1910A1 with matching serial numbers for the telescope (Dec 1942) and base (Jan 1943) manufactured at Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia PA. Two more instruments are visible in the background. The wiring is for electrical lighting.



Below we have visitors taking pictures of the Tall Ships through the M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments with SGT Cusano to the right explaining the various rifles the Coast Artillery Soldiers were issued in WWII at Fort Hancock.



Below is another Tall Ship through an M1910A1.



And more Tall Ships through an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



Below are two M1910A1's visible with 2LT Gonzalez assisting a visitor in taking pictures through the M1910A1.



And below is a picture of a Tall Ship showing the Sailors (black dots on the rigging above the sails) preparing the sails for the ship's movement.



Below is another view of visitors looking through M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments.



And another view of a Tall Ship in an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



Below are visitors looking through the M1910A1's with an NPS Ranger working with our visitors.



And below is a view of a Tall Ship through an M1910A1 Azimuth Instrument.



Below several visitors are enjoying the opportunity to see the Tall Ships through the M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments. We had a constant stream of visitors all day.



The heat of the day was intense - cold water and a fan blowing over a block of ice were helpful in beating back the heat.



Another visitor captures a picture of the Tall Ships through an M1910A1. This instrument was manufactured in 1944 by Herschede-Hall.



Below shows a group of visitors enjoying the day and looking closely at the Tall Ships using the M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments.



The mooring of the Tall Ships in Sandy Hook Bay during America's 250th Anniversary was a wonderful opportunity to share with Fort Hancock's visitors the powerful optics of the M1910A1 Azimuth Instruments. Many of our fellow Americans had the opportunity to leave with visual memories (pictures) of the Tall Ships in a most unique way. Learn more about AGFA at www.armygroundforces.org.