

Historic Furnishings Report

FORT POINT

FORT POINT
National Historic Site/California

U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service

HISTORIC FURNISHINGS REPORT

Fort Point

Fort Point National Historic Site
Presidio of San Francisco, California

by

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I also thank my colleagues in the Division of Historic Furnishings, John P. Brucksch and William L. Brown, III, for sharing their expertise and encouragement during this project, and Kam Sloan for preparation of the manuscript.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Fort Point National Historic Site was established on October 16, 1970, and has been managed by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area since 1972. Senate Bill 2159, passed by the Ninety-first Congress stated that the Fort will "...preserve and interpret for future generations the significant Fort Point in the Presidio of San Francisco, California." The Fort is the main structure at the site, located on the northern end of the Presidio reservation in San Francisco. The Presidio, a military post since 1776, will be transferred to the National Park Service in 1995.

Constructed between 1853 and 1861, Fort Point is the only example of a casemated Third System fort completed on the Pacific coast. Situated on the southern tip of the Golden Gate, the Fort was a vital part of San Francisco's harbor defense during the Civil War, and played a role in defending the harbor entrance in World War I and in World War II. The Fort was known only as "the fort at Fort Point" until 1882, when it was officially designated Fort Winfield Scott in honor of the former commanding general of the Army. Eventually, the Fort itself came to be called Fort Point, and the post behind the Fort, begun in 1912, became known as Fort Winfield Scott.¹

Left vacant after a 1914 effort by the Army to convert it into a detention center, the Fort was used temporarily during World Wars I and II. It was used as bachelors' quarters and as a vocational school during the 1920s and when construction of the Golden Gate Bridge began in 1933, Fort Point was saved from destruction on the recommendation of Joseph P. Strauss, the bridge's designer.²

In 1959, the Fort Point Museum Association was incorporated; its members operated the Fort as a museum under a special use permit from the Department of Defense for more than 10 years. The Association provided tours, installed exhibits, and furnished some rooms in the Fort. After the park was established in 1970, the Association took on the role of cooperating association, operating a gift store on the site, and assisting the park through donations, research, and acquisitions.

Interpretive goals stated in the 1983 *Interpretive Prospectus* include helping "visitors understand and appreciate the significance and the history of Fort Point" and provoking "interest in seacoast defenses and their role in the defense of U. S. seacoasts." Proposed furnishings in quarters for officers and enlisted men, and in

¹ National Park Service, *Fort Point National Historic Site, California: A Proposal* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office [hereafter cited as GPO], 1968), p. 11.

² National Park Service, *Historic Structure Report, Fort Point Historic Data Section, Fort Point National Historic Site*, by Edwin C. Bearss (Denver, CO: GPO, 1973), pp. 345-50. [Hereafter cited as *HSR*.]

the complex of medical rooms, will interpret the Fort to the period during and immediately after the Civil War, when Fort Point was garrisoned by both California volunteers and regular infantry and artillery troops.

INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES

The 1983 *Interpretive Prospectus* for Fort Point National Historic Site defined the following interpretive goals and objectives for the site:

To help visitors understand and appreciate the significance and the history of Fort Point;

To provoke interest in seacoast defenses and their role in defense of U.S. seacoasts;

To inform visitors of the historical significance of Fort Point in the Presidio of San Francisco; and

To provide interpretive programs that include the relevant themes: Spanish exploration and settlement; the Mexican War and political and military affairs from 1830 to 1860; the Civil War; political and military affairs after 1865; military architecture; and conservation of the cultural environment.

The rooms recommended for furnishing support these objectives by providing visitors with an example of living and working conditions for Civil War soldiers in a seacoast fort. Visitors will view refurnished kitchens, messes, and living quarters for officers and enlisted men, as well as work areas such as the hospital, surgeon's office, guard room, and magazine. Furnished rooms provide information about the duties officers and men performed at the Fort and make dramatically clear the difference in living situations between enlisted men and officers.

The interpretive period established for the furnished rooms at Fort Point is 1861 through 1868. Although the Fort was occupied sporadically until World War II, it was used most intensively in the nineteenth century. Originally garrisoned in February 1861, Fort Point housed infantry and artillery troops continually until August 1868. The garrison reached more than 400 men during the winter of 1864-65, including four companies of California volunteers. The presence of California troops provides interpreters with an opportunity to discuss California's role in the Civil War and Fort Point's location on the San Francisco Bay provokes discussion about the importance of San Francisco's seacoast defenses during and after the Civil War.

OPERATING PLAN

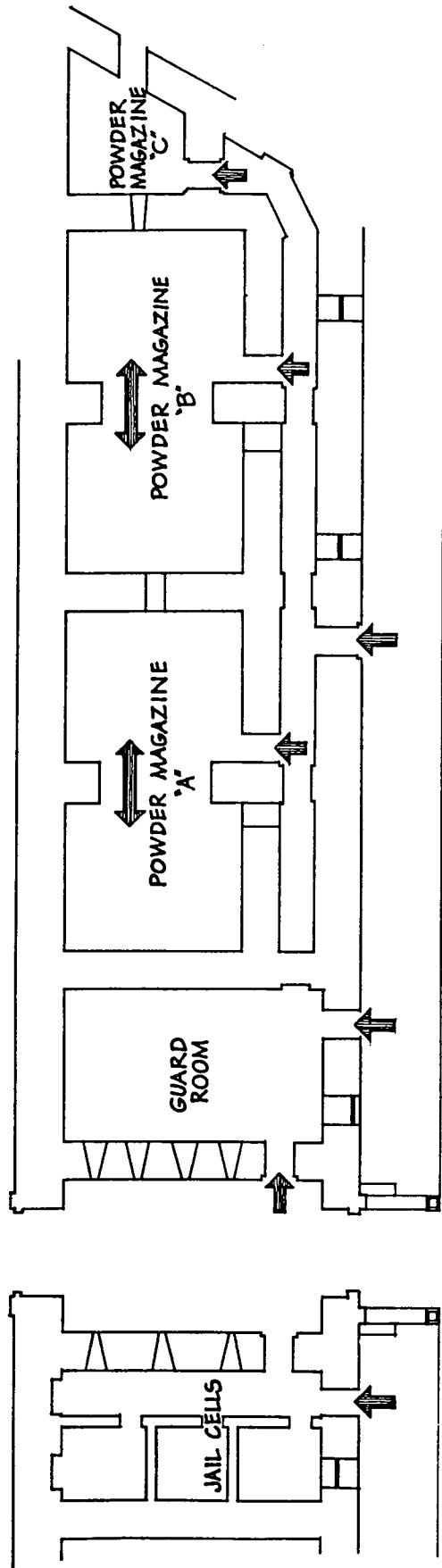
Fort Point is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday throughout the year. The park has three types of tours, with additional interpretive media available to supplement the tours. Guided tours, led by park rangers, are offered three times daily. These theme-based tours focus on either the defense of the Fort or on the life of soldiers in the Fort, although all presentations cover the early history of the Fort, as well as its design and function. Currently, these tours do not visit every casemate recommended for furnishing in the plan.

The park also offers, for a fee, a new audio headset tour interpreting a day in the life of an average soldier at the Fort. This tour begins in the sally port, goes on to the parade, then to the guard room, powder magazine B, the filling room, casemates 1 through 7, and up the western staircase to the surgeon's office on the second tier. It continues up the stairs to the enlisted men's quarters, then up to the barbette tier and along the north scarp. Next, the tour descends the stairs in the southeastern corner and visits the officers' kitchen and dining room on the second tier. The tour concludes in casemate 57 on the second tier. When the furnishings plan is implemented, furnished rooms will enhance interpretive messages provided by the audio headset tour.

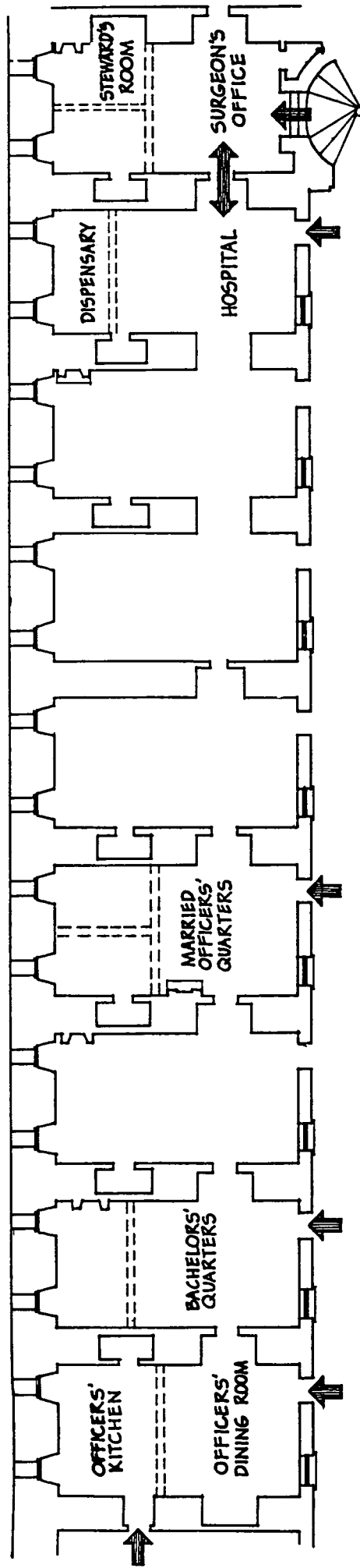
Finally, visitors may take a self-guided tour, following no established path, to explore the Fort. Volunteer or ranger interpreters are stationed in the sally port and the sutler's store on the first tier. Volunteer interpreters are often in costume, while rangers are in NPS uniform unless a special event is planned. Occasionally, demonstrations of cannon and rifle drill are held.

A free National Park Service brochure, currently in production, will provide an overall orientation to the park and its facilities, with a brief overview of the history of the Fort. In addition, a free 18-minute captioned laser-video disc program is offered twice an hour in the theater next to the sutler's store and gift shop.

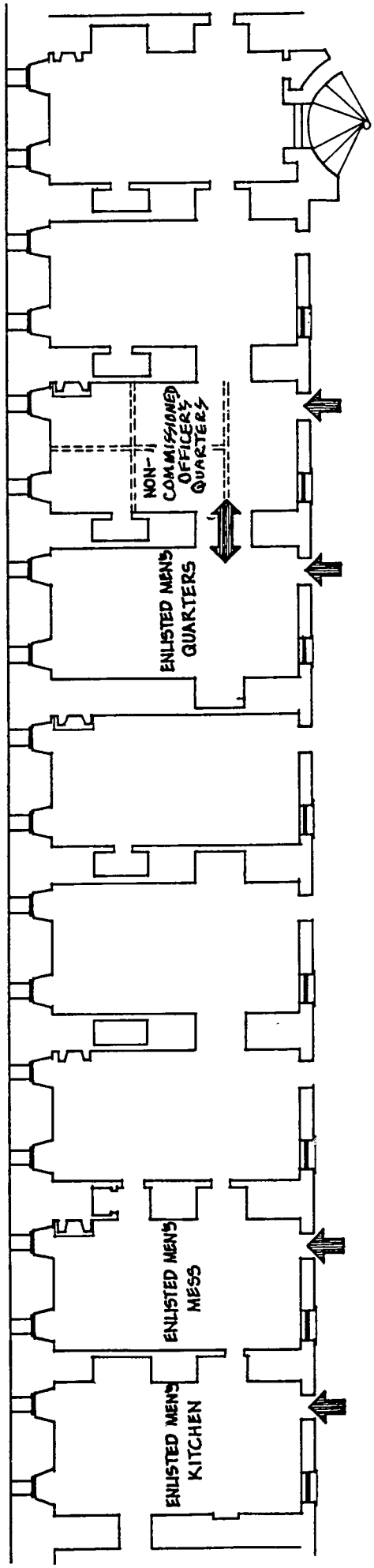
The interpretation of the gift shop and information area on the first tier as a sutler's store is inaccurate and misleading. Research has uncovered no information about the sutler at Fort Point and in any case, the sutler would have been located outside the Fort itself. For at least part of its history, the sutler's store was a wooden shack which stood outside the southeast corner of the Fort. Interpretation of Fort Point's sutler should be addressed through alternate means, such as exhibits or publications.



First Tier



Second Tier



Third Tier

Lexan barriers at least eight feet tall should be erected in all furnished rooms to protect period and reproduction items from vandalism or theft. The recommended location for the barriers is discussed in the introduction to the list of furnishings for each room. At least one staff member should be present on the first, second and third tiers at all times. The staff member will provide primary security for the exhibit areas, in addition to providing additional interpretive support for visitors choosing the self-guided tour option. Full staff levels play a crucial role in the implementation of recommended security measures and when possible all permanent and seasonal staff positions should be filled.

Rooms with particularly vulnerable furnishings, such as the officers' dining room and parlor, should have additional security provisions, possibly a 24-hour intrusion detection system utilizing passive infrared detectors. This system can be programmed to alert staff on the first tier of the Fort during the day and linked to park police headquarters at the Presidio to provide additional night security.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

The architectural data section for the historic structures report must be completed prior to any physical alteration of the fort. Note that the plan recommends further investigation of interior finishes and the structure itself before any permanent shelves, hook strips or barriers are installed. In addition to finished work, investigation of the presence of flues and sinks should be undertaken before furnishings production work is begun. Analysis of the structure is essential to determine the presence and location of stoves for cooking or heating, as well as the accurate location of wash and hand sinks.

The environment at Fort Point is deleterious to almost all types of furnishings, due to its location directly on the coast of the San Francisco Bay. The humid and salty conditions will affect virtually every category of furnishings, including both reproduction materials and period pieces. Although the furnishings plan recommends the use of many reproduction items, especially textiles and metals, the conditions at Fort Point are so extreme that maintenance of reproduction objects will present an ongoing problem for park staff. Therefore, this report recommends that furnishings installations should not take place until climate control has been established within the rooms. A discussion of methods for controlling and stabilizing these exhibit areas is not within the province of this report.

PRIOR PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The following planning documents affect the use and management of Fort Point:

"A Study of the San Francisco Presidio and Fort Point, California" (1962).

Fort Point National Historic Site, California: A Proposal (June 1968).

Historic Structure Report: Fort Point National Historic Site, Historic Data Section (March 1973).

Fort Point National Historic Site, Interpretive Prospectus (1983).

"The 'Environmental Living' Project" (nd).

IDLCS: 00362. Management Category A, must be preserved and maintained.
Entered on the National Register on October 16, 1970.

HISTORICAL DATA

SUMMARY OF SOURCES

Most of the sources used in this report are federal records located in the National Archives. The Records of the United States Army Continental Commands, Record Group 393, are most useful in providing information on the people and activities at Fort Point. These records, organized by command, include the general orders, special orders, and circulars issued by the Department of the Pacific. In some cases, the orders provide information specific to Fort Point. Considered as a group, the records help place activities at Fort Point within the context of departmental policy and shed some light on conditions in the San Francisco area at the time. Of special importance are the letters received by the Department of the Pacific, which include correspondence from civilians as well as military communications and reports. These letters provide important details about daily life at Fort Point, and offer interesting glimpses of individuals living in and around the Fort.

Record Group 159, Records of the Inspector General, contains inspection reports for Fort Point from 1866 through 1913. Reports give particularly detailed information for the periods 1866 through 1868, and 1878 through 1885, providing information on ordnance, extra duty occupations, the condition of the post, and quartermaster stores on hand. Record Group 92, Records of the Quartermaster General's Office, contains little information on the furnishings at Fort Point, but does contain a record compiled in 1889 of claims of officers and enlisted men for the loss of private property. This record includes claims for losses occurring from the 1850s through 1886 and provides detailed information on the personal belongings lost by officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers.

Hospital registers for Fort Point and Fort Winfield Scott, found in the Records of the Adjutant General's Office (Record Group 94), provide information on the few deaths at Fort Point, record diseases, and document the tenures of surgeons and stewards. Regimental records for the 3rd Artillery and the 8th Regiment California Volunteers (Record Groups 391 and 94) also contain information on the movement of troops, company orders, and details about individual soldiers' service at Fort Point. Much of this information is codified in the Post Returns for Fort Point, held in Record Group 94.

Photographic documentation of the exterior of the Fort is relatively good. No historic photographs of casemate interiors at Fort Point have been located; images used within this report provide comparative evidence. The *Hospital Steward's Manual* published in 1862 and the *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861* contain specific recommendations for fitting up and furnishing offices, quarters and

medical facilities, and so provide much of the institutional evidence on which the furnishings plan is based.

HISTORY OF THE STRUCTURE

Introduction

The construction of Fort Point began in 1853 under the supervision of Lt. Col. James L. Mason of the Army Corps of Engineers. Accessed through only one entrance, the sally port, the Fort is shaped in a modified rectangle with a center parade, two bastions and the gorge on the land front. The brick and granite Fort rises in four tiers above the San Francisco Bay; three tiers are casemated with embrasures facing the sea, and the fourth was armed on all four sides with guns mounted *en barbette*. Three spiral staircases and a fourth straight iron staircase provide access to the tiers. Wrought iron railings and cast iron columns complete the galleries on the gorge side.

The structural history of Fort Point is thoroughly covered in *Historic Structure Report, Fort Point National Historic Site, Historic Data Section*, by Edwin C. Bearss. A brief summary of the structural developments affecting gorge interiors is presented below.

Construction of Quarters and Barracks

In April 1856, planning was underway for the gorge at Fort Point "where all the accommodations for the garrison, including store rooms, [are] to be."³ Plans completed in September by Col. René De Russy, engineer in charge of construction, called for placing the officers' quarters, along with the hospital and its offices, on the second tier and locating the enlisted men's quarters on the third tier. The main partitions were brick, and the partitions between rooms were to be made of plaster and lathe, although some of the room dividers were plaster and lathe over brick. De Russy included plans for twelve sets of two-tiered double bunks, which would provide space for 24 men, but due to Chief Engineer Joseph G. Totten's 1857 modifications, the bunks were not built as planned.⁴

By May 1857, plans calling for "wash-hand sinks" located in the recesses of the windows on the second tier were approved. On the third tier, washing places were

³ Joseph G. Totten to René E. De Russy, April 21, 1856, National Archives, Record Group 77 [hereafter cited as NA, RG], Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, found in *HSR*, p. 91.

⁴ De Russy to Totten, Sept. 4, 1856, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 91. Also, Totten to Zealous B. Tower, May 28, 1857, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 109.

located in "several rooms in the recesses marked 'x'." Plank over concrete floors were installed in the officers quarters and enlisted men's barracks; air was to circulate freely between the floor battens. The design of the casemates' doors and windows was left to the project engineer.⁵

The quarters and barracks were not finished until September 1861, seven months after the Fort was garrisoned. Before August of that year walls in the quarters, barracks, and hospital were lathed and plastered; plumbing to quarters, barracks and privies was completed as well.⁶ Later, the officers' quarters received one coat of plaster and three coats of paint, and enlisted men's barracks received at least two coats of paint.⁷ By the end of fiscal year 1861, the interiors of the privies, guard rooms, prison rooms and storerooms were also complete.⁸ By 1865, Fort Point had accumulated a collection of wood frame buildings located along the shore a quarter mile or more east of the Fort, in addition to officers' quarters and some other buildings on the bluff above. The buildings along the shore included four barracks, quarters for laundresses, shops and storehouses.

The only significant changes in the 1856 plan, illustrated in figure 2, occurred in 1860 when project engineer Capt. Jeremy F. Gilmer added a privy on the second tier for the families of married officers. The third casemate on the second tier was partitioned to separate one-third of the parlor to form space for a five-foot wide hall leading to a two-seat privy. A planned partition separating the bedrooms in casemate 2 was then eliminated to create a larger bed chamber for an unmarried officer, and the remaining space in casemate 3 was partitioned to create two more bedrooms. The resulting suite for bachelor officers provided three bedchambers, a parlor, kitchen and dining room (see figure 4).

Officers' families did not have to pass the bachelors' quarters to use the privy; in fact, Gilmer suggested a slat screen "might be placed across the balcony with a door through it, covering the approach from the view of persons forming or

⁵ Totten to Tower, May 28, 1857, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 110. Also, Totten to Tower, May 29, 1857, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 112.

⁶ George H. Elliot to Totten, Aug. 5, Sept. 6, and Sept. 12, 1861, and Elliot's Reports of Operations for September and October 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer in *HSR*, pp. 165-66. Also, Jeremy F. Gilmer to Totten, Feb. 9, March 9, April 10, May 9, June 10, and July 8, 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 157.

⁷ Gilmer to Totten, April 10, 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, pp. 163-64.

⁸ Elliot to Totten, August 12, 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer; *Executive Documents, printed by Order of the Senate of the United States for the 2d Session of the 37th Congress, 1861-1862* (Washington, DC, 1862), Serial 1118, vol. 1, pt. 2, pp. 104-05, in *HSR*, p. 162.

connected with the [bachelors'] mess." At the same time, Gilmer planned to construct a similar privy adjacent to the hospital.⁹

Historical Overview

Fort Point and the Defense of the San Francisco Bay: "The Key to the Whole Pacific Coast". Fort Point was planned, funded, and almost completed during the period between the Mexican War and the Civil War. The installation at Fort Point was part of a comprehensive system of fortifications developed by the Bernard Board, a group of leading military engineers convened as a permanent body in 1816 to create a system of seacoast defenses. The Third System of fortification was designed as a permanent defense system, with a long term construction plan. Because the construction program was so vast, it could only be attempted in a period of peace such as the one that occurred in the early part of the 19th century.¹⁰

Specific recommendations for defending the San Francisco harbor were the result of a combined planning effort by Army engineers and the Navy, who established a joint commission for the defense of the Pacific Coast in 1849. In 1850, this commission reported that fortifying the south side of the Golden Gate was a first priority.¹¹ At that time, San Francisco was the only major city and port on the Pacific Coast of the United States, and San Francisco Bay was the best harbor on the West Coast.

The project was funded, and construction of the four-tiered casemated Fort began in 1853. Insp. Gen. Joseph F. K. Mansfield noted in his 1854 inspection of the construction site and surrounding area that he considered: "this point as the key to the whole Pacific Coast in a military point of view, and it should receive untiring exertions."¹²

⁹ Gilmer to De Russy, August 20, 1860, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, pp. 142-43. An exterior photograph of the fort (not reproduced for this report) shows a soil pipe on the south wall of the fort below a window of the hospital complex, identical to the one extending from the married officers' privy. This suggests the hospital privy was also built as planned.

¹⁰ Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970), pp. 37-43.

¹¹ National Park Service, *Historic Resource Study: Seacoast Fortifications, San Francisco Harbor, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California*, prepared by Erwin N. Thompson (Denver Service Center: GPO, 1979), pp. 20-22.

¹² Robert W. Frazer, ed. *Mansfield on the Condition of the Western Forts, 1853-1854*, reprint (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963), p. 122.

The Civil War

The Fort. Fortifications in the San Francisco harbor were planned to repel foreign enemies, but Fort Point was abruptly called into service to defend the United States from a domestic threat. With the coming of the Civil War, Fort Point was required before it was armed, and before its quarters were ready for occupation. Brevet Brig. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, although soon to resign his position commanding the Department of the Pacific to join the Confederacy, directed the occupation of Fort Point in February 1861. Under orders from Bvt. Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott in Washington, Johnston garrisoned the Fort with first one, then two companies of artillery, but under his own initiative he ordered the Fort made "inhabitable."¹³

Johnston also ordered the observance of strict security measures in the new Fort. These measures reflect the anxiety about the secession movement prevalent in California at the time, and should have done much to quell doubts concerning Johnston's loyalty to the Union. Johnston first placed the new commander at Fort Point, Capt. John Lendrum of the 3rd Artillery, under the supervision of Lt. Col. Charles S. Merchant, commanding the Presidio. Merchant was to instruct Lendrum to take the following precautions:

First. There must be, night and day, at least two sentinels, one on the barbette battery, and one at the gate.

Second. When the gates are closed and opened it must be done under the supervision of the officer of the day, in whose charge the keys must always remain.

Third. The postern gate must never be opened in the morning until the sentinel on the barbette battery has examined the circuit of the work, nor main gate be opened until the grounds within musket range of the work has been examined by a patrol.

Fourth. During the absence of the patrol the guard must remain under arms.

Fifth. The fastenings of the lower shutters to be examined by the officer of the day at retreat.

Sixth. During the time employed by a part of the garrison in removing powder and stores from the outer store-houses the remainder of the garrison must be under arms and properly stationed.

* * *

¹³ Office of the Secretary of War, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 70 vols. consisting of 128 books in a four series set (Washington, DC: GPO, 1897), series 1, vol. 50, part 1, p. 444.

Eighth. The men will not be permitted to go on the barbette battery except on duty.

* * *

Tenth. Supply of cartridges to be prepared for the flank guns on land face and placed in service magazine.

Eleventh. The main magazine must never be opened or entered except under the supervision of a commissioned officer, and with all the precautions usual in such cases.

Twelfth. Until all the guns are mounted for the defense of the ditch, loaded shells must be kept on the land face of the barbette over the main gate.¹⁴

* * *

These precautions were designed to secure the Fort against a secessionist raid by land, rather than to repel hostile action from the bay.

Meanwhile, provision was made to defend the harbor against a sea offensive by Confederate raiders or foreign warships. General Order 11 from the Headquarters of the Department of the Pacific warned:

Any vessel sailing under the secession flag, so called, which shall enter or attempt to enter any of the waters of the United States on this coast will immediately be captured by the troops stationed there. Any such vessel which shall fail to come to or surrender on being duly warned, or which shall attempt to escape, will be fired into and sunk, if necessary.¹⁵

With the garrisoning of Fort Point, Johnston also ordered the heavy ordnance mounted.¹⁶ Ordering and installing the Fort's armament was the responsibility of the engineer in charge of construction, but the post commander was ordered to furnish the engineers with men to assist in mounting the guns.¹⁷ By October 1861, 30 heavy artillery pieces were installed in the first tier of casemates, two 24-

¹⁴ Instructions from Asst. Adj. Gen. W.W. Mackall to Lt. Col. Charles S. Merchant, February 18, 1861, *War of the Rebellion: Official Records...*, series 1, vol. 50, part 1, p. 446. [Instruction nos. 7, 9, 13, and 14 have been omitted due to their insignificance to the subject of security.]

¹⁵ *War of the Rebellion: Official Records...*, series 1, vol. 50, part 1, p. 494.

¹⁶ Note that some cannons were already present when Company I, 3rd U.S. Artillery took post in 1861. In 1854, with the excavation of the bluff for Fort Point underway, four 32-pounder guns were installed behind temporary *epaulements* at the end of the point in an emplacement known as the water battery and five 32-pounders were installed on the bluff above the fort. The more permanent 10-gun battery was completed on the bluff in 1855 and armed with eight 8-inch and two 10-inch Columbiads.

¹⁷ Richard C. Drum to John H. Lendrum, February 26, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by Department of the Pacific [hereafter cited as DoP].

pounders each in the second and third tier casemates and 21 guns on the barbette tier. Of the latter, 11 protected the land front. Four additional howitzers were mounted in the counterscarp gallery.¹⁸ Capt. Joseph Stewart, commanding Fort Point, reported in 1863 that the Fort was armed with seventy guns, with 10 more mounted in the 10-Gun Battery.¹⁹ Some casemates at the Fort were still vacant, however, and more guns were ordered. These included 20 Rodman guns and twelve 42-pounder rifled guns, as well as carriages, equipment, and ammunition. The extra armament did not arrive until late in 1865, after the Civil War had ended, and ultimately only the Rodmans were mounted in 1868.²⁰

San Francisco Harbor. While guns from Forts Point and Alcatraz provided a strong deterrent to potential attackers, the early warning system to identify enemy ships left much to be desired. The U.S. Revenue steamer *Shubrick*, a lightdraft sidewheel steamer, was the only ship permanently posted in the San Francisco Bay during the war. All vessels were required to report to her commander before anchoring in the bay, but the steamer was not really an effective deterrent to enemy vessels. In the words of a deputy collector in the San Francisco Custom House it was: "a good vessel of the class, but in my opinion very unsuitable for the service required at this post in the present juncture of affairs."²¹

Civilians and military both feared that the Golden Gate was poorly defended. Early in 1864, Capt. Joseph Stewart, commanding Fort Point, suggested the *Shubrick* check-point be moved outside the Golden Gate and within range of Fort Point's guns.²² Days later, civilian A.S. Hallidie "in view of the necessity of thorough defence of the harbor of San Francisco," proposed an elaborate system of harbor defense involving a wire cable stretched across the bay. Colonel De Russy politely rejected the proposal, but the commanding general must have felt the plan had some merit to have forwarded it to the chief engineer for consideration.²³

¹⁸ Elliot to Totten, October 14, 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer in *Historic Structures Report*, pp. 191-93.

¹⁹ *War of the Rebellion: Official Records...*, series 1, vol. 50, part 2, pp. 600-02. Also in *HSR*, pp. 193-94.

²⁰ I. Carle Woodruff to De Russy, Oct. 8, 1863, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 195. Also, Andrew A. Humphreys to Elliot, July 25, 1868, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 234.

²¹ E. Burke to Drum, March 10, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by the DoP.

²² Capt. Joseph Stewart to Drum, February 15, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by the DoP.

²³ A.S. Hallidie to George Wright, February 20, 1864. Also, De Russy to Wright, February 24, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by the DoP. Andrew Smith Hallidie went on to invent the cable car, first installed in San Francisco in 1873.

The fear of Confederate attack was not unfounded. In March 1863, the U.S. sloop of war *Cyane*, newly stationed in the bay, captured the *J.M. Chapman*, a Confederate privateer with designs on local gold shipments. The *Cyane* was later supported by the ironclad monitor *Comanche* but the *Comanche*, launched in 1864, never saw action in the defense of the bay. In the summer of 1865, Capt. James I. Waddell, commanding the raider *CSS Shenandoah*, abandoned a planned attack on the harbor only after confirming in August that the Confederacy had been defeated.²⁴

The Political Situation

Although Fort Point and other forts in San Francisco harbor were at least partially armed and ready to fight for the Union, the San Francisco area was never in any real danger of experiencing armed conflict. Reports of secessionist plots circulated in the San Francisco area throughout the war, yet after the 1860 election roused strong Republican support for the Union, Confederate sympathizers and a faction pushing for the formation of an independent Pacific Republic were effectively silenced for the duration of the war.²⁵

Through 1861, Confederate support in California was strong in the southern part of the state, in part because of lower California's proximity to Texas. Writing from San Francisco in September of that year, Brig. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, commanding the Department, observed: "...since my [last] letter to you...the union party has triumphed in the election which makes things much safer here. There are about 20,000 secession voters in this state and the dissolute and loose portion of this party are congregating in some force in the southern counties in the hope of receiving support from Texas." Sumner concentrated his troops in southern California and so managed to quell any uprisings before they gained momentum.²⁶ The general situation in the San Francisco area throughout the remainder of the conflict is summed up in Brig. Gen. George Wright's November 1861 report to Army headquarters: "Quiet pervades the Pacific Slope."²⁷

²⁴ Benjamin Franklin Gilbert, "San Francisco Harbor Defense During the Civil War," *California Historical Society Quarterly*, vol. 33 (1954), pp. 229-40.

²⁵ Robert J. Chandler, "The Velvet Glove: The Army During the Secession Crisis in California, 1860-1861," *Journal of the West*, vol. 20, no. 4, (Oct. 1981), pp. 35-37.

²⁶ Gen. Edwin V. Sumner to War Department, September 7, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by the DoP.

²⁷ Gen. Wright to Brig. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, November 21, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL OCCUPANCY

Overview of Troop Movement

Troops were stationed at Fort Point from February 1861 through August 1868, and again from September 1878 through the end of 1898. It was not uncommon for coast defenses to be put in caretaker status in peacetime, even to the extent of having some or all guns removed to storage out of the weather, though the latter was not done at Fort Point. At various times after the turn of the century the Army used the Fort as a training station and as an element in the defense of the San Francisco harbor during both World Wars.

Most of the units stationed at Fort Point were artillery companies, although these were supplemented by infantry troops during the Civil War. The number of men stationed at the Fort varied from 55 enlisted men and four commissioned officers in 1861, to a high of 456 men and 15 officers in June 1865. When the post was abandoned in 1868, 30 men and one officer of the 2nd Artillery formed the garrison.²⁸

The following chart records the comings and goings of various companies at Fort Point. Note that Company I, 9th Infantry, was moved in and out of Fort Point three times during the Civil War. The heaviest concentration of troops began during the winter of 1864-65 and continued until the 8th Regiment of California Volunteers was mustered out of service at the post in October 1865.

²⁸ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94, and Special Order 38, March 17, 1868, Headquarters Department of California [hereafter cited as HQDC] (Department of California known previously as Department of the Pacific).

Table 1. Movement of Troops at Fort Point during the Nineteenth Century

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Departed</u>
Co. I, 3rd Artillery	15 Feb 61	5 March 61
Co. A, 3rd Artillery	5 March 61	13 May 61
Co. B, 3rd Artillery	5 March 61	12 September 63
Co. G, 3rd Artillery	13 May 61	21 October 61
Co. K, 9th Infantry	28 Dec. 61	27 February 63
Co. I, 9th Infantry	27 Feb. 63	10 July 63
Co. H, 3rd Artillery	10 July 63	11 August 65
Co. I, 9th Infantry	29 Oct. 63	21 December 64
Co. A, 8th Cal. Vol. Inf.	23 Nov. 64	10 February 65
Co. C, 8th Cal. Vol. Inf.	30 Nov. 64	24 October 65
Co. D, 8th Cal. Vol. Inf.	30 Nov. 64	24 October 65
Co. B, 8th Cal. Vol. Inf.	7 Dec. 64	18 April 65
Co. E, 9th Infantry	21 Dec. 64	26 September 65
Co. K, 8th Cal. Vol. Inf.	10 Feb. 65	24 October 65
Co. I, 8th Cal Vol Inf.	19 April 65	24 October 65
Co. I, 9th Infantry	13 May 65	26 September 65
Co. G, 2nd Artillery	30 Sept. 65	16 October 65
Co. H, 2nd Artillery	25 or 27 Oct. 65	24 September 67
Co. M, 2nd Artillery	25 or 27 Oct. 65	12 December 65
Field Staff and Band, 2nd Artillery	by 31 Oct. 65	December 1866; transferred to Brigade Band, Dept. of California; left post 17 Feb. 67
Co. F, 2nd Artillery	23 Dec. 65	before 30 April 66
Co. K, 2nd Artillery	27 June 67	23 September 67 ²⁹
Co. F, 9th Infantry	21 July 67	24 September 67
Co. D, US Engineer Battalion	22 Sept. 67	17 March 68

²⁹ Fort Point Post Returns, NA, RG 94 and Special Orders 141, 223 (Co. F, 9th Inf.) and 222 (Co. K, 2nd Art.), HQDC.

One lieutenant and 30 men, from Companies A and M, 2nd Artillery ³⁰	17 March 68	25 August 68
Co. A, 4th Artillery	16 Sept. 78	4 November 81
Co. K, 4th Artillery	16 Sept. 78	6 July 81
Co. C, 4th Artillery	7 May 80	4 November 81
Co. L, 4th Artillery	9 July 81	4 November 81
Battery F, 1st Artillery	18 Nov. 81	December 84
Battery H, 1st Artillery	19 Nov. 81	10 October 83
Battery B, 1st Artillery	22 Nov. 81	September 86
Battery C, 1st Artillery	12 Dec. 83	15 September 86
Battery A, 1st Artillery	Dec. 84	30 December 85
Battery A, 3rd Artillery	by May 98	
Battery G, 3rd Artillery	by May 98	4 June 98
Battery H, 3rd Artillery	by May 98	4 June 98
Battery I, 3rd Artillery	by May 98	at least until 31 October 98
Battery E, 3rd Artillery	by May 98	contingent still at fort at least until 31 October 98
Band, 3rd Artillery	June 98	at least until 31 October 98 ³¹

Officers

Regular Duties. Officers of troops in garrison during the Civil War attended to a routine set of duties designed to manage administrative functions, and to maintain their posts' readiness. According to the *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861*, company commanders were to pay "the utmost attention...to the cleanliness of their men, as to their persons, clothing, arms, accoutrements, and equipments, and also as to their quarters or tents."³² This regulation, however, was not always followed; officers' contact with troops was largely left up to individual initiative.³³

³⁰ "Detachments from Co. A and Co. M, 2nd Art" replace Co. D, Engineers, entry in Medical Register for March 25, 1868, RG 94. Medical Registers for Fort Point, vol. 96.

³¹ Fort Point Post Returns, NA, RG 94, and Special Order 38, March 17, 1868, HQDC; and Special Order 136, August 25, 1868, HQDC.

³² U.S. War Department, *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861*, (Philadelphia: JGL Brown, printer, 1861), p. 21.

³³ Robert Wooster, *Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers: Garrison Life on the Texas Frontier* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1987), p. 92.

Regular assignments included acting as officer-of-the-day, post adjutant or assistant quartermaster. The officer-of-the-day was responsible for inspecting each sentry post during the day and at least once after midnight, and for reviewing post facilities. He was also responsible for providing the officer of the guard with the watch word. The post adjutant was charged with organizing reports to be sent on to regimental and departmental headquarters. He was appointed by the regimental commander and directed the daily guard-mounting and dress parade.³⁴

One officer served as the post commissary, requesting and inspecting subsistence stores following a specific set of procurement regulations. Officers might also serve on receiving boards, inspecting new supplies, or on boards of survey, counting supplies for the post quartermaster and commissary and condemning supplies where necessary. Junior officers were used as secretaries and recorders on these boards and often ended up doing much of the work.³⁵

Quartermaster Duties. The regimental quartermaster and quartermaster sergeant were also appointed by the colonel of the regiment. The regimental quartermaster, holding the rank of lieutenant and assisted by the quartermaster sergeant, was responsible for the equipment belonging to the regiment, such as tents and wagons, and ordered supplies for the regiment. He also received and issued the goods supplied by the Quartermaster Department to officers to be distributed to the troops.³⁶ Both regular and volunteer regiments assigned quartermaster sergeants and quartermasters; the Department of the Pacific used subalterns in volunteer companies for many quartermaster and commissary department positions during the war and: "many of them have proved to be zealous, capable and honest in the discharge of their duties...."³⁷ Both an acting assistant quartermaster and assistant commissary of subsistence were appointed by the commander of each post to procure and distribute rations, supplies and equipment for the post, as well as to complete the necessary paperwork to document their activities.

First Lt. Horatio M. Gibson, a member of Colonel Merchant's regiment of the 3rd Artillery, served both Fort Point and the Presidio as quartermaster and commissary when the post was initially garrisoned. In September, however,

³⁴ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 51-62.

³⁵ Wooster, *Soldiers, Sutlers and Settlers...*, pp. 92-93.

³⁶ Erna Risch, *Quartermaster Support of the Army: A History of the Corps 1775-1939* (Washington, DC: Quartermaster Historian's Office, Office of the Quartermaster General, 1962), p. 390.

³⁷ Wright to B.G. Thomas, January 26, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

Gibson resigned and Lt. Edward R. Warner took his place.³⁸ On October 20, 1861, 2d Lt. Watson Webb was appointed acting assistant quartermaster and acting commissary of subsistence for the post and from that time on, Fort Point retained its own commissary and quartermaster staff. The regimental quartermaster for the 8th California Volunteers was also stationed at Fort Point in 1865.³⁹

Court-martials. General court-martials dealt with serious charges and were staffed by officers from several different posts, while garrison court-martials were held at the offender's post and dealt with lesser breaches of discipline.⁴⁰ Officers serving on court-martials wielded great power over enlisted men, acting as both judge and jury. There was a wide latitude in the imposition of sentences; most sentences were severe, and punishments often varied for the same crime.⁴¹

Officers who committed crimes were tried by general court-martials; most general court-martials in the San Francisco area were held at the Presidio or at division headquarters in San Francisco. During the period 1861 through 1868, at least three officers serving at Fort Point were court-martialed, one for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, one for refusing to obey orders, and one for conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. A fourth was dismissed from the service as a result of findings of a special Board of Examination.

The first, 1st Lt. Henry S. Waterman, arrived at the post with Company B of the 3rd Artillery in January 1862. Waterman, acting assistant quartermaster for Fort Point, was married at the end of March 1863, and was under arrest in San Francisco by May 10 of that year. At his trial in June, Waterman was accused of falsifying payment vouchers; borrowing money from enlisted men to cover deficiencies in his account; leaving the post when acting as officer of the day, and speaking in a disrespectful manner to his commanding officer.

In a transaction with fuel contractor Nicholas Bichard, Waterman coerced him into signing a receipt indicating that he had received \$1527.50, when in fact Waterman paid him only \$1500. When Bichard objected, Waterman threatened to pay him only \$1000. Waterman found himself in more financial trouble when Lt.

³⁸ September 27, 1861, Regimental Records, 3rd Artillery, Letters Received, NA, RG 391; Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94; and September 1861, Regimental Records, 3rd Artillery, Letters Sent, NA, RG 391.

³⁹ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

⁴⁰ Wooster, *Soldiers, Sutlers and Settlers...*, pp. 94-95.

⁴¹ Jack D. Foner, *The U.S. Soldier Between Two Wars: Army Life and Reforms 1865-1898* (New York: Humanities Press, 1970), pp. 31-42.

Col. Caleb C. Sibley inspected Fort Point in January 1863. Waterman borrowed \$40 from 1st Sgt. Patrick Downing "for the purpose of making good a deficiency in his public monies," in addition to \$20 he had borrowed from Downing six months earlier.

Waterman also ran afoul of his commanding officer, Bvt. Maj. George Andrews. When serving as officer of the day, Waterman left the post without Andrews' permission and upon his return, he ordered the sergeant on duty to report in the guard book that he had returned earlier "all of which was obviously done with the intent to deceive his commanding officer." Several months later, he accused Andrews of being drunk and threatened: " 'This will cost you your commission' or 'I will take your commission from you for this' or words to that effect." Waterman was found guilty of all charges except the last, which was not a military offence, and dismissed the service on June 25, 1863. He had previously removed his personal belongings from Fort Point, and remained in San Francisco until his trial and sentencing.⁴²

In September 1867, a General Court-Martial was convened at Department Headquarters in San Francisco to hear charges against Bvt. Maj. Charles O. Wood, commanding Fort Point and Company F, 9th Infantry. During the war, Wood served as lieutenant colonel of the 8th California Volunteers, assuming command of his unit in February 1865. Brevetted a major after the war, Wood arrived at Fort Point July 21, 1867, and relieved Maj. Harvey Allen of command of the post the next day.

Both charges brought against Wood stemmed from laxity, rather than any severe crime, and his sentence reflects this. Wood was first charged with disobeying orders from his superior officer, Lt. Col. William H. French. In direct opposition to commands from French, Wood permitted officers at Fort Point detailed as members of a general court-martial at the Presidio to be reported on detached service, "allowing said officers to be excused from all their duties and responsibilities the same as if not present at their post." Next, Wood freed convicted deserter Julius Oberer from the guard house, and then employed him as a private cook.

Wood was found guilty of both charges and sentenced "to be suspended from rank and command for a period of two months; and to be reprimanded in orders from his Department Commander." The members of the court-martial relented, however, and remitted Wood's suspension from rank and command. They returned him to duty at Fort Point where he served only several more days,

⁴² General Order 23, DoP, June 25 1863, NA, RG 393, General Orders and Circulars Issued by DoP; Henry S. Waterman to DoP, March 25 1863, and attachments: "This [young?] officer is about to be married, which explains the time asked for." NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

explaining, "To so good a soldier as Bvt. Major Wood, the sentence of a Court composed of many of his distinguished brother officers, is, in itself, a sufficient reprimand for the offenses of which they have found him guilty."⁴³

Second Lt. Robert M. Rogers, 2nd Artillery, was tried at a court-martial convened in San Francisco on May 29, 1868. He was charged with failing to take proper precautions to prevent the escape of 38 prisoners under his charge at Fort Point. Rogers did not inspect the prisoners at *tattoo* or during the night, and failed to place a guard outside the fort, near the window of the prison. The 38 prisoners escaped through the window during the three-day period in May in which he was in charge. He pleaded guilty to the charges that he failed to inspect the prisoners and to place a guard outside the prison. He was found not guilty, however, of being responsible for the escape of the prisoners. He was acquitted, released from arrest, and returned to duty.⁴⁴

First Lt. Felix O'Byrne, an Irish-born journalist, joined Fort Point as Regimental Quartermaster of the 8th California Volunteers in March 1865. In June he was assigned to special duty, awaiting the findings of a Board of Examination and was under arrest by August 26. Apparently, O'Byrne was accused of treason but a legal hitch prevented him from being tried; he was dismissed from the service on the basis of the findings of a Board of Examination.

The case attracted attention in San Francisco, and Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, commanding the Department of the Pacific, explained the situation in a letter to Washington:

On the recommendation of several gentlemen of this city, I joined in naming Mr. O'Byrne to the Governor...for a commission. As soon, however, as he was appointed many grave charges against his integrity and character generally were made publicly and privately and finally a very direct and circumstantial one was presented in writing affecting his loyalty...whilst in Victoria, Vancouver Island, he had written a most denunciatory article in the Victoria Chronicle against the U. S. and in favor of the Rebellion! Urging a recognition of the seceding states etc, etc....

McDowell forwarded the letter to Governor Frederick F. Low and then on to O'Byrne, who requested the Board of Examination himself. The Board sent the letter to the U.S. Consul in Victoria for verification, where it was authenticated. The returned paper bore the affirming consular seal, but statements regarding the charges were not taken under oath, so the board would not receive them. A General Court-Martial was appointed to try O'Byrne, but three days later the

⁴³ General Order 53, Military Division of the Pacific, September 21, 1867, NA, RG 393, HQDC.

⁴⁴ General Order 18, Military Division of the Pacific, June 4, 1868.

appointing order was revoked and he was discharged from service September 2, 1865.⁴⁵

Training. While a large part of officers' duties involved training enlisted men in drill of the use of arms and ordnance, officers at Fort Point were themselves instructed twice a week in the theory and practice of "Infantry, Artillery and Military Engineering." Beginning in September 1863, the post commanders at Forts Point and Alcatraz and the Presidio directed recitations, making a report of participants' progress which was filed with Department Headquarters. A grading system was established and a curriculum set, utilizing *Infantry Tactics*, *Heavy Artillery*, *Field Artillery*, *Robert's Hand Book*, *Ordnance Manual 1862*, *Bayonet Exercise*, *Heth's Rifle Practice (Target)*, and *Hahaus' Field Fortifications and Outpost Service* as texts. The commanding officer also established a similar course for noncommissioned officers, which included grading and reporting standards similar to those of the officers' course. Drills would be conducted: "to conform so far as practicable, to the course of study."⁴⁶

Recruiting. Officers at Fort Point were also often called away on recruiting duty, to serve both in San Francisco and in other cities in California. In June 1862, the recruiting rendezvous for the 3rd Artillery and 9th Infantry in San Francisco was closed down by Brig. Gen. George Wright, commanding the Department of the Pacific. He attributed the inability to obtain recruits to "the excitement consequent on the discovery of rich mines in various quarters...."⁴⁷ He reopened the rendezvous later, for in May 1863, he again reported closing it, citing the "many causes operating against the enlistment of men for the Regular Army here."⁴⁸ Wright later suggested that all deserters slated to be returned to regiments in the East be added to the 3rd Artillery or 9th Infantry to increase the strength of those units and to save the expense of transporting men across the country.⁴⁹

California nevertheless provided more than 15,000 volunteers in the Civil War, contributing three cavalry regiments, nine infantry regiments, and the First Battalion of Mountaineers. These regiments were under the command of the general commanding the Department of the Pacific. The 8th Regiment of

⁴⁵ Irvin McDowell to Adjutant-General, U.S. Army, June 3, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters sent by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

⁴⁶ Stewart, Sibley, et al, to Drum, August 26, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Special Order 202, Headquarters DoP, September 1, 1863, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by DoP, 1861-65.

⁴⁷ Wright to B.G. Thomas, June 6, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

⁴⁸ Wright to Thomas, May 1, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

⁴⁹ Wright to Thomas, May 11, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

Volunteer Infantry, the only regiment to serve at Fort Point, was not mustered in until the winter of 1864-65.⁵⁰

Regular army recruiting parties consisted of one lieutenant, one noncommissioned officer, two privates, and two musicians. Field officers were in charge of recruiting districts, while lieutenants oversaw the parties. When parties failed to get recruits, other than by the fault of the officer in charge, the superintending officer recommended the party move to another station. Recruiting officers were required to pay personal attention to potential recruits, presenting the nature and duties of the service honestly, and to treat minors "with candor," obtaining the proper consent prior to their enlistment. Further, the officer in charge of a recruiting party was responsible for the personal appearance of the men under his command, as well as for obtaining necessary supplies and transportation for the trip.⁵¹

In June 1865, Capt. Hugh B. Fleming of Company I, 9th Infantry, was appointed superintendent of volunteer recruiting service for California and Nevada by order of the Adjutant General's Office. Fleming had joined Fort Point with his company in February 1863, replacing Capt. James Van Voast, who moved Company K, 9th Infantry, to its new post at the Presidio. Fleming completed recruiting duty on November 15, 1865. In January 1864, 2d Lt. Samuel Munson, 9th Infantry, acted temporarily as mustering officer to muster recruits for state volunteers. Capt. Edwin Pollock and 1st Lt. Timothy Connelly, of Company I, 9th Infantry, went on recruiting service on April 30, 1865. Pollock did not rejoin his post until August 13, 1865. Sergeant (?) Hagens and Pvt. Patrick Golding, both of the 9th Infantry, also served at the regimental recruiting office while stationed at Fort Point.⁵²

Promotion. Some officers felt their talents were wasted at posts in the San Francisco harbor and sought out more challenging assignments. They may have felt the West Coast was a bit of a professional backwater, in view of the action taking place in the East. Capt. William A. Winder, 3rd Artillery, requested to be assigned the command of Fort Point in February 1862. He pointed out that he was the second artillery officer in rank in the Department of the Pacific, and that Fort Point was currently being commanded by Capt. James Van Voast, an officer of the infantry. His request was turned down, however, and he assumed command of Fort Alcatraz in May.⁵³

⁵⁰ Leo P. Kibby, "California Soldiers in the Civil War," *California Historical Society Quarterly* (December, 1961), pp. 343-44.

⁵¹ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 128-32.

⁵² Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

⁵³ Capt. William Winder to DoP, February 17, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP; "The Rock," p. 206.

Van Voast did not share Winder's desire to remain at Fort Point. While he was relieved of his temporary command of Fort Point in March 1862, Van Voast remained at the post commanding Company K of the 9th Infantry. By October 1862, he felt his company was "well drilled and instructed in the duties of Artillery," and further time spent at Fort Point would not serve to improve their skills. He requested for his company "the Regimental discipline, and the benefit of the Regimental drill of which it has ever been deprived, and which nearly all the other companies have enjoyed during the past summer...." The interest of the service did not permit a transfer in "the present critical state of affairs" and Van Voast's request was quickly turned down.⁵⁴

Not easily deterred, the next month Van Voast sought to escape Fort Point by means of promotion. Aware that a new regiment of California volunteers was to be raised, he wrote his department commander requesting a position that would advance his career in the new regiment. In February 1863, Company K joined their regiment at the Presidio; Van Voast was finally promoted to major in the 18th Infantry later that year. In November 1864, however, he found himself back at Fort Point, commanding the newly recruited troops of the 8th California Volunteers.⁵⁵

Pay. In addition to other concerns, skyrocketing prices in California made the San Francisco area a costly post for officers being paid according to the pay scale established by the War Department in Washington. A comparison of the rates allowed by the Army for rooms in cities where public quarters were not available illustrates the problem. In Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and other East coast cities, the rate was \$9 per room; in California the rate was \$12 except in San Francisco, where the rate was \$20 per room.⁵⁶

While the Army provided housing, food, and clothing for enlisted men, officers were paid more and provided their own food and clothing, as well as any other household or stabling expenses. Total monthly pay for officers having the rank of major and lower ranged from \$179 to \$105 including allowances for subsistence and servants and, in the case of majors, forage. Extra pay could also be accorded officers commanding companies or performing other special duties.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Capt. James Van Voast to Drum, October 1, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP. Also, DoP to Van Voast, Oct. 3, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

⁵⁵ Van Voast to DoP, November 13, 1862, NA, RG 393, Register of Letters Received by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94. See also George Washington Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point New York from its establishment, March 16, 1802 to 1890.*, 3rd edition (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Co., 1891), pp. 477-78.

⁵⁶ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 161.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 525.

Even if their pay was adequate, officers could not be assured it would be distributed in a timely fashion. In the winter of 1862-63 pay was so late in the Department of the Pacific that the commanding general allowed officers to draw their rations in kind so they would not go hungry. He wrote: "...owing to the dispersed condition of the troops in this Dept and their arrearage of pay extending for many months, it becomes a matter of absolute necessity that subsistence should be furnished officers, even if they have not the means to pay at the moment; and in such extreme cases, I have authorized them to draw in kind such number of their rations as may be necessary for their subsistence...."⁵⁸

Part of the financial difficulty in California arose from the Army's policy of paying officers and men in notes, rather than in gold. In November 1862, San Francisco merchants combined to reject the new paper money issued by the government and accept only gold or currency at market value.⁵⁹ The Department of the Pacific was thus left in a difficult position. General Wright explained to the Adjutant General in Washington:

We are experiencing extreme embarrassment throughout the whole Department, in consequence of the depreciation of US Treasury Notes. They are now worth less than 70 cents on the dollar....Again, I beg leave to submit to the Department the hardship falling upon the officers and Soldiers on this coast. Everything is enormously high, even when paid for in specie; and the notes can only be converted at a ruinous discount....I would most earnestly recommend that the payments in all the Departments on this coast, be made...as far as practicable in coin....⁶⁰

Commanders

The following section provides a list of commanding officers of Fort Point from 1861 through the 1868 withdrawal of the garrison. Included below are highlights of officers' commands, as well as brief descriptions of their later careers.

Capt. John H. Lendrum. Captain Lendrum was the first commander of the garrison at Fort Point. Arriving at the Fort on February 15, 1861, with another commissioned officer from Company I, 3rd Artillery and two officers attached from other companies, he commanded the post until March 5, 1861. Under the supervision of Lt. Col. Charles S. Merchant, commanding the Presidio, Lendrum enforced strict security measures guarding the land face of the Fort. Permission formerly granted to Captain [?] Ellis of the California guard to exercise his troops

⁵⁸ Wright to Col. Joseph P. Taylor, January 9, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

⁵⁹ Robert J. Chandler, "San Franciscans View the Civil War," *Salvo: Journal of the Fort Point and Army Museum Association*, vol. 6, no. 1 (Spring 1990), p. 8.

⁶⁰ Wright to Brig. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, Feb. 4, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

at the Fort was rescinded. During his brief tenure, Lendrum also received the ordnance and ordnance stores from Captain Gilmer of the Engineer Corps.⁶¹

Prior to his tour commanding Fort Point, Lendrum had a long career in the Army. He joined the army as a second lieutenant in 1847 and served in the Mexican War. He was breveted a captain for his service in that war and became a full captain in 1858. Lendrum came to California in 1849, and by May 1850 was Quartermaster in San Francisco. By February 1854 he was commanding the 55-man garrison at the Presidio. Lendrum also oversaw the Commissary Department, which he kept in good order. After his service at Fort Point, Lendrum served at the Presidio.⁶²

On Monday October 22, 1861, Captain Lendrum was thrown while riding in a buggy with Brig. Gen. T.D. Johns down Powell Street in San Francisco. A dirt car, employed by street graders: "came thundering down, knocking the team of horses over and upsetting the buggy. Captain Lendrum, by his fall, had five ribs on the left side fractured." Lendrum died from his injuries on October 27, 1861, leaving a wife and child in New Jersey. He was buried in the San Francisco National Cemetery at the Presidio.⁶³

1st Lt. John Kellogg. First Lieutenant Kellogg, of Company B, 3rd Artillery, arrived at Fort Point with his company on March 5, 1861, assuming command from Captain Lendrum the same day. He was relieved of command April 18, 1861, by Bvt. Maj. William Austine and remained with his company at the post until June when he was appointed Adjutant of his regiment and reported to Regimental Headquarters. In August, Kellogg was made captain, and during the war served as commissary at the San Francisco Depot and as chief commissary of Subsistence of the Middle Department in the East. He died at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in April 1865, having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel of volunteers.⁶⁴

Bvt. Maj. William Austine. Brevet Major Austine assumed command of Fort Point and of Company B, 3rd Artillery, on April 18, 1861. Returning from seven years sick leave, Austine remained at Fort Point only until December 1861.

⁶¹ DoP to Capt. John S. Ellis, February 20, 1861, and DoP to Lendrum, February 26, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

⁶² Robert W. Frazer, ed., *Mansfield on the Condition of the Western Forts, 1853-1854* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963), pp. 135-37. See also Lendrum to DoP, June 1, 1852, NA, RG 92, Records of the Quartermaster General, and Fort Point Post Returns, NA, RG 94.

⁶³ *San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin*, Oct. 23, 1861, and *Daily Alta California*, Oct. 27, 1861, in Fort Point NHS reference file.

⁶⁴ Cullum, *Biographical Register...*, p. 384. See also Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

During the time Fort Point was under his command, Austine tested projectiles in development and oversaw the withdrawal of Companies A and G of the 3rd Artillery.⁶⁵ In October 1861, Austine was assigned the command of the Presidio, in addition to retaining that of Fort Point.⁶⁶

When the assistant adjutant general of the Department of the Pacific inspected Austine's post in November 1861 he reported: "It affords me pleasure to report that I found the troops in high order. The armament of the fort although incomplete, was found in handsome condition, and ready for any emergency."⁶⁷ Austine showed an interest in his men, requesting a remittance of a "severe" sentence in the case of Pvt. John Boyd of Company B, and requesting a more lenient sentence in view of the poor health of Pvt. Charles F. Wilkins, also of Company B.⁶⁸

Austine was relieved of the command of Fort Point on December 20, 1861, and left the post on the 24th for an interview with the retiring board in Washington, D.C. In February 1862, Austine retired from active service due to disability, but continued to perform mustering, disbursing, recruiting, draft, and provost duties in Vermont until he left the service as a brevet colonel in 1866. Before Austine left Fort Point, General Wright, commanding the Department, commended Austine to the Adjutant General's office: "I cannot part with Major Austine without expressing to the department my high appreciation of his service as commander of the Fort at Fort Point for months past. A few weeks since I critically inspected the major's command when I found everything in the highest order; by his industry and activity the Fort has been put in the best possible condition to guard the passage of the 'Golden Gate'."⁶⁹

Capt. James Van Voast. Captain Van Voast of the 9th Infantry accepted the command of Fort Point on December 28, 1861. Second Lt. Abraham Weldrick, of Company I, 3rd Artillery, was attached to and commanding Company B, 3rd Artillery, and assumed command of Fort Point from Austine's departure on December 24 until Van Voast's arrival on the December 28.

⁶⁵ DoP to William Austine, September 17, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94. See also Cullum, *Biographical Register...*, p. 717.

⁶⁶ Drum to William Austine, Oct. 15, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

⁶⁷ Drum to Col. Edward Townsend, November 20, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

⁶⁸ Austine to DoP, May 27, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Austine to DoP, Oct. 8, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

⁶⁹ Cullum, *Biographical Register...*, p. 717. See also Wright to Brig. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, Dec. 27, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

Van Voast, also commanding Company K, was in charge of two companies during the time he commanded Fort Point. In January 1862, he was involved in an unknown arrangement which was "disapproved and...annulled" by the Department of the Pacific. It may have had something to do with control of the grounds around Fort Point and the Presidio, for at this time, control of the "military reservation" was firmly given back to Colonel Sibley who commanded the Presidio.⁷⁰

After this incident, Van Voast concerned himself variously with instituting artillery practice for the troops at his post, repairing the Fort Point road, and maintaining control over enlisted men visiting San Francisco on day passes.⁷¹ When Bvt. Maj. George Andrews took over the command of Fort Point in March, Van Voast remained at the post, commanding his company until it was transferred to the Presidio in February 1863. Van Voast retired as a colonel of the 9th Infantry in 1883.⁷²

Bvt. Maj. and Capt. George P. Andrews. Assigned to Fort Point in January 1862, Brevet Major Andrews of the 3rd Artillery was in command of the post by March 12, 1862. He supervised ordnance and equipment inspections and installations, in addition to welcoming military visitors and the press for tours of Fort Point.⁷³ In December 1862, Andrews left the post for five days to attend the funeral of a friend in Benicia. He was relieved of the post command July 13, 1863, but remained commanding Company B at Fort Point until September 8, 1863, when he was relieved of duty with his company and assigned duty as assistant Provost Marshal General for the State of California and the Territory of Nevada.⁷⁴

Andrews, like Austine, showed concern for the men under his command. He wrote to the Department on behalf of Pvt. Patrick Lynch, a deserter, recommending he be restored to duty without trial; he supported laundresses in danger of losing their quarters; requested a rheumatic soldier be transferred to a more congenial post; cleared the name of Privates Michael Howley and Samuel Atkinson, both of

⁷⁰ Drum to Van Voast, January 20, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

⁷¹ Van Voast to DoP, February 10, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP; Van Voast to Drum, March 10, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP; Van Voast to DoP, December 30, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

⁷² Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94. See also Cullum, *Biographical Register...*, p. 477.

⁷³ George P. Andrews to DoP, June 21, 1862, NA, RG 393, Register of Letters Received by DoP, and Andrews to Drum, August 29, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP. See also *Daily Alta California*, October 3, 1862, in Fort Point NHS reference file.

⁷⁴ Andrews to DoP, Dec. 18, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

Company B, and gave them honorable discharges; requested leniency for an incarcerated private who had "profit[ed] by what he has already suffered."⁷⁵

Certain officers serving under Andrews, however, perceived his command as neither benign nor efficient. While serving at Angel Island in May 1864, Andrews was summoned before a board convened to examine and report upon his mental condition. The board met in San Francisco and was empowered to subpoena and examine witnesses in the case. Meeting off and on for one week, the board interviewed several officers who related incidents that had occurred while they served under Andrews at Fort Point. Dr. John Van Sant, an assistant surgeon who had served at Fort Point for 18 months, related: "One of the acts that now occurs to me, is his saying in the presence of myself, Pvt.[?] Day (of his command), and his wife, Mrs. Andrews, when we were riding together in an ambulance, in reference to a Court-Martial, which was then in progress--that Capt. Van Voast had suborned, or been tampering with witnesses, or words to that effect...." While at Angel Island, Andrews "...having just returned from a fishing excursion--without uniform, and with high rough boots over his pantaloons--accompanied by a citizen and several children--made his inspection of the Hospital..." Van Sant also remarked that "for a considerable period I have seen him when his attention seemed to be wholly engrossed with the raising of poultry--talking about this on all occasions and constantly recurring to it when other topics of conversation would be introduced."

Surgeon Van Sant and Andrews were obviously incompatible, and Van Sant described Andrews' request for his removal: "Maj. Andrews sent a letter for the Dept. Commander--in which he assigned as reasons for requesting that I should be removed from his command, that there would, probably, be no cases of sickness at the Post, as long as he remained, and also that I was personally obnoxious to the Commanding Officer."

Andrews was also considered to be an alcoholic by some of his subordinates. Van Sant testified:

I have seen him, perhaps the greater part of his time, under the influence of Alcoholic drinks--to such an extent as would cause his conversation to be incoherent or unconnected--and his actions exceedingly restless--moving about from place to place without apparent object....Another instance--Whilst he was in command at Fort Point, about one year ago--I saw him very drunk and exceedingly disorderly--alarming the Post by his loud outcries--and calling an Officer of his command a "damned perjured liar" and using threatening gestures and continuing his riotous acts until stopped by the interference of others.

⁷⁵ Andrews to Drum, Sept. 2 and Sept. 9, 1862; Andrews and William A. Winder to DoP, June 30, 1862; Andrews to DoP September 23, 1862; Andrews to Drum, March 18, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

Major Van Voast remarked, "During the time I was under his command at Fort Point--the Major, when under the influence of liquor, exhibited idiosyncrasies in his actions and conversation....I attributed these idiosyncrasies to his indulgence in intoxicating liquor and to the present rebellion." A private citizen who had known Andrews for some time also claimed drinking "...seemed to excite him to an immoderate degree....It caused [him] to talk extravagantly and wildly at times."

Most officers, including Lts. Samuel Munson, William Tompkins, Louis Fine and John Tiernon, Capts. Hugh Fleming and William Winder, and Col. René De Russy, felt that Andrews was merely an eccentric and in the words of Colonel De Russy: "...at times a great talker and [he] expresses himself at these times, apparently more for the sake of talking, than expressing what I would suppose to be his proper sentiments....he has, at times, left me in doubt whether his mind was altogether sound." The Board, however, had no such doubts and declared that no testimony delivered lead them to believe Andrews was of an unsound mind. Andrews transferred in 1866 to the 5th Artillery and later to the 4th and 1st regiments. After serving again at Fort Point in 1881, he retired as a colonel from the 1st Artillery in 1885.⁷⁶

Capt. Joseph Stewart. Capt. Joseph Stewart, with the 3rd Artillery, assumed command of Fort Point on July 13, 1863. Like many of the commanders of Fort Point, Stewart was a West Point graduate with experience serving in California and other western garrisons. Stationed on Alcatraz Island at the beginning of the Civil War, Stewart developed a "manoeuvring machine" for moving heavy guns around the battery. He offered the invention to the Army, and was sent to Fort Monroe, Virginia, in January 1862 to meet with a Board established to examine the machine. The machine consisted of "an axle attached to the chassis of a gun carriage, and a rope attached to the carriage proper and wrapping around the axle." It provided several advantages for the operation of heavy guns. First, it enabled three, rather than four, cannoneers to work a gun. Second, the guns could still be worked with less than three cannoneers. Third, the guns were prevented from running into the battery too strongly. Finally, the cannoneers were protected from enemy fire because they worked the guns from the terreplein. The board examined the machine and declared "it greatly facilitates the operation of running the gun from and into [the] battery." They suggested it be applied to wooden barbette and casemate carriages. After Stewart took over the command of Fort Point in October 1863, he offered the invention to the Department of the Pacific at no cost, but it is not known whether his offer was accepted, or indeed, whether this machine was ever used.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Proceedings of a Board of Officers, May 25 through June 8, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP. See also Cullum, *Biographical Register...*, p. 224.

⁷⁷ Joseph Stewart to DoP, October 9, 1861, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

Stewart was involved in developing an officer training program (see Training section above), as well as in assessing the Fort's current armament and planning for its completion. He also supervised troops stationed at the Presidio sent to drill in heavy artillery at Fort Point. In addition, Stewart and his colleagues in the harbor devised several systems of signals designed to communicate between the two forts and the *Shubrick*.⁷⁸

The press noted Stewart's efforts at Fort Point, commenting in May 1864:

Captain Stewart who has the command at this station is well known to the public as a brave man and competent commander. Fort Point not only testifies to it, but his military career for the last ten or twelve years....Order, seems to be his first law, and willing obedience his reward from the soldiers under him....The soldiers are on constant drill, loading and reloading, and kept busy in cleaning the guns, ammunition, and Fort.⁷⁹

During his command of Fort Point, Stewart spent some time away from his post, serving on a board to investigate the purchase of horses in Sacramento in March 1864, and going on sick leave intermittently from April 31 through July 18, 1864. First Lt. George Walker assumed command of the post from June 30 to July 18.

On November 19, 1864, James Van Voast, by now a major in the 18th Infantry, took over the command of Fort Point. Stewart remained, commanding Company H, 3rd Artillery. Van Voast was ordered East to join his command on December 20, and Stewart again picked up the reins, commanding the post until March 10, 1865, when Col. Allen Anderson of the 8th Regiment of the California Volunteers established the regimental headquarters at Fort Point. During the last months of Stewart's command, the garrison gained six new companies of volunteers; more than 400 men were posted at Fort Point. When Anderson was temporarily detached for ten days later in March, Stewart again accepted command of the post.

Eventually, Stewart complained about his "anomalous position," stating that for several months he had been "the oldest officer in this Department doing duty in the line." He objected to being second in command at Fort Point, regardless of the fact that he was temporarily in command. He also pointed out, "two junior officers of my own regiment are in command of two separate artillery posts in this harbor."⁸⁰ The Department, however, retained Stewart at Fort Point for a few

⁷⁸ Stewart et al. to Drum, DoP, August 26, 1863; Stewart to DoP, September 5, 1863, NA, RG 393, Register of Letters Received by DoP; Drum to Major Andrew Bowman, October 6, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters sent by DoP; and Stewart et al. to DoP, December 4, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

⁷⁹ *The Pacific Monthly*, vol. 11 (May 1864) pp. 567-68, in Fort Point NHS reference file.

⁸⁰ Stewart to Drum, DoP, March 24, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

more months, relieving him of command yet again upon Anderson's return on April 23. On May 10, Stewart was sent to Fort Klamath, Oregon, to investigate the erection of that post; he returned June 8 and was ordered to Monterey on August 11, 1865. Stewart continued in the service until 1879 when he retired as a lieutenant colonel at his own request.⁸¹

Col. Allen L. Anderson. Allen Anderson, formerly a captain in the 5th Infantry, became a colonel in the 8th California Volunteers in March 1865. His regiment was organized in San Francisco, Sacramento, Marysville, and Placerville, California, between November 1864 and February 1865, and he assumed command of Fort Point and his regiment on March 10, 1865. Almost immediately, the 28-year-old Anderson was appointed inspector of artillery for the forts and batteries in the San Francisco harbor, visiting Angel Island, Point Blunt, Alcatraz, and Point San Jose. He returned to Fort Point April 23, and submitted his "Special Report on Forts and Batteries in the harbor of San Francisco" in early June. His report did not cover Fort Point or its batteries.⁸²

Later in June, Anderson took a fifteen-day leave of absence and in September he was detailed to a general court-martial at Benicia Barracks. The 8th California Volunteers were mustered out of service at Fort Point on October 24, 1865, but Anderson and several other officers were retained to serve on a general court-martial. The post command was transferred to Lt. Col. William French on October 27. Anderson was mustered out of volunteer service on November 10 and went on to serve as a brevet lieutenant colonel in the regular army in Arizona and Kansas until his resignation in January 1867. He later worked as Engineer of the City of Cincinnati and was involved in mining in Georgia.⁸³

Bvt. Brig. Gen. and Lt. Col. William H. French. Lieutenant Colonel French of the 2nd Artillery took command of Fort Point on October 27, 1865. He left the post on detached service on November 11 and returned the next month. In his absence, Capt. Frank L. Larned, Company H, took over the command of the post. In March 1866, French was detailed to inspect blankets; he served on court-martials in December 1866 and January 1867. Capt. Samuel B. McIntire, Company H, assumed command during French's absence in January.⁸⁴

⁸¹ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94. See also Cullum, *Biographical Register...*, pp. 127-28.

⁸² Special Order 61, Headquarters of the Pacific, March 20, 1865, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by DoP; "Special Report on Forts and Batteries in the harbor of San Francisco," June 6, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP; Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94. See also *Volunteer Army Register*, vol. 7, (Washington, DC: Pension Bureau Library), p. 344.

⁸³ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94, and Regimental Records, Eighth California Volunteers, entry for January 27, 1866, NA, RG 94. See also Cullum, *Biographical Register...*, pp. 728-29.

⁸⁴ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

In October 1866, French received Queen Emma of the Hawaiian Islands at Fort Point. The Queen was accompanied by attendants, military officials, naval officers, the Governor of California, journalists, and other dignitaries. French's men fired shells from the barbette battery, and trooped past the onlookers in a review parade. The guests were also treated to tours of the Fort and the light house.⁸⁵

During French's command, Companies H, F, and M, 2nd Artillery, and the 2nd Artillery Band were stationed at Fort Point. The 9th Infantry Band was temporarily attached to the post in December 1866, prior to joining with the 2nd Artillery Band to form the Band of the Department of California. Men in those units who had enlisted as musicians reported to Department Headquarters and were honorably discharged, and men who had enlisted as privates or transferred into the regimental band were reassigned to companies. The new band was to be stationed in San Francisco, and was transferred to the Presidio February 17, 1867. French relinquished command of Fort Point on February 9 and left for the Presidio the same day.⁸⁶

Maj. Harvey A. Allen. A Special Order from department headquarters issued on February 9, 1867, explained that the regimental commander would continue to command all the troops on the Presidio Reserve and that he could assign Allen to Fort Point at his discretion. Maj. James Harvey A. Allen assumed the command from French on that day, and commanded the post until June 1867.⁸⁷

While Allen was in command of Fort Point, Japanese dignitaries including two commissioners sent by the Japanese Tycoon (shogun) visited the harbor and inspected several of the forts. On Monday morning, March 25, the officers serving in San Francisco and at other posts in and around the harbor assembled at the Occidental Hotel to pay their respects to the Japanese tycoon's two commissioners to Washington. The party then visited the forts in the harbor. In their thanks to the Department, the Japanese commissioners particularly commented on "the excellent practice made by the barbette battery of Fort Point."⁸⁸

First Lieutenant McIntire assumed command of the post June 18, 1867, but remained in command only until the next month. McIntire, also commanding

⁸⁵ *Daily Alta California*, October 8, 1866, in Fort Point NHS reference file.

⁸⁶ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94, and General Order 31, Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, November 24, 1866, NA, RG 393, Orders Issued by DoP.

⁸⁷ Special Order, Headquarters of Department of California, February 9, 1867, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by the DoC.

⁸⁸ Circular, Headquarters Military Division of Pacific, March 23, 1867, and General Order 13 Headquarters Department of California, March 26, 1867, NA, RG 393, General Orders and Circulars Issued, DoC.

Company H, had previously substituted for Allen, assuming command on March 8 and being relieved some time before the end of April. It is not known how long Allen was detached from the post, or for what reason.⁸⁹

Capt. and Bvt. Maj. Charles O. Wood. Capt. Charles Wood, commanding Company F of the 9th Infantry, arrived at Fort Point with his company on July 21, 1867, and assumed command of the post the next day. Wood, a lieutenant colonel in the 8th California Volunteers had served at Fort Point previously, during the Civil War. During his second tour of duty at the Fort, Wood oversaw the withdrawal of the newly arrived Company K, 2nd Artillery.

Two months after he arrived at Fort Point, Wood found himself on trial for refusing to follow the orders of his superior officer, Lt. Col. William French (see Court-martials section above). Although found guilty, Wood's sentence was remitted and he was returned to duty. Wood, however, commanded Fort Point for only five more days; he received his sentence on September 21 and relinquished his command on September 26, 1867.⁹⁰

Captain of Engineers and Bvt. Lt. Col. Samuel M. Mansfield. Capt. Samuel Mansfield arrived at Fort Point with Company D of the Army Engineers on September 26, 1867, accepting command of the post the same day. Taking over the Fort for the Engineer Corps on October 1, Mansfield was directed to receipt to Colonel French for the ordnance property at Fort Point.

On October 18, the Department of the Pacific ordered the Presidio and Fort Point to be combined under the same command; three days later, an order separated the two posts again. On March 17, 1868, Fort Point was permanently annexed to the Presidio. Mansfield and his company of engineers were ordered to Yerba Buena the same day.⁹¹

The senior officer at the Presidio assigned one lieutenant and 30 noncommissioned officers and privates to garrison Fort Point and guard prisoners at the Fort in March 1868. Around May 15, 38 prisoners escaped from the Fort while under the charge of 2d Lt. Robert M. Rogers of the 2d Artillery, although a general court-martial later found Rogers not guilty of neglecting his duty. Later that year, the garrison fired the national salute for the Fourth of July. On August 25, the garrison left Fort Point. The officer in charge was ordered to turn over the

⁸⁹ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

⁹⁰ Ibid., and September 21, 1867, GCM, NA, RG 393, General Orders, Department of California.

⁹¹ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

prisoners at the Fort to the commanding officer of Alcatraz Island and to return to his "proper station."⁹²

Noncommissioned Officers

General Duties. The commander of a regiment appointed noncommissioned regimental staff and, on the recommendation of company commanders, appointed company sergeants and corporals as well. Company captains selected the first sergeant, or orderly sergeant, from among the company sergeants. The first sergeant was largely responsible for overseeing soldiers' daily duties and also detailed work parties. Each company was divided into four squads, and each squad was under the direct charge of a noncommissioned officer. In the companies of the 8th California Volunteers: "each Non-commissioned-officer to whom a squad may be or is assigned shall keep a "roll" of the company and also keep an accurate account of all who are absent on duty or otherwise and each on duty, when and what duty...." Noncommissioned officers were responsible for the personal cleanliness of their men, as well as the correct care, storage, and labelling of clothing, accoutrements, weapons, and other equipment in their charge. Responsibilities also included supervision of Saturday barracks cleaning, maintenance of cooking equipment, and supervision of the kitchen.⁹³

In the case of the 8th California Volunteers, each company was supervised by one sergeant and two corporals. The senior NCO on duty acted as chief of each squad. By January 1865, these noncommissioned officers drilled daily from 11:00 to 12:00 and 2:00 to 4:00 and attended training in tactics from 7:00 to 8:00 each evening. Instruction may have been abandoned after the war, for an 1868 Inspection Report notes that recitations for NCOs were to "be commenced." The tactics training for NCOs was probably established in 1863 when the commanders of the forts in the harbor created a training program for officers and recommended "that the post Commandants establish such a course of instruction and recitation as they may consider requisite for the noncommissioned officers of their commands, and cause reports to be made to them of proficiency in studies...."⁹⁴

In February 1865, the 8th California Volunteers established a guard consisting of two sergeants, two corporals, and 23 privates. The number of NCOs on guard was changed to one sergeant and three corporals in March. Before mounting guard in

⁹² Post Order 39, Presidio of San Francisco, April 25, 1868, cited in General Order 18, HQDP, June 4, 1868.

⁹³ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 18-23. Also Wooster, *Soldiers, Sutlers and Settlers...*, p. 85. See also March 20, 1865, entry, Regimental Record Books, Eighth California Volunteers, RG 94.

⁹⁴ Stewart et al. to Drum, August 26, 1863, in NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Inspection Report, February 5, 1868, NA, RG 159.

the morning, troops were issued five rounds of ammunition each. When they were relieved, the guard turned over the unexpended ammunition to their company's first sergeant.⁹⁵

Noncommissioned officers probably lived in the Fort during the period 1861 through 1868. The 1856 floor plan (figure 2) shows a set of noncommissioned officers' quarters planned for the third tier; Casemate 7 was divided into four rooms; but no separate area for a mess is indicated. Mess and quarters for noncommissioned officers were mentioned in 1856 correspondence between the Chief Engineer and Colonel De Russy, the engineer in charge of Fort Point.⁹⁶

Although the number of noncommissioned officers at the Fort varied, the volunteer companies stationed at the Fort in 1865 maintained a full compliment of five sergeants and eight corporals.⁹⁷ Those NCOs who were squad leaders slept with their squads in the barracks casemates. However, since the volunteer companies had seven or eight corporals each, it was probably the corporals who slept with the men, in these companies at least, while the sergeants slept in separate quarters or outside the Fort altogether. In September 1862, both the ordnance sergeant and his wife and the first sergeant and his wife were living in houses outside the Fort.⁹⁸

As the number of troops stationed at the Fort fluctuated, so of course did the number of noncommissioned officers. In the spring and summer of 1864, there were often less than 100 men and only three or four officers stationed at Fort Point. Charles Anderson, a tinsmith with Company I, 9th Infantry, was made a noncommissioned officer in June and shortly thereafter his services were requested at the Presidio. Anderson had assisted the Presidio earlier in the summer for fifteen days before he was promoted, but once he became an NCO his commanding officer wanted to keep him at his own post. The officer pleaded: "[Anderson's] services as such can not be easily dispensed with, as there are so few noncommissioned officers at this post."⁹⁹

⁹⁵ February 23, 1865, March 8, 1865, and July 20, 1865 entries, Regimental Record Books, 8th California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

⁹⁶ Totten to De Russy, April 21, 1856, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 91.

⁹⁷ Regimental Record Books, 8th California Volunteers, RG 94.

⁹⁸ Andrews to Drum, September 9, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP. The first sergeant referred to belonged to Company B, 3rd Artillery. Bvt. Maj. Andrews, 3rd Artillery, refers to him in the letter as "my First Sergeant."

⁹⁹ Special Order 126 from HQDP, June 10, 1864, NA, RG 393, and G.W. Walker to DoP, July 12, 1864, in NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

Discipline and Noncommissioned Officers. Noncommissioned officers were often older than regular enlisted men; many had served for some time prior to their appointment and all had demonstrated leadership skills. NCOs held the rank of sergeant or corporal, and were designated at different levels within their rank; each company was allowed first through fifth sergeants and first through eighth corporals. If they ran afoul of military law, noncommissioned officers could be reduced to ranks by order of their company commander or by court-martial sentence. They were not, however, subject to confinement in the guard house unless it was believed they were likely to escape.¹⁰⁰

During the spring of 1865, there was some trouble at Fort Point with the orderly sergeant, or first sergeant, in Company D, 8th California Volunteers. Three young undercooks and one kitchen servant were attached to Company D. Two of the cooks, John L. Lajune and Theophilus Zavery, both from Jamaica, complained to the Department in April 1865 about "the ill-treatment they have received from members of that company, particularly by the orderly sergeant...."

In May, Alexander Smith, who had joined as a kitchen servant but was later designated as an undercook, complained of the treatment he received from a member of his company. Smith's complaints were serious: "...when he represented to his company commander the conduct of the men, he was repulsed and driven from the captain's quarters." The department commander authorized Smith's absence from the post and directed Colonel Anderson, commanding Fort Point, to inquire into the facts and report to the department.

The department felt strongly about mistreatment of servants or enlisted men. Upon learning of Lajune and Zaverys' complaint, the commander wrote, "...any officer, noncommissioned officer, or private who ill-treats or uses abusive language to persons employed as undercooks will be arrested and promptly punished. Post and Regiment commanders will make it their special duty to see that the class of persons above referred to are properly protected in their rights and persons." Although the formal response to the orderly sergeant's behavior is not known, the following order came from the Regimental commander later that month in response to an unknown action by Byron Rhodes, a noncommissioned officer in Company C:

It is the duty of all Non-commissioned Officers not only to aid in the enforcement of discipline but for their conduct to serve as an example of obedience and soldierly bearing to the privates of their companies. The Regimental commander regrets that a Non-commissioned officer should so far have forgotten the duties of his position, and the reputation of the Regiment.

¹⁰⁰ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 19.

Rhodes was tried by a garrison court-martial and reduced to ranks.¹⁰¹ Several weeks before his court-martial, Rhodes was himself attacked by his first sergeant, who hit him with his fists in the company kitchen. First Sgt. Simeon Baker was found guilty and forfeited one month's pay. After this case the post commander:

[took] the occasion to call the attention of the command to the very common error among non-commissioned officers of supposing that they are called upon to use personal violence to enforce their orders. An orderly Sergeant is not selected on account of his physical strength. The enforcing of discipline should not be left to the issue of personal combat....Obedience must be enforced not by the fists of the NCO, but by the still stronger arm of military law....¹⁰²

Ordnance Sergeant

Charles Lange was ordnance sergeant at Fort Point from February 18, 1861, through 1868, after the garrison abandoned the post. Appointed to the position of ordnance sergeant on December 22, 1860, Lange had already served at least eight years in the Army, at least four of those years as a noncommissioned officer. He enlisted for the third time on February 25, 1864, receiving an extra \$4 per month in addition to his monthly pay of \$34.¹⁰³

Lange's position was an important one; under the direction of the commanding officer, he was responsible for the care of ordnance, arms, ammunition, and other military stores at Fort Point. Ordnance and stores included cannon and artillery carriages and equipment; apparatus and machines for the service and maneuver of artillery; small arms, accoutrements and horse equipments; ammunition; tools and materials for ordnance service; and horse medicines and materials for shoeing. The ordnance sergeant also appeared with the troops at reviews and at all monthly and weekly inspections.¹⁰⁴

Usually, Lange maintained Fort Point's ordnance supervising "the constant labor of ten men."¹⁰⁵ In one instance, however, Lange received assistance when six ordnance men from Benicia Arsenal joined Fort Point to mount columbiads which

¹⁰¹ Drum to Charles Anderson, April 26, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP; Drum to Anderson, May 8, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Entry for May 23, 1865, Order 23, Regimental Letter Book, 8th California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

¹⁰² Entry for May 8, 1865, Regimental Record Books, Eighth Regimental Infantry California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

¹⁰³ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 526, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

¹⁰⁴ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 26, 27 and 387, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

¹⁰⁵ Andrews to Drum, August 29, 1862, and J. McAllister to DoP, September 20, 1862 (attached), NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

had arrived at the Fort in February 1861. William Walsh, William Drew, Thomas Pendergrass, James McMahon, Richard Livingston, and Michael Maddew arrived at Fort Point on May 29, and left on June 7.¹⁰⁶ An extra detail of ten enlisted ordnance men was also requested in August 1862 to assist in moving ten 42-pounders to the southwest battery, but this request was turned down. Furthermore, the ordnance captain at Benicia felt that no extra duty men should be assigned to the task, explaining:

The garrison of a Fort generally keep the armament in order, they move guns, paint carriages, lacker [sic] shot etc. The Ordnance Sergeant with the assistance of a detail performs this work....I do not think the work referred to can be called "extra duty work" as it pertains to the duty of an artillery soldier garrisoning a fortified place it seems a regular daily detail....¹⁰⁷

Nevertheless, in December 1862 two artificers from Benicia Arsenal were ordered to Fort Point "to fit and repair carriages" and the next month the ten 42-pounders were mounted on the barbette tier of Battery South.¹⁰⁸

An ordnance sergeant was a member of the Ordnance Department, rather than a member of a regiment or company serving a particular post. He wore the Ordnance Department uniform and belonged to the post's noncommissioned staff. The position of ordnance sergeant was not lightly conferred, and in fact served as an incentive and reward for years of responsible service. According to the *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861*:

...the judicious selection of [ordnance sergeants] is of no small importance to the interests of the service; and that while the law contemplates, in the appointment of these non-commissioned officers, the better preservation of the ordnance and ordnance stores in deposit in the several forts, there is the further motive of offering a reward to those faithful and well-trying sergeants who have long served their country, and of thus giving encouragement to the soldier in the ranks to emulate them in conduct, and thereby secure substantial promotion.¹⁰⁹

Charles Lange was a married man, and lived outside the Fort with his wife. In 1862, they were requested to vacate their house, owned by the Engineer Department. Captain Andrews, commanding Fort Point, requested building materials to construct new quarters for Lange and his wife so that they would not

¹⁰⁶ Austine to DoP, May 27, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

¹⁰⁷ Andrews to Drum, August 29, 1862; J. McAllister to DoP, September 20, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁰⁸ Drum to McAllister, December 16, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters sent by DoP, and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

¹⁰⁹ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 24-27.

"...when the Engineers turn them out, be left without shelter."¹¹⁰ Lange had at least one child, Lulie, who died and was buried in the National Cemetery at the Presidio in 1867. Another individual, John F. Lange was interred in the National Cemetery on March 24, 1878, but it is not known if he was related to Charles Lange.¹¹¹ Lange stayed in the San Francisco area after the Army abandoned Fort Point; he died on April 11, 1901, and was buried in the National Cemetery. His wife died in 1903 and was also buried at the Presidio.¹¹²

After the garrison was withdrawn on August 25, 1868, Lange remained behind, assuming responsibility for ordnance, ordnance stores, and government property at the Fort.¹¹³ According to the *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861*, an ordnance sergeant at an evacuated post remained on duty and in charge of ordnance and ordnance stores until he was directed otherwise. If all troops were withdrawn, the ordnance sergeant could clear out his returns and receive any pay due to him. If the ordnance sergeant remained at the post, he was to write a report to the adjutant general's office on the last day of each month.¹¹⁴ It is not known when Lange left Fort Point. By 1877, however, 1st Lt. Frederick Fuger, acting assistant quartermaster and assistant commissary of subsistence and post treasurer at the Presidio, was acting ordnance officer at Fort Point.¹¹⁵

Enlisted Men

Regulars and volunteers, as well as infantry and artillery, served at Fort Point from 1861 through 1868. The number of men stationed at the Fort varied over time, but their routine duties probably remained very much the same during this period.

Drill and Inspection. The following schedule was established for Company B of the 8th California Volunteers in November 1864. The hours for certain activities were modified slightly in December, and again in March, but the activities remained the same:

¹¹⁰ Andrews to Drum, September 9, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹¹¹ Record of Persons Interred in the National Cemetery at Presidio of San Francisco, California, Summer 1879, NA, RG 92, Consolidated Correspondence, Office of the Quartermaster General, Presidio of San Francisco.

¹¹² Notes of Records of National Cemetery, Presidio of San Francisco in research file at Fort Point NHS.

¹¹³ Special Order 136, August 25, 1868, HQDC, in park collection.

¹¹⁴ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 26-27.

¹¹⁵ Fuger to Quartermaster General, July 22, 1877, NA, RG 92, Consolidated Correspondence, Office of the Quartermaster General, Presidio of San Francisco.

Reveille	6:00 am
Breakfast	6:20 am
Surgeons, Fatigue and Police	7:00 am
Parade & Guard Mounting	7:40 am
Sunday Morning Parade	8:30 am
Drill	9:00 am
Recall from Drill	10:30 am
Fatigue	10:45 am
Recall from Fatigue	11:45 am
Orderly and Dinner Calls	12 noon
Fatigue	1:00 pm
Drill	2:00 pm
Recall from Drill	3:30 pm
Recall from Fatigue	Half hour before Retreat
Retreat	Sunset
Tattoo	8:45 pm
Taps	9:00 pm

No drills took place on Saturday or Sunday and the kind of drill was announced from "time to time."¹¹⁶ The hour-long drills were conducted by company or squad and consisted of marching on the parade ground and practicing with muskets or artillery.¹¹⁷

Enlisted men at Fort Point also participated in a daily morning dress parade, and were inspected by post commanders on the last day of every month, and by company captains every Sunday morning. Troops were also inspected when they were mustered for payment; in theory this muster took place on the last day of February, April, June, August, October and December. Troops at Fort Point were periodically inspected by the commander of the Department of the Pacific, accompanied on some occasions by the deputy quartermaster and surgeon.¹¹⁸

Artillery Practice. Men in artillery units were trained in the marching drills as well as in working and maintaining their guns. They often went through the

¹¹⁶ Regimental Descriptive Books, Eighth California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

¹¹⁷ Edward M. Coffman, *The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), p. 163. See also Wooster, *Soldiers, Sutlers, Settlers...*, p. 91.

¹¹⁸ DoP to Commanding Officer, Fort Point, March 2, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Special Order 29, HQDP, February 6, 1865, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by DoP.

artillery drills without firing, or used blanks in practice. Garrisoned posts were required to have an initial three heavy guns mounted for practice for the first company at the post and two more for each additional company. During some months, however, live artillery practice was an important component of the routine at Fort Point. Each gun emplaced in a fixed battery was numbered and a careful record was kept of firing practice.

In the spring of 1861, Company B, 3rd Artillery, drilled with 42-pounder casemate guns, firing numbers 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20 at a "whitewashed surface on the face of a vertical rock...eight feet in diameter." Artillery practice was to take place in April, June, and October.¹¹⁹ James Van Voast, a captain in the 9th Infantry commanding Fort Point, had to request special permission from the Department of the Pacific in order to hold a practice in February 1862 "for the purpose of instructing, at once, all the officers and soldiers of this command, in the Art of firing Heavy Artillery."¹²⁰

Fort Point was also used as a training ground for other troops not proficient in the use of heavy artillery. In 1863, the companies of the 9th Infantry stationed at the Presidio were sent to Fort Point to drill in heavy artillery for four days each week. With the arrival of the first companies of 8th California Volunteers in November 1864, Captain Van Voast was again supervising artillery practice and training. The 8th California Volunteers were to be instructed

in the duties of sea coast and heavy artillery, with a view to manning the forts, for the protection of the principal harbors in this Department....Whilst it is now intended to use the 8th infantry as artillery--it is to be distinctly understood by all concerned, that it is liable at any time to be used as infantry, and sent on whatever duty the interests of the service may require.¹²¹

On July 13, 1864, Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, commanding the Department of the Pacific, inspected the forts in San Francisco harbor. Under Capt. Joseph Stewart's command, the artillery men firing the salute at Fort Point used old fuses which caused the shells to explode near the guns. Ten days later the department's chief of ordnance delivered a report based on his investigation of the incident. Lt. Col. Robert A. Wainwright determined that the premature explosions "were the result of the rapid and irregular burning of the composition contained in the paper fuzes and that the burning of the same was much more rapid than it was represented to be upon the labels of the packages." The explosion was caused by the

¹¹⁹ Report of Artillery Practice, April through June, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP. See also *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 16-17.

¹²⁰ Van Voast to Drum, February 10, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹²¹ Drum to Bownan, October 6, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Special Order 249, November 16, 1864, HQDP, Regimental Records of Eighth California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

"worthlessness" of the fuses, which were poorly manufactured. Wainwright admitted that they had been on hand at Benicia Arsenal since 1851, and the paper fuses for the eight-inch and ten-inch columbiads were immediately replaced with wooden fuses.¹²²

Drilling and artillery practice were usually of a high standard at Fort Point, although training may have slacked off in the period before the garrison was removed. One inspector, visiting the Fort in late 1865, praised "the discipline and bearing of the men" and noted, "the men are drilled regularly and upon the day of inspection in their drill made a good appearance and in their firing over the channel made excellent practice." Another inspector arriving 18 months later commended the appearance of new recruits and noted the improvement in Company K, 2nd Artillery, who were "instructed as heavy artillerists, and are making satisfactory progress." Company H, 2nd Artillery, were "well instructed as Artillerists, also as Infantry." By the time Company D of the Army Engineers were posted at Fort Point in 1867, however, little training was being undertaken at the Fort. An inspection report, prepared a month before the garrison was withdrawn, stated, "with the exception of the recruits there has been no drilling in Infantry Tactics, since [the] Company arrived at Fort Point and none in Artillery since November 1st, 1867...[The troops] have had no instruction or practice with small arms, or as artillerists since company arrived at Fort Point in Oct. 1867."¹²³

Guard Duty. Enlisted men also served periodically on 24-hour shifts of guard duty; the frequency with which a soldier had to serve on guard duty depended on the number of men at his post. The guard was changed in the morning and was divided into three reliefs so that each soldier served two hours at a sentinel post and four hours stationed in the guard room. Members of the guard not assigned to sentinel posts were expected to remain in uniform with accoutrements on and weapons close at hand. One soldier from the guard was selected as orderly for the commanding officer and the officer-of-the-day; this man delivered messages and was allowed to sleep in his own bunk.¹²⁴ The opportunity to be selected for orderly duty served to inspire those on guard duty to polish their appearance and behavior in hopes of getting this choice assignment.

Other men on guard duty escorted prisoners and performed sentry duty. Men on sentry duty were given the watchword and were inspected periodically by the

¹²² Lt. Col. Robert A. Wainwright to Drum, July 23, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹²³ Inspection Report, January 3, 1866 [for inspection on December 18, 1865]; Inspection Report, August 8, 1867; and Inspection Report, February 5, 1868, NA, RG 159.

¹²⁴ Coffman, *The Old Army...*, p. 164; see also Wooster, *Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers...*, p. 91.

officer of the guard. Sentinels were ordered to remain at their post and to refrain from unnecessary conversations.¹²⁵

The composition of the guard at Fort Point varied over time. At one point, the guard was divided into three reliefs of three men each. A guard was posted at the sally port, the water battery and the parapet during the day, although at night only the sally port was under guard.¹²⁶ In December 1864, the guard detail consisted of one sergeant, two corporals, one musician, and 14 privates. By February 1865, the guard was increased to two sergeants, two corporals, one musician and 23 privates.¹²⁷

Fatigue Duty. Fatigue, or daily duty, consisted of tasks necessary to support the post; some of these tasks were distinctly non-military in nature. In addition to cleaning and maintaining the post and guns, drawing water, and gathering wood, enlisted men at Fort Point served as cooks, bakers, carpenters, sailors, boat crew, gardeners, teamsters, tailors, shoemakers, expressmen, clerks, and painters. During the Civil War, troops at Fort Point were vigilant in their duties, for an inspector remarked at the end of 1865, "I cannot speak in too high terms of the appearance of this post....The condition of the quarters, barracks, cook rooms, guard house, and of the fortification were everything which could be desired."¹²⁸ Beginning in 1866, soldiers assigned to work for the Quartermaster, Commissary or other Department for more than ten days were entitled to extra pay, but this regulation was often circumvented by assigning extra duty for less than ten days at a time.¹²⁹

Soldiers with special skills were not only utilized at their own posts, but also could be requested by other posts. The 4th California Volunteers requested a "practicable printer" from Fort Point for duty at their headquarters, and Pvt. Charles Anderson, a tinsmith, was detailed to the Presidio to repair "the Furniture appertaining to the cooking stoves used by the Troops...." Capt. Joseph Stewart requested that Pvt. John M. Owens of Company D, 3rd Artillery, be

¹²⁵ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 61-65.

¹²⁶ "Memo. of instructions to officer of the Guard at Fort Point," undated (probably Feb.-June 1861), no source, in Fort Point NHS reference file.

¹²⁷ Regimental Record Books, Eighth California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

¹²⁸ Inspection Report, January 3, 1866 [inspection on December 18, 1865], NA, RG 159.

¹²⁹ Jack D. Foner, *The U.S. Soldier Between Two Wars: Army Life and Reforms, 1865-1898* (New York: Humanities Press, 1970), p. 16. See also Company Returns for Companies A, C, and I, Eighth California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

transferred to Company H because "I have no tailor in Co. H and there is another tailor besides Owens in Co. D."¹³⁰

Bakers

Enlisted men could also receive training in non-military skills. In 1864, Capt. Joseph Stewart requested one of his men be sent to Alcatraz to learn how to bake.¹³¹ Post bakers played a crucial role in the life of the fort. Bread was an important component of the soldier's daily ration, and poorly prepared bread placed the enlisted man's health and well-being at risk. When Fort Point was initially garrisoned in February 1861, the bread was baked at the Presidio bakery, while a two-month supply of hard bread was kept on hand for an emergency.¹³²

Usually bakers and assistants were randomly detailed to the task, regardless of their interest or talent. Post bakers were in theory detailed for ten-day shifts by the post commander, but often this routine was modified if competent bakers were found. Pvt. George Putz, Company I, 9th Infantry, was retained at the Presidio after his company was transferred to Fort Point in October 1863, because no other baker was available at the Presidio. Putz continued to bake for the Presidio, as well as supplying a company serving at Point San Jose and his own company at Fort Point.¹³³ Privates [?] Wilson and [?] Weyant of Company C, 8th California Volunteers, served as post bakers from May through August in 1865, and Weyant continued baking at least through September.¹³⁴ Company bakers were assisted by men assigned to the task on a short-term basis, serving daily duty.

The bakery was supported by the post fund which was raised by a tax on the post sutler, and by savings realized on the flour ration by baking bread at the post bakery. The fund specifically paid for hops, yeast, equipment, and the hire, or extra duty pay, of bakers.¹³⁵ The bakery at Fort Point was reported in good condition after inspections in 1865, 1866, and 1867. It is likely that the bakery was outside the Fort. The 1867 report noted that the bakery was admirably

¹³⁰ Lt. Samuel Munson to DoP, June 6, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP; Lt. Col. 4th Infantry CV to Anderson, June 24, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP; and Stewart to DoP, March 28, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹³¹ Joseph Stewart to DoP, January 5, 1864, NA, RG 393, Register of Letters and Telegrams Received by DoP.

¹³² Mackall to Simpson, February 18, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

¹³³ Maj. Andrew Bowman to Capt. E. Sparrow Purdy, October 30, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹³⁴ Company Returns for Eighth Regiment, California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

¹³⁵ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 35 and 248.

managed and "furnishes as fine bread as could be desired" and an 1864 sanitary inspection report remarked on the "thoroughly cooked bread...and the general good management of the 'Cuisine'."¹³⁶

Cooks

Cooks were selected from the company and privates filled the position in turns, unless, as with bakers, a trained or talented individual could be found to accept the position permanently. In the three months Company A, 8th California Volunteers, spent at Fort Point, Pvts. Andrew Martin, John Ronald, Silas Kirby, and John Philips took their turns as company cooks. During the first month at Fort Point, no company cooks are indicated on the returns. The pair of privates serving in Company C changed monthly; Company I had a new company cook and assistant company cook each month, and provided Pvt. Stephen W. Evans to serve as an officer's cook.¹³⁷

Each officer with his company was allowed to select one servant from the company, subject to the soldier's consent and the approval of his captain. This soldier continued to attend reviews and some drills, still wore his uniform and appropriate arms, and continued to receive his private's pay from the Army.¹³⁸

In 1867, Capt. Charles Wood selected Pvt. Julius Oberer to be his cook, freeing Oberer, a deserter, from the guard house to accept his new position. This selection contributed to Wood himself being brought up on charges; he narrowly avoided a two-month suspension from rank and command.¹³⁹

When the companies of the 8th California Volunteers joined Fort Point in 1864 and 1865, three of the six companies brought with them cooks "of African descent." These men enlisted in California and were originally included with enlisted men on the monthly post returns but, after some administrative confusion, they were eventually listed separately. An April 1865 circular from the Department of the

¹³⁶ Sanitary Inspection of Fort Point, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP; Inspection Report, January 15, 1866, [for 1865 inspection], NA, RG 159; Inspection Report, January 1867, and Inspection Report, August 1867, NA, RG 159.

¹³⁷ Returns for Company A, C, and I, 1865, Eighth California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

¹³⁸ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 24.

¹³⁹ General Orders, September 21, 1867, NA, RG 393, General Orders, Department of California. See also Commanding Officers section, above.

Pacific stated that "Ass't undercooks [are] not to be blended with the totals for the enlisted men."¹⁴⁰

It is likely that the men were legitimately mustered in as members of the 8th California Volunteers. State volunteer regiments were called up by the governor and the state decided which recruits were acceptable. However, if these troops were federalized--placed under control of U.S. military law and custom, and paid, clothed and housed by the army--they were bound to obey U.S. Army regulations. The inclusion of the volunteer companies on post returns for Fort Point indicates they were under control of the federal government.

The issuance of the April circular indicates that the regular army realized that the twelve undercooks of "African descent" were incorrectly included as enlisted men on the monthly post returns. The undercooks were ineligible to be enlisted for two reasons. First, there was no provision for the position of undercook within the army's regimental organization and second, after enlistees "of African descent" were admitted to the U.S. Army in 1863, they were only allowed to belong to the United States Colored Troops. This ineligibility was probably behind the new policy of listing the undercooks separately on the return. In April, the return notes "8 colored undercooks"; four of the cooks had departed with Company B when it was transferred that month. In May, four cooks were listed on the return, two had deserted and the whereabouts of the two remaining cooks are not known. The cooks attached to Company K were discharged the service on May 6, 1865, yet they were still with their company in September and Capt. Gaston d'Artois was approached by headquarters of the 8th California Volunteers requesting information about their discharge. In June, the four cooks attached to Company D were awaiting sentence at Fort Point; charges made against them are not known, but may have had something to do with the incident described above.¹⁴¹ (See Discipline and Noncommissioned Officers section.)

The four cooks attached to Company B all enlisted in San Francisco: James Hutchinson from Missouri, Richard Polk from Washington, D.C., Charles Mitchell from Maryland, and from New Grenada, Martin Broomfield, who later deserted at Fort Stevens. The four men attached to Company D were all born in Kingston, Jamaica: John Lewis Lajune, Thomas Ritchie, and Theophilus Zavery all enlisted as cooks, while Alexander Smith, a former waiter, signed on as a kitchen servant. The oldest group of cooks signed on with Company K: Peter J. Vickers from Bermuda, age 34; William Lawrence from Virginia, age 33; and Lewis Sevaliner

¹⁴⁰ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94, April 1865 entry: "Remarks: 12 colored undercooks dropped from aggregate per circular Headquarters DoP, April 7, 1865."

¹⁴¹ John Green to Drum, September 10, 1865, Regimental Records for 8th California Volunteers, NA, RG 94; Headquarters, 8th California Volunteers to Capt. d'Artois, September 14, 1865, Regimental Letterbook, 8th California Volunteers, NA, RG 94; and Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

from New Orleans, age 36, enlisted as cooks, along with the 20-year old Charles R. Pollock.¹⁴²

As discussed above, several of these cooks complained of mistreatment from soldiers and officers. Lajune and Zavery charged that members of Company D, and the orderly sergeant in particular, had abused them; Alexander Smith made a similar complaint about the company, noting that when he objected, he received no assistance from his company commander.¹⁴³

They were not alone in their complaints of abuse. Silas Peares, acting as cook for Companies C and D, 8th California Volunteers, described another incident in which an officer was guilty of mistreating a cook. Peares complained of the incident occurring when he was awakened to help procure some meat for Companies C and D:

as I entered the house with my pipe in my mouth smoking [2nd Lieutenant] Robert James...jerked it from my mouth and threw it aside--then doubling up his fist he gave me a severe blow with it in my face.

Peares was especially offended because he was a new recruit and was "still unacquainted with the rules of discipline in the Army."¹⁴⁴

Recreation

Although the daily routine at Fort Point offered little aside from drilling and maintaining the fort and guns, the Fort's location just outside the city of San Francisco presented troops with opportunities not often found at western posts. Shortly after New Year's Day 1862, the Department of the Pacific sent a circular warning post commanders to

use great caution in granting passes to their men to visit [San Francisco]....Men going on pass should be inspected previous to leaving their post or camp to see that they are neatly dressed. No man who gets drunk while absent or overstays his pass, should be indulged again.¹⁴⁵

Soldiers visiting San Francisco from the various posts continued to "throw discredit on the Army" during the next few weeks, causing the department to

¹⁴² Muster Rolls and Regimental Records, Eighth Infantry, California Volunteers, RG 94.

¹⁴³ Drum to Anderson, April 26, 1865, and also May 8, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

¹⁴⁴ Silas S. Peares to Joseph Stewart, February 4, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁴⁵ Circular, January 2, 1862, NA, RG 393, Circulars Issued by DoP.

restrict passes to two men from each company, who were to return to their posts by 3:00 pm. Further, soldiers visiting the city were required to report to the office of the provost marshal. Later, soldiers were prevented from bringing arms or side arms into the city.¹⁴⁶

At certain times, however, soldiers from Fort Point and other posts in the harbor were welcome in San Francisco. During the Fourth of July holiday, for example, troops at Fort Point were requested to be prepared to "unite with the citizens of this city in celebrating 'Independence Day' on the 4th...."¹⁴⁷ Troops were also permitted to attend events such as the St. Patrick's Day celebration, to vote, and in 1864 the entire command was permitted to visit the San Francisco Mechanics Exhibition, "a few at a time."¹⁴⁸

On other public occasions, troops were alerted and prepared for possible intervention. Voting day was one potentially troublesome day, and the funeral observances for Lincoln also provoked attention "in view of the excited state of the public mind."¹⁴⁹ In observation of President Lincoln's death, troops from Fort Point convened with troops from the Presidio, Camp Reynolds, Point San Jose, and Alcatraz in Washington Square on the morning of April 19, 1865. Col. Thomas Wright, 2nd California Volunteers, commanded the procession, while Brevet Major Andrews assumed command of the troops left to guard the harbor posts. The guard fired the twenty-one minute guns ordered by Washington.¹⁵⁰

Women at Fort Point

Laundresses. In accordance with an 1802 act of Congress, each company in the Army was allowed four laundresses to wash clothing for enlisted men and officers. Laundresses drew one daily ration, were entitled to receive medical services at the post, and received fuel, bedding straw, and quarters. By the 1860s, the established ratio was one laundress for every 19 men. At Fort Point, the garrison

¹⁴⁶ Circular, January 31, 1862, and General Order 4, February 3, 1862, NA, RG 393, General Orders and Circulars Issued by DoP; and Special Order 74, April 3, 1865, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued, DoP.

¹⁴⁷ Drum to Lt. Col. Caleb C. Sibley, June 25, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

¹⁴⁸ Special Order 34, March 12, 1868, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by DoP; Special Order 205, September 3, 1867, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by DoP; and Drum to William Patton, September 23, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

¹⁴⁹ H.P. Corn to DoP, April 17, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁵⁰ Special Order 86, April 18, 1865, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by DoP. The twenty-one minute gun salute consisted of one shot fired per minute, repeated twenty-one times.

fluctuated from around 125 to more than 450 men, so there were probably at least six laundresses attached to the post at any given time.

Most Army laundresses were wives of noncommissioned officers, although examples cited below show that some laundresses at Fort Point were married to enlisted men. Provision returns for 1861 show that laundresses for Company F, 9th Infantry, which was not garrisoned at Fort Point until 1863, were the wives of Sergeant [?] Trainor and soldier [?] McGowan, whose rank was not listed.¹⁵¹ In December 1864, Mrs. McDonald was a laundress for Company H, 3rd Artillery. Her husband was an enlisted man with that company, and her musician son transferred in from Company B in order to be with his family.¹⁵²

In 1867, Cpl. John Murphy of Battery H, 2nd Artillery was charged with creating a disturbance in the laundresses quarters by "abusing his wife and calling her vile names...[and] maliciously and willfully striking her repeatedly with a stick, leaving marks upon her body, without cause or provocation whatever." Although there were witnesses to this attack, Murphy plead not guilty and was acquitted.¹⁵³

Prices for washing were established by the post Council of Administration, comprised of the post's three highest ranking officers below the commander, and laundresses collected the money owed them at the pay table. While army laundresses often earned extra money baking pies, serving officers as maids or cooks, or prostituting, there is no evidence to indicate whether any of these sidelines were practiced at Fort Point.¹⁵⁴

Women working for the troops often found themselves in a bad situation when they misunderstood Army procedure or relied too heavily on the Army's generosity. The letters that survive are from those women who went straight to the top with their complaints or requests, attempting to interest the general commanding the Department of the Pacific in their situation.

In one instance, a Mrs. McManus was hired to wash mess linen for 1st Lt. G.W. Walker, Company I 9th Infantry, and when payment was disputed, she forwarded her bill to Department Headquarters. Whether Mrs. McManus billed incorrectly, or whether she was trying to deceive Walker, as he claimed, cannot be

¹⁵¹ Provision Returns for Company F, Ninth Infantry, December 1861, NA, RG 393.

¹⁵² Joseph Stewart to DoP, December 8, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁵³ General Order 37, June 1867, Military Division of the Pacific, in Fort Point NHS reference file.

¹⁵⁴ Miller J. Stewart, "Army Laundresses: Ladies of the 'Soap Suds Row'," *Nebraska History*, vol. 61, (Winter 1980), pp. 421-36.

determined, but according to Walker, "it seems to be a common thing for camp women to collect bills through Hd. Qrs...." Mrs. McManus was eventually paid \$12.00 for washing mess linen for six months, and \$15.00 for three months regular washing.¹⁵⁵ Mrs. Quinn, the cook for the officers' mess at Alcatraz, had a similar problem with her wages, claiming in a letter to the Department that she was owed \$109. She found her situation especially difficult because: "they all knew...I have nothing but what I can earn for myself and two children...."¹⁵⁶

When her husband's company was transferred to Alcatraz, Mrs. Daly found herself and her five children left behind at Black Point while the other camp women were quartered at the Presidio. The Daly family occupied a tent "without fire" and although she begged the general to take an interest in her predicament, it is not known whether he did so.¹⁵⁷ Mrs. Elmer Howard generated plenty of interest, however, when she eloquently requested that she be stationed with her husband: "...a good young man six foot and not thirty years old and he loves me and I love him. We commenced soldiering together and we want to end together." No action was taken to assist Mrs. Howard's case after an officer reported:

Mrs. Howard is a woman of notoriously bad repute as a common prostitute and drunkard, formerly well known to the police of San Francisco, recently out of Mission County jail, where she was sent for being a "public nuisance" and a "vagrant". She is in my opinion a proper candidate for the "Home of the Inebriate" or more properly for the State Insane Asylum.¹⁵⁸

Mrs. John H. Chipman, who was promised "quarters an[d] rations and...my passage would be paid," was left destitute in Red Wood City with her 12 children after her husband joined Company C of the 8th California Volunteers and was posted at Fort Point. Claiming that the Army had no right to take her husband and leave her destitute, she declared to the general commanding the Department, "you would never [have] got my Husband if I had known how I have been used." Capt. Jasper M. Barthelow, commanding Company C, assured the commanding general's office that quarters for the company laundresses would be ready when they arrived and that Private Chipman had been instructed to get his wife (and, presumably, the 12 children).¹⁵⁹ Mrs. French, laundress for Company B, 8th Volunteers, was also left "without means to maintain herself any longer away from the company." Six weeks after Company B was posted at Fort Point

¹⁵⁵ George W. Walker to Drum, April 28, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁵⁶ Mrs. Quinn to Drum, September 26, 1864, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁵⁷ Mrs. Daly to Drum, June 1, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁵⁸ Mrs. Elmer Howard to Drum, May 10, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁵⁹ Mrs. John H. Chipman to Drum, March 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

laundresses quarters were still not available, and since Mrs. French's newly re-enlisted husband had not yet been paid, he could not "assist her in her necessity."¹⁶⁰

Living Quarters. When the garrison was increased to more than 400 men in the winter of 1864-65, the number of laundresses increased correspondingly, and their quarters were found inadequate. Laundresses were quartered outside of the Fort itself. Private Chipman and the rest of Company C had been stationed at Fort Point for four months on March 29, 1865, when company commander Capt. Jasper M. Barthelow complained: "Up to this time there has been no quarters for Laundresses for my Co. oltho [sic] I have used every reasonable effort to obtain them."¹⁶¹ In January, the commanding general's office noted to Captain Stewart that no buildings for laundresses were to be erected at that time, although apparently he was not referring to those for the laundresses of Company I, 9th Infantry, which were already underway. During the spring of 1865, Lt. Robert James, assistant adjutant quartermaster at Fort Point, oversaw construction of several 48 x 16-1/2 feet sets of laundress quarters southeast of the Fort. Lead pipes supplied the quarters with water.¹⁶²

Housing for laundresses was a low priority at most posts, and Fort Point was no exception. Accommodation for laundresses of volunteer troops seems to have been considered even less important than that for regulars. In response to requests for quarters for his laundresses, one captain of volunteers was told that the department: "had not yet decided whether or not...[it] will have quarters built for the laundresses of the Volunteer companies stationed here."¹⁶³

The first laundresses at Fort Point were temporarily quartered in barracks built to house the mechanics and laborers building Fort Point. The barracks, located on the bluff above the Fort, were provided with stoves for the laundresses' use.¹⁶⁴ In September 1862, Capt. George P. Andrews, commanding Fort Point, requested extra building materials to provide housing for women at his post. In November, 1st Lt. Henry Waterman followed up by submitting estimates to the Department for lumber for building laundresses quarters, although it is not known whether

¹⁶⁰ Gaston d'Artois to Drum, January 18, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁶¹ J.M. Barthelow to Drum, March 29, 1865, (attached to Chipman to Drum) NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁶² Report of Lt. Robert James, January 20 and April 1, 1865, NA, RG 92, in *HSR*, p. 202; Gaston d'Artois to Drum, January 18, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by Chief Quartermaster; and Col. Anderson to Col. E.B. Babbitt, Chief Quartermaster, DoP, May 1, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by the DoP.

¹⁶³ Gaston d'Artois to Drum, January 18, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by Chief Quartermaster.

¹⁶⁴ Gilmer to Austine, April 10, 1861, San Francisco Records Center, RG 77, Letter Book, Entry 1922, found in *HSR*, p. 155.

new quarters were approved and constructed at this time. Andrews explained that eight sets of quarters were currently occupied by "authorized laundresses."¹⁶⁵ The quarters Andrews refers to may have been the original laborers' barracks.

Wives. Aside from laundresses, other wives were with their husbands while they were stationed at Fort Point, but it is impossible to determine whether these women lived in the Fort. Bvt. Maj. George Andrews' family was with him in the Department of Pacific the year before he assumed command of Fort Point in January 1862, and Capt. James Hardie, stationed at Fort Point in 1861, also had his wife and children with him. First Lt. Henry S. Waterman was married while serving at Fort Point in March 1865; he was approved 30 days leave in order to celebrate.¹⁶⁶

Charles Kirkpatrick, a volunteer surgeon stationed at Fort Point in 1865, was also a married man; upon receiving news of his appointment, his wife Mary accepted on her husband's behalf via telegram from Salt Lake City, asking if the appointment could be delayed until he returned from New York. It is not known whether Mary accompanied Kirkpatrick during the five months he served at Fort Point.¹⁶⁷

Although children probably lived around, or even in the Fort, no evidence has survived to provide any details about their lives. As noted above, Ordnance Sergeant Lange had at least one child, Lulie, who died while he was stationed at Fort Point. Lange's wife, Mary, was appointed hospital matron in June 1861, and probably served until at least September 1862. The Langes lived in a house outside the post, as did the first sergeant and his wife.¹⁶⁸

Medical Personnel

Matrons. Mary Lange is one of the few medical personnel about whom information survives. Because the hospital was small, the medical staff at Fort Point usually consisted of an Assistant Surgeon who supervised one hospital

¹⁶⁵ Andrews to Drum, September 9, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by the DoP, and November 24, 1862 entry, NA, RG 393, Register of Requests for Money and Property, DoP.

¹⁶⁶ DoP to George Andrews, October 9, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received from DoP; James Hardie Papers, Library of Congress, and Henry Waterman to DoP and annotations, March 25, 1863, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁶⁷ Mary Kirkpatrick to DoP, February 8, 1865 telegram, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁶⁸ June 18, 1861 entry, Hospital Rolls, California Volunteers, NA, RG 94. Also George Andrews to Drum, September 9, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

steward. Mary Lange is the only matron known to have worked at the Fort, and as noted above, her dates of employment are unclear.

Surgeons. Both civilian doctors and surgeons from the Army Medical Department served at Fort Point. Surgeons in the Army Medical Corps were required to pass an examination and joined for a five-year stint when a vacancy in the corps occurred. After a surgeon served his term he was required to take another examination which he had to pass in order to continue in his position. Civilians were contracted to work for the army when the army could not supply enough surgeons to meet the needs of the troops; it was these Acting Assistant Surgeons who for the most part staffed Fort Point. Contract surgeons received travel expenses to their posts and were required to provide their own qualified replacements if they were sick or on leave.

Post surgeons examined and treated soldiers reporting for sick call, and followed up with paperwork to document their actions. The post surgeon was also responsible for managing the hospital fund, for requisitioning and inventorying medical supplies, and for monitoring and recording weather and sanitary conditions at his post.¹⁶⁹ Unfortunately, most of the records created by the post surgeon at Fort Point have not survived.

Charles Kirkpatrick, surgeon for the 8th Infantry California Volunteers, is the only medical practitioner for whom biographical information has been located. Kirkpatrick, 42 years old when he was assigned to Fort Point, was born in Missouri and worked as a missionary and as a farm laborer until he enrolled in the Knox Manual Labor College at the age of 18. He worked his way through college, and then taught school in order to pay for further study in medicine. In 1848, Kirkpatrick began practicing medicine in Grafton, Illinois, near St. Louis. He soon abandoned his new practice, however, setting off for California in March 1849 to join the gold rush. By the next winter he was in California, and had not yet made his fortune through mining. He did, however, open up a small medical practice in a mining camp. He continued to mine at least until the next year.

Kirkpatrick served as Assistant Surgeon with the 3rd Infantry, California Volunteers, at Fort Gaston, California, in April 1862 and by December he was at Fort Reilly, Kansas. In the winter of 1865, he was summoned for service at Fort Point from Salt Lake City, arriving in the spring. After a brief and uneventful stint at Fort Point he was transferred in August to the hospital at the Presidio. At the end of August 1865, he may have returned to Fort Point; by the end of

¹⁶⁹ A. Berle Clemensen, *Historic Furnishing Study, Enlisted Men's Barracks and Post Hospital HS-2, Fort Larned National Historic Site, Kansas*, (Denver Service Center: GPO, 1981) pp. 153-65.

September he took leave but returned to the post by October 4. He was probably mustered out of service on October 24, 1865, with the rest of his regiment.¹⁷⁰

Hospital Stewards. The hospital steward assisted the surgeon in keeping records and was responsible for the day-to-day management of the hospital and its stores. The *Hospital Steward's Manual*, published in 1862, describes the following responsibilities assigned to the steward:

general supervision of the hospital, regulates its police, discipline, ventilation, lighting, and warming, attends to the provision returns, carries out the surgeon's instructions as to the management of the hospital fund, makes the purchases for the hospital and takes care of the stores, sees that the cooking is properly executed, the property of the hospital duly cared for, and, in fact, is responsible to the surgeon for the general administration of the institution.

Besides these duties, he takes charge of the dispensary, puts up the prescriptions, and performs all those duties described in the chapter on the dispensary and its management, as well as renders to the surgeon such assistance as may be necessary in dressings and minor surgery.¹⁷¹

Hospital stewards were appointed from among the troops and might hold the rank of either private or noncommissioned officer; appointments were recommended by the senior medical officer at the post and approved by company commanders. Qualifications for the appointment of a steward included honesty, temperance, and skill in pharmacy. Hospital stewards could also be enlisted directly from civil life. Stewards enlisted for three years. Temporary stewards could be appointed from the ranks and held the title of Acting Hospital Steward.¹⁷²

Little is known about the hospital stewards serving at Fort Point. Edmund P. Tierney, steward at Fort Point from October 1861 through April 1862, enlisted in the 2nd Infantry in 1842 and left the service in 1851. He reenlisted in 1858 and was made a hospital steward during that enlistment. Tierney enlisted again as a steward in December 1863, and served in the Medical Purveyor's office in San Francisco through at least September 1864. After he had completed his service at Fort Point, he was accused of abandoning his wife to live with another woman. If the accusations made by Tierney's wife are true, he was living with a woman named Eliza Copeland, wife of an army volunteer, during the time he served at Fort Point.¹⁷³

¹⁷⁰ Journal of Charles A. Kirkpatrick, 1849, MS, Bancroft Library; Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

¹⁷¹ Joseph J. Woodward, *Hospital Steward's Manual* (Philadelphia: JB Lippincott & Co, 1862), pp. 43-44.

¹⁷² *Hospital Steward's Manual*, pp. 17-19.

¹⁷³ Margaret Tierney to Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, September 3, 1864, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

John Macpherson, a Scottish native, served at Fort Point for eight months in 1863. He probably enlisted at Fort Point (for five years) and was 31 years old at the time. A garrison court-martial was held for Macpherson in September 1863, but it is not known why he was tried. James K. Mason, an Irish recruit, enlisted at Washington, D.C., in 1864, and served at Fort Point from July 1865 through March 1866. Several months before Mason was assigned to Fort Point, a hearing on his sanity was held, to which Brigadier General Wright was invited as a witness; Mason was apparently found sane and able, and records do not indicate that he had any trouble during his time at Fort Point.¹⁷⁴

Medical Coverage During the Civil War

Army and volunteer surgeons changed often at Fort Point, as did medical stewards. The following list gives dates of service, when known, for the stewards and surgeons serving at Fort Point from 1861 through 1868.

Table 2. Dates of Service for the Stewards and Surgeons serving at Fort Point from 1861 through 1868.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Joseph Congler	hospital steward	June 16, 1861-
Thomas Miller	hospital attendant	Oct. 21, 1861-Nov. 1861
Edmund P. Tierney	hospital steward	Oct. 23, 1861-April 21, 1862
John B. Trask	acting asst. surgeon	Oct. 23, 1861-Nov. 27, 1861
John Van Sant	assistant surgeon	Nov. 27, 1861-June 17, 1863
John M. Macpherson	hospital steward	Jan. 25, 1863-Oct. 17, 1863
John Willson	acting asst. surgeon	Sept. 17, 1863-Oct. 4, 1863
Dr. __ Bronson		Oct. 4, 1863
Andrew Ellis	hospital steward	Oct. 16, 1863-April 26, 1865
A.R. Egbert	surgeon	relieved April 18, 1864
I.J. Edwards	acting asst. surgeon	April 18, 1864-May 25, 1864

¹⁷⁴ Hospital Department Register for Fort Point, NA, RG 94; Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94; and McCormick to DoP, May 29, 1865, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Charles Holbrook	acting asst. surgeon	July 8, 1864-Oct. 18, 1864; carried on post return in Nov. 1864, relieved Dec. 30, 1864
Isaac Parry	surgeon	Dec. 30, 1864-Mar. 31, 1865
Eugene Woods	acting asst. surgeon	Mar. 31, 1865-May 13, 1865
Charles Kirkpatrick	surgeon	May 13, 1865-Oct. 1865
James K. Mason	steward	July 6, 1865-Mar. 1866
Reuben Cook	steward	Mar. 1866-May 23, 1866, and June 1866-April 1867
Valentine Newmark	steward	May 23, 1866-June 1866
Paul Holtz	steward	April 20, 1867-Aug. 23, 1867
P.W. Ramsia [sp?]	acting asst. surgeon	April 1867
A. H. Hoff	acting asst. surgeon	Aug. 16, 1867 assigned, Aug. 19, 1867 revoked
__ Schmidt	acting steward	Nov. 1867-March 17, 1868

There were frequent gaps in the appointment of surgeons to Fort Point; troops posted at the Fort were often required to go to the Presidio to obtain medical care. During the first few months of Fort Point's occupation, no medical staff were assigned to the post. In June 1861, Joseph Congler appeared on the rolls as the first medical steward; Dr. John B. Trask, the first physician at Fort Point, did not arrive until October 23, 1861. In June 1863, John Van Sant, the current medical officer at Fort Point, was removed and the surgeon at the Presidio was directed to supervise the medical care for both posts. The medical director who eventually replaced Van Sant in September 1863 was in his position for three weeks; after his transfer the surgeon at the Presidio again attended to the sick at Fort Point.¹⁷⁵

Even when Fort Point and other small posts in the San Francisco area had medical officers in attendance, those patients who needed hospital care were treated at Wright General Hospital at the Presidio, constructed in 1864, rather than at their posts. During the winter of 1864-65, however, this policy seemed to

¹⁷⁵ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94; Peter G.S. Ten Broeck to DoP, June 11, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP; Special Order 144, Department of the Pacific, June 17, 1863, NA, RG 393; Ten Broeck to DoP, September 30, 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

cause some confusion between post commanders and medical officers. On December 6, 1864, the Department of the Pacific mandated that the sick at Fort Point who could not be cared for at that post should be sent to the Presidio, and specified "it must not again occur that sick men sent to the Presidio Hospital be returned to their companies without care or treatment." Several weeks later, however, a departmental circular stated that no post commander had the authority to transfer his men to another hospital without the approval of the Medical Director. Within two weeks, a recruit sent from the San Francisco Recruit Depot to receive medical care at the Presidio Hospital was returned to his post without receiving care, and the sick man's commander stated he had "not the most remote inkling of an idea as to the reasons why and wherefore the man was not received." The Depot commander was outraged at the "impropriety and actual barbarity exercised in such treatment of sick soldiers" and General Wright, commanding the Department, supported him.¹⁷⁶

One reason for the rather slipshod medical coverage of the posts in the San Francisco area was that the Department of the Pacific suffered a shortage of qualified surgeons. In June 1863, the general commanding the department wrote to the Surgeon General that medical officers were very much needed in California. He explained that the Army could not obtain volunteer surgeons in the area and requested twelve volunteer surgeons be shipped out on the next steamer. The Department of the Pacific also directed that instruments be issued to contract surgeons (also known as acting assistant surgeons) serving at permanent posts in the department, rather than requiring the physicians to purchase their own. The commanding general explained that "the authorized monthly pay of these persons is barely sufficient for their support...."¹⁷⁷

Diseases and Treatments

The most common diseases treated at the Fort Point hospital were gonorrhoea, syphilis, delirium tremens, inebriation, rheumatism, ophthalmia, catarrh, bronchitis, dysentery, and diarrhoea. These illnesses stemmed largely from Fort Point's location at the cold and damp southern end of the Golden Gate and its proximity to the city of San Francisco. Surgeons were responsible for vaccinating

¹⁷⁶ Special Order 265, DoP, December 6, 1864, NA, RG 393; Special Orders Issued by DoP; Circular, DoP, December 24, 1864, NA, RG 393; General Orders, Circulars Issued by DoP; and Surgeon Benjamin Tippan to Captain J. Green, January 4, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁷⁷ George Wright to William Hammond, July 8, 1863, NA, RG 393, and Letters Sent by DoP and Drum to Ten Broeck, December 31, 1862, NA, RG 393 Letters Sent by DoP.

the commands under their care; the troops stationed at Fort Point were vaccinated against smallpox on March 28, 1862.¹⁷⁸

Army surgeons in the Civil War treated disease with medications such as whiskey, sweet spirit of nitre, quinine, strychnine, magnesium sulphite, and opium. Medical supply records from Fort Point are not known to have survived, so the exact medicines used are unknown. An 1865 inspection report, however, notes 52 gallons of superior whiskey on hand. Hospitalized soldiers were entitled to an expanded diet, and those stationed in the harbor received butter and milk in addition to the standard ration.¹⁷⁹

Aside from colds, venereal disease, and alcoholism, the medical staff at Fort Point probably did not encounter any serious ailments. Records do not indicate that any operations were ever performed at Fort Point; serious cases were transferred to the Presidio hospital. One ambitious steward posted at Fort Point even requested a transfer to a field hospital because "I think that I can make myself more useful and learn more in a field hospital by constant practice in six months than I will be able to learn here in the same number of Years."¹⁸⁰

Deaths

During the period 1861-68, no soldier at Fort Point died as the result of hostilities, and deaths by any cause were rare. The low mortality rate may be attributed to the transfer of chronically or seriously ill soldiers, or perhaps just to a well-managed post which enjoyed adequate medical care. In 1861, one private drowned, one died of an abscess on the brain, and a third soldier posted at Fort Point died at the Presidio of an internal aneurism. In 1865, Pvt. James M. Atchison died at the Fort of typhoid fever; in 1866, Private George Keller died of phthisis pulmonalis and Private [?] McCarty of ventricular disease of the heart and emphysema of the lungs.¹⁸¹ Private Atchison, a native of Tennessee serving in Company A, 8th California Volunteers, is buried under a civilian marker in the San Francisco National Cemetery.

¹⁷⁸ Hospital Register for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

¹⁷⁹ Gordon Dammann, *A Pictorial Encyclopedia of Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment*, (Missoula, MT: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1983), p. 44. See also Inspection Report, January 3, 1866, NA, RG 159, and Provision Return for Presidio, November 1861, NA, RG 393, Provision Returns 1861-1862 arranged by post.

¹⁸⁰ Joseph Congler to DoP, Oct. 2, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁸¹ Hospital Department Registers for Fort Point, vol. 92-93, NA, RG 94, Medical Histories of Posts 1861-1913.

In the most well-documented incident of deaths at Fort Point, Corporals John Peterson and Michael Condon were killed by accident on July 4, 1867. The morning edition of the July 6, 1867, *Daily Alta California* reported the:

shocking tragedy [that] occurred at Fort Point in the morning, by which John Peterson and Michael Conden [sic], of Battery K, Second Regiment of Artillery, U. S. A. lost their lives. The Coroner held an inquest over the remains, when the jury returned the following verdict: 'We...do find that [Peterson] was a native of Buffalo, N.Y., and [Condon] a native of Ireland; Peterson was aged twenty-nine years, and Conden [sic] thirty-three years; they came to their death at Fort Point, on the 4th day of July, 1867, by the discharge of a cannon while a salute was being fired. The jury find the following facts: The deceased had both been absent from their duty as soldiers at the Fort for four days; and on their return, on the morning of the Fourth, were placed under arrest and confined within the walls of the Fort. They did not pass the sentinel at the gate; and after the salute was fired their dead bodies were found, terribly mutilated, some twenty feet from the mouth of one of the lower tier of cannon, which had been discharged. The supposition is that they crawled through one of the embrasures, expecting to escape, and were concealing themselves before the cannon, which they thought had already been or would not again be fired; and that their death was accidental.¹⁸²

The salute was at noon on July 4 to mark Independence Day and was required by each post and camp equipped with artillery and ammunition.

EVIDENCE OF ROOM USE AND FURNISHINGS

Location of the Medical Complex

The earliest evidence of a hospital at Fort Point is the 1856 Engineer Corps plan which shows a hospital room with an adjoining dispensary occupying casemate 8 on the second tier, and a surgeon's office fronting a matron's room and a steward's room in casemate 9 (figure 2). This plan also shows a triangular shaped servant's room at the far western end of the tier. Although it is not known whether casemates 8 and 9 functioned as a hospital suite during the entire 1861-68 period, later evidence indicates that the medical complex probably did not move outside of the Fort itself.

As discussed above, troops posted at Fort Point were often required to go to the Presidio to obtain medical care, and it is not clear how the hospital at Fort Point operated during the Civil War period. Special Orders from the Department of the

¹⁸² *Daily Alta California*, July 6, 1867 (morning edition).

Pacific in February 1864, October 1864, and again in January 1865, directed the sick at Fort Point to be sent the Presidio hospital.¹⁸³

A December 1864 medical inspector's report implies that no hospital was in operation at that time: "The sick of [Fort Point] are sent to the post hospital at the Presidio, one mile distant for treatment....It now becomes necessary to establish hospital accommodations for the sick of the Fort." The report goes on to suggest a location a quarter mile from the Fort "in close proximity to the new quarters about to be constructed by Major Van Voast" and to estimate the cost at around \$1,000 in coin. The proposal was accepted by both the departmental commander and quartermaster.

By May 1865, the work had not been begun, and in June the medical inspector withdrew his recommendation, stating that since the war had ended, expanding the hospital at Fort Point was not necessary. It is interesting to note that while the inspector, Charles Keeney, recommends a specific site for the hospital in December 1864, in his letter written six months later he states:

Again, there is no point fit for hospital purposes, in a sanitary point of view, between Fort Point and the Presidio, as the grounds are enveloped in a dense fog two thirds of the year.

Secondly, in the event of a war with a foreign power a hospital building created any where between Fort Point and the Presidio would be the recipient of the enemies missiles....

Confusingly, the surgeon also states "[d]uring the last four years when the Harbor of San Francisco has been filled with troops, the present hospital accommodations have been ample and comfortable for all purposes."¹⁸⁴ The hospital at Fort Point may have eventually moved from the casemate in the gorge to the area outside the Fort, but this did not occur until after the Fort was re-garrisoned in the late 1870s¹⁸⁵.

¹⁸³ Special Order 39, February 19, 1864; Special Order 233, October 26, 1864, and Special Order 21, January 27, 1865, NA, RG 393, Special Orders Issued by DoP.

¹⁸⁴ Charles Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Keeney to Drum, June 14, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁸⁵ C.K. Whine, to DoP [?], July 19, 1883: "The dispensary here has, I understand, been moved several times during the last year and at present two rooms in a small building erected for married soldier's quarters are used for dispensary purposes." NA, RG 92, Quartermaster's Consolidated Correspondence File, Fort Winfield Scott.

Dispensary

The dispensary was used to store and prepare medicines and to clean instruments and equipment. Medical books and journals may also have been stored in this room, or in the surgeon's office. Because the planned dispensary at Fort Point was very small, it is unlikely that it was used as an examining area or for any other purpose. An 1882 inspection report describes the dispensary as "badly located in a dark uncomfortable inside casemate room....The Post Surgeon [stated] that at times the room was so dark that he found it difficult to put up prescriptions requiring exactness...."¹⁸⁶ The nearby surgeon's office and steward's room were probably used for overflow hospital work space.

Although the *Hospital Steward's Manual* specifies that shelves should be located in the dispensary "adapted to the various sizes of the bottles and other original packages in which drugs are received...with a convenient number of drawers and closets," Fort Point's dispensary may not have had any shelves at all during the period 1861 through 1868. A March 1879 estimate requests materials for dispensary shelving and closets "as all medicines etc. are placed on the floor owing to the want of proper shelves." The storage of medicines on the floor at Fort Point must have posed a particular problem, because of the damp conditions within the casemates. The request was accompanied by a detailed plan for the shelves (see figure 22), which called for the construction of three closets, two of which were to go into the dispensary and one in the steward's room.¹⁸⁷ On the other hand, it is possible that dispensary shelves existing in the 1860s were removed before the 1879 recommendations were made.

The *Hospital Steward's Manual* describes a linen room in which clean bed linen and clothing is stored and inventoried. The specific items kept in this room included:

sheets, coverlets, blankets, bed-sacks, pillowcases, towels, mosquito-net, and hospital suits, consisting of shirts, drawers, and socks....¹⁸⁸

A separate linen room was not planned for Fort Point; linens were probably stored in rooms planned as a matron's or servant's room or in a closet adjacent to the spiral staircase.

¹⁸⁶ Inspection Report, August 28, 1882, NA, RG 159.

¹⁸⁷ James E. Ord to Surgeon General, March 28, 1879, NA, RG 92, Quartermasters Consolidated Correspondence File, Fort Point. See also *Hospital Steward's Manual*, pp. 263-77.

¹⁸⁸ *Hospital Steward's Manual*, pp. 132-33.

Hospital

Beds used in the hospital were probably single iron bunks; use of these bunks was common in hospitals during the Civil War and the chief surgeon requested 200 iron bedsteads in February 1863 for use in the Department of the Pacific.¹⁸⁹ In order for patients to enjoy the minimum requisite one thousand cubic feet of space, there were probably a maximum of 5 or 6 beds in the 20 x 16 x 12 foot casemate at Fort Point. Inspection Reports indicate that after 1866, all patients were transferred to the Presidio. When the Fort was regarrisoned in August 1879, an inspection report noted that the hospital accommodated only two patients; serious cases were transferred to the Presidio.¹⁹⁰

Surgeon's Office and Steward's Room

The casemate west of the hospital was planned to contain the surgeon's office and steward's room, as well as a third room which may have changed in function. According to the 1856 plan, the surgeon's office was a 16 x 15-1/2-foot room on the north side of the casemate, accessed through either the hospital to the east, the stairway to the north or a triangular-shaped room to the west. The triangular room is designated as the servant's room in this plan, but is called the matron's room in another undated plan of the gorge. The two 12 x 8-foot rooms in the rear of the casemate are designated the steward's room and the matron's room in the 1856 plan, while in the undated plan they are called the kitchen and steward's room.

The knapsacks taken from patients entering the hospital are also stored in the steward's room. The care of patients' possessions was assigned by regulation to the ward-master, but because the hospital was so small and there was no ward-master at Fort Point, it is likely that the steward assumed this responsibility. Knapsacks could have been stored in the triangular room designated on the plan as the servant's room, or even in the surgeon's office, because no room was planned to serve this purpose. Because there were probably only several patients in the hospital at any one time, the steward or surgeon may have simply used a locked closet or cabinet for this purpose.

When patients entered the hospital, clothing and other personal goods were turned over to hospital staff, with valuables such as watches and money being given to the surgeon. These items were recorded in a book, and the articles were

¹⁸⁹ Ten Broeck to William A. Hammond, February 9, 1863, telegram, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

¹⁹⁰ Inspection Report, February 5, 1868, NA, RG 159; Inspection Report, August 8, 1867, NA, RG 159; Inspection Report, January 1867, NA, RG 159; Inspection Report, August 21, 1879, NA, RG 159; and *Hospital Steward's Manual*, pp. 103-04 and 115-19.

then packed into the soldier's knapsack, the coat and blankets strapped on, and the entire package labeled with the soldier's name and other identifying information. Arms were similarly labeled and stored or returned to the patient's company. Possessions were returned to the patient when he left the hospital.¹⁹¹

Location of the Quarters

The first sets of quarters planned for officers and their families were located in the second tier of the gorge. The 1856 plan (figure 2) may have been revised in 1860 to provide for a suite of three bedrooms and a common parlor for bachelor officers. The bachelor officers were also furnished with a communal kitchen and mess in the first casemate and a privy in the far eastern section of the gorge. Four casemates were designated for the use of married officers; each included two bedrooms and a parlor. As discussed above, a privy was planned between casemates 3 and 4 for the use of officers' families.¹⁹²

In January 1865, three frame officers' quarters were constructed approximately one half mile from the Fort. In 1879, these quarters housed six officers, but could be required to house as many as nine. The quarters included two double and one single house; in 1883, four sets were occupied by officers with families.¹⁹³

Evidence indicating which specific individuals lived in casemate quarters has not been located. That officers were expected to live with their families in the second tier casemates, though, is evidenced by the engineers' concern at failing to include a family privy in the 1856 plans. It is likely that the commanding officer lived outside of the Fort after 1865; commanding officer's quarters, with kitchen ell and pantry, were constructed in that year, on the bluff above the wharf.¹⁹⁴

The third tier of casemates was designed as quarters for enlisted men and noncommissioned officers. Two barracks were built during the Civil War, but details about their occupation are not known. Two structures were also converted

¹⁹¹ *Hospital Steward's Manual*, pp. 47-50. Also *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 283.

¹⁹² "Fort at Fort Point, sketch Showing in blue ink a proposed arrangement for a Privy for Officers' Families with consequent changes in Quarters," NA, RG 77, Drawer 94, Sheet 44 in *HSR*, p. 142. See also Gilmer to De Russy, August 20, 1860, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 143.

¹⁹³ Report of Lt. Robert James, January 20 and April 1, 1865, NA, RG 92 in *HSR*, p. 202; D'Artois to Drum, January 18, 1865, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by Chief Quartermaster, 1850-1870; Inspection Report, August 21, 1879, NA, RG 159; and John Mendenhall to Asst. Adj. General, April 19, 1883, NA, RG 92, Consolidated Correspondence File, Fort Point.

¹⁹⁴ Gilmer to De Russy, August 20, 1860, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 143, and *Outline Descriptions of Military Posts in the Military Division of the Pacific, Major General Irwin McDowell Commanding, 1879*, (San Francisco, 1879), pp. 92-93, in *HSR*, p. 276.

to barracks in 1879, but again, no information about their use has been located.¹⁹⁵ By 1882, troops were probably housed in barracks outside the Fort. At least one officer, Lieutenant [?] White, was living in the Fort at this time. In August 1884, one battery was housed in the Fort, and two batteries were quartered in barracks outside the Fort. At that time there were six sets of officers quarters and nine sets of quarters used by married enlisted men.¹⁹⁶

Climate and Heating. Obviously, Fort Point's location on the San Francisco Bay affected its residents. Damp, cold, and fog were constants at the Fort, and made for unpleasant and unhealthy conditions in the casemate quarters. As one sanitary inspector wrote:

This Fort, as is well known, consists of a mass of granite and brick, situated at the entrance of the Golden Gate, presenting a bold front to the Ocean. And while its massive walls afford safe protection to its big guns, its interior arrangements offer but a cold and cheerless habitation to the soldier.

Meteorological registers show that a dense fog envelopes this Fort, two hundred and sixty five days of the year. The condensation of the fog on the cold walls keeps up dampness in the rooms and not infrequently small pools of water collect on the floors.¹⁹⁷

These conditions prevailed in most casemated forts and although Army officials complained that casemates were unsuitable living quarters for men, the practice of lodging troops and officers in casemates continued. A description of Fort Pickens (near Pensacola, Florida) in the 1843 Report of the Quartermaster General to Congress makes a strong point:

There is sufficient room in the casemates for the garrison, but in that climate troops cannot live in casemates; and if the nation cannot afford comfortable barracks and other accommodation for them such as shall give reasonable assurance of preserving their health in that sickly latitude, it would be humanity to disband them.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁵ *Outline Descriptions of Military Posts...*, pp. 92-93 in *HSR*, p. 276, and Meigs to Saxton, March 26, 1880, NA, RG 92, in *HSR*, p. 279.

¹⁹⁶ Inspection Report, August 21, 1879, NA, RG 159; Inspection Report, August 28, 1882, NA, RG 159; Inspection Report, August 31, 1884, NA, RG 159; and Inspection Report, October 3, 1884, NA, RG 159.

¹⁹⁷ Charles Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

¹⁹⁸ Report of Quartermaster General Robert Wainwright, October 25, 1843, Senate Document 1, 28th Congress, 1st Session, vol. 431, p. 72.

The practice obviously continued, for troops were housed in Fort Point's casemates throughout the 1880s. The Army's inspector general reported to Congress in 1875:

The absence of suitable buildings at most of our sea-coast fortifications has for many years past compelled the troops to take quarters in casemates, which it is believed are without exception damp, illy ventilated, and unhealthy. This has given rise to continued well-grounded complaints, with numerous applications for more salubrious quarters, and these requests have been enforced by our medical officers, who, as a hygienic measure, have urgently recommended the applications to the favorable consideration of the authorities.¹⁹⁹

Aside from the dampness associated with all casemate quarters, soldiers at Fort Point and at other posts in the San Francisco harbor area had to contend with cool summer temperatures and an insufficient fuel allotment. When the Fort was originally garrisoned in the spring of 1861, the 3rd Artillery's Regimental Quartermaster was "obliged to issue an extra quantity of fuel. The consumption of fuel, on account of the dampness of the quarters, still continues to exceed the allowance to the Troops."²⁰⁰ The department allowed less fuel in the summer months than in the winter, and men stationed at Fort Point required far more fuel in summer than in the winter.

The shortage in fuel was caused in part by timbering at the Presidio in the early 1850s. According to the regimental quartermaster:

Prior to the summer of 1854, the Government was subjected to no expense at the [Presidio] in providing fuel for the use of the troops, the thickets of scrub oak, etc, in the Reserve having been destroyed for the purpose. Since that time, the deficiency in fuel during the summer has been made up by a continued destruction of the trees on the Reserve; so that at the present time...there is scarcely a tree fit for ornament or use.²⁰¹

When Bvt. Maj. William Austine assumed command of Fort Point in the summer of 1861, he requested the summer fuel allotment be doubled, and that the offices and guard house receive a separate allowance. He claimed that the guard was forced to gather pieces of wood from the shore to heat the guard room. Austine also reiterated the plea that the harsh climate at Fort Point made the quarters unhealthy:

During the summer months the post is enveloped in fogs, and dampness and high winds constantly prevail, and consequently rheumatism and severe colds are very

¹⁹⁹ Report of the Inspector General, 1875-1876, Executive Document, House of Representatives, 44th Congress, 1st Session, vol. 1, #1674.

²⁰⁰ H.G. Gibson to Thomas Swords, March 4, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²⁰¹ Ibid., September 17, 1859.

common, located as the men are in new casemates. Fires are required daily in the summer months--in the quarters, offices and guard house....²⁰²

It is not known whether the fuel allotment at Fort Point was increased at that time, but the cold and damp in the casemates was always a concern. A sanitary inspector wrote in 1864, "to render these quarters at all habitable it is necessary to keep up hot fires day and night and both in summer and winter."²⁰³

Officers' Quarters

Married Officer. The casemate depicted in figure 5 shows quarters at Fort Monroe, Virginia in 1861. The room configuration is similar to that at Fort Point, with two small rooms behind the larger parlor. The fireplace at Fort Point was located in the side wall, however, rather than on the partition between the rooms.

An 1860 receipt from the Presidio gives the fuel allowance for a captain as 24-3/4 cords per year or 2-1/16 per month, and the allowance for a lieutenant as 16-1/2 cords per year or 1-9/24 per month.²⁰⁴ The discrepancy reflects the smaller number of rooms a lieutenant was required to heat. According to army regulations, a captain was entitled to two rooms for quarters and one for his kitchen, and a lieutenant was entitled to one room for quarters and one for kitchen.

Hand sinks were planned for the window recesses on the second tier; if installed as planned, sinks may have been available in each of the rear rooms of the officer's suite of rooms. Plank floors were planned and walls were plastered and painted.²⁰⁵

Textiles were used both to decorate stylishly and to keep casemates warm. The casemate at Fort Monroe is decorated with a patterned carpet; the doorway to the left is covered with a heavy fabric treatment as well. Figure 6, the same casemate photographed around 1890, shows two of the doorways covered with heavy plush or velvet portieres, and a large area rug. An inventory of Capt. Albert Barnitz's furnishings for his 1867-68 winter quarters at Fort Leavenworth also supports the inclusion of heavy textiles in the officer's quarters; Barnitz owned two door mats,

²⁰² William Austine to Thomas Swords, August 2, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²⁰³ Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²⁰⁴ Gibson to Swords, March 4, 1861, and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²⁰⁵ Totten to Tower, May 28, 1857, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent by the Chief Engineer, in HSR, pp. 109-10, and Gilmer to Totten, April 10, 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent by the Chief Engineer, in HSR, pp. 163-64.

lengths of crush and damask, a carpet for the front room and back bedroom, and another carpet that was altered to fit his quarters.

Barnitz furnished his quarters with a rosewood table and chairs, as well as a bedstead and wash stand. Second Lt. D.G. Quimby, stationed at Fort Larned, Kansas, in the 1870s also kept a clock, banjo, books, photograph albums, and framed photographs in his quarters.²⁰⁶

Bachelor Officer. As described above, the bachelor officers' quarters may have been combined to form a suite of three bedchambers with a common parlor, dining room and kitchen. The planning engineer claimed "the...arrangement will be an excellent one for a mess of three officers--each having a good chamber and a large parlor in common...."²⁰⁷

The only bachelor identified at Fort Point is 1st Lt. Henry Waterman, who arrived at the post in January 1862 with Company B of the 3rd Artillery and was granted 30 days leave in March 1863 to marry. As detailed above, Waterman was court-martialed and left the post soon thereafter.²⁰⁸

Officers' Kitchen and Mess

The three officers who joined together to form the mess probably each donated a sum for the furnishing of the kitchen and the wages of a servant to do the cooking. This servant may have been an enlisted man or a civilian. Pvt. Stephen W. Evans, Company I, 8th California Volunteers, served extra duty as officers' cook in May 1865.²⁰⁹ On Alcatraz Island, Mrs. Quinn cooked for the officers' mess in 1864; she was promised \$30 per month, but claimed she was never paid.²¹⁰

²⁰⁶ Appendix B, items purchased by Capt. A. Barnitz for the 1867-1868 winter quarters at Leavenworth, and Appendix C, effects of the late 2nd Lieut. D.G. Quimby, 5th Infantry, Fort Larned, Kansas, March 12, 1873, in National Park Service, *Historic Furnishings Report, Post Hospital/HS-2, New Commissary/HS-4, Old Commissary Storehouse/HS-5, Quartermaster Storehouse/HS-6, Officers' Quarters, HS-7, Fort Larned National Historic Site*, by L. Clifford Soubier and William L. Brown III, (Denver Service Center: GPO, 1989), pp. 123-27.

²⁰⁷ Gilmer to De Russy, August 20, 1860, NA, RG 77, Letters Received by Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 143.

²⁰⁸ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

²⁰⁹ Company Returns, April-May 1865, Company I, Eighth California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

²¹⁰ Mrs. Quinn to Drum, September 26, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

Although quarters at Fort Point were heated with open fireplaces, kitchens were probably equipped with built-in brick ovens with iron fittings or with stoves.²¹¹ The kitchen would also contain a work table, cupboard, wood box, and provision boxes (see figure 21). Kitchen items owned by Captain Barnitz include a lamp, tea kettle, tea tray, grater, dripping pan, stew pan, mincing knife, carving knife, and fork.²¹²

Dining room furnishings appear on the inventory of the effects of 2d Lt. D.G. Quimby: they include dinner, breakfast, soup and sauce plates, cups and saucers, vegetable dishes, covered dishes, a tea pot, salt cellars, plated teaspoons, "common" knives and forks, table cloths, and 24 napkins.²¹³ The dining room would also be furnished with carpeting, a table and chairs, and possibly a sideboard.

Enlisted Men's Quarters

Introduction. Enlisted men lived in casemate quarters on the third tier of the gorge. One casemate was designated noncommissioned officers' quarters and the three easternmost casemates were used as a kitchen and mess. The September 1856 plan (see figure 2) indicates a washroom was planned for the fourth casemate, but Chief Engineer Totten did not approve the existing plan, recommending, "the 'washing places'...be located in several rooms in the recesses marked 'x.'" In the same letter he disapproved using the entire triangular room on the eastern end of the gorge for a servant's room, stating, "the space marked 'servants' room' could be subdivided with advantage."²¹⁴ A second undated plan (see figure 3) labels the fourth casemate as quarters for enlisted men, and divides the servants' room into a cook's room and a store room.

Each casemate was designed to house 24 men, and accommodate 6 two-tier bunks (see figure 2).²¹⁵ By the winter of 1864-1865, however, the garrison was increased from around 100 men to more than 400. The departmental medical inspector complained, "the apartments in these walls which the men occupy, were intended for two companies. At present there are nearly four, and more still coming." Early in 1865, construction began on barracks outside the Fort, but as

²¹¹ National Park Service, *These Relics of Barbarism: A History of Furniture in Barracks and Guardhouses of the United States Army, 1800-1880*, prepared by David A. Clary, (Denver Service Center: GPO, 1984), p. 292.

²¹² Capt. A. Barnitz inventory in NPS, *Fort Larned HFR, Post Hospital, New Commissary...*, pp. 123-24.

²¹³ 2nd Lt. D.G. Quimby inventory in NPS, *Fort Larned HFR, Post Hospital, New Commissary...*, pp. 125-27.

²¹⁴ Totten to Tower, May 28, 1857, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, pp. 109-10.

²¹⁵ De Russy to Totten, Sept. 4, 1856, NA, RG 77, Letters Received by Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 91.

discussed above, little is known about these buildings. An 1865 casemate plan proposing an arrangement of 18 bunks in four tiers illustrates accommodation within a planned outwork. "The Quarters [were] to be occupied in this crowded manner only when the work is under fire, or likely to be," although the plan was never implemented, because the outwork was never completed (see figure 10).²¹⁶

Crowded living quarters were known to be a health hazard to soldiers, and the medical inspector noted: "The effect of this bad ventilation and crowded condition is becoming manifest in the frequency of Rheumatism, Pulmonic affections and fevers of low type." Although damp and unhealthy, the quarters were very well maintained during the Civil War period, and continued to be kept up until the garrison was withdrawn in 1868. The same medical inspector commented, "the state of police of the entire Fort is faultless--Latrines, Lavatories and Sinks in good order and well policed...the excellent state of police of the quarters etc neutralize to no little extent, the great tendency to disease induced by these crowded, damp and illy ventilated quarters."²¹⁷

Bunks and Gun Racks. Furnishings for the quarters at Fort Point were simple, as in all enlisted men's quarters. Each casemate contained six wooden bunks of two tiers each, made by local carpenters on contract to the quartermaster's department or by extra duty men. The Army Engineers did not build the bunks for Fort Point.²¹⁸ "Rough gun racks" were prepared by the quartermaster's department when the Fort was garrisoned, but it is not known whether they were attached to the bunks or casemate walls, or whether they were freestanding.

During a review after the Fort's re-opening in the 1870s the inspector noted "the most noticeable deficiency in the Quarters was the absence of suitable lockers and gun racks. Now the arms are kept standing in the corners of the room and the clothing is kept in such improvised boxes as the men can find."²¹⁹ This comment suggests that gun racks were not attached to the walls in the casemates, but may have been freestanding. Freestanding racks may have been built when the Fort was initially garrisoned, because plastering and finishing of barracks walls was not yet finished at that time.²²⁰ Alternatively, gun racks on the walls in the 1860s may have been removed by the time the Fort was regarrisoned in 1878.

²¹⁶ Charles C. Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and 1865 Drawing, Drawer 94, sheet 84, NA, RG 77 [Figure 9].

²¹⁷ Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²¹⁸ Totten to Tower, May 28, 1857, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, in HSR, p. 109-110.

²¹⁹ Drum to Merchant, February 18, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Inspection Report, Fort Point, August 21, 1879, NA, RG 159.

²²⁰ Gilmer to Totten, May 9, 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in HSR, p. 158.

The earlier garrison probably had gun racks of some sort, however, because the 1866 through 1868 inspection reports never note a lack of gun racks in the quarters.

Bunks were furnished with bed sacks stuffed with straw; enlisted men were allowed twelve pounds of straw per month. Two blankets were issued to each soldier, the first during his first year of enlistment and the second during his third year. According to the *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861*, these blankets were to be

woolen, gray, with letters U.S. in black, four inches long, in the center; to be seven feet long, and five and a half feet wide, and to weigh five pounds.

Each bunk was labeled with the soldier's name, and his knapsack was stored nearby. Men may have stored their knapsacks in lockers; on shelves attached to their bunks or to the wall; or even, as in figure 11, slung over the bed post or under the bunk. The storage method prescribed in the *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861* states:

The arms will be placed in the arm-racks, the stopper in the muzzles, the cocks let down, and the bayonets in their scabbards; the accoutrements suspended over the arms, and the swords hung up by the belts on pegs.

The knapsack of each man will be placed on the lower shelf of his bunk, at its foot, packed with his effects, and ready to be slung; the great-coat on the same shelf, rolled and strapped; the coat, folded inside out, and placed under the knapsack; the cap on the second or upper shelf; and the boots well cleaned.

Dirty clothes will be kept in an appropriate part of the knapsack; no article of any kind to be put under the bedding.

All knapsacks are to be painted black. Those for the artillery will be marked in the centre of the cover with the number of the regiment only, in figures of one inch and a half in length, of the character called full face, with yellow paint.... The knapsack straps will be black....

Haversacks will be marked upon the flap with the number and name of the regiment, the letter of the company, and number of the soldier, in black letters and figures. And each soldier must, at all times, be provided with a haversack and canteen....²²¹

The companies in the 8th California Volunteers apparently complied with the regulation to label bunks, arms and accoutrements, for NCOs were directed to assume command of each company squad and were responsible for complying with the following orders: "[t]he name of each souldier [sic] shall be written on his

²²¹ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 21-23, 166, 169, and 488.

bunk. And his company number will be placed against his arms and accoutrements." A noncommissioned officer slept with each squad, and transfers between squads were not allowed.²²²

Clothing. Clothing was manufactured in California during most of the Civil War, but supply did not catch up with demand until 1862. In October 1861, the Department of the Pacific was "stripped of all the clothing we had to supply the volunteers...." By November, however, the department reported that "... clothing for all the troops in the department is being made here. Very soon the supply will be ample, and of a superior quality at a reasonable rate...."²²³

Funding was often a problem for the Department of the Pacific and payment of clothing manufacturers was no exception. In December 1861, the general commanding wrote, "we are much in want of funds, especially to meet the urgent demands of the gentlemen who have been furnishing clothing for the Volunteer troops raised in this country." In April 1862, he again reported, "...the troops...are well supplied by the different staff departments--our subsistence, clothing and medical stores have mostly been provided on this coast and all of good quality. We have been embarrassed for want of funds especially in the QuarterMaster's Dept...."²²⁴ Even as late as October 1862, the departmental quartermaster was concerned that finances would affect clothing supplies to the troops.²²⁵

Soldiers at Fort Point were issued caps, hats, coats, trousers, flannel shirts, drawers, shoes, and overalls (see Appendix B). If extra clothing was issued to a soldier, he was charged for it on the following muster roll.²²⁶ The prices of clothing manufactured for the Army in San Francisco in 1862 are as follows:

Blankets	3.88 1/3 ea.
Boots, Cavalry	4.60 pr
Bootees, Sewed	2.25 "
Bootees, pegged	1.75 "
Drawers	.85 1/2 pr
Caps, Forage	1.30 ea

²²² *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 21. See also March 20, 1865 entry, Regimental Record Books, Company C, 8th California Volunteers, and January 11, 1865 entry, Regimental Record Books, Company B, 8th California Volunteers, NA, RG 94.

²²³ Wright to Lorenzo Thomas, October 21, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Drum to Edward Townsend, November 20, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

²²⁴ Wright to M.C. Meigs, December 19, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP, and Wright to B.G. Thomas, April 5, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

²²⁵ E.B. Babbitt, to DoP, October 11, 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²²⁶ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 170.

Great Coats, Cavalry	12.25 ea
Great Coats, Infantry	11.25 "
Flannel Jack Coats	3.25 "
Jackets, Dragoon	8.00 "
Trowsers, Cavalry-plain	4.75 pr
Trowsers, Infantry	4.75 pr
Shirts	1.25 ea
Stockings	.39 1/2 pr ²²⁷

Not all sizes were always available and not all clothing distributed was of the best quality. A General Order of 1864 directed officers' attention to "...the importance of having [clothing] frequently aired and brushed and thereby remove the occasion of so many reports of 'moth-eaten clothing' being sent to these headquarters."²²⁸ At Fort Point, a medical inspector pointed out the poor quality of the clothing issued to troops, stating, "the shirts are of an inferior quality being composed principally of cotton, also the flannel blouse is of poor quality of flannel and cut shorter than the Regulation pattern."²²⁹

Clothing sizes could also be inaccurate, and each company was allowed a tailor on extra duty to alter uniforms.²³⁰ The department encouraged officers to distribute the clothing they were assigned, claiming

estimates for clothing are often made for a large proportion of the largest sizes of clothing. The relative proportions of the different sizes have been fixed by proper authority upon proper and long observation and the clothing is sent out for issue accordingly and if properly issued it will rarely be found necessary to ask specially for a larger proportion of any of the sizes.²³¹

After the Civil War, many of the smaller sizes of clothing were inventoried at Fort Point, leading the inspector to recommend that since most of the sizes were not likely to be used by the men at the Fort, they should be returned to the supply depot. He supposed the excess clothing had "accumulated at the Fort during the war."²³²

²²⁷ Babbitt to Drum, January 13, 1862 and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²²⁸ General Order 23, Department of the Pacific, May 12, 1864, NA, RG 393, General Orders and Circulars Issued by DoP, 1861-1865.

²²⁹ Charles Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²³⁰ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 23.

²³¹ General Order 23, DoP, May 12, 1864, NA, RG 393, General Orders and Circulars Issued by the DoP, 1861-1865.

²³² Inspection Report for Fort Point, January 1867, NA, RG 159.

Noncommissioned Officers' Quarters

As discussed above, several noncommissioned officers lived outside of the Fort. The 1856 plan (see figure 2) designates casemate 7 as noncommissioned officers' quarters. The casemate is partitioned into four separate rooms; it is likely that only one noncommissioned officer lived in each room. The heating arrangements for the rooms are not clear, since there was presumably still only one fireplace in the casemate.

The noncommissioned officer in the artillery wore the same uniform as the regular enlisted man (see Appendix B) with some exceptions. Sergeants and corporals had scarlet stripes down the outer seams of their trousers, one and one-half inches wide for sergeants and one-half inch wide for corporals. Sergeant majors, quartermaster sergeants, ordnance sergeants, and first sergeants, among others, wore a "red worsted sash, with worsted bullion fringe ends; to go twice around the waist, and to tie behind the left hip, pendent part not to extend more than eighteen inches below the tie." The sash was worn whenever the NCO was on duty, with the exception of stable and fatigue duty. Noncommissioned officers also wore chevrons on the sleeves of both overcoats and uniform coats; the arrangement of the chevrons was prescribed by rank. Chevrons for the artillery were scarlet, while ordnance sergeants' chevrons were crimson.²³³

Enlisted Men's Kitchen and Mess

Although the kitchen was under the direct supervision of a noncommissioned officer, it was frequently inspected by company officers and the post commander. As discussed above, in theory enlisted men were to take turns serving as cooks, but men with skill or interest in cooking were sometimes permanently assigned to the position. Cooks were responsible for preparing food, and keeping cooking utensils and mess furniture in order. The kitchen and mess were "admirably managed" at Fort Point, with "cooking and serving properly done," leading one inspector to comment on the "general good management of the 'Cuisine'."²³⁴

An inspection conducted in December 1866 revealed 14 cooking stoves at the Fort, seven of which were used in the laundresses' quarters. The other seven were in storage and unserviceable, and "it is very doubtful if they are worth repairing,

²³³ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 479-86.

²³⁴ Inspection Report for Fort Point, January 1867, NA, RG 159, and Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received from DoP. Also *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 23.

Great Coats, Cavalry	12.25 ea
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²³⁰ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 23.

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The noncommissioned officer in the artillery wore the same uniform as the regular enlisted man (see Appendix B) with some exceptions. Sergeants and corporals had scarlet stripes down the outer seams of their trousers, one and one-half inches wide for sergeants and one-half inch wide for corporals. Sergeant majors, quartermaster sergeants, ordnance sergeants, and first sergeants, among others, wore a "red worsted sash, with worsted bullion fringe ends; to go twice around the waist, and to tie behind the left hip, pendent part not to extend more than eighteen inches below the tie." The sash was worn whenever the NCO was on duty, with the exception of stable and fatigue duty. Noncommissioned officers also wore chevrons on the sleeves of both overcoats and uniform coats; the arrangement of the chevrons was prescribed by rank. Chevrons for the artillery were scarlet, while ordnance sergeants' chevrons were crimson.²³³

Enlisted Men's Kitchen and Mess

Although the kitchen was under the direct supervision of a noncommissioned officer, it was frequently inspected by company officers and the post commander. As discussed above, in theory enlisted men were to take turns serving as cooks, but men with skill or interest in cooking were sometimes permanently assigned to the position. Cooks were responsible for preparing food, and keeping cooking utensils and mess furniture in order. The kitchen and mess were "admirably managed" at Fort Point, with "cooking and serving properly done," leading one inspector to comment on the "general good management of the 'Cuisine'."²³⁴

An inspection conducted in December 1866 revealed 14 cooking stoves at the Fort, seven of which were used in the laundresses' quarters. The other seven were in storage and unserviceable, and "it is very doubtful if they are worth repairing,

²³³ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 479-86.

²³⁴ Inspection Report for Fort Point, January 1867, NA, RG 159, and Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received from DoP. Also *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 23.

Great Coats, Cavalry	12.25 ea
Great Coats, Infantry	11.25 "
Flannel Jack Coats	3.25 "
Jackets, Dragoon	8.00 "
Trousers, Cavalry-plain	4.75 pr
Trousers, Infantry	4.75 pr
Shirts	1.25 ea
Stockings	.39 1/2 pr ²²⁷

Not all sizes were always available and not all clothing distributed was of the best quality. A General Order of 1864 directed officers' attention to "...the importance of having [clothing] frequently aired and brushed and thereby remove the occasion of so many reports of 'moth-eaten clothing' being sent to these headquarters."²²⁸ At Fort Point, a medical inspector pointed out the poor quality of the clothing issued to troops, stating, "the shirts are of an inferior quality being composed principally of cotton, also the flannel blouse is of poor quality of flannel and cut shorter than the Regulation pattern."²²⁹

Clothing sizes could also be inaccurate, and each company was allowed a tailor on extra duty to alter uniforms.²³⁰ The department encouraged officers to distribute the clothing they were assigned, claiming

estimates for clothing are often made for a large proportion of the largest sizes of clothing. The relative proportions of the different sizes have been fixed by proper authority upon proper and long observation and the clothing is sent out for issue accordingly and if properly issued it will rarely be found necessary to ask specially for a larger proportion of any of the sizes.²³¹

After the Civil War, many of the smaller sizes of clothing were inventoried at Fort Point, leading the inspector to recommend that since most of the sizes were not likely to be used by the men at the Fort, they should be returned to the supply depot. He supposed the excess clothing had "accumulated at the Fort during the war."²³²

²²⁷ Babbitt to Drum, January 13, 1862 and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²²⁸ General Order 23, Department of the Pacific, May 12, 1864, NA, RG 393, General Orders and Circulars Issued by DoP, 1861-1865.

²²⁹ Charles Keeney to Drum, December 7, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²³⁰ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 23.

²³¹ General Order 23, DoP, May 12, 1864, NA, RG 393, General Orders and Circulars Issued by the DoP, 1861-1865.

²³² Inspection Report for Fort Point, January 1867, NA, RG 159.

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even if repairable."²³⁵ Since none of the government cooking stoves at the Fort were being used at this time, the kitchen ranges may have been built-in brick units with iron fittings or fireplaces.²³⁶ Alternatively, since the inspector only inventoried government-owned property, stoves purchased using regimental funds may have been in use, but not mentioned in the report.

During the latter part of the Civil War, the departmental quartermaster in San Francisco showed interest in the "Monitor" cook stove, requesting pricing information on a stove "large enough for company use." The cost was \$125 in gold for the stove alone, and \$54 for stove furniture (or accessories) but it is not known if these stoves were used at Fort Point, or indeed, if any were ordered for the Department.²³⁷

In the kitchen, cooks used iron or tin utensils which probably included round-bottom kettles either suspended by a hook and chain or with legs, and mess pans for serving food. Utensils made of brass or copper were to be lined with tin.²³⁸

Mess furniture consisted of long tables and benches, probably made at the Fort, and may have included shelves or cupboards to store eating and serving utensils (see figures 17 and 18). It is unclear whether enlisted men at Fort Point were issued knives, forks, spoons, cups and plates, or whether they purchased their own. Possibly the custom varied. Private George W. Kern, with the 2nd Artillery in 1868, owned his tin plate and cup, as well as a knife, fork and "big spoon." He valued his mess furniture at 50 cents.²³⁹

Company Fund. Extra utensils and food to supplement army rations were procured with money from the company fund. The company fund was made up of the money earned from the sale of surplus company rations. While the post fund paid the expenses of the bake house and garden, and funded libraries, schools and reading rooms, the company fund was used to pay for various foods to supplement

²³⁵ Inspection Report for Fort Point, January 1867, NA, RG 159. The same report noted seven heating stoves on hand, five of which were in good condition and two of which were "out of order, but reparable." (sic)

²³⁶ Clary, *These Relics of Barbarism...*, p. 292.

²³⁷ Deputy Quartermaster Babbitt to Mr. Blackwood, January 20, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by Chief Quartermaster, DoP and DoC.

²³⁸ Clary, *These Relics of Barbarism...*, pp. 290-91. Also *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 23.

²³⁹ Meyers, *Ten Years in the Ranks*, p. 160, as quoted in Clary, *Relics of Barbarism*, p. 292. See also "Claims of Officers and Enlisted men...for Loss of private property," p. 231, NA, RG 92.

the rations, as well as garden seed, utensils, and extra comforts in the quarters.²⁴⁰

Regular rations consisted of pork or bacon, fresh or salt beef, flour, beans or rice, coffee or tea, sugar, vinegar, soap, salt, and candles.²⁴¹ Rations for the sick might include fruit, butter, milk or eggs, and the post or company garden might provide vegetables to vary the diet of the enlisted men.

Company I, 9th Infantry, purchased vegetables, garden seeds and 200 cabbage plants at Fort Point in the winter of 1863, while Company D, 3rd Artillery, bought onions, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, red pepper, and soup vegetables while stationed on Alcatraz Island in 1862. Company D also purchased four dozen bowls and spoons for the mess. The company fund paid for publications as well: Company I bought the *Daily Bulletin* every month, as well as eastern papers and a copy of the *Spirit of Military Institutions*.²⁴²

Jail Cells

Three cells make up the casemate directly east of the sally port on the first tier. They were built as planned and by the summer of 1861 they were painted and the doors made and hung.²⁴³ The jail cells were probably furnished with only a few items such as a slop bucket and perhaps blankets brought by prisoners.²⁴⁴

Prisoners were guarded by men detailed to the police guard, who oversaw their labor. They were responsible for cleaning the camp, and any other hard labor necessary at the post.²⁴⁵ Often, a prisoner carried out his work with a 12-pound ball attached to his leg. This punishment, along with monthly fines, was the most common to be imposed at Fort Point.²⁴⁶

²⁴⁰ Jack D. Foner, *The U.S. Soldier Between Two Wars: Army Life and Reforms 1865-1898*, (New York: Humanities Press, 1970), p. 21.

²⁴¹ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 243.

²⁴² Company Fund Account, Company I, Ninth Infantry, January-March 1863, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP, and Company Fund Account, Company D, Third Artillery, February 1862, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²⁴³ Elliot to Totten, August 5 and September 6, 1861, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in *HSR*, p. 166.

²⁴⁴ Clary, *These Relics of Barbarism*, p. 308.

²⁴⁵ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, pp. 85-86.

²⁴⁶ General Order 39, DoP, November 11, 1863; General Order 21, DoP, April 18, 1864; and General Order 32, DoP, July 2, 1864, NA, RG 393, General Orders, Orders, Circulars Issued 1861-1865 by DoP.

Until the dramatic increase in the garrison at the Fort in the winter of 1864-65, the number of men in confinement averaged no more than 12 each month. While the volunteer companies were stationed at Fort Point, along with regulars from the 9th Infantry and the 2nd and 3rd Artillery, the number of prisoners went up accordingly, usually reaching no more than 30. An exception is the unexplained confinement in July 1865 of 45 volunteers.²⁴⁷

Fort Point's three cells held 30 men in the summer of 1867. An inspector described the conditions in the jail:

The general prisoners undergoing sentence at Fort Point are confined in a room about thirty feet by twelve, which is divided into three cells and a long narrow passage way. Scarcely large enough for them alone, it becomes entirely too crowded when the post prisoners are also confined in it.

The inspector goes on to recommend that the two 30' x 35' casemates adjoining the prison area to the east be annexed to provide extra prison space. The casemates were being used as storerooms for "ordnance tools, equipments, etc." and the inspector suggests using other areas in the fort for store rooms.²⁴⁸

By February 1868, the casemates were being used to house overflow prisoners, but, the inspector wrote, "[t]hat more prison room is needed is apparent." He explained:

There are now ninety five general prisoners confined at Fort Point, forty four of whom have been tried.

In the two rooms that were used for storing ordnance tools, and implements when I was at Fort Point in August, there are now eighty three prisoners. Instead of being 30 x 35 feet, as I reported, they are 27 x 30.²⁴⁹

Because prisons at the Presidio and Alcatraz were full, a large number of prisoners arrived at Fort Point in the summer of 1867.²⁵⁰ When Company D of the Engineers took over the Fort in September of 1867, 47 men were recorded undergoing sentence at the post. In November, the post return records that 15 of the 47 prisoners had been transferred from Angel Island. By December, 76 men were either undergoing sentence or awaiting trial at the Fort. January 1868 saw

²⁴⁷ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94.

²⁴⁸ Inspection Report for Fort Point, August 8, 1867, NA, RG 159.

²⁴⁹ Ibid., February 5, 1868.

²⁵⁰ Elliot to Andrew A. Humphreys, March 12, 1868, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer, in HSR, p. 213.

more prisoners transferred to Fort Point, increasing the total to 95 men in confinement.

When the Fort was annexed to the Presidio in mid-March, 20 of the 80 prisoners on hand were transferred to Alcatraz and seven to Angel Island. Two prisoners escaped at that time. The remaining prisoners continued their confinement at Fort Point, guarded by special duty men stationed at the Fort. Second Lt. Robert M. Rogers was detailed in charge of prisoners at the Fort in April 1868. Rogers was charged with allowing 38 men to escape through the prison window on or around May 15, although he was later acquitted. On the 18th of May, 30 prisoners were transferred from Fort Point to Alcatraz, perhaps to relieve the overcrowding that precipitated the prisoners' escape earlier in the month. When the guard detail was withdrawn on August 25, the prisoners were turned over to the commanding officer of Alcatraz Island.²⁵¹

Plans were made in 1868 to convert three casemates on the third tier into prison facilities. In the early part of the year, the commander of the Division of the Pacific requested the Engineers undertake the work, which they agreed to do, walling off casemates 61 through 63. The inspector also recommended the casemates be subdivided into cells, explaining,

...as the no. of prisoners in the Harbor is already large and constantly increasing, and as they are of the very worst characters, that I consider it important that the no. confined together should not be over six or eight.²⁵²

The chief engineer objected to the idea, while the assistant inspector general, after consulting with Bvt. Brig. Gen. Barton Alexander of the Engineers, claimed "the conversion of the casemates into prisons cannot be made without impairing the efficiency of the Batteries." Most of those involved with the plan agreed that it seriously diminished the effectiveness of the Fort, but it was carried out nevertheless.²⁵³

Guard Room

The guard room at Fort Point was located in the first tier casemate directly west of the sally port. Guard rooms were sparsely furnished with benches or shelves to

²⁵¹ Post Returns for Fort Point, NA, RG 94; General Order 18, HQ Military Division of the Pacific, June 4, 1868; Special Order, May 18, 1868, HQDC, Fort Point Historical File; and Special Order 136, August 25, 1868, HQDC.

²⁵² Inspection Report for Fort Point, February 5, 1868, NA, RG 159.

²⁵³ Elliot to Humphreys, March 12, 1868, Letters Received, Chief Engineer and Humphreys to Grant, April 20, 1868, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer, both in NA, RG 77, in *HSR*, pp. 213-14, and Inspection Report for Fort Point, February 5, 1868, NA, RG 159.

accommodate members of the guard resting between assignments. The guard room also contained arms racks, and might contain a table and chair, a notice board, and fire fighting equipment.²⁵⁴

Men were assigned to guard duty in 24-hour shifts, and as noted above, the shift usually consisted of one or two sergeants, two corporals and anywhere from 14 to 23 privates. They were commanded by the officer-of-the-day, who probably slept in a separate room in or near the office, or perhaps in his own quarters. It is not clear where the office was located.

Based on physical evidence, it is probable that the guard room at Fort Point had a wood stove. There is no fireplace in the room. During the summer of 1861, the commanding officer reported that the guard house and offices were not allowed a wood allotment, although "fires are required daily in the summer months." He continued:

the fuel for the [guard room] has been scantily supplied by pieces of wreck gathered on the shore by the guard, but that source of supply is limited--and laborious, besides interfering with the duties of the guard.²⁵⁵

As noted above, when the Fort was garrisoned, offices were not given a wood allowance. In 1863, however, a disgruntled soldier at Fort Point wrote to the Secretary of War that each month 1500 pounds of coal were requested for the commanding officer's office. Since the letter is clearly meant to slander officers and noncommissioned officers at the Fort, it does not provide completely reliable evidence, but it is interesting to note that the soldier states that the coal could not be used in the office: "there being no fireplace available." It also suggests that both coal and wood were used as fuel at the Fort. The soldier, whose name is not known, also stated that 12 pounds of candles were requisitioned every month. These candles were requested for use by the guard, but they were never used: "there being oil used, furnished by the Quartermaster for lighting the fort."²⁵⁶

Fort Point's guard room had at least one glass lantern, which used either candles or oil. The Fort was supplied with six "good glass lanterns" when it was garrisoned in February 1861, although only three were usually used.²⁵⁷ These

²⁵⁴ Clary, *These Relics of Barbarism...*, p. 309.

²⁵⁵ Wm. Austine to F. Swords, August 2, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²⁵⁶ "Michael Commins" to Secretary of War Stanton, June 14, 1863, and Stewart to Drum, August 31, 1863 and attachments, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP.

²⁵⁷ Commissary General to Swords, February 18, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

were probably used by the guard in the guard room and the sally port, and one may have been used by the officer of the day in his office.

Officer-of-the-Day's Office. The officer-of-the-day's office was usually located next to the guard room. Two small rooms accommodated the sergeant and the officer-of-the-day during their guard shifts. The sergeant-of-the-guard's room might also contain a plain desk and chair and any paper and implements necessary to do the small amount of paperwork generated by the guard. At Fort Point, however, the location of the sergeant's and officer's rooms is not known. The typical place for these rooms to be located would be in the casemate next to the guard room, but because the Fort's main magazine was located in the four casemates west of the guard room, no casemate was left free to accommodate an office.

It is not likely that the officer-of-the-day slept in the guard room, nor that he slept in quarters outside the Fort. He may have returned to his quarters to sleep if he was quartered in the gorge but if he was not, it is not clear where he slept. The sergeant, on the other hand, may have slept in the guard room with the men, and may have conducted some paperwork in this room.

Furnishings for the officer's sleeping area would typically include a single hospital bunk, bedding, washstand, mirror, and washing accessories. No personal items would be kept in this area, as it was used by each officer in turn as he served as officer-of-the-day.

Supply Rooms. Stores at Fort Point were probably kept in several rooms on the first and second tiers, but their exact locations are not known. The first tier of gorge casemates was occupied by the guard room and magazine west of the sally port, and in the eastern section, by the jail cells and two storerooms. The two easternmost casemates were used to store ordnance tools and equipments by 1867, and later to house prisoners.²⁵⁸ Store rooms were also located adjacent to the kitchens on the second and third tiers (see figure 3).

The main storeroom would contain floor-to-ceiling open shelving, as well as counters, chairs, ledgers, and the supplies themselves. Both uniforms and equipment were probably stored together at Fort Point. An inventory taken on December 16, 1866, includes clothing, insignia, flags, tools, bedsacks, and musical instruments. (See Appendix C.)

The supply rooms were well-maintained at Fort Point; an inspector reported "all the store houses in fair order" after a December 1865 visit, and an 1868 inspection

²⁵⁸ Inspection Report for Fort Point, August 8, 1867, and Inspection Report for Fort Point, February 5, 1868, NA, RG 159.

report notes that the property under the supervision of the post quartermaster and commissary was "well taken care of." A report from an 1866 inspection goes as far as to say that at Fort Point, the "store-houses were in good order, [and the] property better arranged and classified than at the Presidio."²⁵⁹

Supplies were requisitioned by commanding officers on behalf of their men, and records from 1866 illustrate which companies were requesting goods, and which items were being requested. As might be expected, the most requested items at Fort Point were drawers, stockings, bootees, and blankets.²⁶⁰

Powder Magazine

The main powder magazine at Fort Point was located in the westernmost casemates on the first tier of the gorge. Construction of the four rooms was based on the plan for the magazines at Fort Jefferson in the Gulf of Mexico. Doors and windows ventilated the magazine, yet as a safety measure they did not open onto the parade. The six service magazines behind the stairway towers and the main magazine were completed in 1860.²⁶¹

The Artillerist's Manual, originally published in 1860, describes the interior of a powder magazine:

The barrels are generally placed on the sides, three tiers high, or four tiers if necessary; small skids should be placed on the floor, and between the several tiers of barrels, in order to steady them, and chocks should be placed at intervals on the lower skid to prevent the rolling of the barrels. The powder should be separated according to its kind, the place and date of fabrication, and the proof range. Fixed ammunition, especially for cannon, should not be put in the same magazine with powder in barrels, if it can be avoided.

Magazine books were kept to record inventory, and a ticket was attached to each pile of powder to record issues and acquisitions.²⁶²

²⁵⁹ Inspection Reports for Fort Point, December 18, 1865, December 16, 1866, and February 4, 1868, NA, RG 159.

²⁶⁰ Monthly Return of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, Fort Point, January-December 1866, NA, RG 393, Various Quartermaster Reports Received.

²⁶¹ Totten to De Russy, November 24, 1855, NA, RG 77, Letters Sent, Chief Engineer and De Russy to Totten, February 4, 1856, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer in *HSR*, p. 86; Monthly Reports of Operations for October-December 1862, and De Russy to Totten, February 14, 1863, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer in *HSR*, p. 171; Gilmer to De Russy, July 31, 1860, NA, RG 77, Letters Received, Chief Engineer; and *Executive Documents, printed by Order of the Senate of the United States for the 2d Session of the 36th Congress* (Washington, DC, 1861), serial 1079, vol. 2, p. 270, in *HSR*, p. 136.

²⁶² John Gibbon, *The Artillerist's Manual: Compiled from Various Sources and adapted to the Service of the United States*, (New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1860; reprinted, Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1971), pp. 44-45.

The arrangement of the barrels within the magazine was also spelled out:

In a room thirteen or fourteen feet wide, the barrels may be arranged in a double row in the centre, two alleys two and a half feet wide, and two single rows, six to twelve inches from the walls: in this way the marks of each barrel may be seen, and any barrel can be easily reached. In a room twelve feet wide, an equal number of barrels may be placed in two double rows, with a central alley of three feet, and two side alleys, next the walls, of about ten inches each; there should be an unincumbered[sic] space of six or eight feet at the door or doors of the magazine.

Should it be necessary to pile the barrels more than four tiers high, the upper tiers should be supported by a frame resting on the floor; or the barrels may be placed on their heads, with boards between the tiers.²⁶³

The barrels were to be turned and rolled periodically, and the magazine itself was to be opened and aired every other day in good weather.²⁶⁴ The weather at Fort Point was seldom good, and the magazine casemates were as damp as any of the other casemates. Moisture in the powder magazine was absorbed by chloride of lime [bleaching powder] "suspended in an open box under the arch, and renewed from time to time."²⁶⁵

Inspection reports indicate that magazines at Fort Point were aired frequently, and a special investigation by the department's Chief of Ordnance after an explosion at Fort Point in July 1864 revealed the magazines: "in good condition with cartridges and projectiles prepared and the necessary implements at hand for immediate service."²⁶⁶ According to the *Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861*, these implements were to include a few filled cartridges, cartridge bags, port-fires, fuzes, tubes, and primers.²⁶⁷ Because troops at Fort Point needed to guard against an attack from the land, it is possible that implements would have been at the ready in the main magazine in the gorge, as well as in the service magazines on the second and third tiers.

One of the first orders issued when Fort Point was garrisoned in 1861 provided for the security of the main magazine. The main magazine was not to be opened or entered unless supervised by a commissioned officer, and troops were to take "all

²⁶³ Gibbon, *The Artillerist's Manual...*, pp. 44-45.

²⁶⁴ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 16.

²⁶⁵ Gibbon, *The Artillerist's Manual...*, p. 45.

²⁶⁶ Inspection Report for Fort Point, December 16, 1866, NA, RG 159, and Wainwright to Drum, July 23, 1864, NA, RG 393, Letters Received by DoP. The special investigation by the Chief of Ordnance was held in order to discover: "the causes of the premature explosion of shells during the firings of the 13th July at Fort Point and Alcatraz."

²⁶⁷ *Revised Regulations of 1861*, p. 16.

the precautions usual in such cases."²⁶⁸ These strict precautions provided for the safety of those working in the magazine, and were spelled out in *The Artillerist's Manual*:

The sentinel or guard at a magazine, when it is open, should have no fire-arms, and every one who enters the magazine should take off his shoes, or put socks over them; no sword, or cane, or anything which might occasion sparks, should be carried in.²⁶⁹

Light sources in magazines had to be thoroughly protected, though it is not known exactly how the magazine at Fort Point was lighted. The original inner and outer doors to a magazine in Battery West, built between 1870 and 1873, are in the collections at Fort Point. These doors have plain iron coat hooks on their inner sides. The inner door has a rectangular cut-out designed with a brass-hinged trap door that allowed for candlelight in the entryway to shine into the magazine and for cartridges to be passed through. It is possible that an arrangement of this type was employed in the main magazine in the gorge.

²⁶⁸ Mackall to Merchant, February 18, 1861, NA, RG 393, Letters Sent by DoP.

²⁶⁹ Gibbon, *The Artillerist's Manual...*, p. 45.

