

VESTIGES of *Lands End*

Battery Lobos and Battery Lands End

At the beginning of WW II, the US Army negotiated a lease with the City of San Francisco, Adolph Sutro's heirs and other land holders. This placed 64.83 acres of coast along Lands End under Army control. The land was divided into two parcels: Point Lobos reservation north of the Sutro Baths and Lands End reservation north of Fort Miley.

Temporary gun batteries were quickly erected at each reservation. Battery Lobos was in service by July 1943, and consisted of two US Navy deck guns bolted to two 20 foot diameter concrete plugs. There was no protection for the guns or gunners. Battery Lands End was in service by January 1944, consisting of two 90mm guns mounted on concrete plugs 120 feet apart.

The guns were removed and salvaged after the war's end. At Battery Lobos, one gun block and retaining wall are still in place, although sadly these remnants of defence on the homefront have been vandalized with spray paint. The block for the second gun may still be intact, covered by sand and ice plant. At Battery Lands End, both gun blocks are still visible at the tip of the Lands End promontory.



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives,
Interpretation NegativeCollection, GOGA-2316, courtesy of John Sielinski, Bay City, MI



D. Shew 2012

Top: Coast artillery soldiers at Battery Lobos aiming a naval gun, 1943;
Bottom: Modern view of Battery Lands End gun #1 mount.