

## EXTANT WORLD WAR II-ERA STRUCTURES BARKING SANDS, PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY

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*The following commentaries regarding two extant World War II-era structures found at the Barking Sands, Pacific Missile Range Facility is submitted for the perusal of all concerned.*

*Identification of the following has been made based on prior examinations of similar structures by the writer.*

### *Feature A*

The object is identified as a mass-produced cylindrical machine gun pillbox with a riveted steel body and a cast metal turret capable of being traversed by means of a hand crank wheel. Pillboxes of this type have been reported to be armed with one Browning .30 caliber air-cooled machine gun. Entry into the observation/firing chamber was typically accomplished by a crawl thru pipe-like structure attached at the rear. The main body was typically buried in the ground to be less conspicuous to an enemy force.



Although the main body of *Feature A* is buried, identification has been made by means of its cast metal turret.

The pillbox was usually employed for airfield defense, although on Oahu, they have been found at an ex-Coast Artillery AA camp (Camp Malakole) and outside the perimeter fence of the former Naval Radio Station Lualualei.

Metal pillbox on static display at Battery Randolph, Fort DeRussy on the grounds of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. The main body is shown as is the circular entryway. Riveted main body and eyebolts for lifting are shown. Photo by the writer.



### *Feature B*

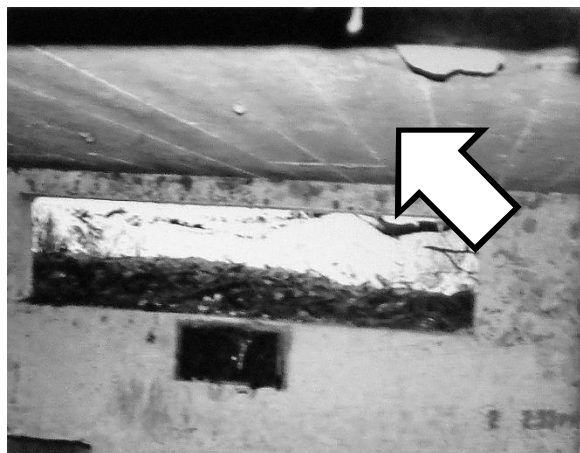
*Feature B* is identified as a concrete machine gun pillbox of World War-II era design. It was reported earlier by the writer that it was a “mass-produced” square type normally built in engineer base yards on Oahu, then transported to the site. Several examples on Oahu were poured in place due to the steep locations they occupied.



*Feature B*

*Feature B* appeared to have been built on site as there was no sign of any horizontal metal hoops on the visible exterior walls which allowed it to be lifted from the bed of a truck, trailer, or railroad flatcar. If built in the field, labor was most likely provided by army troops stationed in the area.

The feature was reported to include three firing embrasures/observation slits. Examples built on Oahu were reported to have any number from two to four which was dictated by the location where it was emplaced. Exterior measurements ranged from eight to ten feet square, although a larger pillbox may have been constructed, which functioned as a defense command post.

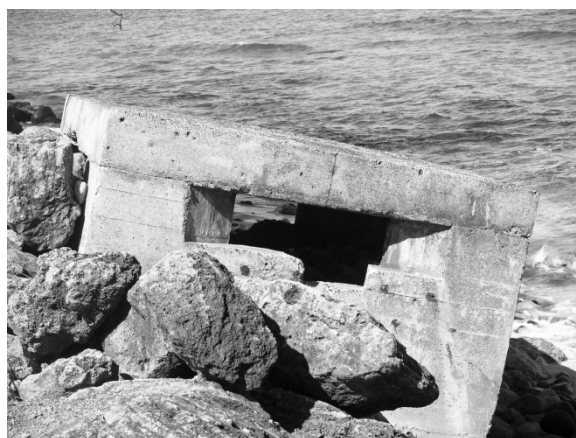


Interior of *Feature B*. Arrow points to impressions left by form lumber.

The interior photo of *Feature B* reveals that the ceiling may have been formed with either one by six or thicker lumber based on the impressions left during construction.



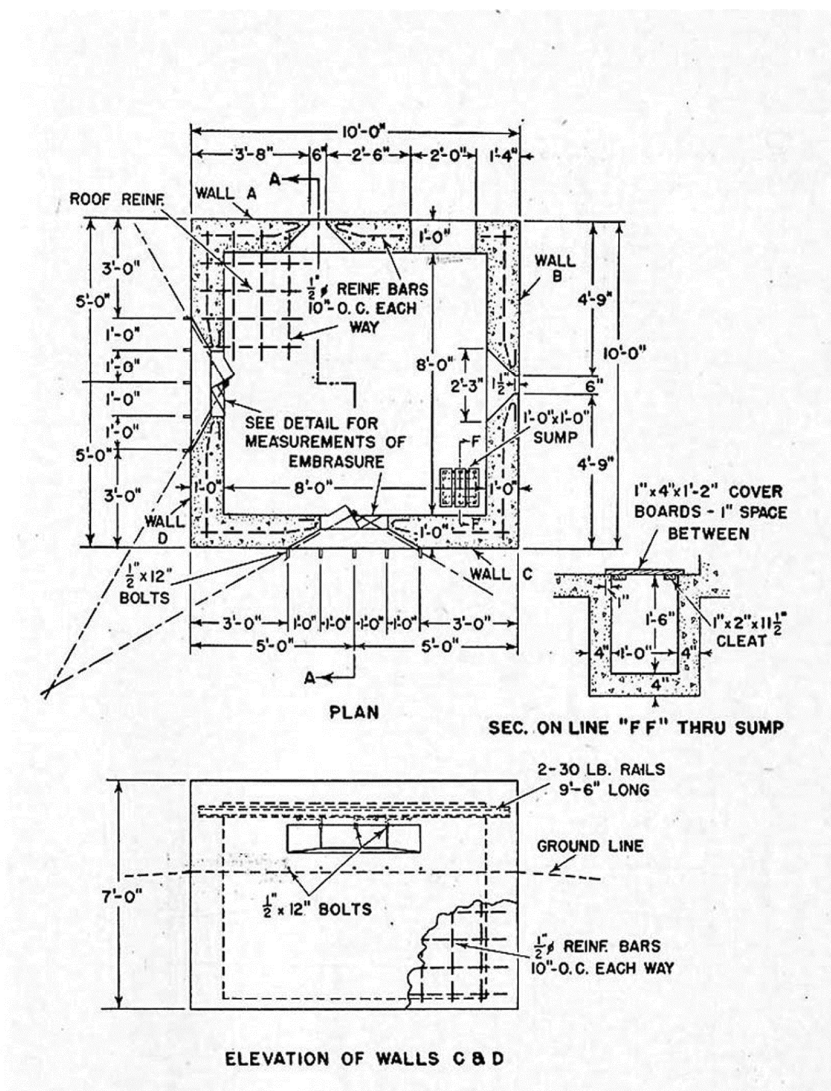
Above photo of *Feature B* depicts two unusual compartments below one of the walls. There was no narrative that described the compartments. The writer has not encountered this feature in any examination of a World War II pillbox on Oahu.



Pillbox pictured above was mass-produced during World War II on Oahu, and is located at Kaaawa. *Photo by the writer.*



Square type pillbox found at Oneula Beach on Oahu. Photo by the writer.



Type plans for a ten foot square pillbox. From War Dept. Field Manual 5-15

Source

War Department Field Manual, FM 5-15, *Corps of Engineers Field Fortifications*, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 14 February 1944, p. 254.

All errors or omissions are those of the writer.

Dated: May 5, 2011.