

## Point Dume Memo for File

This document summarizes records research for locations of military installations near Malibu, CA. The results of research find that there were no military installations where the current schools are located in Malibu, CA. There were some military structures located on Point Dume, approximately 2 miles away from Juan Cabrillo and Malibu High School (Figure 1).

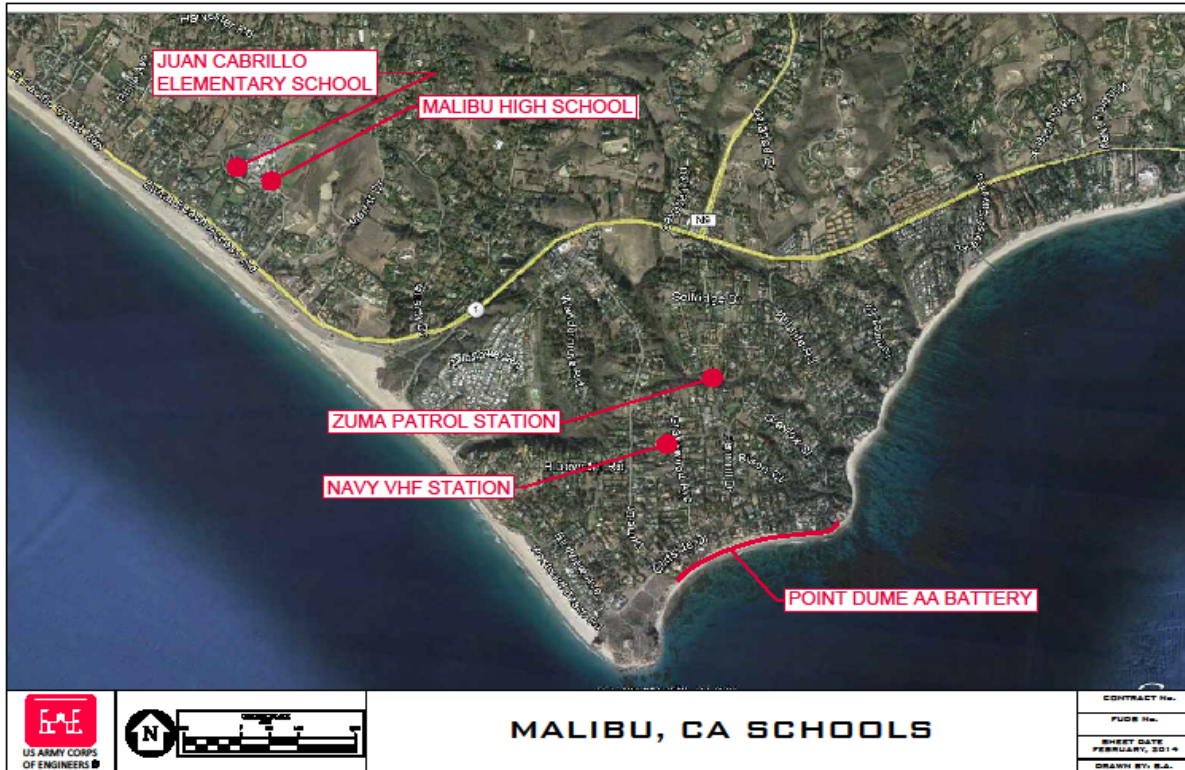


Figure 1 Location of Malibu Schools in relation to Leased property Military installations, Courtesy of Google Earth (10 December 2013).

The following history of the schools can be viewed at [http://www.malibuhigh.org/about\\_us\\_history](http://www.malibuhigh.org/about_us_history).

Malibu Park Middle School opened in 1963 with 280 7th- and 8th-graders. The original three buildings housed 10 classrooms, a faculty room, a temporary library, office space, industrial arts classrooms, home economics room, and 2 physical education dressing rooms. A multipurpose cafeteria building was shared with Juan Cabrillo School. For 26 years the campus served the Malibu Community as a thriving neighborhood middle school.

In 1989, the Malibu High School Study Committee was formed by authorization of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education. This dedicated group of Malibu parents and community members were charged with the task of exploring the feasibility of creating a secondary school in Malibu. Concerned about the increasingly long and dangerous drive to Santa Monica High School, parents wanted a neighborhood high school that would attempt to attract the 30% of Malibu children enrolled in private schools.

Since Malibu Park Middle School had been built to accommodate 1,000 students but was housing far fewer, the site was well suited to be the new high school. After much planning, Malibu High School was begun with a class of 9th graders in 1992. With the passage of subsequent bond measure, more buildings and amenities were added – a High School gymnasium, amphitheater, football, baseball and soccer fields, track, swimming pool, a classroom building, a library, theater, and redesigned student quads.

Figure 2 through Figure 9 depict Malibu Schools Juan Cabrillo Elementary School and Malibu High School in historic aerial photographs during the period of 1947 through 2013.



**Figure 2 Malibu Schools, Courtesy of Google Earth (01 December 2013)**



**Figure 3 Malibu Schools, Courtesy of Google Earth (26 January 2006)**



**Figure 4 Malibu Schools, Courtesy of Google Earth (31 May 1994)**



**Figure 5 Malibu Schools, Courtesy of EDR (1981)**



**Figure 6 Malibu Schools, Courtesy of EDR (1976)**



**Figure 7 Malibu Schools, Courtesy of EDR (1967)**



Figure 8 Location of Malibu Schools, Courtesy of EDR (1952)



Figure 9 Location of Malibu Schools, Courtesy of EDR (1947)

The 1952 aerial photograph (Figure 8) shows agricultural land and that there are no structures located on this parcel of land where the schools were built. The aerial photograph from 1947 (Figure 9) shows open rangeland where the school parcel is located.

**Point Dume:**

Point Dume did have a military installation on leased property, as illustrated in Figure 10. This area was used as a firing point for the Headquarters Los Angeles Region 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Command and 37<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery Brigade (AA). It also had a Navy very high frequency radio (VHF) site located within its boundary identified as the small box located in parcel 6 of Figure 10.

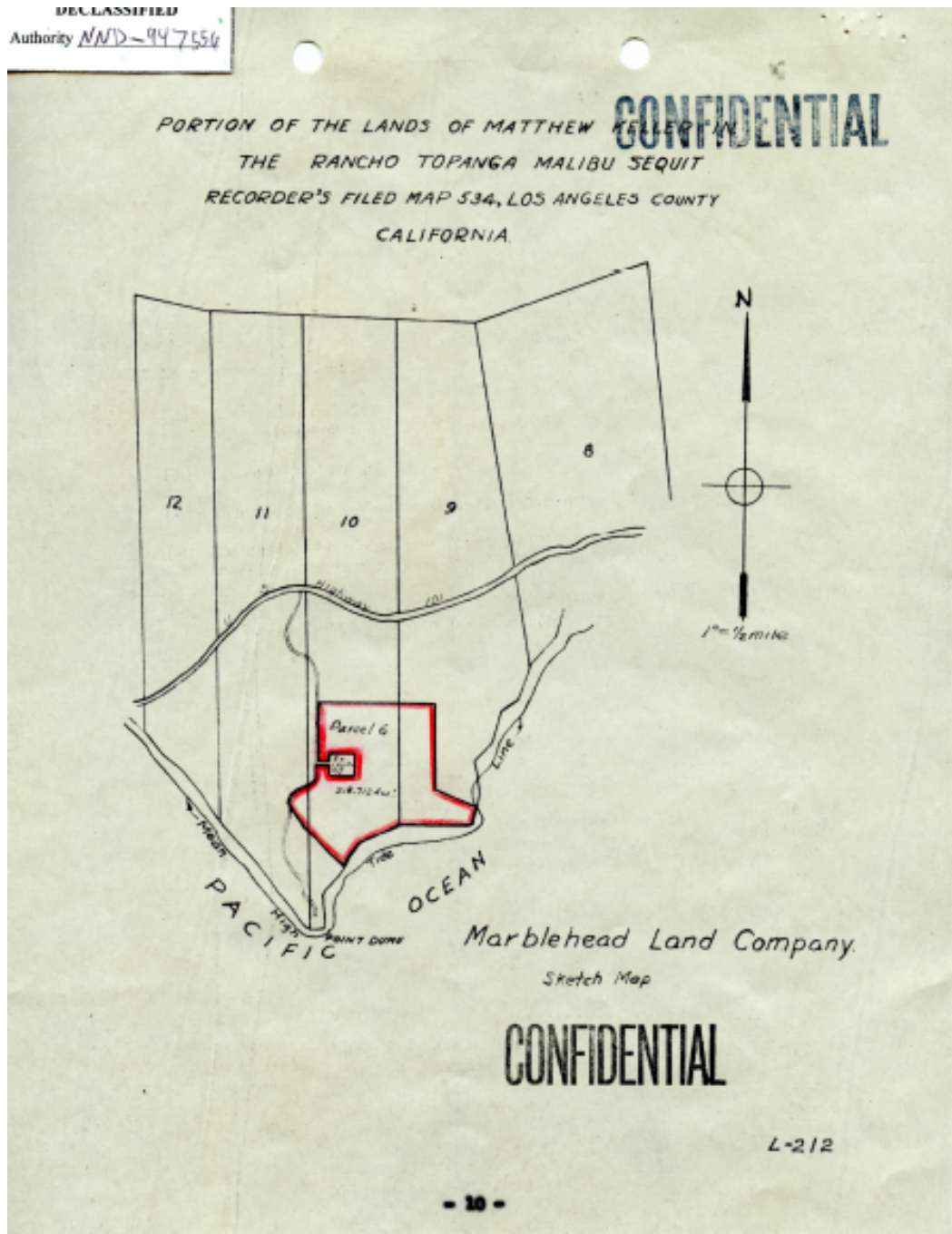


Figure 10 Parcel Map, 37<sup>th</sup> Artillery Battery



**Figure 11 Location of Point Dume Military Installations on leased property**

On 26 November 1945, the Army Air Forces (AAF) discontinued use of the land located at Point Dume, CA. The following excerpt was taken from an appraisal report Point Dume VHF site dated 16 August 1943.



The Point Dume area, between U. S. Highway #101 and the ocean contains approximately 1,000 acres. The Navy is using a lookout station on the "Point" and the Army is using a little over 200 acres surrounding subject VHF site. All the Point Dume area, along with adjoining 9,000 acres under same ownership, has been divided into segments and listed for sale the past few years. A number of sales have been made for all cash, and several others on contract with 25% down payment. The sales are not all listed in this report, as they are scattered along the 22 miles of ocean front as well as back in the mountains, and vary from \$25.00 per acre to \$2,000.00 per acre.

#### **Radar station:**

The most significant installation, and the one for which the most documentation was found during records research, was an Aircraft Warning Service radar, code named "B-36" (and, apparently also "B-8"), and "Site 51." This was originally named "Triunfo Peak," then simply "Triunfo," and finally "Triunfo (Pt. Dume)." The location of this site was in the vicinity of Birdview Avenue at Point Dume. This radar station was part of a national network of radar stations designed to identify enemy aircraft entering American airspace.

Instrumentation Station: This parcel was acquired in 1953 and was 1.25 acres in size parcel 9 of the Rancho Topanga Malibu Sequit, as confirmed to Matthew Keller. This site was also located on Point Dume.

#### **Archival Research: NARA Washington D.C.**

Research Report Point Dume, California

April 3, 2014 - Bolling W. Smith Archivist

This research was complicated by the lack of basic data: names of installations, using services, etc. What little information was available was based on undocumented local history.

Information obtained from local authorities in California was sketchy and contradictory. It is known that there were several military installations at Point Dume, California, during (and after) World War II.

The most significant installation, and the one for which the most documentation was found, was an Aircraft Warning Service radar, code named "B-36" (and, apparently also "B-8"), and "Site 51." This was originally named "Triunfo Peak," then simply "Triunfo," and finally "Triunfo (Pt. Dume)." While no definitive documentation was found, Triunfo Peak is some distance inland, and it is believed that while this was the original location selected for the radar set, the set was actually constructed near the coast, as shown on a number of maps. This radar station was part of a national network of radar stations designed to identify enemy aircraft entering American airspace.

In addition to the radar, there was a VHF radio station used to coordinate and control Army Air Forces interceptors. This was in the same general area as the radar, but whether it was co-located is not known. Signal Corps records were complicated by frequently inconsistent nomenclature – due to both the newness of the equipment and the desire for secrecy. Radar was variously termed "Radio B," "detector

sets,” “SCRs,” and “D/F” (direction finding) stations, and sites were described by name or by one of several numbers.

In addition to the Signal Corps installations, there were two US Navy facilities. During WWII, the navy had a base on leased land. No detailed information on this site was located. Also, there was a postwar missile testing range at Point Mugu, CA, with an instrumentation station at Point Dume. This site was subsequently converted into parkland. This is supported by documentation.

It is reported that there was a US Coast Guard beach patrol site at Point Dume, but no information was found concerning this facility.

Lastly, there was a target range at Point Dume, operated by the 37th AAA Brigade, US Army. This was termed the Point Dume Firing Point. A few references were found confirming this, and that 37mm automatic weapons were fired at this site. No description was found of what facilities, if any, were built there. It is assumed, although not expressly documented, that the 37th AAA Brigade rotated units to the firing point for training. Whether buildings were erected or troops were quartered in tents is not stated.

No reference to weapons larger than 37mm was found.

Army property files in National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Record Group (RG) 153, Entries 56 and 56A, were checked with negative results.

Property disposal records are dispersed in a number of record groups. The following were checked:

RG 51, Entry 149

RG 92, Entries 1892 and 1998

RG 121, Entries 1-6, and Entry 81

RG 291, Entry 5

RG 269, Entries 1-7, and Entry 62

RG 270, Entry 81

RG 429, Entries 12 and 17.

The only relevant records were documentation relating to the Naval Instrumentation Station found in RG 121, Entry 81, Box 20, including one large map.

Naval Property Case Files, RG71, Entry 1001, Boxes 63-77 and 99-100, were examined. No reference to Point Dume was found.

Records of the 11th Naval District were not located. Archivists theorized that these were sent to the regional California National Archives.

The largest source of relevant records were found in RG 77, Entry 1011, Boxes 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 39, and 717. One large map was found in Box 717.

Since the AWS system functioned under the 4th Interceptor Command, an attempt was made to locate those records. However, none were found. Archivists theorized that these were sent to the regional California National Archives. Other AAF records in RG 18, Entry 292, Box 1562, were searched without success. Similarly, RG 18, Entry 296, was examined without success.

In an attempt to determine which Army units may have been stationed at Point Dume, the Station Lists for the Western Defense Command and the 9th Service Command, RG 407, Entry 377, were examined, but no units for either command were listed for Point Dume.

The records of the Western Defense Command (RG 499) are not extensive, but Entries 120-122, Boxes 26-27, Records of the WDC Signal Office, were examined with negative results.

The AGO records of the 37th AAA Brigade were located in RG 407, Entry 427, Boxes 14155-14157. In the brigade journal, three references to the Point Dume Firing Point were found, but no other references, and no descriptions of the site, were found.

At the downtown, Washington, D.C., National Archives, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) records were examined: RG 26, Entry 82-C, Boxes 3014 and 3460. No reference to a Point Dume beach patrol station was found in those boxes or elsewhere in the USCG records.

Chris Havern, staff historian, USCG Headquarters, examined the files of the USCG Historian's Office and reported no files relating to Point Dume.

**Archival Research: NARA San Bruno: No records were found for any installation near Malibu, Ca.**



**Figure 12** 1940s photo of the original Malibu Inn, located across from the Colony on the Roosevelt Highway, from [http://www.malibucomplete.com/mc\\_history\\_dev\\_1940s.php](http://www.malibucomplete.com/mc_history_dev_1940s.php)

The following history was obtained from MalibuComplete.com.

By 1940, Malibu Colony had developed, but the population was primarily summer-seasonal with few year-round residents. Other than the Colony, homes in Malibu were few in number, limited to Las Flores (then the town commercial center), La Costa, Malibu Heights, plus scattered homes along the beach. Wartime photos of the Roosevelt Highway verify the sparse settlement.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor (07 December 1941) the Army began beach patrols in California, including Malibu. In August 1942, the USCG Beach Patrol established eight stations along the Malibu Coast with Headquarters in the Adamson Pool House at Malibu Point (now the Malibu Lagoon Museum). The USCG facilities included barbed wire, roving coast watchers, jeeps and other military equipment. The Beach Patrol remained active until July-August 1944, when the war had progressed to the point where there was no danger of invasion along the Pacific shore.

During the war, long military convoys were a common sight rolling through Malibu in transit from Pt. Mugu to Long Beach. Pt. Dume was used by the military as the northern observation point for Santa Monica Bay, with anti-aircraft gun emplacements, continual patrols, and target practice. A joint lookout tower for the fire department and the USCG was at the tip of the point, near today's intersection of Birdview Ave. and Cliffside Drive.

#### **Development in Western Malibu:**

The Paradise Cove lower section was built by Frank Wilson and Al Camp, starting with a Club House (Sandcastle restaurant and now the Paradise Cove Beach Cafe) and laundry/restroom building before WW II, but their plans were stalled by the war. They sold to Bill Swanson in 1945, who completed it and opened the trailer park.

In 1941, world-famous horseman Egon Merz bought property at Escondido Beach and built Rancho Sea Air. He attracted many equestrians to Malibu with trail rides, hunting with hounds, and superb training facilities. Also in 1941, Marblehead defaulted on LA County taxes due on Zuma Beach property. The County foreclosed, created the public Zuma Beach, and demolished the few beach homes there to create a vast parking area.

A general development plan for Point Dume published in 1939 identified the area as suitable for a 138-acre golf course, polo field, tennis center and hotel retreat. It was sold off in large tracts, but during the war shortages of materials for civilian use slowed development. After the war the original "Pt. Dume Dome" was flattened and subdivided. Trees were planted for the first time. Each lot came with deeded beach rights.

In 1948 the Holiday House was built by director Dudley Murphy on the cliffs overlooking the ocean at 27400 Pacific Coast Hwy., designed by Richard Neutra. It was a hotel plus apartments originally, now the building houses Geoffrey's Restaurant with condos on upper floors.

#### **Internet Research:**

The following information was obtained from *The Malibu Post* at <http://thelibupost.blogspot.com/2013/11/to-point.html>.

The exact year that the top of Point Dume was bulldozed flat remains a point of contention. Some historians say it happened during World War II to accommodate a military installation, others contend the bulldozing was a prelude to the building boom of the late 1940s. Aerial photos appear to indicate that the defacement happened sometime in the late 1930s, when developers planned to build a resort hotel, complete with fake lighthouse and polo fields.

This detail of a 1939 aerial photograph from the [Adamson House Archive](#) appears to verify that the top of the Point had already been flattened before the military arrived in the 1940s.



While British explorer George Vancouver is credited with naming Point Dume for Father Francisco Dumetz, whom he visited at Mission San Buenaventura shortly before he named the peninsula in 1793, there is evidence to suggest the word "Dume" stems from the same root as Zuma—the Chumash word "Sumo," which reportedly means abundance.

Vancouver named Point Mugu for the Chumash community of Muwu shortly before assigning the name "Dume," to the eastern point. "This Point I will call 'Point Dume,'" he wrote.

Frederick Hastings Rindge, who purchased the entire 13,300-acre Malibu Rancho in 1892, called the point "Duma," and stated the name was derived from Zuma. His view may be supported by information provided by the same Chumash informant, Fernando Librado, who described Point Dume as a sun shrine. Librado told ethnographer John Peabody Harrington in a conversation recorded in Harrington's notes from 1912-15 that "Sumo extends out to sea and at the end of the point there was a hill." Librado added that "Sumo is called in nautical language Dume." Regardless of how, or for whom, it was named, Point Dume was significant to the Chumash people.



**The Coast Guard practice repelling invaders. A barracks on what is now Wildlife Road provided accommodations for the crew stationed at the Army lookout on the Point. The Coast Guard operated out of the Adamson House and had seven patrol stations at strategic intervals along the coast from Point Mugu to Malibu Creek.**

In the 1940s, with fears of a Japanese invasion escalating, Point Dume became important to the U.S. Government. The Army and USCG used it as a lookout. It was also one of three coastal U.S. Army anti-aircraft artillery training centers in Southern California during the war.

Military personnel were stationed along the Malibu coast from Point Mugu to Pacific Palisades for the duration of the war, but Point Dume reportedly offered the best visibility. For this reason it was on the list of proposed Nike missile sites during the Cold War.

World War II artillery shells have allegedly turned up on the beach from time to time. There was a serious scare in 1952, when an unexploded mine or depth charge washed up on the beach, according to newspaper reports.



**Post-World War II photograph, with Trancas and Broad Beach in the foreground, and Zuma and Point Dume in the Background.**

After the war, the development of Point Dume went into high gear. Roads were built, and houses started going up, closing in on the headlands from both sides. The Point was purchased by the RECO Land Company, owned by a man named Roy Crummer, who purchased large swathes of Malibu in the 1950s. Crummer was the largest commercial developer in Malibu during the 1960s and '70s, and '80s, and perpetually at odds with early conservation activists.

In 1979, 34-acres, including the remaining Chumash shrine site and the distinctive, flat-topped volcanic peak, were acquired by State Parks. In 1992, the property was upgraded to State Preserve.

#### **Kansas National Guard:**

The entire Kansas Army National Guard, consisting of four regiments in the 35th Division and many supporting units, was mobilized a year prior to Pearl Harbor. The 35th Division was sent to southern California in December 1941 to protect against possible Japanese invasion. After arrival, the Division takes up positions in the Southern California Sector. This included the Hollywood Race Track, Malibu, El Segundo and Venice. The Division Headquarters would be located at Camp San Luis Obispo. The Division, with its components of Kansas National Guard units, spent 1942 on coastal defense in California.

#### **Additional References:**

1. U.S. Army and Navy Directory of Air Fields. 01 Aug 1943.
2. Directory and Station list U.S. Army, 02 July 1951 had Fort Mac Arthur listed with targets



Ste. Marie, Michigan; TWX available.

MACARTHUR, FORT--4 mi Wilmington, Calif; 1 1/2 mi San Pedro, Calif; PO,

Fort MacArthur, Calif; RR, tg & exp sta, San Pedro, Calif.

MACARTHUR CAMP--Sub-Installation of Fort Bragg, NC: 3 1/2 mi NE Hoffman.

3. Public works of the Navy Databook July 1947, nothing listed for Malibu, CA
4. Owned, Sponsored, and Leased facilities, 31 Dec 1945, nothing in Malibu, CA
5. Air defense Station List, 1 June 1964, nothing listed for Malibu, CA
6. Plant Finder-Government owned industrial plants, Sept 1946, nothing for Malibu, CA
7. Military reservations, California 1940, nothing found with location of Malibu, CA
8. Station list 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force, sept 1942, nothing located in Malibu, CA
9. West Coast Training Area Map, NARA Seattle, shows an area Pt. Dume AA range (A)