



# Did You Know?

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## Fort Richardson's Armament

By the fall of 1861, following the first battle of Bull Run, construction of Fort Richardson was complete. The fort would become an operational unit of "Mr. Lincoln's Defenses of Washington", a complex of 68 enclosed earthen forts protecting Washington against the Confederate forces arrayed against the Capital. The fort was garrisoned by a detachment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment, with a compliment of 13 field artillery pieces including a 100-Pounder Parrott Rifle. Only five other forts had the 100-Pounder in their armory.

The 100-Pounder Parrott Rifle, which had a cast iron barrel and a breach reinforced with a ring of wrought iron, was capable of firing a 80 pound projectile 7,810 yards (4.4 miles) and was capable of firing a 100 pound projectile up to 3,100 yards. Fort Richardson's 100 pound Parrott "could sweep the field from Fort Ellsworth (site of the Masonic George Washington Memorial on Shuter's Hill) to Fort Strong (approximately Lee Highway at Adams Street)".

However, there is no verifiable source indicating the 100-Pounder Parrot Rifle was ever fired in anger.

In addition to the 100-Pounder Parrot Rifle, Fort Richardson's armament included:

- Six 24-Pounder Guns
- Two 24-Pounder Field Howitzers
- Three 30-Pounder Parrot Rifles
- One 24-Pounder Coehorn Mortar
- One Ten Inch Mortar

The ANCC Foundation has taken the lead for ANCC in researching and documenting the history of the Club. In that vein, the Foundation is now working to publicize and memorialize Fort Richardson. Future DYK's will provide further insight into the history of Fort Richardson and provide progress updates. This undertaking can only be successful with the financial support and volunteer effort of the Club membership. The Foundation is a public charity, an IRS approved 501(C)(3), incorporated to support the legacy and history of ANCC, for further information, contact the ANCC Foundation at [www.anccfoundation.org](http://www.anccfoundation.org) or call 1 (800) 506-2622.

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