

## Topic: **Port Chicago**

### Port Chicago Disaster

- ▶ The **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine was built in 1941 and 1942, shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack at the beginning of World War II.
- ▶ **Port Chicago** was a disaster waiting to happen, and it didn't have to wait long.
- ▶ Today, the site of the **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine is a national memorial, dedicated to the lives lost in the explosion and crediting the aftermath of the disaster as the first step toward "racial justice and equality" in the United States.

[www.rotten.com/library/history/port-chicago](http://www.rotten.com/library/history/port-chicago) (1208 words)

### DESCP *(Site not responding. Last check: 2007-10-09)*

- ▶ **Port** of Milwaukee personnel are thoroughly trained and experienced transportation and distribution professionals, capable and willing to develop complete handling and transportation packages for **Port** clients.
- ▶ The **Port** of Milwaukee serves as a regional transportation and distribution center with a primary market including the State of Wisconsin, northern and western Illinois (including the city of **Chicago**) and eastern Minnesota including the "Twin Cities" of Minneapolis/ St. Paul.
- ▶ The **Port** of Milwaukee maintains a 10-acre (4.0 hectare) rail/truck intermodal facility together with backup facility for the pooling and storage of containers and truck chassis.

[www.port.mil.wi.us/desc.htm](http://www.port.mil.wi.us/desc.htm) (1045 words)

### Port Chicago, CA, Explosion

- ▶ **Port Chicago**, California, located 35 miles north of San Francisco, proved an ideal place for the Navy to expand its munitions facilities.
- ▶ The men of **Port Chicago** were vital to the success of the war.
- ▶ **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service and the United States Navy.

[www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq80-1.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq80-1.htm) (1391 words)

### Naval Weapons Station (NAVWPNSTA), Concord, California

- ▶ **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine was dedicated as a national memorial to honor the courage and commitment of the 320 Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mariners, and workers killed and injured there during World War II.
- ▶ **Port Chicago** was dedicated in 1994 by the survivors of that tragic incident.
- ▶ It is bound on the north by sandstone hills, on the south by the city of Concord, on the east by agricultural lands, and on the west by **Port Chicago** Highway.

[www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/concord.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/concord.htm) (2051 words)

### Related Topics

- ▶ [Port Chicago disaster](#)

### In the News (Fri 25 Jul 08)

- ▶ [Gordon Brown](#)
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Port Chicago Explosion - SkepticWiki *(Site not responding. Last check: 2007-10-09)*

- ▶ The **Port Chicago** Explosion was a massive accidental explosion that occurred at the **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine on the Sacramento River in California on 17 July 1944.
- ▶ One of the strongest arguments that the **Port Chicago** explosion was nuclear comes from the fact that scientists in the Manhattan project used data on that explosion in their estimates of the effects of a nuclear weapon.
- ▶ None of the scientists who worked on the Manhattan project have ever claimed that the **Port Chicago** explosion was related to their work, even though many of them later became vocal anti-nuclear activists.  
www.skepticwiki.org /wiki/index.php/Port\_Chicago\_Explosion (614 words)

#### Port Chicago - Blast and Aftermatch

- ▶ On the evening of July 17th, 1944, at the **Port Chicago** Naval Munitions base located on San Francisco Bay, the largest state-side military disaster of WWII occurred, killing 320 men and injuring another 390 men on the base.
- ▶ By sheer size of the blast, the **Port Chicago** explosion was as large as a 5-kiloton bomb.
- ▶ Others were ordered or volunteered to stay behind at **Port Chicago** to clear debris and set about the grim task of searching for and removing what was left of the bodies of their fallen mates.  
portchicagomutiny.com /history/history.html (1991 words)

#### RW ONLINE:The Port Chicago Mutiny

- ▶ The **Port Chicago** naval facility was a labor camp where Black enlisted men worked around the clock loading high explosives in the hot, cramped and stifling holds of ships.
- ▶ Many of the men were incapable of reading and understanding the most simple directions [T]he officers at **Port Chicago** have realized for a long time the necessity for great effort on their part because of the poor quality of the personnel with which they had to work.
- ▶ **Port Chicago** was rebuilt and renamed the Concord Naval Weapons Station (**Port Chicago**).  
rwr.org /a/v22/1090-99/1092/port\_chicago.htm (3104 words)

#### Port of Vancouver USA - About Us

- ▶ The **Port** of Vancouver, USA, was established in 1912 to ensure public ownership of trade docks on the Columbia River.
- ▶ The **Port** is governed by three elected Commissioners who serve six-year terms and are responsible for setting the overall policy and goals for **Port** operations and development.
- ▶ The **Port** is adjacent to north/south and east/west national highways and offers on-site connection to rivergrade rail traveling between Canada and Mexico and east to **Chicago**.  
www.portvanusa.com /about/index.html (181 words)

#### Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial: World War II in the San Francisco Bay Area: A National Register of ...

- ▶ **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine was dedicated as a National Memorial in 1992 to honor the courage and commitment of the Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mariners, and working civilians killed and injured in the largest homeland disaster during World War II.
- ▶ In 1942, the 13,000-acre **port**, located along the Sacramento River Delta in Concord, was annexed by Mare Island Naval Shipyard as an ammunition transshipment facility.
- ▶ Tragically, **Port Chicago** is best remembered as the site of a catastrophic explosion on July 17, 1944, that took the lives of 320 servicemen, including 202 African Americans.  
www.cr.nps.gov /nr/travel/wwllbayarea/por.htm (420 words)

## Port Chicago

- ▶ On the night of 17th July 1944, two transport vessels loading ammunition at the **Port Chicago** (California) naval base on the Sacramento River were suddenly engulfed in a gigantic explosion.
- ▶ The town of **Port Chicago** was heavily damaged by the explosion but fortunately none of its citizens was killed, although many suffered injuries.
- ▶ Four days after the **Port Chicago** disaster, on 21st July 1944 a Naval Court of Inquiry was convened to "inquire into the circumstances attending the explosion." The inquiry was to establish the facts of the situation, and the Court was to arrive at an opinion concerning the cause or causes of the disaster.  
[www.ezl.com/~fireball/Disaster22.htm](http://www.ezl.com/~fireball/Disaster22.htm) (1818 words)

## Political winds still buffet port | Chicago Tribune

- ▶ The recent controversy over Dubai **Ports World's** thwarted effort to operate a portion of the **port** of Baltimore and several others this year was only the latest instance of political winds buffeting the city's **port**, which marks its 300th birthday next week.
- ▶ The **port** of Baltimore continues to be made up of public and private terminals that control warehouses, piers and land around the Patapsco River that ends in the Inner Harbor.
- ▶ The **port's** advantage of being closer to the Midwest than other **ports** on the East Coast began slipping away about 25 years ago when rail rates were deregulated and no longer based solely on distance.  
[www.chicagotribune.com/business/bal-bz.port14apr14,0,2253529.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/bal-bz.port14apr14,0,2253529.story) (1642 words)

## Picture This: World War II/Post War Era

- ▶ The **Port Chicago** Naval Munitions base, located where the Sacramento River flows into San Francisco Bay, was used during the World War II to load munitions onto ships headed to the Pacific Ocean.
- ▶ The tragedy caused shock and grief among all the **Port Chicago** survivors.
- ▶ The **Port Chicago** incident was part of a series of events that changed American society in general and American policy specifically.  
[www.museumca.org/picturethis/4\\_4.html](http://www.museumca.org/picturethis/4_4.html) (625 words)

## Welcome to the Port of Chicago

- ▶ **Chicago's** airports have been critical to the global aviation system since the dawn of flight.
- ▶ **Chicago's** diverse, vibrant economy, with more than a dozen industry sectors employing over 100,000 people, is directly tied to its central location and transportation infrastructure, including its **port** facilities.
- ▶ As the leading "general cargo" **port** on the Great Lakes, the **Port of Chicago** moves over 26 million tons of natural resources and other goods produced throughout the Midwest and the world annually, generating directly or indirectly thousands of jobs.  
[www.theportofchicago.com/index1a.html](http://www.theportofchicago.com/index1a.html) (279 words)

## Port Chicago Isn't There Anymore--But We Still Call It Home, by Ken Rand

- ▶ To understand why, it's necessary to understand the worth of a deep-water **port** not far inland from San Francisco where large heavily laden ocean-going ships could dock with ease, where there was a handy and varied labor pool, and highways and railroads ran nearby.
- ▶ I believe the Navy decided, in the 1950s, that **Port Chicago** was key to its conversion to a nuclear force in the Pacific and that they bought the town not necessarily for the safety of civilians, but for the security of their nuclear arsenal.
- ▶ This book is an attempt to tell the **Port Chicago** story, how the town lived, how it died, and how it lives on.  
[www.sfga.org/members/Rand/PortChicago-Excerpt.html](http://www.sfga.org/members/Rand/PortChicago-Excerpt.html) (1061 words)

### [Solid Entertainment](#)

- ▶ On the quiet night of July 17, 1944, an explosion equal in force to that of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima nearly leveled the California town of **Port Chicago** and its navy base in the worst American disaster of World War II.
- ▶ By the fall of that year 50 fl Navy seamen from the **Port Chicago** base were being court martialed for refusing to go back to work - a mutiny.
- ▶ The **Port Chicago** Mutiny is the story of how the lives of those men were forever changed by one act of stubborn defiance.

[www.solidentertainment.com/text/historical/port.html](http://www.solidentertainment.com/text/historical/port.html) (333 words)

### [Home Page](#)

- ▶ At the time of the **Port Chicago** explosion the United States involvement in the Pacific war was largely focused on maritime battles and the need for a "port buster" was of the highest importance.
- ▶ **Port Chicago** was never abandoned, although the Navy immediately began to use the Army facilities at a Richmond dock as a temporary replacement.
- ▶ After the **Port Chicago** explosion, James B. Conant, a critical figure in the development of a nuclear bomb, wrote a memorandum suggesting putting the Mark II on the shelf after a July 1944 test, a test never recorded in any public annals, but paralleling the date of the **Port Chicago** explosion.

[www.sonic.net/sentinel/usa4.html](http://www.sonic.net/sentinel/usa4.html) (8124 words)

### [Port Chicago Disaster](#)

- ▶ **Port Chicago** is located on an arm of San Francisco Bay about 30 miles northeast of Oakland and San Francisco.
- ▶ The town of **Port Chicago**, population 1,500, was located about 1.5 miles from the pier.
- ▶ At **Port Chicago** at the time of the disaster there were 1,400 fl enlisted men, 71 officers, 106 marine guards, and 230 civilian employees.

[www.usmm.org/portchicago.html](http://www.usmm.org/portchicago.html) (1256 words)

!THEY CALLED IT MUTINY! THE PORT CHICAGO EXPLOSION Sea Classics - Find Articles (*Site not responding. Last check: 2007-10-09*)

- ▶ **Port Chicago**, California, located 35-mi north of San Francisco, proved an ideal place for the Navy to expand its munitions facilities.
- ▶ Less than a month after the worst home-front disaster of WWII, **Port Chicago** was again moving munitions to the troops in the Pacific.
- ▶ The explosion at **Port Chicago** accounted for 15percent of all African-American casualties of WWII.

[www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_qa4442/is\\_200610/ai\\_n16755996](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa4442/is_200610/ai_n16755996) (931 words)

### [Port Chicago explosion still echoes 60 years later](#)

- ▶ Freddie Meeks, who died last year, was the only one of the "**Port Chicago** 50" to receive a pardon, which he accepted in 1999 from President Bill Clinton.
- ▶ The **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine was dedicated as a national memorial in 1994 to honor the sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mariners and others who died in the blast, the largest homeland disaster of World War II.
- ▶ Dozens of family pictures fill the walls of Edwards' home, including one wall that is lined from one end to the other with pictures of his children and grandchildren in their high school and college graduation gowns.

[sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2004/07/17/MNGGL7N6IQ1.DTL](http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2004/07/17/MNGGL7N6IQ1.DTL) (933 words)

### [...: Port Chicago Survivors - History & Concept ...](#)

- ▶ In 1998, the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center founded the **Port Chicago** Survivors Support Committee to spearhead a nationwide campaign on behalf of fl World War II veterans charged with mutiny in 1944.
- ▶ July 17, 1999: The BHERC honored the **Port Chicago** Survivors on the 55th anniversary of the disaster.
- ▶ While noted NAACP legal counsel Thurgood Marshall was instrumental in the release of the fl sailors from prison, he failed to have the mutiny convictions removed from their military records.  
[www.bherc.org/Special\\_Events/Port\\_Chicago/concept.html](http://www.bherc.org/Special_Events/Port_Chicago/concept.html) (583 words)

### [Port Chicago - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

- ▶ **Port Chicago**, California, a town in the United States.
- ▶ The **Port Chicago** disaster, a deadly explosion that occurred at the **Port Chicago** Naval Magazine in **Port Chicago**, California on 17 July 1944, killing 320 people.
- ▶ The **Port Chicago** Mutiny, a consequence of the **Port Chicago** disaster, when sailors, a month later, refused to work unless guaranteed safety improvements.  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port\\_Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Chicago) (146 words)

### [ContraCostaTimes.com | 07/14/2006 | Service marks Port Chicago blasts](#)

- ▶ T.J. Hart was knelt beside his bunk saying his prayers when the force from 5,000 tons of explosives ripped off the roof and walls of his barrack at **Port Chicago**, tossing the 22-year-old off his feet.
- ▶ All events are open to the public with the exception of the morning ceremony, luncheon and evening reception -- restricted to blast survivors and their families, and to former **Port Chicago** residents.
- ▶ The Saturday morning ceremony commemorating the 62nd anniversary of the **Port Chicago** explosion is closed to the public.  
[www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/15037280.htm](http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/15037280.htm) (702 words)

### [Port Chicago](#)

- ▶ The head of **Port Chicago** was promoted to commodore immediately after the explosion and also headed up tests in the Pacific, and was also aboard the Enola Gay when it dropped the bomb on Hiroshima.
- ▶ But in 1944, at the time of the **Port Chicago** blast, the belief was that the United States did not have any type of aircraft capable of carrying a bomb, nor airfields close enough to Japan to carry such a weapon.
- ▶ If the **Port Chicago** disaster had been caused by a chemical explosion, the maximum energy expenditure would be expected to approach  $(10)^{18}$  ergs - the low end of the estimated magnitude of the **Port Chicago** blast.  
[www.sonic.net/sentinel/usa5.html](http://www.sonic.net/sentinel/usa5.html) (8078 words)

### [EPA: Federal Register: Safety Zone: Captain of the Port Chicago Zone](#)

- ▶ Based on recent accidents that have occurred in other Captain of the **Port** zones and the explosive hazard associated with these events, the Captain of the **Port** has determined that fireworks launches in close proximity to watercraft pose a significant risk to public safety and property.
- ▶ In cases where traffic congestion is greater than expected and blocks the **Chicago** River, traffic may be allowed to pass through the safety zone under Coast Guard escort with the permission of the Captain of the **Port Chicago**.
- ▶ In cases where shipping is affected, commercial vessels may request permission from the Captain of the **Port Chicago** to transit the safety zone.  
[www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2001/May/Day-01/i10716.htm](http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2001/May/Day-01/i10716.htm) (1944 words)

### [Port Chicago Naval Magazine: Wartime History](#)

- ▶ The Tidal Area is on the south shore of Suisun Bay, immediately northwest of the town of **Port Chicago**, in Contra Costa County, approximately 35 miles northeast of San Francisco.
- ▶ Anticipating an increase in tonnage to be loaded at **Port Chicago** in the future, recommendations were made in the spring of 1943 to construct a marginal wharf inboard of the first pier to accommodate an additional two vessels.
- ▶ For further details of the explosion see "War Diary, U.S. Naval Magazine, **Port Chicago**" dated 31 July 1944 and the report of the Court of Inquiry appointed by the Commandant of the Twelfth Naval District to investigate the facts surrounding the explosion.

[www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USN/fac/PC/PC-History.html](http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USN/fac/PC/PC-History.html) (5832 words)

[iWannaGetThat - Retroville - 1944 - In the News - Port Chicago Explosion](#)

- ▶ [iWannaGetThat - Retroville - 1944 - In the News - Port Chicago Explosion](#)
- ▶ Two transport vessels loading ammunition at the naval base in **Port Chicago**, California, on the Sacramento River were suddenly the center of an enormous explosion.
- ▶ It docked at **Port Chicago** on July 13, 1944, and at 8 a.m.

[www.iwannagetthat.com/NewFiles/1944-port-chicago-explosion.html](http://www.iwannagetthat.com/NewFiles/1944-port-chicago-explosion.html) (756 words)

[EPA: Federal Register: Security Zones; Captain of the Port Chicago Zone, Lake Michigan](#)

- ▶ The security zones protecting the greater **Chicago** area water intake systems (Jardine and 79th Street water filtration plants, and the Dever and 68th Street water intake cribs) are necessary to protect the drinking water supply for **Chicago** and its suburbs.
- ▶ The Captain of the **Port Chicago** will permit those U. Coast Guard certificated passenger vessels that regularly, and as part of their normal route, load and unload passengers at Navy Pier to operate in the zone.
- ▶ However, should the Captain of the **Port Chicago** determine it is appropriate, he will require even those U. Coast Guard certificated passenger vessels which normally load and unload passengers at Navy Pier to request permission before leaving or entering the security zones.

[www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2002/May/Day-22/i12734.htm](http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2002/May/Day-22/i12734.htm) (2832 words)

[Port Chicago Committee Seeks to Remember Sacrifices by African American Sailors at Port Chicago During World War II](#)

- ▶ **Port Chicago** Committee Seeks to Remember Sacrifices by African American Sailors at **Port Chicago** During World War II The **Port Chicago** Committee envisions a future **Port Chicago** National Memorial that will expand the current Memorial, located on the site of the explosion, and will encompass 250 acres of the former **Port Chicago** waterfront.
- ▶ The ammunition loading workforce at the **Port Chicago** Naval Ammunition Depot was composed exclusively of African Americans.
- ▶ The current base **Port Chicago** Memorial chapel, with stained glass windows depicting the WWII operations, will be maintained as a site for remembrance and reflection.

[www.emediawire.com/releases/2005/4/emw230279.htm](http://www.emediawire.com/releases/2005/4/emw230279.htm) (644 words)

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