

Turmoil at the End of the Edo Period and the Shinagawa Daiba Battery

Growing External Threats and the Arrival of Commodore Perry

From the end of the 18th century, many foreign ships began passing through the waters of Japan. With a growing sense of alarm, the Edo shogunate increased its coastal vigil throughout Japan, but as the number of foreign ships continued to grow, many incidents began to occur. The arrival of the U.S. naval squadron led by Commodore Matthew C. Perry in June 1853 in Edo Bay, the shogun's very own backyard, was a major incident that shook the Edo shogunate to its core.

Construction of the Shinagawa Battery

To strengthen the defenses of Edo Bay, the Edo shogunate set about building 11 marine batteries from Shinagawa to Fukagawa Suzaki (present-day Koto City, Tokyo). Egawa Tarozaemon Hidetatsu, the *daikan* administrator of Nirayama in the Izuno Province (present-day Izunokuni City, Shizuoka Prefecture), directed the construction of the batteries based on documents from Europe. Due to a number of factors, including financial difficulties, however, only six batteries in total were completed, the Number One to Three batteries, Five and Six, and the shore-side Gotenyama Battery.

Foreign Embassies at Gotenyama

In 1858, Japan concluded treaties with the five nations of the United States, Holland, Russia, Britain and France, and it was decided that Edo would host foreign ambassadors, which led to the construction of embassies. This triggered attacks on foreigners by samurai who held anti-foreigner sentiments. In 1861, the British embassy was designed and built at Gotenyama, but on December 12 1862, it was burned down by a group of samurai of the Choshu Domain (the present-day area around Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture) who gathered at an inn named Dozo Sagami at Shinagawa Post Station.

Arrival of a British Battleship in Shinagawa and the Defense Plan

In August 1862, samurai from the Satsuma Domain (primarily Kagoshima Prefecture, today) assaulted a party of Englishmen, leading to one death. The incident is called the Richardson *Namamugi* Incident. In May 1863, a British battleship arrived in the waters off Shinagawa due to the Satsuma Domain's failure to pay compensation for the attack. The shogunate government restarted construction on the Number Four and Seven Shinagawa batteries, and launched a plan that called for building a series of batteries from Ecchu Island (present-day

Koto City, Tokyo) to Oi Village. Due to rising labor and stone costs, together with the Choshu War*, the plan was never completed.

* The Choshu War: A war between the Edo Shogunate and Choshu Domain (present-day Hagi City area of Yamaguchi Prefecture).

The Urban Riots at the End of the Edo Period and Shinagawa Post Station

Armed groups of common people formed uprisings frequently throughout the Edo Period when their lives became difficult due to high rice prices or other factors. The urban riot that started on May 28, 1866, began in Shinagawa Station. It spread throughout the center of Edo the following day, and over eight days 226 shops were destroyed including rice sellers, money lenders and sake shops.

1_07_01



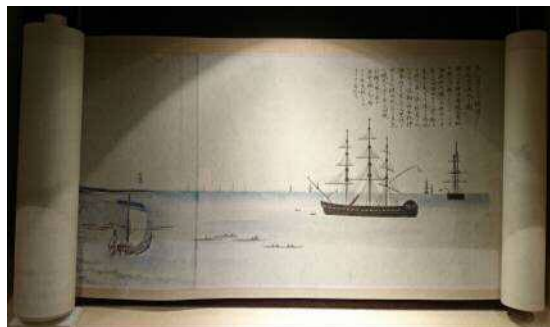
Sample of the Earthworks of the Fifth Shinagawa-Battery

1854,
1950s-1960s,
Excavated in 2014 from the Shinagawa No. 5 Battery archeological site (Konan, Minato City, Tokyo)

Researched and provided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Archaeological Center

The dirt above the white point was added after the modern era. The dirt below the white point represents the original landfill during the construction of the battery. As the dirt was repeatedly pounded during construction to strengthen the foundation, it has created the appearance of hard, tamped-down sediment layering.

1_07_02



View of the Foreign Ships Leaving Japan from Kanagawa (Reproduction)

Edo Period, The mid-19th Century
(Surmised)

Original: Kobe City Museum collection
(From the “Illustrations of the End of the Edo Period” series)

An illustration of Commodore Matthew C. Perry of the U.S. Navy leaving Japan after concluding the Treaty of Kanagawa in March 1854.

Commodore Perry first arrived in Japan in June 1853 to deliver the sovereign message of President Fillmore, the 13th president of the United States, to the Edo shogunate government. Commodore Perry then returned to Japan to receive the shogunate’s reply. This occurred during the construction of the battery islands in Shinagawa Bay, which were meant to protect Edo Bay.

1_07_03



Wooden Stake

1853–1854

Excavated at the Shinagawa-Battery (No. 1) Archeological Site (Konan, Minato City, Tokyo) in 1999

A stake made of cedar, which has a separated upper and end portion, located under the stone embankment of the Shinagawa No. 1 Battery. On the upper portion, 3.5 *ken* is written, indicating the stake had a length about 6.3 meters when it was initially driven into the ground.

1_07_04







Wooden Stake

1853–1854

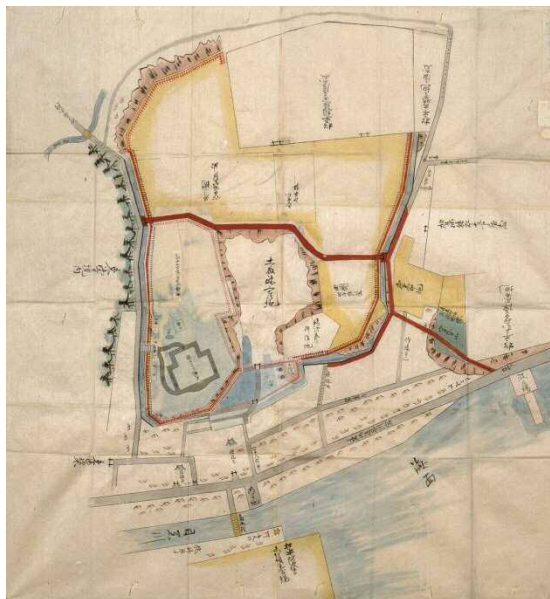
Excavated at the Shinagawa-Battery (No. 1) Archeological Site (Konan, Minato City, Tokyo) in 1999

A cross-sectional cut of the stake drawn from the seabed during the excavation of the Shinagawa Number One Battery.

<p>1_07_05</p> 	<p>Sandy Mudstone</p> <p>1854</p> <p>Excavated at the Shinagawa-Battery (No. 5) Archeological Site (Konan, Minato City, Tokyo) in 2012</p> <p>Sandy mudstones were used in the landfill construction of the Shinagawa batteries. The mudstones were laid underneath and around the foundation to prevent erosion by seawater.</p>
<p>1_07_06</p> 	<p>Building Stone Found at the Shinagawa Number Five Battery</p> <p>1854</p> <p>Excavated at the Shinagawa-Battery (No. 5) Archeological Site (Konan, Minato City, Tokyo) in 2012</p> <p>This stone of andesite has the traces of the series of rectangular holes that were driven into the rock to aid in splitting it. The stones not to make the walls of the battery were discarded around the foundations of the battery. This stone is called a discarded stone.</p>
<p>1_07_07</p> 	<p>A Scene of Soil Being Transported from the Matsudaira Suruganokami Estate at Gotenyama to Shinagawa Battery (Reproduction)</p> <p>Edo Period, The mid-19th Century(Surmised)</p> <p>Original: Kobe City Museum collection (Part of the “Scenes from the End of the Edo Period” series)</p> <p>The dirt used in the construction of the Shinagawa batteries was excavated from hills of Gotenyama, Yatsuyama, and</p>

	<p>Takanawasengaku-ji Temple, and carried by ships directly from the nearby shoreline to the sites. There were days where this work required 5,000 porters and 2,000 ships.</p> <p>The estate of Matsudaira Suruganokami from the Imabari Domain (the present-day area of Imabari City, Ehime Prefecture) was located at the foot of the hills of Yatsuyama, and after the completion of the battery, the Matsudaira Clan from the Kawagoe Domain (the present-day area around Kawagoe City, Saitama Prefecture) stationed troops there to watch the Number One battery. The townscape in the back right of the illustration is Shinagawa Station.</p>
<p>1_07_08</p> 	<p>Testing the Cannons at the Battery (Reproduction)</p> <p>The mid-19th Century(Surmised) Original: EGAWA-Bunko collection Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property</p> <p>A scene of the cannons being tested at the six completed batteries. In the foreground, Gotenyama and the townscape of Shinagawa Station is visible. In the background, the six completed batteries can be seen: The Number One, Two, Three, Five, Six and the Gotenyama Batteries.</p> <p>Crows of people watched them with unease from the hill of Gotenyama. Joint exercises by the guarding clans at the six batteries were frequently held in and after February, 1855.</p>

1_07_09



Drawing of the Embassies at Gotenyama
(Reproduction)

Circa 1862(Surmised)

Original: Historiographical Institute the
University of Tokyo

A drawing designated for the embassies of
the United States, Holland, Britain and
France in 1861.

In the center of it the traces of the
excavation for the Shinagawa batteries can
be seen, and the embassy plots are arranged
around this area.

In response to the multiple incidents of
violent attacks against foreigners that
occurred after the conclusion of the treaties
in 1858, the Edo shogunate planned to group
the embassies at Gotenyama and strengthen
its monitoring of the area. Despite this,
however, the first embassy, which belonged
to Britain, was burned down by Takasugi
Shinsaku and 12 fellow samurai from the
Choshu Domain (Present-day Hagi City,
Yamaguchi Prefecture) just prior to its
completion, on December 12, 1862. After
this incident, no further embassies were
constructed at Gotenyama.