

During the Civil War, the Union forces built Fort Corcoran as part of a set of defensive forts in order to defend Washington, D.C.

*-picture: view of Aqueduct Bridge towards Georgetown-*

Built on a hill over what is currently Rosslyn, Fort Corcoran was designed to guard the head of the Aqueduct Bridge, which connected Virginia to Washington, D.C. Although Fort Corcoran never saw any battle, nor is there any trace left today, it served as a valuable part of the defensive line to deter attacks on to the capital of the Union.

*-picture: Sally Port at Fort Corcoran-*

The fort was designed as an earthen fortification. On ground level was the entrance, or Sally Port pictured above, that was cut through the raised parapets and ramparts. The entrance was opened away from areas vulnerable to enemy attack.

*-picture: Officers of 69th New York State Militia at Fort Corcoran-*

Inside the fort, a crew of soldiers trained and maintained artillery. They consisted of large-caliber weapons or cannons, including guns, howitzers, mortars, and rifles. At Fort Corcoran, there were at least two howitzer guns and three Parrot rifled cannons.

*-picture: 107th U.S. Colored Infantry in front of the Guardhouse at Fort Corcoran-*

The garrison included members of the 107th U.S. Colored Infantry during 1865 to 1866. They served guarding military supplies and other public property in the Washington DC area. Here they are in front of a guardhouse, which contained offices, a place to hold prisoners and an area for mustering guards.

*-picture: Defenses of Washington, D.C.-*