EELLUGU PROLOGUE

Nikolai II kiitis Tallinna regiooni rannakaitse üldkava heaks 5. juunil 1912 ning sama aasta 19. oktoobril nimetati linn koos lähiümbrusega maa- ja merebaasiks. Kogu kaitseliini detailne projektdokumentatsioon valmis 28. detsembriks 1912. Järgmise aasta alguses eeldati, et kogu Tallinna regiooni mere- ja maarinne valmib 31. detsembriks 1917 ning järgmisel viiel aastal kavatseti kindlusrajatiste võimsust mõnevõrra suurendada.

15. juunil 1913 signeeris Nikolai II ehitustööde põhikirja, milles Tallinna-Porkkala territoorium kandis juba Imperaator Peeter Suure Merekindluse nime. Kindlus jagunes kolmeks põhiosaks: lõuna- ja põhjasektor ning nende vaheline meresektor. Lõunasektor paiknes Eestis ja põhjasektor Soomes. Mererinde moodustasid Suurupi, Kakumäe, Paljassaare ja Viimsi poolsaar ning Pakri neeme rannikupiirkond, Aegna, Naissaar ning Suur- ja Väike-Pakri saar. Maarinne kulges ümber Tallinna ning jagunes kolmeks kaitsevööndiks. Kindluse juhtivaks keskuseks nimetati Tallinn.

Aegna saare rannapatareide ehituse töödejuhataja-inseneriks oli aastatel 1914–1918 Oskar Amberg. Vabadussõja ajal töötas O. Amberg Varustusvalitsuse inseneriosakonna ülemana ning 1919. aasta detsembrist Inseneriväe Valitsuse ülema abina.

20. veebruaril 1918 maabusid Saksa väed, mis olid juba mõnda aega Eesti saari enda käes hoidnud, Virtsus. Kolm päeva hiljem võeti Tallinnas vastu evakueerimisotsus ning rannapatareidesse saadeti õhkimiskomandod. Purustamisaktsioon algas ööl vastu 24. veebruari ja kestis ööni vastu 26. veebruari. Aegna saarel õhiti 305 mm patarei ja selle laskemoonalaod, puruks peksti ohvitseride eluruume ja süüdati sõdurite barakke ning osa saarel asunud elamutest. Terveks jäid patarei nr. 14 ja komandopunkt, kuid kahurid veeti ära.

24. veebruaril 1918 kuulutati välja iseseisev Eesti Vabariik. Juba järgmisel päeval olid Saksa väed Tallinnas ning peagi asusid nad Aegnale ja Naissaarele. Kummalegi saarele jäeti 50-meheline garnison. Aegnat pidasid Saksa kindralid Naissaarest olulisemaks, sest nüüd tuli vaenlast oodata idast.

11. novembril 1918 kirjutati alla vaherahule Saksamaa ja Antandi riikide vahel. Sellega lõppes Esimene maailmasõda. Samal päeval taasalustas tegevust Eesti Ajutine Valitsus ning algas Eesti Kaitseliidu loomine.

Nicholas II approved of the general plan for Tallinn coastal defence on 5 June 1912 and already the same year, on 19 October the town together with its vicinity were decreed to be a land and sea-base. The project documentation of the whole defence structures was completed by 28 December 1912. At the beginning of the following year it was foreseen that the whole land- and seafront would be completed by 31 December 1917 and it was planned to increase the capacity of the fort still more within the next five years.

On 15 June 1913 Nicholas II signed the statute of the construction work and in this document the Tallinn-Porkkala territory had already been named the Sea-fort Named after Emperor Peter the Great. The fort had been divided into three main sectors: the southern and the northern part and the sea between them. The southern sphere was in Estonia, the northern one in Finland. The seafront ran from Suurupi and Kakumäe to Paljassaare and Viimsi peninsulas, comprising also the islands of Aegna, Naissaar and Suur- and Väike-Pakri. The land front that ran around Tallinn was divided into three defence zones. The headquarters of the whole centre were in Tallinn.

Oskar Amberg was the engineer and supervisor of the coastal batteries in 1914-1918. At the time of the War for Independence Amberg was the engineering department's chief at the Supplies Board and beginning from December 1919 worked as the assistant chief of the Engineer Corps.

On 20 February 1918 the German occupying forces that had for some time already been holding the Estonian islands landed in Virtsu. Three days later evacuation was decided in Tallinn and exploding commandos were sent to the coastal batteries. The blowing up started at night on 24 February and lasted up to 26 February. On Aegna island the 305-mm battery and its ammunition depot were blasted and officers' quarters and soldiers' barracks were either demolished or set on fire. A part of private dwellings were also burnt down. Battery no 14 and the commander's quarters remained intact but all the cannons were removed.

On 24 February 1918 the independent Republic of Estonia was proclaimed. Already the next day the German troops were in Tallinn and pretty soon on Aegna and Naissaar. Both islands were manned with a 50-strong garrison troop. The German generals considered Aegna more important than Naissaar as they expected the enemy to come from the east.

On 11 November 1918 the Atlantic states and Germany signed the armistice treaty. Thus the First World War had come to its end. On the same day the Estonian Provisional Government was reassembled and the Estonian Defence League was founded.



Aegna merekindluse ajateenijad enne saarele sõitu, pildistatud 1930. aastate teises pooles
The new servicemen photographed just before going to Aegna, the second half of the 1930s

Aegna mehitamine kaitseliitlastega algas 17. novembril 1918 kui Saksa väed lahkusid saarelt. Samal päeval sõitsid saarele leitnandid Moritz Mahlstein ja Johannes Arro koos 12–15 kaitseliitlasest ja kooliõpilasest moodustatud väesalgaga, et Aegna kindlus üle võtta. Järgmisel päeval jõudis kohale Aegna esimene komandant leitnant Johannes Paulson.

1927. aastal allutati Aegnasaare komandantuurile ka kolm Viimsi poolsaarel asuvat rannapatareid – Miidurannas asuv rannapatarei nr. 7, Leppneemes asuv rannapatarei nr. 8 ning rannapatarei nr. 11, mis asus Randvere ja Tammneeme küla piiril.

Eesti Vabariigi kolmest merekindlusest – Aegna, Naissaare ja Suurupi – oli Aegna merekindlus kõige suurem ning selle koosseis moodustas ligikaudu poole kogu merekindluste isikkoosseisust. 1922. aastal asustati Aegna saarel elavad kalurid ümber lähedal-asuvale Kärsuli saarele ja Viimsi poolsaarele ning kogu 292 ha saar muudeti merekindluse territooriumiks. Tühjaks jäänud elumajad remonditi ja anti ohvitseridele ning üleajateenijatele korteriteks.

Manning Aegna with men from the Defence League began on 17 November 1918 when the German troops left the island. The Lieutenants Moritz Mahlstein and Johannes Arro together with a troop of 12-15 men picked from the Defence League and among schoolboys went to the island to take over the fort on the same day. The next day the first commandant of Aegna Island – Johannes Paulson – arrived at his post.

In 1927 three coastal batteries located on Viimsi peninsula, coastal battery no 7 located in Miiduranna, battery no 8 in Leppneeme and no 11 on the borderline between Randvere and Tammneeme villages were included under Aegna island commandant's office.

Among the three coastal forts of Estonia – Aegna, Naissaar and Suurupi – the Aegna fort was the biggest and its troops comprised almost a half of the whole coastal-defence ones. In 1922 the fishermen who still lived on Aegna we relocated to the nearby Kräsuli isle and Viimsi peninsula and the whole territory of 292 ha was turned into a sea-fort. The vacant dwellings were redecorated and given to the officers and the reenlisted to live in.



Torpeedopaat „Sulev“ Aegna sadamakai ääres
Torpedo-boat Sulev moored at the Aegna pier

Alates Vabadussõja algusest kuni Aegnasaare komandantuuri likvideerimiseni 1940. aastal oli komandantuuril üheksa ülemat või ülema kohusetäitjat:

14.11.1918 – 30.07.1919 leitnant Johannes Paulson
01.12.1918 – 27.01.1919 lipnik August Aron
(asendas leitnant J. Paulsoni)
30.07.1919 – 24.01.1920 leitnant Ernst Koger
24.01.1920 – 24.03.1920 kapten August Suurkivi
24.03.1920 – 01.03.1925 kapten Oskar Pezold (Petsold)
01.03.1925 – 23.12.1927 major Jaan Taadler
23.12.1927 – 15.04.1934 major Karl Aleksander Freimann
15.04.1934 – 15.03.1940 major Otto Kleemann (Kivima)
15.03.1940 – 06.08.1940 kaptenmajor Jaan Põder



Torpeedopaat „Sulev“ Aegna sadamakai ääres
Closer look at the Sulev at the Aegna pier

Beginning from the War for Independence until the commander's headquarters on Aegna were liquidated in 1940, the office had nine commandants or their deputies:

14.11.1918 – 30.07. 1919 Lieutenant Johannes Paulson
01.12.1918 –27.01. 1919 Ensign August Aron (substituted for J.Paulson)
30.07.1919 – 24.01. 1920 Lieutenant Ernst Koger
24.01.1920 – 24.03. 1920 Captain August Suurkivi
24.03.1920 – 01.03. 1925 Captain Oskar Pezold (Petsold)
01.03.1925 – 23.12. 1927 Major Jaan Taadler
23.12.1927 – 15.04. 1934 Major Karl Aleksander Freimann
15.04.1934 – 15.03. 1940 Major Otto Kleemann (Kivima)
15.03.1940 – 06.08. 1940 Lieutenant Commander Jaan Põder



Kitsarööpmeline raudtee Aegna sadamakail
Narrow-gauged railway line on the pier of Aegna

Militaarsete ehitustööde tarbeks, arvestades vajadust transportida ka edaspidi saare piirkondadesse raskekaalulisi mürske, rajati 1914. aastal saarele kolme kilomeetri pikkune kitsarööpmeline raudtee. Hoonete ehitamisel arvestati raudtee lähedust ning raudteed kasutati ka helgiheitjate kiireks toimetamiseks lahingupositsioonidele. Aegnal oli kaks väikest Saksamaal Orenstein & Koppel firmas toodetud auruvedurit, üks 45- ja teine 90-hobujõuline.

A three-kilometre-long narrow-gauged railway line was built on the island in 1914, as it was necessary to transport heavy shells. The proximity of the railway was considered when new buildings were erected and the railway was also used when big searchlights had to be quickly transported to battle positions. Two small steam engines, one with 45HP and the other with 90HP, produced in Germany by Orenstein & Koppel were permanently on the island.

Aegnasaare komandantuuri auruvedurid
Steam-engines of the Aegna commandant's office





OHVITSERIDE KASIINO OFFICERS' CASINO



Aegnasaare komandantuuri ohvitseride kasiino
Casino of the officers serving on the island of Aegna

1922. aastal valmis saare lääneosas ühekorruseline puithoone, kus asus ohvitseride kasiino. Hoones korraldati koosviibimisi, seal-juures kõrgete külaliste vastuvõtte, tähistati ohvitseride juubeleid ja muid tähtpäevi ning saadeti pidulikult ära teenistuse lõpetanud ohvitsere. 1932. aastal kolis sinna hoonesse ka Aegnasaare komadantuuri staap.

The one-storied wooden building for the officers' casino in the western part of the island was completed in 1922. Social evenings were held there but important guest were also received, jubilees and other events celebrated. When a serviceman retired, a party in his honour was held there, too. In 1932 the headquarters of the commandant's office moved into the same building.

Aegnasaare komandantuuri ohvitseride kasiino
Another view of the casino of the officers serving on the island of Aegna



RANNAPATAREI NR. 3 COASTAL BATTERY NO 3



Alates 1922. aasta novembrist määrati rannapatarei nr. 3 ülemaks Johannes Theodor Bernhoff, kes oli sellel kohal kuni 1923. aasta augustini. Hiljem oli pikemat aega patarei ülemaks kapten Konstantin Tingas.

In November 1922 Johannes Theodor Bernhoff was appointed the commander of coastal battery no 3 and he was at the post up to August 1923. Later on Captain Konstantin Tingas was the commander of the battery for a longer time.

Pikemat aega oli rannapatarei nr. 3 ülemaks kapten Konstantin Tingas
Captain Konstantin Tingas was the commander of coastal battery no 3 for a longer period



Vabadussõja lõpus asus rannapatarei nr. 3 kolm laskekorras 130 mm kahurit. 1929. aastal varustati rannapatarei nr. 3 Vickersi firma tulejuhtimisseadmetega. Teise maailmasõja alguses lisandus patareisse neljas 130 mm kahur (toodud Aegna saarel asunud õppeklassist?).

At the end of the War for Independence battery no 3 possessed three 130mm cannons. In 1929 the battery was provided with the fire power control system and at the beginning of the Second World War with the fourth 130mm cannon (that might have been transferred from the training room on the island?).

Üks rannapatarei nr. 3 130 mm suurtükkidest
One of the three 130mm cannons of coastal battery no 3

Suurtükipositsioonide maskeerimine
Disguising the cannon positions



Vabariigi perioodil jätkus rannakindlustuste maskeerimine - betoonehitised kaeti liivaga ja osalt mererohuga ning patarei esisele platsile istutati põõsaid. Suurtükipositsioonide kõrvale istutati metsviinapuid, et need põimuksid maskeerimisvõrkudesse. 1926. aastal tõmmati kahurite kohale männiokstega läbipõimitud traatvõrgud ja ehitati 76 mm dessanditõrjekahuritele kaks pöördalust.

The coastal defence system was well disguised in the period of the independent republic – concrete constructions were masked by covering them with sand and sea-grass and shrubbery was planted in the area in front of the battery. Wild vines were planted next to the cannon positions so that they would climb up along the masking nets. In 1926 wire nets into which pine twigs and branches were woven were pulled over the cannons. Two revolving bases were built for the 76mm landing-defence cannons in the same year.



Rannapatarei nr. 3 ajateenijaid, esiplaanil Voldemar Veiler
Servicemen of coastal battery no 3, the first from the left Voldemar Veiler

14. septembril 1939 otsis Tallinnast varju Poola allveelaev „Orzel“, mis Eesti võimude poolt Haagi konventsiooni alusel interneeriti. Kui aga Nõukogude Liit 17. septembril Poolale kallale tungis põgenes „Orzel“ järgmisel päeva varahommikul Tallinnast.
Kell 04.25 avasid Aegna merekindluse rannapatarei nr. 3 suurtükid tule põgeneva allveelaeva pihta. Ohvitser, kelle hooleks oli sihtimine, vältis allveelaeva põhjalaskmist. Meie mere- ja õhujõud otsisid „Orzelit“ merel ja mööda rannajoont kogu päeva taga, kuid ei leidnud seda.

On 14 September 1939 the Polish submarine Orzel was looking for a hideout in Tallinn. According to the Hague convention the Estonian government had to intern it. When the Soviet Union attacked Poland on 17 September, the Orzel escaped from Tallinn on the early morning of the next day. At 4.25 the cannons of coastal battery no 3 were ordered to shoot at the fleeing vessel. The commanding officer in control avoided the fire hitting the submarine. The Estonian naval- and airforce searched for the submarine at the sea and along the coastline the whole day but were not able to find it.



1932. aastani asus komandantuuri staap rannapatarei nr. 3 taga asuvas hoones
Up to 1932 the headquarters of the commandant's post were located in this building behind the battery

Patarei taga, paarsada meetrit ida suunas, asus pikka aega Aegnasaare komandantuuri staap, milles asusid komandandi kabinet, komandandi adjutandi kabinet, laekahoidja ja asjaajaja kabinet, majandusülema kabinet, raamatukogu ja arhiiv, vahtkonnaruum, väeosa relvaladu, Aegna algkool ning muud ruumid. 1932. aastal kolis staap ning osa kabinette ohvitseride kasiino ruumidesse ning endised ruumid anti Aegna Merekindluse Üleajateenijate Kogu käsutusse.

For a long time the headquarters of the commander's post were located a couple of hundred meters to the east of the battery. The headquarters building contained the offices of the commandant and his aide-de-camp, the treasurer, the clerk and the manager and also the library and the archive, the guardroom and the armoury. Aegna primary school was also housed in the building. In 1932 the headquarters and part of the offices were moved to the casino building and the vacated rooms were given to the Aegna Fort Re-enlisted N.C.O. Assembly



Samas hoones asus ka garnisoni arestimaja vahtkond
The guardroom of the island garrison jail was housed in the same building



RANNAPATAREI NR. 1 COASTAL BATTERY NO 1



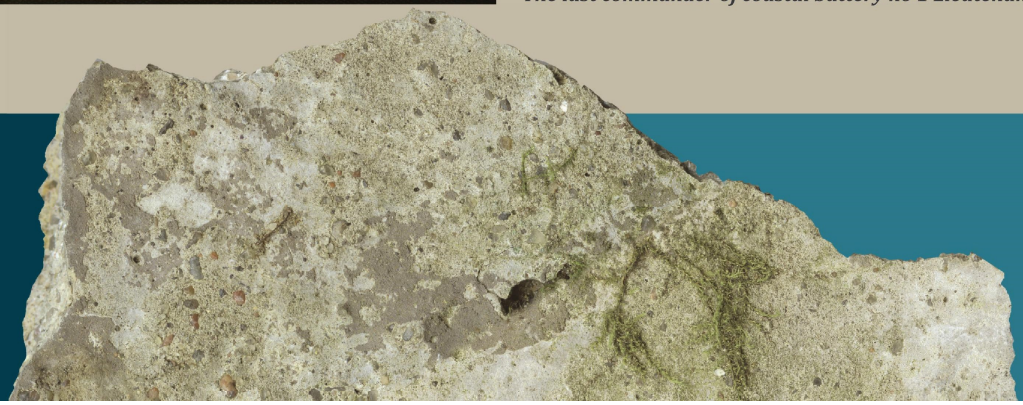
Rannapatarei nr. 1 viimaseks ülemaks oli vanemleitnant Jaak Vendla, kes määrati sellele ametikohale 1. septembril 1939. Jaak Feldmann (Vendla) teenis Aegna Merekindluses juba Vabadussõja ajal ning juhtis 305 mm patarei taastamistöid.

1918. aasta veebruari õhkimistel olid mõlemad kahuritornid viga saanud. Parempoolse suurtükitorni mehhanisme üle vaadates leiti, et need on praktiliselt terved ning torni saaks käsitsi laadida, kui ta paigas oleks. Paigaldamist takistas aga torni tugirõngas, mis oli plahvatamisel muljuda saanud. Taastamistööde juht Jaak Feldmann sai käsu üks soomustorn 1919. aasta 1. maiks laskekorda seada. Muljutud tornipesa tõttu jäi ülesanne küll täitmata, kuid proovilasud tehti 1. mail liikumatust ja veidi ripakil tornist siiski ära. Aasta hiljem, 1920. aasta mais, tehti esimene proovilaskmine ka vasakpoolsest tornist. Kõik suurtüki- ja tornimehhanismiosad, mis vajasid asendamist, toodi Naissaare põhjatipus asunud veneaegsest patareist 10b.

The last commander of coastal battery no 1 was Lieutenant Jaak Vendla who was appointed to the post on 1 September 1939. Jaak Feldmann (Vendla) was in service on Aegna already during the War for Independence and was responsible for the restoration of the battery with 350mm cannons.

In February 1918 when the battery was blown up, both cannon turrets had been damaged. During the inspection it was discovered that the mechanism of the right-side turret was almost intact and it could be loaded by hand if it were in position. However, the supporting ring had been jammed in the explosion and it did not allow the restorers to position it. The leader of the restoring crew, Jaak Feldmann received orders to restore one of the armoured turrets by May 1, 1919. He could not meet the demands due to the jammed part but it was possible to carry out a test shooting on the appointed date. A year later in May 1920 a test shooting from the left-side turret was also accomplished. All the parts for the cannons and turret mechanisms were brought from Russian-time battery 10b located in the northern tip of Naissaar.

Rannapatarei nr. 1 viimane ülem Jaak Vendla
The last commander of coastal battery no 1 Lieutenant Jaak Vendla

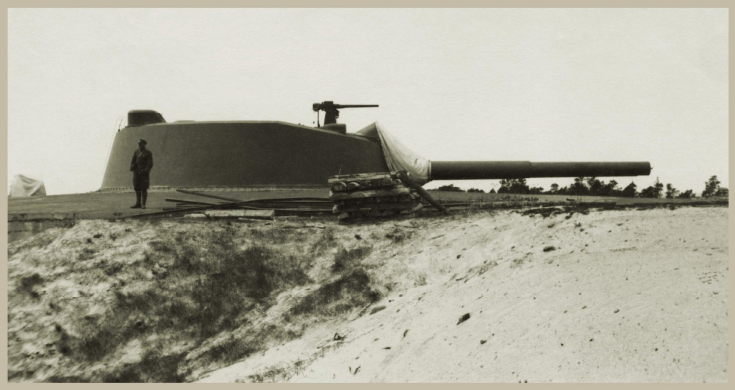




Üks rannapatarei nr. 1 purustatud tornidest
One of the damaged turrets of coastal battery no 1

Rannapatarei nr. 1 koosnes kahest üheksa meetri kõrgusest betoontornist. Nendes pöörlesid soomustornid, kummalgi kaks 305 mm kahurit. Kahe betoontorni vahel asus soomuskuppel, kus asus komandopunkt ja selle all diiselelektrijaam. Ehitise kahel korrusel olid ruumid meeskonnale ja suurtükkide laengutele. Patarei kogupikkus oli 180 meetrit.

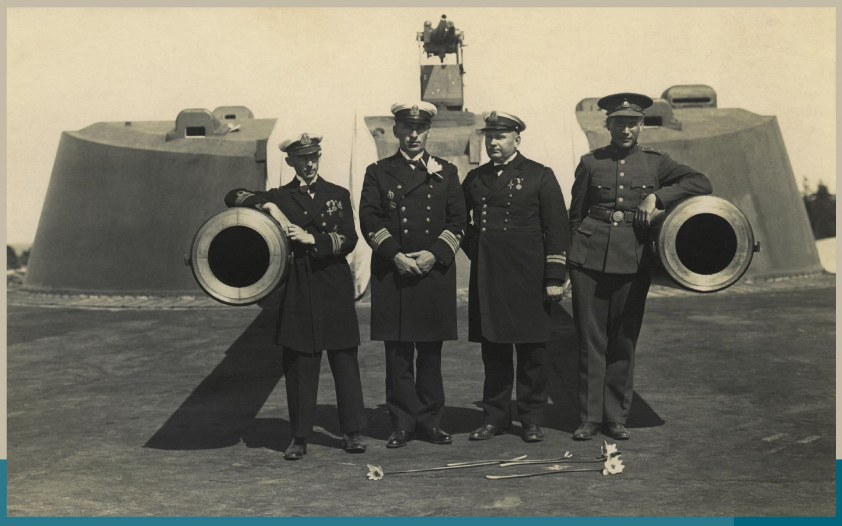
Coastal battery no 1 consisted of two nine-metre high concrete towers. Inside these concrete towers were two revolving armoured turrets, both containing two 305mm cannons. In between the two concrete towers was an armoured cupola for the commanding point and under it a diesel power station. The two-storey construction contained rooms for the crew and ammunition. The whole length of the battery was 180 m.



Rannapatarei nr. 1 soomustorn
Tower of coastal battery no 1



Rannapatarei nr. 1 305 mm suurtükid
305mm cannons of coastal battery no1



Rannapatarei nr. 1 ohvitserid soomustorni juures, vasakul teine kapten Peeter Mei
Officers of coastal battery no 1 at the armoured tower, the second on the left Captain Peeter Mei



Aegnast!

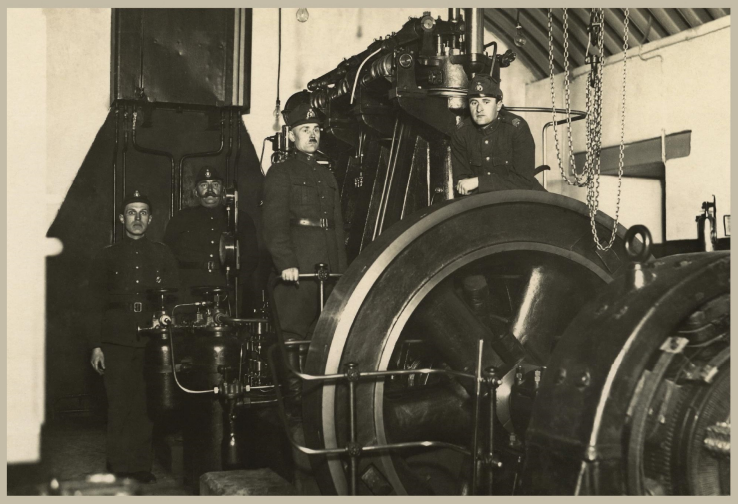
Kas sõbrad teil on küllalt klaar
kus kohal asub Aegna saar?
Sääl kuulsa Soome lahe sees
ta istumas on mere vees.

See on see väger Eesti kants,
kus kõlab kahurite valss.
Euroopa moodsam patarei,
ta juhataja kapten Mey.

Veel väikseid vendi tükki kolm,
sest ära lendab tuhk ja tolm.
Kes Aegna saarel läheneb,
sel sõjavägi väheneb.

Kui pangu välja virutab
siis sussid püsti sirutab.
Ei kahte pauku kannata
vaid ühega peab lõppema.

14.01.1940



Rannapatarei nr. 1 komandopunkti all asuv diiselelektrijaam
Diesel power station under the commanding point of coastal battery no 1

About Aegna

Oh, mates of mine, is it quite clear
Where is this Island Aegna dear?
Within the Finnish Gulf, you see
It's sitting pretty in the sea.

Here is our mighty coastal fort
The cannonade for favoured waltz
Whole Europe's neatest battery
Commanded by our Captain Mey.

Three smaller brothers has it, too
They all are ready to defend
Their Aegna island day and night
Against all enemies to fight.

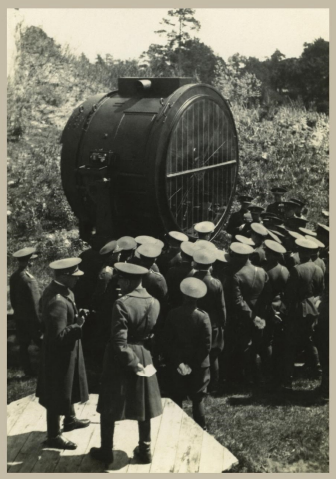
When our cannon sends its shell
The enemy would be in hell
Nobody needs another shot
One is enough – their end is hot.

14 January 1940

Patarei laskesektor hõlmas Kaberneeme lahte, Rammu, Aksi ja Prangli saart, Naissaart ning Suurupit. Kui objekt ei olnud nähtaval, saatsid andmeid nurgamõõtepunktid Naissaarelt, Kerilt, Pranglilt ja Leppneemest. Spetsiaalsed tabelid võimaldasid kiiresti määrata sihtimisnäidud, selleks ei tohtinud kuluda üle minuti. Sama ajaga pidi olema lõpetatud laadimine, elektriseadme käpad haarasid mürsu ja laengu, toimetasid need üles soomustorni ja tõukasid kahuriraua õõnde, misjärel sulgus lukk. Päästiku ülesannet täitis lüliti komando-punktis. Rannapatarei nr. 1 kahurite laskekaugus ulatus 43 kilo-meetrini.

The shooting range of the battery included the Bay of Kaberneeme, the islands of Rammu, Aksi, Prangli and Naissaar and Suurupi. When the target was not visible the triangulation instruments provided the neces-sary information from Naissaar, Keri, Prangli and Leppneeme. Special tables enabled the crew to find the target, no more than a minute was allowed for that. Loading was to be completed simultaneously: the electrical mechanism grabbed the shell and the load, hoisted them up to the armoured turret and into the barrel, after what the lock closed. A switch in the commanding point replaced the trigger. The shooting range of coastal battery no1 was up to 43 km.

Patareist mõnikümmend meetrit lääne poole jäi kindluse võimasaima, 210 cm läbimõõduga helgiheitja betoonvarjend. Helgiheitja toodi saarele 1924. aastal ja Aegna merekindluses teeninud leitnant Eduard-August Lemmingu andmeil oli selle valgusvihk nii võimas, et Aegnalt lastuna olevat selle valgel võinud Naissaare rannas ajalehte lugeda. Varjendist sai helgiheitja viia kitsaröövpmelist raudteed pidi Kurikneemel asuvale lahingupositsioonile. Kogu seda kompleksi nimetati helgijaamaks nr. 1.



Helgijaama nr. 1 210 cm helgiheitja
Searchlight of beam station no 1

The concrete shelter for the most powerful searchlight, 210cm in diameter, was a score of metres westwards from the battery. The searchlight was brought to the island in 1924 and according to Lieutenant Eduard-August Lemming who served on the island its beam was so powerful that when it was switched on you were able to read a paper in its light on the coast of the neighbouring island. If necessary, the searchlight was loaded upon the narrow-gauged railway flat carriage and transported to the battle position in Kurikneeme. The whole complex was called beam station no 1.

KESKPLATS CENTRAL SQUARE

Aegna saare keskus asus rannapatarei nr. 3 ja rannapatarei nr. 2 vahel, keskplatsilt umbes 200 meetrit loodesse jäi rannapatarei nr. 1. Keskuses asus suur ristikujulise põhiplaaniga ühiskasarmu, mis oli mõeldud 180 mehe jaoks, kuid hiljem majutati sinna kuni 250 meest. Peale sõdurite eluruumide asusid ühiskasarmus muuhulgas ka õpperuum koos õppevahendite toaga, lugemistuba, telefonikeskjaam, pesuruum ning söögisaal. Hoones oli ka ligi 48-ruutmeetrine ühisköök ja 24-ruutmeetrine leivaküpsetusruum.



Vaade ühiskasarmule
A view of the barracks



Vaade ühiskasarmule
A view of the barracks

The centre of the island Aegna was between battery no 3 and battery no 2, coastal battery no 1 was about 200m in the north west direction. A large oblong building in the centre sheltered the common barracks for 180 men. Later, even 250 men were accommodated in it. Besides the dormitories there was also a class together with a room for teaching and training equipment, a reading room, the telephone exchange, a shower and a dining hall.
The 48-square-metre kitchen and 24-square-metre bakery were under the same roof.



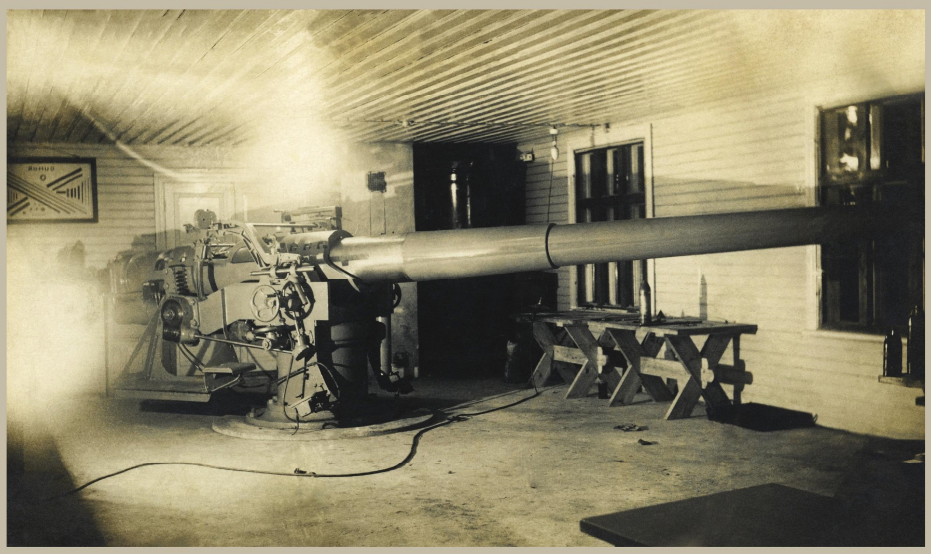
Sisevaade ühiskasarmule
A view of the barracks



Sõjakooli kursandid täiendõppustel 1936. aastal
Cadets of military college at refresher courses in 1936

Peale ühiskasarmu oli keskuses veel mitu elumaja, kauplus, saun ning spordiplats, kuhu 1928. aastal ehitati kõlakoda. Kahjuks ei pidanud kõlakoda ilmastikutingimustele vastu ja tuli 1931. aastal lammutada.
Lammutatud kõlakoja materjali kasutades ehitati 1931. aastal sadamasilla juurde laevasõitjate ooteruum.

In addition to the barracks there were several dwellings, a shop, common baths and a sports-ground in the centre. In 1928 a band shell was built in the sports-ground. Unfortunately, the weather had no mercy on it and the shell had to be demolished in 1931.
The material of the dismantled shell was used to erect a waiting room at the pier.



Õppeklassis asus 130 mm suurtükk
A 130mm cannon in the class

RANNAPATAREI NR. 2 COASTAL BATTERY NO 2

Rannapatarei nr. 2 ülemaks oli 1924. aasta 1. septembrist kuni 1927. aastani Otto Kleemann (Kivima). Hiljem muudeti rannapatarei nr. 2 õppepatareiks ning ei olnud pidevalt mehitatud. Alles Teise maailmasõja puhkemisel mehitati patarei uuesti, peamiselt kordusõppustele võetud reservväelastega.

Otto Kleemann (Kivima) was the commander of coastal battery no 2 from 1 September 1924 up to 1927. Later on the battery was turned into a training place and was not constantly manned any longer. When the Second World War broke out, though, it was manned again with men in reserve who had been conscripted for refresher courses.



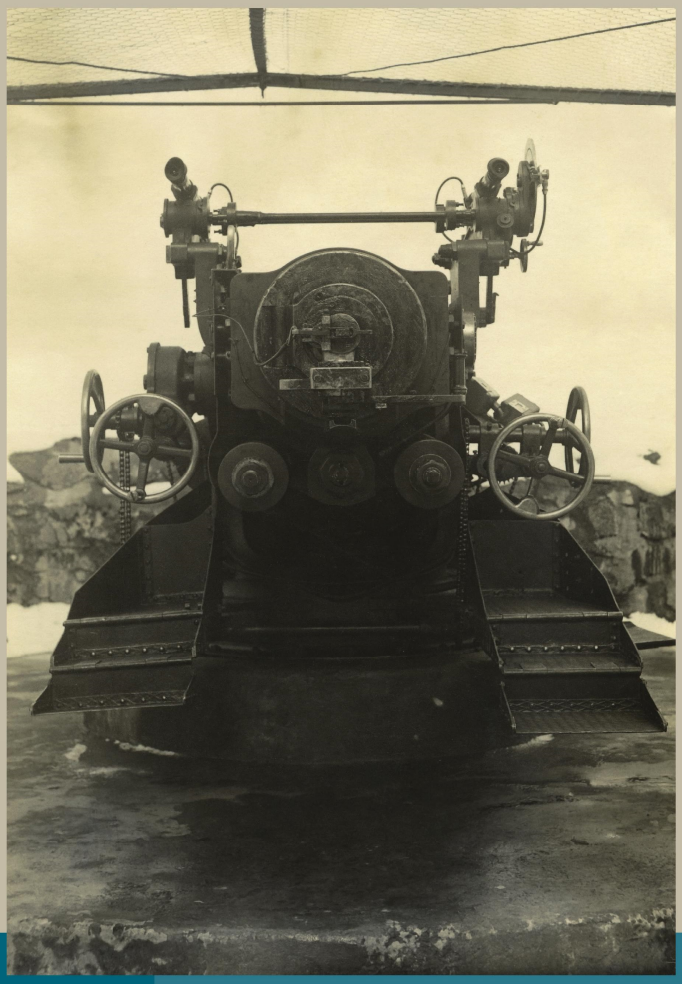
Patarei asus Aegna saare põhjaosas ja koosnes neljast 152 mm Canet kahurist. Neljast kahurist kaks olid pärit Suures väinas hukkunud soomuslaevalt „Slava“. Kahurid asusid viiemeetrise läbimõõduga betoneeritud süvendites. Patarei komandopunkt asus süvenditest natuke tagapool. Kahurite juures oli ka seitse meeskonnavarjendit ja kuus laskemoonakeldrit.

The battery was located in the northern part of the island and consisted of four 152mm Canet cannons. Two of the four cannons came from the armoured ship Slava that had perished in the Suur Strait. The cannons were in five-metre-wide concrete hollows. The commanding point was a bit farther away at the back of the hollows. The complex comprised also seven shelters for the men and six cellars for ammunition.

Rannapatarei nr. 2 ülem, Otto Kivima, koos abikaasaga
Commander of coastal battery no 2 Otto Kivima with his wife



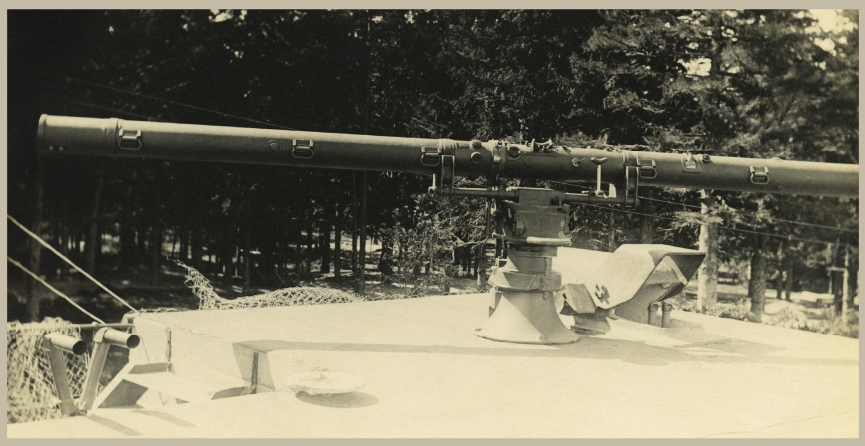
Üks rannapatarei nr. 2 152 mm suurtükkidest
One of the 152mm cannons of coastal battery no 2



Üks rannapatarei nr. 2 152 mm suurtükkidest
Another 152mm cannon of coastal battery no 2

1927. aastal rajati komandopunkti liikumatu soomuskupli kõrvale betoonplatvorm käärpikksilma ja kuuemeetrise optilise kaugusmõõtja jaoks. Kaugusmõõtja platvormi alla jäi kelder optiliste abivahendite hoidmiseks.

In 1927 a concrete platform for a stereo-telescope and a six-metre optical distance-measuring instrument was built. Beneath the platform was a cellar for auxiliary optical instruments.



Kaugusmõõtja ja käärpikksilmad
Optical measuring-instrument and stereo-telescopes

1920. aastate teises pooles kestsid patarei maskeerimistööd. Kahurid ja nende taga asunud tulejuhtimispunkt värviti sobilike värvidega, suurtükid ja osalt ka laskemoonakeldrite sissekäike katvad traatvõrgud maskeeriti männiokstega. Samal ajal kaeti laskemoonakeldrid ja meeskonnavarjendid liivaga ning see omakorda mätastega. Patareist mööduv raudtee maskeeriti samblaga.

The disguising operation on the batteries continued into the second half of the 1920s. The cannons and the shelling-control points were painted in suitable masking colours, the wire-nets over the cannons and entrances to the ammunition storerooms in cellars were masked with pine twigs. The cellars and shelters were covered with sand and the sand with turf. The railway that passed the batteries was disguised with moss.

1940. aasta suveks oli rannapatareis nr. 2 neli töökorras 152 mm suurtükki ühes tagavaraosade, tarbeasjade ja tööriistadega. Patarei kasutuses olid moodsad tulejuhtimis-, lahinguside- ja elektriseadmed.

By the summer of 1940 coastal battery no 2 possessed four working 152mm cannons together with spare parts, implements and tools. The battery had modern systems of communication, shelling-control and electricity.

16. juunil 1940 esitas Nõukogude Liit ultimaatumid Eesti ja Läti valitsustele, nõudes uute meelepäraste valitsuste moodustamist ja Punaarmee täiendavate jõudude lubamist oma territooriumile. Kuna Eestil polnud kusagilt toetust loota, pidi Johan Laidoner 17. juunil 1940 kirjutama Narvas alla Nõukogude Liidu esitatud tingimustele. Toimus Eesti okupeerimine.

On 16 June 1940 the Soviet Union delivered an ultimatum to the governments of the Republics of Estonia and Latvia, demanding the formation of new soviet-friendly governments and letting more Soviet armed forces into their territories. As Estonia had no hope for outside support, on 17 June Johan Laidoner was forced to sign the “Narva decree” at the railway station of Narva. The occupation of Estonia started on the same day.

17. juuni hommikul kell 6.00 maandas Punaarmee Aegna saarele dessandi. Rannapatareist nr. 2 kõlas 152 mm kahuri hoiatuslask. Kõik oli vastuhakuks valmis, kuid presidendilt tuli käsk vastuhakk lõpetada.

At six o’clock on the morning of 17 June the Red Army landing troops were on the island of Aegna. Coastal battery no 2 shot a warning shell and was ready to fight but the president ordered them not to resist.

ÕHUTÕRJEPATAREI EHK PATAREI NR. 10
ANTIAIRCRAFT DEFENCE BATTERY OR BATTERY NR. 10

15. jaanuarist 1930 määrati õhutõrjepatarei ehk patarei nr. 10 ülemaks kapten Verner Brockner (Valdur Loo), kes enne seda kuupäeva oli olnud patareiülema kohusetäitjaks. 31. jaanuaril 1937 vahetas ta välja kapten Adolf Hansmann.

On 15 January 1930 Captain Verner Brockner (Valdur Loo) was appointed the commander of antiaircraft defence battery or battery no 10. Before that he had been deputy commander of the battery. On 31 January 1937 Captain Adolf Hansmann replaced Loo.



Ametlikult moodustati patarei 31. oktoobril 1927 ja selle ülesandeks oli õhu- ja dessanditõrje. Tõenäoliselt oli sel ajal neli 75 mm õhutõrjekahurit juba puitplatvormidele paigaldatud. 1933. aastal anti üks patarei õhutõrjekahuritest Õhukaitse Suurtükiväegrupile.
1930. aastate teisel poolel ilmutasid 75 mm õhutõrjekahurid tugevaid kulumismärke: suunamisseadmetesse olid tekkinud loksud ning tulistamisel ei saavutanud mürsud rauaõõnes enam normaalseid pöördeid. 1937. aasta alguses saadi vananenud kahurite asemele kolm moodsat 37 mm õhutõrjekahurit, mis olid valmistatud Rheinmetall-Borsing firmas Saksamaal.

The battery was officially formed on 31 October 1927 for antiaircraft and landing defence. Evidently the four 75mm antiaircraft cannons had already been placed on wooden platforms. In 1933 one of the cannons was given to the Antiaircraft Artillery Group.
In the second half of the 1930s the 75 mm cannons showed many signs of wear and tear: the control mechanisms had become rickety and the shells did not revolve properly in the barrel when fired. At the beginning of 1937 three new and modern 37mm antiaircraft cannons produced in Germany at the Rheinmetall-Borsing Company replaced the old ones.

Üle seitsme aasta oli õhutõrjepatarei ülemaks Valdur Loo
Valdur Loo was the commander of the antiaircraft defence battery for over seven years



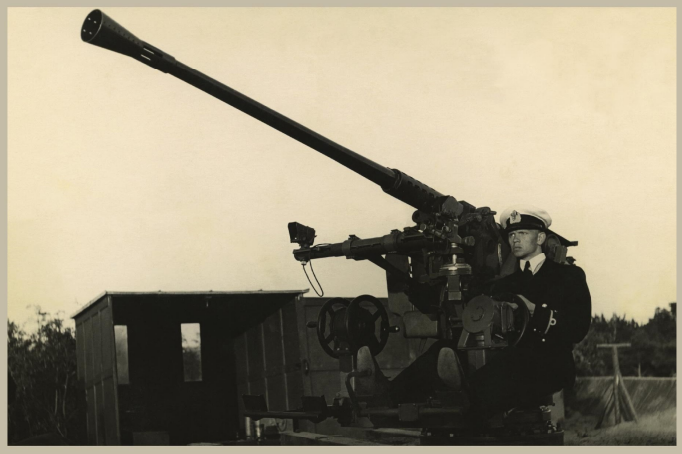
Üks õhutõrjepatarei 75 mm suurtükkidest
One of the 75mm antiaircraft defence cannons

2. detsembril 1939 ilmus õhutõrjepatarei päevaraamatusse sissekanne: „Patareiülema korraldus: Tulistada kõiki lennukeid, milliste ilmumisest pole ette teatatud, kui ilmuvad saare kohale. Kolm pidet olgu valmis, laetud, üks asetatud laadimislauale.". On selge, et korraldus ei olnud patareiülema algatus, vaid otsustatud kõrgemal pool.

On 2 December 1939 the logbook of the antiaircraft defence battery obtained the following entry – "Commander's orders: Fire at all the aircraft the appearance of which above the island has not been recorded beforehand. Three clips should be ready and loaded, one placed on the loading-board." It goes without saying that these were orders from the higher command, not the decision of the battery commander.



Valdur Loo õhutõrjepatarei suurtükk nr. 1 juures
Valdur Loo at antiaircraft defence cannon no 1



1937. aastal saabusid patareisse uued, 37 mm õhutõrjekahurid
In 1937 new antiaircraft defence 37mm cannons arrived at the battery to replace the old ones

Täpselt kolm kuud hiljem, 2. märtsil 1940 läkski laskmiseks. 2., 10. ja 11. märtsil 1940. aastal tegid Nõukogude pommitajad üle merekindluste (peamiselt üle Aegna ja Naissaare) viisteist üksik- ja grupilendu. Meie õhutõrjekahurid avasid kaheksal korral tule. Tabamise kohta ei ole märkmeid, aga küllap Nõukogude lennukite kahjustamist välditi, kuna sellest oleks saanud järjekordne ettekääne uute järeleandmiste nõudmiseks.

Exactly three months later on 2 March 1940 gunfire began. On 2, 10 and 11 March 1940 Soviet bomber planes made 15 solo and group flights over Estonian coastal forts (mostly over Aegna and Naissaar). Eight times our antiaircraft defence cannons opened fire. There are no records of hits but it could be said that they averted shooting down Soviet planes. It would have granted the Soviets a pretext for new demands.

DESSANDITÕRJEPATAREI EHK PATAREI NR. 14
ANTILANDING DEFENCE BATTERY OR BATTERY NO 14

Õhutõrjepatareist natuke lõuna pool asuv dessanditõrjepatarei ehk patarei nr. 14 koosnes kahest positsioonist – betoonpositsioon ning sellest mõnikümmend meetrit ida pool olev lihtpositsioon. Patarei rajati 1930. aastate teisel poolel. Alguses allus see patarei nr. 10 ülemale. 1930. aastate lõpus muudeti see iseseisvaks patarei nr. 14 nimetuse all. Kummaski positsioonis oli kaks 76 mm rataslafettkahurit, mis fikseeriti alustele terasklambri abil. Vajadusel võis suurtükke mujale veeretada.

Battery no 14 was a little south from the antiaircraft defence one. It comprised two positions – a concrete one and a common one a few score metres east of it. The battery was established in the second half of the 1930s. Initially the commander of battery no 10 supervised it but at the end of the 1930s it became independent and got the number 14. Both positions had two 76mm cannons on wheeled carriages. The cannons were fixed on the carriages with steel clamps. If necessary, they could be moved elsewhere.

SELTSIELU SOCIAL LIFE

Peamiseks meelelahutuseks saarel oli sport. 15. jaanuaril 1925 kogunesid Aegnasaare komandantuuri üldkoosolekule 7 ohvitseri, 1 sõjaväeametnik ja 53 ajateenijat, et asutada väeosa spordiring. Otsustati muretseda maadlusmatt, kaks paari poksikindaid, vehklemiskomplekt ja tõstekang. Saarel olid võrkpalliplatsid ja tennise-väljakud, spordiväljakul peeti jalgpallivõistlusi. Mitmesugused spordivõistlused toimusid saarel regulaarselt kuni 1940. aastani.

Sports became the main entertainment on the island. On 15 January 1925 seven officers, one clerk and 53 servicemen gathered for a general meeting that was to establish a sports club of the troops. It was decided to obtain a wrestling mat, two pairs of boxing gloves, a fencing set and a barbell for weight lifting. There already were tennis-courts and volleyball grounds on the island and football matches were held on the general sports-ground. Various competitions were arranged regularly up to 1940.



Köievedu
Tug of war

1925. aastal otsustati osta kaks paari poksikindaid
Two pairs of boxing gloves were bought in 1925





Suusavõistlusest osavõtjad Aegna saarel, vasakult teine Voldemar Veiler
Participants of a skiing race on the island of Aegna, second on the left Voldemar Veiler

President Konstantin Päts kinkis merekindluse aastapäevaks Aegna komandantuurile kaks metskitse. Isane kandis nime Miki ja emane Muki. Kitsed olid väga sõbralikud ning tulid sageli saare keskuses asunud majade õue, sõid näpu vahelt leiba, saia ja küpsiseid.

President Konstantin Päts presented the commandant's office with two roe deer on the anniversary of the coastal fort. The buck was called Miki and the doe Muki. They were friendly animals who often came up to the houses and enjoyed titbits offered to them.



Miki teel Aegna saarele
Miki on its way to Aegna

Kui Aegnast lahkume!
Armas sõber jäta kroonuelu maha
Tule lähme parem eraelusse
sest et pindesid sõlmida on paha
tihti nukraks teeb südame

Kroonuelu ei paku enam lõbu
miski minu meelt ei rõõmusta
kaks talve ja kaks kena suve
nu noorest elust läinud kaduma

Tahan maha jätta Aegna saare
suured rasked rannapatareid
periskoobid ja kõik suuna kaared
ei ma enam õppi taha neid
Armas sõber ah tule ja lähme
sest elu meelitab nüüd meid
teab kas enam siia saame
vaata viimast korda rasket patareid

Sõbrad lähme „Kompass" juba ootab
tahab viia meid üle mere vee
korraks laevast tagasi veel vaata
sinna kus paistab Aegna patarei

Ütlen sõpradele viimast korda elagu
sest ühtsteist enam me ei näe
kui meil vabadus naeratab vastu
ei siis midagi soovida meil jää

Kuid üks mälestus sõduri elust
minu meelest küll ei läe
selle õnne rõõmust ja valust
tihti ööselgi unes veel näen



Metskitsed Miki ja Muki
Roe-deer Miki and Muki



Aurulaev „Kompass"
Steamboat Kompass