

PORT CHICAGO

FROM DISASTER SITE TO NATIONAL MEMORIAL



Eastward-looking aerial photograph of Port Chicago Naval Magazine, early 1944. The town of Port Chicago is visible in the upper right. At lower left, the utility and personnel piers extend toward the two sections of Seal Island. The munitions loading pier curves to the left beyond the revetments, between which railcars loaded with munitions were shunted. The munitions pier is separated from the barracks buildings near the personnel pier and near the town by marshy tidal zones (U.S. Navy/National Park Service)



Former ordnance-storage facilities at the site (National Park Service).



Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial (National Park Service).



Dedication marker for the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial (National Park Service).

- 30 November 1942: Port Chicago Naval Magazine commissioned
- 17 July 1944: Catastrophic munitions explosion; worst World War II Home Front disaster
- All operations moved to Mare Island Naval Weapons Station (site of August 1944 "mutiny")
- Port Chicago site rebuilt and expanded by U.S. Navy; shipping operations until 1997
- 28 October 1992: National memorial authorized by act of Congress
- 17 July 1994: Dedication of Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial; maintained by National Park Service
- 2008: Navy property transferred to U.S. Army (Concord Military Ocean Terminal)



Learn more about the Port Chicago magazine explosion at history.navy.mil