



the CDSG Newsletter

The Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. — November 1995

Chairman's Report

by Dale E. Floyd

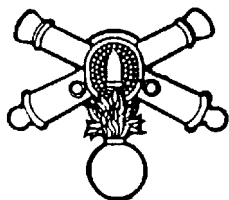
As the new chairman, I wish to express my appreciation to Greg Hagge, Sue Vance, and Dale Mumford for planning and running the recent annual meeting in the Pacific Northwest. I also wish to recognize the fine work that B.W. Smith and Mark Berhow have done in editing and publishing the newsletter and journal. I thank Mark Berhow, the former chairman, and all the former committee chairman for a great past year for the CDSG. Also, welcome to Karl Schmidt as the new member of the board.

In the next year I know that the newsletter and journal will continue to improve. A new publication will soon be available and plans continue for a new edition of *The Service of Coast Artillery* by Frank Thomas Hines and Franklin W. Ward originally published in 1910. Plans for special tours to Corregidor and northeast Canada are in the works. Bill Lewis and Elliot Deutsch are progressing in planning our next meeting in the Delaware area.

To insure the publication and mailing of the newsletter and journal, the Board approved a dues increase to \$27 in the U.S.; \$35 for overseas surface mail; and \$43 for overseas airmail. In addition, CDSG will create a home page on the Internet's world wide web which will include information about the organization, membership forms and coast defense historical data. Work continues on the database and a status report on the project will appear in the newsletter soon.

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, etc. about the Coast Defense Study Group, please feel free to send them to me or either of the other two board members. I, along with the other board members and committee chairman look forward to the continued growth and development of CDSG. Please, everyone, help us in these endeavors.

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Coast Defense Study Group, Inc. Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting October 7, 1995

The 1995 Annual meeting was scheduled during the St. Babs XIII conference which studied the Puget Sound defenses. The meeting was held in the Fort Worden Post Chapel at Port Townsend, Washington. Incoming Chairman Dale Floyd convened the meeting at 7:05 PM. He complimented outgoing Chairman Mark Berhow for his accomplishments during the year and asked Mark for comments. Mark thanked all officers, committee chairmen, leadership group members and contributing authors for their work.

Committee Reports:

Nelson Lawry, Preservation Committee. "If CDSG does not stand for preservation, for what do we stand?" He requested that each member record, document, and report any preservation issues to the group. Leo Polaski will now join the Preservation Committee as an official member of the committee. Nelson listed some of this year's losses and gains: Battery Reilly—buried; Battery Murphy—unique gun screens scrapped; Battery Arrowsmith—demolished; Ed Robinson found a partially complete M3 plotting board in Battery 205 in NH; and Elliot Deutsch had found two operable plotting boards at Fort Story, VA—a 1906 Submarine Mine Board and an M3.

Richard Whistler, Audit Committee. Reported on his audit of CDSG's 1994 records which he found to be in order and noted a profit in excess of \$1000. Richard recommended locating and training an understudy who could someday take over the committees from Elliot. Richard further raised the question of whether CDSG needs a "professional audit" by a CPA. Terry McGovern replied that professional audit and submission of an IRS tax return are necessary only for organizations with an annual income in excess of \$25,000.

Elliot Deutsch, Membership and Finance Committees. Finances: 1995 partial income: \$11,100; expenses: \$11,638; net loss: \$537.87; Cash on hand: \$11,900; projected value of copies of Winslow on hand: \$3,000. Membership: active members - 306; comprising 274 General, 29 Organizational, 2 Family, 2 Honorary/Trade. Preproduction paid orders for TM 9-210 - 93 plus 2 purchase orders.

Terry McGovern, CDSG Press and CDSG Fund. Press: Terry handed out order forms for Winslow, 'IM 9-210 and other CDSG publications. Fund: the CDSG Fund collected and dispensed approximately \$2000 to transport the M3 90MM gun mount from Charleston, SC to Fort MacArthur and commence its restoration.

Bolling Smith, *CDSG Journal* Editor. Bolling commended Mark Berhow on the new, improved appearance of the CDSG publications. He explained the separation of the *CDSG Newsletter* from the *CDSG Journal* was made to clearly differentiate between news items and organizational business from research articles of more lasting historical interest. This also leaves the BOD with final say on the content of the *CDSG Newsletter*. He further expressed the need for submission of more articles and recommended that members write to and commend those authors whom they appreciate. Bolling further reiterated Nelson Lawry's request that members submit more news articles about forts, finds and preservation problems. Dale Floyd thanked both Bolling Smith and Mark Berhow for their work on the *CDSG Journal* and *CDSG Newsletter*.

Greg Hage, 1995 Conference Committee. Reported that there had been no great problems, and that the conference appeared to be running smoothly and on schedule. Dale expressed the Group's gratitude to Greg for a well-planned conference.

Old Business:

David Kirchner noted that publications had greatly improved but requested that articles be peer-reviewed for accuracy before publication.

New Business:

- a. Future Conferences: Elliot Deutsch reported on progress with Bill Lewis for Delaware River in 1995. Leo Polaski told of requiring 4 days to tour southern New York in 1997. Dale Floyd suggested the possibility of visiting Columbia River in 1998. Dale volunteered to organize a special tour of Halifax in 1997 or 1998. Dale asked for a volunteer member to head up the 1998 meeting.
- b. Nelson Lawry suggested establishing guidelines by which to plan future conferences. In positive response, Dale Floyd appointed Bud Halsey and Greg Hage to write such a guide.
- c. Mark Berhow recommended raising 1996 membership to: \$30 domestic, \$38 overseas surface and \$46 overseas air, based on an annual publications cost of \$19.50 per member and the postage rates for overseas mail. He predicted that these rates could remain for the next 5 years. Several attending members protested that so large an increase in dues at one time because it could result in the loss of some of our "casual readers" who comprise 80% of

the membership. It was further pointed out that the success of future publications depends on larger printing quantities and therefore larger membership. Membership rates can always be raised a bit each year if and when printing costs rise. The discussion ended in the following agreed rates: \$27.00 domestic, \$35.00 overseas and \$43 overseas air.

- e. Jim Loop requested that annual financial statements be printed and wanted information on the profits from reprint publications. Dale Floyd announced that the Group's financial information has always been available to members, he agreed to publish the 1995 financial statement with the February Newsletter.

Announcements:

- a. Dale Floyd has been awarded a Corps of Engineers contract to update *United States Coast Defenses 1775-1950 a Bibliography*. He requests that members send him information on coast defense publications appearing after 1984-5.
- b. Terry McGovern announced that *Warship International* has published an article on ordnance by Charles Robbins.
- c. Mark Berhow offered handouts listing the publications available from the Fort MacArthur Press.
- d. Mark Henkiel offered handouts on Battery Warwick whose guns were moved to Battery Worth, Fort Casey.
- e. Lee Guidry offered a yet another set of his drawings of some fortifications in the Harbor Defenses of San Diego.
- f. Bolling Smith, Journal Editor, made a request to the membership for articles on any coast defense subject.
- g. Dale Floyd again expressed thanks to officers past and present and members for their work and support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Elliot Deutsch
Corporate Secretary

After Action Report-St. Babs XIII 1995 Puget Sound CDSG Conference by Greg Hage

The 1995 Puget Sound CDSG conference, St. Babs XIII, is now history. When I volunteered to organize this meeting several years ago I was not sure what I was in for but did it anyway. Now that it is over I can safely say that organizing a CDSG meeting is not all that bad. I encourage those near locations that have not yet been

visited to consider ramroding a meeting. This is the only way we as a group will get to these places.

I would like to thank all who assisted me in this endeavor, starting with my partner, Sue Vance. Mark Berhow handled the initial mailings. The on-the-spot assistance at the sign-in on Thursday at Ft. Worden was also appreciated. The cooperation of all participants made my job much easier. I thank each of you for keeping our collective heads on straight. The only real snafu was two car loads caught at Ft. Casey by a ferry breakdown. It's a long drive around, isn't it?! The cooperation extended to us by the staff of Ft. Flagler State Park and the Port Townsend city engineer can not be overstated. Access to their areas afforded us the opportunity to see unique sites.

Although the Fort Whitman boat trip was not an official part of the 1995 Puget Sound conference, it was indeed where it began for those who arrived early to visit this hard to reach fort. I rented a small boat at LaConner, WA, and at 9:00 AM met those who wanted to see it all. After some minor delays the first boat load was off by 9:40. This began for me a seven hour boat ride, making eight round trips to Goat Island. I did manage a few short minutes on the island myself! There were thirty people in this group and by all accounts a satisfying visit was had by all. The size of the boat limited the load to five passengers, which also insured that everyone had at least two hours on the island. The trip was complicated by some technical difficulties with the motor and controls but in true CDSG fashion all was overcome by luck and manual override!

The main event began at Fort Worden, near Port Townsend, Washington, on the evening of 5 OCT. Check-in went amazingly well, with only one genuine foul-up which was quickly set right. The evening programs were terminated at 10:00 PM, and I for one was in need of a good nights sleep. We were quartered on post in the spacious rooms of the former officer's quarters facing the parade ground.

Friday's breakfast was served at 7:00 AM and everyone appeared to enjoy the meal. About 8:00 AM the group headed in loose order to the ferry landing for Ft. Casey. There the cars headed in all directions. My group first went south to locate the south secondary stations and the searchlight station. At length they were located. Not much is left, as both were demolished in the mid-1960s, but the sites are still recognizable.

Next we went to the University of Puget Sound who own the garrison area of Ft. Casey. After some discussion it was determined that we were free to visit the northern base end station for the mortars, but were requested not to mingle with the paying customers in the main garrison area before noon. I do not know how well we were able to comply with these guidelines, but we did appreciate the access to the otherwise off limits base end station.

In due time our car load made it to the main battery area of Ft. Casey State Park, a prime example of a continuous gun line. There are seven emplacements in all, which featured two 10-inch M1901 disappearing carriages with M1895M1 guns, retrieved from the Philippines in the 1960s. Not something that can be seen just anywhere. After looking around and talking to the numerous members milling around the area, we traveled north to the 90mm AMTB site at Ebey's Landing (demolished years ago) and on to Ft. Ebey. The view from the bluff in front of Battery #248 there is magnificent. After giving the battery commanders station and the battery structure the once over we drove to the access road for Battery Tolles-B secondary station. This is a WW-II type base end station quite typical of all construction at Fort Ebey, Camp Hayden and the proposed Fort Hayden installations.

Upon returning to the ferry landing at Keystone we discovered a growing backup of traffic. When it became apparent that many of us would not make the next ferry, the drivers were abandoned along with their cars, and many passengers rode the ferry, fending for themselves for rides on the other side.

Somehow this all worked out and I proceeded to attempt to line up access to the south secondary stations with Port Townsend city officials. This was done and we were set up to visit this structure first thing Saturday morning.

The scene at the Fort Worden Coast Artillery Museum was chaotic. Our group all but cleaned the gift shop out of books and put a sizable dent in the other stock. The volunteers who operate this institution did yeoman service Friday and Saturday providing an interesting assortment of displays, photographs and working models. Our own Dan Rowbottom built an excellent model of the tower searchlight in 1/32 scale, which was only recently delivered to the museum. This light is on the beach near Battery Kinzie. At the end of our conference I presented a copy of the massive package of RCWs for the Puget Sound to Don McLarney for the museum library. Our thanks go to the museum volunteers for accommodating our group.

Again that night the evening programs were excellent. In addition to the fort visits, the evening presentations are a primary means of sharing information, both technical and geographic. It is unfortunate that all of our members are not able to benefit from these programs.

After another fine breakfast at the chow hall it was off to the south secondaries. Saturday's first stop was a real treat for all who had never been inside an intact Sewell structure. This type of building was constructed of a stucco like cement over expanded metal mesh on a wood frame. This structure is the last of its kind in relatively good condition still standing in the United States. Base end stations of the Barrancas system, c.1908, are rare indeed. Unfortunately this building appears soon

to be demolished. Those who were there Saturday morning are among the last people with an interest in coast artillery to actually stand inside a Sewell base end station and experience the wood work, fixtures, narrow windows and unique look of this style fire control structure.

A short ride to Fort Flagler was followed by the group picture at Battery Wansboro. Using the 3-inch, M1903 gun as a backdrop, we posed as deer grazed nearby. After some announcements, directions and advice, the group moved to the small museum in one of the original QM storehouses. Park manager Al Gearsh welcomed us to his establishment and opened the museum. The main gun line is normally off limits and cars are not usually allowed off the main road, but we were given open access to all parts of the park and free use of the roads. We are grateful for the extraordinary cooperation of the park staff and in particular the kindness of Mr. Gearsh.

After examining the many interesting objects in the museum the group again scattered to the four winds. Most went to the main gun line and Battery Lee, below the bluff. I refreshed my acquaintance with the primary batteries, Revere, Wilhelm and Rawlins, first. This set of batteries is among the most unusual and is in excellent condition. All beholding this site on a most beautiful sunny morning in God's country will find it hard to go back to weather cracked, scaly, junk filled and overgrown batteries! In sharp contrast, Battery Lee, two 5-inch BP, was all but covered by wind fall and nearing real danger of falling over the cliff. The unusual searchlights near Battery Lee were also well worth the walk.

At noon, most gathered for lunch at Battery Bankhead, eight 12-inch mortars. At this point I loaded up three intrepid individuals who desired to make the eighty minute drive to Fort Ward. Many in our group had already visited Fort Ward on the way to the meeting and others planed to stop there on the way back to Seattle. One other car load had already left for Fort Ward.

After the extended ride we arrived at Fort Ward and made our first stop at Battery Thornburgh, four 3-inch guns on masking parapet mounts. Unlike other areas, the Puget Sound has little variation in 3-inch armament. Only Fort Ward had the M1898 3-inch guns with their MP mounts. This four gun battery is typical in many ways to those found elsewhere, although not identical. A pleasant walk up the hill was rewarded by an attractive little battery. The CRF station was destroyed by a land slide some years ago, and was subsequently all but covered by fill and road repair. Small pieces are visible in the bank below the east end of the guard rail.

The next stop was the former location of the mine station. Near by is the second 3-inch MP installation, Battery Vinton, whose stairway down to the magazine has unfortunately been filled to street level by the park department. Otherwise the battery is in good condition. The CRF is directly behind the battery and above

it. This also has been mostly filled in, but by accident rather than by plan. It can be viewed from the path that goes up the hill behind the battery.

The mine station has been completely destroyed by progress. Until a few short years ago many of the original buildings were still present. The new mine casemate was only recently filled in and a house built over the site.

After viewing the absence of the mine station we went to Battery Warner, two 5-inch guns on pedestal mounts. Here we met up with the other car load of enthusiasts and inspected this rare structure. There were few 5-inch M1900 pedestal gun batteries built; this one is privately owned.

The now united group next went to Battery Nash, three 8-inch guns on M1896 disappearing carriages. This battery is in a poor state of repair. The entrance road has been back filled and the collection of junk in the battery parade continues to grow. It is, however, open and accessible. This battery and the fire control station above and to the rear are owned by a developer. Anyone interested could offer to buy these structures and be the envy of the entire CDSG! The FC station is an early concrete hexagonal faced split floor type as seen at Fort Casey and many other forts. Having seen all there was to see, we headed north to rejoin the rest of the group at Fort Worden and get ready for the extra special catered dinner in the old target shed on the beach, in the midst of the Fort Worden mine station.

The salmon dinner was excellent and the setting was conducive to good conversation. After dinner the annual business meeting was held, with Chairman Dale Floyd officiating. As always, the most burning issues of our time were pondered but I will leave those details to the Chairman. Again the evening's presentations were well received as each maintained the high standard set by the previous presentations.

The usual hearty breakfast was had at 7:00 AM Sunday morning and my duties included collecting the room keys. I must thank everyone for being on the ball and making my chore easier by having all the keys to me as requested. The check-out process was completed and the bills paid in full, leaving me some time to look around Artillery Hill for the first time during the meeting.

Most people left for Camp Hayden via Port Angeles before 9:00 AM, hopefully assisted by the maps in the handout. At Camp Hayden, Dan Rowbottom took charge of transporting people up the hill and all who wished to see Battery #249 and the HECF/HDCP on top of Striped Peak were accommodated. As for myself, the walk through the batteries on the hill at Fort Worden took most of the morning and early afternoon. Several others of the group also delayed leaving and enjoyed the excellent weather at Fort Worden. The complex of batteries on the hill is one of the best groupings to be found anywhere in the nation. I confidently put the Puget Sound defenses up against any other location for vari-

ety, unique design, accessibility, condition and, last but not least, natural beauty.

Eventually, B.W. Smith, David Morgan and I made it to Camp Hayden. By the time we arrived the rest of the CDSG contingent had come and gone. First we drove to the HECF/HDCP on top of Striped Peak. The view was breath taking as usual. Together we walked through Battery #249 and #131 and did some sightseeing as well. As dusk approached we returned to our motel in Port Angeles and indulged ourselves at a nearby smorgasbord.

Bright and early Monday morning we met up with ten others at the ferry terminal and proceeded to the third phase, the post St. Babs tour of the defenses of Victoria and Esquimalt, British Columbia.

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Oahu's 4.7-inch Armstrong Rifles Found

Until about two years ago the two 4.7-inch M1898 Armstrong rifles, serial numbers 11933 and 11009, removed from Battery Dodge long before World War II, were mounted on concrete pedestals in front of the Hawaii National Guard armory located on the former Fort Ruger reservation. They disappeared for almost two years and it was feared that they had fallen victim to vandals. However, recently they made their reappearance, as discovered by CDSG member Peter D. Smith, mounted on pedestals in front of the Hawaii National Guard armory in Wahiawa located opposite the southern border of Wheeler Field.—W. H. Dorrance

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Request for Information

I have received information that there may be a 4.7-inch Armstrong RF gun on Battery Hill, next to the flagpole on what used to be the University Heights Campus of New York University, in the Bronx. The university has moved and I believe that the Bronx Community College now occupies the site, which is between University and Sedgewick Avenue and near Jerome Avenue, which is in the 170s street numbers. Can anyone in the neighborhood please check the breech and muzzle markings and send them to me for possible inclusion in the list of surviving coast artillery guns?—Elliot Deutsch

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Frank R. Turner, author of the books on the Maunsell Sea Forts reviewed in the last issue of the *Journal*, has written to ask if any of our members can assist him in researching the details of the post war USAF radar towers on the U.S. east coast. Any information on them, or on any printed sources would be greatly appreciated. His address is Glendale House, Valley Drive, Marling Cross, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5UE.

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Medical Report

Members who live in or visit the northeastern part of the county, from Fort Hancock north, may be particularly happy to hear of a new medical discovery which promises to ease the discomfort of poison ivy and poison oak. Quaternium-18 bentonite, a common ingredient in deodorant, lipstick and suntan products, is manufactured by Enviroderm Pharmaceuticals, Louisville, Ky. In laboratory tests, the lotion dramatically reduced the effect of urushiol, the active chemical in poison ivy and poison oak, when applied before exposure to the urushiol. The company has applied for FDA approval, and hopes to have the product on the market next year. Your editor eagerly awaits its release.

In the meanwhile, another report recommends the following decontamination technique, good up to four hours after contact: slosh rubbing alcohol liberally over the affected skin and clothing. This solvent draws the oil out of the skin and clothing. Follow this with a good dousing of water. Although your editor personally considers Fort Hancock the poison ivy capital of the world, other northeastern forts, such as Fort H.G. Wright, continue to compete for the title (Fort Baldwin has retired the mosquito trophy). Those unaccustomed to this area are strongly advised to take appropriate precautions.

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Article Notice

Warship International is primarily a ship history magazine but occasionally publishes an article with a coast defense theme. The recent issue (No. 2, 1995 Vol. XXXII) has nine pages on the recycling of 12-inch guns from a Russian battleship into Finnish coast defenses. The article "The Guns of the General Alekseev" by CDSG members Cdr. C.B. Robbins, USN (Ret.), and LtCol. Ove T. Enqvist, Finish Coast Artillery, has seven photos of the guns as turreted (both single and twin) shore batteries in addition to several pictures of the battleship and sister ships. Copies of the magazine are \$5.50 from the publisher (5905 Reinwood Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43613).

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Exciting Find!

Have you ever seen a plotting board, with scales, movable arms and legs? No, just broken pieces of rotting wood in a forgotten corner? Soon you will be able to see two different types of boards, with arms, in good condition, at the Casemate Museum, Fort Monroe, Virginia!

Two former coast artillery plotting boards, used by the navy for the last forty years, became surplus as the