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Fredrick M. Baldwin

The Board of Directors regrets to inform the membership of the death of one of CDSG's most respected members, Fredrick M. Baldwin, who passed away on September 3, 1999. He was predeceased by his wife Sophie, and is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.

Fred enlisted as a private in the 245th Coast Artillery, New York National Guard, in 1933. He was commissioned in 1938, and when his regiment was federalized in 1940, he reported with it to Fort Hancock, NJ. As a 2nd lieutenant, he was assigned to M Battery,, which manned Battery Urmston's 3-inch guns. Promoted to 1st lieutenant in 1941, he was executive officer of K Battery and range officer at Battery Peck, with two 6-inch guns.

In 1942 was entrusted with the command of Battery Harris, at Fort Tilden, then the only 16-inch battery in the defenses of New York. In 1943 he commanded the seacoast batteries at Fort Totten before being sent for anti-aircraft training.

In 1943 he transferred to the Corps of Engineers. In 1944 he was chief of engineering section, Southern Philippines, until returning stateside in December of 1945. He remained in the NYNG until 1949, when his civilian employer transferred him to Sumter, South Carolina. He left the ranks of the NYNG as a Major.

Fred and his family moved to Asheville, North Carolina, in 1952 and he retired from General Electric Company, Hendersonville, NC, in 1978 as manager of manufacturing engineering.

Possessed of a remarkable memory, Fred shared his experiences in the coast artillery through a number of articles appearing in the *CDSG News* and *Journal*. In addition, he contributed technical articles which drew on his engineering background.

Fred was an outstanding officer and a true gentleman. He has left us an irreplaceable record of the coast artillery during the early years of World War Two. He will be missed.

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CDSG Representative Program

The CDSG has established a corps of "representatives" to the various ex-harbor defense forts around the nation to help promote the CDSG education and preservation goals. It has become apparent that these goals can only be achieved by maintaining active contact through a CDSG representative with the fort owners, managers, rangers, and historians. The key aspect of the representative program is frequent interaction of the CDSG with the staff at these locations to keep them informed of the existence and purposes of the CDSG, and to provide information on the educational and interpretive resources our organization can provide. The

initial plan is to recruit at least one representative for each harbor defense area. Sam Stokes, a member of the CDSG Preservation Committee, is serving as chief representative and maintain a database of information on current site staff and contacts. We urge any member who values the preservation of our harbor defense sites and would be willing to visit particular sites on a regular basis to contact Sam Stokes today.

Representative's Responsibilities:

- Make semi-annual visits with the management and staff of agencies overseeing former harbor defense forts in your charge.
- Convey to site management and staff information regarding the CDSG and seek ways in which the CDSG may assist these sites. Seek worthy projects for the assistance of the CDSG Fund.
- Distribute CDSG membership brochures, posters, informational packages, etc., to encourage interest in the CDSG and facilitate site staff access to information the CDSG can provide.
- Serve as a representative of the CDSG Preservation Committee and monitor preservation issues at sites.
- Provide yearly reports & updates to the chief representative regarding changes in personnel, management or other changes at the sites. Provide current information on site events and developments for the CDSG Newsletter.

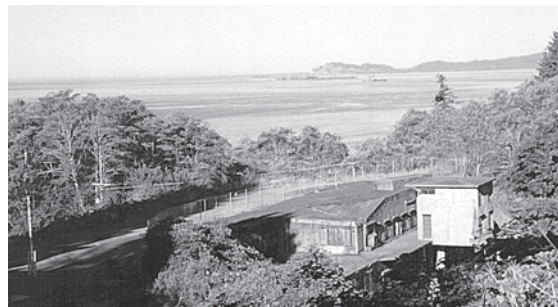
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St. Babs XVII:

**The 1999 CDSG Annual Conference
The Harbor Defenses of the Columbia River
Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 1999**

Mark Berhow

After three years of conferences on the east coast, the CDSG headed west in 1999 to tour the harbor defenses around the mouth of the River of the West, the mighty Columbia. The group started gathering at the Shilo Inn in Warrenton, Oregon, Thursday afternoon, September 30. Several members made the rounds getting their "unobstructed shots" from both land and air before the official tour started. The meeting started with the official greetings, an exchange of schedule information, and three presentations that evening.



Battery Jules Ord and the entrance to the Columbia.

Background:

Land was set aside in 1852 as military reservations at both Cape Disappointment and Point Adams. Concern over possible foreign invasion more than anything else prompted the construction of three earthen batteries on the bluffs of Cape Disappointment and an enclosed earthwork on the low sands of Point Adams in 1863. The fortifications were essentially completed by the end of the war in 1865. The Point Adams work was named Fort Stevens, after Maj. Gen. Isaac I. Stevens, killed at the battle of Chantilly in 1862. The forts were manned throughout the 1870s, but were finally just manned by caretaker detachments in the late 1880s. In 1875 the post at Cape Disappointment was named Fort Canby after Maj. Gen. Edward R.S. Canby who had been assassinated by the Modoc Indians in 1873.

The Columbia River defenses were listed in the Endicott Report of 1886 and construction of the new defenses began in 1896 at Fort Stevens and at a reservation at Chinook Point on the Washington side of river. Additional batteries were added in 1900 and eventually eight gun batteries were built at Fort Stevens, three batteries at the new Fort Columbia, and two batteries at Fort Canby. The harbor also received mine defenses.

Several guns were removed from all three forts during the period 1918-1920, and four mortars were moved from Fort Stevens to a new battery at Fort Canby. The coming of World War II brought a new set of defenses: three new 6-inch batteries built 1942-1945, and two new 90 mm AMTB batteries. The mine defenses were also updated. Fort Stevens had the distinction of being the only continental U.S. military reservation to be fired on by an enemy since the War of 1812, when Japanese submarine *I-25* lobbed several shells at the post in June 1942. Following the war, the Columbia River defenses were inactivated in 1947 and the reservations were declared surplus.

First Day Tour: Fort Stevens

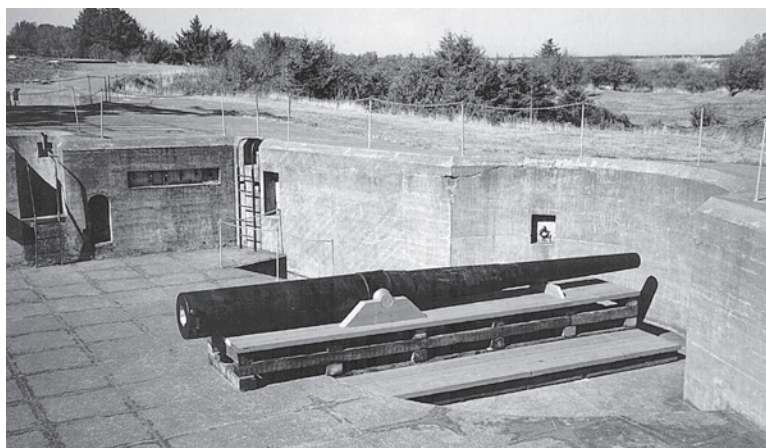
The group started Friday morning at the historical area of Fort Stevens State Park. Except for the garrison area around the parade ground, most of the old military reservation is now part of the state park. Historian Gale Hemmen, our conference chairman, opened the unique Battery Mishler (2 x 10-inch DC, all round fire) for the group. This battery was built completely enclosed except for the circular gun pits and the crows nest observation stations. It is the only one of its kind built by the US army. The structure was used as the HECB-HDCB during WW II. A concrete roof was built over the two gun pits by the Air Force in the late 1940s. The state has installed lights in the structure and conducts guided tours during the summer months. Next the group fanned out to visit the other structures in the historic area including



Battery Clark, Fort Stevens

Battery 245 (2 x 6-inch shielded barbettes) which now has two 5 inch naval guns in destroyer gun mounts in the emplacements, Batteries Leverett Walker and Lewis (2 x 10-inch DC each), Battery Pratt (2 x 6-inch DC), Battery Smur (2 x 3-inch MP), and Battery Clark (8 x 12-inch mortars). The area also included several fire control stations and pillars, the central and reserve power plants (the reserve plant has a fairly complete GE motor-generator), three generations of mining casemates, two mine loading structures, the post switchboard room, the mine cable tanks, and a mine storehouse, as well as numerous foundations for the WW II era barracks.

The area is well maintained by the state. An excellent historical museum is located in the old war games building which has a great book shop and is staffed by Gale and park volunteers. The museum contains a number of seacoast artillery related artifacts, including a depression position finder and an azimuth scope. The park is also reconstructing the Civil War earthwork on the location of the original. Work has been slow—the walls have been formed and a sally port has been built, but the work remains unfinished. A few of the regular Civil War reenactors were down at the park and did several live firing demonstrations of artillery pieces during our visit. CDSG member Jack Buckmeir has been working to restore Battery Pratt. He has reconstructed the powder room complete with racks and powder canisters, and he has built a loading table for the Hodges hoist in one magazine area. The biggest treat was to see Jack's full size replica 6-inch gun barrel being placed in the cribbing in the number one emplacement of Battery



Replica 6 inch barrel at Battery Pratt, Fort Stevens

Pratt. Jack built the barrel at his home and just finished it before the conference. He has also built a replica breechblock. He is planning,, providing the park can raise the funds for materials, to build a functioning replica carriage as well. I think the State of Oregon, the Friends of Old Fort Stevens, and numerous volunteers have done a wonderful job of preserving, interpreting, and restoring the historic remains at this site.

At noon we gathered at the Fort Stevens guardhouse for lunch. The state-owned guardhouse is within the privately owned garrison area. We were able to visit two partially intact fire control towers, on state property but accessible through a private yard, both of which have the scaffolding supports and the remains of the structure which housed the observation detail and their instruments. Both these structures are deteriorating, and the stairs have already fallen down.

Armed with maps and directions, the group divided up and headed out to visit the remaining fire control stations and batteries. We headed down to the southern most station, which was on private land across from the Oregon National Guard Camp Rilea. Parking alongside a dirt road, most of the attendees headed in a quarter of a mile or so to see a three station WW II structure which had the back half of its surrounding wooden building remaining. The next stop was off the Delaura Beach Road for two concrete base end stations. The highlight of the afternoon was visiting Battery David Russell (2 x 10-inch DC) and the "fire control hill" area south of the battery. The battery was built after 1900 to defend the southern approach to Point Adams and prevent na-

val bombardment of Fort Stevens from that point. As such this battery is located well to the south of the main fortification area. The state has built a large parking lot and the area is generally open year round. The structure is clean of trash and graffiti, a fine example of late Endicott-era construction. On Fire Control Hill, located some 600 feet or so south of Battery Russell along a well groomed trail, is an excellent complex of fire control structures, including the fort commander's station (1910s-1930s) and several other base end stations, and a barracks. These structures are in various states of disrepair, some are missing roofs and walls. South of this were two searchlight positions and the SCR 296 radar position for Battery 245. A few folks headed up to the jetty area to visit the two concrete plugs that remain from AMTB Battery 1 (2 x 90 mm fixed, 2 x 90 mm mobile). We then headed back to the hotel. The Fourth Annual Workers Dinner as held that night, followed by presentations.

Day Two: Fort Canby and Fort Columbia

On Saturday morning Oct. 2, we were up bright and early for a 30-minute drive across the Columbia River Bridge to the defenses located on the Washington side of the river. We (eventually) gathered at the parking lot in front of the US Coast Guard buildings at Cape Disappointment to begin our tour of Fort Canby. The Coast Guard has jurisdiction over the southern half of the cape, and they were gracious enough to let us go wherever we wanted on their property. A few folks headed out to Jetty A to look for the plugs of AMTB battery #2 (2 x 90 mm fixed, 2 x 90 mm mobile), but they are either gone or buried. The rest of us headed up the hill toward Cape Disappointment lighthouse. Along the crest of the promontory are five sets of fire control structures and Battery Elijah O'Flyng (2 x 6-inch DC). Battery O'Flyng is accessible by a couple of old roads and is somewhat cleared of vegetation. The fire control structures along the ridge between O'Flyng and the lighthouse are much more overgrown with a treacherous trail between them.

Next the group was on their own to visit the remaining structures in the Fort Canby area. The other structures on the coast guard property includes unique Battery Guenther (4 x 12-inch mortars) and the post switchboard room. Guenther was the last mortar battery built by the US Army (1921-22), for the four mortars removed from Battery Clark. Located behind some of the USCG family housing, it is not generally accessible to the public. The battery was recently cleaned of all stored junk and we were able to look at the interesting plotting room and simple shell rooms and magazines.

In the state park area, a road leads up to the "second" bluff of Cape Disappointment and the site of Battery Harvey Allen (3 x 6-inch DC). The state has built an interpretive center on the front of parapet of this battery that houses exhibits on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Cape Disappointment, and Fort Canby. The cen-



Fire control tower at Fort Stevens



Battery Elijah O'Flyng, Fort Canby

ter has a number of artifacts from Fort Candy including parts of one carriage from Battery Allen and a number of 6-inch and 12-inch shells. The battery itself is clean and has one powder magazine restored with racks and powder canisters. Volunteers have even cleared some of the vegetation out of the third emplacement. Behind the battery are the granite blocks that made up one of the 15-inch Rodman emplacements near the lighthouse. All other remains of the Civil War earthwork batteries have been destroyed. Out along the bluff toward the north are the remaining foundations of the BC for Battery Allen and the SCR radar facility for Battery 246. Two other areas of structural remains in Fort Canby State Park include Battery 247 (2 x 6-inch BC) and two search-light shelters on McKenzie Head, and some fire control structures and the SCR radar site for Battery 247 near the parking lot for the trail to the North Head lighthouse.

At 1 PM the group gathered at Fort Columbia State Park for the traditional group photo beside the one of the guns at Battery 246 (2 x 6-inch BC). The State of Washington procured two complete M1903A2 6-inch guns on shielded M1 barbette mounts from Fort McAndrew in Newfoundland, Canada, restored them, and mounted the guns at Fort Columbia in 1994. After touring the inside of the battery, the group headed out

with Park Ranger Evan Roberts to tour the two mining casemates at the fort, which had been rigged with lighting by Evan. The group fanned out to visit Battery William Murphy (2 x 6-inch DC), Battery Frank Crenshaw (3 x 3-inch MP), Battery Jules Ord (3 x 8-inch DC) and the impressive garrison buildings above the batteries.

A number of interesting highlights were seen during this visit. The parts of two Hodges hoists from Battery Murphy are currently inside Battery 246 with plans being made for restoration. Evan Roberts rigged additional lighting, allowing the group to view the interior of the detached third emplacement of Battery Ord which was buried in the 1940s and used as a switchboard room. The BC in the main section of Battery Ord is in excellent shape, with original windows and interior stenciling intact. The central powerhouse contains a G.E. motor generator. The barracks has a fine interpretive display on the main floor and a restored enlisted men's area on the upper floor. The administration building, two officers' quarters, the hospital, the fire station, the quartermaster storehouse, and 4 NCO quarters still remain. These buildings are in the process of being restored for use as vacation rentals. Additional structures visited included three sets of fire control structures on the hillside above the main post. Fort Columbia is a fine intact example of a small turn-of-the-century American coast artillery post with much of the reservation under state control. While the staff is small, they are making the effort to keep it up.

The group then gathered back across the river at 6 PM for a banquet buffet dinner in the meeting room. This was followed by the annual business meeting and two more presentations. With that, the conference officially concluded. On Sunday morning, Greg Hagge led a small group north to tour the scanty remains of the temporary Harbor Defenses of Grays Harbor. Both Gale Hemmen and Evan Roberts were on hand Sunday at their respective forts as a number of attendees revisited these forts to get what they missed before heading back home.



The conference attendees gathered in front of a 6-inch gun at Battery 246, Fort Columbia.



The barracks at Fort Columbia

Final Thoughts

I thought things went pretty smoothly this conference. There were no real problems in getting in to see the sites because most are in state hands and open to the public. The conference was conducted at a pleasant pace as the sites were relatively close together. It was enhanced by the efforts of the staff of the Shilo Inn. Conference Chair Gale Hemmen took care of all the local arrangements and conference bookkeeping with the help of Bruce Creamer; she, Bruce, and the staff of Fort Stevens State Park outdid themselves in the preparation of the site for our visit. Special thanks also to Evan Roberts of the Washington State Parks, who put in lights at three spots at Fort Columbia and let us crawl through everything there. Also thanks to Greg Hagge for leading the tour up the the remains of the Grays Harbor defenses.

Jack and Terri Buckmeir deserve a hearty thanks from all of us for all the volunteer labor they have put in over the past couple of years at all three state parks. They have put in long hours helping to clean, paint, and restore Batteries Pratt, Murphy, Ord, and Allen, in cooperation with the efforts of the Friends of Old Fort Stevens and the Friends of the Columbia River Gateway. Jack has begun to build a replica gun and carriage for Battery Pratt and has plans to do others. It is gratifying to see the efforts of the volunteers be so effective, not only in restoration projects, but in the hours spent manning the interpretive centers at all three parks.

The weather was excellent, as promised. Things went smoothly with a good division of labor, Gale coordinated things at Fort Stevens; Greg Hagge and B.W. Smith put together the weighty collection of papers that made up our conference note package; Jack and Terri Buckmeir made copies of the conference notes (who, I am sure, got a little more than they bargained for when they volunteered for this); and Evan Roberts took care of things at Fort Columbia. I was able to give Gale a hand in coordinating things from the CDSG end so we could deliver what the group usually expects at these gatherings.

Excellent presentations were given by Greg Hagge, Matthew Hunter, Glen Williford, William Freeman,

Nelson Lawry, Elliot Deutsch, James Osborne, David Morgan, and Terry McGovern. One of the highlights was the presentation of video tape prepared from film shot in 1940-43 at Fort Stevens and Fort Canby by Col. Edward Peeples (USA, ret.), who was in attendance at the meeting. This color footage showed live action sequences of the guns being fired at several of the Columbia River batteries and a great sequence of mines being planted in the Columbia River. A number of members thought it was among the best footage of American sea-coast artillery they had ever seen. The CDSG is going to work with Col. Peeples to make good copies of this tape available for purchase in the near future.

Members and guests attending the 1999 Conference: Dave Appel, Mark Berhow, Gordon Bliss, Jim Bournazos, Chon Clayton, Bruce Creamer, Roger Davis, Elliot and Elaine Deutsch, Joel Eastman, John Eckersley, Stephen Fanciullo, Mike Fiorini, Gene Fredrickson, William Freeman, Bill Galey, Lee Guidry, Greg Hagge, Alan Hardey, Herb Hart, James Hawkins, Craig Hegdahl, Eric and Monica Heinz, Gale Hemmen, Mark Henkiel, Larry Hill, Alex Holder, Bob Hunter, Matthew Hunter, Michael Kea, Steven Kobylk, Nelson Lawry, Craig Lentz, David Lindstrom, Robert Macdonald, Terry McGovern, David Morgan, Steve Nelson (The Fort MacArthur Museum), James Osborne (The Golden Gate NRA), Gary Paliwoda, Edward Peeples, Jeff Ploss, Leo Polaski, Jonathan Prosak, Steve Rinn, Ed Robinson, Norm Scarpulla, Karl Schmidt, Richard Semmel, Jon Stewart, Richard Slater, Bolling Smith, Jack Turnbull and his son, Tom Vaughan, Douglas Walters, E.A. Wiber, Peter Williamson, and Glen Williford. I know we did not get a complete list of guests. If I missed anybody, please let either Elliot Deutsch or I know!

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1999 CDSG Business Meeting

Chairman of the Board of Directors Greg Hagge, along with Board member Gordon Bliss, conducted the 1999 business meeting after the CDSG banquet on Saturday October 2. Committee reports were received from the Finance & Membership Committee (Elliot Deutsch), the Publications Committee (B.W. Smith), the Press Committee (Terry McGovern), the Fund Committee (Terry McGovern), the Preservation Committee (Nelson Lawry), the Projects Committee (Mark Berhow), the 2000, 2001, & 2002 Conference Committees (Terry McGovern, Norm Scarpulla, & Alex Holder), and the 2000 & 2001 Special Tour Committees (Alex Holder & Glen Williford).

The biggest news was that Preservation Committee Chairman Nelson Lawry announced that he is resigning his position at the end of the year. Otherwise, things are running well and each committee is holding its own.