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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego

Fort Rosecrans, California

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Masters of Arts
in History

by

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FRONTIERS TO DEFEND

The War with Mexico¹ and the territorial acquisitions presented new challenges for the United States. With "little accurate knowledge" of the west coast,² the President in 1848, directed the War and Navy Departments to form a board of army and navy officers to examine "the coast of the United States lying upon the Pacific ocean, with reference to points of defense, and occupation for the security and accommodation of trade and commerce, and for military and naval purposes."³ The group received the title of "Joint Commission of Navy and Engineer Officers for the Examination of the Coast of the United States on the Pacific."⁴

Members of the commission reached San Francisco in April 1850, where they awaited the arrival of their ship from the Atlantic. Colonel John L. Smith⁵ wrote that "labor cannot be engaged except at most extravagant cost." He expressed his hope that the "great excitement" caused by the discovery of gold would not continue. The men had to be watched closely to prevent desertions.⁶

Surviving transportation and funding problems,⁷ the Commission arrived in San Diego on September 30, 1850.⁸ By

the middle of October, with the examination of the harbor and surrounding area completed, the board returned to San Francisco to complete the final report.⁹

The report termed San Diego harbor "remarkable" and "a valuable acquisition to a coast where good harbors are rare, and more so as being directly upon a frontier and, therefore, in the best position for affording shelter during war...." It cited the possibility of San Diego becoming a terminus of a railroad from the Atlantic coast, as well as the military importance of being the western extremity of the southern line of communication. The report also tied San Diego with the bright economic future of the valley of the Colorado.¹⁰

The negative points discussed in the report numbered three: scarcity of fuel, lack of water during the dry season, and the width of the harbor. The failure to locate commercial deposits of coal after a search of the area disappointed the board.¹¹ In an earlier letter to Washington, Colonel Smith stated: "they are encouraged to expect a better result here than had attended their researches at other points in regard to coal...."¹² The report pointed out that stockpiling supplies could overcome the first objection and the second would be solved by artesian wells. The third solution

required fortifications.¹³

After examining several sites the Officers recommended Punta de Guijarros,¹⁴ a narrow shingle and gravel spit, that projected far into the channel from Point Loma,¹⁵ as the best location for the defense of San Diego harbor. Of all the sites visited on the Pacific coast, only San Francisco, the Columbia River, and San Diego received "1st Class" ratings, indicating they should be built without delay. To illustrate the cost differential between coasts, the board stated the estimate in terms of costs on each coast. The estimate for the San Diego defenses constructed on the Pacific coast came to \$1,600,000; to build the identical fortifications on the Atlantic coast, the estimate dropped to \$400,000.¹⁶

Unfortunately for the Pacific coast, Congress wanted a reduction in defense spending. On March 31, 1851 the House of Representatives directed the Secretary of War to report in December on whether the general plan of land defense could be changed to reduce the number of proposed forts and stop construction on others. To underscore their concern, they did not make the usual appropriations for fortifications and armaments in their last session. Replying to the House request, the Secretary, citing the work of the joint commission recommended "that no time ought to be lost" in the construction of fortifications at San Francisco, the mouth of the Columbia

River, and San Diego.¹⁷

In February, 1852 the Secretary of War recommended that the President reserve¹⁸ from sale or grant various tracts of land in California and Oregon. At San Diego, the recommended reserve included: "that portion of the peninsula lying on the west side of the entrance to the harbor. Which shall be included between the southern most point of the peninsula. (Puerta de Loma) [sic] and a line drawn across said peninsula from the harbor to the ocean at the distance of one and a half miles above Puerta de Guirarros [sic]." Two days later on February 26, 1852, the President approved the Secretary's recommendation (Figure 1).¹⁹

Years passed before the Army showed renewed interest in fortifying San Diego harbor. On December 4, 1866 the Engineer Department in Washington, D.C. ordered the Board of Engineers for the Pacific Coast constituted, and directed it to examine the harbor of San Diego. In their May 31, 1867 report, the board recommended Ballast Point, first called Punta de Guirarros, as the site for the fortifications.²⁰

In the absence of any military activity, two whaling companies occupied Ballast Point to carry on their seasonal operations.²¹ Up to 1869, two enterprising individuals rented the Government's land to the whalers.²²

Major General George H. Thomas,²³ commanding the Pacific

War Department
Washington. February 24th 1862. ⁽¹⁸⁵²⁾

Sir,

I have the honor to recommend that the following tracts of land in California and Oregon, which have been selected for Military purposes by the Joint Commission for the examination of the Pacific Coast, be accordingly reserved from sale or grant. Viz;

In California

San Diego Harbor - To include that portion of the peninsula lying on the west side of the entrance to the harbor, which shall be included between the southernmost point of the peninsula. (Puerta de ^{Loma} Sana) and a line drawn across said peninsula from the harbor to the ocean at the distance of one and a half miles above Puerta de ^{Quiranos} Grenados.

+ + + x

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant.

(Signed)

G. M. Conrad

Secretary of War.

ving
use.
office.

vic

Military Division, became so concerned with the encroachment on the Government land, that he ordered Lieutenant Thomas T. Thornburg,²⁴ 2nd Artillery with a detachment of 14 men, to San Diego²⁵ to take charge of all Government lands.²⁶

On January 20, 1870 General Thomas wrote the Secretary of War of his concern regarding the Military Reservation at San Diego. He recommended that the Army occupy Ballast Point since "Landgrabbers and others are using their best endeavors to dispossess the Government from the public lands in San Diego."²⁷ To underscore his concern, he wrote the Secretary again on January 27, calling attention to his letter of January 20, relative to the rights of the United States to the Military Reservation.²⁸

By February 5, 1870 the Secretary of War approved General Thomas' plan to take possession of Ballast Point.²⁹ Acting on the approval, Lt. Thornburg occupied Ballast Point on March 7. He ordered all persons, except government employees, to vacate the land taking their equipment with them.³⁰

Hoping to resolve remaining questions regarding title to the land, Brigadier General Barton S. Alexander,³¹ Chief of Engineers of the Military Division of the Pacific, arrived in May to define the lines of the Government Reserve to interested parties.³² When the whaling season began in December, however, the whalers returned to business at Ballast Point,³³ despite

the Government's ruling against all claimants to the land, four days earlier.³⁴ The claimants appealed the decision in February, 1871.³⁵

In the next few months the press mounted interest in fortifying San Diego harbor. The impetus came from the naming of San Diego as the Western terminus of the Texas Pacific Railroad Company³⁶ on March 3, 1871.³⁷ Editorials appeared in San Diego and San Bernardino newspapers stressing the strategic importance of San Diego, and the necessity of erecting fortifications to protect its approaches.³⁸

Political activity also increased and the California State Legislature passed a resolution in favor of fortifying the city and harbor of San Diego on May 17, 1872. They forwarded the resolution to Washington asking the Senators and Representatives to use their influence to get an early appropriation for fortifications in San Diego.³⁹

The San Diego Union continued to attack by printing two scathing articles in the May 24th and 25th issues. The newspaper charged that the true reason the fort had not been built lay in the fact that certain individuals tried to sell Ballast Point to the Government for \$30,000.⁴⁰ The Government contended it already owned the land, and would not pay \$30,000 for title to property it already possessed. The Union lamented the fact that, had there not been the dispute over the ownership of the

land, the Government would have spent "a million or more" on the project, "helping us some during hard times."⁴¹

CHAPTER ONE NOTES

1

On May 11, 1846 Congress declared a state of war between Mexico and the United States. See Thomas A. Bailey, A Diplomatic History of the American People (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1958), pp. 256-262.

2

Blair and Rives (eds.), The Congressional Globe, 30th U.S. Congress, 2d Session, p. 22.

3

U.S. Serial Set No. 537, House Executive Document No. 1, 30 Cong., 2d Sess., p. 151. Hereinafter cited by serial, document, and page number.

4

National Archives, Record Group 77, Letters Received S 5840 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1836-1866. Letter to the Secretaries of War and Navy from Colonel John Smith, Senior Member, dated San Diego, California, October 2, 1850. Hereinafter cited as NARG77 Letters Rec'd. The commission consisted of Major Smith (Lieutenant Colonel by brevet), Major Cornelius A. Ogden, and Lieutenant Danville Leadbetter of the Corps of Engineers, on the part of the Army, and Commander Louis M. Goldsborough, Commander G.J. Van Brunt and Lieutenant Simon F. Blunt for the Navy. Ogden and Leadbetter were both graduates of the Military Academy. Leadbetter, although born in Maine, became a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army.

5

Colonel Smith was commissioned a 2/Lt in the Engineers on October 16, 1813. He received a brevet to Lieutenant Colonel for gallant and meritorious conduct in the war with Mexico.

6

Serial No. 549 Sen. Ex. Doc. 1 part 1, 31st Cong., 1st Sess., p. 228.

7

The "small sum" asked for the commission from Congress by the Chief of Engineers in 1848, proved to be so. Serial No. 537, House Ex. Doc. 1, p. 248.

CHAPTER ONE NOTES cont.

8

NARG77.

9

NARG77.

10

NARG77, Letters Rec'd S 5840½, 1836-1866, Report of the Joint Commission of Navy and Engineer Officers for the Examination of the Coast of the United States on the Pacific, pp. 39-45.

11

NARG77.

12

NARG77.

13

NARG77.

14

Spelled Guianos in the report, in 1797 the Spanish built a fort on Point Cobblestones. See George Ruhlen, "Fort Rosecrans," The Western Explorer, (February 1962), pp. 1-9.

15

Point Loma, the peninsula lying on the west side of the entrance to San Diego harbor.

16

NARG77.

17

Serial No. 637, House Ex. Doc. 5, 32 Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 1-15.

18

Article XVI of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed on February 2, 1848 states: "Each of the contracting parties reserves to itself the entire right to fortify whatever point within its territory it may judge to fortify, for its security." Serial No. 509, House Ex. Doc., 52, Article XVI, 30th Cong., 1st Sess., p. 56.

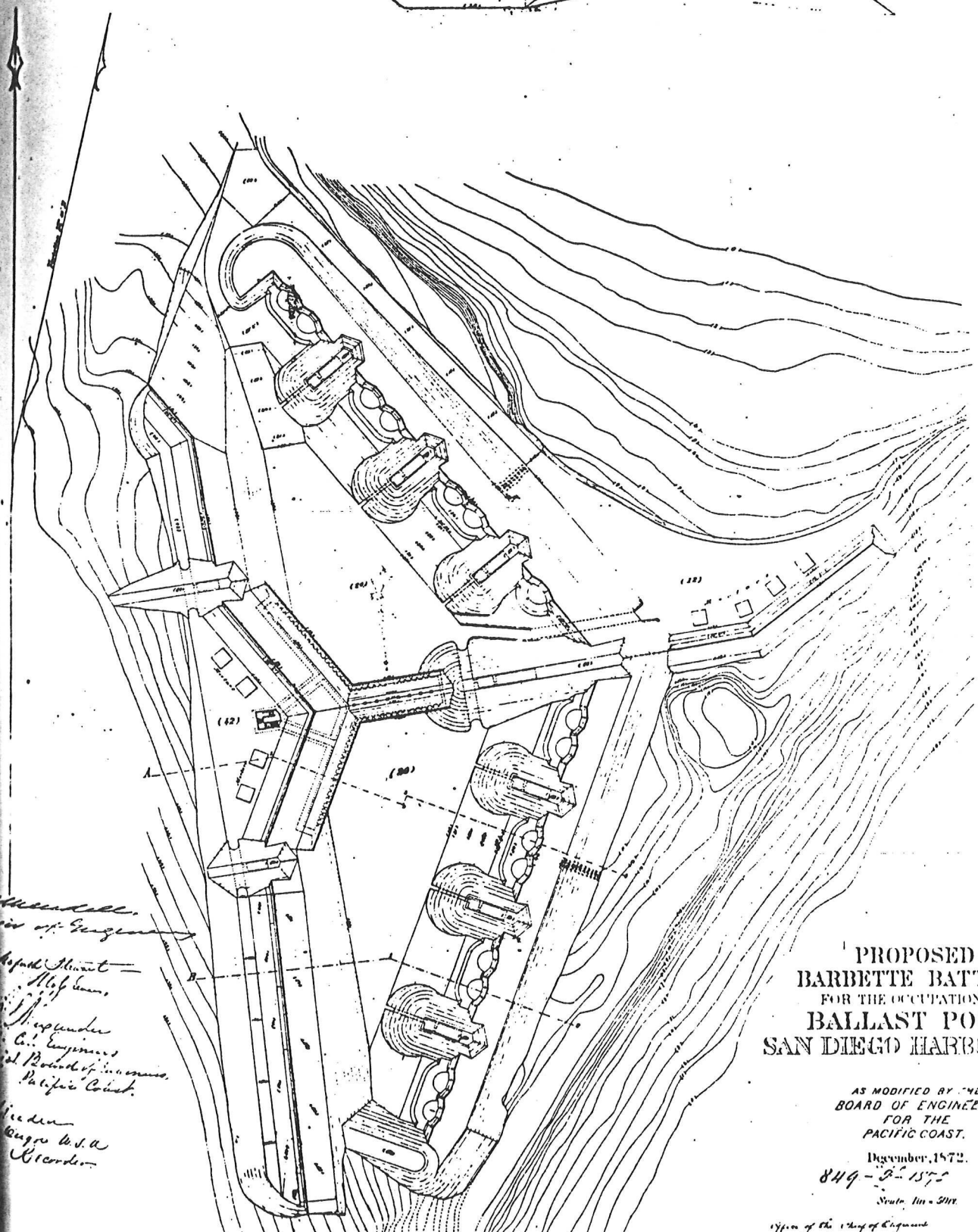
CHAPTER ONE NOTES cont.

- 19 Letter dated February 24, 1852 to President Fillmore from Secretary of War Conrad, on file at the Department of Army, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington.
- 20 NARG77, Third Division, 1866-1867, Letters Rec'd B 206.
- 21 San Diego Union, December 12, 1868 3:2. For further information on San Diego's whaling, see Francis Holland, Jr. and Theodore Walker, "Nineteenth Century Shore Whaling in San Diego," The Western Explorer, (December 1964), pp. 13-16.
- 22 San Diego Union May 24, 1872 3:1.
- 23 General Thomas though born in Virginia fought on the side of the Union. He received the thanks of Congress for defeating the "Rebel Army under General Hood" and driving them from Tennessee.
- 24 Thornburg transferred to the Infantry in 1878. He was killed by Ute Indians 1879 in action at Milk Creek, Colorado.
- 25 December 31, 1869 Post Return San Diego Barracks, Roll 1097. Microfilmed post returns for the Mission of San Diego, San Diego Barracks, and Fort Rosecrans, rolls 1096-1100 of the National Archives microcopy No. 617, "Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1800-1916."
- 26 San Diego Union December 16, 1869 3:1.
- 27 NARG 94, Letters Rec'd, 1870, M-Z, Vol. 46, p. 585.
- 28 NARG 94, Letters Rec'd, 1870, M-Z, Vol. 46, p. 588 (73P and 84P 1870).

CHAPTER ONE NOTES cont.

- 29
U.S. National Archives, RG 77, F63, Vol. I.
- 30
San Diego Union, June 11, 1870 2:4.
- 31
General Barton S. Alexander was breveted Colonel and breveted Brigadier General in 1865 for meritorious service during the "rebellion."
- 32
San Diego Union, May 26, 1870 3:2.
- 33
San Diego Union, December 22, 1870 3:2.
- 34
San Diego Union, January 12, 1871 2:3.
- 35
San Diego Union, May 24, 1872 3:1.
- 36
The announcement that the Texas Pacific Railroad would extend to San Diego caused a considerable boom in the city. The failure to do so had a tremendous deflationary impact on the history of San Diego.
- 37
Serial No. 1482, Sen. Mis. Doc. 161, 42d Cong., 2d Sess.
- 38
San Diego Weekly Bulletin, March 23, 1872 3:2.
- 39
Serial No. 1482, Sen. Mis. Doc. 161, 42d Cong., 2d Sess.
- 40
San Diego Union, May 24, 1872 3:1.
- 41
San Diego Union, May 25, 1872 2:3.

Section on "B. I. P."
Scale: 1 in = 20 ft



Approved
Chief of Engineers
Report
Chief of Engineers
at Board of Engineers
Pacific Coast
San Francisco
August 1872
Record

**PROPOSED
 BARBETTE BATTERY
 FOR THE OCCUPATION OF
 BALLAST POINT
 SAN DIEGO HARBOR, CAL.**

AS MODIFIED BY THE
 BOARD OF ENGINEERS
 FOR THE
 PACIFIC COAST.

December, 1872.

849 - 5 - 1572

Scale: 1 in = 20 ft.

17/100 of the Chief of Engineers

Chapter 2

GRAND DESIGNS

All this activity affected Washington, when the Chief of Engineers in his Annual Report to the Secretary of War for fiscal year 1872, recommended an appropriation of \$50,000 to protect San Diego harbor.¹ Hoping for funds, the Board of Engineers for the Pacific Coast, had already prepared and submitted a plan for San Diego's defense to Washington for approval on May 26, 1871. Washington transmitted the plan, which called for a few guns and six or seven mortars on the crest of Point Loma, to the office of the Board of Engineers for the Fortification of New York, who returned it to the Pacific Board with suggested changes. The Pacific Board spent the next several months designing a modified plan which incorporated the New York Board's suggestions that would make the battery self-sufficient against land and sea attack. The modifications increased the estimate of cost \$75,000 to put the total estimated cost at \$225,000.²

The modified plan provided for a 15-gun battery of 15-inch guns. The total length of the works equaled 1,100 feet, with the guns mounted 45 feet above mean low tide, and having a sweep of 160 degrees from Point Loma to La Playa (Figure 2).³

Behind the battery would be an 800 foot infantry parapet. In front of the battery, the plan provided a pit for four mortars. A proper garrison for the fort, beside the artilleryman, would be 300 men.⁴

The Pacific Board resubmitted their plan to Washington on December 10, 1872. They included a strong rebuttal to the New York Board's objection to building the defenses of San Diego. They pointed out that the Pacific coast had but one fortified harbor, San Francisco, on the entire 1,400 mile coast from San Diego in the south to the Admiralty inlet in the north. The board felt that San Diego was the only other harbor that could be made secure, and should be fortified.⁵

In February 1873 the Pacific Board of Engineers, and San Diegans realized their hopes. Despite a spirited exchange in Congress, the appropriations bill for the year ending June 30, 1874 passed with \$50,000 being appropriated for a fort at San Diego, California.⁶

That May, Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Stewart⁷ and Lt. John H. Weeden⁸ returned to San Diego to make preliminary preparations for the start of construction of the battery.⁹ Local business hopes began to be realized with the award of a contract to supply water to the construction site. Stewart announced the decision to purchase most of the construction

materials in San Diego, and not in San Francisco, as had been planned.¹⁰

In June, the Engineers revoked the permission given to the whalers in 1871 to use Ballast Point, and requested they remove, "without delay, all property of the company from off the public lands, and to remove from the vicinity of Ballast Point, the carcasses and offal and offensive refuse of all fish, whales and other animals killed by the company."¹¹

The local employment picture brightened when 20 men went to work on the fortifications the first week in July. One newspaper announced that prosperity had arrived for La Playa, Roseville,¹² and Old Town.¹³ Hopes of more local employment diminished with the arrival of 39 men from San Francisco to work on the fort.¹⁴ A touch of affluence did reach La Playa. On payday, the first of August, 1873, Tom Lush and Uncle Dan Clark, noted for their chowder dinners, found increased business at their doorstep.¹⁵

By the end of August, the list of completed projects included: an 80 foot wharf, the road to the lighthouse, and temporary buildings for the workers. Work had started on the stable and the earth-work battery.¹⁶ In spite of the planned construction, several men received layoff notices for the end of September.¹⁷

The remaining workers continued on, not aware that the first appropriation would be the last. Then the flow of money stopped, but considerable progress had already been made on the fortifications. The stable, a stone house, carpenter shop, and overseers' quarters stood complete. The site for the battery was cleared, and 27,626 cubic yards of embankment placed. The concrete drains measured 380 feet, and the foundation and walls of one magazine had used 313 cubic yards of concrete in their construction.¹⁸

In spite of the progress, the site in its unfinished state sat worthless. The watchman hired to care for and maintain the property fought a losing battle with the elements over the next few years. Most of his activity revolved around cleaning the water tanks and repairing the embankments.¹⁹

Following the mid-1870s, which marked the end of fortification construction, the defensive strength of the country fell to the lowest level since 1812.²⁰ Appropriation request after request went ignored by Congress. By 1884, the Chief of Engineers despaired of asking for further funds.²¹ The San Diego Union suggested that things would not change until the country relieved itself of the "Democratic 'reform' House of Congress."²²

CHAPTER TWO NOTES

- 1
Serial No. 1558, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, 42d Cong., 3d Sess.,
p. 24.
- 2
NARG77, Fortification Division, Letters Rec'd #849-1872.
- 3
La Playa is the area located on the northern shore of San
Diego bay, on the eastern slope of Point Loma.
- 4
NARG77, Drawer 102, Sheet 9, Fortification Division, Letters
Rec'd #849-1872.
- 5
NARG77.
- 6
The Congressional Globe, 3d Session, 42d Congress, pp. 252 and
989.
- 7
Lt. Col. Charles Seaforth Stewart graduated first in his class
at West Point. He refused a brevet to Colonel for gallant
and meritorious services during the Civil War.
- 8
Lt. John H. Weeden graduated in 1866 from the U.S. Military
Academy. He died in January 1877.
- 9
San Diego Union, May 14, 1873 3:1.
- 10
San Diego Union, May 16, 1873 4:1.
- 11
NARG F63, Vol. 1, #338.
- 12
Roseville, founded by Louis Rose, lies a short distance north
of La Playa. For more than 100 years Old Town was San Diego.

CHAPTER TWO NOTES cont.

- 13
San Diego Union, July 8, 1873 4:1.
- 14
San Diego Union, July 12, 1873 3:3.
- 15
San Diego Union, August 3, 1873 3:3 and scrapbook at Serra Museum, San Diego, "Loma Lore" by Winifred Davidson, p. 24.
- 16
San Diego Union, July 27, 1873 3:1; August 3, 1873 3:2 and Serial No. 1597, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, 43 Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 24-25.
- 17
San Diego Union, August 31, 1873 3:3.
- 18
Serial No. 1635, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, 43d Cong., 2d Sess., p. 29 and Serial No. 2091, House Ex. Doc. 1, 47th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 51.
- 19
Serial No. 1742, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, 44th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 29 and Serial No. 2091, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, p. 51.
- 20
Emanuel Lewis, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History (Washington: Smithsonian Institute, 1970), p. 75.
- 21
Serial No. 2277, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, 48th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 29 and Serial No. 1952, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, 46th Cong., 3d Sess., p. 51.
- 22
San Diego Union, October 3, 1876 3:2.

Chapter 3

NEW CONSTRUCTION

In 1885, President Cleveland appointed a board headed by his Secretary of War, William C. Endicott,¹ to examine the entire coast and submit recommendations for a program of defense. This joint Army, Navy, and civilian group, officially named the "Board on Fortifications or other Defenses," became known as the "Endicott Board." In a report submitted in January 1886, the Board listed for the first consideration 27 principal ports arranged in the order of their importance, San Diego ranked 21st.²

The fortifications at the 27 ports required 677 heavy guns and 824 mortars of modern construction, at a cost of \$97,782,800. The proposed armament for San Diego included four 10-inch breech-loading rifles,³ supplemented with submarine mines.⁴ The estimated cost of guns and carriages equalled \$144,000, masonry and earthworks \$260,000, submarine mines and their adjuncts \$100,000. For a city with a population of 2,637, the dollar figures appeared to citizens as most impressive.⁵

Congress did not move to carry out the Board's recommendations until September 1888. They created the Board of Ordnance and Fortifications and made appropriations for the manufacture

of modern seacoast ordnance,⁶ but made no provision for the construction of the structures for emplacing the guns and mortars. August 1899 marked the first appropriation date ✓ for construction of emplacements.⁷

In February 1890, San Diego's hopes for a fort rose when the local paper reported that the Quartermaster for San Diego Barracks⁸ had been ordered to prepare plans for a two company artillery post. The instructions, a bit vague, did not specify a location for the post. The balance of the year passed with no action.⁹

Demands for fortifying the harbor intensified with the affair of the Itata. The incident graphically dramatized the defenseless state of San Diego. On May 4, 1891 the Chilean ship Itata arrived in San Diego. Questioned by authorities, the Captain denied involvement with either party in the current Chilean Civil War,¹⁰ or that his ship planned to receive arms or ammunition. Reassured, authorities allowed the ship to coal and provision.¹¹ The next day a United States Marshall seized the ship for an alleged violation of United States neutrality laws.¹² He left a deputy on board as the Government's representative. Ignoring the seizure order, the ship in broad daylight raised her anchors and sailed out of the harbor with the deputy a reluctant passenger.¹³ Outside the

bar 8 miles from the anchorage,¹⁴ the Captain put the deputy over the side in a small boat, and told him to go about his business.¹⁵ The San Diego Union saw the incident as a lesson learned. To detain another, one must have the power to do so.¹⁶

San Diego found a champion of her cause in Brigadier General Alexander McDowell McCook,¹⁷ commander of the Military Department of Arizona, which included the portion of California south of the 35th parallel. In his first annual report to the Secretary of War, he claimed the conduct of the Itata "placed an indignity upon every citizen of the United States." He also called the defenseless condition of the harbor "a disgrace to our country." He recommended a military post be established in San Diego large enough to accommodate one regiment of infantry, one battalion of four troops of cavalry, and one light battery of artillery. He also recommended that batteries for the defense of the harbor be placed on Point Loma, Ballast Point, North Island, and Coronado.¹⁸

As time passed, however, the excitement of the Itata affair died. San Diegans began to believe that nothing short of the shelling of the city by an enemy would bring protection. Three tenets developed: Washington would never pay proper attention to San Diego, the east coast would continue to receive more attention than it deserved, and San Francisco

would never stop swallowing up the monies allotted for Pacific coast defense.¹⁹

In September 1896 Major Charles E.G.B. Davis,²⁰ U.S. Engineers, arrived in San Diego with good news. Work would start, "he said," immediately on the fortifications. At last, Congress had passed a bill with enough money to provide defenses of San Diego. When pressed for details, Davis explained that he and the surveyors in his party would decide the final location of the four 10-inch guns to be placed on Ballast Point. The news ended years of frustration for San Diegans. Every engineer in charge of the Pacific coast and every Chief of Engineers in Washington had recommended, without success, that San Diego be fortified.²¹

Under instructions from the Department of California, the Engineers submitted detailed plans, estimates, and specifications on October 29, 1896, for emplacements of two 10-inch guns on disappearing carriages.²² The September survey by Major Davis and Lt. H. Deakyne²³ made a slight change in location, which placed the battery on the 1873 site, reducing the amount of fill required. The total estimated cost of the two emplacements and torpedo casement²⁴ amounted to \$128,610.24.²⁵

On November 30, 1896, Major Davis in San Francisco opened the bids for the emplacements and torpedo casement for Ballast Point. The three bids received ranged from \$109,417.39 to

\$141,272,04. The California Construction Company of San Francisco came in with the low bid to win the contract. The Secretary of War had authorized the awarding of contracts even though Congress had not appropriated funds.²⁶ With no funds available, the contractor had to take his own risk about future payments for work done.²⁷ Having faith that "Uncle Sam" would "pay up," the contractor scheduled work to begin in January, well ahead of the date called for in the contract.²⁸

Logistics problems tested the California Construction Company. Rock crushers, cement mixers, concrete mixers, pipes, water tanks, derricks, cranes, engines, boilers, flatcars, and thousands of barrels of cement arrived weekly by a ship from San Francisco.²⁹ At one point, 25 cars of crushed rock arrived each week by lighter at the site.³⁰ The two emplacements required 8,534 cubic yards of excavation, 10,836 cubic yards of concrete poured, and the positioning of 43,000 pounds of bolts, nuts and anchor plates.³¹ The total weight of the concrete platform, gun, and carriage amounted to 516 tons per emplacement.³² At times one hundred men labored day and night on the emplacements.³³

With the two emplacements two-thirds complete in June, the Engineers advertised bids for a third 10-inch emplacement. They estimated the cost at \$49,630,22, yet recommended that if

the lowest bid exceeded \$45,000, all bids be rejected and work be done by hired labor. The Engineers believed lower bids should be received on the emplacement, as there would be no uncertainty about the availability of money, and the contractor's site with a wharf, water supply, and plant had already been established. The California Construction Company, one of ten companies bidding, again won the contract with a low bid of \$37,788,68.³⁴

By October, San Diegans noted an urgency in the construction at Ballast Point. Lieutenant J.J. Meyler,³⁵ engineer in charge of construction at the fortifications, while refusing comment on political or diplomatic developments, admitted that the time of placing the guns and carriages in position had been pushed ahead. Also, work on the torpedo defenses, an important factor in the defensive plan, had been sped up.³⁶

The first gun arrived in November and proved to be an immediate attraction. Each day scores of people would view the 67,000 pounds of steel mass with wonder.³⁷ The transfer of the gun from the specially constructed flatcar to San Diego's largest barge for transport to Point Loma promised excitement. Seven days later with an appreciative audience in attendance, the workers using skids and greased ways, similar to those used for launching large vessels, moved the 30.6 foot gun to the barge for the tow to Ballast Point.³⁸

Anticipating completion of the two emplacements, Brigadier General William R. Shafter,³⁹ commanding the Department of California, suggested in September that the Secretary of War replace the company of infantry in San Diego with a company of heavy artillery. General Shafter felt the work of mounting the guns and carriages should be performed by the artillery troops.⁴⁰

Under orders, Battery "D," 3d Regiment of Heavy Artillery,⁴¹ arrived in San Diego on December 5, 1897. The strength of the battery equaled three officers: Captain Charles Humphreys,⁴² commanding, 1/Lt C.A. Bennet,⁴³ 2/Lt George T. Patterson,⁴⁴ and 64 men.⁴⁵ The battery, no stranger to San Diego, had twice before served the area, in February, 1858,⁴⁶ and August, 1865.⁴⁷

CHAPTER THREE NOTES

1

William Crowninshield Endicott, born on November 19, 1826 in Salem, Massachusetts, was admitted to the bar in 1850, and began practicing law in 1851. He ran, unsuccessfully, for several political offices before his appointment to the Massachusetts Supreme Court in 1873. Endicott resigned his position on the Supreme Court in 1883, and received a cabinet appointment as Secretary of War in 1885, serving until 1889. He died in 1900.

2

Serial No. 2395, House Ex. Doc. 49, 49 Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 2-247.

3

Not until the 1880s, was a breech mechanism produced that could withstand the extreme temperature and pressures of repeated firings.

4

The submarine mine was a submerged stationary torpedo consisting of an explosive charge in a water-tight case, with mechanical or electrical firing devices.

5

Serial No. 2395, House Ex. Doc. 49, pp. 2-247.

6

During the years following the end of harbor defense construction in the mid-1870s, several critical advances took place in the design and production of heavy weapons. The large-scale use of steel for guns, the perfection of breech-loading, and more effective propellants revolutionized seacoast armament. Not until the late nineteenth century did the manufacturing capability reach the level necessary to produce the guns. Emanuel Lewis, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History (Washington: Smithsonian Institute, 1970) p. 75.

7

Serial No. 4628, House Ex. Doc. 2, 58th Cong., 2d Sess., pp. 244-245.

CHAPTER THREE NOTES cont.

- 8
The San Diego Barracks, a one company post established in 1857, located in the city of San Diego, on Market Street and India.
- 9
San Diego Union, February 19, 1890 5:1.
- 10
In 1891 war erupted in Chile when the Congressionalists revolted against an attempt by the President to seize dictatorial power. Thomas A. Bailey, A Diplomatic History of the American People (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1958), pp. 415-416.
- 11
San Diego Union, May 4, 1891 5:4.
- 12
Serial No. 2931, House Ex. Doc. 1, Part 3, 52d Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 24-26.
- 13
San Diego Union, May 5, 1891 1:1.
- 14
Serial No. 2931, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 3, p. 25.
- 15
San Diego Union, May 6, 1891 5:6.
- 16
San Diego Union, May 7, 1891 4:1.
- 17
Alexander McDowell McCook, born on April 22, 1831 in Ohio, graduated from West Point in 1852, and advanced through the grades to Major General on November 9, 1894. During the Civil War he participated in several battles including: Bull Run, the capture of Nashville, Shiloh, and Perryville, Kentucky. McCook received a brevet to Major General on March 23, 1865 for gallant and meritorious services in the field during the war. He retired from the Army in 1895, and died in 1903.

CHAPTER THREE NOTES cont.

18

Serial No. 2921, House Ex. Doc. 1, part 2, 52d Cong.,
1st Sess., pp. 254-256.

19

San Diego Union, April 4, 1892 4:4.

20

E.G.B. Davis graduated third in his class from West Point
in 1866.

21

San Diego Union, September 26, 1896 2:3.

22

This description of a disappearing gun appeared in the San
Diego Union, February 15, 1897. "The guns are aimed when
down behind the ramparte [sic]. At the word of command it
pops above the wall like a jack-in-the-box, sends its missile
on its destructive course and of its own accord drops back
into seclusion and safety."

23

Herbert Deakyne graduated from West Point in 1890. He was
promoted to Brigadier General in June 1926 and retired in
December 1931.

24

Torpedo casemate, a protected building containing the con-
trolling mechanism of the mine defense.

25

Serial No. 3631, House Ex. Doc. 2, 55 Cong., 2d Sess., p. 775.

26

Serial No. 3631, House Ex. Doc. 2, pp. 744-745.

27

Serial No. 3746, House Ex. Doc. 2, 55th Cong., 3d Sess., p. 775.

28

San Diego Union, December 10, 1896, 2:1.

29

San Diego Union, January 25, 1897 5:1.

CHAPTER THREE NOTES cont.

- 30
San Diego Union, June 14, 1897 5:2.
- 31
San Diego Union, December 1, 1896 2:1-2.
- 32
Serial No. 3746, House Ex. Doc. 2, p. 776.
- 33
San Diego Union, October 2, 1897 5:2.
- 34
Serial No. 3746, House Ex. Doc. 2, p. 775.
- 35
James Joseph Meyler graduated second in his class from West Point in 1887. He died in December 1901.
- 36
San Diego Union, October 2, 1897 5:2.
- 37
San Diego Union, November 4, 1897 5:2.
- 38
San Diego Union, November 11, 1897 5:3.
- 39
William Rufus Shafter, born on October 16, 1835 in Galesburg, Michigan, taught school for three years before enlisting in the Volunteers. He accepted a commission with the 7th Michigan Infantry in August 1861. Shafter mustered out of the Volunteers as a breveted Brigadier General in November 1865, and entered the Regular Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he received an appointment as Major General of Volunteers in May 1898. Ordered to Tampa, Florida, General Shafter organized the Expeditionary Force which sailed for Cuba on June 14, with 15,000 men. The corpulent Shafter, unable to command in the field because of the tropical heat, survived a controversy over the condition of the Army in Cuba, which suffered from epidemics of typhoid, malaria, and yellow fever, compounded by poor rations. He retired from the Regular Army in October 1899, and settled on a ranch near Bakersfield, California, where he died on November 12, 1906.

CHAPTER THREE NOTES cont.

40

Serial No. 3630, House Ex. Doc. 2, 55th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 185.

41

Battery "D" was termed the "Pride of the Regiment" by the San Diego Union, December 5, 1897.

42

Charles Humphreys entered the army as an aide to his father, General A.A. Humphreys, then Chief of Staff of the Army of the Potomac. He was the senior Captain in the Third Artillery when he arrived in San Diego.

43

C.A. Bennet graduated 12th in his class at West Point in 1881.

44

George T. Patterson, born in Nebraska on March 23, 1872, graduated from the Military Academy on June 12, 1896 with a 2/Lt's commission in the Artillery. Years later, Patterson would return to San Diego as the commanding officer of Fort Rosecrans. He died on August 21, 1918 at Fort Constitution, New Hampshire.

45

Post Returns San Diego Barracks, December 1897.

46

Post Returns Mission San Diego, February 1858.

47

Post Returns San Diego Barracks, August 1865.

Chapter 4

PACIFIC PROBLEMS

As the nineteenth century neared its close, the United States began to emerge as a new world power. With the close of the American Frontier, much of the energy formerly channeled into internal development, especially westward expansion, spilled beyond our continental borders. The American people clearly displayed a desire to become involved in foreign adventures. The U.S. Army and U.S. Navy did not have long to wait before being called upon to participate in imperialistic adventures. Unfortunately, the Army which averaged about 26,000 officers and men in the quarter of century preceding 1898, lacked the preparation for the demands of the approaching international adventures.¹

The California Construction Company finished work on the emplacements February 7, 1898.² In the meantime guns and carriages by the carload continued to arrive in San Diego for Battery "D." On February 18, three days after the U.S.S. Maine³ blew up in Havana harbor with a heavy loss of life, a detachment of Battery "D" received orders to occupy Ballast Point.⁴ The next day Lieutenant Patterson and 22 enlisted men left for the fortifications. With the emplacements completed, the

men cut roads, assembled the gun carriages, and continued preparations to mount the guns.⁵ The urgency increased when a telegram, received March 4, directed that the work at Ballast Point be pushed as fast as possible.⁶ Three days later the third gun arrived. Using skids and rollers, it took the men three days of hard work to move the gun the few hundred feet from the beach up to the emplacements. Not one of the guns could be mounted, however, as some of the mounting equipment had been lost enroute.⁷

Responding to telegraphic instructions from the Department of California,⁸ the entire Battery with bedding, provisions, and camp equipment moved to the fortifications on March 9.⁹ A few days later the missing equipment needed to mount the guns arrived.¹⁰ The guns and carriages would be drawn into place by means of skids and hand power. As one of the men remarked: "There will be something besides elbow-grease needed to make those 30-ton guns slide on the skids." One thing that did help, however, was the probability of war with Spain, which had increased troop morale. The extremely difficult and physically demanding work of mounting guns to defend their country assumed a new significance.¹¹

With the threat of war, security at the fortifications became intense. Armed sentinels guarded Point Loma and Ballast Point with orders to let no one pass. Persons taking

photographs of the fort had their cameras confiscated and destroyed.¹² With all the urgency some San Diegans began to wonder how much dependance could be placed upon the current defenses, and what could be done to supplement the present fortifications. The unpleasant realization that ships could shell the city while lying on the other side of Point Loma dawned. Still the people doubted the Spanish fleet would attack a half-fortified city.¹³

During the second week of April, Lt. J.J. Meyler, the officer charged with the harbor's submarine mine defense,¹⁴ received instructions to try and organize a "corps of 120 patriotic citizens" to prepare and place submarine mines in the harbor. On April 20, 1898 Lt. Meyler received orders to begin making purchases and other preparations for the mine defense of the harbor. At that date, San Diego had not received any submarine mining materials.¹⁵ Unaware of San Diego's deprived state, the Chief of Engineers ordered the completion of the operation system, and the loading and planting of any mines on hand.¹⁶

On May 2, 1898 Lt. Meyler's volunteers met to discuss their prospective duties. The first volunteers needed, the carpenters, reported the next day to start work on the projects. Later, engineers would be taken to Ballast Point to make the necessary surveys.¹⁷ The electricians, cable men,

telegraphers, and steam fitters waited on the arrival of the mine cables and engines, which arrived May 11.¹⁸ Along with the cable, a sergeant and four privates of Company "B," Battalion of Engineers, arrived from New York to assist Lt. Meyler in planting the mines.¹⁹

By the end of April, the artillerymen had mounted two of the 10-inch guns. Work on the third continued.²⁰ The first test of their labor arrived on May 16. The sudden appearance of a fast moving warship in front of the fortifications caused a frantic rush to the guns to send the "Spaniard" to the bottom. When the stars and stripes appeared on the stern, the disappointed artillerists stood down. The lookout on top of Point Loma recognized the U.S.S. Alert and did not report her approach.²¹

Lt. Meyler and his volunteers began planting the mines on May 23 and completed the arduous task two days later. In all they planted 15 mines, each weighing between 1,500 and 1,800 pounds, including the anchor and other fixtures necessary to hold them down. With the planting of the mines, the Secretary of War ordered the harbor closed every night between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m.²² To protect the mines, the battery commander trained two 12-pounder Napoleons²³ on the minefield.²⁴

Initially, to prevent vessels from using the mined channel Lt. Meyler stationed men in boats beyond the mines with

instructions to warn incoming vessels. If the warning went unheeded, the Napoleons would back up the men.²⁵ As this proved unsatisfactory, he rented a gasoline launch to patrol the harbor entrance from May 28 till June 22. Then the U.S. Revenue cutter Corwin, which had been expected since April, assumed the patrol duty.²⁶

In June, 1898, the Engineers announced that the emplacement for the fourth gun of the battery would be done by hired labor, the first on the coast to be constructed in that manner.²⁷ By the time they finished the emplacement, they probably wished they had, as with the other three, built it by contract. Anticipating additional costs, the Engineers requested and received a \$20,000 allotment in July.²⁸

Excavation of 16,000 cubic yards of material began in September and continued into November. By October, 5,500 cubic yards of crushed rock, stone, and sand had been delivered to the site. The concrete work continued to be delayed due to the absence of two ingredients--cement and water.²⁹ The local water company failed to keep repeated promises to deliver the required water. One observer described the water pipes supplying the construction site as "dry as the skull of a desert thirst victim." Concrete work required a great deal of water, not to mention the needs of the 80 or so men and several teams of animals which would be at work.³⁰ The drought ended

in January and the cement carrying a \$1.50 per barrel price increase had arrived the previous month. The emplacement with minor exceptions stood complete in June.³¹

Captain Humphreys received telegraphic orders from Washington on May 5 to immediately recruit the Battery to its full war strength of 196 men.³² When four of the seven batteries of the Third Artillery on duty at San Francisco received orders to the Phillipines on June 3, rumors of Battery "D"'s transfer started anew.³³ The first rumor had circulated in the middle of April.³⁴ Speculation increased when Lts. Bennet and Patterson received orders detaching them on June 20 from service in San Diego. Lt. Bennet received orders to report to Carson City, Nevada, as mustering officer for troops being enlisted for service in the Phillipines. Lt. Patterson's order sent him to San Francisco to assist in the mustering of troops from the Phillipines.³⁵

On August 4, 1898 the Battery returned to San Diego Barracks from detached service at Ballast Point.³⁶ With the large number of recruits arriving however, the use of Ballast Point for training increased.³⁷ The return of Lts. Bennet and Patterson in mid-August helped spread the task of training the new recruits.³⁸

Orders dated August 17, 1898 from the Chief of Engineers ordered the mines in San Diego harbor removed or exploded.

After deciding to remove the mines, Capt. Meyler discovered that the only tug capable of removing the mines would not be available until the middle of September. A further delay occurred when the local newspaper carried an account of an accident involving the removal of mines on the Mississippi River. The local marine insurance agents, fueled with ideas of danger and the chance for larger profits, asked prohibitive rates for vessels engaged in such work.³⁹

Finally, with rates agreed upon and the tug hired, 15 men began removing the mines on September 21.⁴⁰ Two days later, during the final day of removal, the men received a shock when they raised a mine with a large dent in its side. The mine contained 100 pounds of dynamite ready to explode on contact.⁴¹ The story of the dented mine received more than passing interest from the Captains who sailed the harbor at that time.

Experience during the Spanish war showed the torpedo casemate to be too small to contain all the apparatus necessary to operate the harbor mine system. In December, the Engineers received an allotment of \$2,200 to make additions and changes in the casemate.⁴²

In the latter part of January 1899, Captain Meyler received instructions to prepare plans and estimate costs to construct by hired labor two 15-pounder rapid-fire guns⁴³ at Ballast Point.⁴⁴ To beat an appropriation deadline, every available

engineering officer in California received orders to report to San Diego to assist in the preparation of plans and estimates for the emplacement.⁴⁵ The plans placed the battery just north of the 10-inch guns, giving it a sweep of the minefield and land approaches on either side of the harbor entrance.⁴⁶ The proposal, submitted in March and approved in April, received an allotment of \$8,865. At the end of June the emplacements were about one-half complete.⁴⁷

When the Spanish-American War ended, important questions remained regarding the conquered territories. At first the United States did not know what to do with the Philippine Islands. After the U.S. acquired the Islands by the terms of the Treaty of Paris, it became clear to the Filipinos that the Americans would replace the Spanish as their masters. They rose in revolt on February 4, 1899.⁴⁸ This action directly affected Fort Rosecrans as the Philippine campaign required tens of thousands of troops. For the first but not the last time, the Army began compromising San Diego's defense by removing large numbers of the city's artillerymen to meet emergencies elsewhere.

Captain Humphreys received a telegram on February 14, 1899 from San Francisco directing him to hold two detachments of one officer and 25 men each ready to leave for duty at San Francisco harbor to replace troops sent to the Philippine

Islands.⁴⁹ Six days later Lts. Patterson and Guy T. Scott⁵⁰ with 50 volunteers left on detached service for the north.⁵¹ A number of friends and comrades of the soldiers gathered at the train depot to see them off, "and each gave three cheers for the other with a will." Their departure left about 150 men in the San Diego garrison.⁵²

In March, Battery "D" lost more troops. Though the Spanish had yet to sign a peace treaty, 25 men who had enlisted "for the war" received their discharges. A number of them indicated an intention to re-enlist. Another group of 20 or 30 men, victims of the bureaucracy, had their discharges delayed until blank discharge forms arrived from Washington, D.C.⁵³

San Francisco's appetite for men from Battery "D" continued to grow. Another request for 25 men, to form a new battery, arrived in April.⁵⁴ The news did not sit well with the men. Word had been received that the 50 men transferred in February did not like their new surroundings, and they would be "pleased" to return to San Diego.⁵⁵ About 100 troops remained after this transfer.⁵⁶

In the midst of the growing concern over troop reductions, Captain Meyler arrived from Los Angeles on June 12 with good news for San Diego, which he shared with the press. The Engineers had just completed surveys and plans for a 5-inch battery of two guns to be located south of the 10-inch battery

towards Point Loma at an elevation of 70 or 80 feet above the sea. They expected to break ground within a month. He also stated that the mining defense deficiencies discovered in the recent war had been corrected. A complete mine defense of the harbor would now be possible.⁵⁷

The Captain, in an expansive mood, went on to reveal the possibility that San Diego would receive additional allotments for construction of other batteries. The possibilities included--a battery of 16 mortars on Point Loma, 16 mortars at Coronado, a battery of rapid-fire guns about 3/4 of a mile south of the 10-inch battery, two 10-inch guns on the end of Point Loma, and five other small rapid-fire batteries located on North Island. The cost would be approximately \$750,000.⁵⁸

The good news did not last long. On June 16, orders arrived sending 2/Lt Henry R. Clark⁵⁹ and 25 men to Sequoia National Park⁶⁰ to relieve troops of the 24th Infantry, who relieved a Calvary unit ordered to the Philippine Islands. After Clark's departure, only 53 men remained of a battery that numbered nearly 200 troops in February.⁶¹

On July 6, 1899 a \$15,000 allotment for a 5-inch battery with two emplacements allowed for additional work at San Diego. Hired labor would do much of the work. Later, a request for an additional \$3,270 to cover cost peculiar to San Diego received approval. Now, Captain J.J. Meyler, in a letter to the

Chief of Engineers, complained of the increased costs of materials and labor. Labor, both common and skilled, cost more at San Diego.⁶² The common laborer received from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day. The day rate for laborers in other parts of the country ranged from \$1.15 to \$1.75. Construction on the battery began on August 21, 1899 and with the exception of mounting the gun platforms, work ended in February. Shortages of materials and water delayed the completion of the project.⁶³

CHAPTER FOUR NOTES

- 1 Maurice Mattloff, ed., American Military History (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1969), pp. 319-339. Hereinafter cited as American Military History.
- 2 Serial No. 3746, House Ex. Doc., 2, p. 976.
- 3 Samuel Eliot Morrison, The Oxford History of the American People (New York: Oxford University Press, 1965), p. 800.
- 4 Post Returns San Diego Barracks, February 1898.
- 5 San Diego Union, February 20, 1898 5:5.
- 6 Post Returns San Diego Barracks, March 1898.
- 7 San Diego Union, March 7, 1898 5:3.
- 8 Post Returns San Diego Barracks, March 1898.
- 9 San Diego Union, March 9, 1898 3:2.
- 10 San Diego Union, March 10, 1898 5:2.
- 11 San Diego Union, March 15, 1898 5:3.
- 12 San Diego Union, March 18, 1898 3:3.
- 13 San Diego Union, April 3, 1898 5:3-4.

CHAPTER FOUR NOTES cont.

14

Serial No. 4629, House Ex. Doc., 2, 58th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 249.

15

NARG77, F24B, #1.

16

Serial No. 3746, House Ex. Doc. 2, p. 777.

17

San Diego Union, May 3, 1898 5:2.

18

San Diego Union, May 12, 1898 5:1.

19

NARG77, F24B, #1.

20

Serial No. 3746, House Ex. Doc. 2, p. 776.

21

San Diego Union, May 17, 1898 5:2.

22

San Diego Union, May 23, 1898 5:3.

23

In 1857, the United States adopted a brass smoothbore 12-pounder as its standard field artillery weapon. Patterned after a cannon designed by Napoleon III, it became known as a Napoleon.

24

Serial No. 3746, House Ex. Doc. No. 2, p. 30.

25

San Diego Union, May 25, 1898 5:2-3.

26

NARG77, F24B, #1.

CHAPTER FOUR NOTES cont.

27

San Diego Union, June 1, 1898 5:2.

28

Serial No. 3905, House Ex. Doc. No. 2, 56th Cong., 1st Sess., p. 35.

29

Serial No. 3899, House Ex. Doc. No. 2, 56th Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 976-977.

30

San Diego Union, August 19, 1898 5:3.

31

Serial No. 3899, House Ex. Doc. No. 2, pp. 976-977

32

San Diego Union, May 6, 1898 5:2.

33

San Diego Union, June 4, 1898 5:2.

34

San Diego Union, April 19, 1898 5:2.

35

San Diego Union, June 21, 1898 5:4.

36

Post Returns San Diego Barracks, July 1898.

37

San Diego Union, September 2, 1898 5:1.

38

Post Returns San Diego Barracks, July 1898.

39

Serial No. 4089, House Ex. Doc., 2, 56th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 978.

40

San Diego Union, September 21, 1898 5:4.

CHAPTER FOUR NOTES cont.

- 41
San Diego Union, September 23, 1898 3:2.
- 42
Serial No. 3905, House Ex. Doc., 2, 56th Cong., 1st Sess.,
p. 978.
- 43
A rapid-fire gun, a single-barrel breech-loading gun with
facilities for loading, aiming, and firing with great speed.
- 44
NARG77, Letter to the Chief of Engineers, March 27, 1899
#28665/2.
- 45
San Diego Union, February 15, 1899 5:2.
- 46
NARG77, Letter to the Chief of Engineers, March 27, 1899
#28665/2.
- 47
Serial No. 3905, House Ex. Doc., 2, pp. 978-979.
- 48
American Military History, pp. 319-339.
- 49
San Diego Union, February 15, 1899 5:2.
- 50
Guy T. Scott was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy from
West Virginia in 1888. He received a commission in the
Artillery as a 2/Lt on July 9, 1898.
- 51
Post Returns San Diego Barracks, March 1899.
- 52
San Diego Union, February 21, 1899 5:2.
- 53
San Diego Union, March 3, 1899 5:4.

CHAPTER FOUR NOTES cont.

54

San Diego Union, April 9, 1899 5:1.

55

San Diego Union, March 3, 1899 5:4.

56

San Diego Union, April 9, 1899 5:1.

57

San Diego Union, June 13, 1899 5:1.

58

San Diego Union, June 13, 1899 5:1.

59

Henry R. Clark was born in Wisconsin. He graduated 25th in the class of 1899 from the U.S. Military Academy, accepting a commission in the Artillery.

60

Post Returns San Diego Barracks, June 1899. Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, joined end to end, extend from the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley to the crest of the High Sierra. On arrival, the detachment guarded General Grant (now Kings Canyon) and Sequoia Parks from illegal cattle and sheep grazing.

61

San Diego Union, June 17, 1899 5:2.

62

Serial No. 3899, House Ex. Doc. 2, pp. 974-980.

63

NARG77, Office of the Chief of Engineers, General Correspondence, 1894-1923 #27718.

Chapter 5

ROUTINE SOLDIERING

The United States, with the Philippines on its hands, became a colonial power in the Far East that showed an increased interest in developments taking place on the Asian mainland. The continued exploitation of China by foreigners aroused a fanatical group of young Chinese called the "Boxers," who initiated a campaign of terror to rid China of foreigners and their influence. After a widespread rampage of killing and pillaging, the conflict centered on the foreign legation area of Peking, whose residents pleaded for help.¹ Their pleas helped reduce Fort Rosecrans garrison to a corporal's guard before the end of the year.

General Order No. 134 from the Headquarters of the Army, dated July 22, 1899, named the military reservation on Point Loma as Fort Rosecrans, in honor of Major General William S. Rosecrans, U.S. Volunteers, Brigadier-General U.S. Army (Figure 3).²

Hints for the future of Battery "D" and San Diego began to occur in November. A telegram from the War Department authorized the Commanding Officer to recruit "desirable white applicants" for service in the Philippines.³ Three weeks

prior, the War Department stopped all enlistments.⁴ Next, the entire Third Artillery Regiment received orders to recruit to full strength.⁵ By the end of the month, Battery "D" needed six men to reach its authorized strength of 196.⁶

Although ready during the war with Spain, the three 10-inch guns had not been fired. The arrival of Captain Charles H. Clark,⁷ the ordnance officer in charge of testing guns on the Pacific coast, would change that.⁸ His appearance ended the soldier's concern that they would not be the first to fire the guns. With so much time and effort invested in mounting and training on the guns, the men believed the privilege of the first firing belonged to them. Clark spent three days inspecting every bolt, chain, bar, and cog of the guns and carriages. Three shots would be fired, one from each rifle. Each 10-inch projectile weighed 575 pounds and required 274 pounds of powder for each firing. Each shot cost \$150.⁹

Eager to test his men, Captain Humphreys placed a six foot triangular target 7,100 yards from the guns. Lacking a proper range finder, the artillerymen used an emergency affair built during the last war. Despite this handicap the men believed they could score a hit.¹⁰

At 1:05 p.m. a soldier at the fort raised the red flag signaling to the crowds bobbing about in launches and gathered at the Hotel del Coronado, that the firing of the guns would

soon begin.

At 1:23 p.m. the spectators across the narrow channel of the bay saw a red tongue of flame issue from the muzzle of the gun, followed by a giant puff of white smoke, which curled swiftly toward the ground. Then Point Loma's sides shook with the thunder of the explosion, which reverberated along the mountain and out across the harbor entrance.¹¹

Predictions by a few San Diegans, that the firing of the guns would damage property in the city did not occur. The only casualty of the firing, an old blacksmith shack in front of the battery, fell victim to the concussion of the guns.

The first test shot went over the target, the second a little to the left, and the third fell a short distance to the right. As expected, the artilleryman experienced difficulty with the range finder. The men seemed satisfied, however, and Captain Humphreys declared the test satisfactory in every way.¹²

Beginning in January 1900 orders to transfer arrived in San Diego with regularity.¹³ By May only 66 artillerymen remained in San Diego. The garrison at Fort Rosecrans now numbered 28 men.¹⁴

For months rumors concerning the transfer of Battery "D" circulated in San Diego. The rumors increased with the number of troops being transferred. On July 17 the rumors ended, when the unit received orders for the Orient. From the nature

of the orders it could not be determined whether the duty would be in China or the Philippines.¹⁵ The news resulted in a rush to the altar for several San Diego girls.¹⁶ Later one of the newlyweds, a Private Braine who had married the daughter of an ex-policeman, extended his honeymoon by deserting.¹⁷

San Diego's new defenders arrived on July 21. 1/Lt John P. Hains,¹⁸ an Artillery officer, with a detachment of 35 men relieved Battery "D".¹⁹ In fact, two detachments arrived, one infantry and one artillery. The 12 artillerymen of Light Battery "C", 3d Artillery appeared hardy and healthy. The 23 infantrymen, members of Company "B", 18th Infantry, dressed in khaki uniforms "showed signs of active service." They had returned to the United States the previous week from 25 months service in the Philippines. Some of the men showed the effects of the duty "in pale, yellow faces and apparently weak constitutions."²⁰

The men of Battery "D" made their farewells to the large crowd gathered at the depot, and left on the morning train for San Francisco on July 25.²¹ The defense of San Diego now rested with the 12 light artillerymen and the convalescent infantrymen who had arrived without weapons. Battery "D" had departed with all of the pistols, rifles, and ammunition.²²

1/Lt Hains with a squad of men finished mounting the 5-inch

guns during the first week of October 1900.²³ The Engineers turned the emplacement over to the artillery on November 17.²⁴

The effects of San Diego's "salubrious" climate on the convalescents who "relieved" Battery "D" helped the city achieve a reputation as a good place to recuperate. By February, all of these men had recovered and left for the north. Another group of convalescents replaced them.²⁵ Also, rifles and ammunition arrived to replace the ones taken by Battery "D".²⁶ In the following months, many convalescents came and went. By June,¹⁹⁰¹ the 87 men on detached service at San Diego Barracks and Fort Rosecrans represented 49 different Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry, and Engineering Units.²⁷

The arrival of 73 members of the 30th Company Coast
28
Artillery in San Diego on July 24, 1901 ended the city's dependence on soldiers regaining their health for protection. A local newspaper noted with a degree of relief that "the members are all strong and healthy men, with no convalescents in the lot."²⁹ By the end of the month, all of the recuperating soldiers had regained their health and received transfers to other units.³⁰

The 30th Company lost no time in establishing themselves in San Diego. On August 8 the men displayed their skills before a thrilled crowd of 2,000 at the Tent City³¹ on Coronado. The demonstration included calisthenics, bayonet drills, and a mock attack on a fortified position. The men and their

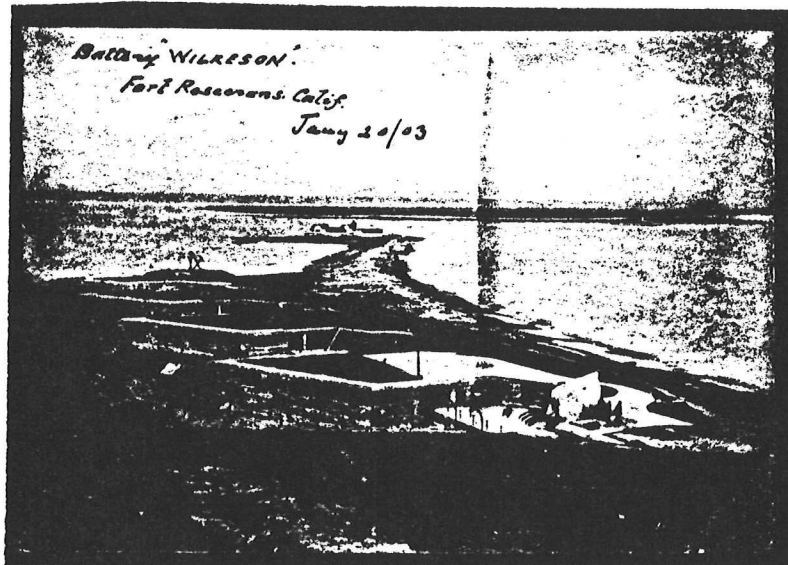
Commander received much favorable comment.³²

New recruits continued to arrive in San Diego during August. On the 25th of August, the 30th Company met for retreat as a company of 175 men for the last time. Orders had split the unit into the 30th and 115th Companies Coast Artillery.³³ The reorganization presented many problems. The morning newspaper reported on one of the problems, "a dearth of officers" for the companies. The two companies had but two officers, 2/Lt Gilbert A. Youngberg³⁴ and Captain Edwin T. Cole,³⁵ who held a commission in the Infantry. Normally, each company had three officers.³⁶

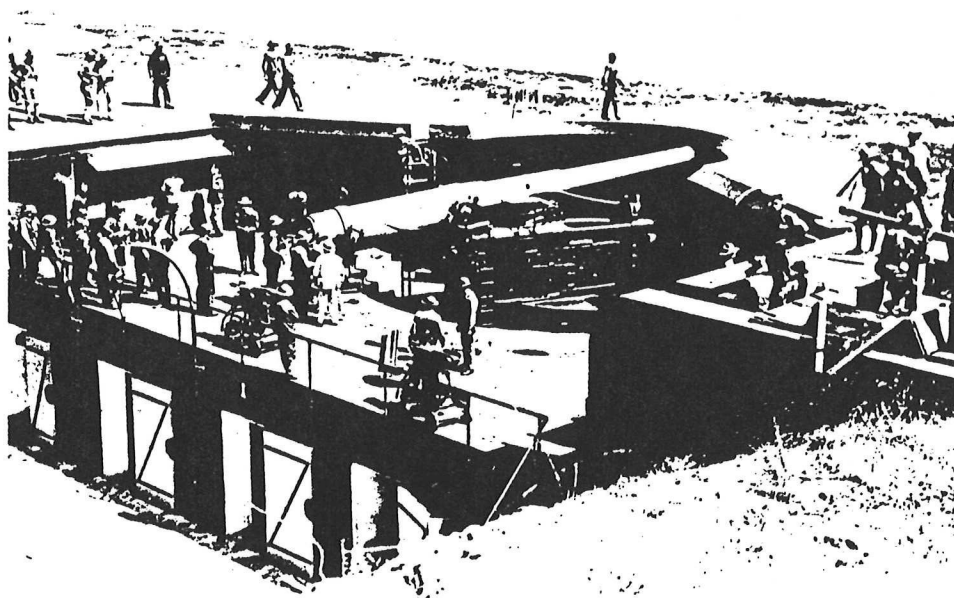
The new arrivals meant that at the end of August, Fort Rosecrans had 7 sergeants, 10 corporals, 2 musicians, 2 mechanics, 2 cooks, and 95 privates on duty.³⁷ The facilities at the fort left much to be desired. Major A.W. Vogdes,³⁸ the commanding officer, in a report to the Quartermaster noted that the "buildings at Fort Rosecrans were constructed in the summer of 1898 to temporarily shelter the troops stationed there. They are mere shells of buildings and very unsatisfactory in every respect. At present there are absolutely no proper accommodations at the point for officers, men, or stores."³⁹

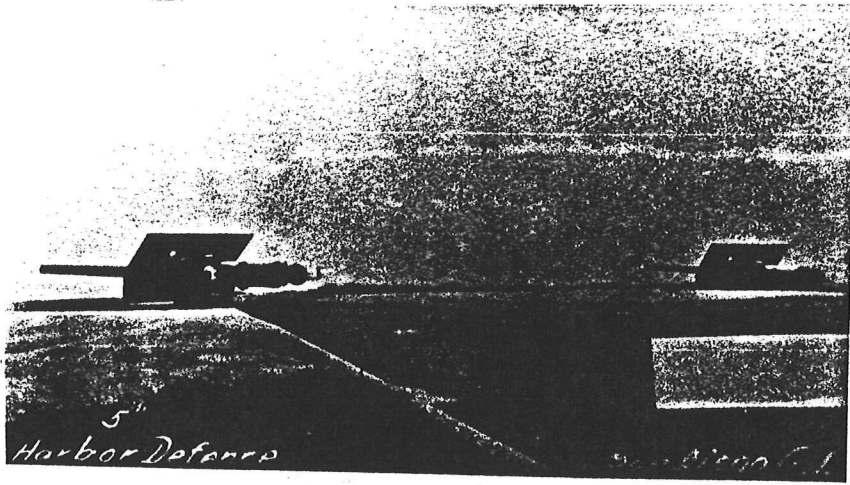
New recruits continued to arrive in San Diego. By September both companies exceeded their authorized strength

*Aug 25,
1901
30th +
115th*



NO 1 GUN BATTARY WILKESON IN LOADING POSITION.

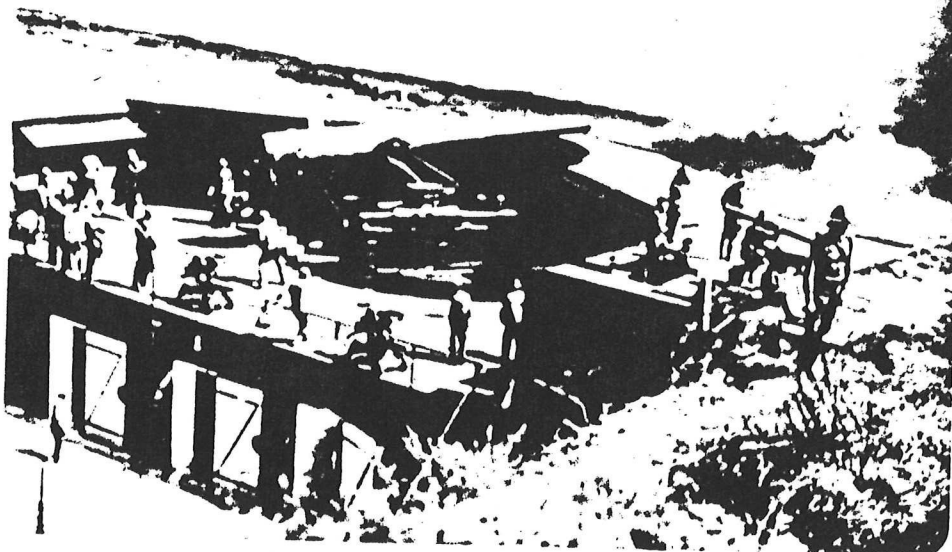




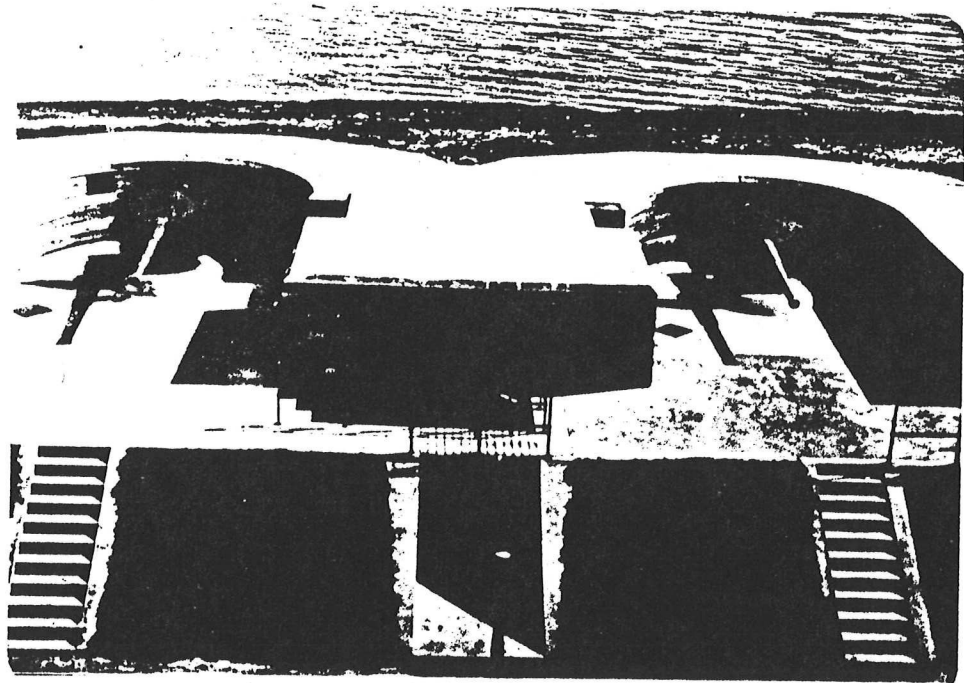
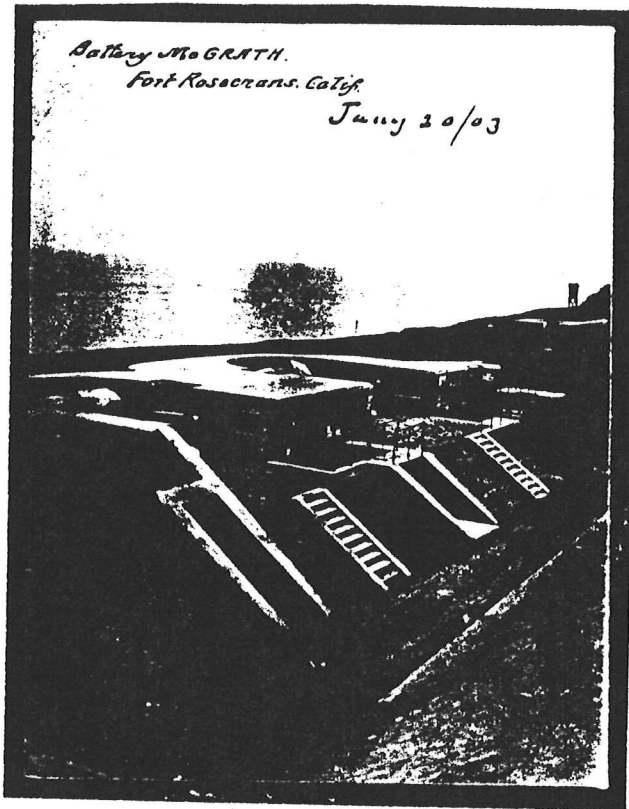
5"
Harbor Defense

#1 gun Battery Wilhelm Biers

BATTERY FETTERMAN



BOTTERS McGRATH



3.

of 109 men. A good many of the recruits had come from Texas. As a "general thing" the officers considered them a good class of soldiers.⁴⁰ The men continued to undergo rigorous training on the guns. The results of that training would be tested in January.⁴¹ After the target practice, examinations for gunners would be given, with promotion and increased pay the reward. Several appointments would be made immediately as not one first class or second class gunner could be numbered in either company.⁴² The day before Christmas 1898 before an enthusiastic holiday crowd, the artillerymen passed a different test with a 6-0 victory over the local Navy football team.⁴³

When two military engineers stepped off the train in February, a flurry of rumors concerning the Army's future plans for Fort Rosecrans moved about San Diego. The engineers requested that the meetings with the city officials be held in secret, and that caused a high degree of speculation. The engineers, however, admitted to the possibility of extensive projects for Fort Rosecrans. The economic impact of this work on the city would be tremendous. Later, word leaked out that extensive developments would go forward if the city consented to build a water main to the military reservation.⁴⁴

The day after the city agreed to build the 23,688 foot water main,⁴⁵ the Chief Quartermaster of California arrived

in San Diego. He announced the Army's plan to station four companies of artillery at Fort Rosecrans, and that preparations to build a suitable number of structures would move ahead promptly.⁴⁶

General Order No. 16, dated February 14, 1902, named the Fort Rosecrans artillery batteries, the 10-inch battery honoring 1/Lt Bayard Wileson, 4th U.S. Artillery, killed in the battle of Gettysbury, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 1863 (Figures 4, 5 and 6). The 3-inch battery bore the name of 2/Lt George Fetterman, 3rd U.S. Artillery, who died on June 27, 1844 (Figure 7). The 5-inch battery honored Hugh J. McGrath, 4th U.S. Cavalry, who died on November 7, 1899, of wounds received in action at Noveleta, Luzon, Philippine Islands, on October 8, 1899 (Figures 8 and 9).⁴⁷

Work on the development of Fort Rosecrans moved ahead. In March, the engineers started locating the building sites, and Major Vogdes received an appropriation of \$4,000 for the fort's water system.⁴⁸ A contract for an ordnance repair shop received approval in May,⁴⁹ and in June, the ground plans for the new buildings arrived.⁵⁰

With money available, and the end of the fiscal year approaching, the usual delay in awarding construction contracts did not apply to Fort Rosecrans.⁵¹ Contracts awarded to local companies for \$22,000 worth of grading received approval in

record time. The contracts called for the grading of all building sites and post roads.⁵² In order to make one contract valid, the contractor had to have "the dirt flying within the next ten days."⁵³

On June 29, 1902, Major R.H. Rolfe,⁵⁴ Corps of Engineers, arrived to take charge of all construction at Fort Rosecrans. He announced that 29 buildings, sufficient for a two company post of 275 men, would be built. The structures would be arranged to provide for later expansion to a four company post. The buildings to be built included two barracks for the men, quarters for the officers, a hospital, a guardhouse, quarters for the non-commissioned staff of officers, stables, quartermaster and commissary store houses, an ordnance repair shop, bakery, and a blacksmith and saddle shop. Rolfe estimated the work would take three years to complete. The cost would depend on the price of the contracts.⁵⁵

While testing a new 5-inch gun of Battery McGrath, a defective shell exploded about 100 yards from the gun over a flock of ducks floating in the bay. Duck season had opened spectacularly at Fort Rosecrans. "When the smoke had cleared, a number of ducks were seen floating on the top of the water." Not to miss an opportunity, one of the soldiers went out in a boat and gathered up 14 of the birds for the next day's meal.⁵⁶ Two months later the artillery officers made an important

discovery--"the field of fire of Battery McGrath...is not all visible from the Observing Station for the battery."⁵⁷

A delay by Major Rolfe in letting a contract for the removal of some old buildings, and a shortage of laborers hindered the progress of the grading at the fort. By the middle of October, 54 men using 75 horses and mules labored to grade the site. The contractor would liked to have hired more men, but he could not find willing workers.⁵⁸

With the completion of the grading contract, Rolfe advertised for bids on the construction of 14 buildings.⁵⁹ Contractors from San Francisco, Los Angeles, and local hopefuls attended the opening of the bids on December 6.⁶⁰ On December 29, Rolfe received orders from Washington to let the contracts. Two San Diego firms won the contracts. Solon Bryan won the bid for ten of the 14 buildings, and Charles Engebretson got the other four. Bryan's contracts totaled \$91,553. and Engebretson's equalled \$13,002.10.⁶¹ Other bids for plumbing, heating, and electrical work would not be opened until February 1903, due to the government's dissatisfaction with ones previously submitted.⁶²

In March 1903, the Schaniel Brothers of San Diego won the construction contract for the Post Hospital with a bid of \$22,000.⁶³ The government also accepted bids for wiring and plumbing the 14 buildings.⁶⁴ In the months ahead, contracts

for a water system and power house received approval.⁶⁵

On June 19, 1903 Fort Rosecrans gunners set a standard of excellence to be followed by Fort Rosecrans gunners for years. The practice established a record for the Pacific Coast. Battery Wilkeson, the 10-inch battery, fired 10 shots, two pierced the target, and the other eight scored as hits. Battery McGrath with the 5-inch guns and Battery Fetterman with its 3-inch guns fired 17 shots, two of the shots passed through the target and 15 scored as hits.⁶⁶

To keep the troops physically fit, all commands received orders to hold monthly field days. The first field day held during June, 1903 found neither company particularly prepared. The events included the 100 yard dash, high jump, pole vault, potato race, shot put, hammer, and a relay race. The 30th Company took most of the events against the 115th Company.⁶⁷ In July, the addition of new events--a basketball game, swimming, sack, and barge races with cash prizes did not help the 115th Company as the 30th again carried the day.⁶⁸

The popularity of Point Loma with visitors caused considerable consternation at the fort, when a group of careless tourists started a brush fire. The fire which threatened the post buildings and construction supplies, took the soldiers two days to control. Tour operators received a warning that the reservation would be closed to them if greater care were

not exercised.⁶⁹

With the organization of Fort Rosecrans as a separate post from San Diego Barracks on July 31, 1903, both Artillery companies expected orders permanently stationing them at Fort Rosecrans.⁷⁰ Up to this time, Fort Rosecrans had been a sub-post of San Diego Barracks. Usually, on the first of the month the two companies would exchange stations. One company would be posted to Fort Rosecrans and the other to San Diego Barracks. "Most of the men of each company welcomed the change," as they became tired now and then of the same round of duties, and preferred variations.⁷¹

The order stationing the two companies at Fort Rosecrans finally arrived. Both companies immediately moved to obey the order. With construction still in progress on the fort's second barracks, one of the companies had to billet in tents. The 30th Company, which had occupied the barracks at the fort, moved into tents on August 5. The next day, the 115th moved from San Diego Barracks to the barracks at Fort Rosecrans.⁷² Rumors had it that a company of Infantry would occupy the San Diego Barracks.⁷³

Major Robert H. Patterson,⁷⁴ who succeeded Colonel A.W. Vodges, arrived September 30th to take command of the Artillery District of San Diego, which included Fort Rosecrans and San Diego Barracks.⁷⁵ He did not stay long.

June 1904 proved to be a disruptive month for the fort. The Army transferred Colonel Patterson, abolished the Artillery District of San Diego, moved the 30th Company to Fort Worden, Washington, and ordered Captain Adrian S. Fleming⁷⁶ and 1/Lt John J. McBride⁷⁷ to forts in the east. These departures left three officers at the post,⁷⁸ 1/Lt Lewis S. Ryan,⁷⁹ 2/Lt Charles J. Ferris,⁸⁰ and the Post Surgeon, Major William L. Kneedler.⁸¹ On July 14, Lt Ryan assumed command of the post⁸³ and the 115th Company.⁸² Captain Ernest D. Scott arrived in August to take command of the fort.⁸⁴

By the end of 1904, all the construction contracts at the fort had been completed and the buildings occupied by the garrison. A total of \$235,000 had been spent in constructing roads and buildings (Figures 10, 11 and 12).⁸⁵

Two fort Rosecrans officers would play prominent roles in an approaching naval disaster. Major Rolfe, returning by launch to the fort, witnessed the explosion of the U.S.S. Bennington (Figure 13).⁸⁶ "The whole deck seemed to lift and an enormous cloud of steam continued to ascend into the air, as numbers of the crew jumped or were blown overboard." He immediately made for the stricken ship, giving every assistance during the entire morning.⁸⁷

The Fort Rosecrans Post Surgeon, Major Kneedler, the first medical man to board the stricken ship, provided immediate aid

and later assisted in moving the injured sailors to a temporary hospital set up at San Diego Barracks.⁸⁸ Major Kneedler and the medical attendants from Fort Rosecrans remained at the barracks six days until relieved by a medical detachment sent to San Diego from the Presidio of San Francisco. On July 23, with sailors and soldiers present, 47 of the U.S.S. Bennington's sailors received a military funeral and burial in a mass grave at the Fort Rosecrans Post Cemetery (Figure 14). Two days later, two more sailors joined their shipmates in the grave.⁸⁹

The welcomed arrival of 63 men and two officers of the 28th Coast Artillery Company⁹⁰ on July 25 returned Fort Rosecrans to a two company post.⁹¹ The new arrivals had spent the previous year and a half in Hawaii.⁹² For some time San Diegans had known of the Army's plan to abandon the coast artillery station in Hawaii, and to transfer Lieutenant Colonel⁹³ John McClellan and the 28th Company to Fort Rosecrans.⁹⁴

As part of their training, the command camped at the batteries from September 11 to September 16, making excellent records for themselves. Everyday unexpected calls came to repel mock attacks from hostile fleets. The men decreased the time of response on hearing the alarm to firing, from one minute and a quarter to 25 seconds. One other drill required the men to repel a land attack with infantry tactics, then

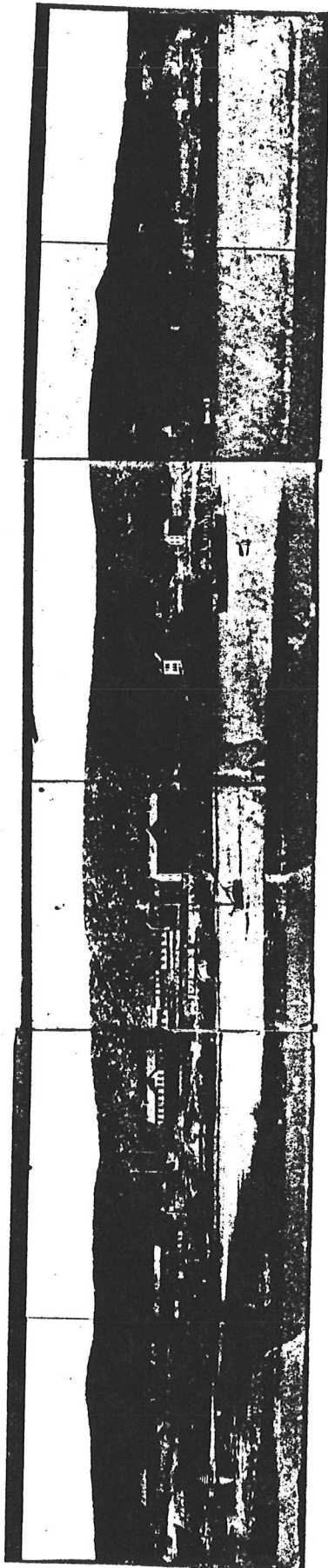
return to the guns to repel a water attack. Target practice continued through the week with impressive results. But they would not match the target practice on the 27th, when gunners of the 115th Company, Lt. Ferris commanding, continued the fort's reputation for "hitting the target," and set a new record that would stand for some time. Firing eight shots with the 10-inch disappearing guns, the artillerymen scored eight hits.⁹⁵

Great anticipation greeted the arrival in San Diego of the Taft Board.⁹⁶ People assumed the Board would recognize the importance of the city and recommend additional military for San Diego. The Board's "short" visit disappointed the city. When questioned by a reporter, the senior member of the committee, Major General John P. Story,⁹⁷ U.S.A. retired, replied: "Fortification at the station will be increased as the commercial consequence of this city's growth. That is the gauge that has been set, and as San Diego increases in population and business, the fortifications will be enlarged and the military station advanced in grade."⁹⁸ Later, the Taft Board dropped all plans for additional heavy armament for San Diego.⁹⁹

The joint Army and Militia coast defense exercises from July 5 to July 17, 1907 attracted national and international interest. On July 12, for the second time in weeks, the

soldiers caught a Japanese citizen sketching the Fort Rosecrans fortifications. Two weeks prior the soldiers had caught another Japanese sketching the fort from a rowboat opposite the reservation, who claimed to be a tourist sketching for pleasure. The former man, caught sketching from the top of Point Loma, had been employed for several months as a cook for the fort. A search of his quarters turned up plans of the fort he had made, plus several books on engineering. Interestingly enough, at that time no law existed which provided for the punishment of those caught making plans of military installations.¹⁰⁰ Years earlier, in 1899, a Japanese cruiser had requested permission to land troops in San Diego for drill. The Army vigorously opposed that request.¹⁰¹

Optimism opened the year 1908 in San Diego as the people looked forward to the completion of the city's scheme of defense. This meant that Fort Rosecrans would be expanded to a four company post,¹⁰² providing additional economic benefits to the city. Upon assuming command of the fort, Major George Gatchell¹⁰³ immediately recognized the deficiencies in San Diego's fortifications and recommended to the Chief of Engineers that two 14-inch or 12-inch guns and 12 mortars be emplaced to defend the city. The Chief of Engineers approved



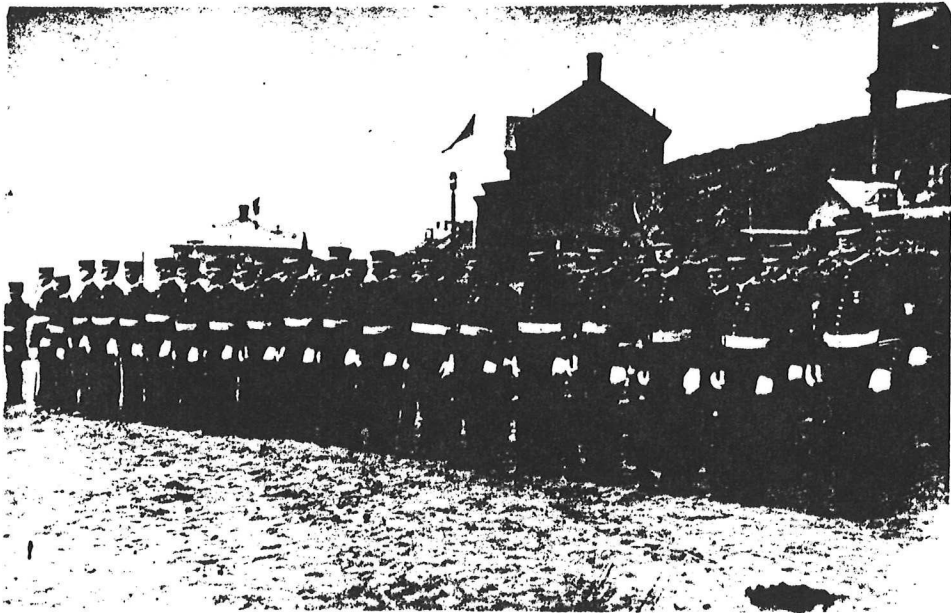
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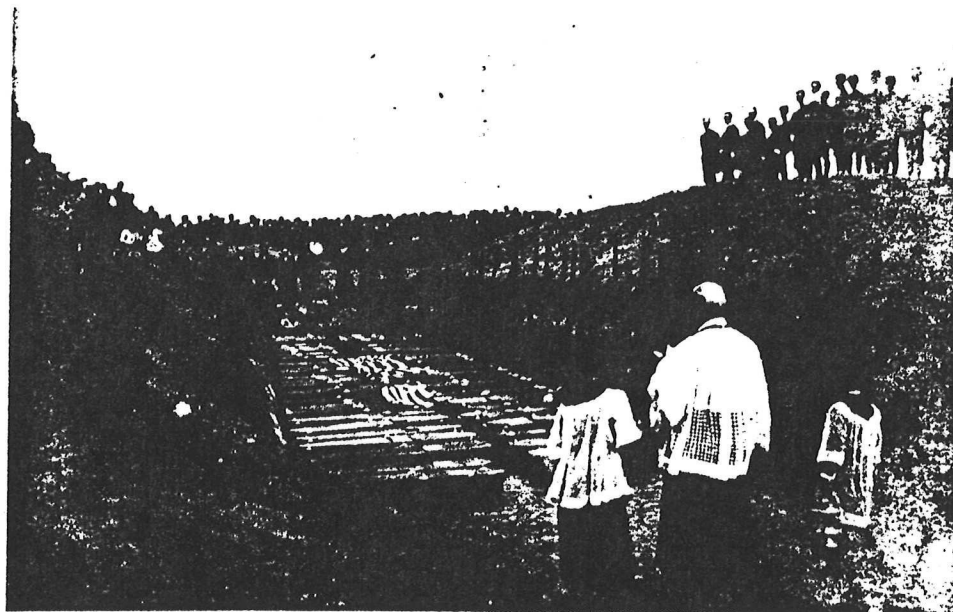
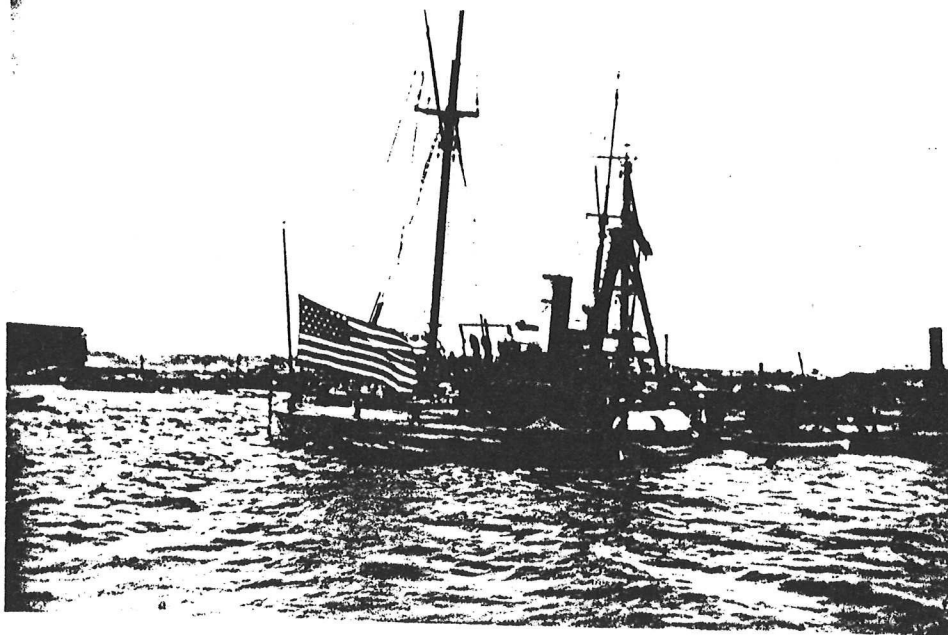


115TH
PLAYING CARDS

1904-05 115TH Co.



BENNY'S TOW



his proposal, however, it would be up to Congress to approve the funds.¹⁰⁴

To secure the necessary appropriations to improve San Diego's defense, Major Gatchell joined with the Chamber of Commerce to solicit Congressional help. Appearing before the Executive Committee of the Chamber, Gatchell asked their help in "securing the passage of certain measures now before Congress in bills which pertain particularly to Fort Rosecrans."¹⁰⁵ As a result of the meeting, the Chamber sent a resolution to California's delegates in Washington urging them to "use every possible endeavor to secure the passage" of the bills.¹⁰⁶

The Chamber of Commerce and Major Gatchell's hopes for a large defense appropriation for the city did not materialize. A May 27¹⁰⁷ appropriation provided only for the construction of a Post Exchange building, which included a gymnasium and bowling alleys, two double sets of non-commissioned officers' quarters, and the moving of the stables located next to the non-commissioned officers' quarters.¹⁰⁸ The latter received the lasting appreciation of the residents. The year also saw limited improvements made in the defenses of the fort. These included construction of a cable tank for the submarine mines, and the start of the installation of two 60-inch searchlights. One soldier when speaking of the searchlights claimed that

"when standing within their ray at a distance of five miles they are so powerful that it is possible to read a newspaper."¹⁰⁹ Also, the installation of additional fire control equipment and position finding systems increased the efficiency of the gun defense.¹¹⁰

The efficiency of the batteries had increased to such a degree that Major General Thomas H. Barry,¹¹¹ Commander of the Department of California, reported the results of the fort's target practice in his Annual Report to the Secretary of War. He stated that: "The practice of the one hundred and fifteenth Company and the twenty-eight Company at San Diego, were remarkable."¹¹²

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES

1

American Military History, pp. 339-342.

2

General Orders No. 134, Headquarters of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, July 22, 1899.

3

Post Returns San Diego Barracks and Fort Rosecrans
November, 1899.

4

Post Returns San Diego Barracks and Fort Rosecrans
October, 1899.

5

San Diego Union, November 22, 1899 5:2.

6

Post Returns San Diego Barracks and Fort Rosecrans
November, 1899.

7

Captain Charles H. Clark was born in Massachusetts. Clark graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1875 with a commission in the Artillery. Later he transferred to Ordnance.

8

San Diego Union, November 21, 1899 5:2.

9

San Diego Union, November 22, 1899 5:2.

10

San Diego Union, November 22, 1899 5:2.

11

San Diego Union, November 23, 1899 6: 1-2.

12

San Diego Union, November 23, 1899 6: 1-2.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

- 13
Post Returns San Diego Barracks January, 1900.
- 14
San Diego Union, May 4, 1900 5:5.
- 15
San Diego Union, July 18, 1900 6: 1-2.
- 16
San Diego Union, July 23, 1900 8:1.
- 17
San Diego Union, August 1, 1900 5:3.
- 18
John P. Hains, the son of Major General Peter Conover Hains, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1889, receiving a commission in the Artillery. Hains saw action in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippine Insurrection. He was awarded the Silver Star for being wounded at Aibonito, Puerto Rico. During World War I he served with the A.E.F. in Europe. He retired with the rank of Colonel.
- 19
Post Returns San Diego Barracks July, 1900.
- 20
San Diego Union, July 22, 1900 5:3.
- 21
San Diego Union, July 25, 1900 5:2.
- 22
San Diego Union, February 5, 1901 4:5.
- 23
San Diego Union, September 27, 1900 5:2.
- 24
NARG77, Letter # 27718/8.
- 25
San Diego Union, February 1, 1901 5:3.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

26

San Diego Union, February 5, 1901 4:5.

27

Post Returns San Diego Barracks June, 1901.

28

The 30th Company, originally Battery "H", 3rd Artillery, had a distinguished history. The unit served in the Indian Wars of Florida, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War in the Philippines, and the Philippine Insurrection.

29

San Diego Union, July 25, 1901 8:2-3.

30

Post Returns San Diego Barracks July, 1901

31

Each summer several hundred tents and palm leaf cottages were erected on the narrow peninsula east of the Hotel del Coronado, called "Tent city."

32

San Diego Union, August 9, 1901 8:1.

33

Post Returns San Diego Barracks August, 1901.

34

2/Lt Gilbert A. Youngberg, on graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1900, received a commission in the Artillery. He transferred to the Engineers in February, 1901, and advanced through all grades to Brigadier General in 1940. He served in the A.E.F. from 1917-19. Youngberg was awarded the U.S. Army's Distinguished Service Medal, the Companion of Distinguished Service Order (Great Britain), Officer of the Legion of Honor (France), Officer of the Order of Saints Mauriscio and Lazaro (Italy). He was a published author.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

35

Edwin T. Cole graduated from West Point in 1889, when he was posted to frontier duty until 1894. He saw action in Cuba, and the Philippine Insurrection as a Major in the U.S. Volunteers. He retired with a rank of Colonel in the Artillery.

36

San Diego Union, August 29, 1901 5:4.

37

Post Returns San Diego Barracks August, 1901.

38

Anthony Wayne Vogdes, a descendant of Revolutionary War hero General Anthony Wayne, and the son of General Israel Vodges, was born at West Point on April 23, 1843, and graduated from the Sanders Institute. He served in the Infantry during the Civil War at Fort Sumter, Richmond, Petersburg, and Appomattox. During 1867-68 he was engaged in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. In the war with Spain he served in Puerto Rico. Vogdes was a published author of books and bulls on geology, geography, and paleontology. He possessed a personal library of 30,000 books, pamphlets, and papers. While in command of the Artillery District of San Diego, all troops were required to read. He was very popular with the people of San Diego, where he retired with the rank of Brigadier General in 1904.

39

Serial No. 4379, House Ex. Doc. 618, 57th Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 100-101.

40

San Diego Union, September 15, 1901 4:2.

41

San Diego Union, January 7, 1902 6:5.

42

San Diego Union, December 20, 1901 4:2.

43

San Diego Union, December 25, 1901 8:23.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

44

San Diego Union, February 5, 1902 5:4.

45

San Diego Union, February 9, 1902 9:1.

46

San Diego Union, February 6, 1902 6:4.

47

General Order No. 16, Headquarters of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C., February 14, 1902.

48

San Diego Union, March 18, 1902 5:3.

49

San Diego Union, May 27, 1902 4:3.

50

San Diego Union, June 21, 1902 4:3.

51

San Diego Union, June 21, 1902 4:3.

52

San Diego Union, June 13, 1902 4:3.

53

San Diego Union, June 21, 1902 4:3.

54

Robert Henry Rolfe was born in New Hampshire, where he held the rank of Colonel in the New Hampshire Infantry. During the Spanish-American War, he accepted a Major's commission in the Volunteers. After the war, Rolfe transferred to the Regular Army as a Captain in the Quartermaster Corps.

55

San Diego Union, June 30, 1902 5:4.

56

San Diego Union, October 2, 1902 8:3.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

57

NARG77 #27718/15, Letter to Chief of Engineers.

58

San Diego Union, October 15, 1902 4:3-4.

59

San Diego Union, November 7, 1902 4:1.

60

San Diego Union, December 7, 1902 2:3.

61

San Diego Union, December 30, 1902 4:3.

62

San Diego Union, February 10, 1903 6:4.

63

San Diego Union, March 1, 1903 5:1.

64

San Diego Union, June 11, 1903 3:2.

65

San Diego Union, June 14, 1903 3:1.

66

San Diego Union, June 30, 1903 4:3.

67

San Diego Union, June 30, 1903 5:4.

68

San Diego Union, July 24, 1903 6:4.

69

San Diego Union, July 22, 1903 5:5.

70

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans August, 1903.

71

San Diego Union, May 1, 1902 7:2.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

72

San Diego Union, August 6, 1903 5:5.

73

San Diego Union, August 7, 1903 8:2.

74

Major Robert H. Patterson was born in Washington, D.C. He received his commission in the Artillery on September 23, 1867.

75

San Diego Union, October 1, 1903 5:3, and Post Returns Fort Rosecrans October, 1903.

76

Adrian Sebastian Fleming, born in Midway, Kentucky, graduated from West Point in 1895 as a 2/Lt in the Artillery. He advanced through the grades to Brigadier General in April, 1918. During his career he participated in the Philippine Insurrection, where he was cited for gallantry. In World War I, Fleming saw action in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. He was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaves, and the Legion of Honor (France).

77

Lieutenant John McBride Jr. was appointed a 2/Lt with the 32d Michigan Infantry on April 26, 1898. He transferred to the Artillery on July 1, 1901.

78

San Diego Union, May 26, 1904 3:1-2; San Diego Sun June 27, 1904 8:3; and Post Returns Fort Rosecrans June, 1904.

79

1/Lt Lewis S. Ryan, born in Iowa, enlisted with the 1st Nebraska Infantry as a private in May 1898. He mustered out of the 45th U.S. Volunteers as a 1/Lt, transferring to the Artillery as a 2/Lt in July, 1901.

80

2/Lt Charles Jones Ferris was born in Washington, D.C. He joined the Army Engineers on June, 1898, then he joined the Volunteers, finally he transferred to the Artillery as a 2/Lt on August, 1901.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

- 81
William Ludwig Kneedler was born in Pennsylvania. He was appointed Assistant Surgeon December 3, 1883. After serving in the Volunteers, Kneedler accepted a commission as Major in Regular Army.
- 82
Post Returns Fort Rosecrans July, 1904.
- 83
Captain Scott was born in Canada on September 6, 1872. He moved to Nebraska in 1884 where he later attended the University of Nebraska for two years before entering the U.S. Military Academy. After graduating with the class of 1898, he was promoted through the grades to Brigadier General before retiring in 1936. Scott served in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection. During World War I, he participated in the Einville sector, Toul sector, Marne defensive, Marne offensive, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives, receiving the Distinguished Service Medal and 3 Silver Star citations.
- 84
Post Returns Fort Rosecrans August, 1904.
- 85
San Diego Union, January 1, 1905 13:1-3.
- 86
The U.S.S. Bennington, a 250 gunboat, was built at Chester, Pennsylvania in 1888. She displaced 1710 tons and had a speed of 17 1/2 knots. She carried a crew of 280. A faulty boiler caused the explosion. For more information see Broeck Newton Oder, "The U.S.S. Bennington: Policy or Personnel?" Master's Thesis, University of San Diego, 1975.
- 87
San Diego Sun, July 21, 1905 1:4.
- 88
San Diego Sun, July 22, 1905 1:3; San Diego Union July 22, 1905 1:5.
- 89
Fort Rosecrans Post Returns July, 1905.

Chapter Five Notes cont.

90

The 28th Company, formerly Battery "E", 3d Artillery was engaged in the first battle of the Mexican War. It was then made a mounted battery with a trio of officers who would gain fame in the Civil War: Captain Braxton Bragg, and Lieutenants George H. Thomas and John F. Reynolds. Bragg was the victor of Dhickamauga, and Thomas earned his title "Rock of Chickamauga." Thomas was the victor at Nashville, and Reynolds the hero of Gettysburg. This battery also saw action in the Civil War. It arrived in San Francisco on October 22, 1896, occupying various stations until it sailed for Camp McKinley, Honolulu, April 30, 1904.

91

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans July, 1905.

92

San Diego Sun, July 25, 1905 4:3-4.

93

John McClellan graduated from West Point in 1867 with a commission in the Artillery. He served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. McClellan retired with a rank of Brigadier General in 1906 to San Diego, California.

94

San Diego Union, July 8, 1905 5:3.

95

San Diego Union, September 28, 1905 6:1-5.

96

President Theodore Roosevelt appointed the Taft Board to revise the Endicott's Board's 19 year old harbor defense report. The Board, named after the Secretary of War William H. Taft also included the Army's Chief of Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff, Chief Signal Officer, Chief of Ordnance, Chief of Artillery, Chief of Engineers, two naval Officers, and a secretary.

97

Major General John P. Story was commissioned a 1/Lt in the Infantry on graduation from West Point in 1865. Later, he transferred to the Artillery advancing through the grades to become Chief of the Artillery Corps.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

98

San Diego Sun, September 23, 1905 1:3-4 and San Diego Union, September 24, 1905 6:1.

99

NARG77 #94321 (Office of Chief of Engineers) Notes as to San Diego Defense Project 1916.

100

San Francisco Chronicle, July 13, 1907 1:7.

101

Post Returns San Diego Barracks June, 1899.

102

San Diego Union, January 1, 1908 44:1-2.

103

Major George Washington Gatchell was born on February 22, 1865. Upon graduation from West Point in 1887, he accepted a commission in the Artillery. Gatchell participated in the 1890-91 campaign against the Sioux, saw action in the war with Spain, and attained the rank of Brigadier General while serving in France during World War I.

104

NARG77, #94321, Notes as to San Diego Defense Projects.

105

Minutes of San Diego Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, January 21, 1908.

106

Letter from Congressman S.C. Smith to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, February 1, 1908.

107

Serial No. 5420, House Ex. Doc. 1042, 60th Cong., 2d Sess., pp. 236-239.

108

San Diego Union, January 1, 1909 8:1.

CHAPTER FIVE NOTES cont.

109

San Diego Union, January 1, 1910 8:1.

110

Serial No. 5954, House Ex. Doc. 1002, 61st Cong., 3d Sess., p. 136.

111

Major General Thomas H. Barry was born in New York on October 13, 1855. He graduated from the U.S. Military with the class of 1877, accepting a commission in the Cavalry, later he transferred to the Infantry. He participated in the China Relief Expedition, and served in the Philippines during the Insurrection. Barry retired as a Major General.

112

Serial No. 5954, House Ex. Doc. 1002, 61st Cong., 3d Sess., p. 137. The 115th Company, firing 10-inch guns at 10,700 yards, put one shot out of four through the 30 by 60 foot material target moving at a speed of six miles an hour, and the remaining three shots within 35 yards of the target, in two minutes and 37 seconds. The 28th Company, firing the 3-inch guns, put 15 of 16 shots through a 10 by 24 foot target moving at five miles per hour, at 1,600 yards, in one minute and 13 seconds.

Chapter 6

TROUBLES ON THE BORDER

Information received by the U.S. Department of State indicated serious unrest and intrigue in both sides of the Mexican border which threatened the peace between Mexico and the U.S. When the situation became more acute, the United States positioned troops along the border until they patrolled the entire Mexican border from the mouth of the Rio Grande to San Diego. While the major focus of the trouble revolved around Francisco I. Madero's drive to end the long dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz, an anarchist named Ricardo Flores Magon led his own revolution in Baja California¹ that dramatically disrupted the daily routine of soldiering at Fort Rosecrans during 1911 and the spring of 1912. On several occasions during this period of time, the Rosecrans artillerymen found themselves pressed into service as infantrymen "...for the purpose of aiding in the enforcement of neutrality laws along the Mexican border."²

The first call "to encamp...to enforce the neutrality" arrived on January 30.³ When the men heard that a detachment had been ordered out for Calexico, 100 miles southeast of San Diego, "volunteers sprang up like mushrooms."⁴ Major

McManus selected the men with care. He only selected "re-enlisted soldiers" for the detail. The troopers would get their first field experience since the Spanish-American War. A detachment of two officers and 34 men left on the next day's train, via Los Angeles, leaving behind disappointed soldiers at the fort.⁵

1/Lt Lecoq,⁶ commander of the detachment, received very liberal orders--to preserve order along the border, to allow no arms to pass either to or from Mexico, and to prevent any armed body from organizing on the U.S. side of the border.⁷

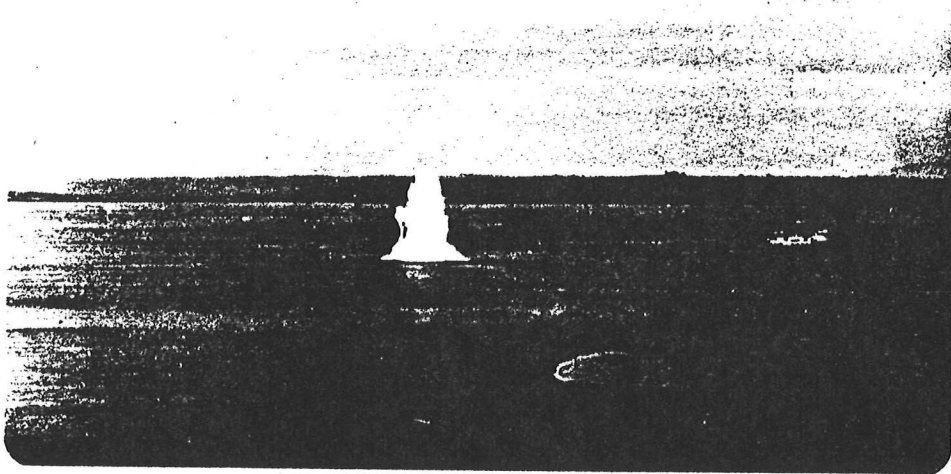
Reports of a rebel band camped on the Mexican side of the border east of Campo brought urgent appeals by Americans in the area to the Governor of California for help.⁸ As a response to the appeals, 2/Lt Frank Drake⁹ and 15 men received orders for Campo. The detachment found the going slow as their supply wagon had difficulty transiting the heavy load. It took them three days to cover the 58 miles to Campo.¹⁰

Rumors of the advance of 110 rebels with Indian allies on Tijuana threw the city into a "frenzy." The city's nerves received a further jolt when Fort Rosecrans fired a salute for a visiting Admiral.¹¹ The appearance of 1/Lt George Ruhlen, Jr.¹² with 50 soldiers carrying 10,800 rounds of rifle and revolver ammunition at the Tijuana border¹³ brought

FT. ROSE CROWS SOLDIERS
at THE
BORDER 1911



20TH Co
destroyed a target
mine, w/ U.S. MINE
PLANTER COL GEO. STAMISTEAD
WOTTERS



a Mexican Lieutenant hurrying across the border to inquire of their intentions (Figure 15). After Ruhlen explained his presence, the Tijuana merchants came over and asked the soldiers to protect their goods. While on duty, the men patrolled from behind the Otay Mountains down to the beach.¹⁴

With the Fort Rosecrans troops on the border, an enterprising aviator saw an opportunity to claim an aviation first by delivering messages via aeroplane to "troops in warfare."¹⁵ Using his monoplane, he carried a 20 pound box, which contained communications from Major McManus, map making equipment, mail for the soldiers, and newspapers. After experiencing some difficulty in locating the camp, the pilot found it and released his package at 100 feet, scoring a direct hit on the cook's tent.¹⁶ Serious damage, if any, went unreported.

On the 7th of February, 10 soldiers received orders to march for Tecate near the Mexican line to take up positions to guard the Tecate road to San Diego, and at the same time protect residents near that point.¹⁷

By the end of February several detachments from Fort Rosecrans received orders to various points along the border: Lt. Lecoq, with 32 enlisted men held positions at Calexico;¹⁸ Lt. Ruhlen, with 33 enlisted men, guarded the border at Tia Juana; Lt. Drake, with 32 enlisted men, camped at Campo, Tecate,

and Jacumba Spring.¹⁹

Starting the first week in March, infantrymen from Monterey began to replace the artillerymen on duty at the border.²⁰ On March 6, Lts. Hinkle²¹ and Lecoq returned to the post with their detachments. On March 9 and 10, Lt. Drake's detachments joined together and returned to the post.²² Only after the artillerymen began to be replaced by the infantrymen, did a newspaper raise the point that the Rosecrans soldiers "were artillerymen needed for coast defense."²³

At no time since the establishment of Fort Rosecrans as a military post, had there been as much activity as witnessed on the 8th. Every soldier of the fort labored to prepare a camp on the Naval Reservation located next to the post, to receive 800 soldiers arriving from San Francisco and Monterey as part of a general mobilization of 20,000 troops and two fleets for maneuvers near the Mexican border. The San Diego Union called it "the largest movement of its kind ever undertaken in this country in time of peace."²⁴ One group of soldiers surveyed the site, cleared it as best they could, and laid water pipes.²⁵ Another large force hauled wood and cording to the cooking sites. A third group moved furniture from the fort to the barracks in town. The announcement that the barracks would serve as the headquarters for the infantrymen caused a scramble among the married enlisted personnel who

used the buildings for quarters.²⁶

Some people took it as more than a coincidence, that with the rumors of Japanese troop landings in Mexico,²⁷ a number of Japanese servants at Fort Rosecrans had been discharged. Not everyone accepted Major McManus' claim that the servants "had been discharged for ordinary reasons."²⁸

Orders, which had been expected for days, returning the 115th Company with a number of soldiers from the 28th Company to the border, arrived March 23.²⁹ Anticipating the arrival of the orders, the 10-inch guns at the fort had been smeared with cosmoline and put out of commission, once again compromising San Diego's defense. The artillerymen would relieve the infantrymen, who would take part in maneuvers at Grossmont, California.³⁰ Of the more than 1,700 troops in the San Diego area, at least half could not respond for duty on the 28th, as that was the day the soldiers got their anti-typhoid shots.³¹

On April 8, the soldiers on detached service along the border received orders to assemble at Dulzura and return to post.³² These men had missed the election when officials refused to let Fort Rosecrans soldiers vote in the San Diego municipal elections. The chief of police, a retired Army captain, had been confident that his military service would "hold the boys in the ranks" for his candidate in the primary

elections. The Rosecrans soldiers, however, went solidly for the other candidate. The election board, dominated by the father of the defeated candidate, retaliated by passing a law denying the soldiers the right to vote, even if they owned property.³³

The second week in May saw 50 men from the fort sent back to the border at Tia Juana. On May 8, soldiers patrolling near Nestor arrested "General" Cap Rhy Pryce,³⁴ commander of the Insurrection forces in Lower California. Pryce, a Welshman in his mid-thirties, had world-wide experience in soldiering, having served in the Boer War, on the frontier of India, and on mounted police duty in western Canada. They moved Pryce to San Diego under heavy guard and then to Fort Rosecrans, holding him without charges, in the post gymnasium.³⁵ After an exchange of telegrams between the post and the Secretary of War, the Secretary, after consulting with the State Department and Department of Justice, ordered Pryce released.³⁶ On his release, Pryce declared he would not return to San Diego. Major McManus also received orders to "release all persons detained as a result of the Mexican situation." The American camps held about 30 wounded or otherwise detained individuals.³⁷

On June 2, the detachment of the 115th Company which had been on duty at the Mexican border, returned to station at

Fort Rosecrans.³⁸ Ten days later, the U.S. Army Mine Planter Colonel George Armistead³⁹ arrived to give the 28th Company instructions in planting and recovering submarine mines. Three mines that had been planted at the harbor entrance the previous year would be taken up and reset several times. The second week in July explosive mines would be planted and targets floated over them; the men ashore being given instructions on how to explode the mines at the precise moment calculated to destroy the target (Figure 16).⁴⁰

After a three hour battle with Mexican troops, "General" Jack Mosby and the "Insurrectos" had two choices, stand and fight or flee across the border to safety in the United States. Mosby's decision seems to contradict his numerous boasts, but confirms the one fact known about him when he decided to cross the border. He claimed to be a nephew of the Confederate guerrilla commander "Speed" Mosby, a gun runner in Cuba, an officer with the Boers, and participation in Panama's revolt against Columbia. One fact did surface; Mosby had deserted from the U.S. Marines.⁴¹

"General" Jack Mosby and the "Insurrectos" hope of escape on crossing to the American side of the U.S.-Mexican border ended with their being taken prisoner by the U.S. troops on duty.⁴² To assist those troops, Captain Koch⁴³ and Lt. Drake with 71 enlisted men received orders to the border on June 22

INTERVIEWS
INSURRECTOS
1911



1914

CLARENCE M. CONDON.

JOHN M.
PAGE



CAPTAIN
JOSEPH NUNTON

LT. FRANK
PIRONE

MAJ.
WILLIAM E.
DOWS

CAPT FRED
PALMER MED CORPS.

1914

to return to Fort Rosecrans with the 105 prisoners (Figure 17). Two of the prisoners identified as deserters from the 28th Company went to the post guard house, the others to the gymnasium.⁴⁴

The Navy, Army, and civilian authorities made several attempts to identify the "Insurrectos." They even brought a sheriff down from Los Angeles to try to identify men wanted for crimes outside of Mexico.⁴⁵ The military identified seven deserters--two U.S. Army, and five from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. They would be turned over to their respective commands. Mosby and the two others named in the warrants issued by the U.S. Commissioner, became the responsibility of the U.S. Marshall. Telegraphic orders from the Department of California, dated June 25, released the remaining detainees to descend on San Diego.⁴⁶ The chief of police gave them a "mild warning" before turning them loose on the city.⁴⁷ A "concerted effort" would be made to get them out of town. One morning several Rosecrans soldiers returned to the fort "with fingers pretty badly bruised."⁴⁸

The discovery of 18 sacks of gun cotton⁴⁹ mixed with the coal intended for use on the fort's tug caused quite a stir. The explosive force of the gun cotton would have been capable of wrecking the vessel. The commander of the National Guard company that would be transported to Rosecrans on the tug

considered it an attempt "to intimidate young men and prevent them from joining the National Guard." The two companies of National Guard,⁵⁰ with 6 officers and 74 enlisted men, reached, however, the fort safely to participate in eight days of "strenuous practice."⁵¹

The first important exercise would be held on July 2, with a simulated attack on the fortifications. The plan called for the fort's two companies of regulars to attempt a bay-side landing, and to capture the batteries defended by the Guardsmen. Later in the week, target practice with the 10-inch guns of Battery Wilkeson would take place. The militiamen would blend the powder, man the position finding stations, and fire the guns. In all, four shots would be fired. Two shots fired at stationary targets and two fired at a moving target.⁵²

With detachments from three of San Francisco's Coastal Artillery Companies watching their practice,⁵³ the 115th Company gave them a lesson in 10-inch gunnery. The orders for the practice prescribed the firing of six shots at a 30x60 foot target, towed at six miles per hour at a distance of 8,500 yards. The first four shots had already been scored as hits, when the fifth shot fired from No. 3 gun smashed the uprights of the target, causing the screen to fall into

the water, unofficially ending the practice. Unfortunately, the sixth shot had already been loaded.⁵⁴

The soldiers discovered loading the 10-inch gun to be an easier task than unloading one. The bags containing the powder came out with little difficulty, but the projectile secured fast in the rifling of the gun, would not budge. In an exchange of telegrams with Washington, an unsympathetic War Department opined that any force available for putting a shell in should be sufficient to pull it out again, and denied permission to shoot the projectile out. Three days later, after much advice, 40 men rammed a timber down the rifle's bore, ejecting the 600 plus pound projectile.⁵⁵ The men had to wait for the arrival of a new material target to conclude the practice by firing the sixth shot on August 12.⁵⁶

On August 16, three officers and 64 enlisted men from the 115th and 28th Companies left the post for Campo "to enforce neutrality laws" at 5:40 p.m.⁵⁷ They spent the night in La Mesa, resuming the long hike to Campo the next day. Fear of revolutionary activity in Tecate had brought the soldiers out.⁵⁸ Their stay would be a long one.

While 20 of their comrades patrolled the border at Campo, the remaining men of the 28th Company scored "the highest figure of merit" in target practice with the 3-inch rifles on September 10.⁵⁹

On October 19, Captain Franc Lecoq and the troops at Campo received welcome news, that they would be returned to Fort Rosecrans. Four days later, the men broke camp for San Diego.⁶⁰ Tired and weary, but happy to be home, the men arrived at the fort on October 24. All agreed that they had enough of camp life, and welcomed the site of San Diego Bay.⁶¹

Raiding and murdering in the Campo and Tecate areas brought another call for U.S. troops to protect Americans and their property.⁶² Twenty-five soldiers from the 28th Company, commanded by 2/Lt Charles N. Wilson,⁶³ left the post on March 26 for Campo to calm local fears.⁶⁴ The men would not rejoin the command until May 20. On May 30, the officers and men commanded by George Blakley,⁶⁵ participated in the Memorial Day parade in San Diego.⁶⁶

On April 26, 1913 Lt. Drake and four enlisted men of the 28th Company met the evening train arriving from Los Angeles. They had received orders to arrest several of the train's passengers. These passengers, members of the Mexican Federal Army, had crossed the border near Naco, Arizona on April 13, when Rebels captured their stronghold. Rumor had it that the soldiers would attempt to rejoin their Army in Mazatlan.⁶⁷ The contingent included General Pedro-Ojeda, three Lieutenant Colonels, and the Paymaster, three Captains, one first Lieutenant, eight Second Lieutenants, one telegrapher, and one

enlisted man. Appearing confused and distressed, the Mexicans offered no resistance on arrest. Lt. Drake and his men escorted the prisoners to Fort Rosecrans, where they interned the General and his staff in the Post Exchange building.⁶⁸ ~~APRIL 29, 1912~~ APRIL 29, 1913 Three days later, telegraphic instructions arrived ordering their release. As the General and his party left the fort, several officers and men of the post lined up and gave them a farewell salute.⁶⁹

The July visit of the Secretary of War, with the Army Chief of Staff, the Chief of the Quartermasters Corps, and the Chief of Artillery,⁷⁰ buoyed San Diego's hopes for additional armaments. The Chief of Staff on a previous visit to the city had recommended that Fort Rosecrans' fortifications be updated with the addition of 16 mortars. With the approach of the completion of the Panama Canal, San Diego's strategic importance increased. San Diegans expected that the deficiencies in the city's scheme of defense, which had been noted and reported on during the past years, would be corrected. The morning paper worried that if the Panama Canal traffic flooded the Pacific with "thousands of ships from all parts of the Seven seas," San Diego's fortifications would be laughed at.

After inspecting Point Loma, the Secretary refused to make a definite commitment to increase San Diego's defensive

capabilities. Citing the city's boast of good climate and water, however, the party agreed that Point Loma would be an ideal spot for a "concentration camp" for hundreds of Mexican internees being held at Nogales and El Paso for "violation of neutrality laws." The inspection party left the city without making their intentions known regarding the internees, only hinting that San Diego would be given strong consideration in the selection of a site for the camp.⁷¹

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On August 5, Major William C. Davis (Figure 18), commanding officer at Fort Rosecrans, received notification that 300 of 700 Mexican internees would arrive on a special train the next afternoon. Davis assumed the other would arrive the following day. The move of Colonel Emilio Kosterlitsky,⁷³ his Rurales and their families to San Diego ended the War Department's concern over the close proximity of the internees to a sensitive spot on the border. Colonel Kosterlitsky, a Diaz man, rode across the border with his men on March 13, 1913 to surrender to U.S. authorities in Nogales, Arizona rather than surrender to the Constitutionalists. He believed the Constitutionalists planned to shoot him and his men if they surrendered. The prisoners would be interned at the Naval Reservation on Point Loma, the site occupied by the regiments brought to San Diego for patrol duty two years previous.⁷⁴

Although the internees would be the responsibility of the

Infantry company brought down from Monterey, Captain John M. Page⁷⁵ and Lieutenant H.A. McCune⁷⁶ with a detachment of soldiers from Fort Rosecrans met the two trains that arrived that night. After consulting with the escorting officer and the Mexican Commander of the internees, Colonel Emilio Kosterlitzky and Page decided to leave the prisoners on the train until morning.⁷⁷

The next morning with the military formalities concluded, the Rosecrans soldiers began the difficult move of women, crying babies, barking dogs, birds, chickens, and the bewildered Mexican troops to the Naval Reservation. A large amount of baggage accompanied the soldiers, as they did their own cooking and provided their own shelter.⁷⁸ On August 26, Major Davis, anticipating more trouble on the border, prepared maps of the area, and had the artillerymen ready for an immediate move into action.⁷⁹

September 1913 proved to be a monumental month for San Diego. On September 25, the Rosecrans battalion marched to the Old Cabrillo Lighthouse on Point Loma to participate in dedication ceremonies for the Cabrillo Monument. The next day the battalion marched in a parade for the dedication of the site for the Balboa Monument. The following day, one officer and three squads of the 28th Company took part in the unveiling of the Cross in honor of Father Junípero Serra on Presidio

Hill at Old Town.⁸⁰

The Chief of Coast Artillery in his October 31, 1913 report to the Secretary of War cited the city's rapid growth in population. The deepening of San Diego's harbor channel, and its strategic position with the opening of the Panama Canal again recommended that the fixed defenses of the harbor be strengthened with two mortar batteries of four mortar each.⁸¹

On December 19, two batteries from Fort Rosecrans, deployed about San Diego County in a 10 mile radius to assist "Aeroplanists" from the Signal Corps Aviation School⁸² at North Island with the Mackay Trophy,⁸³ with a reconnaissance flight of 58 miles in 46 minutes.⁸⁴

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On March 6, 1914 Major Robert R. Raymond, Corps of Engineers completed his "Report on Preparedness, Coast Defenses of San Diego, California." In the report Raymond stated that

...in my opinion the existing batteries (except possibly Battery Fetterman) are of little value to oppose a modern attack.... In fact the existance of the present batteries are a danger to the city of San Diego, which if not fortified would be exempt from bombardment. Battery Wilkeson's guns...if they can reach the enemy at all will fire at such an azimuth as to subject each other (except #4) to serious blast. Battery McGrath...cannot reach all parts of the present mine field, and its right gun cannot be operated if the left gun is in action toward the present fields.

Major Raymond completed his report by recommending a complete

revision of the system of defense adequate to modern ne-
cessities.⁸⁶

Bandit troubles along the Mexican border at Tecate brought a detachment of the 28th Company to the border on March 15, where they remained for 13 days.⁸⁷ The bandits killed the Postmaster, wounded a clerk, and burned down the Mountain Commercial Store in Tecate. These outrages aroused and alarmed the people who lived in the border towns of San Diego County. The residents held mass meetings to demand protection against the bandits, and requested the War Department "reinstate troops along the border."⁸⁸

The pleas of the border residents did not move Major Davis of Fort Rosecrans. He objected to sending troops from the fort to several points. He objected to breaking up the units because it affected their efficiency; this cost too much money, and the fort would not be prepared in the event of war with Japan.⁸⁹ Despite his objections, Davis would find himself, and almost his entire command on the border in April.⁹⁰

Acting on orders received from Washington, Major Davis cancelled all temporary leaves, and assembled supplies for a month's service on the Mexican border. He ordered the troops prepared so that they could leave for the border within thirty minutes of notice.⁹¹ When the notice arrived, 57 enlisted

men of the 28th Company with Captain John M. Page and 2/Lt Paul L. Ferron,⁹² left in sight-seeing cars for Tecate on April 20. On the same day, Captain Clarence M. Condon,⁹³ 2/Lt Lewis H. Brereton,⁹⁴ and 57 enlisted men of the 115th Company departed for San Ysidro. Two days later, 1/Lt John W. Wallis⁹⁵ with 20 enlisted men travelled to Tecate in sight-seeing cars to reinforce the troops already on duty. About 50 men remained at the fort after these departures.⁹⁶

With the large number of U.S. soldiers on the border, rumors of impending advances across the border into Tecate and Tijuana created excitement on both sides of the border. Although the Tijuana sight-seeing business had dried up, the tour operators turned the situation to their advantage by taking people down to the border to witness the approaching battle.⁹⁷ Tension along the border increased when news of the seizure of the Mexican port of Vera Cruz⁹⁸ by American forces "filtered in", both sides continued to reinforce their positions.⁹⁹ On April 23, all non-combatants received orders to leave Tijuana. Mexican authorities moved all the women and children south to Ensenada.¹⁰⁰

The delayed arrival of five Coast Artillery companies ordered to San Diego from San Francisco to reinforce the Rosecrans soldiers at the border, brought two offers of help to Captain Condon. Condon, outnumbered four or five to one,

accepted the San Diego Naval Reserve's offer of help, and 41 officers and men marched to the border to join his men at San Ysidro. The number of regulars and reservists at the border numbered 100. The Captain declined the second offer of help--the utility company's offer to shut off Tijuana's lights!¹⁰¹

The arrival of the Coast Artillery battalion from San Francisco on April 25 increased Major Davis' command to almost 700 officers and men. Immediately after detraining the San Francisco soldiers received orders for Tecate and San Ysidro,¹⁰² then joining the Rosecrans soldiers already on duty. Their appearance attracted thousands of spectators to the Tijuana valley, a "theatre of the incipient warette which tourists seem to think is being staged especially for their benefit."¹⁰³

The danger of hostilities decreased at San Ysidro and Captain Condon informed the school trustees that he considered it safe to send the youngsters back to their studies. The school building stood in between the American and Mexican camps. The 28th Company relieved from duty at Tecate by the San Francisco soldiers joined the 115th Company at San Ysidro as Major Davis established his headquarters at the border.¹⁰⁴ To further defuse the possibility of conflict, the Mexican commander raided every cantina in Tijuana confiscating all the

alcohol in the city. He hauled the booze to the border in Army wagons, where he shoved them across the line placing everything in bond.¹⁰⁵

The first serious incident at the border occurred when Mexican authorities arrested a young man who had crossed the border wearing the uniform of the Sons of Veterans. One of the Mexicans got excited and fired several shots in the air, which brought U.S. soldiers rushing to the border. The American officers demanded the immediate release of the prisoner. After a tense brief interval, the Mexicans released the young man with apologies.¹⁰⁶

San Diego's long standing hope for a more modern defense took a giant step on May 18, 1914, when the Chief of Coast Artillery made a recommendation to the Secretary of War, to constitute a board to consider new work necessary for the defense of the city. Two days later, the Secretary of War approved the recommendation, and the board convened a few days later. The Board submitted a report on June 20, which passed through to the Chief of Engineers' office on July 16. The Board recommended 12 mortars, a number of rapid-fire guns, searchlights, and fire control stations be built. They did not mention heavy direct-fire guns. In the meantime, without consulting the Chief of Engineers, the Secretary of War on June 11, directed the cost of 12 mortar emplacements

at San Diego be included in the War Department's annual budget.¹⁰⁷

The Cavalry came to the rescue of the Rosecrans soldiers at the border, when they replaced them from duty on August 4. The Artillerymen welcomed their return to Fort Rosecrans. During the stay at the border, the men received a variety of toughening exercises. Once a week they held a field exercise with a long march and night bivouac. The troops drilled daily on the four field guns they had mounted in concealed positions to command the border. They had installed a portable searchlight, which proved useful in the night maneuvers. The signal stations they established on Mt. Tecate and Mt. Otay provided 30 miles of uninterrupted communications along the border. The officers and men made field maps of the entire area from Tecate to the Pacific Ocean. Everyone seemed satisfied with their performance, believing they compared favorably with the Infantry and Cavalry.¹⁰⁸

The President of the Panama-California International Exposition¹⁰⁹ announced on December 3, that the Army had agreed to send a band and two companies of Coast Artillery to San Diego for the entire Exposition year of 1915. The units included the 160th Company¹¹⁰ from Fort Stevens, Oregon, and the 13th Band,¹¹¹ Coast Artillery Corps, and the 30th Company from Fort Worden, Washington. The 30th Company served at

Fort Rosecrans from 1901 to 1904.¹¹² The arrival of the 30th and 160th Companies by special train on December 11, raised the number of soldiers stationed at the fort to 410. The band arrived on December 14, 1914.¹¹³

President Woodrow Wilson, on the other edge of the continent, pressed a button lighting a powerful light suspended by a balloon over the Exposition grounds on January 1, 1915 to signal the official opening of the Panama-California International Exposition. The Fort Rosecrans gunners responded to the signal by firing several booming salutes with the big guns. The Exposition dominated the activities of the Rosecrans soldiers for the entire year.¹¹⁴

While the boom of the Rosecrans guns sounded impressive to the ear, and the announcement that construction would soon begin on the 12-inch mortars heartened many, questions remained regarding San Diego's defense. Major Raymond in a January 11, 1915 report to the Chief of Engineers, stated that he could not "avoid the impression that the total authorized scheme of defense at San Diego, including the proposed mortars is so inadequate as to be futile against a live enemy." Raymond believed that a few rapid fire guns properly emplaced would make San Diego's defense reasonably secure.¹¹⁵

The Chief of Engineers' March 2, 1915 memorandum to the

Chief of Staff concerning mortar batteries for Fort Rosecrans raised several questions about the proposed batteries. Impressed with the sum of money involved--\$585,000 for the 12 mortars and emplacements, the Chief of Engineers expressed a doubt about the advisability of emplacing so many mortars in the San Diego defense, and questioned the site location. The memorandum contrasted the size, population, and commercial importance of Los Angeles and San Diego, suggesting that the money would be better spent in Los Angeles. He concluded the memorandum stating that "the expense of constructing at San Diego emplacements for twelve mortars is not justified at this time and that it would be well to hold part of the funds until authority can be obtained from Congress to utilize them in a more advantageous manner."¹¹⁶

At a meeting of the War Department Board of Review on March 23, 1915, the Board decided to modify the mortar project at San Diego. The approved project called for eight mortars, four in Power House Canyon, and four on the Naval Reservation adjacent to the fort.¹¹⁷

In response to a War Department circular of April 13, 1915, the District Engineer Office in Los Angeles submitted a report on modernizing the Fort Rosecrans batteries. The report suggested minor modification to the existing batteries, the same changes that had been suggested in 1908. This report as

with others stressed the urgency of installing several "powerful rapid-fire guns" on the southern end of Point Loma.¹¹⁸ Also, as part of a modernization program, the Chief of Coast Artillery in a May 27, 1915 letter, directed the Chief of Engineers to include funds in the 1917 budget for dividing Battery Wilkeson into two batteries, with new observation stations and a separate plotting room.¹¹⁹ General Order No. 36, War Department, 1915 honored Colonel John Haskell Calef¹²⁰ for 42 years of faithful service in the Artillery, by naming number three and four guns of Battery Wilkeson, Battery Calef.¹²¹

On May 8, one of the biggest crowds of the year gathered at the Exposition. The four companies of Coast Artillery, a squadron of U.S. Cavalry, and a battalion from the U.S. Marine Corps furnished entrants for a track and field meet. As the meet progressed, the competition became intense. Pandemonium greeted each winner. The Cavalry finished with the greatest number of first places. The Coast Artillery took second place, and the Marines third.¹²²

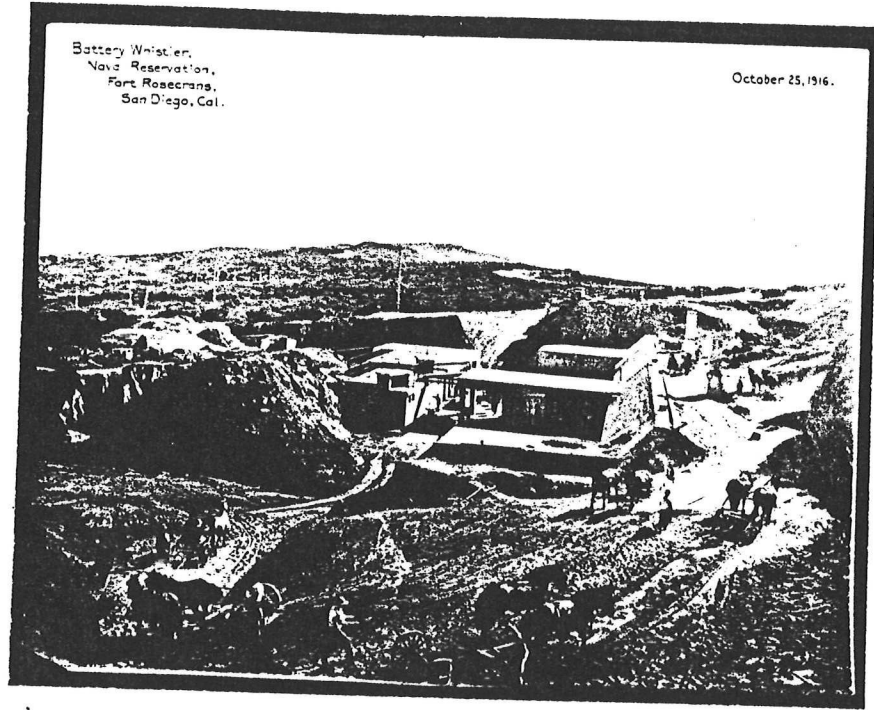
In addition to the track and field competition, service events provided great entertainment for the spectators. The artillerymen furnished a tug-of-war contest in which the four companies competed. The 30th Company won the final pull. The centipede race also proved popular with the crowd. Each

team of ten men straddled a timber and raced for 50 yards.¹²³

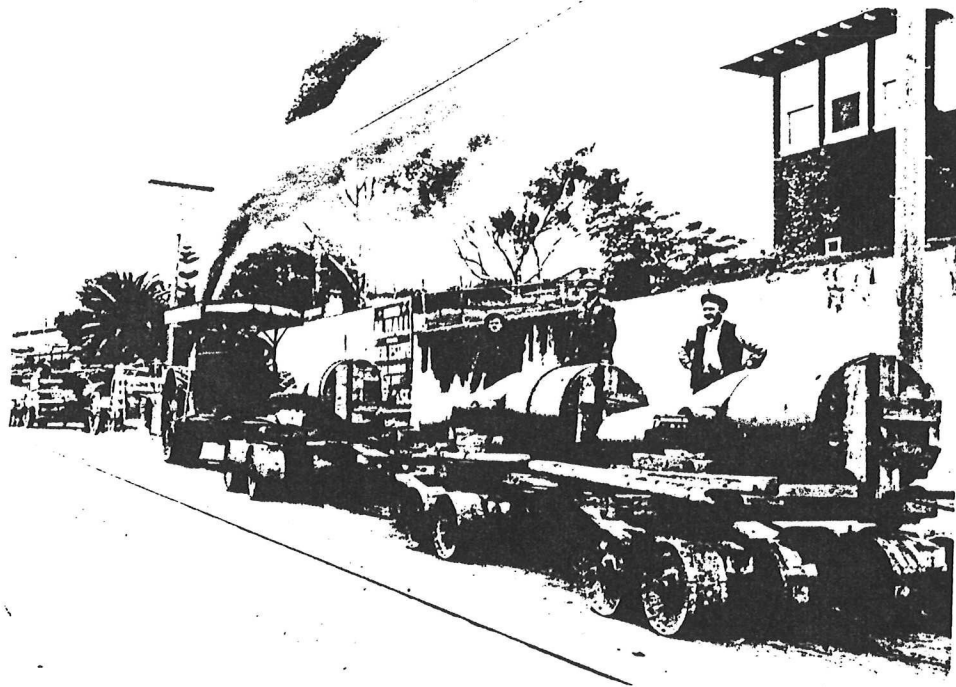
The sparse vegetation on Point Loma did little to conceal the defensive works of Fort Rosecrans. To correct the problem, authorities at the fort forwarded periodic requests for funds to the War Department for various schemes of concealment. The War Department denied the first request of November 4, 1910 for funds to conceal the batteries, then refused a January 8, 1912 proposition for \$200 for young trees. The April 16, 1914 appeal for \$20 to purchase shrubs and seed, and \$430 for pipes also failed. Finally, on July 16, 1915 the post received an allotment of \$18.60 for a lath house to grow the necessary vegetation needed for concealment purposes.¹²⁴

The announcement that the July 29 target practice with the 3-inch and 5-inch guns had produced exceptionally high scores, heightened interest in the next evenings firing of the 10-inch guns. The practice, open to the public, brought a promise from the Star and Crescent Boat Company to run special excursions for the event.¹²⁵ The Coronado residents took the usual precautions of opening their windows at the top and bottom before the firing. The 115th Company and the 30th Company each fired seven shots. Unfortunately, for the many people gathered at Point Loma and Coronado, the artillerymen did not fire any tracers. Everyone seemed satisfied, however, with the flash of firing, concussion and the distant explosions.¹²⁶

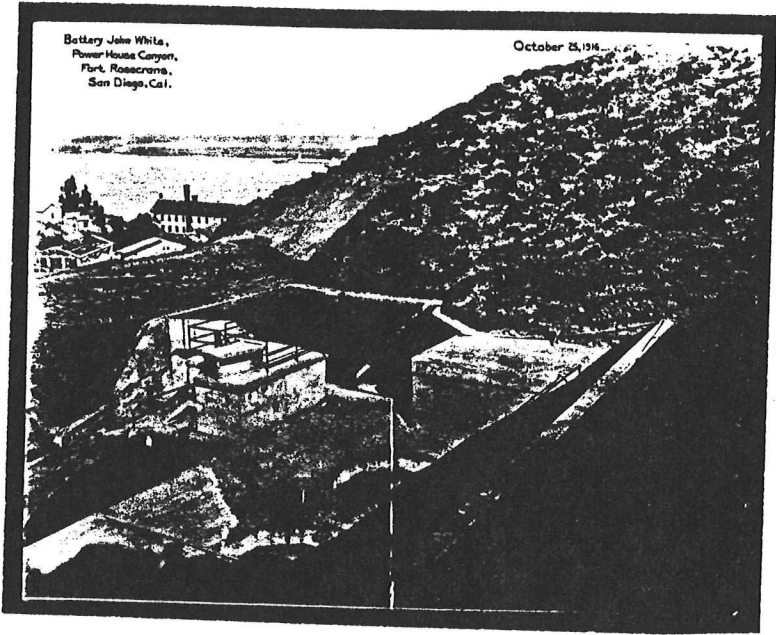
BATTERY GARLAND N. WHISTLER



MOVING MORTARS FOR WHITE SAND WHISTLER
DOWN INDIAN ST.

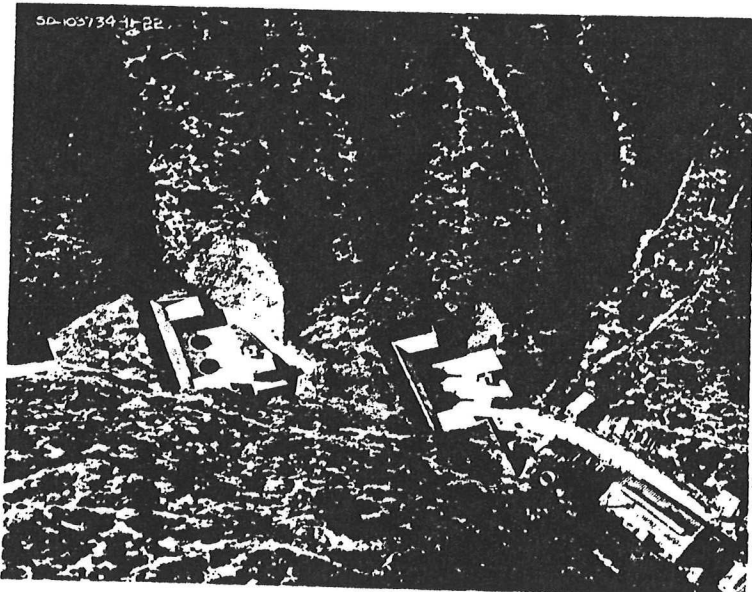


BATTERS JOHN U. WHITE



esy

BATTERS JOHN U. WHITE



In an attempt to save the Army some money, Lieutenant Albert H. Acher¹²⁷ wrote a letter on October 30, 1915 to the San Diego City Council, asking for a waiver of the \$99 water construction fee, and free water to begin work on the mortar emplacements stating "it occurred to us that the city would doubtless be glad to help along the work for defense."¹²⁸ On November 8, work commenced on the mortar sites.¹²⁹ General Order No. 15, paragraph II, War Department named the new mortar batteries. The battery on the Naval Reservation honored Colonel Garland N. Whistler,¹³⁰ Coast Artillery Corps, who served for 44 years (Figures 19 and 20). The battery in Power house Canyon honoring Colonel John Vassar White, Coast Artillery Corps, a graduate of West Point's class of 1877, who died on August 24, 1915 at Fort Hamilton, New York (Figures 21 and 22).¹³¹

Plans of Coastal Artillery participation in future events at the Exposition grounds during 1916 ended when problems along the U.S.-Mexican border intensified. Soon after the installation of Venustiano Carranza as President of Mexico, his former chief lieutenant Francisco Villa, instigated several incidents against the "gringo," culminating in an attack on Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916. The next day President Woodrow Wilson ordered the U.S. Army into Mexico to

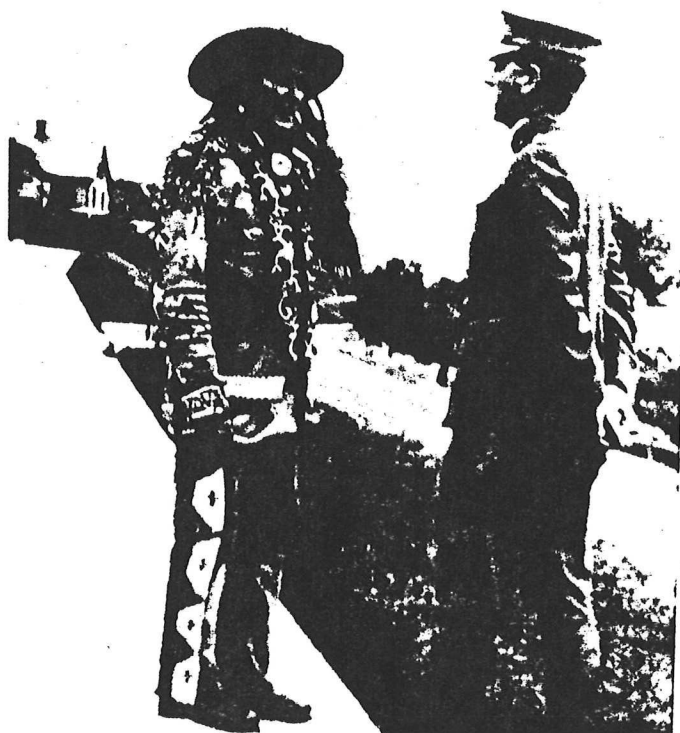
assist the Mexican Government in capturing Villa.¹³² The two Coast Artillery companies on orders for San Diego to participate in the Exposition festivities, received vastly different assignments when they arrived.¹³³ Another hint of a future role for the fort arrived in a letter to the Fort Rosecrans construction officer, directing him to prepare two antiaircraft gun sites at the fort.¹³⁴

When the problems along the border continued to escalate, owners of "high powered machines" formed a company of motor car reserves under the command of Major Johnson Hagood,¹³⁵ in the event the Fort Rosecrans soldiers should be detailed as infantrymen at the border (Figure 23).¹³⁶

On June 24, ranchers in Tecate and Campo armed themselves after being refused a military guard. One day later, General Esteban Cantú¹³⁷ moved 400 men of the Mexican Army to Tijuana. Not wishing to disturb the flourishing tourist trade, Cantú described the movement in terms of a "vacation" for his troops. At the same time in San Francisco, seven companies of Coast Artillery received orders for the border. With many of the men on pass or leave, the orders had to be read from the stage of every theater in the city. Audiences rose and cheered as the men hurried away.¹³⁸

CHIEF IODINE

MAJOR JOHNSON
HAGOOD



HAGOOD w/ DIGNITARIES AT BORDER -



HASGOOD AT
BORDER



Reconnaissance
Kapp's wagon
used to supply troops
at base



Orders arrived on June 22, directing Major Hagood to prepare the troops to move on short notice to the border. When interviewed by the press Hagood said, "the men are eager and ready to go."¹³⁹ The two companies of Coast Artillery scheduled to participate in the 1916 festivities at the Exposition grounds arrived in San Diego at 6 a.m. on June 27. They moved directly to the border to augment the 115th and 28th Companies already on duty.¹⁴⁰ Major Hagood with the four companies under his command was assigned to the defense of 125 miles of the border. (Figures 24, 25, and 26).

It was my job to defend the city of San Diego particularly its water supply and to resist any attempts at invasion that might be made by Cantú. I had always thought that there was some kind of a road along the border or at least a fence. But no, there was nothing to indicate where the United States left off and the Republic of Mexico began. But we distributed our troops as well as we could at the most strategic points and aimed four pieces of Field Artillery in the direction of Cantú's Army.¹⁴¹

San Diego's two Coast Artillery Militia companies activated on June 28, moved into position to guard the city's water supply at Morena, Upper Otay, and Sweetwater dams.¹⁴² Seven days later the Militiamen swore a new oath and signed a new contract, federalizing them under the command of Major Hagood.¹⁴³

Major Hagood's command continued to expand with the

arrival of the first trainload of Oregon Militia. After talking with the Militia's commander, Hagood ordered the train switched from the Santa Fe tracks to the San Diego and Arizona tracks, to speed the troops to San Ysidro. They would occupy the same camp used by the Fort Rosecrans regulars two years earlier.¹⁴⁴

After 10 days of guarding the city's water system, the welcomed news arrived that the Militiamen would return home. The news proved false. The men returned to the city, but they did not stop. Instead, they reported to Fort Rosecrans for their annual camp, which had been originally scheduled for August 7.¹⁴⁵

Amid all the news and activity at the border, the government announced that they would spend hundreds of thousands of dollars improving San Diego's defense. The monies provided for eight huge searchlights costing \$127,000, and fire control stations at a cost of \$166,481,90.¹⁴⁶

With the rule of censorship of news in force, General Cantú became one of the few sources of information on border events for the press. During one interview, the General flatly denied the presence of a Japanese naval base in Lower California.¹⁴⁷ Major Hagood, in later years wrote that "General Cantú was very casual about the whole thing. His family lived in San Diego at the U.S. Grant Hotel and he usually motored over to

San Diego for dinner, very often to spend the night."¹⁴⁸

By July 15, the Oregon Militia on duty at the border numbered about 2,000 troops, which included Cavalry, Field Artillery, and Medical Corps units. The Medical unit noted with pride that Lieutenant Colonel Augustino Marcias, of the Mexican Army, became the first hospital case as a result of an automobile accident that took place in front of the American camp.¹⁴⁹ General Cantú expressed his appreciation for the aid given his staff officer.¹⁵⁰ The arrival of 120 mules in San Diego for the Oregon troops suggested their stay might be a long one.¹⁵¹

Speculation as to what would happen to the two companies of San Diego Militia ended when they mustered out of federal service on July 23.¹⁵² The men had spent a busy two weeks at the fort. After drilling on the 10-inch guns for a week, each company fired seven shots for record. Major Hagood commenting on practice said the militia "did splendidly."¹⁵³ The camp concluded with a track and field meet, and a mock courts-martial for the recruits who joined in the last 60 days. A dunking in the bay proved to be the most popular punishment meted out by the court.¹⁵⁴

News of a name change for the fort's companies reached San Diego on July 15. In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of War, under provisions of the National Defense Act,

approved June 3, 1916, the Fort Rosecrans companies received orders to change their names. The 28th Company became the First Company, Fort Rosecrans, and the 115th Company became the Second Company, Fort Rosecrans.¹⁵⁵

The 28 companies of Coast Artillery, which had been sent to the border to act as infantry before the calling out of the Militia, received orders to return to their stations on August 30.¹⁵⁶

Lieutenant Colonel George T. Patterson¹⁵⁷ arrived on December 22, to replace Major Hagood who had been transferred to his home state of South Carolina in July. Patterson, the former adjutant of Coast Artillery for the defense of Manila and Subic bays, spent six weeks visiting Japan and New York before his arrival in San Diego.¹⁵⁸

Although the experience gained in the field during the Mexican border problems gave the Fort Rosecrans soldiers and the tiny U.S. Army valuable training they would need to survive the approaching violence in Europe, the upshot of the involvement pointed out critical shortages of men and equipment, and the incompetence of the National Guard. These shortcomings went ignored until 1917, when international events forced the nation to confront the truth. The American Army in its present state could not wage a war, let alone discourage one!

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

- 144
San Diego Union, July 1, 1916 3:4
- 145
San Diego Sun, July 5, 1916 1:2, July 6, 1916 4:1 and
San Diego Union, July 7, 1916 9:1.
- 146
San Diego Union, July 6, 1916 5:2.
- 147
San Diego Union, July 11, 1916 3:6.
- 148
JH Memoir, pp. 180-181.
- 149
San Diego Union, July 15, 1916 9:1-2.
- 150
JH Memoir, p. 181.
- 151
San Diego Union, July 27, 1916 3:4.
- 152
San Diego Union, July 24, 1916 1:2.
- 153
San Diego Union, July 28, 1916 1:7-8.
- 154
San Diego Union, July 24, 1916 1:2.
- 155
San Diego Sun, July 15, 1916 9:6. Prior to this the numerical designation of the coast defense companies was in a single series. Now they were numbered within separate garrisons.
- 156
San Diego Sun, August 30, 1916 1:8.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES

1

Lowell L. Blaisdell, The Desert Revolution (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1962), pp. i-92. Hereinafter cited as The Desert Revolution.

2

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans January, 1911.

3

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, January, 1911.

4

San Diego Sun, January 30, 1911 1:1.

5

San Diego Sun, January 31, 1911 1:1.

6

Franc Lecoq was born in Pennsylvania. He joined the Army as a private on May 31, 1900, advancing to 1/Sgt in a little over two years. On October 17, 1902, he was commissioned a 2/Lt in the Artillery Corps.

7

San Diego Sun, February 3, 1911 1:1-2.

8

San Diego Sun, February 3, 1911 1:1-2.

9

Frank Drake was born in Nevada in 1886. He graduated 33d in his class from West Point. He would command Fort Rosecrans in 1945.

10

San Diego Sun, February 4, 1911 1:2.

11

Serial No. 5957, House Ex. Doc. 15, 62d Cong., 1st Sess., p. 241.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

12

George Ruhlen, Jr. was born on October 22, 1884 in North Dakota where his father was the Army Quartermaster. He graduated from Cornell Univeristy in 1907, with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. The following year Ruhlen was appointed a 2/Lt in the Coast Artillery Corps. The 28th Company held the Army wide target practice record when commanded by Ruhlen in 1912. From 1933 to 1934 he commanded Fort Rosecrans. Ruhlen was a director of the San Diego Historical Society, and its President from 1950 to 1955.

13

Field Return Fort Rosecrans February 4, 1911.

14

Interview with Colonel Ruhlen, P, 10.

15

San Diego Sun, February 6, 1911 1:1-2.

16

San Diego Sun, February 7, 1911 1:7-8.

17

San Diego Sun, February 7, 1911 1:7-8.

18

For an interesting description of events at and around Calexico see John Kenneth Turner, "The Mexican Revolution," Pacific Monthly (June, 1911), pp. 609-625.

19

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans February, 1911.

20

San Diego Union, March 8, 1911 5:1-2.

21

Lt. Francis M. Hinkle enlisted in the Army as a private in the Infantry on May 10, 1898. He entered the Military Academy on June 13, 1899, and was commissioned a 2/Lt in the Artillery Corps on June 11, 1903.

22

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans March, 1911.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

23

San Diego Sun, March 8, 1911 1:3.

24

San Diego Union, March 8, 1911 1:1, San Diego Union, March 9, 1911 1:1, and San Diego Sun, March 10, 1911 1:3-4.

25

San Diego Sun, March 8, 1911 1:3.

26

San Diego Sun, March 9, 1911 1:4-5.

27

San Diego Union, March 8, 1911 5:1-2; San Diego Sun, March 8, 1911 1:3.

28

San Diego Sun, March 18, 1911 1:1-2.

29

San Diego Union, March 24, 1911 5:2.

30

San Diego Union, March 23, 1911 5:4.

31

San Diego Union, March 28, 1911 5:1; Serial No. 6197, House Ex. Doc. 116, 62d Cong., 2d Sess., 163.

32

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans April, 1911.

33

San Diego Union, April 5, 1911 5:1.

34

Later Pryce led the "Insurrectos" to victory in the first battle of Tijuana, but eventually lost control of the army. After his release from the Los Angeles County jail, Pryce worked in the movies. When World War I started, he joined the Canadian Army, later transferring to the English Army. He survived four years of trench warfare, receiving several decorations. Pryce resigned from the British Army in 1919 with the rank of Major. The Desert Revolution, pp. 96, 196, 197.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

35

San Diego Union, May 19, 1911 1:4.

36

San Diego Union, May 23, 1911 8:2-4.

37

San Diego Union, May 21, 1911 8:2-4.

38

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans June, 1911.

39

One of a number of famous Armisteads, George Armistead was breveted to Lt. Col. for gallant conduct in the defense of Fort McHenry, Maryland on September 13, 1814, when he kept the American flag flying during the battle. His nephew was the commander of San Diego Barracks when the Civil War started. He resigned his commission to join the Confederate Army, later he was killed leading his brigade in Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg.

40

San Diego Union, June 15, 1911 5:5.

41

After giving controversial testimony in a neutrality trial, Mosby was enroute to prison for desertion, when he was killed while trying to escape. The Desert Revolution, pp. 110-191.

42

San Diego Union, June 22, 1911 1:1.

43

Theodore H. Koch was born in Switzerland. He enlisted in the Army as a private in August, 1898, and was promoted to 2/Lt in the Infantry two years later. Loch transferred to the Artillery in 1901.

44

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans June, 1911.

45

San Diego Union, June 25, 1911 1:1.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

46

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, June 1911.

47

San Diego Union, June 26, 1911 14:1.

48

Interview with Col. Ruhlen, page 12.

49

San Diego Union, July 1, 1911 9:1.

50

San Diego had two companies of National Guard, the Fifth and the Eighth Companies, that regularly trained at Fort Rosecrans.

51

San Diego Union, July 3, 1911 5:2-4.

52

San Diego Union, July 3, 1911 5:2-4.

53

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans August, 1911.

54

San Diego Union, August 4, 1911 5:1-4.

55

San Diego Union, August 8, 1911 5:5.

56

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans August, 1911.

57

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, August, 1911.

58

San Diego Sun, August 17, 1911 3:4.

59

Souvenir Book of Fort Rosecrans, 1914.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

- ⁶⁰Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, October, 1011.
- ⁶¹San Diego Sun, October 24, 1911 1:1.
- ⁶²San Diego Union, March 26, 1912 18:3
- ⁶³2/Lt Charles N. Wilson was born on June 6, 1887 in Arkansas. He received his appointment to 2/Lt in the Coast Artillery Corps on June 20, 1910.
- ⁶⁴Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, March, 1912.
- ⁶⁵Major George Blakley graduated 4th in the U.S. Military Academy Class of 1892. He advanced through the grades to Brigadier General, commanding the 38th Artillery Brigade of the A.E.F. in France during World War I.
- ⁶⁶Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, May, 1912.
- ⁶⁷San Diego Union, April 29, 1913 1:7-8.
- ⁶⁸Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, April, 1913.
- ⁶⁹San Diego Union, April 30, 1913 1:8.
- ⁷⁰Post Returns Fort Rosecrans, July, 1913.
- ⁷¹San Diego Sun, July 28, 1913 1:1-2, 9:3-4 and the San Diego Union, July 29, 1913 1:4, 3:3-4.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

72

William Church Davis graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1890, advancing through the grades to Major General. He served in the U.S. Army, U.S. Volunteers, and Officer Reserve Corps in the Philippine Islands, Europe and the United States. He commanded Fort Rosecrans during 1913-15. Davis was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services."

73

The San Francisco Chronicle's obituary called Emilio Kosterlitzky a "typical soldier of fortune." Born in Moscow, the son of an Admiral of the Imperial Russian Navy, Kosterlitzky departed his country in 1870 at age 17 for Mexico, where he gained a reputation as an Indian fighter, and strongman of the Diaz regime. After his release from his internment from on Point Loma, he went to work for the Department of Justice. His last important case was the Teapot Dome scandal. Kosterlitzky retired to Los Angeles where he died on March 2, 1928. Cornelius C. Smith, Emilio Kosterlitzky: Eagle of Sonora and the Southwest (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark, 1970), pp. 18, 177, 206, 212, 213.

74

San Diego Union, August 6, 1913 1:6.

75

John M. Page was born on February 12, 1877. He enlisted as a private in the Infantry on May 7, 1898. Page was commissioned a 2/Lt in the Artillery on August 1, 1901, and was promoted to Captain on March 11, 1911.

76

Herbert A. McCune was born on February 20, 1814 in Iowa. He received his commission as a 2/Lt on September 25, 1908.

77

San Diego Union, August 7, 1913 1:4, 3:1-2.

78

San Diego Sun, August 7, 1913 1:1-2.

79

San Diego Sun, August 29, 1913 1:7-8 and August 27, 1913 1:7-8.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

- 80
Post Returns Fort Rosecrans September, 1913.
- 81
Serial No. 6608, House Ex. Doc. 428, 63d Cong., 2d Sess., 820.
- 82
The first Military Aviation School in the United States opened at North Island on January 17, 1911 with Glen Curtis as the instructor. The Army accepted Curtis' invitation to share North Island, and the first detachment arrived on November 4, 1912. In December 1913, the Army designated North Island as the Signal Corps Aviation School. For more information, see Elretta Sudsbury, Jackrabbits to Jets, the History of North Island, San Diego, California (San Diego: Neyenesch Printers, Inc., 1967).
- 83
The Mackay Trophy was established in 1911 by Clarence H. Mackay, a wealthy industrialist, philanthropist, communications pioneer, and aviation enthusiast. Originally, the winner was decided by aerial reconnaissance competition. The trophy is now awarded for the most meritorious flight of the year. The first recipient of the trophy was 2/Lt Henry H. (Hap) Arnold in 1912.
- 84
Post Returns Fort Rosecrans December, 1913, and the San Diego Sun December 29, 1913 9:6. The trophy was won by Lts. J.E. Carberry and Fred Seydel, in a Curtiss Military Scout Tractor No. 23.
- 85
Major Robert R. Raymond was born on March 5, 1871 in the state of New York. He graduated from the Military Academy on June 12, 1893 and accepted a commission in the Corps of Engineers. Raymond was promoted to Major on July 28, 1908.
- 86
NAFARG77 Civil Works File F-29.
- 87
Post Returns Fort Rosecrans March, 1914.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

88

San Diego Sun, March 16, 1914 1:6-7; March 17, 1914 1:5.

89

San Diego Sun, March 17, 1914 1:5.

90

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans April, 1914.

91

San Diego Union, April 19, 1914 1:4.

92

Perhaps Ferron should have stayed in the Coast Artillery Corps instead of transferring to the Aviation Section of the Field Artillery. He was dismissed from the service on April 19, 1918.

93

The San Diego Union called Captain Condon "one of the most popular Army officers ever stationed at the local reservation." He was one of the few officers on active service in the Coast Artillery Corps with a battlefield commission. Condon was the only man in the Army to hold both the Congressional Medal of Honor and certificate of Merit. He held bachelor's and master's degrees from the National University of Washington, D.C. Condon died following an operation at Walter Reed Army Hospital and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in July, 1916.

94

Lewis Hyde Brereton was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania on June 21, 1890. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1911 with an ensign's commission in the Navy, but transferred to the Army in August 1911, as an artillery officer. Brereton commenced flight training in 1912, and became a military aviator in March 1913, advancing through the grades to Lieutenant General in 1944. During World War I he served in the A.E.F. in France. In World War II Brereton served in the Philippines, Australia, Java, Egypt, and the United Kingdom. His decorations included the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Knight of the Bath (United Kingdom), Legion of Honor (France), Croix de Guerre with three palms (France), Order of Danilo (Yugoslavia), Order of Albert of Belgium, Order of Orange (Netherlands).

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

95

John W. Wallis was born December 18, 1886 in Texas. He was commissioned a 2/Lt in the Coast Artillery Corps on September 25, 1909.

96

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans April, 1914.

97

San Diego Sun, April 20, 1914 2:4-5.

98

President Woodrow Wilson's refusal to recognize Victoriano Huerta as the President of Mexico led him on a path of intervention. On April 20, 1914 he asked and received from Congress authority to interfere by force of arms in Mexico. The next day Wilson used that power to order the seizure of Vera Cruz to prevent the landing of German arms destined for Huerta.

99

San Diego Sun, April 22, 1914 1:1-2.

100

San Diego Sun, April 23, 1914 1:7-8.

101

San Diego Sun, April 24, 1914 2:1, 3:1.

102

Post Returns Fort Rosecrans April, 1914.

103

San Diego Union, April 27, 1914 3:1.

104

San Diego Union, April 27, 1914 3:1-2.

105

San Diego Sun, April 28, 1914 3:4-5.

106

San Diego Sun, May 17, 1914 1:6.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

107

NARG77, General Correspondence, 1894-1923, 94312/5, 94312/6, and NARG77, Los Angeles, Civil Works Files, F-29 #2.

108

Chaplain Joseph L. Hunter, C.A.C., "History of Fort Rosecrans," Army and Navy Review, Panama-California Edition, 1915. Arthur Aronson, managing editor. Hereinafter cited as Hunter's History.

109

On July 19, 1911 ground was broken for the Panama-California International Exposition to be held in San Diego to commemorate the opening of the Panama Canal and the growing importance of San Diego as a city and seaport.

110

The 160th Company was organized on September 1, 1907 at the Presidio of San Francisco, by the division of the 10th Company. The 10th Company was originally designated Battery "M", 1st Artillery. The Company had 28 different assignments of officers since its organization in 1907.

111

The 13th Coast Artillery Corps Band was organized at Fort Dupont, Delaware on March 1, 1907.

112

San Diego Sun, December 3, 1914 1:4, 3:3.

113

Hunter's History.

114

San Diego Union, January 1, 1915 1:2, and Clarence Alan McGrew, City of San Diego and San Diego County (New York: The American Historical Society, Chicago and New York, 1922) vol. 1, p. 209.

115

NARG77 94312/36.

116

NARG77 94312/48.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

117

NARG77 March 25, 1915 Letter from the Chief of Engineers to the District Engineer, Los Angeles, California.

118

NARG77 97309/167.

119

NARG77 34294/140.

120

John Haskell Calef was born in Massachusetts. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1862 with a commission in the Artillery, and served in the Civil War. Calef was wounded in September of 1863 at the battle of the Rapidan River. He retired as a Colonel in 1904, and died on January 4, 1912.

121

NARG77 42146/122.

122

Hunter's History.

123

Hunter's History.

124

NARG, Coast Defenses of San Diego, F 28 Box 13/74.

125

San Diego Union, July 30, 1915 6:4.

126

San Diego Union, July 31, 1915 5:6.

127

Albert A. Acher was born in Pennsylvania on June 6, 1883. He accepted a commission as a 2/Lt in the Engineers on June 11, 1909 after graduating from West Point.

128

NARG Project Files, Fort Rosecrans, F-29.

129

NARG Letter from Headquarters Defense of San Diego, April 16, 1925.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

130

Garland N. Whistler, born in New York on August 10, 1847, applied for a commission in the Artillery on October 9, 1867. The Army accepted his application on October 12, 1863, and promoted him to Colonel on January 25, 1907. He retired from the Army on August 10, 1911.

131

NARG77 42146/125. John Vassar White graduated from the Military Academy on June 15, 1877 with a commission as a 2/Lt in the 4th Artillery.

132

On March 10, 1916 Brigadier General John J. Pershing received orders to organize an adequate military force to cross the border and pursue Mexican outlaws who had attacked Columbus, New Mexico on March 9. During the pursuit two incidents occurred which inflamed the American public. The Parral incident on April 12, saw two American soldiers killed, two officers and four soldiers wounded, and one soldier missing. On June 21, the Carrizal incident occurred, when two officers and seven enlisted men were killed, with one officer and nine enlisted men wounded. The Mexicans captured 23 enlisted men and one civilian interpreter. American Military History, pp. 355-57.

133

San Diego Union, March 7, 1916 8:1.

134

NARG Project File F-34, Letter of February 26, 1916.

135

Johnson Hagood, born in Orangeburg, South Carolina on June 16, 1873, was the nephew of Brigadier General Johnso Hagood, Confederate Army, and Governor of South Carolina. Hagood attended the University of South Carolina, and graduated from West Point in 1896 where he returned from 1901-1904, as an instructor in the Department of Philosophy. In 1921 he received a doctor of laws degree from the University of South Carolina. He served on several battlefronts, and with the General Staff of the A.E.F. in France during World War I, where he received the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Honor (France), Order of Crown (Italy), and Order of the

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

135

Sacred Treasure (Japanese). Hagood developed several apparatus connected with seacoast defense that were adopted for use by the Army. He authored several books, magazine, and newspaper articles. On May 31, 1936 Major General Hagood retired from the Army.

136

San Diego Union, March 14, 1916 2:7-8.

137

Esteban Cantú arrived in Mexicali on June 26, 1911, and served as Governor of the Northern District of Baja California from 1914 to 1920. Cantú was a popular governor, who is credited with introducing vice to Tijuana. His regime made several "improvements" in his territory. Tijuana became a tourist attraction with the installation of gambling casinos, a race track, and resorts. These facilities increased in popularity after prohibition became law in the United States. All these forms of entertainment contributed liberally to the government coffers. When Federal troops arrived from Mexico City to remove him from office, Cantú quietly stepped over the line to the U.S.

138

San Diego Sun, June 24, 1916 1:5; June 26, 1916 1:4, 1:1.

139

San Diego Sun, June 22, 1916 7:3.

140

San Diego Sun, June 27, 1916 1:4 and San Diego Union, June 28, 1916 3:6.

141

Major General Johnson Hagood, unpublished memoir, copy in author's possession, pp. 180-182. Hereinafter cited as JH Memoir.

142

San Diego Union, June 28, 1916 1:3-6.

143

San Diego Union, July 5, 1916 1:2.

CHAPTER SIX NOTES cont.

157

Colonel Patterson served at San Diego Barracks and Fort Rosecrans with Battery "D", 3d Artillery, from December 5, 1897 until February 20, 1899.

158

San Diego Union, December 25, 1916 5:7.

Chapter 7

MOBILIZATION

Events moved swiftly at Fort Rosecrans in 1917. The year opened with 250 men in two companies at the fort, and the Army announced plans for the stationing of five more companies at the post.¹ During the year, principal activities of the fort included maintaining coast defenses, supervising the organization and training of certain units for overseas duty, and mobilization and muster-in of National Guard units.²

On February 4, 1917, Lieutenant Colonel George T. Patterson ordered Fort Rosecrans to institute "warlike measures" to protect San Diego. Vessels entering the harbor had to show their signal numbers, indicating their identity before passing the fort. The soldiers prepared all of the seacoast defenses for immediate action. Also, Colonel Patterson increased the number of sentries guarding various points throughout the post.³

Despite the existence of a state of war between the United States and Germany⁴ for over a week, the port of San Diego remained open at night. Soldiers manned the batteries protecting the harbor on a 24 hour schedule, however, and the mine field had been laid.⁵

San Diego's two National Guard Companies of Coast Artillery, the 5th and 8th Companies, "slept on their arms" the night of April 15 awaiting orders calling them to duty for the duration of the war.⁶ Each company numbered about 85 men. The total authorized strength for each company equalled 109 men.⁷ The next day, the two companies left for Fort Rosecrans to be mustered into federal service.⁸

To the large crowd lining Broadway to say goodbye, "it looked like wartime" as the men of the 5th and 8th Companies marched by on their way to the municipal pier for transport to Fort Rosecrans. Just before boarding the government tug, the troops lined up for a photograph to capture the moment.⁹

With the large number of Regular Army soldiers arriving in May at Fort Rosecrans, the Army activated the 3rd and 4th Companies at the fort (Figure 27).¹⁰ While the ranks of the Regulars swelled, those of the 5th and 8th Companies, National Guard decreased. A number of the guardsmen received discharges for physical disabilities and dependent families. To counter this, the National Guard intensified their recruiting efforts, offering San Diego men the chance to serve "for the duration" in companies composed entirely of officers and men from San Diego, instead of waiting to be drafted and serving with strangers.¹¹

By June, four companies of National Guard Coast Artillery

Figure 27: Tents for the new arrivals. Courtesy of the Quartermaster/San Diego.

Figure 28: The 14th Company, California Coast Artillery (National Guard) at Fort Rosecrans. Courtesy of the Quartermaster/San Diego.

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Figure 29: The 14th Company on a hike. Courtesy of the Quartermaster/San Diego.

Figure 30: The Fort Rosecrans baseball team. Courtesy of the Quartermaster/San Diego.

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300 N ZEEB RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48106



the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 18th, had arrived at Fort Rosecrans from Los Angeles (Figures 28, 29, 30 and 31).¹² They would serve at a dry post and city, as a new federal law prohibited the sale of liquor, "except for medicinal purposes" at military posts. The law also made it "unlawful to sell intoxicants to any officer or member of the military in uniform."¹³ The Army required enlisted men to wear their uniform while on pass. Three days later, two San Diego saloons had their licenses revoked by the City Council, on recommendations of the San Diego Police, for selling liquor to soldiers and sailors. Police arrested one soldier who put on a pair of mechanic's coveralls to purchase 12 bottles of beer for himself, and two friends waiting in a rented room of a local hotel.¹⁴

The new liquor law took a turn against the drinking citizens of San Diego, when a special agent of the Department of Justice ruled that the sale of liquor at saloons, cafes, wholesale houses, clubs, as well as other places where liquor might be sold, would not be allowed within one half mile of any military installation. An interpretation of this law included the Quartermaster's stables at State and "F" Streets, where two Army mules were stabled. The presence of the mules threatened to turn most of San Diego dry. The half mile radius from the stables included all the major hotels, cafes, and all

but half a dozen saloons and wholesale liquor stores of the city.¹⁵ After a loud protest to Washington, the War Department concluded that the law did not apply to small or temporary posts and camps.¹⁶

On October 9, 1917 Battery Fetterman experienced an unusual accident during target practice. The barrel of No. 1 gun broke from its mounting at the time of discharge, shot back against the concrete wall, struck a glancing blow, and slid down the stairs. Fortunately, the barrel did not hit anyone.¹⁷

Pending the completion of the cantonment construction at the fort, the Engineers at the fort on December 15, requested the Chief of Engineers to transfer Batteries White and Whistler to the fort to permit temporary housing of troops. Two days later the Chief of Engineers granted the request.¹⁸

In January 1918, Fort Rosecrans began organizing units for overseas duty. "A" and "B" Batteries, 1st Battalion, 65th Coast Artillery Regiment,¹⁹ received the honor of being the first units organized at the fort for overseas duty. The troops for "A" Battery came from the 1st Company, formerly the 28th Company, and the 2d Company, formerly the 115th Company of Fort Rosecrans. The Battery "B" soldiers came from the 5th and 8th National Guard Companies of San Diego, and the 13th and 18th National Guard Companies of Coast Artillery from Los Angeles.²⁰ Both Batteries left Fort Rosecrans on February 28 for duty in France.²¹

Figure 31: Fort Rosecrans soldiers on the rifle range.
Courtesy of the Quartermaster/San Diego.

Figure 32: Fort Rosecrans chow line. Courtesy of the
Quartermaster/San Diego.

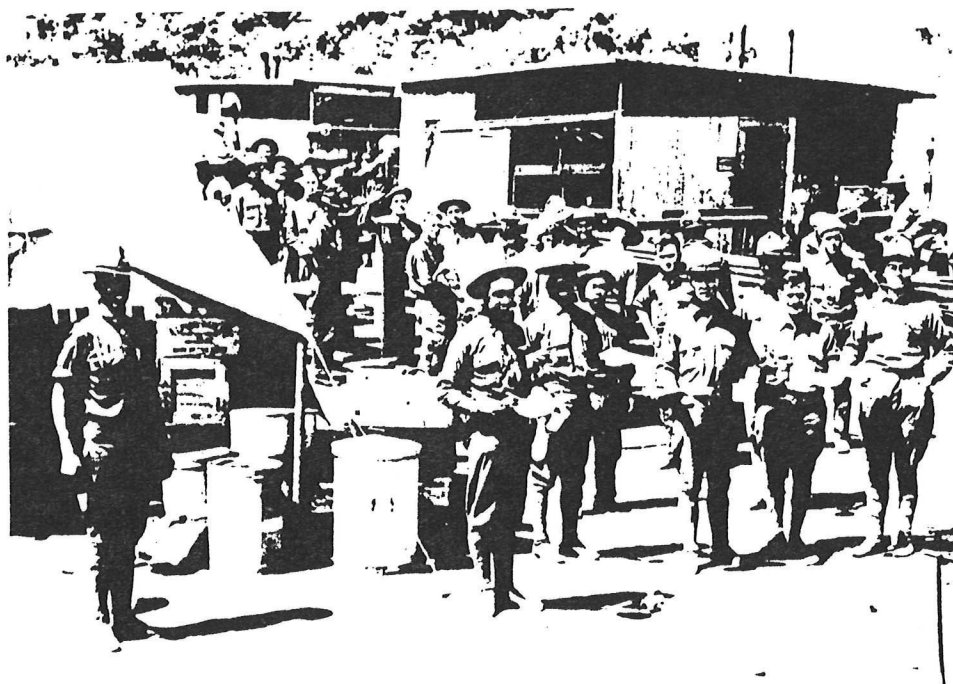
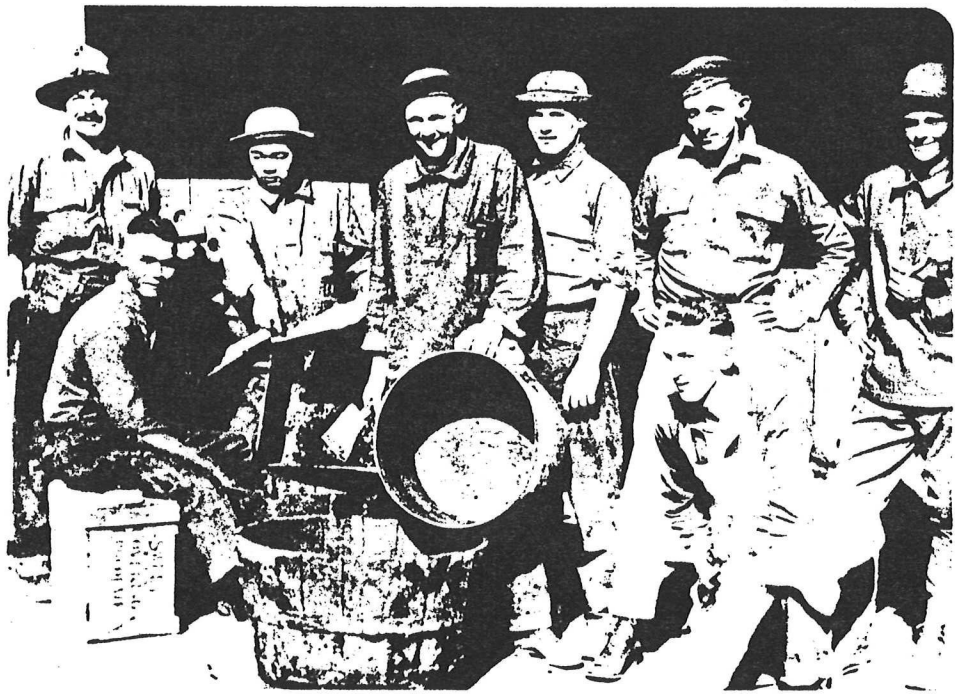
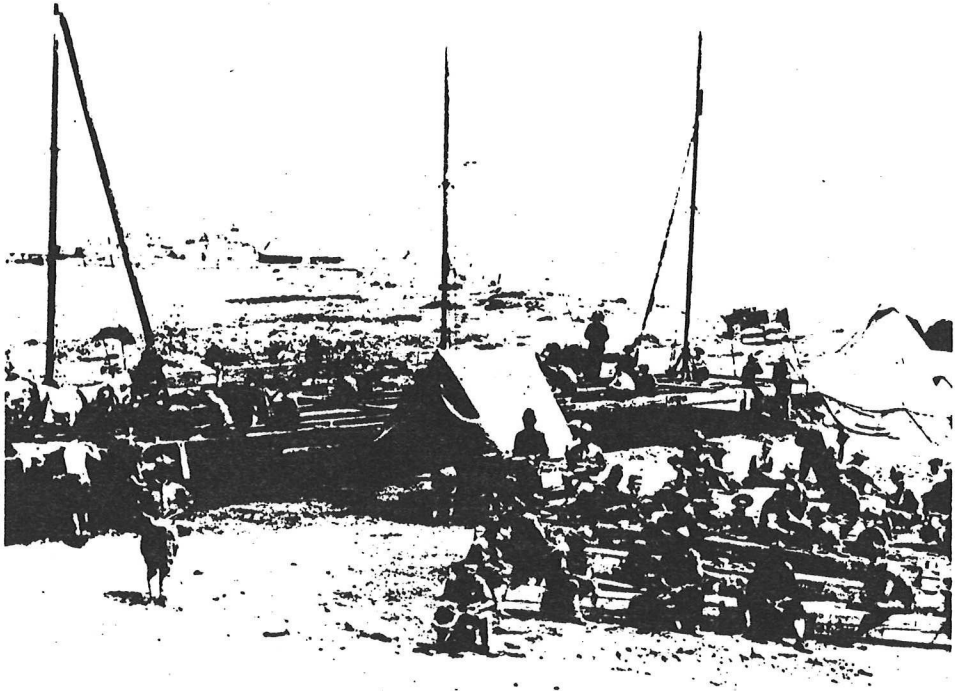


Figure 33: The troops dining out on the target platforms
Courtesy of the Quartermaster/San Diego.

Figure 34: Kitchen Police on the job. Courtesy of the
Quartermaster/San Diego.

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The housing shortage at Fort Rosecrans ended with the completion of construction on 12 officer's quarters, 12 two story barracks, 6 messhalls, 6 lavatories, and one warehouse on January 19, 1918 (Figures 32, 33, 34 and 35).²²

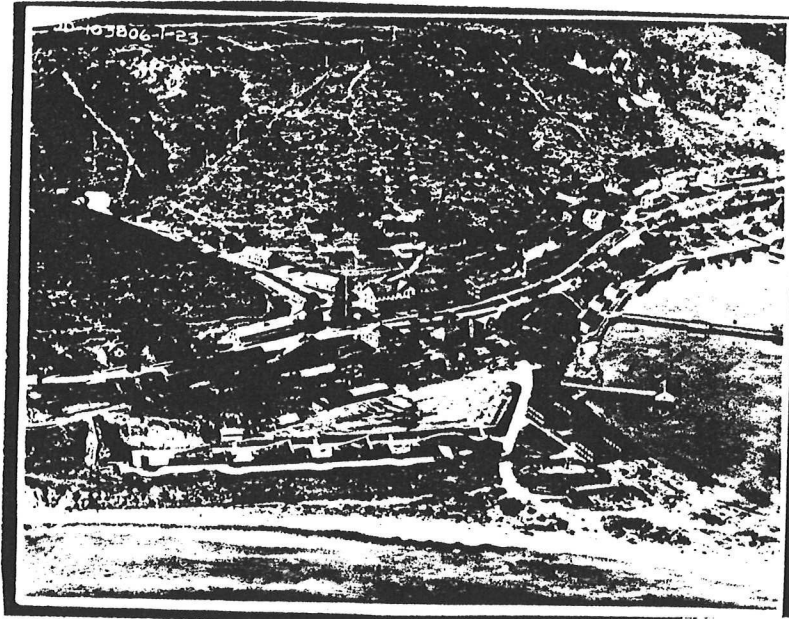
An epidemic of flu struck Fort Rosecrans in April. San Diegans named it the "Japanese influenza" as the outbreak coincided with a visit of a squadron of Japanese warships to San Diego harbor. The ships arrived with a number of influenza cases on board. The flu first manifested itself at Balboa Park after a visit by the Japanese sailors, and spread throughout the city. Fortunately, few cases of pneumonia followed the outbreak, and the duration of the attack did not last long. The next flu epidemic to strike the Rosecrans soldiers would not be so mild.²³

During May, the Army ordered the fort to organize the 54th Ammunition Train.²⁴ The 54th levied troops from the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Companies which had formed at the fort in April. Three months later the 54th arrived in France.²⁵

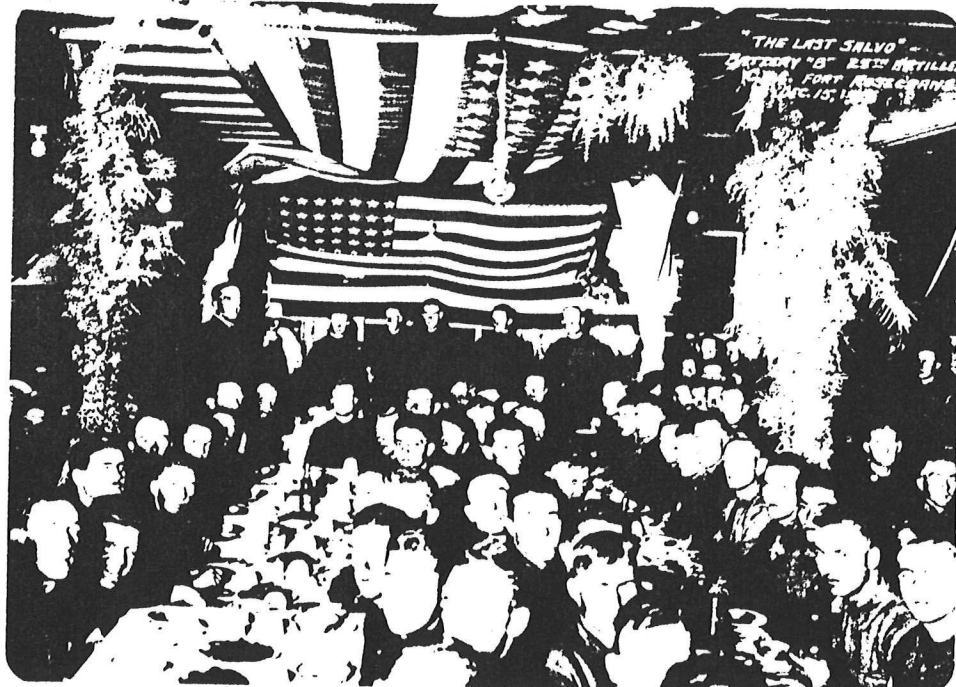
On May 31, Batteries "A" and "B", 2d Antiaircraft Battalion, Coast Artillery Corps, recruited and trained at Fort Rosecrans, waited in ranks on the Santa Fe Depot's platform for the order to board the train which moved them across the country to their port of embarkation for France.²⁶

Fort Rosecrans continued to send troops to France. On July

aerial photo
New Barracks 10
L. Roig
com



FOREWELL PARTY
"LAST SALVO"
BATTERY "B" 25TH
ARTILLERY REGIMENT



15, 2/Lt Louis A. Williford²⁷ and 125 men left for Camp Eustis, Virginia²⁸ for final training before overseas service.²⁹

The flu returned to Fort Rosecrans at the end of September in epidemic force. Numerous cases of pneumonia developed, causing some deaths. Medical authorities instituted several preventive measures during the epidemic. They established a general quarantine over the fort, and closed all indoor amusement halls and the exchange. Later, the doctors required all troops to wear gauze masks during the epidemic.³⁰

Fort Rosecrans organized a new unit on October 19, 1918. The 25th Regiment, Coast Artillery Corps, formed from the 4th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Companies of Fort Rosecrans, had a short life. The unit received orders to demobilize in December (Figure 36).³¹

During the war, Fort Rosecrans organized, trained, and sent overseas 35 officers and 1611 enlisted men.³² At the time of the signing of the Armistice, approximately 2,000 soldiers at the fort awaited service in France.³³

For Corporal Merwin F. Garrigue of the 3rd Company at Fort Rosecrans, the signing of the Armistice ending the war came as a bittersweet experience. At the outbreak of the war, Garrigue travelled to Canada and joined the Canadian Army. Despairing of ever seeing action, Sergeant Carrigue obtained a discharge from the army, and joined the Royal Flying Corps in the service of King George V. Unfortunately for Carrigue, he only succeeded

in moving further away from the battlefields, when he received a posting to western Canada. When the United States entered the war, Corporal Carrigue left the Flying Corps, hastening back to the United States to join the Army, where he encountered a bureaucratic delay in his reinstatement as a citizen of the United States. Overcoming this adversity, he joined the Army, and continued the westward movement away from the battlefields with a posting to Fort Rosecrans. When the war ended with Garrigue at Fort Rosecrans, he admitted that "I tried."³⁴

With the demobilization of the Army moving at full speed, Fort Rosecrans by January 11, 1919 counted approximately 200 men in three companies.³⁵

On February 18, "A" and "B" Batteries, 1st Battalion, 65th Coast Artillery Regiment, returned to San Diego. Two days later, the citizens of a decorated city turned out for a welcome back parade to prove "they kept the home fires burning." The soldiers from Fort Rosecrans participated in the parade along with units from every military installation in the area.³⁶

On February 25, fifty soldiers who participated in the welcome home parade staged a real homecoming when the regulars returned to their old station at Fort Rosecrans. The orders pleased Colonel James R. Pourie,³⁷ the commanding officer, and the men.³⁸

Colonel Samuel A. Kephart,³⁹ commanding Fort Rosecrans,

announced on February 26 the lifting of war time restrictions at the fort. He reopened the fort to visitors, however, Kephart advised automobiles to keep to the roads when driving on Point Loma, as sightseer's picnic parties before the war had "scattered considerable glass" along the paths.⁴⁰

Artillerymen fresh from France test fired Battery McGrath's 3-inch guns, installed to replace the 5-inch guns sent overseas on March 8. The test firing determined the accuracy of the adjustment made by the artillerymen during the mounting of the guns.⁴¹

The military success of November 1918, and the triumphant return of the conquering heroes drove from the national memory the gloom of 1917. Few remembered that at the outbreak of war the Army's arsenal totaled 890,000 Springfield rifles and little else. No one questioned the excessive numbers of casualties caused by the policy of denying the Army, because of the belief that war could not come to the United States. Who in San Diego cared to recall the problems Fort Rosecrans had accepting the huge influx of soldiers, National Guardsmen, and draftees who descended on the fort? Or the cannibalization of the fort's Regular Army units to provide cadre and training for the new arrivals. Who noted the day soldiers stripped Battery McGrath of its guns and sent them overseas? Again, as in the Spanish-American War the future would show the nation did not learn from its past mistakes!

CHAPTER SEVEN NOTES

1

San Diego Union, January 1, 1917 3:1-4.

2

Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War (1917-19), Zone of the Interior (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1949). Vol. III, parts 1 and 2, p. 615. Hereinafter cited as OBUS.

3

San Diego Union, February 5, 1917 1:5-6.

4

President Wilson called Congress into a special session and asked it to recognize the state of hostilities that Germany had brought about. The war resolution passed the Senate on April 4, and the House on April 6, 1917.

5

San Diego Union, April 14, 1917 3:1.

6

San Diego Union, April 16, 1917 3:7.

7

San Diego Union, April 17, 1917 5:1.

8

San Diego Union, April 18, 1917 14:1-5.

9

San Diego Union, April 18, 1917 14:1-5.

10

OBUS p. 1218.

11

San Diego Union, May 6, 1917 8:1.

12

San Diego Union, June 8, 1917 10:1.

CHAPTER SEVEN NOTES cont.

13

San Diego Union, June 9, 1917 8:1.

14

San Diego Union, June 13, 1917 8:2.

15

San Francisco Examiner, August 21, 1917 3:7.

16

San Diego Union, August 24, 1917 12:4.

17

NARGG77 Letter October 8, 1917 to District Engineer.

18

NARGG77 94312/135.

19

"A" and "B" Batteries travelled to San Francisco, where the entire Regiment assembled for a voyage through the Panama Canal to New York, then to Liverpool, and across the English Channel to central France for more training. Their "baptism of fire" came on September 12 in the St. Mihiel sector. The 65th Regiment fired the "Old Dutch Cleansers," the 9.2-inch British howitzers.

20

OBUS pp. 289, 1177, 1218, and San Diego Union, February 20, 1919 1:3, 6:4.

21

San Diego Union, February 23, 1919 6:6.

22

San Diego Union, January 1918 6:6.

23

Serial No. 7682, House Ex. Doc. 426, 66th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 2138.

24

The Ammunition Train supplied ammunition from the ordnance depots to the regimental dumps or combat trains of the brigades during the firing.

CHAPTER SEVEN NOTES cont.

25

OBUS pp. 1177-1178.

26

Earnest Stone, *Battery B Through the Fires of France* (Los Angeles: Wayside Press, 1919), pp. 12, 224. San Diego Union, February 19, 1919 6:3, March 8, 1919 6:8. The War Department assigned the antiaircraft mission to the Coast Artillery Corps, because they had been trained to fire at moving targets.

27

Louis A. Williford, born on January 11, 1894 in Illinois, joined the Officer's Reserve Corps on March 27, 1918, and received a 2/Lt's commission in the Coast Artillery Corps on May 1, 1918.

28

NARG 407 Records of the Adjutant General's Office, World War I Strength Returns, Fort Rosecrans.

29

OBUS p. 152.

30

Serial No. 7682, p. 2138.

31

OBUS pp. 1137, 1177, and San Diego Union, December 8, 1918 6:6, December 17, 1918 10:4.

32

San Diego Union, January 1, 1920 8:1.

33

San Diego Tribune-Sun, August 7, 1941 17:3.

34

San Diego Union, January 6, 1919 6:3.

35

San Diego Union, February 18, 1919 1:4, 5:2 and OBUS p. 150.

CHAPTER SEVEN NOTES cont.

36

San Diego Union, February 20, 1919 1:3, 6:4.

37

Colonel James R. Pourie, born in Missouri on April 20, 1871, graduated from Westminster College in 1891. He received a 1/Lt's commission in the 6th Missouri Infantry on August 4, 1898, before transferring to the Artillery Corps on September 20, 1901; to the Quartermaster Corps on June 12, 1911; to the Coast Artillery Corps on October 23, 1914; and back to the Quartermaster Corps on June 19, 1919.

38

San Diego Union, February 25, 1919 6:6.

39

Colonel Samuel Alexander Kephart, born in Pennsylvania, graduated from West Point in 1892 with a 2/Lt's commission in the Artillery. Kephart commanded Fort Rosecrans from December 1, 1918 to February 26, 1919.

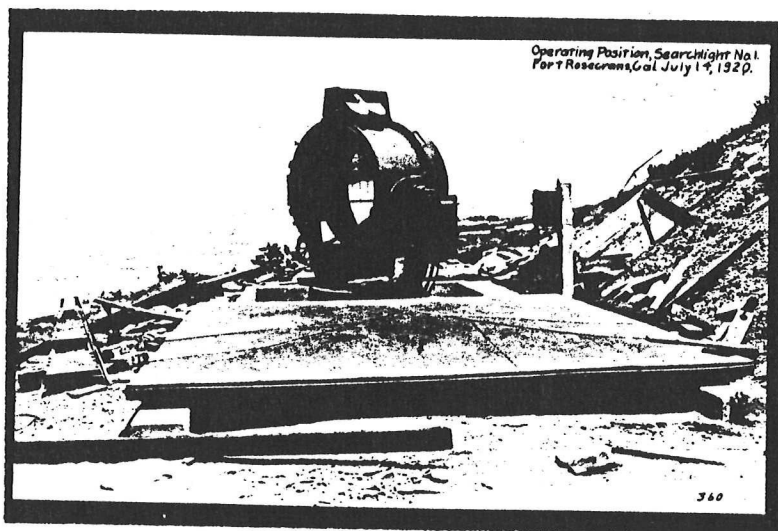
40

San Diego Union, February 26, 1919 14:1.

41

San Diego Union, March 8, 1919 6:8.

DISAPPEARING SEARCH LIGHT



Officer Row after receiving a new
coat of paint for the Balboa
International Exposition,



Chapter 8

LEAN YEARS

During 1920, while other forts had their commands reduced to caretaker status, Fort Rosecrans still boasted a three company post.¹ Also, the defense projects started during World War I continued towards completion. The projects included a Meteorological Station, Signal Station, and the emplacement of eight searchlights (Figure 37).²

Improvements continued to be made at Fort Rosecrans. To celebrate the completion of a new athletic field, Colonel Edwin Landon,³ the fort's commanding officer, announced an inter-service track and field meet, tug-of-war, and baseball game at the post on January 13, 1922. Contestants came from the U.S. Naval Air Station, U.S. Naval Fleet Air, U.S. Army Cavalry, and Fort Rosecrans. The winners received merchandise prizes and silver loving cups.⁴

The Fort Rosecrans regulars continued to train the National Guard at the fort. On February 1, 1922, three companies and part of a fourth received instruction on the 10-inch guns and anti-aircraft batteries. This training became more important when forces in Congress pressed for wholesale reductions in the troops assigned to coast defense. They proposed to have

the National Guard take over the defense of the coasts. The proposal provided for two exceptions, San Francisco and New York, where regular troops would continue to garrison the harbor defenses.⁵

To insure a general observance of Mother's Day in the Army, the Secretary of War directed that the War Department branches, and Commanding Generals of Corps areas inform their commands of his desire that every officer and enlisted man write a letter to his home that day. Accordingly, a bulletin arrived at Fort Rosecrans from the War Department instructing the troops that their letter "should contain an expression of the love and reverence we owe to the mothers of our country."⁶

Indications for Fort Rosecrans' future appeared in the press on June 24, 1922, when the paper announced a "wholesale discharge" of officers by the years' end.⁷ Later in the year, the San Francisco Chronicle announced the abandonment of all forts in San Francisco save one. The paper noted that San Francisco fared better than San Diego, "where all the sea coast defenses will go into the hands of caretakers."⁸

The "practical abandonment" of the seacoast defense of San Diego occurred on October 12, 1922, when one half of the enlisted men of the 115th, 28th, and 89th⁹ Companies left for the Hawaiian Islands. The Marine Band from the Marine Corps Recruit Base went out to the fort to give the artillerymen a

farewell concert. Many of the transferred men resided in San Diego for years.¹⁰

The following day a detachment of 70 enlisted men received notice to prepare to leave for Panama. After their departure only 30 men remained at Rosecrans, and a number of the 30 would soon be civilians.¹¹ These caretakers became Battery "D", 3d Artillery, on July 1, 1924.¹²

Doubts as to the Army's resolve to reduce spending vanished with the arrival of orders placing all of the fort's idle horses on diets. The Army ordered the forage rations of the horses reduced "wherever little work is required of the horses."¹³

Fort Rosecrans received more Mexican guests on August 16, 1926, when agents of the Department of Justice, aided by city and county officials, captured 150 men three miles from the Mexican border. The heavily armed men appeared to be mobilized for revolution. The county jail, unprepared for such a sudden growth in population appealed to authorities at the fort to provide a barracks and guards.¹⁴ The guests only stayed the night. The next day Marines marched the prisoners to the Marine Base to more comfortable quarters. The hardwood floor accommodations with just a blanket to roll-up in did not appeal to the prisoners.¹⁵

A lack of proper quarters for the Headquarters of the Sixth Brigade at Fort Douglas, Utah¹⁶ provided new tenants for Fort

Rosecrans on February 1, 1928. Brigadier General Ralph H. Van Deman¹⁷ assumed command of the fort. The Brigade Headquarters responsibilities included preparation of plans for mobilization and training in time of war of the two Infantry regiments under the command, and the training of officers and enlisted personnel in brigade staff functions.¹⁸

More new tenants for the fort arrived during June of 1929, when a detachment of the 11th Cavalry¹⁹ moved from Camp Hearn²⁰ after the Army's lease expired. The detachment included three officers, 60 enlisted men, and 70 animals.²¹

The strength of Fort Rosecrans on January 1, 1930, equaled 12 officers and 140 enlisted men. The units posted to the fort included a skeletonized Battery "D", 3d Coast Artillery, a detachment of the 11th Cavalry, and the Headquarters of the Sixth Infantry Brigade. Brigadier General George C. Shaw²² commanded the post.²³

Lieutenant William E. Griffin,²⁴ commanding the harbor defenses of San Diego, met Major General John W. Gulick,²⁵ the Chief of Coast Artillery who arrived on November 19, 1930. The local press viewed the visit as "significant." An editorial in the San Diego Union commented that although no doubt familiar with the situation "General Gulick may be shocked" by the harbor defenses represented by Fort Rosecrans.²⁶

The "speedy" visit of General Gulick disappointed the press. His comment that a "shortage of personnel is the greatest problem of the Army's coast defense units" appeared obvious to the people of San Diego, where 23 soldiers comprised the entire coast artillery garrison for Fort Rosecrans. Recently, the Sixth Infantry's headquarters staff had been trimmed from 29 to five enlisted men. The headquarters now equaled 10 officers and five enlisted men.²⁷

An Associated Press dispatch reached San Diego on May 21, 1931 with news of Fort Rosecrans' inclusion on a list naming 63 Army posts to be partly or completely sold. The news shocked San Diego.²⁸ The Army claimed it had perfected a plan of defense to take advantage of the development of public highways, railways, and airplanes. Modern 14-inch railway guns had or would be deployed on the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts, and the Panama Canal. The plan also called for large caliber guns, as large as 8-inch, to be moved at high speed along public highways to the required points.²⁹

Determined to battle to the last ditch for the full retention of Fort Rosecrans as a coast defense unit, Representative Phil D. Swing³⁰ announced he would meet with city officials, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, and local leaders to take up the fight to prevent abandonment of the fort. Swing

believed that somebody unfamiliar with the facts had mistakenly included Fort Rosecrans with the list of "political posts" and obsolete Indian posts to be abandoned.³¹

The special committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce at Representative Swing's request included several important retired military officers.³² The committee expected to make a vigorous case for the retention of Fort Rosecrans to the Secretary of War.³³

On September 18, additional bad news reached San Diego. The 11th Cavalry detachment of 3 officers, 50 men, and 70 mounts received orders to Monterey. Also, the Sixth Infantry Brigade Headquarters had orders for Fort Douglas, Utah. The transfers left one officer and less than a score of artillerymen at the fort.³⁴

Good news reached the city in October with the announcement of the selection of Fort Rosecrans as the final training site for the U.S. Army Equestrian Team,³⁵ which would compete in the 1932 Olympic Games at Los Angeles. The group began assembling at the fort in October, and finished in November. Also, a detachment of the Ninth Cavalry³⁶ arrived to handle the grooming of the horses. Months of hard work awaited the men and horses.³⁷

On July 3, 1932 the Equestrian Team gave San Diego a

preview of the Olympic competition with a full dress rehearsal of all the events. San Diego's poor received half of the gate receipts and the American Olympic Committee the other half.³⁸

Joe Aleshire, one of the noted horses scheduled to perform, would get a second chance to compete in the Olympics. Taken from the ranks as a Cavalry "remount," Joe Aleshire showed remarkable ability as a jumper and went into training for the 1928 Olympics. Shortly before the Games Joe overreached himself taking a jump, and he almost severed a tendon in his front leg. Few horses recover from this type of injury, so the Army struck Joe's name from the roster and pensioned him off. Two years later, Major Harry D. Chamberlin,³⁹ who had ridden and trained the horse, became interested enough to look for the horse. Chamberlin found Joe fully recovered from the accident and immediately put the horse in training. The Army needed horses for the National Horse Show. With only two weeks training Joe Aleshire entered the competition, which he won, beating numerous domestic and foreign entries. The Team hoped Joe Aleshire would do as well in the 1932 Olympics.⁴⁰

With 15,000 spectators present, including the Japanese Olympic Equestrian Team, the U.S. team went through their paces. The team closed their exhibition with the Prix de Nations, a purely jumping event over a most difficult course of obstacles.

Joe Aleshire, ridden by Captain William D. Bradford,⁴¹ provided the best spectacle for the crowd. After the successful exhibition, the members of the U.S. Equestrian Team citing the excellent condition of the horses and riders, expressed a confidence about their chances of success in Los Angeles.⁴²

After President Franklin Delano Rossevelt signed the bill establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps on March 31, 1933, he directed the Army to mobilize the large numbers of jobless young men, and put them to work on reclamation and reforestation projects. Within seven weeks the Army mobilized 310,000 men in 1,315 camps.⁴³ Fort Rosecrans for its part, outfitted and gave preliminary training to about 400 young men for service in the National Forests.⁴⁴

While Congress showed little interest in Fort Rosecrans, the same feeling did not hold true for Japan. Local authorities on December 10, 1934 arrested a Japanese citizen spying on San Diego's military installations. The man had in his possession a 250 page book of maps and descriptions of important Army, Navy, and Marine installations and units. The San Diego Police asked the Los Angeles office of the Department of Justice to send down agents to question their prisoner.⁴⁵

When a reporter from the San Francisco Chronicle visited Fort Rosecrans on a tip that "the Government is letting it go to hell" on March 16, 1935, he found a commissioned officer,

18 enlisted men, and a dog named Bozo⁴⁶ manning the fort's defenses. A force he observed, "hardly sufficient to man a single disappearing rifle." The men stationed at the fort attempted no drills, no maneuvers, and no target practice. They only have time for menial labor, such as greasing the guns or using hammers, nails, and saws to repair buildings, for the fort could not afford a carpenter. Although no one talked for publication, the reporter heard several complaints. Even if the fort had a proper garrison, about 500 men, they would find the disappearing rifles, mortars, and the anti-aircraft batteries hopelessly antiquated. The men resented the Army's policy of sending most of the coast artillerymen and modern equipment to the Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands, and Panama. Without modern weapons an enemy battleship could stand off Point Loma and shell the entire city without a reply from the fort.⁴⁷

Don Grantham still remembers the routine of soldiering at Fort Rosecrans during 1935. He joined Battery "D" at age 15 after lying to the recruiting sergeant in San Diego about his age. At that time the fort acquired a reputation for being an Old Soldiers Home. It took 30 years of service to become eligible for retirement. When a private, private first class, or corporal became eligible for retirement, the First Sergeant signed the payroll with the retiring man's rank, and the soldier

signed the payroll as the First Sergeant, which increased his retirement pay.⁴⁸

On pay days a soldier had trouble getting through to the end of the pay line with any money. The \$21 dollars a month did not travel far with the various deductions and contributions. Twenty-five cents went to the Old Soldiers Home, 75 cents to the barber, settling the month's canteen bill required a number of dollars, the company finance man also sat in the pay line receiving \$7.50 for every \$5.00 loaned; at the end of the line waited a Red Cross or Salvation Army lady with a tray. For someone fortunate enough to get through the line with some money, he had to fight the temptation of chance. The pool table in the Recreation Hall had been transformed into a dice table, with several card tables nearby. If you won, you got to go to town. If you lost, you waited for the next month's payday.⁴⁹

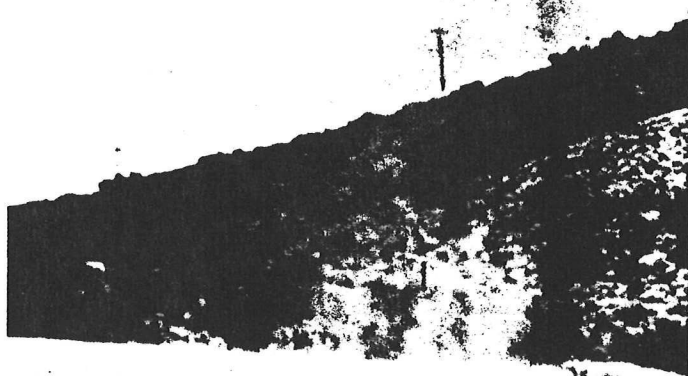
In honor of the California Pacific International Exposition,⁵⁰ Captain P.W. Hardie,⁵¹ commanding Fort Rosecrans, set about to change the face of the post. The troops, by now the post had 48 officers and men, painted every building inside and out. They terraced the barracks and officers quarters, and planted several hundred shrubs and trees about the fort (Figure 38). Hardie had the entire grounds cleaned, and prepared the disappearing rifles for bi-weekly demonstrations for the public,

as the post opened daily for visitors. Captain Hardie received word of the transfer of 100 artillerymen to help with the Exposition activities at the fort.⁵²

Lieutenant Colonel Edward L. Kelly,⁵³ the Fort Rosecrans commander, announced that annual target practice would resume on a regularly scheduled basis at the post on July 23, 1936. The troops fired eight trial shots and 16 record shots (Figure 39). It had been 11 years since the last target practice for the fort's garrison.⁵⁴

During 1937, construction began on Battery Strong,⁵⁵ two 8-inch guns on barbette carriages. The guns would not have shields or power equipment.⁵⁶ Plans located the guns on a knoll, on the ocean side of Point Loma, about three quarters of a mile south of the upper gate.⁵⁷

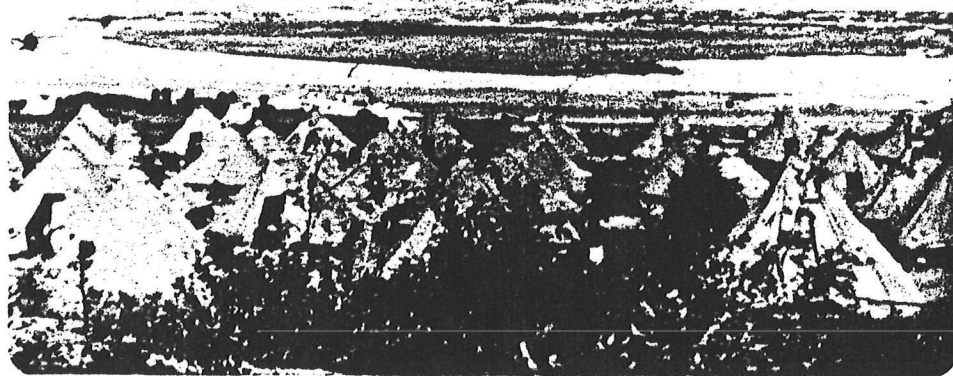
National apathy towards defense needs during the twenties and thirties starved the Army into a condition resembling the pre-Spanish-American War period. As the situation in Europe deteriorated, the U.S. Army had time to reorganize and rebuild itself, but no money to do so. When war broke out in Europe, the Army began to receive more and more money, but lacked precious time to prepare itself. Assuming that under normal conditions, Congress holds the views of the public which elects it, the responsibility for the Army's deterioration between the wars did not rest exclusively with Congress. However, a



TARGET Practice
w/ Battery White



targeting Sept. 1940 -



professional pacifist opposition to increased appropriations for the armed forces showed a surprising potency within Congress. If one examines the newspapers of the period, one will note that they carried few if any protests against the penuriousness of the military appropriations approved by Congress. Finally, the Army itself must accept a substantial part of the blame for failing to vigorously press its case to Congress and the American people.

CHAPTER EIGHT NOTES

- 1
San Diego Union, October 13, 1922 6:6.
- 2
NARG Project Files, Fortification Reports 1920-22.
- 3
Edwin Landon, born in Minnesota on February 24, 1874, graduated from West Point in 1896 as a 2/Lt in the Artillery. He served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, and with the A.E.F. in Siberia in 1918. Landon retired with the rank of Colonel in 1922, and joined the faculty of the University of California, where he remained until 1934.
- 4
San Diego Union, January 13, 1922 6:5, January 18, 1922 13:6-7.
- 5
San Diego Union, February 1, 1922 6:5, February 22, 1922 6:3, March 3, 1922 1:1.
- 6
San Diego Union, April 28, 1922 6:4.
- 7
San Diego Union, June 24, 1922 1:1.
- 8
San Francisco Chronicle, October 2, 1922 5:1.
- 9
The Army organized the 89th Company, Coast Artillery Corps on April 5, 1901 at Fort Banks, Massachusetts. Orders demobilized the unit on June 30, 1921 at Camp Lewis, Washington. Reconstituted on June 1, 1922 in the Regular Army, the unit was consolidated with the 3d Company, Coast Defenses of San Diego.
- 10
San Diego Union, October 13, 1922 6:6.

CHAPTER EIGHT NOTES cont.

11

San Diego Union, October 13, 1922 6:6.

12

Statement of Service for the 3d Artillery, The Chief of Military History and the Center of Military History, Washington, D.C.

13

San Diego Union, July 16, 1924 6:3.

14

San Diego Union, August 16, 1926 1:1-2.

15

San Diego Union, August 17, 1926 1:3; 2:3-6.

16

Established as a Military Reservation in 1862, and named in honor of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, the fort rests on the high water mark of Lake Bonneville, a few miles outside of Salt Lake City.

17

Born on September 3, 1865 in Delaware, Ohio, Ralph Henry Van Deman attended Ohio Wesleyan University from 1883 to 1886, graduated from Harvard with an A.B. in 1888, and received a M.D. from Miami Medical School in 1893. After entering the Army as a 2/Lt in the Infantry, Van Deman advanced through the grades to Major General on May 27, 1929. He participated in the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and World War I. He received the Distinguished Service Medal for organizing the Army's Intelligence service during World War I.

18

Lieutenant R.M. Springer, "Fort Rosecrans--Big Guns Hiding," San Diego Magazine, Vol. 6, No. 2 (February, 1930), pp. 19, 23.

19

Organized in 1901 at Fort Meyer, Virginia, the 11th Cavalry saw service in the Philippine Insurrection, and on the Mexican Border.

CHAPTER EIGHT NOTES cont.

20

Named in honor of Major Lawrence J. Hearn, 4th Infantry, U.S.A., and formerly known as Camp U.S. Troops, Camp Hearn was established on July 11, 1916, incidental to border activities between 1911-20. The post closed on August 7, 1920.

21

San Diego Magazine February, 1930, p. 23.

22

George C. Shaw, born on March 6, 1866 in Michigan, received a commission as a 1/Lt in the 1st District of Columbia Infantry on May 16, 1898 and mustered out of service on November 20, 1898. He joined the Regular Army as a private on July 12, 1899 and received a 2/Lt's commission in the Infantry on July 20, 1899, advancing to Brigadier General on June 25, 1929. General Shaw held two decorations, the Silver Star and Congressional Medal of Honor.

23

San Diego Magazine February, 1930, p. 19.

24

William E. Griffin, born on September 6, 1897 in Washington, D.C., joined the Army as a private on July 15, 1916. He received a commission as a 2/Lt in the Coast Artillery Corps on July 1, 1920.

25

Born on November 8, 1874 in Goldsboro, North Carolina, John W. Gulick joined the U.S. Volunteers as a 1/Lt in 1898. He received a 1/Lt's commission in the Regular Army on September 17, 1901, and advanced through the grades to Colonel on August 19, 1925, and Major General on March 20, 1930. Gulick was the Chief of Staff for the 40th Division, when it organized in San Diego.

26

San Diego Union, November 19, 1930 1:6, 2:6, and editorial 4:1.

27

San Diego Union, November 20, 1930 5:4.

CHAPTER EIGHT NOTES cont.

28

San Diego Union, May 21, 1931 1:4, 3:2.

29

San Diego Union, May 22, 1931 1:3.

30

Phil D. Swing, born in San Bernardino on November 30, 1884, graduated with an A.B. from Stanford in 1905. After serving as a District Attorney and Superior Court Judge, Swing represented the 11th Congressional District, San Diego and Imperial Counties, from 1921 to 1933.

31

San Diego Union, May 24, 1931 1:3, 2:2.

32

Members of the Committee included Major General J.E. Kuhn, Major General R.H. Van Deman, Major General Gatchell, Major General J.H. Pendleton, Brigadier Generals E.A. Miller and W.D. Beach.

33

San Diego Union, June 12, 1931 11:2.

34

San Diego Union, September 19, 1931 1:7.

35

Members of the Team included Lieutenant Colonel Charles L. Scott, the Manager, and Captain James E. Noonan, the Team Veterinarian. Major Harry D. Chamberlin, Captain Hiram E. Tuttle, Captain Isaac L. Kitts, and Sergeant Alvin Moore competed in the Dressage event. The Three Day Team consisted of Captain Edwin Y. Argo, 1/Lt Earl F. Thomson, 1/Lt Le Roy J. Stewart, Captain John T. Cole, Captain Fred W. Koester, and Major A.P. Thayer. Captain William B. Bradford, W. Curtis and 1/Lt Peter C. Hains III competed for the Prix des Nations.

36

At the close of the Civil War, Congress authorized the formation of Regular Army units with Negro soldiers and white officers. The Ninth Cavalry was one of these units. The "Buffalo Soldiers" as the Indians called them compiled a proud record of service on the Indian frontier.

CHAPTER EIGHT NOTES cont.

37

San Diego Sun, November 18, 1931 5:3.

38

San Diego Union, July 2, 1932 1:6.

39

Major Harry D. Chamberlin, born in Illinois on May 19, 1897, graduated from West Point in 1910 and accepted a commission in the Cavalry. He attended the Ecole d'Application de Cavalerie in 1924.

40

San Diego Union, July 2, 1932 1:6.

41

Captain William D. Bradford, born on March 15, 1896 in Florida, graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1916. Bradford received a commission as a 2/Lt on August 18, 1917. In 1924 he attended the Ecole d'Application de Cavalerie.

42

San Diego Union, July 4, 1932 1:5-6, 3:3-4.

43

Department of the Army ROTCM 145-20, American Military History 1607-1953 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1956), p. 369.

44

Colonel George Ruhlen, the Commander of Fort Rosecrans, in a speech to the Executive Club of San Diego, November 27, 1933.

45

San Francisco Chronicle, December 11, 1934 1:2.

46

Letter to author from Mr. Don Grantham on June 25, 1979. Hereinafter cited as Grantham letter.

47

San Francisco Chronicle, March 17, 1935 2:6.

CHAPTER EIGHT NOTES cont.

48

Grantham letter.

49

Grantham letter.

50

The Exposition opened on May 29, 1935 and ran for 167 days, closing on Armistice Day.

51

Philip W. Hardie, born on November 22, 1884 in Iowa, graduated from North Carolina A&M College with a degree in Engineering. In 1914, he received a commission in the North Carolina National Guard. Hardie transferred to the Regular Army on September 6, 1920, as a Captain.

52

San Diego Union, July 13, 1935 10:1-5.

53

Colonel Edward Kelly, born on February 15, 1885 in Missouri, graduated from West Point in 1909. Later, he returned to the Academy as the Master of the Sword from 1926 to 1930. Kelly retired in 1940, but the Army called him back to active duty in 1941 until 1945.

54

San Diego Union, July 23, 1936 II 1:1-3.

55

The battery received its name from Major General Fredrick Smith Strong, the commander of the 40th "Sunshine" Division during World War I. The division organized and trained at Camp Kearny, Linda Vista, California and reached France but not the battlefields before the Armistice. After the war, Strong retired at his own request, and returned to San Diego.

56

"Harbor Defenses of San Diego," Confidential Historical Sketch written on September 15, 1945.

CHAPTER EIGHT NOTES cont.

57

Colonel George Ruhlen, "Fort Rosecrans," The Western Explorer, Vol. II, No. 1 (February, 1962), p. 5.

Chapter 9

THE LAST SALVO

Immediately after the European War began, President Roosevelt proclaimed a limited national emergency and authorized increases in Regular Army and National Guard enlisted strengths to 227,000 and 235,000 respectively. Under the Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall¹ and after July, of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson,² the Army embarked in the summer of 1940 on a vast expansion program. To fill the ranks of the new Army, Congress approved the induction of the National Guard into federal service and the calling up of the Organized Reserves on August 27. Then Congress approved the Selective Service and Training Act of September 14, 1940, the first peacetime draft of untrained civilian manpower in the nation's history. During the last six months of 1940 the active Army more than doubled its strength. Congressional appropriations between May and October 1940 exceeded \$8 billion, a sum greater than the appropriations of the previous 20 years.³ All of these events forecast dramatic changes for San Diego and Fort Rosecrans.

Orders from the War Department removed a famous military unit from San Diego on February 1, 1940. The orders inactivated Battery "D", 3d Artillery,⁴ and activated Headquarters

and "A" Batteries of the 19th Coast Artillery Regiment, Harbor Defense.⁵

In order to use up all monies allocated to the San Diego area, Works Projects Administration⁶ put 300 men to work at Fort Rosecrans on May 1, 1940. The major work included building a gun shed, the construction and relocation of roads, and the demolition of Battery Fetterman. Minor projects included maintenance on buildings and other general improvements. All projects had to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.⁷

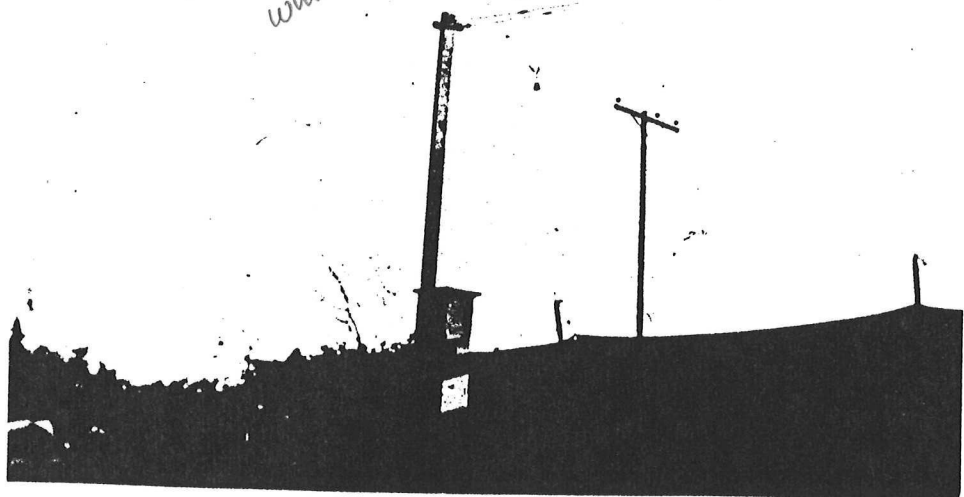
Two major changes took place at Fort Rosecrans in June. A dredging of the harbor increased the size of the reservation by more than 20 acres.⁸ Within a month of the start of the dredging, contractors began pouring concrete on the reclaimed tidelands for building foundations.⁹ An increase in manpower occurred with the arrival of 100 recruits, boosting the strength of the post to approximately 300 troops.¹⁰

The new arrivals became tenants of "tent city" for several hundred men on the upper level of the fort (Figure 40). The facilities left much to be desired. The tents had dirt floors; wooden floors were not to be installed until October (Figure 41). The latrines with no roofs, and open on three sides limited privacy (Figure 42). A canvas tarp stretched parallel to the road to the Cabrillo Monument shielded the latrine and its

PUTTING FLOORS IN
THE TENTS
OCT. 1940 -



SOLDIER
REDDINS NEWSPAPER
while enjoying outdoor amenities.



occupants from the traffic travelling the road.¹¹

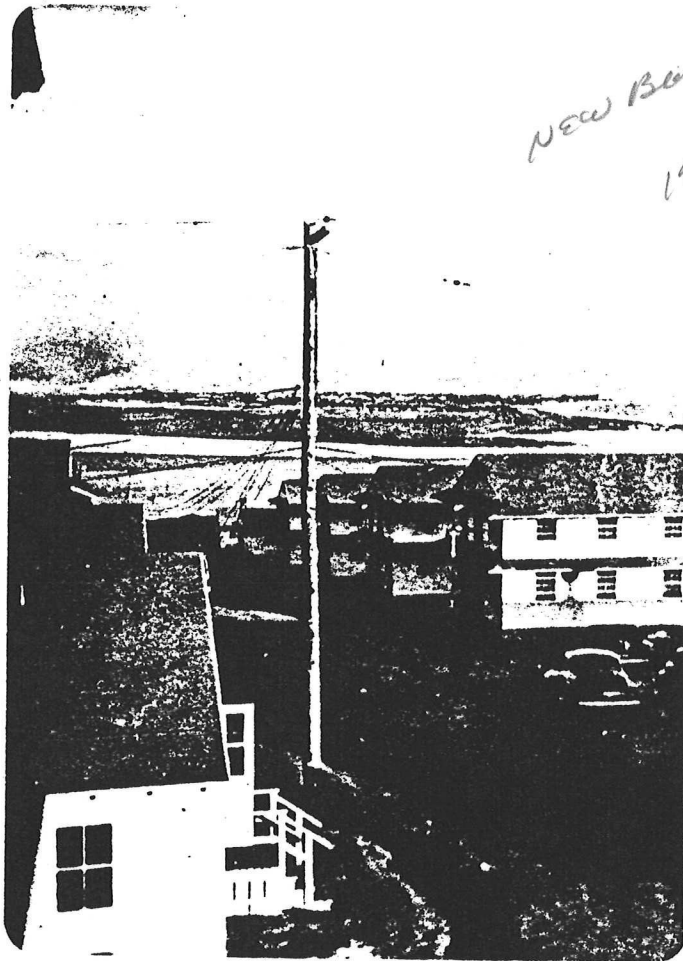
Colonel Peter H. Ottosen,¹² the commanding officer of Fort Rosecrans, announced on October 17, 1940 that the 750 officers and men at the fort would see their numbers increased to 2,100 soldiers. The rate of increase depended on enlistments and the draft.¹³

In November, construction began on temporary barracks and buildings to house the men mobilized by the Army to carry out the fort's mission of defending San Diego.¹⁴ Contractors began completing the barracks during the winter of 1940 (Figure 43). By April 1941, the housing facilities at the post could accommodate 2,700 officers and men.¹⁵

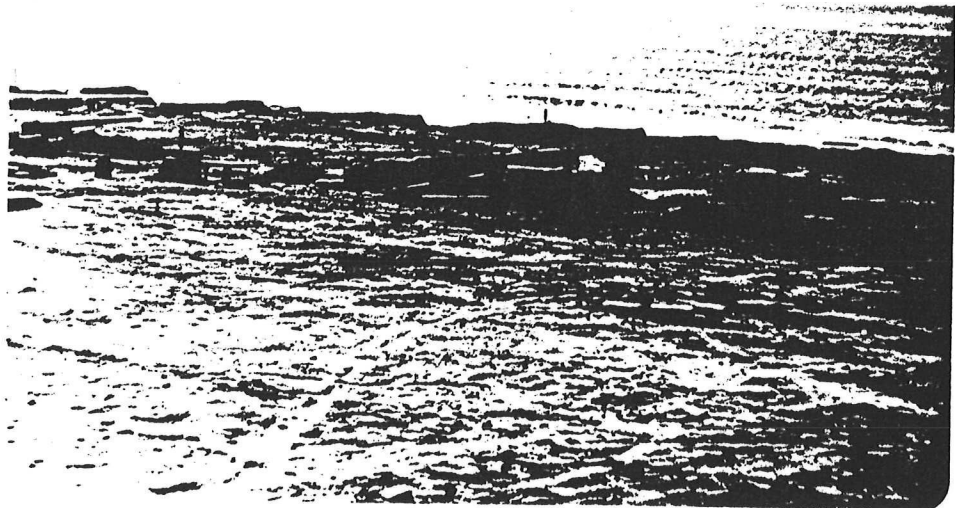
The first Army transport to call at San Diego in years, sailed into the harbor the second week in December to collect 200 artillerymen ordered to Panama. These men, attached to the 19th Coast Artillery, had received intensive training for the previous several months at Fort Rosecrans.¹⁶

A resurvey of seacoast defenses by the Harbor Defense Board¹⁷ turned into a complete reassessment after the fall of France in June 1940. Until then, an attack on the Atlantic or Pacific Coasts had appeared remote. The Board's report of July 27, 1940 recommended the adoption of the 16-inch gun as the secondary weapon for harbor defense. The proposed modernization program received formal approval in early September 1940.

New Barruel
1940, 1941



1918 GPF 155mm guns on
Beach at Ft ROSEBORNS



The planning, construction, and emplacement of seacoast guns and their auxillary equipment, however, took a long time under the best of circumstances. From the beginning, the 1940 modernization program had to compete with other programs of an expanding Army and Navy.¹⁸

While awaiting the completion of the modernization projects, the Army used 155-mm Model 1918 gun batteries to bolster the permanent harbor defense at Fort Rosecrans (Figure 44).¹⁹ The gun, known as the GPF after its French designation Grande Puissance Filloux, became the most widely used mobile artillery piece used for seacoast defense.²⁰ During the second week in December the Rosecrans soldiers fired daily target practice on the GPFs.²¹

New troop arrivals at the fort activated Battery "C" of the 1st Battalion, and four bateries of the 2d Battalion, 19th Coast Artillery Regiment.²² Most of the men came from Minnesota and Kansas.²³ The first three months of their training consisted of marching, small arms practice with the rifle, pistol, and machine gun. Expert gunnery instruction marked the next phase of their instructions.²⁴

Two important projects reached completion in the spring of 1941. One, a new Harbor Defense Command Post, replaced older command stations that lacked adequate protection and concealment.

The other project, Battery Strong with two 8-inch guns, gave Fort Rosecrans and San Diego their only modern battery for harbor defense. The proof firing of Battery Strong took place during the summer of 1941.²⁵

By April 5, 1941, 1,054 enlisted men garrisoned Fort Rosecrans. About 500 had been drafted from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas. The remainder of the men came from the Regular Army. With the increases in Army personnel in the area, San Diego could no longer claim to be solely a "Navy town."

By May, all members of the 19th Regiment, with the exception of two small recruit detachments, had completed 13 weeks of intensive training, and batteries "A," "B," "C," "E," and "F," completed their service practices. The Commanding General of the Ninth Coast Artillery District rated Battery "C" excellent, entitling them to wear the coveted "E" on their coat sleeves.

On June 1, 1941 the Army activated the 3d Battalion, and one searchlight battery of the 19th Regiment at Fort Rosecrans²⁸ to accommodate recent arrivals from Coast Artillery Replacement Training Center at Camp Callan.²⁹ These men had been training since March.³⁰

The Harbor Entrance Control Post, established in July 1941,

and manned 24 hours a day by Army and Navy officers³¹ managed all the defenses of the harbor. The group provided the main link between higher command headquarters, and all of the subordinate elements of the harbor defense. In conjunction with the establishment of the control post, Battery McGrath became the examination battery, operating around the clock ready to concentrate its fire on any ship not passing inspection.³²

To repel air attacks the artillerymen prepared five protected positions for four .50 caliber machine guns each. With no .50 caliber machine guns available, however, the men installed .30 caliber machine guns in the positions.³³

The mission of the Harbor Defenses of San Diego "was to protect the San Diego area against land, sea, and air attacks." Numerous developments made the protection of the area a vital concern of the War Department. The Consolidated Aircraft Company (Convair) continued to expand its production of patrol bombers for the Navy, and Liberator (B-24s) for Great Britain. The Navy's Destroyer Base had developed to a point where it could service all ships of the fleet except battleships. A number of aircraft carriers called San Diego their home port. The Naval Air Station continued to expand. The 11th Naval district located its headquarters in San Diego. The Naval Supply Depot, Naval Fuel Depot, Naval Training Center, Marine Base, and numerous smaller installations all required protection.³⁴

To carry out the mission, the Fort Rosecrans seacoast batteries with one exception, remained outmoded and woefully inadequate. Batteries White and Whistler, the 12-inch mortar batteries had been installed in 1919, slow firing, any ship larger than a destroyer outranged them. Batteries Calef and Wilkeson, the 10-inch guns installed in 1900 had severe range limitations. Battery McGrath, the two 3-inch guns installed in 1919 had a limited field of fire and could only cover the harbor entrance on the east side of Point Loma. The two batteries of four 155-mm GPFs had insufficient lateral movement for fire against moving targets. Battery Strong, the only "modern battery," had no power equipment or overhead cover. In fact Fort Rosecrans did not have one battery with overhead cover, which left the batteries extremely vulnerable to an air attack.³⁵

The auxiliary equipment also presented problems for the artillerymen. The fire control systems, old and mostly improvised, needed updating. The addition of eight modern portable searchlights at the fort helped supplement the eight fixed seacoast searchlights installed in 1920, but the fort required many more.³⁶

Although the weapons system at Fort Rosecrans suffered from serious deficiencies, the troops assigned to man the harbor defenses had received better preparation. The 19th Coast



Corporal Reese
 Ft. Rosecrans Training
 Camp Calloway

Ft Rosecrans Troops at
 Rifle range.



Artillery Regiment consisted of a Headquarters Battery, searchlight battery, and three Battalions of a Headquarters Battery, and three lettered batteries each. The cadre for these organizations came from the Regular Army. About three-fourths of the enlisted men had received all of their training at Fort Rosecrans. The others came from the Coast Artillery Recruit Center at Camp Callan, after completing their basic training (Figure 45). The field grade officers, Major and above, came from the Regular Army. Most of the company grade officers came from the Coast Artillery Reserve, and had been on active duty from six to 18 months.³⁷

Fort Rosecrans continued to be the scene of increasing activity. The Regiment received intensive training in artillery drill, infantry drill, and small arms firing (Figure 46). Most of the personnel had participated in at least one coast artillery target practice. Also, Colonel Ottosen ordered war condition periods of several days each held at six week intervals. During these exercises the troops lived at the gun emplacements under simulated war like conditions.³⁸

As part of an on-going program in troop education, the command conducted classes in basic military subjects of chemical warfare, signal-radio, bugler, and tractor-driver. The fort also enrolled 185 soldiers in San Diego Adult Education classes, which ranged from typing and shorthand to foreign

languages and navigation.³⁹ A new lower level beach increased the popularity of swimming, and the artillerymen looked forward to the completion of a new Service Club, recreation hall, and Post Chapel. Fort Rosecrans' first jeeps arrived in October, with two officers and 45 men of Company "A", 524th Military Police Battalion.⁴⁰

Prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States depended on the fortifications on the Hawaiian Islands, and the Pacific Fleet to provide a secure barrier against major attacks on the West Coast. After the Pearl Harbor attack it appeared that the barrier had been shattered, exposing the entire 1,300 mile coast to an attack by the Japanese.⁴¹

Reacting to the threat of attack, Colonel Ottosen moved the artillerymen to their gun positions. Ottosen increased the number of guards at the gates and boundries, and assigned other units for protection against paratroopers, fire, and sabotage. By mid-afternoon of December 7, the troops had prepared all of the fort's guns to repel attacks.⁴²

To "protect" the Consolidated Aircraft Company from air attacks, Colonel Ottosen sent Batteries "H" and "I" with a "limited number" of .30 caliber machine guns and antiaircraft mounts to the plant. To increase their fire power, the soldiers

borrowed a number of .50 caliber machine guns from the bombers on Consolidated's production lines. Also, the Rosecrans soldiers borrowed four 37-mm guns from Camp Callan. This grouping of guns constituted San Diego's entire antiaircraft defense, until antiaircraft units began arriving from Texas and Georgia, one week later. Batteries "H" and "I" did not return to the fort for almost a month.⁴³

During the first two weeks of the war, a Japanese invasion of the Pacific coast appeared as a distinct possibility, and until June 1942, an attack by a Japanese carrier strike force remained a serious threat. Numerous false reports of Japanese ships and planes on the coast helped heighten tensions.⁴⁴ With all troops recalled from passes, leaves, and furloughs, the soldiers set about strengthening beach fortifications, field fortifications, and camouflaging the fort. All guns 8-inch and below went on antisubmarine alert, and the Harbor Entrance Control Post moved into the new command post structure.⁴⁵

Fortunately, the Japanese only engaged in limited combat activity on the West Coast. Originally, the Japanese Fleet Headquarters ordered a detachment of nine submarines to engage in a simultaneous shelling of West Coast cities on Christmas Eve, 1941. For some reason, the Japanese abandoned the plan, and the submarines returned to base, sparing San Diego and Fort Rosecrans soldiers a lot of anxiety.⁴⁶

In January 1942, Battery Point Loma's 155-mm guns received Panama Mounts,⁴⁷ a simple inexpensive gun platform, consisting of a curved rail embedded in concrete, along which the gun's twin trails could be easily moved. This device gave the gun the lateral movement required to track moving targets.⁴⁸ Construction also started on numerous observation stations, two battalion command posts, several searchlight positions, a permanent fire control communication system, and new gun positions.⁴⁹

One of the toughest jobs a soldier had was stand by his post when the guns and the planes and the ships were banging out a real war elsewhere. With this thought in mind, Colonel Ottosen ordered a series of 20 minute orientation lectures to acquaint the troops with the background and current events of the war.⁵⁰

The Army activated two new organizations in April and May of 1942. On April 16, the 77th Chemical Smoke Generator Company joined the active rolls of the Army. The "colored troops" established the smoke defense for San Diego. They moved to temporary barracks in San Diego on August 17, 1942. On May 1, the Army activated the 262d Coast Artillery Battalion, consisting of a Headquarters Battery and two lettered batteries. The 19th Regiment supplied most of the officers and enlisted

men. After training on the fort's defenses, the battalion left on November 2, 1942 for duty in Alaska.⁵¹

After the Halsey-Doolittle raid on Tokyo in April 1942,⁵² an attack on the West Coast appeared much more probable to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. Stimson called the Army's Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall to discuss the probability of an attack on the United States by the Japanese, since the Japanese had "lost face" by the attack on them. Both General Marshall and Secretary Stimson shared this opinion. Intelligence believed the Japanese could release at least three carriers for a retaliatory attack without risking the successes already achieved. An alert went out to the West Coast to be on guard against a carrier attack anytime after May 10.⁵³ The alert presented real problems for Fort Rosecrans. The post had not received one antiaircraft gun, and not one battery at the fort had any overhead protection.⁵⁴

While the fort's garrison prepared its defenses to repel an attack by the Japanese, the post newspaper Cannon Report laid plans to repel an editorial counterattack from Camp Callan. The battle centered around the sex of the Oozlefinch,⁵⁵ the legendary mascot of the Coast Artillery. The campaign extended into weeks and gained national interest when John Kieran of Information Please fame, gave a dissertation on Oozlefinchology that aided in the peace pact. Both sides however, claimed

a victory. The battle subsided after the Fort Rosecrans paper revealed that "the Oozlefinch was sexless."⁵⁶

This Japanese threat led the War Department to do everything it could during the last two weeks of May to strengthen the West Coast defense. General Marshall paid a hurried visit to California on the weekend of May 23-24. He personally directed the adoption of additional air defense measures, and the reinforcement of defense forces in the Los Angeles-San Diego area.⁵⁷

Before the war, the Marines mounted three 5-inch guns in the northwest corner of Fort Rosecrans for gunnery training. Colonel Ottosen requested the loan of these guns, until a modern battery could replace them. With the request granted, the artillerymen moved the three guns in June 1942, to the old Battery Point Loma site, whose guns had been removed to the Coronado Peninsula, the "Silver Strand." The battery named Gillespie,⁵⁸ provided an addition to the defense against submarines and light surface craft for over a year. The Marines also loaned the fort two 7-inch guns, which became known as Battery Zeilin.⁵⁹ The battery emplaced in July 1942, strengthened the defense to the west, but it did not increase the range.⁶⁰ (HARBOR DEFENSES OF SAN DIEGO 1945:5)

Although the emplacement for Battery Humphreys,⁶¹ named for Fort Rosecrans' first commanding officer, and the first

of the fort's modernization batteries, had been completed in July 1942, the 6-inch guns and carriages did not arrive for almost a year. The fort borrowed two 155-mm guns from Camp Callan therefore, and installed them beside the new gun platforms. The crews placed the battery so that it covered the entire outer channel approaches to San Diego harbor, and became the examination battery.⁶²

Sporting events highlighted extra curricular activities at the fort during August and September 1942, with baseball and boxing keeping the Coast Artillery men entertained in off hours. The post baseball team, "The Cannoneers," won the San Diego County League pennant for the second consecutive year. Regular Friday evening boxing cards began with the dedication of an outdoor arena on the lower parade ground on August 21. Several of the first sergeants organized their own stables, resulting in a keen inter-battery competition.⁶³

The Regimental Band celebrated its first birthday on August 25 with an elaborate post concert. The playing of the "Fort Rosecrans March," written by band leader Warrant Officer James Semer, highlighted the program. During the year since its activation, the Band and its auxiliaries earned much acclaim with performances in San Diego, Oceanside, and on the post. Hospital patients received the attention of the Band with

weekly concerts from the hillside in back of the Post Hospital. All post dances, and many of the outside "hops" for enlisted men, benefited from the dance section of the Band led by guitarist Sergeant Vito Mumolo. The "Fightin' Band," led by T/Sgt Aime J. Reinwald former national bugle champion, gave 15 minute concerts before each Friday night flight program. The groups musical timing in punctuating announcements, and keeping things lively during the intermissions contributed much to the fans entertainment.⁶⁴

In September, the Cannon Report published a three week serial, billed as "a true and revealing account of what the men think of their food." The series spared neither mess sergeants nor battery commanders. Each mess had its weakness, and each its specialty. The concensus agreed that the monotony of the surroundings, rather than the food caused most of the complaints. The paper also helped with the growing transportation problems of the Rosecrans soldiers, when it printed an article titled, "How to Walk 100 Miles in Three Hours," on September 18. The article pointed out that while the Army prohibited thumbing, it had no objection to "a man resembling an efficient soldier and looking wistful."⁶⁵

In the fall of 1942, the Army declared the 12-inch mortars of Batteries White and Whistler, and the 10-inch guns of Batteries Wilkeson and Calef obsolete, and scrapped them.

Also, in October eight 37-mm antiaircraft guns arrived. Troops emplaced the guns immediately. The following month six mobile 90-mm antiaircraft guns arrived. Soldiers placed these guns in previously prepared positions. Personnel trained on the guns with "an improvised method and means of fire control."⁶⁶

The first radar in the harbor's defense scheme, assigned to Battery Strong, went on the air on February 17, 1943 in time to track the ships simulating an attack on Point Loma as part of their training for the Aleutian Island counter-invasion.⁶⁷

On February 25, 1943 the Army activated the 281st Coast Artillery Battalion at Fort Rosecrans. A number of the officers and men for the battalion came from the Rosecrans garrison. After firing a number of target practices, the unit departed for the South Pacific. On the same day, the fort held its first target practice using a radar fire control for position finding and spotting. Battery Gillespie used the radar, and the results compared favorably with those previously obtained by visual methods.⁶⁸

After a year of campaigning by the post newspaper, and concerned soldiers, the Post Exchange manager agreed to install hot food counters in the PX's. To commemorate the event, the manager announced a contest to name the special burger featured by the PX's, "said to be so super, that no known superlative

suits it."⁶⁹ S/Sgt Maxwell Rarick won the contest with his entry "Oozleburger."⁷⁰

The post baseball team, still without a home field, took its string of 27 victories including wins over the Marines and Padres, to Navy Field for a game with the visiting Santa Ana Army Air Base on May 2. Unable to solve the curves of the Fliers' pitcher Joe Jacobs, The Cannoneers came out on the short end of a 3-2 score. Joe DiMaggio, ex-Yankee Clipper managed two sharp singles for the Fliers between autographs.⁷¹

Soldiers like Private Woodrow Wilson made life at Fort Rosecrans more enjoyable for the troops. When he reported to the fort in May, he said his folks "were in the theatre business" in Los Angeles, and that he would like to work in one of the two post theaters. They made him the manager of Army Theater Number Two, where he immediately instructed the hired help to refer to the theater as "your theater." The theater with cast-iron benches, no stage curtains, and no marquee with dancing lights, did little to attract customers. Before long, Wilson installed a remotely controlled curtain, donated by friends in Los Angeles. His outdoor electric sign did not last long, as the Provost Marshall made him douse it for the black-out. They didn't object to neon lighting in the lobby, however which he promptly installed, along with a photographic exhibit of the post celebrities. Next came a public address system

for the house, and then an organ played by "Red-Robe" Volpe, an ex-professional bandsman. Wilson paid him one dollar a night to entertain the patrons.⁷²

During June, Fort Rosecrans engaged in exchanges of good will with the Republic of Mexico. On June 8, Mercedes Caranza, Mexican prima donna sent by the Mexican War Department, sang her 71st concert for U.S. servicemen, when she appeared before an enthusiastic crowd at Fort Rosecrans. On June 26, the fort's Public Relations Staff went to Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico to assist Colonel Modesto E. Rodríguez, Fourth Army and Western Defense Command liaison officer to Mexico, in making arrangements for an international ceremony. Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt,⁷³ commanding General, Fourth Army and Western Defense Command, presented the Legion of Merit Degree of Commander to two of Mexico's highest ranking of the Pacific region, General de Division Pablo Macias, and General de Division Juan Felipe Rico Islas. Witt also presented citations signed by President Roosevelt and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, which recognized their "distinguished service in establishing good relations and in coordinating the defense of the west coasts of Mexico and the United States."⁷⁴

Colonel Frank Drake,⁷⁵ commander of the tactical unit on the post, introduced a new angle in the field competition at the fort on July 13, to determine which organization excelled

in which fields. The competition consisted of three events, Neatness of dress, precision of movement, knowledge of infantry drill, and the manual of arms determined the winner of the first event, squad drill, performed by 12 privates and one corporal selected by an intra-battery competition. The second event, machine gun drill, carried out by three privates and one corporal from each battery, required the contestants to strip down a machine gun at the starting line, race the stripped gun to the finish line, assemble it, and fire one blank round to demonstrate crew readiness. The final event, an individual drill-down, pitted sergeants with sergeants, corporals against corporals, and privates against privates. Each battery entered one soldier in each grade, precision, technique, and execution determined the winner. The post band provided the tempo and cadence rhythm during the entire competition.⁷⁶

The long wait for guns and carriages for Battery Humphreys ended with their arrival in July 1943. The artillerymen mounted and proof fired the guns in the same month. Battery Humphreys became the first modernization battery in the harbor defense scheme. This battery replaced the 155-mm guns which had served at that point for a year, and it also replaced Battery Point Loma in the fort's plan of defense.⁷⁷

By August, the troops had completed the mounting of the fixed 90-mm AMTB guns for Battery Fetterman at Ballast Point, and Battery Cabrillo⁷⁸ in front of old Battery Point Loma. Normally, a complete battery consisted of two fixed 90-mm AMTB guns in gun houses, two mobile 90-mm guns, and two 37-mm guns with two .50 caliber machine guns mounted on each 37-mm carriage.⁷⁹ The soldiers separated three of the 37-mm mounts from the 90-mm group, however, and placed them in two positions on the east side of the fort, and named these guns Batteries Channel, and Bluff. The third battery, located just above the Point Loma Light House, became Battery Cliff.⁸⁰

The Third War Loan drive in September erupted into a feud, when Postmaster Wade (Farley) Moreland accused the Post War Bond officer of "muscling into the Post Office territory." Perhaps he did, for when the final returns came in, Post Finance announced that Fort Rosecrans' original goal had been more than tripled. Cash purchases amounted to \$30,650. The figure included only Bonds delivered over the counter at the Post Finance Office, and did not count those purchased at the Post Office or off post.⁸¹

During 1943, the numerous changes in converting interim batteries to permanent batteries continued. In November, Battery Woodward⁸² with its two 6-inch guns replaced both Batteries Gillespie and Zeilin at the northwest part of Fort

Rosecrans. To further their training the artillerymen fired a total of 70 target practices during the year.⁸³

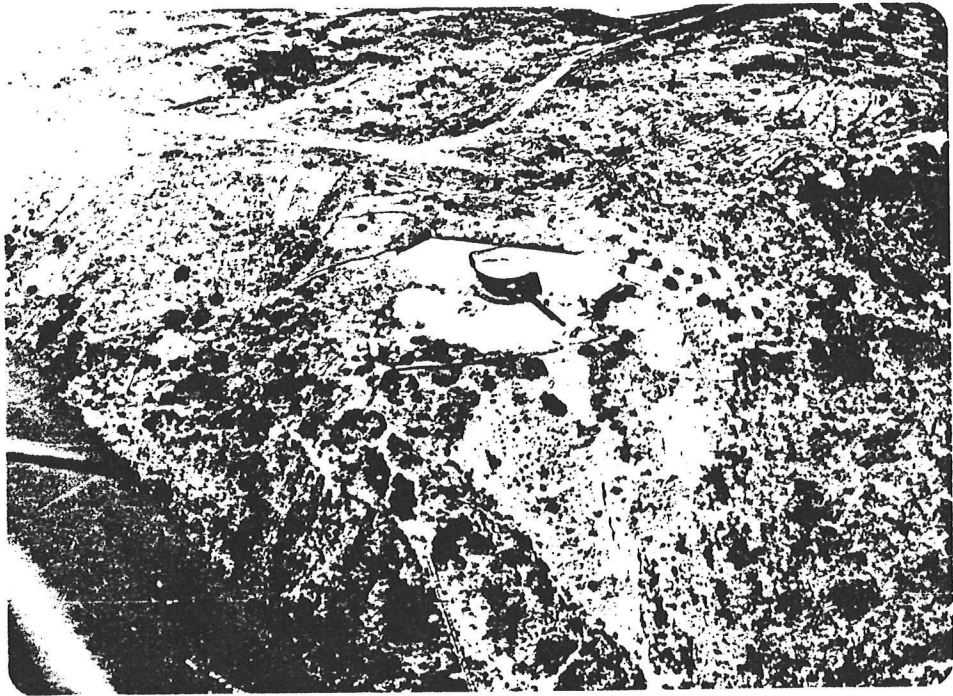
The only serious accident of the war at Fort Rosecrans occurred on January 29, 1944. A defective fuse in a high explosive projectile caused a premature explosion at Battery Humphreys, killing five men of the gun crew, and injuring seven others. It took months to replace the damaged gun tube and cradle.⁸⁴

The first big cut in troop strength at Fort Rosecrans came on April 25, 1944, when the 3d Battalion, and Battery "E" of the 19th Regiment received orders for Texas as field artillery replacements.⁸⁵

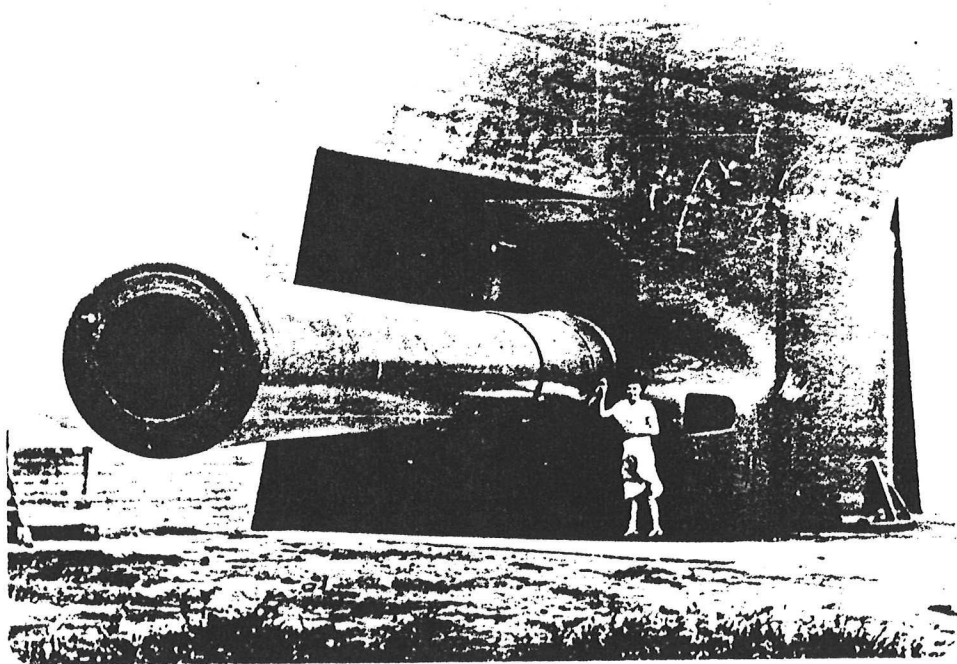
With Mother's Day approaching, Fort Rosecrans once again invited San Diego mothers of sons serving at combat fronts to be the honored guests of the fort. The program included a Sunday dinner in one of the mess halls, a tour of the Post Hospital to bring a touch of home to the patients, and a musical tea.⁸⁶

In July, the anticipated event of the modernization program occurred when artillerymen proof fired the 16-inch guns of Battery Ashburn (Figures 47 and 48).⁸⁷ The firing ended speculation as to the effect on structures on the post and adjacent areas. No damage resulted from the firing. Later, the gunners fired a successful target practice.⁸⁸

BATTERS ASHBURK



BATTERS ASHBURK



The Army inactivated the 19th Coast Artillery Regiment on October 18, 1944. The 1st Battalion of the Regiment became the 19th Coast Artillery Battalion (Harbor Defense), and the 2d Battalion became the 523d Coast Artillery Battalion (Harbor Defense). The Army incorporated the Regimental Headquarters Battery into a larger Harbor Defense Headquarters Battery, and Battery "K", the searchlight battery became Battery "A", Harbor Defenses San Diego.⁸⁹

Several units used Fort Rosecrans for amphibious training in preparation for Pacific operations during 1944. The units that trained at the fort included:⁹⁰

505th Tank Battalion from April 27 to May 13, 1944

779th Antiaircraft Battalion from April 28 to May 17, 1944

Units of the 11th Armored Division from May 1 to May 22, 1944

713th Tank Battalion from May 18 to May 29, 1944

834th Antiaircraft (AW) Battalion from August 20 to October 22, 1944

782d Tank Battalion from September 9 to October 22, 1944

Early in 1945, the major changes in personnel during the war took place at Fort Rosecrans. Most of the able bodied soldiers at Rosecrans received transfers to overseas replacement depots, and infantry replacement training centers. The

replacements for these transfers came from overseas, after being certified physically or mentally unfit for overseas duty. These transfers presented immense training problems for the fort. Coupled with the mental and physical disabilities, few of the men had experience with seacoast artillery.⁹¹

On September 15, 1945 the post received orders to deactivate the 19th and 523d Coast Artillery Battalions (Harbor Defense). The units now defending the harbor included a Headquarters Battery, and four lettered batteries, Harbor Defenses of San Diego. On the same day the Navy discontinued their functions in the Harbor Entrance Control Post, and a few days later the Army followed. For the first time in almost 50 months, the harbor did not have a 24 hour alert command post and examination battery on duty.⁹²

The Secretary of War assigned Fort Rosecrans to the Navy on December 3, 1957, and on July 1, 1959 without ceremony the fort passed into the hands of the Navy.⁹³

While the boom of the Rosecrans guns provided comforting sounds for the citizens of San Diego, the fort's antiquated armaments would have doomed any attempt to defend San Diego from a determined enemy. The only time the fort could boast anything close to a modern system of fortifications occurred in 1898. Shortly thereafter advances in the technology of warfare rendered the Rosecrans defenses hopelessly obsolete.

Despite the addition of different weapons systems over the years, Fort Rosecrans never received the modern fortifications it needed. The men who served there deserved a better shake!

Today, San Diego seems to have forgotten a rich part of its history acted out by the U.S. Army. One would be pressed to find a picture, plaque or postcard in San Diego commemorating the Army or Coast Artillery. Perhaps, the city's rush to embrace the U.S. Navy, and the Navy's later take over of Fort Rosecrans have contributed to this state of indifference. Unfortunately, the secret nature of the work carried on by the Navy on Point Loma has discouraged and will continue to discourage the curious from closely examining the Fort Rosecrans relics. Regardless, the gigantic decaying masses of concrete scattered over Point Loma serve as tombstones recalling a bygone era of Army glory. It is the author's hope that this work will help give the Coast Artillery Corps, the men who served in it, and Fort Rosecrans a degree of recognition they justly deserve.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES

1

Henry Lewis Stimson, born on September 21, 1867 in New York City, received an A.B. from Yale in 1888, an A.M. from Harvard in 1889, and attended Harvard Law School from 1889 to 1890. During World War I he served with the A.E.F. in France. Stimson served in the cabinets of three Presidents; Secretary of State for President Hoover from 1929-1933, and Secretary of War for Presidents Roosevelt and Truman from July 1940 until September 1945.

2

George C. Marshall, born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on December 31, 1880, attended Virginia Military Academy from 1897 to 1901. He received a 2/Lt's commission on February 2, 1901, and advanced through the grades to Major General in 1939. Marshall served as Chief of Staff of the Army from September 1939 to November 1945. President Truman appointed him to Secretary of State in 1947. He resigned in 1949, but returned to the Cabinet as Secretary of Defense from 1950-1951. General Marshall held numerous decorations.

3

Maurice Matloff, ed., American Military History (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1969), pp. 418-419.

4

Statement of Lineage, The Chief of Military History, and the Center of Military History, Washington, D.C. Fort MacArthur in San Pedro became the home of the 3d Coast Artillery Regiment.

5

The 19th Coast Artillery (Harbor Defense), originally the 625th Coast Artillery, an inactive unit constituted by the Army on August 15, 1935, was authorized to be activated on February 1, 1940, within the Harbor Defenses of San Diego, California, per AG 320.2, December 15, 1939, dated January 19, 1940.

6

The Works Progress Administration enacted in 1933, became one of the chief measures of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" for emergency unemployment relief.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

7

San Diego Union, May 2, 1940 5:1.

8

San Diego Union, June 12, 1940 B1:6.

9

San Diego Union, April 6, 1941 B1:1, 3:1.

10

San Diego Union, June 20, 1940 4:6.

11

Author's interview with Mr. Ray Morton, who served at Fort Rosecrans from 1940-1941.

12

Colonel Peter H. Ottosen, born in Badger, Iowa on July 3, 1885, graduated from Iowa State College with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1908. After taking the Army's examination, he received a commission in the Coast Artillery Corps. Ottosen served with the 3d Trench Mortar Battalion, in France during World War I.

13

San Diego Union, October 17, 1940 B1:6-7.

14

San Diego Tribune-Sun, August 7, 1941 17:3, a reprint of an article by Corporal Raymond Banks that appeared in Fort Rosecrans' weekly newspaper Cannon Report.

15

"Harbor Defenses of San Diego," Confidential Historical Sketch written on September 15, 1945. Hereinafter cited as SDCHS. The Author obtained a copy of this sketch, unclassified on April 24, 1973, from the U.S. Army Military Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

16

San Diego Union, December 6, 1940 1:5.

17

The Harbor Defense Board consisted of the Chiefs of Coast Artillery, Engineering, Ordnance, Chemical Warfare Service, Air Corps, and Chief Signal Officer.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

18

Stetson Conn, Rose C. Engelman, Byron Fairchild, The United States Army in World War II, Vol. 2: Guarding the United States and Its Outposts (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1964), pp. 47-51. Hereinafter cited as GUSO.

19

GUSO pp. 48-51.

20

Emanuel Raymond Lewis, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970), p. 103. Hereinafter cited as Lewis.

21

San Diego Union, December 11, 1940 9:8.

22

"Brief History" of the 19th Coast Artillery from the Chief of Military, and the Center of Military History, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as BH19.

23

San Diego Union, April 6, 1941 B1:1, 3:1.

24

San Diego Union, March 26, 1941 4:1.

25

SDCHS p. 2.

26

San Diego Union, April 6, 1941 B1:1, 3:1.

27

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (July-August, 1941) 392-3.

28

BH19.

29

Located at Torrey Pines, San Diego, California, the naming of the Camp honored Major General Robert Callan, Coast Artillery Corps. Born on March 24, 1874 in Baltimore,

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

29

Maryland, Callan served in the Spanish-American War, and commanded the 65th Coast Artillery Regiment in France during World War I. Part of the 65th was organized and trained at Fort Rosecrans. He died on November 20, 1936.

30

Captain William J. Houser, "Camp Callan," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (July-August, 1941) 400-401.

31

The Navy responsibilities included: controlling all ship movements within the harbor, installation of harbor nets and booms, planting contact mines and detection devices in outer harbor approaches, off-shore patrols, and sweeping for mines.

32

SDCHS p. 3.

33

SDCHS p. 3.

34

SDCHS p. 1.

35

SDCHS p. 2.

36

SDCHS p. 2.

37

SDCHS p. 3.

38

SDCHS p. 3.

39

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (September-October, 1941) 506.

40

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (November-December, 1941) 603.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

41

GUSO p. 82.

42

SDCHS pp. 3-4.

43

SDCHS pp. 3-4.

44

GUSO p. 82.

45

SDCHS pp. 3-4.

46

GUSO pp. 86-87.

47

SDCHS p. 5.

48

Lewis p. 110.

49

SDCHS p. 5.

50

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (March-April) 80.

51

SDCHS p. 5.

52

Less than five months after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, American airmen led by Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle, flew off the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet about 688 miles west of Japan to bomb Tokyo and nearby cities. Admiral William F. Halsey commanded the naval units.

53

GUSO pp. 54-55.

54

SDCHS pp. 3-6.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

55

The Oozlefinch, patron bird of the Coast Artillery Corps, diet consisted of guncotton and buffer oil.

56

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (May-June, 1942) 83.

57

GUSO p. 55.

58

I cannot document the naming of this battery.

59

Although I cannot document the naming of this battery, I believe the Army took the unusual step in naming the battery to honor a Marine Corps officer, Brigadier-General Jacob Zeilin. This act recognized the Marine Corps' loan of the guns to arm the battery. Zeilin, born on July 16, 1806, attended West Point, and received his commission as a 2/Lt in the Marine Corps in 1831. In 1847, during the war with Mexico, he participated in landing in California. From 1864 until his retirement in 1876, General Zeilin served as Commandant of the Marine Corps.

60

SDCHS p. 5.

61

General Order 28, Section III, 1942, named this battery in honor of Captain Charles Humphreys, the first commanding officer of Fort Rosecrans.

62

SDCHS p. 7.

63

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (November-December, 1942) 82.

64

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (November-December, 1942) 82, and (March-April, 1943) 72.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

65

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (November-December, 1942) 82.

66

SDCHS p. 7.

67

SDCHS p. 6.

68

SDCHS p. 6.

69

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (March-April, 1943) 73.

70

Cannon Report April 30, 1943 1:1.

71

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (July-August, 1943) 68, and Cannon Report April 30, 1943 1:4.

72

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (July-August, 1943) 69.

73

John Lesesne Dewitt, the son of a distinguished Army Medical officer, was born in Sidney, Nebraska on January 9, 1880. He attended Princeton before entering the Army as a 2/Lt in the Infantry on October 10, 1898. Dewitt retired on June 10, 1947 as a four star General.

74

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (September-October, 1943) 64.

75

Colonel Drake served at Fort Rosecrans in 1911 as a 2/Lt.

76

"Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (September-October, 1943) 65.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

77

SDCHS p. 7.

78

The naming of this battery honored Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. On June 27, 1542 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and Bartolome Ferrelo sailed from Navidad, Mexico, and on September 28 reached a port they named San Miguel. San Miguel was San Diego Bay, so they were the discoverers of California.

79

The Army installed these weapons as a special antimotor torpedo boat defense.

80

SDCHS p. 7. These batteries received their names from the geographical features of the land.

81

Cannon Report September 24, 1943 1:2, and "Ninth Coast Artillery District," Coast Artillery Corps Journal, (November-December, 1943) 72.

82

The naming of this battery honored Colonel Charles G. Woodward, Coast Artillery Corps. Born on December 24, 1839, he graduated from West Point in 1877 as a 2/Lt. Woodward commanded Fort Rosecrans from March 29, 1906 until May 31, 1907. He retired from the Army in 1916, but the Army called him back to active duty from September 4, 1917 to March 20, 1919. Woodward died on November 23, 1939 in Palo Alto, California.

83

SDCHS pp. 7-8.

84

SDCHS p. 8.

85

SDCHS p. 8.

86

Cannon Report May 12, 1944 1:2.

CHAPTER NINE NOTES cont.

87

General Order 69, Section II, 1942 named the battery in honor of Major General Thomas Quinn Ashburn, Coast Artillery Corps, an 1888 graduate of the Military Academy. His decorations included the Silver Star awarded during the Philippine Insurrection, and the Purple Heart received while in France with the A.E.F. during World War I. Ashburn died on May 2, 1941.

88

SDCHS p. 8.

89

SDCHS p. 8.

90

SDCHS p. 9.

91

SDCHS p. 9.

92

SDCHS p. 9.

93

San Diego Union, July 7, 1959 28:1.

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42 Cong., 3 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (1558).

43 Cong., 1 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (1957).

43 Cong., 2 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (1635).

44 Cong., 2 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (1742).

46 Cong., 3 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (1952).

47 Cong., 1 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (2091).

48 Cong., 2 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (2277)

49 Cong., 1 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 49 (2395).

52 Cong., 1 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (2921).

52 Cong., 1 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 1 (2931).

55 Cong., 2 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 2 (3630).

55 Cong., 2 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 2 (3631).

55 Cong., 3 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 2 (3746).

56 Cong., 1 Sess., H. Ex. Doc. 2 (3899).

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