

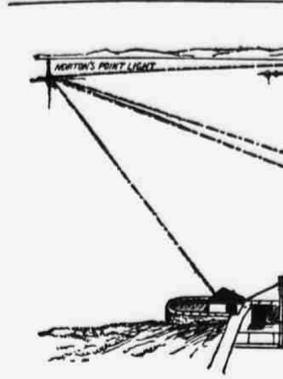
TO PLACE HOSTILE SHIPS.

WORK OF THE FISKE AND THE LEWIS POSITION FINDERS.

With one of the New Instruments a Fort Will Be Enabled to Get the Proper Range and to Fire with Good Accuracy... A Great Advance in War, for the First Time, Has Been Made in the Method of Determining the Position of the Enemy's Ships at Sea.

A series of tests were made yesterday at Fort Hamilton, which concern very closely not only the military authorities, but the taxpayers of the whole country.

The Board consists of Lieut.-Col. A. C. M. Pennington, Fourth Artillery; Lieut.-Col. G. M. Pennington, First Artillery; Major J. C. D. Knight, Corps of Engineers; Capt. D. M. Taylor, Ordnance Department; Lieut. Edward



SCENE OF YESTERDAY'S TEST.

(Fort Hamilton in the foreground, Fort Wadsworth on the hill to the right, and Coney Island Point on the extreme left.)

Davis, Third Artillery, Recorder of the Board, and Lieut. H. L. Harris, First Artillery, Executive Officer of the Board.

Broadly speaking, the work of the position finder is to plot upon a chart the position of objects both at rest and in motion, and the test undertaken by the Board consisted of making estimates by these instruments of the range and direction of various objects, and comparing them with a known standard.

The standard adopted for the purposes of comparison was furnished by a set of triangulating instruments, one of which was at Fort Wadsworth, on the Staten Island side of the Narrows, and the other at Fort Hamilton, the operators being connected by telephone.

At each place there was a telescope mounted upon a heavy base, which was adjusted accurately into degrees and minutes, and used to show the angle at which each telescope was directed.

These two stations were about 2,100 yards apart. An elaborate system of sighting was adopted, which enabled the telescopes at the different stations to be directed simultaneously at any desired point.

Near the telescope was a chart carefully marked off in angles and distances. In making an observation upon a stationary point, such as the Coney Island Light-house, it

acted upon the make and break of the current, there should always be a continuous current, which should be increased or decreased in strength by the continuous and uniform motion of the position finders.

This innovation gave many manifest advantages, and led to the invention of the range finder used in the United States navy, in which the operation of a telescope at the end of a base line moving over a surface of resistance wire caused fluctuations in the movement of a galvanometer needle proportionally to the movement of the telescope.

In other words, proportionally to the distance of the object from the telescope. The instrument tested yesterday at Fort Hamilton is the latest form of his invention, as applied to work on shore.

It may be said to define here the difference between the range finder and the position finder. A range finder is simply an instrument which gives the distance of the object from the target from the instrument; while the position finder gives the distance and direction of the object, and is, in fact, a range finder and a direction finder.

Such a group of guns would need a position finder, and a direction finder, and a range finder, otherwise they would need only a range finder, as the position finder and direction finder are included in the range finder.

To remedy the first difficulty, the men at the position finder, by means of a telescope, can see the target, and can determine its distance and direction at that instant, but they cannot see the target at a distance of three miles, and they cannot see the target at a distance of three miles, and they cannot see the target at a distance of three miles.

Brooklyn will not be commissioned for another year, and the Iowa will follow her in about eighteen months.

It is proposed to add several batteries and to increase the strength of the navy, however, is soon to receive an important addition in the two powerful monitors, Terror and Puritan.

These vessels are far advanced and one will be placed in service before the close of the summer. They are the largest and most graceful vessels, they are the largest and most graceful vessels, they are the largest and most graceful vessels.

It is believed that an effort will be made to have two of the boats called the Penguin and Porpoise, which are now in the hands of the navy, to be converted into gunboats.

When His Love Grew Cold, the novel over which three years' lawsuit has just ended, appeared yesterday on the news stands.

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much less than the normal limit of one per cent. per thousand yards. Should this belief be confirmed, America may be congratulated upon possessing the most accurate position finders in the world.

The Fiske position finder consists of two telescopes placed at the opposite ends of a base line, which may be, according to circumstances, from 100 yards to a mile or more.

The operator simply directs the telescope to the target, while a third man, stationed near one of the instruments, moves a pointer in such a way as to keep a galvanometer connected with the circuit, always pointed to zero.

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seconds, plot the exact position of the target each time on the plotting table, and connect the points marked by a line.

A little practice enables them thus to lay down on the chart the exact track of a ship in a certain direction in a certain interval of time.

The object of the instrument is to determine the absolute distance of any target, and this it will do with a rapidity and accuracy within five or ten seconds if given the range and direction of the target.

When the telescope is brought to bear upon the target, the horizontal base position finder is brought to coincidence with the water line of the object, and both the range

and the azimuth in degrees, minutes, and seconds are read off from scales in front of the eye of the operator.

The two instruments tested yesterday are representative of the standard base position finder for operation where the land is low, and the vertical base or depression position finder, for use on high land.

The test was in no sense a competitive one. The conditions under which the two systems are expected to work are very different.

Lieut. Lewis's is much the simpler instrument, but Lieut. Fiske's invention has to be used under the most unfavorable conditions.

One of the great advantages is that it can be used with a vertical as well as with a horizontal base, and in such case a double base would be sufficient for its operation.

Probably within the ultimate limits of the instruments tested yesterday, the latter adopted each instrument will occupy its own proper and important position.

Much of the importance of yesterday's tests to the general public arises from the fact of the immense saving to the country that the adoption of the instruments tested yesterday would effect.

Millions of dollars are being spent upon fortifications, and hundreds of thousands of dollars are being expended in the purchase of guns and mortars, and in the purchase of the guns and mortars.

Authorities are only now beginning to realize the value of the instruments tested yesterday, and the use of which the proper utilization of the fire of these guns is absolutely dependent.

The first shot was fired by Lieut. Lewis, and the second by Lieut. Fiske. The latter's shot was fired at a distance of 1,000 yards, and the former's at a distance of 1,500 yards.

When the first shot was fired, Mr. Leonard was standing in the most prominent position to the left of the target, and the second shot was fired by Lieut. Fiske, and the third shot was fired by Lieut. Lewis.

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A BULLET-PROOF ARMOR.

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