

**Primary Battery File**

**National Archives, Washington D.C.**

**Record Group 77**

**Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers**

**Entry 103**

**File, Fort, Battery:**

**24965**

**Ft. Monroe**

**Btty Gatewood**

## United States Engineer Office,

*Fort Monroe, Va.,* April 15th, 1898.

Brig. Gen. John M. Wilson,  
Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army,  
Washington, D.C.

General:

I have the honor to send herewith a sketch showing position of four rapid fire guns and also of the other new works under construction. The position of the rapid fire guns was agreed to by Colonel Hains on his recent visit and to save time I therefore send the present communication direct. Low sites for these rapid fire guns near the light house and Capt. Evan's quarters were examined but are not available, a large angle of fire from the former being intercepted by the new range-finder house on the beach, and the latter is immediately under a battery of 8-inch converted rifles in the main work. So the curtain selected for the rapid fire guns seems to be the only available site. At A on the tracing is shown a good position for the new 8-inch barbette guns on low site giving great range of fire and maximum danger space. Small magazines will be made on flanks and well covered.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

1 tracing (sep. roll)

*Thos. H. Ensey*  
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

P.S. I am just in receipt of Department letter of yesterday stating that the approved project of the Board of Engineers specifies the bastion between fronts 1 and 2 and calling for my reasons for the change. My reasons are that the range and sphere of action of these rapid fire guns would be more extended and useful on the curtain than if crowded into the bastion, which I have marked X on the tracing and which is too much retired; the plunge into the mined field would also prove more injurious to the mines themselves. This bastion is a very small one and at present is occupied only by the retreat gun and flag-staff; the other bastions are occupied by 8-inch converted rifles.

*J.H.C.*

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Chas Monroe, Major  
April 10, 1898

Casey, Capt. Thos. S.

Casey's drawing showing  
position of 4 H. F. guns is  
other new works under construction  
at Adams station. For the use  
of the site for H. F. guns.  
Casey's drawing agrees to this position  
of the works accordingly and  
direct to Chief Eng.

Wm. S. D. (drawing)  
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army  
April 10, 1898

RECD, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAY 2 1898  
Wm. S. D.  
Lieut. Thos. S. D. Norfolk Va. Apr. 20, 1898

1st indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

April 19, 1898.

Respectfully returned.  
The location selected for the  
rapid-fire guns is approved.  
By telegram dated the 16th in-  
stant Captain Casey was directed to  
prepare platforms for three 8-inch  
B. L. rifles on barbette carriages  
on the barbette tier of Fort  
Monroe.  
These papers to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

*Wm. S. D.*  
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

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Wm. S. D. in app. roll.

2nd indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office  
Norfolk, Va., April 21, 1898.

Respectfully returned to the  
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, in  
compliance with 1st indorsement.

*Wm. S. D.*  
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

Incl. 2 in sep. roll.

RECD, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAY 2 1898  
*Wm. S. D.*