

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

20298

Ft. Monroe

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U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
166 GRANBY STREET,

Norfolk, Va.,

February 18, 1898.

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

General, -

I have the honor to state that there is at present a new 8-inch rifle upon an all-round barbette carriage placed temporarily upon the beach near the end of the water battery at Fort Monroe for use in target practice. This rifle is valuable as a part of the permanent armament of Fort Monroe but in its present position is useless because of its exposure to the fire of the enemy. I would respectfully ask permission to place this rifle permanently at the southern end of the face-cover at present being constructed in front of the new mining casemate with its base ring at reference 16.5 feet, as shown on the accompanying tracings. In this position the sectors of fire are shown in blue upon the larger tracing and in two ^{concentric} ~~consecutive~~ circles upon the smaller. The rifle will be practically as useful as at present for sea-fire and target practice, and the position recommended will give offensive power where at present none is available, viz: up the reservation behind the new mortar battery to resist invasion by boat parties, and on the causeway crossing Mill Creek. The ammunition to serve this gun can be stored in the magazines of the 2-gun redoubt adjoining and brought by hand along the caponière and covered way to serve the

No. 2.

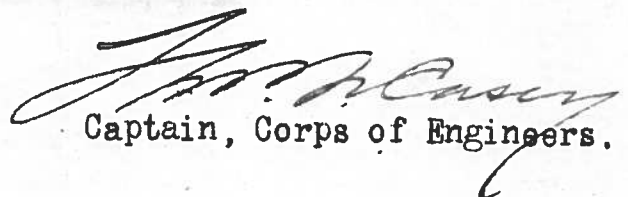
piece. The cost of installing this very valuable and at present useless piece of ordnance to this permanent site will be, according to detailed estimate below, \$1,785.50, which amount can be transferred from the allotment for the new mining casemate, as it is now known that a larger amount than this will be saved from that allotment. I have the honor to urge this before the Department as a very pressing and important change at the present time. Work can be commenced at once.

The detailed estimate of expense is as follows:

65	cubic yards of Rosendale concrete in platform,	
	@ \$5.00,-----	\$ 325.00
125	cubic yards of Rosendale concrete in wall, @ \$5.00,--	625.00
75	cubic yards of sand, excavated, moved and rammed	
	in position @ 30¢,-----	22.50
2000	feet of lumber for sheathing @ \$13.00 per M.,-----	26.00
	Putting up sheathing and profiles,-----	15.00
	Making and setting template,-----	12.00
	Bolts, nuts and washers,-----	492.00
	Setting hold-down bolts,-----	10.00
	Steps to platform,-----	25.00
	Moving carriage and putting on platform,-----	100.00
	Miscellaneous material,-----	8.00
	Contingencies and superintendence,-----	125.00

TOTAL, ----\$1,785.50

Very respectfully,
your obedient servant,


Captain, Corps of Engineers.

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1st Indorsement.

3rd Indorsement.

5th INDORSEMENT.

Office Chief of Engineers,
U. S. ARMY.

Office Chief of Engineers,
U. S. ARMY.

Headquarters of the Army,
Washington, D. C. March 7, 1898.

The Major General Commanding desires return of these papers to the Chief of Engineers, inviting attention to the letter and enclosure from the Commanding Officer, Fort Monroe, Va., dated February 24, 1898.

February 24, 1898.
Respectfully referred to The Board of Engineers, for remark and recommendation.

In this connection attention is invited to the recommendations of the Board of Officers and of the Commanding Officer of Fort Monroe, referred to The Board of Engineers November 19, 1897.

Brig. Gen. Chief of Engineers,
U. S. Army.

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Inclos. 21 & 22 in sep. roll.

2nd Indorsement.

The Board of Engineers,
Army Building,
New York City, March 1, 1898.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers.

The Board of Engineers is of the opinion that it is desirable to mount the 8-inch B.T. Rifle as proposed by Captain Casey, and recommends that he be authorized to do so.

For the Board:

Henry M. Robert
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
President of the Board.

Inclos. 21 & 22 in sep. roll.
RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. March 2, 1898

March 3, 1898.

Respectfully referred to the Adjutant General, U. S. Army.

The 8-inch rifle and carriage referred to herein were sent to the Artillery School for purposes of target practice and do not form a part of the approved project of defense of Hampton Roads. They can be mounted at a trifling expense as indicated by Captain Casey so as to aid in the defense and at the same time be still available for target practice. It is recommended that these papers be referred to the Commanding Officer of Fort Monroe for an expression of his views.

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Inclos. 21 & 22 accomp.

For the Commanding General of the Army.

Rec'd Back A. G. O. MAR 7 1898

Endorsement.

Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, March 8th, 1898.

Respectfully returned to the

Chief of Engineers, U. S. A., with attention to 5th indorsement and with the accompanying papers to them, accompanying.

W. H. Canine
Capt. Eng'g.

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There is at present

a new 8" rifle upon

an all-around bar-

relle carrying placed

temporarily upon

the beach near the

end of the water

battery at Ft. Monroe

and we in target

and we in target

and we in target

and we in target

and we in target

7th indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,
U. S. ARMY

March 10, 1898.

Respectfully returned to Captain Casey, who is authorized to mount the 8-inch gun in accordance with his project herein.

The sum of \$1,500 is hereby transferred for this purpose from the allotment of \$100,000 July 1, 1896, from appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries", Act of June 6, 1896, for construction of mortar battery at Fort Monroe.

It is suggested that it may be found possible to move the center of the platform somewhat nearer to the breast-height wall than indicated on the drawing and still leave room enough for traversing the carriage and handling the shot truck. It is deemed desirable that this should be done if possible.

It is also suggested that additional horizontal protection may be obtained by thickening the concrete breast-height wall throughout the sector of fire from the ocean side and by the addition of a small amount of sand filling in this same sector. A blue print of the barbette carriage for the 8-inch rifle is sent herewith for Captain Casey's information, and may be retained as long as needed.

When such record as may be necessary has been made, these papers will be returned to this Office.

20298 By order of the

Acting Chief of Engineers:

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Joseph C. Kuhn
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

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8th indorsement.
U. S. Engineer Office,
Norfolk, Va., Mar. 12, 1898.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, the necessary record having been made.

The blue print of the barbette carriage for 8-inch rifle has been retained for reference. It will be returned when no longer needed.

768 P.M. Captain, Corps of Engineers.
(7 inclos.) 2 in sep. roll.

REC'D OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAR 24 1898