

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

28650

Ft. Warren

Btty Lowell

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
Room 917 Winsor Building,
P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM-124 P. O. BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS.

June 19, 1899.

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

General:

In accordance with your instructions of November 1, 1898 (#28650), I have the honor to forward herewith plan and estimate for a battery of 3 - 15 pdr. R. F. guns on balanced pillar mounts located at Fort Warren, this harbor.

I have assumed that these guns are intended to cover the mine field in Nantasket Roads and have located them accordingly, as shown on the sketch map accompanying. The site selected is outside the Fort, and near the officers' quarters, and as close to the beach as possible. This gives a good command over the whole mine field, while the battery will be quite well protected from distant fire by the fort itself and the Ravelin Battery. The parapet of this latter work limits the fire to the left and the battery is located and designed accordingly. There is no special object to be gained by firing to the rear and the view in that direction is obstructed by quarters, storehouses, &c., and by the Fort itself. The right hand gun is arranged for an extended field of fire and its effective arc is indicated. Beyond this, houses interfere.

In the design presented, each gun has a magazine and guard room or bombproof, and there is continuous communication by road in rear of all the guns. Stairs lead from this road to the different gun

platforms. In the corner of each magazine and on the best sheltered side of the emplacement is located a recess which communicates with the magazine and the gun platform. The ammunition is to be served by hand through this recess and delivered on the gun platform without the necessity of climbing stairs. The capacity of magazine is about 1200 rounds, if the ammunition is set on end on the floor. If packed in boxes, which can be piled up, it will be much greater.

I have arranged the work with traverses as it seems to me that without such protection the whole battery might be disabled by a single shell, the parapet being but little over 3 feet high, and hence affording scarcely any shelter to either gun or gunners.

The site of the battery is practically level and has been chosen as near the beach as deemed safe. The extreme limit of wave action is indicated.

Details of drainage, lighting, &c., are not shown. They are simple and have been included in the estimate.

All needed plant is on hand and available.

The estimate for the three guns is \$9,300.00, or \$3,100.00 per gun. This figure seems relatively rather large, but is so mainly on account of the large magazine capacity called for and the very heavy platform apparently required by the gun. The estimate is a liberal one, as prices on all kinds of material just now are very uncertain.

The estimate is as follows, viz.:

ESTIMATE.

Concrete, 800 cubic yards @ \$8.00,	\$6,400.00
Excavation, 250 cubic yards @ 50¢,	125.00
Fill, 1,300 cubic yards @ 50¢,	650.00
Forms,	150.00
Drainage,.	200.00
Beams,	175.00
Doors, 15 @ \$40.00,	600.00
Electric lighting,	200.00
Contingencies,.	800.00
	<hr/>
	\$9,300.00
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Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. R. Luter

Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

(2 Tracings,
in sep. roll.)

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WAR DEPARTMENT
JUN 21 1899

28650
3

Boston,
June 19, 1899.

Dexter,
Genl. E. O.

I enclose herewith
receipts, amounting to \$9,300, for
battery of three 15-pdr.
R. F. guns on balanced
pillar mounts at Fort
Warren, Mass.
2 inclos. E. O. (Training);

U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.

2095 RECEIVED JUN 26 1899

Inclos 4 & 5 in that order, Jun 23, 1899.

File

REC'D. BUREAU CHIEF OF ENGRS. JUN 28, 1899
Inclos 4 & 5 accy.

1st indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

June 23, 1899.

Respectfully returned approved.
The sum of \$9,300 is hereby al-
loted from the appropriation for
"Gun and Mortar Batteries", for
construction of gun and mortar
batteries, Act of July 7, 1898, to
be applied to the construction of
emplacements for three 15-pdr.
rapid-fire guns on balanced pillar
mounts at Fort Warren, Mass.
These papers to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Tilton:

Charles B. Smith
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

28650.
3
Inclos 4 & 5 in sep. roll.

2nd indorsement.
U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.,

June 26, 1899.

Respectfully returned to the
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.

Chas. E. Smith
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Fort 2095.

2 inclos. accomp. in sep. roll.

REC'D. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. JUN 23 1899

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UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

P. O. BOX 5348, ROOM 917 WINTHROP BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS.

October 17, 1899.

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

General:

I have the honor to report that the work on the 15 pdr. R. F. Gun emplacements at Fort Warren and Fort Strong has proved more costly than had been anticipated owing mainly to the difficulty of handling plant economically on such small jobs. At Fort Strong there have also been troublesome slips in the bank, due to rains of great violence and which have necessitated increased excavation. Both works are well advanced to completion barring the minor but slow details of finishing up, and can be ready for the armament this Fall if the extra amount of funds, now seen to be necessary, can be supplied.

For the three guns at Fort Warren \$2200. is required, and for the two guns at Fort Strong, \$2700.

The Battery Commander's Station at Fort Strong has also overrun the estimate, for much the same reason as stated above, and \$1200. will be required to complete it.

The Fire Commander's Station at Fort Warren is nearly completed, and we are now ready to go on with the two Battery Commander's Stations still required. These are substantially the

same as the one already built and the same estimate of cost is submitted, viz.: \$4200. for each.

The additional allotments now requested are, therefore, as follows, viz:

For 3 15 pdr. R. F. emplacements, at Fort Warren,--\$ 2200.

For 2 15 pdr. R. F. emplacements, at Fort Strong,-- 2700.

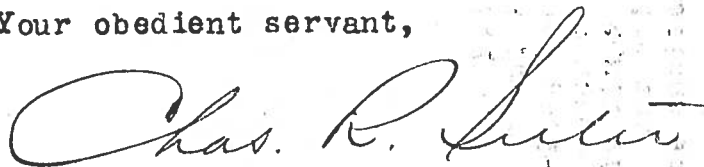
For Battery Commander's Station, at Fort Strong,-- 1200.

For 2 Battery Commander's Stations, at Fort Warren,-- 8400.

Total,-----
\$14500.
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Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,



Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

28650

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Forts.

2480

Boston

Oct. 17, 1899

Suter, Col. C. R.

Request made at estimate for fort works as follows:

- 3-15 pds. R. F. empls. Fort Warren, \$2200
- 2-15 pds. R. F. empls. Fort Strong, 2700
- Battery Condit's Station, Fort Strong, 1200
- 2 Battery Condit's Station, Fort Warren, 8400

\$14500

297- notes

file

1st Indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers.

U. S. ARMY.

October 20, 1899.

Respectfully returned to Colonel Suter.

The following allotments are hereby made to be applied as indicated:

From the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries", for construction of gun and mortar batteries, Act of July 7, 1898:

For completing three 15-pounder rapid-fire emplacements at Fort Warren, \$2,200.00

For completing two 15-pounder rapid-fire emplacements at Fort Strong, 2,700.00

From appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries", for installation of range and position finders, Act of July 7, 1898:

For completing Battery Commander's station at Fort Strong, \$1,200.00

The available balance of funds for installation of range and position finders, in view of the needs of other harbors, will not admit of an allotment for constructing the two Battery Commander's stations at Fort Warren at this time.

This paper to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

28650

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Joseph E. Butler
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

2d Indorsement,

U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.

Oct. 24, 1899.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.

Chas. R. Butler
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Forts. 2480.