

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

75586

Ft. Banks

Rebuilding Btty Lincoln-Kellogg

1910-12

WAR DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

ROOM 1015 BARRISTERS HALL, 25 PEMBERTON SQUARE

BOSTON, MASS.

11 APR 6 1910
BOSTON, MASS.

March 29, 1910.

The Chief of Engineers,
United States Army,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

1. Referring to my letter of this date submitting estimates for allotment of funds from the appropriation for "Preservation and Repair of Fortifications" for the Boston Artillery District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, I have the honor to submit the following special report regarding Batteries Lincoln and Kellogg (sixteen 12" B.L.M.), Fort Banks, Mass. The facts regarding the condition of these batteries, in so far as concerns their efficiency, are so well known to the Department from previous correspondence as to make it unnecessary to enter into them fully here. Concisely stated, they are that the pits are very small and the facilities for the storage and service of ammunition are entirely inadequate to meet modern conditions, particularly as to projectile service, regarding which it is difficult if not impracticable to make any improvement at any expense commensurate with the results obtained without radical measures. Drainage and wiring are also in very poor condition. As a whole the batteries can only be considered as very inefficient according to present standards, and no betterment can be expected without radically modernizing them throughout. In the absence of the 12" or 14" batteries projected for Fort Standish and Deer Island and of the additional mortar battery projected for Fort Banks, the northern

entrance to Boston Harbor is relatively poorly protected. This condition will be somewhat aggravated with the opening, within the next two or three years, of the new thirty-five foot channel, 1,500 feet wide, leading directly into President Roads from Broad Sound and so located that even if not buoyed or lighted it might be run during daylight from land-marks alone. The heavy armament now covering this channel consists of three 12" B.L.R. at Fort Heath, nine 10" B.L.R. at Forts Standish and Strong, and the sixteen 12" B.L.M. of Batteries Lincoln and Kellogg. The 10-inch rifles at Standish and Strong can hardly be considered as efficient armament for this entrance by reason not only of their caliber but also of their locations which are so much withdrawn that they would furnish no assistance to the 12-inch rifles at Fort Heath excepting when attacking vessels came inside of the Graves Light, as would be the case only in the later stages of an engagement carried out to its ultimate conclusion. This condition must exist until the additional heavy armament for Deer Island and Fort Standish is provided. There have been no appropriations for gun and mortar battery construction on the Atlantic Coast in recent years, and it is not practicable to determine when such appropriations will be resumed. When they are resumed some years will be required to complete the additional batteries projected to cover this entrance. It therefore appears to be urgently desirable to place the existing batteries in an efficient condition and particularly to so improve Batteries Lincoln and Kellogg that they will efficiently support the 12-inch battery at Fort Heath until such time as additional armament is provided.

2. In view of the above facts I have given serious consideration to the general proposition of modernizing Batteries Lincoln and Kellogg in such a manner that their efficiency will be approximately equal to that of the modern type of mortar battery. At the same time it must be stated that no plans covering such modernization and no estimate of the cost thereof have been made in view of the existing status of these batteries and of fortification funds during recent years. It is my opinion, however, that these batteries may be modernized at a cost that will not be much compared to the cost of a complete battery, and that the work may be extended through such a series of years as might be commensurate with the amount of funds available therefor from existing appropriations. While no plans for this work have been prepared, its general character has been critically studied. Instead of attempting to enlarge the existing pits and magazine spaces, it would be proposed to build on the flank of each pit a new pit of the latest type, opened to the rear so that drainage on this low site might be most advantageously cared for. The existing pits, with the loading platform in three cases at a height of about 4 feet above the magazine floor, would be covered in and utilized as shot and shell rooms. The trapezoidal space at each end of the main magazine gallery would be fitted for powder storage, with a straight passage running back to the existing magazines which could be utilized for the storage of such surplus or reserves as could not be accommodated in the space first mentioned in this sentence. With such an arrangement and with each pit opening directly to the exterior, drainage could be cared for at a much less expense than has heretofore been

estimated for the present batteries, and by a sewer connection that can probably be made at a moderate expense it is believed that the drainage troubles in these batteries may be entirely remedied. Rewiring may also be accomplished at a relatively moderate expense. If the batteries are modernized along some such lines they will be provided with ammunition storage which in capacity and facility of handling will be in all respects practically equal to the most modern type of battery.

3. As stated above, no plans for this work have been made, nor any estimates of cost. It is believed that the cost will be at least \$75,000 and it may be more, but it probably will be under \$100,000. Whatever the cost may subsequently be found to be on future estimates, the work would result in modern batteries in place of the existing inefficient pits, some of which by reason of the differences of elevation and restricted spaces are practically not usable at all under modern conditions.


4. On account of the pressure of other work no attention has been given to the details of this modernization in the absence of any probability known to this office that funds for initiating the work might be made available. If it is possible to make an allotment of \$10,000 or more to commence this work, I should strongly recommend that it be done and will submit to the Chief of Engineers for approval, as early as possible, the plans for the proposed modernization of these batteries. If no allotment for the work is to be expected, the studies for the necessary changes in these batteries will be taken in hand

-5-

when the pressure of other drafting work will permit.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,


Lieut.Col., Corps of Engineers.

Dic.JW

ing may be covered with the expenditure of the amount of the estimates submitted on tracing (75566/4). It is quite possible, however, that more money will be needed, and it is believed that the grading back of the parapets in rear can be omitted, without serious injury to the efficiency of the battery, as the raising of the level of the mortars, as indicated, will, of itself, greatly reduce the suction effect of the blast. Work at Battery Whitman, Fort Andrews, will be completed about November 15, 1910. If the \$10,000 be made immediately available, it will be possible therefore to begin work with a well-trained gang of laborers in about a month on pit B, Battery Lincoln, one of the most inconvenient pits at Fort Banks, one at which drills are no longer attempted as it is too difficult to get the projectiles up the slopes to the mortars. With the \$25,000 in hand it will be possible to remove the present mortar foundations and to construct the new pit floor and the magazines, etc., on its left flank, on the new level, that is, the level of the present highest pit. This will give complete modern ammunition service to two of the four mortars in the pit, and at the same time will leave practically unchanged the ammunition service of the other two mortars in the pit. As soon as another \$25,000 can be allotted, the magazines and shot rooms in rear between pits A and B can be built complete, which would complete pit B, making it a thoroughly modern pit, and at the same time

would improve the service of pit A, by giving better supply to two of the four mortars. A third allotment of \$25,000 will complete pit A so far as concrete work is concerned. This would give one 8-gun mortar battery at Fort Banks, complete except some earth work and a new power house.

4. In putting in the mortar foundation, it is proposed to build in a complete set of anchor plates for anchor bolts for model 1908 mortar carriages, with pipes bedded in the concrete, as shown on the inclosed blue print, so that whenever the Ordnance Department is ready to furnish the new type mortars and carriages, they can be mounted in the battery by simply cutting out the small cylinder of concrete marked ///// in red on the blue print, screwing new anchor bolts into these plates, and grouting them in. As this battery is of primary importance in the defence of the new 35-foot channel, it is urged as important that new mortars and carriages should be supplied as soon as practicable.

5. Authority is requested to begin work on pit B with funds in hand as soon as the present force completes its work at Battery Whitman.

Frederick V. Allen
Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

-IAK
11/279 Forts
248/1 Forts and memo.accomp.
248/2-4 Forts and 4 addl.inclos.
(b.ps.) in sep.roll.

RECEIVED, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS OCT 15 1910

5th indorsement. EB-HLS
WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

November 5, 1910.

1. Respectfully returned to Colonel Abbot.

2. The recommendations contained in the preceding indorsement are approved so far as they relate to Battery Lincoln. Colonel Abbot is authorized to begin work in accordance with the plan shown on the blue print accompanying that indorsement and to prosecute it as recommended.

3. From the balances enumerated in the accompanying memorandum, the following amounts, in the Treasury, are hereby withdrawn:

From the appropriation for
"Preservation and Repair
of Fortifications" -

Act of May 27, 1908:

Allotment of July 26, 1908,
for wiring under G. O. 194,
W. D., 1906, ----- \$2,500

Act of June 23, 1910:

Allotment of July 20, 1910,
for general repairs, ----- 7,500

From the appropriation for
"Gun and Mortar Batteries",
(for modernizing older em-
placements) -

Act of March 3, 1909:

Allotment of August 19, 1909,
for installation of Type-B
powder hoists, Battery Win-
throp, Fort Heath, ----- 2,500

Act of May 27, 1908:

Allotment of September 19,
1908, for installation of
powder hoists, Batteries
Ward and Hitchcock, Fort
Strong, ----- \$2,500

Total, - \$15,000

The amounts above withdrawn are hereby allotted to be applied to the work described within. In addition, the sum of \$25,000 is hereby allotted for application to this work from the appropriation for "Preservation and Repair of Fortifications", act of June 23, 1910.

4. Information at hand indicates that the procuring of Model 1908 carriages and mortars for this battery must be set at such an indefinite date in the probably distant future as to make it inadvisable to place any dependence whatever upon such armament. This office has had under consideration the question of transferring to this battery sufficient Model 1896 armament from a less important locality and believes such a solution of the problem to be better than to reset the present armament and rely on securing Model 1908 armament in the future. Prior to taking up the matter formally with other departments, Colonel Abbot is requested to examine into the matter to determine whether any great or expensive changes will be involved in placing Model 1891 carriages on gun blocks from which Model 1896 carriages may

be removed for this purpose. An early reply on this point is desirable to avoid delay in the operations at Battery Lincoln.

5. The matter of plans for improving Battery Kellogg is not acted on at this time for the reasons stated in the preceding indorsement. Other matters not now in evidence may control final action as to that battery. If, however, additional material for cover in the new work of Battery Lincoln is needed, there is no objection to its being taken from Battery Kellogg in such a way as will be in accordance with the plan accompanying the preceding indorsement, and as will least disturb existing conditions.

By command of the Chief of Engineers:

Thos B. ...
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers.

75586

Inclos. 1 & 5 accomp.

Inclos. 2-4, & 6-9 in sep. roll.

NOV -7 1910

6th indorsement
U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
Boston, Mass.

November 23, 1910.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers.

2. Complying with instructions contained in paragraph 4 of the preceding indorsement, a tracing is inclosed showing in detail the changes involved in placing Model 1891 carriages on gun blocks from which Model 1896 carriages may be removed. The estimated cost of the changes is \$250.00 per base ring.

Thos B. ...
Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

Dic. TEJ/IAK

11/279 Forts

Inclo. 360, and 248/1 Forts accomp.

Inclos. 373-376 & 390, and 248/2-4, in sep. roll.

NOV 25 1910

WAR DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

ROOM 1015 BARRISTERS HALL, 25 PEMBERTON SQUARE

BOSTON, MASS.

248
1
folds

June 18, 1910.

The Chief of Engineers,

United States Army,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1. Referring to your indorsement of April 5, 1910 (E.D. 75586), I have the honor to inclose herewith three tracings, marked plan 1, plan 2, and plan 3, for the betterment of the Fort Banks mortar batteries. On each tracing is given the estimated cost, and the quantities of excavation and fill, of concrete cutting, of new concrete, and of special items involved in the plan shown thereon.

2. Plan No. 1 has been objected to by the Artillery authorities, on the sole ground that the pits are scattered too far to be properly operated as one battery. The total cost is \$221,960.

3. Plan No. 2, was a second study and is better, except that the pits are not quite of type size, and the distance between pit centres is 142'6" as against 136'3" on type plans. The cost is \$240,460.

4. Plan No. 3, is believed to be the best, as type plans are closely followed, except for an increase in the distance between pit centres of 12 feet. Heavy concrete cutting has been largely eliminated, and when done does not involve careful facing work. Communications are good, and the cost is only \$214,830, the least of the three plans.

5. In all cases the drawing shows the base rings for new type high power mortars, which are particularly needed at this point, for such

C.of E. -2-

mortars would render the occupation of any advanced battery in the harbor untenable, if they were captured by the enemy.

I recommend that enough money be allotted, if practicable, to complete one of the pits, the one to be selected to be the one now in the least convenient condition for service.

Very respectfully,

Frank V. Allen
Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

-IAK
11 Forts
3 inclos. accomp.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

EB-CTF

December 7, 1910.

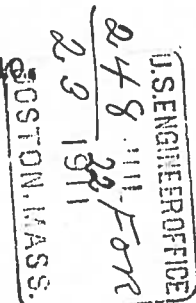
The Chief of Coast Artillery,
U. S. Army.

Sir:

1. I have the honor to advise you that work will shortly be commenced upon the improvement of Battery Lincoln (8 12-inch B.L.M., Model 1891), Fort Banks, Mass., by enlarging the mortar pits and improving the facilities for the storage and service of ammunition. These improvements when completed will convert Battery Lincoln into an efficient battery of modern type, but with the small appropriations available annually the work will continue through several years. One pit of four mortars is expected however to be completed with funds now available or to become available during the present session of Congress.

2. The situation regarding the defenses of the northern entrance to Boston Harbor is well known, and no appropriations for the improvement of this situation by the construction of additional projected batteries are to be expected in the near future. These reasons have led to the steps for the improvement of conditions in the mortar batteries at Fort Banks, the only mortars installed primarily to cover the northern entrance. I am strongly of the opinion that this improvement should be extended to include the improvement of the armament of Battery Lincoln by substituting for the present armament of Model-1886-1891 Mortars ^{and} Model-1891 Carriages, armament of later and more effective types. Since no surplus armament of later types is available, the importance of the locality warrants the transfer of such armament to Battery Lincoln from a less important port.

3. It is therefore recommended that the 8 Model-1890 Mortars, and 8 Model-1896 Carriages mounted in Battery Bagley, Fort Caswell, N. C., be transferred to Battery



C. C. A. -2.

Lincoln, Fort Banks, Mass., and that the 8 mortars and Model-1891 carriages at Battery Lincoln be transferred to Battery Bagley, the time of the transfer to be adjusted to suit the progress of construction operations at Battery Lincoln.

4. Your views upon this recommendation are requested with the return of this paper through the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army.

Very respectfully,

Chief of Engineers,

U. S. Army.

75586

6
OFFICE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, OFFICE CHIEF OF
COAST ARTY. DIV.

MAR 24

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
COAST ARTILLERY DIVISION
WASHINGTON

5403/13. +

1st Endorsement

March 15, 1911.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
COAST ARTILLERY DIVISION
WASHINGTON.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
ADOLPHUS BAGLEY, 1866-1890
16198
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS.

Model-1890
Model-1896 Carriages
Model-1891 Carriages at Baty.
Lincoln be transferred to Baty. Bagley.

HEADQUARTERS,
COAST ARTILLERY DISTRICT

DEPT. OF THE EAST
0000324
MAY 18 1911

RECEIVED L. G. O. DEPT. EAST MAY 30 1911
HEADQUARTERS,
COAST ARTILLERY DISTRICT
WASHINGTON

2
RECEIVED L. G. O. DEPT. EAST MAY 31 1911
HEADQUARTERS,
COAST ARTILLERY DISTRICT
WASHINGTON

1. Respectfully transmitted to the
CHIEF OF ORDNANCE.

2. The Chief of Coast Artillery concurs in the views expressed herein by the Chief of Engineers as to the advisability of transferring to Battery Lincoln the armament now mounted in Battery Bagley and replacing that taken from Battery Bagley by that removed from Battery Lincoln.

W. H. Miller
Chief of Coast Artillery
Assistant to Chief of Staff

26207/455

CRQ

2nd Endorsement.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE,
Washington, March 25, 1911.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers with the information that this Department has no objection to the plans proposed within. An Ordnance machinist will be furnished to assist in the work at Battery Lincoln as well as one for Battery Bagley if desired.

W. H. Miller
Brig. Gen., Chief of Ordnance

3d Endorsement.
WAR DEPARTMENT, ENGRS.
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

May 24, 1911.

1. Respectfully submitted to the Adjutant General, with recommendation that the transfer of armament between Battery Lincoln, Fort Bank and Battery Bagley, Fort Caswell, referred to within, be authorized.
2. The mortars and carriages of Pit A, Battery Lincoln, are now dismounted and could be shipped at any time. The mortars and carriages of Pit B will soon be dismounted and available for shipment to Fort Caswell in case of the approval of the recommendation.

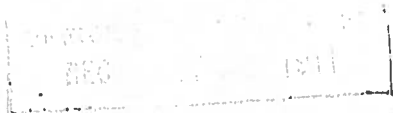
3. It is believed to be advisable that the transfer of armament take place during the present working season in order that there may be no delay in its reinstallation.

W. H. Miller
Chief of Engineers,
U. S. Army.

75386
15

4th Indorsement.

To the Chief of Staff.
A.G.O. May 25, 1911.



BACK MAY 26 1911 G.A.DIV.

To
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, with memo.
O.G.S. MAY 27 1911

With memo, Chief of Staff to Chief of Staff

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

544 - Indorsement.

(1786236)

WAR DEPARTMENT,
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON.

May 29, 1911.

Respectfully referred to the Commanding General, Department of the East, and the Commanding Officer, Department of the Gulf, with directions to have the mortars and their carriages at Battery Lincoln, Fort Banks, Massachusetts, dismounted and packed for shipment to Fort Caswell, North Carolina, for emplacement at Battery Bagley, at that post, and to have the mortars and their carriages at Battery Bagley dismounted and packed for shipment to Fort Banks, Massachusetts, for emplacement at Battery Lincoln, at that post. The actual shipment of this armament will not be made, however, until after July 1, 1911, on account of the present shortage of transportation funds.

The return of this paper is desired.

By order of the
Secretary of War:

A

Henry H. Loomis
Adjutant General.

(A.G.O.72)

6th Indorsement.
HEADQRS. DEPT. OF THE EAST,
Governors Island, N.Y.,
June 1, 1911.

Respectfully referred to
the Commanding Officer, Artillery District of Boston, Fort Banks, Massachusetts, for necessary action.

Early return of this paper is desired.

By command of
Major General Grant:

Predictor
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS, ART. DIST. OF BOSTON
OFFICE OF THE ORDNANCE OFFICER,
FORT BANKS, MASS.
RECEIVED JUN 5 - 1911

7th Endorsement.

HEADQUARTERS,
Artillery District of Boston,
Fort Banks, Mass.,
June 6th, 1911.

1. Respectfully forwarded to the Armament Officer, N.A.D., Watertown Arsenal, Mass., inviting attention to within correspondence, especially to 2nd, 3rd and 5th endorsements, and requesting that steps be taken as soon as practicable, to pack, crate and prepare for shipment as directed hereon the four (4) Mortars and Carriages, (with the necessary tools and equipment) now dismantled, and the four (4) to be dismantled this month at Battery Lincoln.

2. Information is requested if the packing cases, crates, boxes etc., for above shipment will be furnished by the Ordnance Department and the packing done under the supervision of ordnance machinists, assisted by the troops of this command.

3. The early return of this paper is requested.

R. A. Patterson
Colonel, Coast Artillery Corps,
Commanding District.

F.H.L.
OD00-377-rf.

JUN 8 1911

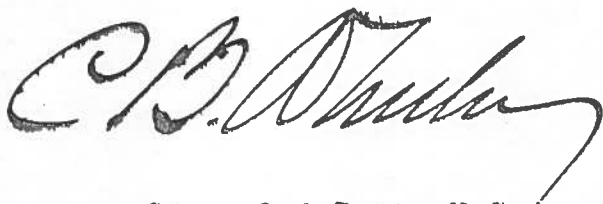
26207/455

W-H
28-1098

8th Endorsement

WATERTOWN ARSENAL, MASS.
June 26, 1911.

1. Respectfully returned to the Commanding Officer, Artillery District of Boston, Fort Banks, Mass. The matter referred to in the 7th endorsement has been referred to the Chief of Ordnance for instructions. As soon as these have been received, he will be informed. The failure to return this paper promptly is regretted.



Lt. Col., Ord. Dept., U.S.A.
Armament Officer
Northern Armament District.

REC'D BACK Z.O.O. JUN 27 1911

9th Endorsement.

HEADQUARTERS,
Artillery District of Boston,
Fort Banks, Mass.
June 27th, 1911.

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant General, Department of the East, Governor's Island, N.Y., inviting attention to 7th and 8th endorsements hereon.

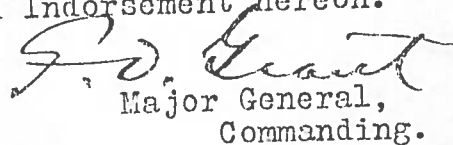


Colonel Coast Artillery Corps,
Commanding District.

ODOO-377-rf.

10th Indorsement.
HEADQRS. DEPT. OF THE EAST,
Governors Island, N.Y.,
June 30, 1911.

Respectfully transmitted to the Commanding General, Department of the Gulf, Atlanta, Ga., under 5th Indorsement hereon.



Major General,
Commanding.

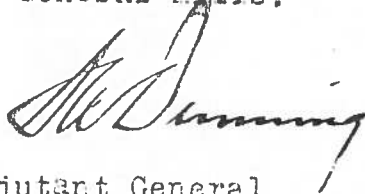
11th INDORSEMENT.

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF
ATLANTA, GA.
July 3, 1911.

Respectfully referred to the
Commanding Officer, Artillery
District of Cape Fear, Fort
Caswell, N. C., for necessary
action, attention invited to
additional paper on this subject
referred to him this date.

Early return of this paper
is desired.

By command of
Brigadier General Mills:



Adjutant General.

jwm

12th Indorsement.

HEADQUARTERS, ARTILLERY DISTRICT
OF THE CAPE FEAR,
Fort Caswell, North Carolina,
July 7th., 1911.

Respectfully returned to
the Adjutant General, Department
of the Gulf, Atlanta, Georgia,
contents noted. The work of dis-
mounting the mortars in Battery
Bagley is now under way.



Captain, Coast Artillery Corps,
Commanding District.

rif. ✓

RECEIVED JUL 10 1911

JBM

13th Indorsement,
HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF THE GULF,
Atlanta, Ga., July 10, 1911.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Respectfully returned to the
Adjutant General, Eastern Division
Governor's Island, N. Y., attention
invited to 12th indorsement.

L. H. Lins
Brigadier General,
Commanding.

jwm

S

REC'D BK. A. G. O. EAST. DIV. JUL 12 1911

14th Indorsement.
HEADQRS. EASTERN DIVISION,
Governors Island, N.Y.,
July 13, 1911.

Respectfully returned to
The Adjutant General of the
Army in connection with letter
(1794844 A. G. O., W. D.) re-
turned to him this date by
8th Indorsement, these head-
quarters.

T. Andrews
Adjutant General,
In absence of the
Division Commander.

15th Indorsement.

To the
Chief of Staff.

A.G.O., July 14, 1911
1 Inclosure

REC'D JUL 15 1911

BACK JUL 15 1911 C.A.DIV.
recd. 5/27/11 recp.

16th Ind.

To C. of S.

memo. 5/27/11 ac. comp.

C.A. Div. O.C.S. July 18/11

REC'D OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF JUL 18 1911

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

WAR DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

ROOM 1015 BARRISTERS HALL, 25 PEMBERTON SQUARE

BOSTON, MASS.

March 13, 1911.

The Chief of Engineers,
United States Army,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of E.D. letter of the 7th instant (75586), I have the honor to say that in the modernizing of Battery Benjamin Lincoln, Fort Banks, the shot rooms as planned are of sufficient size to accommodate one row of the large projectiles (56") on one side and a row of the ordinary 700-pound size (40") on the other side, with a four-foot passageway between. The medium size projectiles could be piled in a row on either side, leaving a passageway of over four feet. Ample storage room could be provided, if necessary, for the storage of any amount of long projectiles that would be required, in the galleries or shot rooms of the old work, which could be made easily accessible to the pits.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Frederic V. Abbott
Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

Dic. TEJ/IAK
272/1 Forts

75586

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

FWB/ITF

March 20, 1913.

From: The Chief of Engineers.

To: Through THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE to The Chief of Staff.

Subject: Armament for Battery Kellogg, Fort Banks, Mass.

1. The remodeling of the two mortar batteries at Fort Banks, Massachusetts, has been in progress for the past two or three years. This work involves the complete removal of the mortars, carriages and base-rings and their reinstallation, the mortar pits being enlarged and the locations of the individual mortars correspondingly changed.

2. The work of remodeling Battery Lincoln is now approaching completion. The model-1891 carriages with their mortars and base-rings mounted in this battery have, under instructions from the War Department, been exchanged for the model-1896 carriages with their mortars and base-rings formerly mounted at Fort Caswell, North Carolina. In view of the important functions to be performed by the mortar batteries at Fort Banks, it is believed to be undesirable to retain at this point any of the armament of the earliest type and it is recommended that the policy in this respect followed at Battery Lincoln be likewise followed at Battery Kellogg. It is suggested that the 8 model-1896 mortar carriages with their base-rings and mortars now mounted at Fort Washington, Maryland, be dismounted and shipped to Fort Banks for mounting at Battery Kellogg in connection with the remodeling of this battery. In view of the fact that considerable time must elapse before the completion for an effective defense of the fortifications to be constructed at the entrance to Chesapeake Bay it is believed that the mortar battery at Fort Washington should not be abandoned at this time and it is accordingly recommended that the armament of the older type now to be removed from Battery Kellogg be shipped to Fort Washington and mounted at that place.

W. H. Bixby

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.

26207/515

1st ind.

RYG

Office of C. of O., March 24, 1913 - To Chief of Staff.

1. This Department has no objection to the transfer of the 12" mortar carriages, model of 1896, and mortars, from Fort Washington to Fort Banks. If this action is decided upon it is requested that this Department be informed, in order that the necessary mechanical assistance can be given in connection with the dismounting and mounting of the carriages.

Jno. T. Thompson,
Lt. Col., Ord. Dept.,
Acting C. of O.

5403/19-B.

2d ind.

War Dept., O.C.S., C.A.D., April 11, 1913. -To The Adjutant General, U.S.A.

The Secretary of War directs:

1. That the eight 12-inch mortars, carriages, and base rings now mounted at Battery Meigs, Fort Washington, Md., be dismounted and the mortars, carriages, and base rings transferred to Battery Sanford Kellogg, Fort Banks, Mass., and mounted thereat.

2. That the eight 12-inch mortars, carriages, and base rings now mounted at Battery Sanford Kellogg, Fort Banks, Mass., be dismounted and held until further orders at such point on the Fort Banks reservation as may be selected by the Commanding Officer of the Coast Defenses of Boston.

3. That the work of dismantling Battery Meigs, Fort Washington, Md., be confined at the first to one pit, so that the other pit will continue to be available for instruction and drill purposes of the Coast Artillery company assigned thereto.

4. That the probable date of the commencement of the work of dismantling the second pit at Battery Meigs be reported to The Adjutant General of the Army sufficiently in advance to permit the company of Coast Artillery assigned to that battery to be transferred to another battery without seriously interfering with its current instruction.

E. M. Weaver
Chief of Coast Artillery Division,
For the Chief of Staff.

5403/19 accomp.

2017936-B

3d ind.

War Dept., A.G.O., April 14, 1913 - To the Chief of Engineers and the Chief of Ordnance, inviting attention to the preceding indorsement hereon. The return of these papers is desired. By order of the Secretary of War.

(Original accompanying)
1 inclosure.

H. O. S. Heistand,
Adjutant General.

SUBJECT:

communications should be addressed to "Arsenal, Watertown, Mass."
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

C-McD

WATERTOWN ARSENAL

WATERTOWN, MASS.

March 7, 1912

The Armament Officer,
Southern Armament District,
Augusta Arsenal, Ga.

Sir:

1. In accordance with instructions of the Chief of Ordnance, contained in 1st endorsement of O.O. 16187/1052, dated Dec. 19th, 1911, (W.A. 112-3858), I have the honor to inform you that 8 - 12" Mortar Carriages, Model 1891, Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, and 30, 7 - 12" Mortars, Model 1886M, Nos. 16, 26, 28, 41, 61, 63, and 72, and 1 - 12" Mortar, Model 1886-90, No. 9, have been shipped to Fort Caswell, N.C.

2. The carriages and mortars were mounted at Fort Banks as follows:

No. Carriage	17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30
No. Mortar	63, 61, 41, 72, 26, 16, 28, 9

3. As carriage No. 30 is fitted with special parts to adapt it to mortar No. 9, 1886-90, it is suggested that it be assembled on the same carriage at Fort Caswell.

4. There are enclosed herewith lists giving the alterations that have been made in the carriages and mortars while in this district.

5. The carriages were manufactured by the Builders' Iron Foundry of Providence, R.I., and no inspection reports

112-3981

covering their manufacture have ever been on file at this arsenal.

6. The Model 1886M. Mortars were manufactured by the Builders' Iron Foundry and no inspection reports of them are on file at this arsenal.

7. 12" Mortar, Model 1886-90, was made at Watervliet Arsenal. No inspection reports are on file but a copy of the record of proof-firing is enclosed herewith.

8. In dismounting the base ring of carriage No. 27, it was found to be cracked in such a manner as to be unserviceable. This base ring, with traversing rack, is being replaced by one on hand at this arsenal, in accordance with instructions contained in O.O. 26207/472, 4th endorsement, (W.A. 112-3731).

9. One distance ring, 1 brace for elevating rack, 2 index ring brackets and several bolts and studs are also being issued from this arsenal to replace those lost or broken.

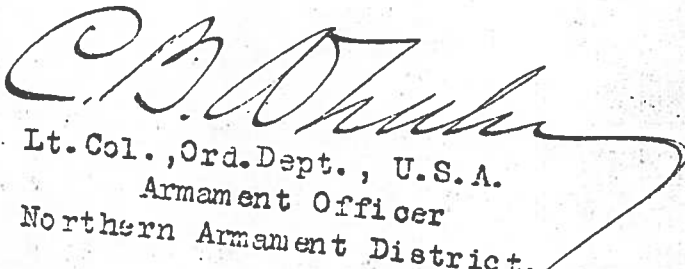
Respectfully,

C. B. WHEELER

Lt. Col., Ord. Dept., U.S.A.
Armament Officer
Northern Armament District.

Encs:
(8 Lists of Alterations)
(1 Record of Proof-firing)

OFFICIAL COPY respectfully furnished the Chief of Ordnance, U.S.A., for his information.


Lt. Col., Ord. Dept., U.S.A.
Armament Officer
Northern Armament District.

Watertown Arsenal, Mass.
Mar. 7, 1912