

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

31841

Ft. Andrews

Btty Rice

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM 917 WINTHROP BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS.

**

November 23, 1899.

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

General:

I have the honor to submit herewith plans and estimate for a battery of two 5" wire wound Rapid Fire guns on pedestal mounts to be constructed on Peddocks Island, Boston Harbor, as directed by your instructions of Oct. 12, 1899 (31841/1).

This battery is situated on the highest point of the hill embraced in the U. S. Reservation on Peddocks Island. Its position and its relation to other works are shown on the small scale map given on the enclosed plan and more comprehensively on the map submitted with my report of August 23, 1899 (31841/1). *Filed with Safe 100*

As these guns under the present approved project will form part of a battery comprising in addition two 6" R. F. guns, I have attempted in the design submitted to provide for this extension, which is shown in dotted lines on the small scale map, my assumption being that the 6" guns would be either on pedestal or balance pillar mounts allowing of all round fire. The site is eminently suitable for such mounts as it is both high and fairly retired.

The field of fire of the 5" guns shown on the present plan will be somewhat modified when the 6" emplacements are built. These modified lines are shown on the small map and are essentially the

same as shown on the map accompanying my report of August 23, 1899 (31841/1). In all cases shown the field of fire is only limited by natural obstacles or adjacent guns.

The plan now submitted follows the same general lines as the one under which a similar battery has been built at Nantasket. One magazine of double capacity serves both guns. Behind this is a room containing two chain lifts and the space under the gun platforms is utilized for guard and relocater rooms. The lifts deliver to the rear as the small height of parapet prohibits delivery at the side of the emplacements. The platforms themselves are made rather heavier than in the type design owing to their position as roofs of the rooms below. They are, however, well supported and so bonded to the entire structure as to ensure ample strength and stability. The walk in rear of the emplacements, on which the lifts deliver, together with the centre traverse will afford fair cover to the gun detachments in case of necessity and also to the ammunition as delivered from the lifts. The rooms below and the road are amply protected. The stairs provided will allow of hand delivery of ammunition in case of damage to the lifts.

In actual construction the battery elevations shown on the plan will all be lowered three feet with reference to the contours. This change was found necessary to conform the 5" emplacements to the probable design of those for the 6", but it seems hardly worth while to revise the drawing. The estimates submitted are for the corrected elevations.

I have only estimated here for the electric lights in the battery and the necessary wiring. Power can probably best be supplied from the mortar battery plant, at least until the 6" guns are installed when possibly it may be advisable to put up a small separate plant for these four guns. The question of the main power plant and also of the water supply for all the works on Peddocks Island has not yet been worked out and is not considered here.

The estimated cost of the work is \$20,000. There is much work of a general character, roads, plant, etc., that bears hard on a small work like this, and has made this estimate considerably larger than the one which proved sufficient for the Nantasket battery.

The estimate is as follows:-

Estimate.

Excavation, 1800 cu.yds.	@ \$.50	.	.	.	.	\$900.00
Fill, 1750 " "	@ .40	.	.	.	.	700.00
Concrete, 1000 " "	@ 8.00	.	.	.	.	8,000.00
Forms, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	1,000.00
Beams, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	300.00
Doors, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	500.00
Fire places and grates, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	40.00
Speaking tubes, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	50.00
Electric lights, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	125.00
Railings, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	135.00
Lifts, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	1,500.00
Drainage and ventilation, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	600.00
Sodding slopes, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	550.00
Road, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	1,800.00
Plant, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	2,000.00
Contingencies, . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	1,800.00
Total,						\$20,000.00

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

1 inclo.-
tracing in sep.roll.



Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

6681

WAR DEPARTMENT

31841

10N

Boston,
Nov. 23, 1899.

Suter, Col. Chas. R.

Submit plans and estimate for a battery of two 5" wire wound R.F. guns on pedestal mounts to be constructed on Peddocks Island, Boston Harbor, as directed by E. D. Minto of Oct. 12, 1899. Total est. cost, \$20,000.

1 inc., E. D.

(transmitting)

2603
Dec 1 99

file

Approved

Incls. 6 in check rolls, Bu. 185, Bk. 4.

RECD. WAR OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. DEC 4 1899

K inc. 6 accg.

1st Indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

November 28, 1899.

Respectfully returned approved.

The sum of \$20,000 is hereby allotted 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 two 5-inch R.F. wire-wound guns on pedestal mounts at Peddocks Island, Boston Harbor, Mass. In designing the chain lifts the dimensions and weight of the ammunition should be carefully considered.

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

By command of Brig. Gen. W. L. Scott:

W. L. Scott
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

31841

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Incls. 6 in sep. roll.

2d Indorsement,

U. S. Engineer Office,

Boston, Mass.,

Dec. 2, 1899.

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

Chas. R. Suter

Colonel, Corps of Engineers

Forts 2603.

1 inclo. accomp. in sep. roll.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. DEC 4 1899