

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

24901

Ft. Heath

Btly Winthrop

Subject: Gun emplacements.
L. S. M. MANSFIELD,
Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM 124 P. O. BUILDING.

BOSTON, MASS.

March 21, 1898.

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

General:

Referring to Department letter of March 18, 1898 (no file number given) making allotments for work at Grover's Cliff and at Fort Warren, I have the honor to state that the necessary preliminary work was started upon the receipt of the telegram on the same subject, and is being pushed. At Grover's Cliff the site is quite irregular; at Fort Warren, the site is both irregular and contracted; the centre of one of the gun positions is over the ditch of the main work, and the magazines for this gun will require a little study, to avoid interference with the magazines for the turret projected for Bastion "A." For these reasons, it will be some days before work can be actually begun in the field, but I feel quite safe in promising that the platforms will be ready for their armament as soon as it can be delivered (unless it is already manufactured), and that the emplacements will be entirely completed before the end of this season.

By direction, and in the absence, of Lt. Col. S. M. Mansfield,
Corps of Engineers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
John Stephen Swett
1st Lieut., Corps of Engineers.

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

MAR 23
24901
1898

WAR DEPARTMENT

Boston, Mass,

Mar. 21, '98.

Windsorfield,

St. Col. S. M.

By Lieut. J. A. Sewell.

Ref. to Dept. letter, Mar. 18/98,
rel. to allotment for work
at "Grove" Camp near Fort
Monroe, states that Prelim.
work is being finished, and
that facilities in this
will facilitate complete
study of Magazine, the work
intended with Magazine
for the next 30 days, for
Boston. A

W

Subject: Application of Funds.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

P. O. BOX 5348, ROOM 124 P. O. BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS.

April 8, 1898.

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

General:

Referring to the allotment from the Appropriation for "National Defense", Gun and Mortar Batteries, Fort Warren and Grover's Cliff Mass., of \$125,000.00, I have the honor to state that, with your approval, \$50,000 of the allotment will be applied to Fort Warren and \$75,000 to Grover's Cliff Mass.

By direction, and in the absence, of Lt. Col. S. M. Mansfield,
Corps of Engineers.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

John Stephen Small

1st Lieut. Corps of Engineers.

24901

DEPARTMENT.

1898

April 18, 1898

Respectfully,
Lieut. Col. S. S. M.
By Lieut. Jno. V. Deane

States that, with approval of the Chief of Engineers, of the allotment of \$125,000 from surplus for "National Defense," \$50,000 will be applied to Fort Warren, & \$75,000 to

U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.

21

APR 15

1898

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 18 1898

indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

April 14, 1898.

Respectfully returned approved.

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

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

Captain, Corps of Engineers.

2d. indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office.
Boston, Mass. Apr. 15, 98.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers.

By direction, and in the absence, of Lt. Col. S. M. Mansfield, Corps of Engineers.

1st. Lieut. Corps of Engrs.

M.D. 21.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 18 1898

Subject: Gun emplacements- National Defense.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM 124 P. O. BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS.

April 14, 1898.

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

General:

Referring to Department letter of March 18, 1898, authorizing the construction, with funds allotted from the appropriation for National Defense, of emplacements for three 12-inch guns at Grover's Cliff, and for two 10-inch guns at Fort Warren, I have the honor to submit the following partial project, covering the working plant at Fort Warren; it is hoped to have complete preliminary plans and estimates ready very shortly, -the difficulties of the sites having made some little study necessary before even an approximate location could be made.

At Fort Warren, it is proposed to install an engine and three derricks on the wharf and sea wall, for unloading materials; an engine and mixer, for mixing concrete, an engine for the derricks on the work, and the necessary stone and sand bins, dump cars, etc.

We have on hand one engine in good condition, suitable for hauling materials up the incline trestle from the wharf to the proposed bins; one single cylinder, single drum engine, about twenty five years old, and in poor condition; a sufficient supply of flat cars and rails, but no dump cars. We have also two derricks suitable for handling concrete. It is proposed to make the bins of sufficient capacity to hold about 450 cubic yards of stone,

and 225 cubic yards of sand. There is a cement shed of sufficient capacity. The estimated cost of the proposed new plant is as follows:

3 new engines at \$1,400,-----	\$4,200.00
1 concrete mixer at \$450,-----	450.00
6 dump cars,-----	640.00
2 turntables,-----	180.00
4,000 ft. 1/2" crucible cast steel rope,-----	500.00
Blocks & winch for derricks,-----	600.00
	<u>\$6,570.00</u>
Sand and stone bins- 95,000 b.ft., lumber at \$30. including iron and labor,-----	\$2,850.00
	<u>\$9,420.00</u>
3 wharf derricks, complete,-----	600.00
Contingencies- Including fender piles against sea- wall to enable boats to lie against it and discharge- lumber,&c., for R.R. ties- laying tracks- building engine sheds, etc., etc., etc.	900.00
Total,-----	<u>\$10,920.00</u>

The prices for engines, &c., in the above estimate are practically^{full} catalogue prices; it is probable that the discounts will amount to fully \$1,000.00

The above plant is the least with which the work can be successfully done; it is intended to run it day and night, when it is once started; it will probably make it possible to finish the emplacements about the last of September, 1898.

By direction, and in the absence, of Lieut. Col. S. M. Mansfield,
Corps of Engineers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

John Stephen Smith,
1st Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers.

24901

Indorsement.
Office Chief of Engineers,
U. S. ARMY.

April 18, 1898.

Respectfully returned approved.
When such record as may be necessary,
has been made, this paper will be returned,
to this Office.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

Captain, Corps of Engineers.

24901
3

2d. indorsement.
U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.
April 20, 1898.

Respectfully returned to
the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.
By direction, and in the ab-
sence of Lt. Col. S. M. Mansfield,
Corps of Engineers.

John Stephen Hull.

1st. Lieut. Corps of Engineers.
N. D.
22.

N. D.
U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.

22
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1898

Received
April 20, 1898.

For 2d. indorsement

Fig. 10 & 11

With 3700, received in place
that passed concerning
working journal 3700, 24,
for 2d. indorsement.

RECD. BAKK OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 22 1898

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 22 1898

Subject: Gun Empl. Grover's Cliff, Mass.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM 124 P. O. BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS.

April 18, 1898.

Brig. Gen. John M. Wilson,

Chief of Engineers, U. S. A.,

Washington, D. C.

General:

I have the honor to submit the following preliminary project and estimate for the battery at Grover's Cliff, Winthrop, Mass., for three 12-inch guns, authorized by department letter of March 18, 1898. Drawings will be finished and forwarded as soon as possible.

It is proposed to build the battery with full intervals, in, as nearly as possible, the position indicated on the approved project for the Defense of Boston. The elevation of the site on the left flank of the battery is about 40 feet greater than on the right flank; this explains the rather large amount of excavation and embankment; the crest of the battery will be held at a uniform reference (67.0) above mean low water.

It is proposed to install the following working plant:

Two double cylinder double drum engines- one for running a concrete mixer, and the other for derricks.

One four foot concrete mixer.

Three derricks, suitable for handling concrete.

One platform scale, for weighing materials.

One cement shed, with a capacity of about 3,000 barrels.

Stone and sand bins, with capacities of about 250 and 125 cubic yards, respectively.

About four to six flat cars, and about 400 lin. ft. of track.

It is estimated that, if this plant can be gotten into working order early in June, all the concrete work will be finished before the end of September, 1898. The stone and sand bins are made large enough for only one days' supply, because these materials will be delivered by teams, in an uninterrupted stream, from the crushing plant and sand pits, which are on the mainland, not far away. It is intended to invite competition for supplying the materials, of course; but the extensive investigations carried on by this office as to sources of supply render it quite certain that the contract will be taken by one or two or three firms whose plants are in such a position as to give them great advantages over all others.

It is intended to work night and day; gasoline lights will be installed, unless satisfactory arrangements can be made with the nearest electric light Co., for the necessary number of arc lamps.

The estimate of cost is as follows:

Working plant- installed,-----	\$9,000.00
Excavation and embankment-21,000 cu.yds.@ 60¢-----	12,600.00
Natural cement concrete-17500 cu.yds.@ \$5.00-----	87,500.00
Portalnd " " 1600 " " " \$7.00-----	11,200.00
Steel beams, &c., 150000 lbs. @ 3¢ in position-----	4,500.00
Electric light plant,-----	6,000.00
Ammunition service,-----	3,000.00
	<u>\$133,800.00</u>
Contingencies, 10%,-----	13,380.00
	<u>\$147,180.00</u>
Mounting guns and carriages,-----	4,500.00
Total,-----	<u>\$151,680.00</u>

By direction, and in the absence, of Lieut. Col. S. M. Mansfield, Corps of Engineers.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

John Stephen Swell
1st Lieut., Corps of Engineers.

1st indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U.S. ARMY,

April 19, 1898.

Respectfully returned approved.

The sum of \$76,630 additional, is hereby allotted from the appropriation for National Defense (War), to be applied to the completion of this battery.

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

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

Franklin B. Smith
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

24901
4

Wilson

April 19, 1898.

Manuel

H. Capt. D. H.

By Lieut. J. V. Smith

Submitted for review, project

*estimate for battery, 9 horses
Chips, for 5-12" guns, and
by Lieut. Allen A. D. H. 1898.
\$157,680.*

M.D. U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.

28 APR 21

98

Received
Comd. of Engineers

24901

4

2nd indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.,

April 21, 1898.

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

By direction, and in the ab-
sence, of Lieut. Col. S. M. Mans-
field, Corps of Engineers.

John Stephen Darnall

1st Lt., Corps of Engineers.
N. D. 28.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 23 1898

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 23 1898

Subject: Gun Battery, Grovers Cliff, Mass.
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM 124 P. O. BUILDING,
BOSTON, MASS.

January 13, 1899.

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

General:

A careful revision of the estimates for completion of the 12 inch gun battery at Grovers Cliff, Mass., shows that an additional allotment of \$26,000 will be required to complete the battery. This excess over the original estimate is undoubtedly due to the exceptional circumstances under which the work was carried on during the past season. Unfortunately this underestimation was not discovered until the liabilities incurred had exceeded the available funds by \$12,000. Work was at once stopped to enable the liabilities to be gathered in and accurately ascertained with the above result.

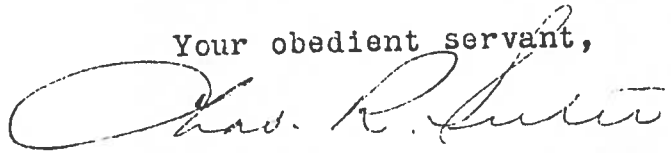
As matters now stand the bulk of the work remaining can be completed in two or three weeks with good weather. Some of the minor details may take a little longer, though, as this is principally indoor work, it could go on now if funds were available. In any case, unless there should be pressing urgency, I should recommend that the balance of concrete and earth work be left until spring and warmer weather when it can be quickly and safely completed.

I have therefore to request that I may be informed of your wishes in this matter and also whether it will be possible to

allot the additional funds needed to complete, or at least such as are needed to pay off the liabilities already incurred.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chas. R. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned between the phrase "Your obedient servant," and the title "Colonel, Corps of Engineers."

Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

24901

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

JAN 14
24901
1899

WAR DEPARTMENT

Boston, Mass,

Jan. 13, 1899.

Dear Sir,

Col. Chas. R.

Submits report on the progress of the work on the "2" gun built at Brownell's, Mich., for exhibition of which he desires an allotment of \$25,000 will be required.

Ref. to be informed of the wishes of the Adj. of Gen. in the matter of leaving the balance of the one red & one green until spring, which is deemed, & whether it will be feasible to secure the outfit of funds needed.

\$5,000 allotted and Col.

Advised Jan. 16, 1899.

Very respectfully,
J. M. Smith