

**Primary Battery File**

**National Archives, Washington D.C.**

**Record Group 77**

**Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers**

**Entry 103**

**File, Fort, Battery:**

28360

Ft. Revere

Btty Field

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

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

BOSTON, MASS.

March 23, 1899.

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

General:

In accordance with your instructions of September 24th, 1898 (28360), I have the honor to forward herewith plans and estimates for a battery of two 5" R.F. guns on pillar mounts at Nantasket Head, this Harbor, which have been prepared under my direction by Lieut. Raymond.

The plan shows the general location of the work and its field of fire, as also its relation to the 12" gun battery now in process of construction. A position to the left of this battery was chosen as giving the best cover to the mine fields in Nantasket Roads. In the design of the 12" battery the third gun was intended to occupy this position, but I find that it can go equally well or better on the right of the other guns, which is not the case with the five inch.

The general design of the proposed work is such as to cover the entire available field of fire--only natural obstacles and adjacent guns preventing an all round fire. The design covers all needful points, but has been made as simple as possible in order to facilitate construction. The ground is known to be very solid, almost rock, so that excavation is kept down as much as possible. At the same

time this very solid soil will enable outside forms to be largely dispensed with. The details of drainage, lighting and the small chain lifts used are not entirely worked out as yet, but are amply covered in the estimate submitted.

I am of the opinion that from six weeks to two months will be required to construct the battery, and I should therefore be inclined to defer the concrete work at least till the cylinders to be bedded in the platforms are on hand.

The estimate of cost is as follows:-

ESTIMATE.

Earth excavation, 1986 cu. yds. @ \$1.00. . . . .	\$1,986.00
Concrete, 650 cu. yds. @ \$8.00. . . . .	5,200.00
Forms, labor and materials, . . . . .	275.00
Drains, . . . . .	200.00
Electric lighting, . . . . .	300.00
Ammunition lifts, 2 @ \$800.00, . . . . .	1,600.00
Ventilation, . . . . .	25.00
Steel beams, 8835 lbs. @ \$0.03, . . . . .	265.05
Plant, . . . . .	250.00
Doors, 9 @ \$40.00, . . . . .	360.00
	<hr/>
	\$10,461.05
Engineering and contingencies, 10% . . . . .	1,046.11
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	\$11,507.16

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

*Chas. R. Smith*

Colonel, Corps of Engineers.

1 inclosure-- tracing  
in sep. roll.

28360

WAR DEPARTMENT

Suter, C. E.

March 23, 19

Suter, C. E.

Towards plane

and etc. for a military

at Nantasket Head,

which have been pre-

pared under the di-

rection by Lt. Raymond

the estimate of \$11,500

1 inc. B. & S.

1927

1927

Inclo. 2 in War Office, Br. 186, Bk. 5.

RECD. BUREAU OF THE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 1 1899

1st indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

March 30, 1899.

Respectfully returned approved.

The sum of \$11,500 is hereby al-

located from the appropriation for

"Gun and Mortar Batteries," for con-

struction of gun and mortar batter-

ies, Act of July 7, 1898, to be appli-

ed to the construction of two em-

placements for 5-inch R.F. guns on

balance pillar mounts at Nantasket

Head, Boston Harbor, Mass.

In view of the short time re-

quired to build these emplacements,

Colonel Suter is authorized to de-

fer construction until he is advis-

ed of the shipment of the carriages.

These papers to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

Frank B. Suter

Captain, Corps of Engineers.

28360

Inclo. 2 in sep roll.

2nd indorsement.

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE,

Boston, Mass.,

April 1, 1899.

Respectfully returned to the

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.

Col. R. Suter

Colonel, Corps of Engrs.

Forts 1927.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 1 1899

**UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,**

**P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM 1242-C BUILDING,**

**BOSTON, MASS.**

**August 17, 1899.**

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

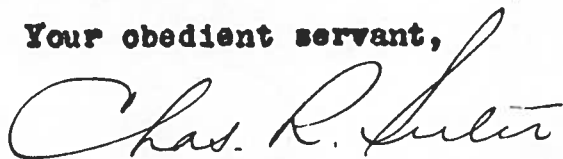
**General:**

I beg leave to report that the emplacements for two 5" R.F. guns on balanced pillar mounts at Nantasket Head, Mass., are now about completed, except the work needed to put in the cylinders on which the guns rest.

If these could be supplied to us at once we could close up the work to advantage, and the guns could be mounted at any later convenient date.

**Very respectfully,**

**Your obedient servant,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chas. R. Lister". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

**Colonel, Corps of Engineers.**

OFFICE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

28360

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WAR DEPARTMENT.

Boston,

Aug. 17, 1899.

Sir,

Col. G. R.

Reports that complete for two 5" R. F. guns on balanced pillar mounts at Fort Mearns, Mass., are now about completed, except the work needed to put in the cylinders on which the guns rest.

If these could be supplied at once the work could be speeded up to advantage, & the guns could be mounted at any later convenient date.

U. S. Engineer Office,  
Boston, Mass.  
2255 Received Aug. 22, 1899

Y. F. 11

RECD. BACK. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. AUG 24 1899

K

1st indorsement.

Office of Engineers,

U. S. Army,

August 19, 1899.

Respectfully returned to Colonel Suter, with the information that the Ordnance Department has not yet commenced the delivery of 5-inch rapid-fire balance pillar mounts. The Chief of Ordnance has recently informed the Chief of Engineers that their manufacture was being expedited, and that delivery would commence as soon as possible.

This paper to be returned.

MacKie

Acting Chief of Engineers.

28360  
4

2d indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,  
Boston, Mass.,  
Aug. 22, 1899.

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

Chas. K. Butler

Colonel, Corps of Engineers.  
Forts 2255.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. AUG 24 1899