

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

47136

Ft. Strong

Btlys Stevens + Taylor

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

P. O. BOX 5346, ROOM 917 WINTHROP BUILDING

BOSTON, MASS.

water which are not covered by other guns or at most only partially
and which might be reached by a boat party, as, June 24, 1903.

boat party could reach the inner harbor through Shirley Cut and
Brig. Gen. G. L. Gillespie, to any of the guns as at present located.

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, to the east follow the type
plan with Washington, D. C. that a latrine will be located in one

General:

1. In compliance with instructions contained in your letter
of May 16, 1903 (47136), I have the honor to submit herewith plans
and estimates for four emplacements for 3-inch rapid-fire guns on
pedestal mounts. purpose. Repairing the beach would probably be

2. The instructions in the letter call for these emplacements
to be located at Fort Revere, Mass. As explained in my letter of
this date submitting plans and estimates for two 6-inch emplacements,
the location of these 3-inch emplacements at Fort Revere complicated
the question of the proper location of the 6-inch battery. I made
several locations for the 3-inch emplacements and forwarded them to
the Division Engineer. In reply it was suggested that the emplace-
ments be located at Fort Strong, instead of at Fort Revere, as there
were several objections to the location of the 3-inch guns at Fort
Revere, and also for the reason that Fort Strong is at present the
weakest as regards attack from the rear. I have accordingly pre-
pared plans and estimates for the 3-inch guns at Fort Strong, two
at the south end of the low part of the reservation facing to the
east, and two at the south end of the low part of the reservation
facing to the west. The guns in these locations cover areas of

water which are not covered by other guns or at most only partially and which might be reached by a boat party, as, for instance, a boat party could reach the inner harbor through Shirley Gut and with very little exposure to any of the guns as at present located.

3. The two emplacements facing to the east follow the type plan with the modification that a latrine will be located in one flank of the battery, and it will be necessary to protect the battery in front by a sea wall as the shore is gradually wearing away. The site is not directly open to the sea so that the waves to be expected are not very heavy, and a comparatively light sea wall will serve the purpose. Ripraping the beach would probably be sufficient and be the cheapest but this is objected to by the commanding officer on the ground that it will catch refuse floating in the harbor and cause a very objectionable stench. In this I agree with the commanding officer as dead animals and other objectionable objects are not infrequently thrown on the beach and the riprap would catch such objects.

4. The west battery being exposed to reverse fire, it is proposed to build it upon the plan of the one authorized at Fort Standish, for which plans and estimates were submitted with my indorsement of December 22, 1902, on letter forwarded in compliance with instructions contained in your letter of June 27, 1902 (43485).

5. The fields of fire of the two batteries at Fort Strong are shown on a tracing forwarded with my letter of this date giving plans and estimate for two 6-inch emplacements at Fort Revere.

Estimate.

West Battery.

Concrete, 1,000 cu. yds., at \$11.00 per cu. yd.,	\$11,000.00
Fill, 4,500 cu. yds., at 75¢ per cu. yd.,	3,375.00
Sodding, 1,500 sq. yds., at \$1.50 per sq. yd.,	2,250.00
Drainage,	500.00
Doors,	500.00
Waterproofing,	800.00
Steel beams, etc.,	200.00
Electric fittings,	225.00
Superintendence and contingencies,	2,150.00
	\$21,000.00

East Battery.

Concrete, 900 cu. yds., at \$11.00 per cu. yd.,	\$ 9,900.00
Fill, 3,700 cu. yds., at 75¢ per cu. yd.,	2,775.00
Sodding, 600 sq. yds., at \$1.50 per sq. yd.,	900.00
Drainage,	500.00
Waterproofing,	800.00
Doors,	200.00
Steel beams, etc.,	150.00
Electric fittings,	200.00
Sea wall,	4,000.00
Superintendence and contingencies,	2,075.00
	\$21,500.00

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Harry Taylor
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

1 trac. in sep. roll.

Through Col. Chas. R. Suters
Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer of the Northeast Division.

1
92
M-ED
1903

RECEIVED
JUNE 25, 1903

44136
BOSTON, MASS.
JUNE 24, 1903.
WAR DEPARTMENT

Taylor,
Captain Harry

Complying with Dept. letter of May 16, 1903, submits plans and estimates for four empls. for 3-inch R.M. guns on ped.mts. The instructions called for the location of these empls. at Fort Revere, Mass., but no reasons stated locates them at Fort Strong, Mass.

The fields of fire are shown in a tracing sent with his letter of this date giving plans and estimates for 6-inch empls. at Ft. Revere. Est., West Battery, \$21,000. East " " \$21,500.

1 incld. (tr.)

Dec 45087
June 5, 1904. Letter to St. Paul Station.

162
FORTIFIED U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
BOSTON, MASS.
JUL 2 1903

1st indorsement.
NORTHEAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, June 25, 1903.

Respectfully forwarded to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, recommended for approval.

It is not possible to find a suitable location at Fort Revere for the four 3-inch guns either with regard to the rest of the armament, the Post buildings or to actual efficiency. They can, however, be very usefully employed in protecting the rear of the heavy batteries at Fort Strong and with the approval of the Board of Engineers this disposition was suggested to Captain Taylor by me. It is hoped that the Department will approve this arrangement as the possibility of a rear attack on this important work, even by quite small vessels that might effect entrance at night or in a fog, has always been recognized and has caused much anxiety.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

92, 1903.
1
Incl. 2 in sep. roll.

2nd indorsement.
Office Chief of Engineers,
U. S. ARMY.

June 29, 1903.

1. Respectfully returned to Captain Taylor, approved.
2. At this time it will not be possible to allot the total amount of the estimate, but it will be possible to complete the concrete work, leaving fill, sodding, etc., till later. For this purpose, the following allotments are made from the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries," for construction of gun and mortar batteries, Act of March 3, 1903:

For the east batteries, \$15,000.
For the west batteries, 15,000.
3. When such record as may be necessary has been made, these papers will be returned to this office.

By command of Brig. Gen. Gillespie:

Francis V. Allen
Major, Corps of Engineers.

47136

1
Incl. 2 accomps.

Through Col. CHAS. R. SUTHER,

Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer, Northeast Division

Received July 1, 1903.

3rd indorsement.
NORTHEAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, July 1, 1903.

Respectfully forwarded to Capt. Taylor, inviting attention to the preceding indorsement.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

92, 1903.
1
Incl. 2 in sep. roll.

4th indorsement.
U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.
July 7, 1903.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers.
2. Authority to delay beginning the construction of the batteries for which allotment is made in second indorsement hereon and the 15-pdr battery at Fort Strong for which allotment was made June 6, 1903, (46258/1) is requested. It will not be possible to complete these batteries this season, and it is extremely doubtful if the concrete work can be completed before cold weather. The material for the concrete is received by water, the sand being dredged at the mouth of the Merrimack River and the broken stone coming from Rockport, Mass. After the first of October the receipt of the materials is likely

WAR DEPT
OFFICE OF THE C
WASH

MENT,
F ENGINEERS,

January 5, 1904.

Lieut. Col. W. S. Stanton,
Corps of Engineers,
Boston, Mass.

With reference to indorsement of this office of June 29, 1903, making partial allotments for the construction of two batteries of two 3-inch guns each at Fort Strong, Mass., you are informed that the balances of these estimates, \$6,000 for the west battery, and \$6,500 for the east battery, are hereby allotted from the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries," for construction of gun and mortar batteries, Act of March 3, 1903.

Very respectfully,

Major, Corps of Engineers.

47136

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

ROOM 1018 BARNISTERS HALL, 25 PENNSYLVANIA SQUARE,

BOSTON, MASS.

April 26, 1904.

Brig. Gen. A. Mackenzie,
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,
Washington, D. C.

General:

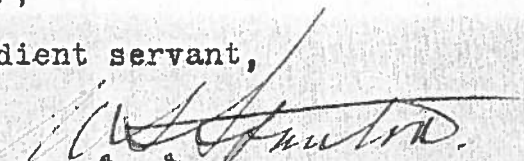
1. By E. D. indorsement 47136₁ of June 29, 1903 the locations A and B on the accompanying tracing were approved as sites for two batteries each containing two emplacements for 3-inch rapid fire guns.

2. For the reason that the foundation of a battery, if built at the site A will have to be sunk through about six feet of newly filled earth before reaching the natural surface, and that water will doubtless be encountered in building the foundation, and for the reason that the battery can be built at the site A', on original ground and a dry site, at less cost, where the field of fire will not be less effective, I respectfully request authority to build the battery at site A' instead of site A.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

162
Forts B.


Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers.

1 tracing in sep. roll.

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

C

APR 27 47136
3 1904
WAR DEPARTMENT.

Boston, April 26, 1904.

Stanton,	162 20	FORTIFI- CATIONS, BOSTON.	U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE, BOSTON, MASS.	MAY 2 1904
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Lieut. Col. W. S.

Forwards tracing showing proposed change of location for two emplacements for 3-inch R.F. guns, Fort Strong reservation, Boston Harbor, Mass., and requests authority to build the battery at site A' instead of site A.

1 inc. E.D. (tracing.)
Recl. 4 inch Map Series, No. 23, Sh. 31.

V. S. L.

Wm. H. H. H.

Wm. H. H. H.

REC'D. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAY 5 1904
Wm. H. H. H.

1st indorsement.

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

April 29, 1904.

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

By command of Brig. Gen. Mackenzie:

Frederic V. Allen
Major, Corps of Engineers

47136
3
Incl. 4 in sep. roll.

2nd indorsement,
U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
Boston, Mass.

Respectfully returned to the
Chief of Engineers.
May 2, 1904.

Wm. H. H. H.
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers

162
20
Incl. 21 in sep. roll.

REC'D. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAY 5 1904