

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

43485

Ft. Standish

Btly Williams

WAR DEPARTMENT,
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

~~42 BOW STREET,~~

~~PORTSMOUTH, N. H.~~

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

October 7, 1902.

Brig. Gen. G. L. Gillespie,

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Washington, D. C.

General:

(1) In compliance with instructions contained in your letter of June 27, 1902 (43485), I have the honor to submit herewith plans and estimates for two emplacements for 3-inch, 15-pounder, rapid-fire guns on pedestal mounts at Fort Standish, Mass.

(2) The present project calls for the construction of nine 15-pounder rapid-fire guns at Fort Standish:—a battery of three near the eastern end of the island, a battery of four on the top of the ridge near the center of the island, and a battery of two near the western end of the island. The position of these batteries is shown on the tracing forwarded by Col. Chas. R. Suter, Corps of Engineers, on June 13, 1900, in reply to Department letter of May 16, 1900 (35217).

(3) The batteries at the eastern end of the island and on the top of the ridge in the center of the island are now practically completed. This leaves only the two-gun battery near the western end of the island to be constructed.

(4) The plan forwarded herewith closely follows the general idea of the plans of the other two batteries. The battery is

situated on low ground facing the Narrows. It is almost directly in rear of the battery of three 6-inch guns near the northern end of the island as viewed from the new or Broad Sound channel. If, therefore, the battery of 6-inch guns is under fire from the Broad Sound channel a projectile passing over this battery may take in reverse the battery for which plans are now submitted. For this reason although the battery itself is not designed to have an all-round fire the plan has been drawn exactly as if the battery did have an all-round fire, as it is considered that it may be subject to such fire.

(5) As compared with the other 15-pounder batteries the magazine has been pushed somewhat to the front, giving it greater protection from the projectiles coming from an angle to the front of the battery. The number of rooms has been somewhat reduced, although the total available space is about the same.

(6) The estimate of cost is about the average of the other batteries. The large estimate of cost for the concrete per cubic yard is due to the fact that the battery is situated at such a distance from the other batteries that it is doubtful if the concrete can be economically mixed by the plant already installed and the quantity is so small that it will not be economical to put up a mixing plant for this battery alone. It will therefore have to be mixed and placed by hand. There are no large masses of concrete to be put in in the battery, but the quantity is made up by a number of thin walls, thus adding to the cost of the placing of the concrete and adding very largely to the cost of the forms per cubic yard, which cost is included in the unit cost of the concrete.

Estimate.

Concrete, 600 cubic yards, at \$12.00,	\$7,200
Fill, 3,000 cubic yards, at 50¢,	1,500
Sodding, 1,500 square yards, at 80¢,	1,200
Drainage,	100
Doors, 7, at \$50,	350
Steel beams,	100
Electric light system,	<u>150</u>
	10,600
Transportation, superintendence, etc.,	<u>1,400</u>
	\$12,000

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Henry G. Taylor
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

Through Col. Chas. R. Suter,

Corps of Engineers,

Division Engineer of the Northeast Division.

101
Forts. B.

NORTHEAST DIVISION ENGINEER OFFICE.	
89	1902
RECD. N.Y. Oct. 8, 1902	

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER

43485
1
1902

Boston, Mass.,
Oct. 7, 1902.

To, Capt.
Harry.

Refers to Dept. letter, June 27, 1902,
(4 35) and submits plans and ests.
for two empls. for 3", 15-pdr. R.F.
gun, Fed. Mts., at Ft. Standish, Mass.
i. \$12,000.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

101	FOR THE U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE
3	CAMP BOSTON, MASS.
	OCT 17 1902

1 inc. E.D. (Harry)
Ind. 3 in 100 ft. 24.18. 24.54

RECD. BACK U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE BOSTON JAN 5 1903

1st indorsement.

NORTHEAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, October 8, 1902.

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

Chas. R. Butler
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

89/1 - 1902.

1 inclo. (tr.) in sep. roll.

2d indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers

U. S. ARMY.

October 15, 1902.

Respectfully returned to Captain
Taylor.

The overhead cover of the maga-
zine is only a little more than
one-half that required by the
typical drawings, and the horizon-
tal cover is also much reduced. It
is realized that the material of
which the parapet will be made is
highly resisting, but such a great
reduction in thickness is regarded
as undesirable.

The communications are much ex-
posed to hostile fire, as the gun-
pit is entered by a path over the
top of the parapet, unless the
ammunition port, 3 feet by 2 1/2
feet, is used as a passageway be-
tween the gun and the magazine,
and thence out by the covered
passageway.

3d indorsement.

NORTHEAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, October 16, 1902.

Respectfully forwarded to Capt.
Harry Taylor, Corps of Engineers, in-
dorsing attention to the preceding
indorsement.

Chas. R. Butler
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

89/1 - 1902.

Inclo. 2 & 4th Sup. Mim. 30, and lith. 11
sheet, accomp., in sep. roll.

4th indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.

December 22, 1902.

August V. Allen
Major, Corps of Engineers.

By command of Brig. Gen. Gillespie:

A reconsideration of the pro-
ject in the light of these sug-
gestions is requested.
To be returned.

43485

Inclo. 2, and 4th Supp. to
Mim. 30 and lith. sheet accomp.
same, in sep. roll.

Through Col. CHAS. R. STETTER,

Corps of Engineers,

Division Engineer, Northeast Division.

1. Respectfully returned to
the Chief of Engineers, with an
entirely new plan for the bat-
tery. The plan now forwarded
follows closely the general
idea of the plan given on the
4th Supplement to Mimeograph
No. 30. The protection has
been increased in accordance
with the suggestions in 2d in-
dorsement hereon. Ample store-
room has been provided by an ex-
tra room and by widening the
gallery in rear of the maga-
zines and a latrine has also
been provided.
2. The battery has been so
designed that the block of con-

Recd. back, N.Y. Oct. 16, 1902

crete containing the magazines is separate from the gun platforms and parapets and can be waterproofed all over and entirely covered with earth so as to prevent contraction cracks.

3. The facility of the ammunition service of the type of battery originally submitted depended on the relative level of the magazines and gun platforms and on the amount of cover obtained. When an attempt was made to increase the cover it was found that the facility of the ammunition service would be interfered with, and with the increased cover the service appeared to be less convenient than it is in the plan now forwarded and the cost of the battery fully as much, if not more.

4. The estimated cost is now as follows:

Concrete, 1,000 cubic yards, at \$11,	\$11,000
Fill, 4,500 cubic yards, at 50¢,	2,250
Sodding, 1,500 cubic yards, at 80¢,	1,200
Drainage,	350
Doors, 8 at \$65,	520
Steel beams,	150
Electric light system,	200
	\$15,670
Transportation, superintendence, etc.,	1,330
	\$17,000

Henry Taylor
 Captain, Corps of Engineers.
 101/3 Forts. B.
 Inclo. 4 & 1 addl. tracg in sep. roll.
 Through the Division Engineer.

5th *inclosure*.
 NORTHEAST DIVISION
 ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, December 27, 1902.

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

Chas. R. Suter
 Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
 Division Engineer.

89, 1902.

1

Inclos. 2&3 (trs.) in sep. roll.

DEC 28 11 90

6th *inclosure*.

CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,

U. S. ARMY.

December 31, 1902.

Respectfully returned to Captain Taylor, approved.

An allotment of \$17,000 is hereby made for the purpose from the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries," for construction of gun batteries, Act of June 6, 1902.

When such record as may be necessary has been made, these papers will be returned to this office, except Inclosure 2, which will be retained by Captain Taylor.

By command of Brig. Gen. Gillespie:

43485

1

Theodore V. Abbott

Major, Corps of Engineers.

Inclos. 2 & 3 in sep. roll.

Through Col. CHAS. R. SUTER,
 RECD. U. S. ENGR. OFFICE, BOSTON

JAN 5 1903

Corps of Engineers, 1903

Division Engineer, Northeast Division.

7th indorsement.

NORTHEAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, January 3, 1902.

Respectfully forwarded to
Captain Taylor, inviting atten-
tion to the preceding indorse-
ment.

Chas. R. Luter
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

89, 1902.

1
Inclos. 2 & 3 (trs.) in sep. roll

8th indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Boston, Mass.
January 5, 1903.

Respectfully returned to the
Chief of Engineers.

Henry Rogers
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

101
3

Forts. B.

Inclo. 6 in sep. roll.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

JAN 7 1903

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,

ROOM 1014, BARRISTERS HALL, 25 PEMBERTON SQUARE,

BOSTON, MASS.

February 4, 1904.

Brig. Gen. A. Mackenzie,

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Washington, D.C.

General:

1. I regret that I am obliged to report that the building of the two emplacements for 3-inch rapid fire guns on pedestal mounts at Fort Standish, Mass., for which \$17,000 were allotted by E.D. indorsement 43485¹ of December 31, 1902 in accordance with estimate submitted from this office in 4th indorsement of Dec. 22, 1902 will exceed that estimate by \$12,127, and it is estimated will amount to \$29,127.

2. The increase in cost arises as follows:

*Concrete, 1207 cu.yds., @ \$11 per yd.,-----	\$13,277.00	
Amount allowed in original estimate		
1,000 cu.yds. @ \$11.,-----	11,000.00	
Deficit,-----		\$ 2,277.00
Excavation and fill, 5000 yards @ 75¢ yd.,--	3,750.00	
Allowed in original estimate,		
4,500 yds. @ 50¢ yd.,-----	2,250.00	
Deficit,-----		1,500.00
Sand and labor, for back filling around		
concrete piers in battery, for which no		
allowance was made in original estimate,-----		339.96
Drainage, actual cost,-----	545.76	
Amount allowed in original estimate,-----	350.00	
Deficit,-----		195.76
Electric system, new estimate,-----	572.85	
Amount allowed in original estimate,-----	200.00	
Deficit,-----		372.85
Waterproofing, with copper, for which no allow- -----		936.45
Lining with porous brick, (ances were made in -----		1,086.39
Temporary water supply,) original estimate. -----		401.23
Grading and laying 2000 ft. of car track		
from near the wharf to the site, and		
about 600 feet of trestle, for transporta-		
tion of material,-----	2,431.02	
Carried forward,-----	2,431.02	7,109.64

*This price for concrete includes cost of forms.

(2)

Brought forward	2,431.02	7,109.64
Proportionate part of expenses of Steamer "Executive",-----	1,166.51	
Superintendence and inspection,-----	297.33	
Engineering office and field work,-----	945.08	
	<u>4,839.94</u>	
Allowance for transportation,superin- tendence, etc. in original estimate,---	1,330.00	
Deficit,-----		3,509.94
Removing track and dismantling plant, not provided for in original estimate,-----		443.56
Maintenance of plant, not provided for in original estimate,-----		370.08
		<u>11,433.22</u>
Reduction below amount original- ly estimated for doors, twist- ed steel beams, and sodding,-----	318.22	
Net deficit,-----		<u>11,115.00</u>
Superintendence, engineering expenses and contingencies, estimated,-----	1,012.00	
Total Deficit,-----		<u>\$12,127.00</u>

3. The revised estimate for building these emplacements
is as follows:

Concrete, 1207 cu.yds.,@ \$11 per cu.yd.,	13,277.00
Excavation and fill, 5,000 cu.yds. @ 75¢ per cu.yd.,-----	3,750.00
Fill inside of concrete,-----	339.96
Sodding,-----	1,125.00
Drainage,-----	545.76
Doors,-----	315.71
Steel beams (twisted steel)-----	111.07
Electric system,-----	572.85
Waterproofing,-----	936.45
Lining with porous brick,-----	1,086.39
Temporary water supply,-----	401.23
Railroad and trestle,-----	2,431.02
Superintendence, engineering expenses, proportionate part of expense of steamer, dismantling plant,etc.,-----	4,234.56
Total,-----	<u>\$29,127.00</u>

(3)

4. Sodding the slopes or covering them with loam for seeding will be so costly it is intended to sow them with oats and grass seed and although these will doubtly be largely replaced by weeds, as in the case of the 3 emplacements for 6-inch guns at this post, they will be in color and appearance like the ground around them.

5. The track ~~was~~ commenced in April and with the trestle was built as could be done to best advantage and economy in connection with other work at the fort, and completed in August, when the laying of concrete was commenced which was suspended in November. The allotment of \$17,000 is exhausted and a further allotment of \$12,127 is respectfully requested in order that the battery may be completed as early as practicable in the ensuing season.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. Smith
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers.

101
F.B.

FEB

43485

1904

WAR DEPARTMENT

Boston, Feb. 4, 1904.

Stanton,

Lieut. Col. W. S.

States that the allotment of \$17,000 made Dec. 31, 1902, for the construction of two emplacements for 3-inch R.F. guns, ped. mounts, at Fort Standish, Mass., is exhausted, and requests an additional allotment of \$12,127, as estimated herein, for the completion of the work.

101	FORTIF. U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
9	CATON, S. E. BOSTON, MASS.
	FEB 11 1904

RECD. BACK OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAR 18 1904

RECD. BACK OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAR 29 1904

1st Indorsement.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,

WASHINGTON,

February 9, 1904.

- Respectfully returned to Lieutenant Colonel Stanton.
- The Chief of Engineers regrets that there are no funds in his hands which can be allotted for the within purpose. Based on the estimates of the district officers, the entire last appropriation has been so assigned to the several districts as to provide emplacements for all the guns ordered from the Ordnance Department.
 - Lieutenant Colonel Stanton can apply the funds already allotted for battery construction in Boston Harbor in such manner as may seem to him best calculated to advance the general progress of the defense, provided he has all emplacements throughout his district (for which funds have been allotted) in such a condition as to be ready to receive every Ordnance Department base-ring prior to June 30, 1904.
 - The order of precedence of work (if any work must be left undone) should be—
 - The concrete on which the gun carriages stand.
 - The concrete composing the essential parts of the ammunition storage and service of all new batteries.
 - The concrete parapets of such batteries.
 - The earth parapets.
 - If there be special reasons to prevent the reception of any Ordnance material by June 30, 1904, at any proposed battery in his district, Lieutenant Colonel Stanton should at once inform the Chief of Engineers, so that proper arrangements may be made by the Ordnance Department to provide for storing its material till the Engineer Department is ready to receive it. If possible to avoid such a contingency, the Chief of Engineers desires to avoid it, as it has been almost always possible for this Department to keep ahead of the Ordnance Department, and thus avoid all cost for storage.
 - In case sufficient additional funds are appropriated for battery construction at the present session of Congress, the amount estimated within will be allotted for the completion of the battery. When such allotment is made, any other allotments from which funds have been advanced for work on this battery can be reimbursed on Lieutenant Colonel Stanton's books.
 - This paper to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Ingalls

Frederick V. Allen
Major, Corps of Engineers

43485

2

2d Indorsement.

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE,

Boston, Mass.,

March 7, 1904.

- Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers.
- It is expected that all emplacements for which funds have been allotted in this district will be ready to receive the base rings, or the pedestals (in case of emplacements for 3-inch guns), by June 30.
 - It is preferable that the pedestals for the two emplacements for 3-inch rapid-fire guns at Fort Standish be received at the same time, by May 1st, with the base rings for the four 10-inch emplacements at that fort.

Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers.

101

9

Forts. B.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAR 29 1904