

PART V

APPENDIX II

HARBOR DEFENSE PROJECT

HARBOR DEFENSES OF NARRAGANSETT BAY

HARBOR DEFENSE PROJECT - HARBOR DEFENSES OF NARRAGANSETT BAY

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1. MISSION.

a. To cover the center of the Narragansett Bay Sub-area; in conjunction with the Harbor Defenses of New Bedford and Harbor Defenses of Long Island Sound to insure use of waterways between Long Island Sound and Buzzard's Bay secure from enemy naval gun fire, and cover the debouchment by our fleet into the Atlantic Ocean, and to support the defense against landing attack in the sub-area.

b. To protect harbor facilities and friendly vessels in Narragansett Bay against enemy naval gun fire.

c. To deny entrance to Narragansett Bay by enemy vessels.

d. To support the defense against landing attacks.

2. GUN DEFENSE.

a. The following table lists the number of guns now installed in the harbor defense grouped by classes:

	Ft. Adams	Ft. Getty	Ft. Greble	Ft. Wetherill	Ft. Kearney	Totals
Primary, medium range	8	3	7	6	0	24
Secondary, medium range	0	2	0	2	2	6
Secondary, short range	0	2	0	2	2	6

b. (1) The necessity for long range weapons in this harbor defense has been shown in Part II and the additional armament provided for. Without these weapons it is impossible for this harbor defense to fulfill that part of the mission stated in paragraph 1 a and possible to fulfill but partly the mission stated in paragraph 1 b.

(2) (a) With the armament now installed it is possible to prevent enemy ships coming inside the line Sakonnet Point - Point Judith and bombardment of the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay can be prevented. The mortar batteries, Greene and Edgerton, at Fort Adams and the 12-inch gun batteries, Varnum and Wheaton, at Fort Wetherill furnish all the fire power necessary along this line. The field of fire of Battery Tonnard, three 12-inch guns at Fort Getty, reaches the same line near Point Judith, but most of its field of fire is on the shore west of Narragansett Bay. The outer limits of the fields of fire of Battery Sedgwick, four 12-inch mortars and Battery Hale, three 10-inch guns, all at Fort Greble, are from 5,000 to 7,000 yards inside the outer limits of the other primary batteries and these guns could come into action only if enemy capital ships attempted to close in. The same comment to a lesser degree applies to Battery Walbach, two 10-inch guns at Fort Wetherill. All these batteries have relatively slow rates of fire and are of little value against fast moving targets.

(b) To meet fast moving small targets such as destroyers, submarines, launches, rapid fire batteries are needed. In this harbor defense Battery Dickenson, two 6-inch guns, barbette carriage, at Fort Wetherill, is the most satisfactory battery. The field of fire is very good and a high rate of fire can be maintained. This battery, with Battery Crittenden, 3 - 3-inch guns, at the same fort, should be ample to protect the mine field in the eastern passage. Battery Cram, two 6-inch D. C. guns, at Fort Kearney, is of value in covering approaches to the eastern passage, but the mount is such that the rate of fire is reduced. Battery Armistead, two 3-inch guns, at

the same fort has a comparatively poor field of fire though it does cover the location of the mine field. Battery House, two 6-inch B.C. guns, at Fort Getty, and Battery Whiting, two 3-inch guns, at the same fort, cover the western passage more effectively than the two batteries at Fort Kearney, Gram and Arundstead. Battery House is capable of more rapid fire than Battery Gram. However, much of its field of fire is on the land west of Narragansett Bay.

(3) The armament now installed is such that transports carrying troops for a landing attack could be held out at such distances as to make landings extremely difficult along the Sakonnet River or along the shore north of Point Judith. In this mission, Battery Tonnard, three 12-inch guns and Battery Walbach, two 10-inch guns, would be of some value. Batteries Sedgwick and Hale are too far inland. Battery Gram and all 3-inch batteries would be of little or no value.

5. (1) The following seacoast batteries are necessary to carry out the mission of the harbor defense:

Fort	Battery	No. of Guns	Caliber	Type of Carriage	Caliber	Range	Class	Remarks
Adams	Greene	4	12"	Mortar	14400	B		
	Edgerton	4	12"	Mortar	14400	B		
Getty	House	2	6"	BC	16400	C		
	Whiting	2	3"	BC	9000	C		
Wetherill	Varnum	3	12"	BC	17300	B		
	Wheaton	2	12"	BC	17300	B		
	Dickenson	2	6"	BC	16400	B		
	Crittenden	2	3"	BC	9000	B		
Kearney	Gram	2	6"	BC	14400	B		
	Arundstead	2	3"	BC	9000	B		
Sakonnet Point Peninsula		3	16" Navy	BC	44800	-		To be installed
Sakonnet Point		2	8" Navy	BC	33000	-		To be installed
		4	155 mm.	Mobile	17400	-		To be emplaced
								on platform for
								wide field of
								fire.
H. Nathaniel Greene								
Point Judith Peninsula		2	16" Navy	BC	44800	-		To be installed
Near Narragansett Pier		2	8" Navy	BC	33000	-		To be installed
Point Judith		4	155 mm.	Mobile	17400	-		To be emplaced
								on platform for
								wide field of
								fire.

For details of fields of fire see attached Inclosure 1, Fields of Fire, Seacoast Guns.

(2) The following armament now installed is no longer required:

Fort	Battery	No. of Guns	Caliber	Type of Carriage	Maximum Range
Gatty	Rossard	3	12"	DC	17300
Groble	Sedgwick	4	12"	Mortar	14850
	Hale	3	10"	DC	14100
Wetherill	Walbach	3	10"	DC	14100

d. When positions for additional armament have been selected and approved as prescribed in paragraph 3D, Selection of sites; surveys, AR 100-20, revised, the local Board will prepare a project covering the installations. This, when approved, will be attached as Annex A, Sea-coast Guns.

3. FIRE CONTROL INSTALLATIONS.

When the positions for additional armament have been approved the local Board will prepare a complete fire control project to provide for the additional armament as well as making allowance for that which has been eliminated. This, when approved, will be attached to this paper as Annex B, Fire Control Installations.

4. SEARCHLIGHTS.

a. (1) The following searchlights are now installed in the harbor defense:

One fixed 60-inch at Fort Groble.
One fixed 60-inch at Fort Wetherill.

(2) A searchlight project for this harbor defense was forwarded by 1st Indorsement, Hq., N.A.C.A. District dated May 23, 1919. It was approved by the War Department in an indorsement dated July 29, 1919. This project provided for the following:

One portable, Sachuest Point
One portable, Coggeshall Ledge
One portable, Brenton's Point
One portable, Clump Rocks
One portable, Beaver Tail West
One portable, Beaver Tail East
One fixed, Fort Wetherill
One portable, in general reserve

b. When the positions for additional armament are approved the local Board will make a study of the searchlights required and prepare a new project. This, when approved, will be attached to this paper as Annex C, Searchlights.

5. UNDERWATER DEFENSE.

a. The underwater defense project for this harbor defense approved by the Joint Board on January 15, 1929, by the Secretary of War on January 16, 1929 and by the Secretary of the Navy on January 17, 1929, provides for the following:

Eight groups of controlled mines and two anti-submarine nets in the Eastern Passage.

Four groups of controlled mines and an anti-submarine net in the Western Passage.

An anti-submarine net in the Sakonnet River.

Details as to the location of mine fields and nets are given in U.S.C. & G.S. Chart No. 1210 showing Defensive Coastal Area Limits and Underwater Defense Project for Narragansett Bay, one copy of which is on file in the Office, Chief of Coast Artillery, one at Headquarters, First Corps Area, and one at the Harbor Defenses of Narragansett Bay.

b. Additional shore installations for the submarine mine defense have been proposed in the recommendations of a Board of Officers dated March 30, 1931 (OCCA 663/17-C-4). These recommendations will be considered by the local Board in the preparation of a project for shore installations necessary to establish, maintain and operate the underwater defense project. This will be incorporated in the annex prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 16 b (2), Part IV, which, when approved, will be attached to this paper as Annex D, Underwater Defense.

6. ANTIAIRCRAFT GUN DEFENSE.

a. (1) There are now installed for the protection of harbor defense installations three two-gun batteries of 3-inch antiaircraft guns. These are located at Fort Adams, Fort Greble and Fort Wetherill.

(2) Increasing each battery by one gun will greatly increase the fire power with comparatively little expense.

b. Nine antiaircraft searchlights and sound locators are required for use in the harbor defense as now organized.

c. The antiaircraft gun defense for additional armament is prescribed in paragraph 16 g of Part IV.

d. When the positions for new armament are approved the local Board will prepare a project to provide for the antiaircraft gun and machine gun defense for the entire harbor defense, including new armament. This, when approved, will be attached to this paper as Annex E, Antiaircraft Gun Defense.

7. SUPPORTING AIRCRAFT.

Annex F, Supporting Aircraft, will be provided and attached to show the minimum requirements for this harbor defense in aircraft for use in harbor defense artillery fire control and local surveillance, together with information as to availability of emergency or other landing fields from which these planes could operate.

8. GAS DEFENSE.

The gas defense consists of installations considered the minimum essential to enable the personnel to function during a prolonged gas attack. The local Board will prepare a project to provide the gas defense for elements of this harbor defense. When approved, it will be attached as Annex G, Gas Defense.

9. PREPARATION OF ANNEXES.

a. (1) Annexes A, B, C, D, E, and G will be prepared by the local Board. Each annex will include a complete statement of the installations to which it pertains, and details, including estimates of cost, of installations required to complete the project. Tables and charts will be used where practicable to reduce to a minimum the bulk of papers constituting an annex. Complete correspondence pertaining to the subject matter of the annexes will not be included but may be referred to by file numbers of The Adjutant General's Office. When these annexes are approved by the War Department they will serve as the basis for unified estimates to be prepared by the Chiefs of interested Arms and Services.

(2) Annex F, Supporting Aircraft, will be prepared by the local Board as indicated in paragraph 7.

b. Annexes H, J, K, L, and M will be prepared by the Chiefs of Arms and Services as indicated on the title page of this paper. These annexes will be unified estimates of the cost of the approved project. They will be prepared after Annexes A to G inclusive, have received the approval of the War Department.

c. The following priority will govern in the provision of armament and accessories for this harbor defense:

(1) Submarine mine material as prescribed in approved project.

(2) Searchlights for seacoast artillery purposes to complete searchlight projects.

(3) Fire control equipment for all fixed antiaircraft batteries.

(4) Installation at Sakonnet Point of 16" and 8" guns with necessary fire control, and installation of concrete platforms for 155 mm. guns.

(5) Installation at Point Judith Peninsula of 16" Navy guns with necessary fire control and installation at Point Judith of concrete platforms for 155 mm. guns.

(6) Procurement of 8" railway guns for Narragansett Pier.

(7) Additional antiaircraft guns, machine guns, searchlights, sound locators and fire control.

(8) Additional shore installations for underwater defense project.

10. FINAL APPROVAL.

The approval of this project by the War Department establishes it as the basic project for the Harbor Defenses of Narragansett Bay. As annexes are approved they supersede existing projects covering the same installations.