

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

27058

Ft. Greble

Btty Sedgwick

Subject: Allotment- Mortar Battery at Fort Greble, R. I.

U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., June 14, 1898.

Brig. Gen. John M. Wilson,

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Washington, D. C.

General-:

In connection with the construction of emplacements for eight 12-inch mortars at Fort Greble, I have the honor to state that plans and estimates will be submitted shortly. In the meantime, I would request that an allotment of \$2500 be made for the following reasons:

The contractor who constructed the three 10-inch emplacements constituting Fort Greble, it will be remembered also put up the emplacement for the 6-inch rapid fire gun, the construction of which I was directed to hasten as much as possible. The contractor has left on his hands certain material, to wit: 384 barrels of Rosendale cement and from 150 to 200 yards of broken stone that can be used in the construction of any future work at that point. It is my intention, with the approval of the Department, to purchase this material and also to construct a permanent derrick on the wharf- something that is very much needed at present. When the contractor removes his derrick from the dock, there will be no means available otherwise for loading and unloading heavy material.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,



Major, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

OFFICE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
JUN 16 27058 1898
WAR DEPARTMENT.

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Keupert, C. of
June 14, 1898.

May 21, 1898.

Charles that plans and
estimated well, the pub-
lished shortly for con-
struction of at 1898
for 8-12 inch mortar
mortars, neg. in amount
of \$2500 per mortar mortar.

97

File 7

1898 JUN 22 11 08

1st indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers
U. S. ARMY.

June 17, 1898.

Respectfully returned.

A preliminary allotment of
\$2,500 is hereby made from the
appropriation for "Gun and Mortar
Batteries", Act of May 7, 1898, to
be applied to the construction of
eight emplacements for 12-inch
mortars at Fort Greble.

With respect to the purchase of
materials from the contractor, Ma-
jor Lockwood is advised that the
construction of the mortar battery
having been ordered, he is author-
ized to make all necessary pur-
chases of materials needed for the
construction of the battery. So
far as relates to the method of
purchase, law and regulations must
govern. In this connection atten-
tion is invited to A. R. 519.

This paper to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

27058
2
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

2nd indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R. I., June 20, 1898.

Respectfully returned to the
the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Ar-
my, the necessary record having

been made.

Major, Corps of Engineers.

Major, Corps of Engineers.

27058
2

1898 JUN 22 11 08

Subject: Plans and estimate: Mortar Battery at Fort Greble, R. I.
U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., July 27, 1898.

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

General:

As directed in Department letter of June 7, 1898, Engr. Dep't File No. 27058, I have the honor to forward herewith estimates of cost of emplacements for eight 12-inch mortars on carriages, model 1896, at Fort Greble in accordance with the approved project for the Artillery Defense of Narragansett Bay, R. I. Plans, &c, of same in a separate package, are forwarded this day.

The battery is intended primarily to cover the area in the Western Passage in advance of the direct artillery defense and submarine mines, and the same with reference to the Eastern Passage, as well as the anchorage areas about Newport and north of it.

The battery is only exposed to view after ships have passed the defensive works in front of it or have turned the north end of Conanicut Island from the Eastern Passage. To protect from reverse fire under such conditions, a parados is planned. I do not know whether this structure may be regarded as absolutely necessary or not, and for this reason have made a separate estimate for it. I should regard it as of sufficient importance to warrant its construction.

The mortar pits are designed for all around fire, as the advantage to be derived from the additional room is deemed to more

2.

than offset the increase in cost.

In view of the fact that the battery is so well protected from fire in advance of it, and the protection afforded by the parados, the maximum thickness of concrete wall has been reduced from 20 to 15 feet.

The following is the estimate of material and cost of same:

BATTERY.

Excavation,	35800 cu.yds.	@	80 ¢	\$ 28,480.00
Fill,	19500 cu.yds.	@	35 ¢	6,825.00
Sod,	6300 sq.yds.	@	55 ¢	3,465.00
Concrete, Natural Cement,	7100 cu.yds.	@	\$8.25	44,375.00
Concrete, Portland	1500 cu.yds.	@	8.50	12,750.00
Drains,	3200 ft.	@	1.00	3,200.00
I beams,	110000 lbs.	@	4 ¢	4,400.00
Doors, fittings and hangings,				1,000.00
Ventilators,				400.00
Trolleys, 350 ft., 8 hoists,				3,000.00
Asphalting,	1800 sq.yds.	@	1.00	1,800.00
Anchor bolts,	2000 lbs.	@	4 1/4 ¢	850.00
Total,				\$110,345.00
Contingencies,				11,034.50
Total,				\$121,379.50

PARADOS.

Fill,	16000 cu.yds.	@	35 ¢	\$ 5,600.00
Concrete, Natural cement	1500 cu.yds.	@	\$8.00	9,000.00
Sod,	4400 sq.yds.	@	55 ¢	2,420.00
Total,				\$ 17,020.00
Contingencies,				1,702.00
Total,				\$ 18,722.00
Cost of battery alone.				121,379.50
Cost of battery with parados,				\$140,101.50

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

H. W. Acknowled

Major, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.

2 inclosures in separate roll.

81
N.E.D
1898

Rec'd, N.Y., July 29, 1898

27058
3

Newport,
July 27, 1898

Major J. W.

REPRODUCED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1 mile plans made for
of eight 12 inch
the grade, with app. cut
for a parados, construction
of which is recommended.
Est. for emplo. \$121,379.50
" " Parados 18,722.00
due 47 (add ins. (Dr.) accounts.

Under. (to), E. D.

Forward by Div. Engr. N. E. D. in
1898

1898
4th Engr. Div. Engr. N. E. D. in
1898

1st Indorsement
NORTH EAST DIVISION

New York, July 29, 1898.
Respectfully forwarded to the
Chief of Engineers, recommended
for approval.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.
Brie. Gen., U.S. Vols.,
Division Engineer.

61, 1898.
Incls 2 & 3 (trs) in sep. roll.

2d Indorsement.
Office Chief of Engineers,
U.S. Army,
August 1, 1898.

Respectfully returned.
From the estimate of quantities given it does not appear that the cut and fill balance. In view of the high cost of the excavation it is suggested that an increase of several feet in the reference of the battery floor, more nearly equalizing the cut and fill, will produce economical results without impairing the safety or efficiency of the battery. Major Lockwood is requested to give this point careful consideration.

reach the 15-foot walls on the left of the pits, and these walls may be safely reduced still more. A thickness of 10 feet is suggested.
Subject to the foregoing remarks, the plans are approved, and a provisional allotment of \$125,000 is hereby made from the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries," Act of May 7, 1898, to be applied to the construction of this battery.
When such record as may be necessary has been made, these papers will be returned to this office.
By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:
Captain, Corps of Engineers.
27058
3
Incls. 4-5 in sep. roll.
Through the Division Engineer, Northeast Division.
Respectfully returned to
Major Lockwood, inviting attention to preceding indorsement.

4th Indorsement.
U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R. I., August 3, 1898.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.
The amount of excavation is 35600 cubic yards, the amount of fill in battery 18500, in parados 16000 cubic yards, or 35500 in all.
The wording of 2nd indorsement with reference to disparity between excavation and fill would seem to imply that the parados is not deemed essential and I would respectfully request to be informed on this point. The reduction in excavation will be about 1500 cubic yards for each 1 foot that the battery is raised, and this will increase the fill considerably more than this in case the parados is retained.

Major, Corps of Engineers.
27058
3
The Division Engineer,
Northeast Division.

5th ~~indorsement~~.
NORTH EAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, August 4, 1898.
Respectfully returned to
the Chief of Engineers.

The parados will, under extreme circumstances, give a desired protection, but I do not think it essential.

G. L. Murphy

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
U.S.A.,

Brig. Gen., U.S. Vols.,

Division Engineer.

81, 1898.

Inclos. 2 & 3 in sep. roll.

6th ~~indorsement~~.

Office Chief of Engineers,
U. S. ARMY.

August 6, 1898.

Respectfully returned.

The fact that the fill in the parados is derived from the excavation of the battery was overlooked in the 2d indorsement. As shown by Major Lockwood in the fourth indorsement, the cut and fill are balanced by the retention of the parados. Upon further consideration it is deemed unnecessary to construct a permanent parados, as the contingency of reverse fire is too remote to justify the expense. Major Lockwood is accordingly requested to make the necessary modification in the reference of the battery, to equalize the cut and fill with the parados omitted.

This paper to be returned.
By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

Joseph E. Muhl
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

27058

Through the Division Engineer,
Northeast Division.

Rec'd A.D., Aug. 8, 1898

7th indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER OFFICE

New York August 8, 1898.

Respectfully returned to
Major Lockwood, inviting atten-
tion to preceding indorsement.

G. L. Augustin
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
U.S.A.,
Brig. Gen., U.S. Vols.,
Division Engineer.

81, 1898.

8th indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R.I., August 12, 1898.

Respectfully returned to
the Chief of Engineers, U. S.
Army, with a new detailed plan
of work. The floor level of
pits has been raised four feet,
reducing the total excavation
to 29450 cubic yards. The
thickness of the concrete
walls on the left of the pits
has been reduced to 10 feet.
A large amount of the excava-
ted material will necessarily
be wasted as it is shale and
disturbed rock. On this ac-

count and as the fill in-
creases as plane of site
is raised, it is not deemed
advisable to raise the floor
of pits above reference 20.
I have retained the old plan
until further instructed as
to the disposition to be
made of it.

W. W. Lockwood

Major, Corps of Engineers.

27058

3 Incls. 4 returned
1 additional Incls.
Through the Division

Engineer.

Northeast Division.

Recd. up to Aug 13, 1898.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER OFFICE

New York August 15, 1898.

Respectfully returned
to the Chief of Engineers.

G. L. Augustin
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
U.S.A.,
Brig. Gen., U.S. Vols.,
Division Engineer.

81, 1898

Incls. 2 + 5 (7) sep. roll.

REC'D. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS. AUG 13 1898

Subject: Estimate- Cost of completion of Mortar Battery, Ft. Greble, R.I.

U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., February 13, 1900.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following estimate of funds that will be required to complete the mortar battery at Fort Greble, R. I.:

The original estimate of cost of construction submitted under date of July 27, 1898, was \$121,379.50; this, however, did not provide for lighting, and in addition contained no estimate for mounting the carriages and mortars, which has been done so far by the Engineer working force.

The increase in cost over the estimate is due to the above and to the fact that in the course of construction it has been found necessary to use more Portland cement than was estimated for, and to the increased cost of excavation which was nearly all in disturbed rock hard to blast advantageously. Besides, throughout the season of 1899, it was apparently impossible to obtain Portland cement in sufficient quantities to prevent delays and interruption of work. There was a scarcity of Portland cement throughout the season, and open market purchases of same were almost impossible.

The work remaining to be done, with the estimated cost of same is as follows:

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March 10,
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MAR 13 1900

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WAR DEPARTMENT

8/11/1898
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1898
MAR 19 1900

MAJ. J. L. GILLESPIE
Feb. 19, 1900.

REPRODUCED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Final estimate of
amount to be
expended for
the construction of
the battery at
Mullet Key, Tampa Bay,
Fla. 1898.

30, BACK, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAR 13, 1900.
RECS, BACK, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS, MAR 2 1900

1st Indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

February 17, 1900.

Respectfully returned.
The available balance of funds for construction of gun and mortar batteries is practically exhausted and no additional allotment can be made at present.

Owing to the high cost of this 8-mortar battery, which is only equalled by the battery constructed at Mullet Key, Tampa Bay, it is exceedingly desirable that the work still remaining be conducted as economically as possible. Among the items of uncompleted work is one of nearly \$6000 for sodding. Will it not be practicable to top-dress the slopes with a thin layer of fertile earth and to sow oats or grass seed and thus save a considerable sum? This is the practice usually followed in districts where the soil will readily support vegetation. May not the work of mounting the mortars be left to the troops under the provisions of Circular 5, A. G. O. 1896? This has usually been done at garrisoned posts and many thousands of dollars saved to the appropriations.

Owing to the uncertainty as to when additional funds can be allotted, it will be necessary for Major Lockwood to so conduct the future work on this battery as not to incur obligations in excess of the funds already allotted.

This paper to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

Joseph H. G. Wilson
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

27058
22

Through Col. G. L. GILLESPIE,
Corps of Engineers,

Division Engineer, Northey Division.

2nd Indorsement.
NORTH EAST DIVISION
ENGINEER CORPS.
New York, Feb. 19, 1900.

Respectfully returned to Major Lockwood, inviting attention to foregoing indorsement.

J. L. Gillespie
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.
81
13, 1898.

3rd Indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R. I., February 27, 1900.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.
The superior and other flat slopes can be seeded after top

dressing with fertile soil, which would reduce the estimate \$1500 but the steeper slopes in my opinion should be sodded regularly to protect them. I have consulted the commanding officer at Fort Greble, with reference to troops mounting the mortars. The trouble is lack of men. One battery of artillery is stationed at Fort Greble but a detachment of this battery has been sent to Fort Rodman, Mass., and Capt. Lundeen, commanding Fort Greble, says he has not sufficient men to undertake the mounting, on account of the work directly connected with the post.

Major, Corps of Engrs.

27058
22

Thro' Col. G. L. Gillespie,
Corps of Engineers,
Division Engr.,
N. E. Division.

Recd. & 24, Mar 1, 1900.

4th ~~indorsement~~.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER'S OFFICE

New York, Mch. 1, 1900.

Respectfully returned to
the Chief of Engineers.

G. L. Gillespie

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

81
13, 1898.

RECD, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAR 2 1900

5th ~~indorsement~~.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

March 5, 1900.

Respectfully returned to Major
Lockwood.

Top dressing and seeding of
the flatter slopes, it is believed,
will answer all requirements, and
this course will, therefore, be
adopted for such slopes. It is
also deemed best for the present
to omit the storage battery and
wiring.

The sum of \$15,900 is hereby
allotted from the appropriation
for "Gun and Mortar Batteries",
for construction of gun and mor-
tar batteries, Act of July 7, 1898,
to be applied to the completion
of the mortar battery at Fort

Greble, R.I.

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

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

Joseph E. Kuhn
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

27058
22

Through Col. G. L. GILLESPIE,

Corps of Engineers,

Division Engineer, Northeast Division.

John D. Hays, dated 7, 1900.

6th ~~indorsement~~.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER'S OFFICE

New York, March 7, 1900.

Respectfully returned to
Major Lockwood, inviting at-
tention to preceding indorse-
ment.

G. L. Gillespie

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

81
13, 1898.

SUBJECT:

*Office of the Chief of Engineers,
United States Army,*

Washington, December 20, 1900.

Hon. Elihu Root,
Secretary of War.

(Through the Adjutant General, U. S. Army.)

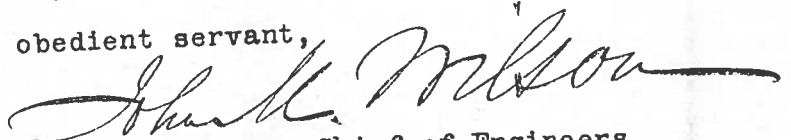
Sir:

I have the honor to report the completion of the mortar battery for eight 12-inch mortars at Fort Greble, R. I., known as Battery Sedgwick, and to recommend that the necessary instructions be now issued for its transfer to the troops for use and care under the provisions of A. R. 1486.

There is submitted herewith a tracing of the battery, showing the drainage system, with notes for the care and maintenance of the whole work. It is further recommended that the tracing be approved, and, if approved, that the signature of the Secretary of War be affixed thereto, and that the tracing be then returned to this office to enable blue prints to be prepared for the information and guidance of all concerned.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,


Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers,

U. S. Army.

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Inclo. 28 accomp.

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

1900

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JAN

29

WAR DEPARTMENT

Chief of Engineers

REPRODUCED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RECEIVED
CHIEF OF ENGRS. JAN 1901

~~7-30, 2 inc.~~
7-30 inc. shed
1 inc., E.D.

27058
28

Arthur C. G. D. 1881: East
June 5, 1901/after C. of Eng
June 21, 1901/after C. of Eng

Received A.G.O.
M.&R.D. DEC 21 1900



550

1st Endorsement.

War Department,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, Jan. 8, 1901:

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, with copy of instructions of this date to the Commanding General, Department of the East, and with the signature of the Secretary of War attached to accompany tracing.

By order of the
Secretary of War.

Ed. Johnson;
 Assistant Adjutant General.
are inclosed.

2d. Endorsement.

Office, Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY,

January 10, 1901.
Respectfully referred to Maj.
G. W. Goethals, Corps of Engi-
neers, for his information and
guidance.

Major Goethals is requested to have one or more blue prints of the tracing posted in the emplacements to which it pertains, and to furnish such additional copies of the tracing as may be desired by the Post Commander.

When the necessary record has been made, these papers will be returned to this office, with report of the date of transfer and the receipt of the Artillery Officer for the battery. The receipt should plainly state the general condition of the work.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson:

William V. Adair
Major, Corps of Engineers.

3rd indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R. I., January 23,
1901.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, accompanied by the receipt of Capt. J. A. Lundeen, 7th U. S. Artillery, commanding Post at Fort Greble, R. I., Battery Sedgwick having this day been transferred.

The balance of funds in hand will be retained until it is known whether the mortars are to be mounted by the Engineer Department, and also for the purpose of cleaning up, after removal of the plant used in the construction of battery.

Major, corps of Engineers.

$$\begin{array}{r} 27058 \\ \underline{29} \end{array}$$

inclo.30 & 1 addl.inclo.
accomp'g.
inclo. 28 in sep.roll.
REC'D,OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. JAN 1901