

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

36780

39096

Ft. Getty

Btty Tausard

Subject: Fortifications at Fox Hill, R.I.

U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., June 15, 1901.

Brig. Gen. G. L. Gillespie,

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Washington, D.C.

General:

I have the honor to forward herewith a tracing showing the topography of the land owned by the United States at Fox Hill, R. I., on which is indicated the proposed location of the three 12-inch and two 6-inch gun emplacements and also a tracing of the three 12-inch gun emplacements with estimates, submitted in compliance with Department letter of March 18, 1901.

The land owned by the United States being rather limited in extent, the guns are located where they will best command the channel, at the same time leave sufficient ground in their rear for the construction of quarters, storehouses, &c. In this location, due regard is had to the excavation and fill required in the construction of the batteries.

In planning the 12-inch gun emplacements, an angle of fire of 110° was adopted, to some extent reducing the length of the battery, as it is not believed that as ships approach this northern limit of fire these guns can be served on account of the rapid-fire armaments of modern battleships. The site of the battery is on rock covered with about two feet of earth but not sufficient to form all the embankment required, and for which sand or earth will have to be procured elsewhere to supply the deficiency.

The estimates include the construction of a wharf, the location of which is indicated on the first of the drawings mentioned above. This is on the most sheltered side of the reservation and where the slope to the water is the most gradual. It is proposed to build this wharf by using stone excavated from the battery to form a roadway as indicated and extending out beyond this a pile and timber construction, the estimated cost of which is \$15,000.00. While this construction is not durable and a stone pier is to be desired, such a structure complete will cost \$32,000 and if funds on hand will permit, I would recommend that an additional sum of \$17,000 be allotted and that I be authorized to construct a stone wharf instead of the pile structure provided for in the estimates.

The estimates include the construction of a road in rear of the emplacements, continuing beyond the site for the 6-inch guns; as plans and estimates are to be submitted for the 6-inch gun emplacements the cost of the entire road is given so that when undertaken, it can be completed throughout.

Arrangements are made for conduit, junction boxes, &c., to be placed in the concrete mass, leaving the wiring, lamps, and other electrical appliances to be estimated in connection with the electric lighting of the post at some future date.

Estimates.

Material and labor.	Quantity.	Price.	Cost.
Excavation, earth,	4600 cu.yds.	.50	\$ 2300
rock,	14800 " "	1.85	27380
Embankment,	7000 " "	1.00	7000
Sod,	3560 sq. "	.55	1958
Concrete, Portland low grade,	5880 cu. "	7.50	44100
Portland high grade,	4885 " "	9.00	43965
Portland facing,	1100 " "	15.00	16500
Waterproofing,	3600 sq. "	1.00	3600
I beams and columns,	260000 pounds	0.03	7800
Hoists (chain) and electric motors,	3	2200	6600
Trolleys,	690 feet	2.80	1932
Cranes,	6	120	720
Hand rails,	500 ft.	1.80	900
Anchor bolts and ring bolts,	14350 pounds	0.04	574
Folding gates,	30		1200
Doors, windows and fittings,	75		3381
Drainage and sewer,	3250 feet		1800
Speaking tubes and fixtures,	700 feet		400
Stairs and ladders,			1200
Forms,			5000
Water supply,			500
Latrines, &c.,			1000
Manholes, covers and gratings,			340
Electric conduits, junction boxes,			
&c., built in concrete,			2700
Roadway, surfacing,			300
Plant, repair and maintenance,			4850
Buildings, temporary,			1000
Water main to James town,			3000
Road, northern extension,			9000
Wharf of piles,			15000
Mounting and care of carriages			
and guns,			3000
Engineering & contingents			219000
Total			21900
			\$240900

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant

124

RECEIVED May 17 1901

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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS

3909 RECEIVED JUN 28 1901

DEPARTMENT

Haupt, R. J.

Also, May 15, 1901

Compl. with. Asst. Attn. incl.

submit to of location on St. of 3-12" v

of gun empl.

At. of 3-12" empl. with ext.

to include wharf and road wharf

to \$6,000 for pile and timber structure

it recommends a blue print at \$32,000

it also include such appliances for

electric service as are to be in current

now, wiring, lamps, etc. to be in

under in future estimate

total est., \$240,900.

2 sheets (two) E. S. O. 38667

File 97-100

RECD. BACK OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS JUL 19 1901

under 2 x 3 inch Max. 51113-26 41. 61

RECD. BACK OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. JUL 6 1901

des. 2 x 3 inch

1st. Indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER OFFICE

New York. June 19, 1901.

Respectfully forwarded to the Chief of Engineers, U.S.A.

By Indorsement of March 28th, 1901 (38667), Major Goethals was

instructed by the Chief of Engineers to submit a new project for the defences on Boston Neck for the consideration of the Board of Engineers. Such project has not yet been received here. The project sent

herewith is for the immediate construction of a battery of three 12" guns on Fox Hill and seems to me to open up the whole question of the defense of the Western entrance to Narragansett Bay, and I think this question should be considered as a whole, especially in view of the heavy estimate presented, due doubtless to the difficulties of the site. I have therefore to recommend that the plans presented be held for the present, that the whole matter be referred to the Board for further consideration, and that Major Goethals be associated with the Board when the matter is taken up.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, Division Engineer.

124- 1901. Inclos. 1 & 2, (trs.) in sep. roll.

2d Indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers, U. S. ARMY.

June 26, 1901.

Respectfully referred to the Board of Engineers, as suggested in the 1st Indorsement.

While the Narragansett Bay defenses are under consideration, Major Goethals is hereby associated with the Board. Funds are available for the construction of these emplacements, and as the type of carriage has been approved for this particular site by the Secretary of War, on the joint recommendation of the Chief of Engineers and the Chief of Ordnance, and actual construction has begun upon them, and as the estimates to Congress on which the appropriation was based provided for three 12-inch gun emplacements to be built in Narragansett Bay this year, the calibre and number of the guns are no longer subject to change by the Board, and time is of great importance.

A report at as early a day as its other important duties will permit is requested. These papers to be returned.

Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.

39096 1 Inclos. 2 & 3 in sep. roll.

3rd Indorsement

The Board of Engineers, Army Building, New York City, July 2, 1901.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers.

During a meeting of The Board of Engineers at which Major Goethals was present, the matter embraced by this paper was considered in connection with the entire project for the defense of Narragansett Bay. After careful deliberation the Board decided to recommend that no change be made in the existing project for Fox Hill, viz:

- Three 12" B. I. R.
- Two 6" R. F. guns
- Two 15-pdr. R. F. guns.

For the Board:

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, President of the Board.

8 30 Inclos. 9 and 10 in sep. roll.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS JUL 6 1901

4th indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY,

July 8, 1901.

Respectfully returned to Major Goethals, approved.

An allotment of \$240,000 is hereby made from the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries", for construction of gun batteries, Act of March 1, 1901, to be applied to the construction of the three 12-inch emplacements at Fox Hill, R. I.

Especially attention should be given to waterproofing the magazines.

These papers to be returned.

By order of the
Acting Chief of Engineers:

Frederic V. Abbot

Major, Corps of Engineers.

39096

Inclos. 2 & 3 in sep. roll.

Through Col. CHAS. R. SUTER,

Corps of Engineers,

Division Engineer, Northeast Division.

Recd. July 9, 1901.

5th indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER OFFICE

New York, July 9, 1901.

Respectfully forwarded to Major Goethals, inviting attention to the preceding indorsement.

Chas. R. Suter

Col., Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

124-1901.

Inclos. 1 and 2 (trs.) sep. roll.

6th indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R. I., July 15, 1901.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, the necessary record having been made.

Goethals

Major, Corps of Engrs.

39096

1 Inclos. 2 & 3 in sep. roll.
Thro' Col. Chas. R. Suter,
Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.,
Division Engineer, N. E. Div.

Recd. July 18, 1901.

Subject: Balances.

U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., September 27, 1904.

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

General:

1. In answer to your letter of September 20, 1904, (E.D.36780) the balance of \$2,062.62 must be reduced by \$200.00 for care, &c., for September. Battery Tousard is completed and guns mounted. The 6-inch and 3-inch batteries are completed but carriages and guns have not been received. A day and night watchman are employed at Fort Getty. Two niches for telautographs have been cut and await fitting doors or rolling shutters. The 12-inch guns are fitted with motors but the motor-generators have not been installed; one of them has been damaged in transit and has been the subject of several boards of survey, but final action has not been taken so far as I am advised. They are in the warehouse at Fox Hill and probably will be shipped to the shops at Schenectady, delivery to cars at Newport to be made by this office.

2. The unexpended balance is needed for care and maintenance, there being no allotment for Preservation and Repair for Fort Getty.

3. There is no post at Fox Hill, only a blacksmith shop, a warehouse and a small building used as an office, all slight and old. There is no water supply, no lighting, no means of transportation for a detachment, and, so far as I know, no intention to build barracks and quarters for a year or so. I may add that the guns have

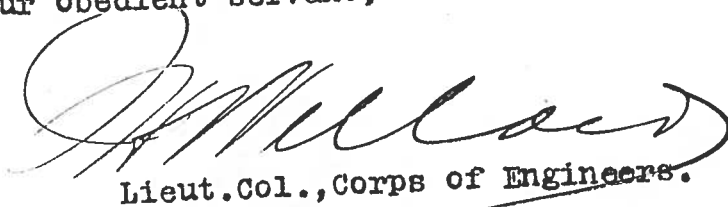
not been proof fired. I understand that the guns have been inspected by an officer of the Ordnance Department. It is not advisable to turn these batteries over to the artillery until suitable arrangements are provided for the transfer.

4. Operations at Boston Neck have been too active to permit levelling up the wharf, which has settled slightly under heavy loads as heretofore reported (June 25): I thought it best to see if any further settling should take place while receiving broken stone, sand, brick and cement, so as not to have to repeat the work.

5. The hoists were for Battery Hale, Fort Greble, instead of Sedgwick.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers.

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

SEP 28 36780 1904

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WAR DEPARTMENT.

Newport, R.I.,
Sept. 27, 1904.

WILLARD,

LT. COL. J. H.

Replies to E. D. letter of
Sept. 20, 1904, rel. balances noted on
his report for August, 1904, for Gun
and Mortar Batteries, Fort Getty,
etc.

Wille

a m

C. C.