

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

36997

Ft. Wetherill

Btty Walbach

Subject: Batteries on Conanicut Island, - plat, section, &c.

U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., October 3, 1900.

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

General:

~~I have the honor to submit herewith, plat of property~~
recently acquired on Conanicut Island for fortification purposes,
and to recommend that the batteries which are to be built on this
land under the approved project of 1897 be arranged as indicated.
A section through the batteries is also inclosed.

On account of restricted front it is necessary to give
the various emplacements the minimum length of crest, to make the
batteries without intervals, and to finish off the west end of the
10-inch battery by a wall; this last is not objectionable, however,
as it is not exposed to fire. A concrete wall is also contemplat-
ed instead of an earth slope on the west of the battery of 2 6-inch
guns; there is but little earth available for embankment and the
concrete will be cheaper, - it is not exposed to hostile fire.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Geo W. Fairbank

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

2 inclos. in sep. roll.

Through Col. G. L. Gillespie,
Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.,

ENGINEER OFFICE
NORTH EAST DIVISION
RECEIVED 24 Oct 1900

FILE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

36997

WAR DEPARTMENT

Newport, R. I.

October 3, 1900

Major J. M.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

limits of lot of land recently acquired in Conanicut Island, and recommends arrangement of batteries as shown thereon. Section through batteries accompanies.

2. Enclosure E. D. No. 1, E. D. No. 2, tracing of 1st 2 in 1/2 in. scale, Dec. 25, 1898, and

1/2 in. scale.

RECD. BACK OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. NOV 1 1900
RECD. BACK OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. OCT 24 1900

1st indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York. Oct. 15, 1900.

Respectfully forwarded to the Chief of Engineers, concurring in the views of the District Officer.

J. A. S. S. S.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

159-1900.
Inclos. 1 (b.p.) & 2 (tr.) sep.

2d indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

October 18, 1900.
Respectfully returned to Major Goethals.

The 6-inch guns will have to be on pedestal mounts, probably, as no more 6-inch disappearing gun carriages are proposed under any circumstances. The 12-inch guns will probably have to be on non-disappearing carriages; (1) as they are not included in any list of armament yet sent to the Ordnance Department, (2) as the height above tide water is such as to probably lead, under present circumstances, to the use of non-disappearing mounts, and (3) as the recent action of the Board of Ordnance and Fortification may prevent the construction of any

disappearing carriages not already covered by contracts.

Two of the 10-inch guns will be on disappearing mounts, as they are already listed to the Ordnance Department. The third falls in the same category as the 12-inch guns.

The land is still subject to certain easements, unless the court has recently acted (of which this office is not informed). These easements prevent the erection upon the land of smith shops, steam engines, furnaces, etc.

In recent discussions by the Artillery on the effect of height of gun on danger space of trajectory, the great desirability of having the rapid-fire guns mounted as low as possible has been forcibly brought out, especially for the lighter calibers. Might it not be possible to put the 15-pounders nearer the water, in the southeast corner of the lot, so that they would be considerably screened from the concussion of the heavy guns behind by the small hill? This would permit a little less crowding in the main line of batteries.

Until the easements on the reservation are removed, no actual work can be done on the ground, and there is thus ample time to investigate such questions.

These papers to be returned.
By order of the
Acting Chief of Engineers:

J. A. S. S. S.

36997
Enclosure 1 and 2 sent to Major, Corps of Engineers.
Replied 20 Oct 1900. 2001 3000.

3d indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York. Oct. 20, 1900.

Respectfully returned to Major Goethals, inviting attention to 2d indorsement.

J. A. S. S. S.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

159-1900.
Inclos. 1 & 2 sep.

4th indorsement.
U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R. I.
Octo. 22, 1900.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. A. The change in the mounts will give greater intervals between the batteries, but from the nature of the ground their relative positions could not be advantageously changed. The court has not yet acted on the easements, but I am informed by the U. S. District Attorney that he will endeavor to have action taken during the present session of the court, probably in November. In the meantime, to expedite matters and to begin work as soon as possible, I thought it advisable to prepare the plans and estimates for the two 10-inch emplacements called for by Dept. letter of May 16, 1900, (E. D. File No. 35213) but before doing so the battery had

to be located and this involved the sites for all the armament to be placed on Conanicut. The land owned by the U. S. is nothing but rock cliffs covered with a thin layer of earth at deepest not exceeding two feet, and for the greater part not more than one foot. To place the 15-pounders in the southeast corner of the reservation, and at the same time to screen them from the concussion of the heavy guns in rear, would require cutting out of a considerable quantity of rock and building the parapet entirely of rock and concrete; moreover, with the battery so located, its fire to the east would be limited by the knoll just east of the reservation and the objections to the location of the 15-pounders at Fort Wetherill, raised during the Naval manoeuvres, would apply with greater force here. The knoll to the east of the reservation would make a better site for 15-pounders, but the excessive cost of land does not warrant purchasing it, in my opinion, when the land already owned can accommodate all the batteries, though at a greater elevation. It may be found advisable and necessary to increase the rapid-fire armament, in which case more land will be needed, hence this portion of the proposed arrangement may be omitted for the present, and the original recommendation modified, so as to apply only to the location of the two 10-inch guns on disappearing mounts which it is recommended to place on the west flank

of the site where three are shown on the plan.

Geo W. Goodrich

Major Of Engineers.
Through the Div. Engineer,
Northeast Division.
Inclos. 1 & 2 in sep. roll.

Recd N.E.D. Oct. 23, 1900

5th. indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, Oct. 23, 1900.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers.

An increase of the rapid-fire armament is most desirable; but, as it will require the purchase of additional land, it need not be considered at this time.

It is respectfully recommended that the rapid-fire armament contained in the adopted project be emplaced as early as practicable, and that the sites for these and the H.P. guns, recommended in the within report of October 3rd, be approved.

G. J. Luce

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.
159-1900.

Inclos. 1 & 2 sep.

REC'D, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. OCT 24 1900

6th indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,
U. S. ARMY,

October 25, 1900.

Respectfully returned.

The arrangement of batteries, as contained in the within report of October 3, 1900, is approved. As soon as plans and estimates are ready and approved for the two 10-inch guns on disappearing mounts and for the two 15-pounders on balanced-pillar mounts, funds will be allotted, if the easements are then removed.

These papers to be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson

Frederic V. Abbott

Major, Corps of Engineers.

36997

Inclos. 1 & 2 in sep. roll.

Through Col. G. L. GILLESPIE,

Corps of Engineers,

Division Engineer, Northeast Division.

Recd N.Y. Oct. 26, 1900.

7th indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, Oct. 26, 1900.

Respectfully returned to Major Goethals, inviting attention to 6th indorsement.

G. L. Gillespie

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

159-1900.

Inclos. 1 & 2 sep.

8th indorsement.

U. S. Engineer Office,
Newport, R.I., October 30,
1900.

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

Goethals

36997

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

Inclos. 1 & 2 in sep. roll.

Thro'

Col. G. L. Gillespie,
Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.
Div. Engr., N. E. Division.

Recd N.Y. Oct. 31, 1900 -

9th

NORTH EAST DIVISION

ENGINEER OFFICE,

New York, Oct. 31, 1900.

Respectfully returned to the
Chief of Engineers.

J. H. Lumsden

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

159-1900.

Inclos. 1 & 2 sep.

REC'D, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. NOV 1 1900

Subject: Plans & estimates- 10" and 15-pdr. batteries, Conanicut Id.

U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., November 14, 1900,

Brig. Gen. John M. Wilson,

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Washington, D. C.

General:

I have the honor to submit, herewith, for approval, plans and estimates for the construction of two emplacements for 10-inch guns on disappearing carriages and for two emplacements for 15-pounder rapid-fire guns,- these emplacements to occupy the sites on Conanicut Island approved by the Chief of Engineers under date of October 25, 1900, (F.M.36997.)

The site of the two batteries is rock and material for outer slopes of embankments must be purchased and hauled to the sites ^{which} together with the long haul for all material, considerably increase the cost. The present road is in very bad condition at places and the existing road must be extended to reach the batteries; for this an item is included in the estimates. Of the amount estimated for the 10-inch emplacements \$6,525.00 are applicable to all the works to be built on the land purchased.

It is understood that no work of construction is to be undertaken until after settlement of the legal matters now pending.

Estimate for Emplacements for two 10-inch Disappearing Rifles.

Temporary buildings,			\$ 500.00
Dock, repairs to outer end, piles, wood floor, &c.,			1,500.00
Road, 1 mile,			2,000.00
Permanent water main, 6 in. to Jamestown system,			1,500.00
2 in. galvanized water pipe to battery, through rock,			400.00
10-in. main sewer, through rock,			375.00
Drainage system of battery, through rock,			425.00
Excavation, seamy granite,	8140 cu.yds. @ \$1.75		14,245.00
Embankment, material to purchase,	6600 cu.yds. @ 1.00		6,600.00
Sod, material to purchase,	5250 sq.yds. @ 0.55		2,887.50
Portland concrete, low grade	3435 cu.yds. @ 7.50		25,762.50
Portland concrete, high grade	2425 cu.yds. @ 9.00		21,825.00
Portland facing, including trowel finish,	603 cu.yds. @ 15.00		9,045.00
Forms,			3,200.00
Gun Anchor, Ring bolts, &c.,	5000 lbs. @ .04		200.00
Speaking tubes and fixtures,			200.00
Telephone to dock,			250.00
Conduit, junction boxes, fixtures built in concrete,			1,700.00
Waterproofing,	2300 sq.yds. @ \$1.00		2,300.00
Doors, hinges, locks, &c.,	33 @ 60.00		1,980.00
Folding gates,	24 @ 35.00		840.00
Steel I beams,	50000 lbs. @ .03		1,500.00
Lifts, electric chain,	2 @ 1500.00		3,000.00
Ladders,	4 @ 25.00		100.00
Hand rails,	310 ft. @ 1.75		542.50
Trolleys,	350 ft. @ 2.25		787.50
Latrine,			1,000.00
Repair, mounting & maintenance of plant,			3,500.00
Mounting guns,			2,500.00
Cranes,	4		400.00
			<u>\$111,065.00</u>
Contingencies, Engineering, &c., 10%			11,106.50
Total,			<u>\$122,171.50</u>

Estimate for emplacements for two 15-pdr. R. F. guns on balanced pillar mounts.

Excavation,	1420 cu.yds. @ \$1.75	\$ 2,485.00
Embankment,	2500 cu.yds. @ 1.00	2,500.00
Sod,	1630 sq.yds. @ 0.55	896.50
Forwarded,		<u>\$ 5,881.50</u>

3-

Brought forward,		\$ 5,881.50
Concrete, Portland No.2	410 cu.yds. @ \$ 9.50	3,895.00
Concrete, Portland No.1	165 cu.yds. @ 11.00	1,815.00
Concrete, Portland facing,	60 cu.yds. @ 15.00	900.00
Asphalt,	840 sq.ft. @ 0.15	126.00
I beams,	3050 lbs. @ 0.04	122.00
Railing, iron,	45 ft. @ 1.80	81.00
Doors & fittings,	3 @ 50.00	150.00
Drains & ventilators,		150.00
Electric wiring & speaking tubes,		250.00
Hauling & mounting guns and mounts,		49.50
		<u>\$ 13,420.00</u>
Engineering & contingencies, 10%		<u>1,342.00</u>
Total,		<u>\$ 14,762.00</u>

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

George W. Fairbanks

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

2 inclos. in sep. roll.

Through

Col. G. L. Gillespie,

Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.,

Division Engineer, N.E. Division.

1st...indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, Nov. 15, 1900.

Respectfully forwarded to the Chief of Engineers. By direction of Colonel Gillespie, in his absence.

Clerk.

181-1900.
Inclos. 1 & 2 (trs) sep.

2d indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

November 20, 1900.

Respectfully returned to Col. G. L. Gillespie, Corps of Engineers, Division Engineer of the Northeast Division, with request for his personal remarks and recommendations.

Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers,

U. S. Army.

36997
4
Inclos. 5 & 6 in sep. roll.

New York, Nov. 21, 1900-

3d...indorsement.

NORTH EAST DIVISION
ENGINEER OFFICE.

New York, Nov. 22, 1900.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, recommended for approval. The plans appear to conform to the typical drawings.

Regarding the 15-pdr. battery, it is to be noted that, on account of the slope of the adjacent surface on the left flank, the concrete work will rest in part on the stone filling.

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer.

181-1900.
Inclos. 1 & 2 sep.

RECD, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS, NOV 23 1900

4th indorsement.

Office Chief of Engineers,

U. S. ARMY.

November 24, 1900.

Respectfully returned to Major Goethals.

On November 9, 1900, a provisional allotment of \$100,000 was made for the two 10-inch gun emplacements, and a provisional allotment of \$12,000 was made for the 15-pdr. rapid-fire guns. These allotments were provisional only, till the drawings were approved by the Chief of Engineers. The drawings and estimates

are now approved, and additional allotments of \$22,500 for the 10-inch B.L.R. emplacements, and \$3,000 for the 15-pdr. emplacements are hereby made from the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries," for construction of mortar batteries, Act of March 1900.

In doing work under the allotments, care must be exercised to avoid any infractions of the terms on the land, till the question is received.

Separate reports and statements should be made of 10-inch emplacements, and of 15-pdr. emplacements.

When such record as may be necessary has been made the papers will be returned to the office.

By command of Brig. Gen. Wilson

Frederic V. At

Major, Corps of Eng

36997
4

Inclos. 5 & 6 in sep. roll.

Through Col. G. L. GILLESPIE,

Corps of Engineers,

Division Engineer, Northeast Div

New York, Nov. 27, 1900.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

181
OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
36997
4
WAR DEPARTMENT
NOV 21 1900

181
Nov. 15 1900

New York, N.Y.
Nov. 14, 1900.

Mr. At

Mr. At

Mr. At

Mr. At

Mr. At

Mr. At

Mr. At

Mr. At

Mr. At

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Mr. At

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Mr. At

Mr. At

Subject: Carriages-10"gun emplacements, Conanicut Island, R.I.

U. S. Engineer Office,

Newport, R. I., January 21, 1902.

Brig. Gen. G. L. Gillespie,

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Washington, D. C.

General:

1. Under dates of November 9th and 24th, 1900, allotments were made for the construction of two 10-inch gun emplacements for guns on disappearing carriages, model 1896, to be constructed on Conanicut Island, near Fort Wetherill, R.I.

2. Under date of July 16, 1901, an allotment was made for the construction of one additional 10-inch gun emplacement on Conanicut Island, to be mounted on disappearing gun carriage and the plans provided for a carriage of limited fire, model 1896. By indorsement dated Office Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, August 16, 1901, E.D.F.M.No.38652-2, I am advised that "this emplacement should be so constructed as to readily permit modification to adapt it to receive the model 1900 rifle without cutting of the masonry of the parapet, " and subsequently by 1st indorsement on E.D.F.M.No.38652-9, that this emplacement is to be constructed for disappearing gun carriage, model of 1901.

3. By 1st indorsement on letter from the Chief of Ordnance, dated April 17, 1901, E.D.F.M.No.26128-52, I am advised that one 10-inch disappearing carriage, limited fire, model 1896, No.72, is to be issued to the Ordnance Officer at Fort Wetherill, R.I., and information is desired whether suitable arrangements can be made

to receive it. This requisition is for one carriage, but I am led to believe from the indorsement that the two carriages are to be 1896 model.

4. From the foregoing, it is understood that two of these 10-inch gun emplacements are to be built for carriages, model 1896, and the other one, from funds allotted under the act of March 1, 1901, is to be built for a disappearing carriage, model 1901. If I be in error, I have the honor to request that I be advised.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

G. W. Gough

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

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

36997
WAR DEPARTMENT

Newport, R. I.
Jan. 21. 1902.

Goethals,
Major Geo. W.

Referring to the construction of 10" gun emplacements on Conanicut Id., understands that two of these 10" gun emplacements are to be built for carriages, model 1896 and the other one, from funds allotted under act of Mar. 1, 1901, is to be built for disappearing carriage, model 1901. If he is in error, requests that he be advised.

JAN 28 1902 *well*

5

SUBJECT:

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

Washington, January 28, 1902.

Maj. Geo. W. Goethals,
Corps of Engineers,
Newport, R. I.

Major:

In reply to your letter of the 21st instant, regarding the models of carriages intended for the three 10-inch emplacements near Fort Wetherill, R.I., you are informed that your understanding of the matter is correct, and that two of the emplacements are to be built for disappearing carriages, L.F., model 1896, while the third emplacement, the one for which allotment was made on July 16, 1901, from the Act of March 1, 1901, is to be for disappearing carriage, L.F. model 1901.

By command of Brig. Gen. Gillespie:

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Frederic W. Astor
Major, Corps of Engineers.

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