

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

25462

Wassaw Island

4.7-inch Temporary Battery

Subject: Battery on Wassaw Island.

United States Engineer Office.

RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS AND FORTIFICATIONS IN GEORGIA AND NORTH-EASTERN FLORIDA.

Savannah, Ga., May 23, 1898.

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

General:

I have the honor to report that the base rings for the 2-4.7" R. F. guns on Wassaw Island, Ga., have arrived; they will be set to-day and the guns mounted to-morrow. The emplacements themselves have been ready for sometime. This battery is now completed, a large quantity of ammunition has been received and is stored in the magazine. A detachment of troops should be sent there at the earliest practicable date to give the property the proper protection. Meantime it will be left in charge of watchmen, but the place is some distance from any town or village and a small force could easily overcome the watchmen and help could not be readily obtained. For this reason troops should be sent there as soon as possible.

When this battery is named the name, "Battery Parsons," is respectfully suggested for consideration. This in view of the generosity of the gentleman who owns the island, Mr George Parsons, who not only gave the United States permission to erect a temporary battery there, but also donated free of charge as much ground as

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the United States might require for permanent use, as shown by his letter of April 11th 1898, forwarded to your office under date of April 27th 1898.

Very respectfully,

Charles E. Smith
Captain of Engineers.

MAY 26 1898

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WAR DEPARTMENT

Savannah, Ga.

May 23, '98,

Sir,

Capt. T. C.

Reports that the heavy rings for 2-4.7" R. F. guns on the USS "Albatross", Ga., have arrived; will be set today. Rings will be forwarded. The battery is now complete; has a large quantity of ammunition stored in magazine; is kept in charge of watchmen; but should have a detachment of troops and there as soon as possible. Dispatches that it be named "Battery Cassin";

Very respectfully,
 J. M. Smith, May 26, '98.