

Notes concerning copies of Battery Correspondence Files  
Glen Williford - May, 2016

Cover sheets describe the subject contents to follow and source. For subject the fort and battery name is given. Of course when composed in most cases the battery was not yet named, and in the text is usually just referred to as to gun size, location, or chronologically sequenced order (such as, "the second emplacement for two 3-inch guns"). Sometimes there are multiple entries for a battery, particularly when an emplacement for an additional gun(s) was made after several years. Sometimes two similar or immediately adjacent batteries were authorized simultaneously, submitted simultaneously, and share a single battery file number. Also several emplacement projects were authorized and plans submitted, but for one reason or another were never constructed. These were collected and are included but usually just referred to as "projects". In later years separate projects were authorized for some major rebuilding of older emplacements, and were treated administratively as "new" projects.

Some battery emplacement submission records are missing in the original files. In every attempt they were searched for, and while a couple may have been missed or are misfiled and were not found, in most cases they are just "gone" or were never submitted. Temporary batteries from the Spanish American War (like the 8-inch/Rodman emplacements), the First World War (relocated batteries from 1917) and the new 12-inch long-range batteries from the Board of Review period were found on a hit-or-miss basis. Only partial records for these types of emplacements were found and thus included. Emplacements for which the primary file was never located include:

- Battery Hagner, Ft. Terry
- Battery Fornance, Ft. Fremont
- 8-inch Battery, Fort Pulaski
- 8-inch/Rodman Battery, Ft. Dade
- Battery Dearborn, Ft. Morgan
- The storm-damaged batteries asrebuilt for Galveston
- Batteries Barri and Chandler, Ft. Kamehameha

Many of the early Taft-generation works for the Philippines and Hawaii do not have substantial primary files and are poorly represented in the existing documentation.

Many of the cover sheets and attached files have two or more file references for their emplacement. Usually one is the primary for the battery's construction, and a subsequent one is a new file that covers the emplacement's subsequent modification or status.

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The reference citations come from one of three separate entries of Record Group 77 (correspondence of the Chief of Engineers). They essentially represent different time period for the same time of general correspondence. Entry 96 has file from the years 1888 through 1892. Entry 98 had files for 1893. Entry 103 has files between 1894 and nominally 1915, though correspondence seems to have been filed in the files well into 1917 and some even until 1919. For the earlier two entries, file numbers were started anew with ordinal number "1" at the start of each year. Thus to find or reference the file one needs both the year number and the file number. For the cover sheets this is accomplished using a designation like "1892:2531" designating both the year and file. Starting with Entry 103 the files were run sequentially from 1894 to 1917 from 1 to approximately 110000. Thus no year reference is required to cite files from this entry.

These are ALL of my original, paper-only archive copies. Inevitably there are a few times that pages were missed or inadvertently skipped while photocopying. While sorting I noticed also several that were cut-off or partially obscured by another folded section of the paper. I cut most into standard 1.5 x 11 size, except for the endorsement page if it extended and was folded to a legal size. In a few cases some of the latter were accidentally cut to standard size. While these errors are in general few, they are unfortunate and I regret them when they occur. There is no additional "master" set of copies except what is actually at the archives. Thus asking me if I have missing page "x" or a better-centered page "y" will not be productive. The only way to improve the set or the quality of copies is to visit the original source.