

Primary Battery File

National Archives, Washington D.C.

Record Group 77

Correspondence of the Chief of Engineers

Entry 103

File, Fort, Battery:

48922

Ft. Taylor

Btty DeKalb

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.,

October 12, 1903.

Brig. Gen. G. L. Gillespie,
Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army,
Washington, D.C.

(Through the Division Engineer, Southeast Division.)

General:-

1. In compliance with Department indorsement of September 23, 1903 (6998/11), I have the honour to submit the following estimate for the construction of two emplacements for 6-inch rapid-fire guns on pedestal mounts, model 1900, in accordance with the type plans shown on mimeograph No. 40 and its supplements.

2. I would recommend that these emplacements be built on the site of the present battery of three 8-inch converted rifles.

I am informed that two of these converted rifles are broken and are not serviceable; they merely take up a desirable site to no useful end. The selection of this site will make a considerable saving in the cost of the batteries, since it will save the expense of raising the site so as to give a proper elevation to the gun platform. Three alternative estimates have been prepared, as follows:

Estimate No. 1:-

The battery to be located on the south side of the 8-inch converted rifle battery, as shown at "A" on the accompanying tracing. The mean elevation of this site is about 4 feet above mean low water. Rock is found 2 feet below, at an elevation of about 2 feet above mean low water. It is pro-

posed to raise the site to elevation 7 feet, and give the gun platforms a reference of 14 feet; to build retaining walls on the four sides of the battery founded on rock, and build these to elevation 7 feet. The gun platforms to be founded on rock, all other concrete in the emplacements to be founded on sand. The two upper stories of Fort Taylor to be torn down and the brick used for concrete. Sand and debris used for making sand fill. A metal roof to be placed over the lower story.

2,050 cubic yards of concrete @ \$8.25 per cu.yd.,	\$16,912.50
5,600 " " of sand fill @ 80¢ " "	4,480.00
Steel beams, doors, asphalt, railings, etc.,	2,823.00
Metal roof over lower story of Fort Taylor,	12,500.00
Engineering and contingencies, 10%,	3,671.58

Total, \$40,387.08

Estimate No.2:-

The battery to be located between the 8-inch converted rifle battery and Battery Dilworth, as shown at "B" on tracing herewith. Built as described in estimate No.1, except that the two side retaining walls are to be omitted.

Total estimate of cost, \$38,737.00

Estimate No.3:-

The battery to be built on the site of the 8-inch converted rifle battery. This site is already raised with retaining walls.

Total estimate of cost, \$35,375.00

3. All of these estimates provide for a metal roof over the lower story of Fort Taylor. If a separate allotment be made for this work, each estimate must be reduced by \$12,500. If it be determined not to demolish Fort Taylor, each estimate must be reduced by \$5,380.

4. I would respectfully recommend the adoption of estimate No. 5.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

I inclo.
in sep.roll.

Francis R. Lane
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.

4th indorsement.
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER,
SOUTHEAST DIVISION.
Savannah, Ga., November 2, 1903.

1. Respectfully submitted to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. A.
2. The demolition of the Fort Taylor barracks seems to be necessary for the efficiency of the batteries in front of it, and the use of the brick for concrete would almost pay for the roof to cover the lower story. Since the storage rooms are necessary, equitable considerations would make it necessary for the Engineer Department to restore the shelter of these rooms, if it takes away the present roof.

3. The difference in cost between the battery constructed with the brick from the barracks building and the stone obtained from other sources, is \$3,380.00. It appears to me that the advantages of having the barracks removed must certainly be worth more than this sum. I therefore concur in the recommendations of the District Engineer that the sum of \$35,400 be allotted for this work.

James D. Quinn
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Div. Engr., S. E. Div.

1 enclo. accompng.
1 enclo. in sep. roll.

RECD, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. 11/15/03

5th indorsement.
WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

November 6, 1903.

1. Respectfully returned to Captain Shunk.

2. An additional allotment of \$15,900 is hereby made for the purpose, divided among appropriations as follows:

"Preservation and Repair of Fortifications," Act of March 3, 1903-----	\$2,000.00
"Torpedoes for Harbor Defense"-----	
Act of March 1, 1901-----	477.79
Act of June 6, 1902-----	3,354.48
"Gun and Mortar Batteries," for construction of gun and mortar batteries-----	
Act of May 25, 1900-----	2,937.62
Act of March 1, 1901-----	3,791.63
Act of June 6, 1902-----	3,338.48
	<u>15,900.00</u>

3. Funds are exceedingly low, and care must be taken not to exceed the estimate.

4. If possible, an allotment from the Quartermaster's Department will be secured to reimburse the Engineer appropriations. If such an allotment is secured, Captain Shunk will be informed, and full instructions will be sent him. Actual work should not be delayed.

5. To be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. H. H. Spivey.

48922
Incl. 1 in
Sep. roll

James V. Allen
Major, Corps of Engineers.

Through Lieut. Col. JAMES E. QUINN,
Corps of Engineers.

2 Division Engineer, Southeast Division.

489223

R DEPARTMENT.

9492.

Jacksonville, Fla.,
Oct. 12, 1903.

JNK. Captain F. R.

In compliance with E. D. Lt. of Sept. 23, 1903, 6998-11, units estimate for construction of two emplacements for 6-inch R. F. Guns on pedestal mounts, model 1900, in accordance with type plans shown on memo. No. 40 and its supplements. Recommendations that this

very be built on site now occupied by battery of three 240. 6000 to 6000. 1904

REC'D. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS.

NOV 18 1903

Spec. & D. in sep. roll
(Hearing)

in day. 24. 7. 24. 212.

and by Engrs.

acc. 4892

U. S. Army
OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS.

D, Eng'r Office SAVANNAH, GA. NOV 9 1903

U. S. Army
OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS.

I rec'd & add to enc. acc.

D, Eng'r Office SAVANNAH, GA. OCT 26 1903

1st Division

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

WASHINGTON.

October 22, 1903.

1. Respectfully returned to Captain Shunk.

2. Estimate No. 3 is approved, except that the immediate need for roofing over the lower story of Fort Taylor or the completion of the destruction of the fort is not apparent, in view of the fact that other emplacements for 6-inch guns will probably have to be built to the east of the fort in the near future, which may produce an early need of further quantities of brick. A more clear and full report on the subject of the purposes to which the lower stories of the old fort are to be applied than the short paragraphs in Captain Shunk's reports of December 2, 1902, January 2, and March 19, 1903, is desired, so that the funds applicable may be understood. Ordinance storerooms are not Engineers work. Torpedo storehouse appropriations are exhausted.

3. If the roof is needed only for a water supply, it should be constructed with quartermaster's funds.

4. For the construction of these emplacements, the sum of \$19,500 is hereby allotted from the appropriation for "Gun and Mortar Batteries," for construction of gun batteries, Act of June 6, 1902.

4. These papers to be returned

By command of Capt. Gen. Gillespie:

Thos. V. Allen
Major, Corps of Engineers

48922
Incl. 1 in sep. roll.

Through Lieut. Col. JAMES B. QUINN,
Corps of Engineers,
Engineer, Southeast Division.

2nd Indorsement.
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER,
SOUTHEAST DIVISION,
Savannah, Ga., October 27, 1903.

Respectfully forwarded to Captain Shunk, inviting attention to the preceding indorsement.

Lt. Col. Corps of Engineers,
Div. Engrs., S. E. Div.
9492
1 encl. in sep. roll.

Rec'd U. S. Eng'r Office

3rd Indors
U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE.

Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 28, 1903.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army.

2. Estimate No. 3 is based upon the supposition that brick will be obtained from old Fort Taylor. In order to get the brick from old Fort Taylor, it will be necessary to roof over the lower story. For reasons given in my letter of even date, to which I would respectfully refer, I would recommend that the sum of \$35,400.00 be allotted. If the allotment for the roof can be obtained from any other source, the estimate will be reduced by \$12,500 that is, it will be \$22,873.00. If, however, it be determined not to obtain brick from old Fort Taylor, then stone must be bought for the concrete and the estimate may be reduced \$3,380.00; that is to say in this case the emplacements will cost \$31,993.00. But these two deductions cannot both be made.

James B. Quinn
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.

Through Lieut. Col. James B. Quinn,
Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer, Southeast Division.

6th indorsement.
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER,
SOUTHEAST DIVISION.
Savannah, Ga., Nov. 9th 1903.

Respectfully forwarded to
Captain Shunk, inviting atten-
tion to the 4th and 5th indorse-
ments hereon.

James D. Quinn
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Div. Engr., S. E. Div.

9492
1 encl. in sep. roll.
Rec'd U. S. Engr. Office, Jacksonville, Fla.
Nov. 10, 1903.

7th indorsement.
U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 12, 1903.

Respectfully returned to the
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, con-
tents noted.

Francis V. Shunk
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

1 treg. in sep. roll.

REC'D. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. NOV 13 1903

8th indorsement.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

February 10, 1904.

1. Respectfully returned to
Captain Shunk.

2. In view of the fact that the
Quartermaster's Department will
supply \$8,700 from a fiscal year
appropriation, which will not be le-
gally applicable to expenditures
covering liabilities incurred prior
to July 1, 1904, Captain Shunk's work
in connection with the new roof
must be so arranged that liabili-
ties to the amount of \$8,700 shall
remain to be incurred subsequently
to that date.

3. The sum of \$8,700, in the
Treasury, is hereby withdrawn from
the allotment made November 6, 1903,
as follows:

Act of May 25, 1900-----	\$2,937.62
Act of March 1, 1901-----	3,791.63
Act of June 6, 1902-----	1,970.75
	<u>8,700.00</u>

4. To be returned at an early
date, with remark.

By command of Brig. Gen. J. M. Smith

Francis V. Allen
Major, Corps of Engineers

48922

Through Major Gen. JAMES D. QUINN,
Corps of Engineers
Division Engineer, Southeast

9th indorsement.
U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE.
Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 29, 1904.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army

2. At the present time, all the wooden roof has been removed from Fort Taylor, and part of the brick arches over the lower pier. No expenses have been incurred which it will be necessary to pay from the \$8,700 to be furnished by the quartermaster's department.

3. The withdrawal of this amount will cause delay in the completion of the roof. It will not be possible to complete the roof until November or December, 1903, as it takes at least two months to get supplies to Key West. The store rooms on the lower floor which now contain torpedoes and ordnance supplies will doubtless leak in the mean time, and it will probably be necessary to move a portion of these supplies or to make temporary provision for their protection, either of which will entail a certain amount of expense.

4. The estimated cost of the roof is \$12,000, so that there is still on hand \$3,300 which will be used to the best advantage.

Francis Bohunke
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.
Through Lieut. Col. James R. Quinn,
Corps of Engineers,
Division Engineer, Southeast Division.

10th indorsement.
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER,
SOUTHEAST DIVISION.
Savannah, Ga.

March 2, 1904.
Respectfully submitted to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army.
James D. Quinn

LIEUT. COL., CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
DIVISION ENGINEER, S. E. DIVISION.

RECD. OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. MAR 4 '1904

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 9, 1905.

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

(Through the Division Engineer, Southeast Division).

General:-

1. I have the honour to request an additional allotment of \$1,000 for completing the two emplacements for 6-inch guns at Fort Taylor, Fla. This money is required for the following reasons:-

2. In the estimate for these emplacements (48922) was included the cost of demolishing the two upper stories of the old barracks of Fort Taylor and covering the lower story with a new roof. The reasons for this are set forth in my letter of October 28, 1903 (48922/2), to which I would respectfully invite attention. The building demolished was an arched structure, and there was found a great quantity of sand, mortar, etc., used as spandrel filling. It was necessary to waste this material, and it was deemed best to use it for constructing a causeway connecting Fort Taylor with the mainland, to take the place of the wooden trestlework previously existing. The cost of this construction was somewhat more than simple wasting, but it was an economical measure as the old trestlework was in bad condition, constantly in need of repairs and would soon have required renewal. The new causeway will be permanent. The cost of this work was estimated as closely as possible, and it was believed that there would be money enough to complete the causeway without an additional allotment. The work, however, took more

(2)

Chief of Engineers.

time than was expected, and the consequent cost of teams for hauling has exceeded the estimate.

3. I would respectfully request early action in this matter, as it is very desirable not to disband the working force.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Francis V. Shunk

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

1905
MAR 9
WAR DEPARTMENT.

Jacksonville, Fla.:
March 9, 1905.

SHUNK, CAPTAIN F. R.

Requests an additional allotment of \$1,000, for completing two emplacements for 6-inch guns, at Fort Taylor, Fla.

States the reasons why this additional allotment is necessary, and requests that early action be taken in the matter.

File
March 13/1905 Telegram to Capt Shunk.

REC'D, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 8 1905

REC'D, Engr's Office SAVANNAH, GA. MAR 10 1905

1st. indorsement.
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER,
SOUTHEAST DIVISION.
Savannah, Ga.

March 10, 1905.

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

In the absence of the Division Engineer:

Charles D. Packard
Division Clerk.

2d indorsement.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

March 16, 1905.

1. Respectfully returned to Major Shunk.

2. There is no appropriation for battery construction in the United States in the Fortification Act approved March 3, 1905. The balances from previous acts are all needed to complete batteries at other points which can not be left as they stand.

3. No allotment can be made, and Major Shunk will have to close up the work in the best shape he can.

4. To be returned.

By command of Brig. Gen. Mackenzie:

48922

9

Frederic V. Wick
Major, Corps of Engineers.

Through the Division Engineer,
Savannah, Ga.

OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER,
SOUTHEAST DIVISION.
Savannah, Ga.

March 18, 1905.

Respectfully forwarded to Major Shunk, inviting attention to the preceding indorsements.

James R. Dimes
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Div. Engr., S. E. Div.

4th indorsement.

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
Jacksonville, Fla., April 6, 1905.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, contents noted.

Frederic V. Wick
Major, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

REC'D, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGRS. APR 8 1905