

SECRET

4 November 1943

Major General J. A. Green,
The Mosque,
Richmond, Virginia.

My dear General:

As per our telephonic conversation of 2 November 1943, I am inclosing Tabs which will reflect the progress of the Seacoast Modernization Program as of 30 September 1943. These tabulations have been corrected to show all changes in the project for the 6-inch and 16-inch batteries.

The major changes in Continental United States have been the elimination of the projected harbor defenses at Cape Flattery (2 - 6" and 2 - 16" batteries). All work has been stopped on this project and the manufacture of the pertinent armament has been cancelled. The 16-inch program has in addition suffered to the following extent: Six batteries, one each in Boston, Narragansett Bay, Long Island, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, have been deferred. All of the above places will have at least one completed 16-inch battery and except for San Diego and Los Angeles, the heavy gun protection seems to be ample for the present category of defense. The loss of Batteries 128 in Los Angeles on the south flank and 134 in San Diego also on the south flank will probably hurt us the most, if occasion should arise for their use, in view of the weak defense of these areas to start with. The armament for these six batteries will, however, be manufactured and we are going to recommend to the General Staff that the armament be mounted for Class C maintenance as the storage problem for the large amount of material involved would otherwise be most difficult and expensive. If this latter proposal is approved, then the six batteries in general will be completed except for power plants and shields.

The original overseas program included five 6-inch batteries for Trinidad and nine 6-inch batteries for Roosevelt Roads. The Trinidad batteries and all but three of the Roosevelt Roads batteries have been eliminated from the project and the manufacture of the pertinent armament has also been cancelled. Likewise the four 16-inch batteries projected for Roosevelt Roads and the two 12-inch batteries for Trinidad have met the same fate.

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As you perhaps can imagine, the seacoast program has been under constant fire, since it is of a defensive category. We have had intimations that various procurement review agencies have been interested in curtailing the major caliber portions of the program. This interest has ranged from suggested cutbacks to the elimination of the entire program. We have been fortunate to save as much as we have in the circumstances.

The replacement of buoyant mines by ground mines is progressing very favorably, and in general, I can say that the program is at least 60 to 70% completed. The shore facilities, such as casemates, wharves, and loading rooms are well under way in the various areas and this project should be entirely complete within the next two to three months. The floating equipment seems to be functioning fairly well but several important alterations have been approved for the new mine planters as they are dry-docked. These alterations will increase the efficiency of the vessels and the comfort of the crew but since they have already planted nearly 70% of the projects, it is self-evident that the planters, in general, have proved satisfactory.

The ground mine themselves have, of course, presented various difficulties but these have finally been overcome to a degree that insures a much more efficient underwater defense than that provided by the buoyant type.

The radar situation is rather spotty. The SCR-296 sets (fire control) have been distributed to most of the batteries and are being installed at a satisfactory rate. We do not have much in the way of data on the efficiency of their operation but from what little we do know, they are a great help to the harbor defenses particularly in view of the situation with the 582 sets. These radar sets, of which 55 were manufactured, have proven very satisfactory and as you may know were used in North Africa to detect low flying planes. Some 27 of these sets were diverted from harbor defense assignments and furnished to active theaters, (Australia, North Africa, and other areas). As a result of the diversion many harbor defenses have not been equipped with the general surveillance detector. The replacement set, SCR-682, is just now coming into production but the shortages in the harbor defenses will probably not be met until mid-summer of 1944.

The harbor entrance control post situation appears to be pretty well in hand and they are apparently operating satisfactorily. Several permanent structures have been completed for these activities and in general this portion of the harbor defense activity is well provided for.

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The AMTB problem has been difficult to solve and has proven an annoyance to all concerned. As you know, we started the War without a suitable AMTB weapon. The 37mm and 40mm antiaircraft gun was not satisfactory for all of our harbors in view of the large water areas to be covered and the 3-inch seacoast gun was deemed not suitable. The 90mm antiaircraft gun on a fixed mount was delayed in manufacture due to higher priorities although these weapons have now been completed and are in process of installation. I do not have any data as to the progress of this installation since it is being done by defense commanders and is not coordinated in this office. 90mm AA mobile guns with anti-aircraft fire control were furnished to permit an interim defense and these have been entirely distributed for some time.

The fire control problem for the AMTB armament has not yet been solved although the T-13 director appears to be satisfactory. This has been tested but not with the radar component which is possibly the important link of the system. It is understood that the SCR-598 radar set will soon be available for testing at Port Monroe. However, with the priority that can be secured for the manufacture of fire control equipment, even when it has become standardized, it would appear that none of these instruments will be available prior to 1945 or late 1944.

The M1 Gun Data Computers are well into production for major caliber batteries. Some sixteen of these are now in service. The M8 Computer for the 6-inch and 8-inch batteries has just been cleared for production and will probably come out about June of 1944.

Many of the old batteries have been salvaged and removed for scrap metal and an improved situation as to appearance and storage in the various harbor defenses will result therefrom. On the whole, the harbor defense artillery will have made substantial gains and an increase in fire power will undoubtedly result even with the curtailed program. It is hoped that this brief resume of the status of the Modernization Program will give you some idea of the progress and the problems that have occurred since 8 March 1942.

In view of the informal and unofficial character of this memorandum, it is requested that no reference be made to it in official correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

L. A. Whittaker,
Colonel, C. A. C.

2 Incls: Tabs A & B

*Reg 760.1734991
Dispatched 2³⁰ am 6 Nov.
By furnished Col Edgcomb. LAW.*

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T A B A

NEW 16" BATTERIES

<u>Construction No.</u>	<u>Harbor Defense</u>	<u>Capable of Firing</u>
108	Narragansett Bay	Yes
120	Chesapeake Bay	Yes
118	Delaware	Yes
122	Chesapeake Bay	Yes
113	Long Island Sound	Yes
116	New York	Yes
131	Puget Sound	Dec 1943
127	Los Angeles	Yes
126	San Diego	Yes
104	Boston	Yes
121	Chesapeake Bay	Dec 1943
112	Long Island Sound	Dec 1943
102	Portland	Jan 1944
103	Portsmouth	Feb 1944

NEW 12" BATTERIES

519	Delaware	Yes
520	Charleston	Jan 1944

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T A B L E

NEW 6" BATTERIES OVERSEAS

Con- struc- tion No.	HARBOR DEFENSE	ENGINEER CONST. Emp. %	Fire Control %	ORDNANCE Del. In- Date stalled %	SIGNAL In- stalled %	Capable of Firing
261	: San Juan	: 100	100	: 2-1-44 0*	: 99	: No
262	: San Juan	: 100	100	: - 100	: 100	: Yes
263	: San Juan	: 100	100	: - 100	: 100	: Yes
264	: San Juan	: 100	100	: - 100	: 100	: Yes
265	: Roosevelt Rds.	: 90	46	: - 100	: 0	: Yes
268	: Roosevelt Rds.	: 87	21	: 2-1-44 0	: 0	: No
281	: Argentina	: 100	100	: - 100	: 75	: Yes
282	: Argentina	: 100	100	: - 100	: 100	: Yes
283	: Bermuda	: 100	100	: - 100	: 100	: Yes
284	: Bermuda	: 100	100	: - 100	: 100	: Yes
290	: Sitka	: 48	27	: - 100	: 50	: Yes
291	: Sitka	: 65	30	: - 100	: 5	: Yes
292	: Sitka	: 80	56	: - 100	: 50	: Yes
293	: Seward	: 85	84	: - 100	: 45	: Yes
294	: Seward	: 40	57	: Del. 0	: 14	: No
296	: Kodiak	: 85	35	: - 100	: 40	: Yes
298	: Dutch Harbor	: 50	55	: - 100	: 45	: Yes
301	: Kaneohe Bay	: 95	88	: - 100	: 0	: Yes
302	: Kaneohe Bay	: 43	43	: Del. 0	: 0	: No
314	: Roosevelt Rds.	: 65	10	: 2-15-44 0	: 0	: No

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T A B B (Cont'd)

NEW 6" BATTERIES, CONT. U. S.

Construction No.	HARBOR DEFENSE	ENGINEER CONST.		ORDNANCE		SIGNAL		Capable of Firing
		Emp. %	Fire Control %	Del. Date	In-stalled %	In-stalled %		
201	Portland	88	98	9-15-44	0	20	No	
202	Portland	98	98	2-1-44	0	20	No	
203	Portland	100	100	-	100	20	Yes	
204	Portsmouth	100	98	2-15-44	0	5	No	
205	Portsmouth	100	98	5-1-44	0	0	No	
206	Boston	100	100	11-1-43	0	20	No	
207	Boston	100	100	3-15-44	0	25	No	
208	Boston	100	100	3-1-44	0	40	No	
209	Boston	100	100	-	50	45	No	
210	New Bedford	100	100	12-15-43	0	50	No	
211	Narragansett Bay	100	80	-	100	80	Yes	
212	Narragansett Bay	100	100	-	100	100	Yes	
213	Narragansett Bay	100	100	-	100	70	Yes	
214	Long Island Sd.	85	75	9-1-44	0	15	No	
215	Long Island Sd.	100	98	-	100	55	Yes	
216	Long Island Sd.	100	93	-	100	50	Yes	
217	Long Island Sd.	85	75	5-15-44	0	10	No	
218	New York	100	100	6-1-44	0	65	No	
219	New York	100	100	-	100	95	Yes	
220	New York	100	100	4-1-44	0	75	No	
221	Delaware	100	75	-	100	50	Yes	
222	Delaware	100	75	Del.	0	50	No	
223	Delaware	100	50	1-1-44	0	40	No	
225	Chesapeake Bay	100	100	-	100	100	Yes	
226	Chesapeake Bay	99	99	11-1-43	0	95	No	
227	Chesapeake Bay	99	100	-	100	100	Yes	
228	Chesapeake Bay	99	99	8-1-44	0	60	No	
229	Chesapeake Bay	70	90	6-15-44	0	55	No	
230	Charleston	96	99	5-15-44	0	50	No	
231	Key West	93	98	7-15-44	0	30	No	
232	Key West	99	99	1-15-44	0	30	No	
233	Pensacola	96	87	5-15-44	0	40	No	
234	Pensacola	100	80	8-1-44	0	65	No	
235	Galveston	100	100	-	84	100	No	
236	Galveston	100	82	7-15-44	0	75	No	
237	San Diego	96	99	-	75	45	No	
238	San Diego	100	100	-	100	100	Yes	
239	San Diego	100	71	-	100	65	Yes	

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TAB B (Cont'd)

NEW 6" BATTERIES, Cont. U. S.

Con- struc- tion No.	HARBOR DEFENSE	ENGINEER CONST.		ORDNANCE		SIGNAL	Capable of Firing
		Emp. %	Fire Control %	Del. Date	In- stalled %	In- stalled %	
240	Los Angeles	100	88	-	80	50	No
241	Los Angeles	80	87	6-15-44	0	40	No
242	Los Angeles	100	48	5-15-44	0	30	No
243	San Francisco	100	100	6-15-44	0	85	No
244	San Francisco	97	99	10-1-44	0	20	No
245	Columbia River	100	100	4-15-44	0	65	No
246	Columbia "	90	99	7-1-44	0	65	No
247	Columbia "	100	100	1-15-44	0	60	No
248	Puget Sound	100	100	-	100	100	Yes
249	Puget Sound	85	94	4-15-44	0	45	No
<u>NEW 8" BATTERIES, OVERSEAS</u>							
401	Roosevelt Rds.	100	0	-	100	0	Yes
402	Dutch Harbor	55	80	-	100	10	Yes
403	Kodiak	85	45	-	100	50	Yes
404	Kodiak	90	45	-	100	50	Yes
405	Kaneche Bay	67	0	-	100	0	Yes
406	Roosevelt Rds.	100	1	-	100	0	Yes

HEADQUARTERS ANTI-AIRCRAFT COMMAND
RICHMOND, VIRGINIAOFFICE OF THE
COMMANDING GENERAL

8 November 1943

Colonel L. A. Whittaker, CAC
Office of the Commanding General
Army Service Forces
Washington, D. C.

My dear Whittaker:

Please accept my very sincere thanks for the information contained in, and the trouble you went to, to prepare for me your letter of the fourth instant. It contains a most complete picture of the present status of the harbor defense modernization program. I was sorry to see that certain batteries had been deferred and others eliminated entirely, but all in all the program shared a better fate than I had feared for I had plenty of trouble in selling the idea to the War Department in the first place and later to the Congressional Appropriations Committee. That was at a time too when there was a possibility and many thought even a probability that our shores might be attacked. Personally, I feel that you and the War Department, who have been looking after this project, have done a swell job. There is no doubt in my mind that the action taken for modernizing the defenses will justify itself many times over in the years to come -- for it provides adequate insurance against an attack on this nation at a time when it may not be as well prepared to defend itself as it is today.

You can be sure that I will under no circumstances use officially any of the information you furnished me. However, it is helpful to me to have a general picture of the project as it is today for I am at heart, and know I always will be, a strong advocate of adequate defenses for our harbors. Moreover, I shall never miss an opportunity to preach that doctrine when the opportunity offers.

Again my sincere thanks and best wishes to you.



J. A. GREEN,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

*File with correspondence
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