

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority 785107

CONSTRUCTION DIVISION	NOV 23, 1917.
CANTONMENT DIVISION	
QUARTERMASTER	
REC	NOV 25 1917
NOTE	
REPORT	
APP. BY	

Constructing Quartermaster,

Brig. Genl. I. W. Littell, Cantonment Division, Washington, D. C.

Leases of site for Rifle and Artillery Target Range.

1. Inasmuch as the ground selected for Camp Wadsworth was insufficient in area and absolutely unsuited for a target range, due to being entirely surrounded by a highly developed farming and manufacturing district, it was necessary to choose a site some miles distant. The Chamber of Commerce of Spartanburg was instructed by The Southeastern Department to suggest a site for the target range.

2. In the first part of August, I inspected in a general way, a site proposed by The Chamber of Commerce, which was situated approximately 27 miles from Camp Wadsworth. This tract lay partly in Greenville County and partly in Spartanburg County, bounded on the north by the Piedmont range of mountains. Report was made on this tentative location to The Southeastern Department, and, subsequently, Major Michel of the Field Artillery was sent here from San Antonio, and, as a result of his visit, the boundaries of the range were more definitely fixed, and he approved the general location.

3. Early in September, Major General O'Ryan received word from the Southeastern Department advising him to proceed to obtain options on the property, these options to be exercised and leases made by the Chamber of Commerce of Spartanburg with the owners and a blanket lease made by the Chamber of Commerce to the United States Government, in the same way and manner as the original tract of Camp Wadsworth. General O'Ryan then being sent to other duty, Brigadier General Phillips assumed command of Camp Wadsworth.

4. Before General O'Ryan left, he appointed Captain C. W. Wickersham, Military Police, 27th Division, as his Agent to interview property owners and obtain options to lease the property. He proceeded with this work, and has obtained options on approximately 16,000 acres of land in the name of the Chamber of Commerce of Spartanburg, with approximately 110 owners, and containing approximately 100 buildings of all descriptions within the boundaries. One of the principle reasons for selecting this site, outside of the natural backstop formed by the mountains, was because of the widely scattered and small population.

5. Captain Wickersham obtained all of these options, and the Chamber of Commerce made a blanket option covering them all, and, then Captain Wickersham incorporated them in a report, giving a copy of his findings, and General Phillips forwarded them to The Adjutant General of the Army on October 22nd, with request for authority to enter into the leases. Not hearing from the War Department, he telegraphed several times, and then received a telegram from The Adjutant General, dated November 3rd, as follows:

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Brig. Genl. Littell - No. 2.

"Secretary of War directs that all leases of land in connection with Camps and Cantonments including land required for Rifle Ranges will be made through Department Commanders by Department Quartermaster, but that selection of sites of Rifle Ranges will be made by Division Commanders." (Signed) McCain.

Failing to receive from the War Department any return of the original papers in this matter, he wired on November 5th as follows:

"Retel third leases of land for Rifle Ranges. Papers on this subject mailed your office October twenty second. Will such papers be forwarded to Commanding General Southeastern Department or shall this office furnish same?" (Signed) Phillips.

Then, on November 15th, followed this with another telegram for information regarding the papers, and in reply, received this telegram, dated November 16th:

"Reference your telegram November fifteenth following telegram sent you November fifteenth repeated quote Retel November twelfth papers connected with lease of your target range returned this date through Quartermaster General and Cantonment Division. The Secretary of War holds that the Division Commander is responsible for selection of site and execution of lease within the limit of funds allotted for the purpose. The foregoing information of action your papers furnished for your guidance. Unquote." (Signed) McCain.

6. The above telegram would seem to indicate that the Division Commander is to proceed with executing these leases, and in view of the reference to the Cantonment Division, as indicated, it would seem that the funds referred to, may be the funds allotted to the Constructing Quartermaster of Camp Wadsworth under the appropriation of Shooting Galleries and Ranges, the total amount of this appropriation for construction of Rifle Range at Camp Wadsworth being \$147,900.00.

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Brig. Genl. Littell - No. 3.

7. Due to the great assistance given by troops of this Division in furnishing all of the labor required for the construction of the trenches, other than the carpentry work, there will be ample funds available after the construction of the Rifle Range, to pay for the leases for the balance of this year and all of 1918. Captain Wickersham estimates that the total amount necessary for the purpose of paying rentals, destruction of buildings and crop damages will not exceed \$50,000.00

- a. In view of the foregoing recital of facts, bearing in mind that the entire tract is available for Artillery and Infantry ranges, am I authorized to pay these rentals and crop damages out of funds allotted to me under the appropriation of Shooting Galleries and Ranges?
- b. If not, in whose possession are the funds referred to in the above mentioned telegram from General McCain, dated November 16th?

John D. Kilpatrick.

Major, Q.M.C., N.G.U.S.  
CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER.

JDK/JLR

*Wickersham*  
*McCain*

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( Spartanburg S.F.S. 451 CD-45

November 20, 1917.

Officer in Charge of Contract Construction.

Contracting Quartermaster, Camp Underhill, Spartanburg, S. C.

Leases for Target Range.

1. *forward* Replying to your letter of November 12th. In view of your statement that there will be sufficient funds of the amount allotted to you under the appropriation for "Shooting Galleries and Ranges", in addition to paying for all construction work, to pay for the leases for the balance of this year and all of 1918, you are authorized to pay damages for the destruction of buildings and any damage to property leased for target range out of such funds, as well as such portion of rental as has already accrued under terms of the lease. You should notify the Department Quartermaster of the Southeastern Department what sums you have made on the leases so he will be fully advised when the next payment of rentals shall fall due.

2. It is assumed that leases have been prepared providing for immediate payment of a lump sum for damages from the destruction of buildings and for any destruction and for monthly or yearly rental of the land, and that such leases have been executed on the part of the Government by the Department Quartermaster of the Southeastern Department. This office has never received any copy of such leases, but in view of the rentals mentioned in your letter of November 12th assumes that such leases have been prepared and executed by the contract and are now in the possession of the Department Quartermaster of the Southeastern Department.

3. This office desires to be informed of the amount paid by you upon the leases under the above instructions.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

I. W. Littell,

Inspector General, G. L. Corps, U. S. A.  
In Charge of Contract Construction.

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