

PAUL REVERE BUSINESS LETTERS, MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From SecWar Henry Knox, 4 Mar 1794:

"The Brass pieces of Cannon to which you allude were cast at the public Works at Springfield... For how much per pound could you find the metal, and cast an eight-inch howitzer weighing 1500 lbs and finish the same off in the best manner supposing you had six or ten to cast." [Note: Revere had alluded to these "Brass pieces" in a letter of 3 Feb 1794.]

From Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, PA, 16 Jun 1794:

The government wants 20 brass 8-inch howitzers. How Much? When can first pair be delivered? Each subsequent pair?

From SecWar, 17 Jun 1794:

Advises that Treasury will handle the howitzer contract.

From Samuel Hogdon to SecWar, 3 Jul 1794:

Estimated cost of a 3-pdr field piece on carriage is 96.13.4; for a similar 6-pdr, 154.3.4. These estimates agreed to by both Paul Revere and James Byers of Springfield.

From Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, PA, 21 Jul 1794:

Contract coming.

Paul Revere to Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, PA, 31 Jul 1794:

Contract signed this date. Copper will cost 1 sh. 2 p. per lb; tin, 1 sh. 8 p. Will need 16,400 lb copper and 1650 lb tin for 10 howitzers.

23 Jul 1794 contract:

For 10 8-inch brass howitzers, cast, proved and finished. Copper and tin furnished by US. Price: \$0.17/lb finished weight. First pair to be delivered to a wharf in Boston 6 weeks after delivery of metals, and at least another pair each month thereafter. US to bear expenses of proofing. SecWar to appoint proofing inspector.

From SecWar, 30 Jul 1794:

Contract has been sent. "The Dolphins and also the Arms of the United States are to

be upon them. The Arms are to be raised.

"...the Calibre of the Howitzer to be eight inches and twenty-five hundredth parts of an inch."

From Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, PA, 10 Nov 1794:

How much more metal will you need for the howitzers? Also, give me "an Estimate of the quantity of Metal and the terms for Casting Six Carronades agreeably to the Patern [sic] of those used on board the Frigate Le Concorde." The lowest terms are expected. You are the preferred maker.

From SecWar, 15 Nov 1794:

"I have received your letter of the 5th Instant and the Draft of the Brass Carronade, used on board the Concord frigate." I have asked Treasury to contract for 6.

From Tench Coxe, Philadelphia, PA, 6 Feb 1795:

"Mr. Francis" will be handling matters related to "the frigates" from now on.

From SecWar Timothy Pickering, 3 Apr 1795:

A Major Little now proofing cannon made in Rhode Island is expected to come to Boston to prove howitzers.

To Nelson Miller, blacksmith, Foxborough, MA, 1 May 1795:

Come and bring John and help me prove the howitzers. One has burst. I want to cast it again "& to Cast a Bell..."

From Nelson Miller, Foxborough, MA, 2 Jun 1795:

Receipt for \$24 for 12 days work by himself and his son, John.

From James Byers, Springfield, MA, 18 Jun 1795:

Some of the 10 brass howitzers he has been casting for the US have burst upon improper proofing.

From Stephen Rochefontaine, 22 Jun 1795:

A letter of introduction for Mr. D'Acosta, "a French Gentleman who will deliver you this, exchanged by government to make use of a new methode [sic] for Casting iron guns." Help him to cast demonstration models of the new system so that other manufacturers can be trained.

From SecWar, 8 Sep 1795:

Revere's letter of 31 Aug 1795 received reporting completion of the 10 howitzers. Deliver them to Caleb Gibbs for temporary storage at the "Navy Yard." SecWar will direct the Navy agent to accept them.

From James Byers, Springfield, MA, 23 Oct 1795:

Expect to finish my 10 howitzers in 3 weeks, barring mishaps. I've used about 15,073 lbs copper and 1500-1600 lbs tin.

From Samuel Hogdon, Superintendent of Military Stores, Philadelphia, PA, 24 Mar 1796:

What have you done with the howitzers? I understand you have 120 lbs of tin left over.

From John Davis, Treasury Comptroller, 24 Mar 1796:

Makes balance due payment of \$2498.99. Notes that Revere reported 320 lbs of tin remaining and says that Samuel Hogdon will order its disposition.

To Navy Agent Henry Jackson, Boston, MA, 28 Oct 1797:

Bill for CONSTITUTION work, including a 242 lb bell for \$108.90.

The Captain's Clerk
1989, TGM