

E.P.H

(1945) Department.

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Ms SERIES.

Go 5352 R.H.
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G.O. No.

1353 Edu

Dated

4/9/45

Order on p 13 CF

[Despatch Abstract.]

Physical Education - Y.M.C.A. College,
Saidapet - Construction of a swimming pool -
Grant of Rs. 35,000/- Sanctioned.

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
S.O.	1474	Edn	5.10.44				
S.O.	612	Edn	4.5.42				

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
G.O.	1908 Ms	Edn	14.11.45				

Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Educ
Saidapet, Madras.
Aug. 24, 1945.

Sir Norman Strathie, K.C.S.I., E.I.F.,
Adviser to H.E. the Governor,
Madras.

37635

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit that in connection with the swimming pool for the Allied Forces, a difficulty has arisen that is so urgent it cannot wait for the return of Sir Thomas Austin on the 26th. This explanation is, therefore, being sent to you, with the request for a grant of financial assistance.

The History of the Pool. When the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education was, in 1932, shifted from Royapettah to Saidapet, it was my husband's intention to develop the sixtyfive acres as a recreation centre for the entire city, and especially for its educational institutions. A college of physical education must be a community recreation centre if it is to provide adequate practical training and inspiration for its students.

For this purpose the former Agricultural Farm on the banks of the Adyar River is an almost ideal situation. The river and its proximity to the sea provide scope for aquatic sports, which are until now sadly lacking for the educational institutions and residents of Madras.

The request for alienation of the land was granted under the sole condition that it should be used for a physical education college or revert to government. The land had not been cultivated for many years and had reverted to scrub jungle. The funds for its clearance and development had been provided by the Y.M.C.A., though with difficulty, as it was felt by the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A. that an educational institution should look for support from the Department of Education, which, however, was not at the time forthcoming. The whole of the College buildings and equipment, except the women's hostels, has been financed by the Y.M.C.A. or by personal friends of my husband and myself.

The main administration block was the gift of Col. Vincent Massey of Toronto, Canada. The College hostels for men are the gift of friends of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A.

The International Committee of the Y.M.C.A. with its office in New York City has, through the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. with its office in Calcutta, invested Rs.5,31,000 in the College.

Repeated requests for a yearly teaching grant from the Department of Education were yearly refused on the ground that the College is an all-India institution, as it accepted students from the entire Continent, as well as from Burma, Thailand and Egypt.

Requests for financial assistance from the Central Government were refused on the ground that the College is a Provincial institution.

With very great difficulty, therefore, and slowly, the sixtyfive acre compound was recovered from the jungle. My husband had the vision of a pioneer and was certain, even when Theagarayanagar was still undeveloped that Madras would grow toward the south, and that the College compound would one day be easily accessible to pupils and students and its amenities appreciated and enormously used. He also had the patience of the pioneer, and was convinced that when the College reached its twenty-fifth anniversary, its programme and policy would be adequately understood and funds forthcoming for its yearly support and further development.

The twentyfifth anniversary was celebrated last year. As an indication of the value now attached by Mr. John Sargent to the work of the College, and its future possibilities, I enclose a copy of his letter dated 1-8-45. (Appendix 3).

2.
The anniversary found the College in the midst of an expanding educational programme and steadily increasing activities for the Allied Force. The use of the games fields and the growing number of men using the compound for leisure and recreation underlined the need for the swimming pool which had long been planned.

The pool had in fact, been one of the central features in all of the planning for the College. It had been hoped that Government would provide a half grant for its cost, if a private donor could meet the other half of the cost. One and a half lakhs was estimated as the sum required.

In 1938 a gift of Rs.75,000/- was promised by a resident of the City, but was later withdrawn. This was unfortunate for the educational institution of the City, and when the influx of troops arrived in the City, it was doubly unfortunate for them, as a cooling swim is one of their most desired recreations.

H.E. The Governor's War Fund met the need for the Forces in April 1944 with the gift of one lakh of rupees. It was expected that the pool would be ready for use in December 1944, but extreme and increasing difficulties in securing materials and transport delayed the opening until July 6th, 1945. This delay of six months was wasteful, irritating and expensive. Rising costs have, in spite of every effort at economy, increased the cost by Rs.35,000/-. This final figure would have been increased by a further Rs.10,000/- but for the private gift of timber to this value.

The final bills are now being totalled, and unfortunately at a time when the Governor's War Fund has exhausted its resources. It cannot meet the excess of Rs.35,000/-. But the bills must be paid. The College has no funds with which to meet the excess cost.

pTimp
The final bills are now under preparation, and will be forwarded immediately. They will indicate the care taken to provide a pool that meets every requirement of safety regarding its water supply. Appendix 1 gives a detailed statement of the permanent structures in use on this compound, most of which are constantly shared with the pupils and students of the City.

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Appendix 2 gives a list of buildings and equipment put up since 1939. When members of the Armed Forces no longer require the recreation we now provide, all wartime additions to the College will contribute to the enrichment of its normal, nation-building activities. There will then be available extra accommodations for students, both for teaching and residence. And the swimming pool will be available all of the time for the schools and colleges of Madras. Init boys and girls may receive expert instruction in swimming and in water sports.

The pool is reserved for the Forces daily from 9 A.M. until 7 P.M. The first six weeks since the pool has been open have been an experimental period. A satisfactory routine has now been established, and in order to derive the greatest possible benefit from the pool, a programme under 3 headings is planned.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Instruction and recreation for the Forces | 9 A.M. - 7 P.M. daily |
| 2. Instruction (by reservation) for schools and colleges | 7 - 9 A.M. daily |
| 3. Recreation for schools and colleges | 7 - 9 P.M. 5 days weekly |
| Recreation and Instruction - Saidapet Swimming Club | 7 - 9 P.M. 2 days weekly |

It is submitted that expenditure of Government funds upon the pool is a sound investment of funds at the disposal of the Department of Education. It is therefore requested that one of two alternatives be granted.

- HM/
1. That Government be pleased to sanction an immediate grant of Rs.35,000/- with which to meet the cost of the pool over and above the grant provided by the Governor's War Fund,

or

2. That Government, in recognition of the work of the College, be pleased to sanction a block grant of Rs.78,650/-, being

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half the cost of the contribution by H.E. The Governor's War Fund to items 1(a), 3(a), 4, 7, 8 and 9 of Appendix 2.

pg 1/2

The College would then refund to the Governor's War Fund Rs.43,650/- keeping the balance of Rs.35,000/- for the completion of payments for the swimming pool.

This refund, I have every reason to believe, would be welcome to the War Fund for meeting other urgent needs.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

M. H. Buck

Appendix 1

Capital Cost of Buildings, etc.

1. Massey Hall	..	..	Rs. 81,781-13- 4
2. Bungalow	..	..	26,211-14- 2
3. Hostels (Men)	..	..	28,018- 2- 4
4. Mess Hall	..	..	13,970- 0- 3
5. Store Room	..	..	1,268- 6- 8
6. Servants' Quarters	..	..	1,126- 4- 7
7. Fencing	..	..	4,845- 9- 6
8. Furniture	..	..	7,851-11- 6
9. Library	..	..	8,179- 5- 0
10. Laboratory	..	..	905-14-0
11. Sports Equipment	..	..	2,527-11- 9
12. Gymnasium Equipment	..	..	1,704-11- 3
13. Playground improvement	..	..	10,000- 0- 0
14. Plumbing and Sanitation	..	..	3,000- 0- 0
15. Electricity	..	..	3,000- 0- 0

		Rs.	1,94,391- 8- 4

Buildings and equipment added to the College since September 1939.

	Approximate cost	Paid for by
1. (a) Recreation, room, canteen and ancillary buildings	Rs.27,500	Rs.10,000/- by private subscription, Rs.17,500/- by H.E. Governor's War Fund
(b) Cold storage unit	7,500	H.E. Governor's War Fund
(c) Equipment and furniture	7,500	H.E. Governor's War Fund
2. (a) Five Leave Cottages for service men	30,000	Military Funds
(b) Furniture and equipment	6,000	H.E. Governor's War Fund
✓ 3. (a) Swimming pool	1,35,000	Rs.1,00,000 H.E. Governor's War Fund
(b) Equipment	6,000	H.E. Governor's War Fund
4. Water tower and sanitary installation	20,300	H.E. Governor's War Fund
5. Timber for fencing, furniture, sign boards, etc.	10,000	Private gift
6. Crowe Buck Memorial Theatre	15,000	Private gift
These items have been completed, but Rs.35,000/- approximately has still to be paid for the swimming pool.		
7. Sun bathing shelters	3,000	H.E. Governor's War Fund
8. Boat House and boats	10,000	H.E. Governor's War Fund
9. Skittle-alley	2,000	H.E. Governor's War Fund

The first two of these are in progress but no work has been done on item 9.

The total is

.. Rs. 2,829,200

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(6) Appendix 3

Educational Adviser to the
Government of India, New Delhi
1st August 1945.

Dear Mrs. Buck:

Please refer to my letter of June 1st. I have now read the papers you were good enough to send me with your letter of May 28th and I was particularly interested in your note about the possibility of future developments at the College.

A week or so ago Mr. Ladden came to see me and left with me some excellent photographs of your new additions including the swimming bath, which must be a great asset and joy to you all. On our trip to the USA together last year Ladden and I talked a good deal about the future of your College. As he has perhaps told you I believe it has a contribution of outstanding value to make towards post-war educational developments. The trouble at the moment is that the Government of India have not yet given the word to go full steam ahead and so I am not in a position to say in what precise and tangible forms we might help you or in what ways you could best help us.

At the same time there can be no possible doubt of the great need of this country for up-to-date P.T. experts and more particularly for the organizers and leaders for whom your two years course is apparently designed. I will not attempt to enter into details at this stage but I hope before very long to have an opportunity of discussing future plans with you and perhaps with the Governing Body. Between us we ought to be able to devise ways and means of establishing and developing still further the great work which Mr. Buck with your aid accomplished. To make the College the Great centre of inspiration for Physical and social activities in the new India would, I think, be a fitting memorial to him and probably the one he would have liked best.

P.T.O.

12
I fear there is not much chance of my being in or near Madras for some time to come but the Central Advisory Board of Education is meeting in Mysore in January and if I cannot come earlier, I shall try to spend a few days in Madras on the way there or back.

With very kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

JOHN SARGENT.

Issue today
11/9/45
4/5/45

(1) Edn. & P.H. (C) 13

Physical Education - Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet - Construction of a Swimming Pool - Grant of Rs. 35,000/- Sanctioned.

C.F. From Mrs. Buck, Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Edn., letter dated 24.8.45.

Order 1353 Edn., dated 4.9.45
Mrs. H.E. the Governor hereby sanctions the payment, from Provincial funds, of a grant of Rs. 35,000/- (rupees thirty five thousand) to the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet, towards the cost of construction of a Swimming Pool in the College.

2) The expenditure will be debited to "37. Education". The D.P. 9. is requested to ~~propose~~ make proposals in due course for the re-appropriation of funds in due course. or if necessary for an additional appropriation

3) The A.G. is requested to

admit the expenditure, pending provision of funds.

Tos
3/9/45
8/9/45

3-5-45

Despd
RM
4-9-45

To

The D.P.O.

The A.G. Third Finance

Mrs. Brock, Y.M.C.A.
College of Physical Edn,
Saidapet.
P.W.D. (?)

Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet
Swimming Pool - Grant. Letter dated 24/8/45.

From Mrs. Brock, Y.M.C.A. College

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vide No 612/42.

I think there is every justification for Govt giving Rs 3000 grant in this case. The pool is being used by children swimming on an essential part of Physical Edn. Please see if there are other papers relating to the question of the pool in the files.



HP
24.9.45

As remarked by A, the statement at A on page 1 of is not correct. The Y.M.C.A. college is being paid teaching grant on the half net cost basis from 1942-43 - please see go no: 612 Edu & 4.5.42.

A site adjoining the college compound was alienated to the Y.M.C.A. in 1935 for constructing a swimming pool - please see go no: 2610 Res & 2.11.35. This idea was to improve an existing old tank in the site & in July 1937, the proposals of the Principal of the college for the construction of the swimming pool was approved by Govt - please see go no: 1717 Edu.

make it fit for a swimming pool - C/3.

The work was estimated to cost about Rs 7,300, excluding electric pump, wiring, etc.

30.7.37, in October 1944 the college authorities represented that the site was unsuitable for the construction of the pool and requested permission to construct the pool and requested permission to construct the pool.

- 0/3

July 1912

Please see the minutes of A. in p. 1 above and the
of Feb. 11. following.

15025

1. On the circumstances stated, this left-hand copy
to a front of £. 32,000/- of the Y. M. C. A. College of

Physical Education, located towards the east of
Construction of a swimming pool. (The pool is to be built in the

15026

2. As the front is for a new object, the proposal will
have to be treated as a new device, and will in fact
circulation obtained. Feb. 11. will also have to obtain

11. 11. construction of a swimming pool. (The pool is to be built in the
in the same.

3. The expenditure in building a swimming pool is estimated at £. 32,000/-
This left-hand copy is for the Y. M. C. A. College of Physical Education, located towards the east of

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