

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1447

Press
~~Mis.~~

30-31

Dated

13-10-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1447

No. 30. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort St. George, dated Calicut, 22nd September 1858, No. 121.

SIR,

No. 1164. On receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 24th Ultimo, I at once transmitted a copy of them to Lieutenant Blomfield, Commanding the Malabar Police Corps, with a request that he would give effect to the orders of Government, as contained in para. 4, and hand over the Ponies, Harness, &c., to the Officer Commanding the European Detachment on his application.

2. I also requested him to let me know whether it would be necessary in consequence of the above arrangements, to propose any modification regarding the erection of the quarters for the Non-Commissioned Officers of the Malabar Police Corps, which had been sanctioned under No. 1748. date the 27th Ultimo, for entry in the Budget of 1859-60.

* Dated 16th September 1858, No. 152. 3. A copy of Lieutenant Blomfield's reply,* is forwarded for the information of Government, as I think it right, that they should be placed in possession of the opinion of one, who from his intimate knowledge of the locality, is well able to judge of the effect of the changes which will be produced on the Cantonment, by the erection of the new buildings lately sanctioned for the Europeans.

4. To carry out the orders of Government, considerable expense will be incurred in shifting the Stables, Harness-rooms, &c., and it will be necessary to alter the estimate amounting to Rupees 2,440, for converting certain native buildings into Quarters for the Apothecary and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Malabar Police Corps, as the latter will probably have to take up their quarters close to where the sphere of their future duties will be. New houses will have to be constructed for them, and until they are built, it would, I fear, be most inconvenient to move the Stables and Harness-rooms, &c., of which they have immediate charge, to a distant part of the Cantonment.

5. Having thus placed the matter before Government, I venture to request their orders as to whether the Stables, Harness-rooms, &c., are to be removed immediately, the Non-Commissioned Officers' houses being left where they are, or whether these latter should also be moved, the estimate which was sanctioned for their improvement being cancelled, and a fresh one made to suit the requirements of the changes proposed.

6. A perusal of Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated September 10th, 1858, leads me to conclude that there is some misapprehension on the part of Government, as to the existing state of things in connection with the mountain train and Ponies, Harness, &c., for in the Abstract of Extract Minutes of Consultation, of 24th August 1858, the whole of the equipment of the Malabar Police Corps is directed to be kept in charge of the Officer Commanding that Corps and the Gun-shed to be removed to the European Barracks, whereas the orders conveyed in para. 4 of the above Extract Minutes of Consultation, direct that the Ponies and all belonging to them should be made over to the Officer Commanding the Europeans.

From Lieut. C. G. BLOMFIELD, Commanding M. P. Corps; to the Acting Collector of Malabar, Calicut, dated Camp near Malliaprom, 16th September 1858, No. 152.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Minutes of Consultation, No. 1062, dated 24th August 1858, containing a letter from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, on the subject of the Mountain train at Malaprom, and an order from Government, as to its disposition.

I observe that in the 1st para. of this order, Government approve of the recommendation of the Inspector General, Ordnance and Magazines, as to the expediency of placing the Train in charge of a resident Officer, who has had experience in its use, and direct the Magistrate of Malabar to adopt the necessary means to carry out the arrangement. In the 2nd, 3rd and 4th directions are given, which have the effect of entirely annulling all previous orders, placing the Train on entirely a new footing, and entailing considerable, and what appears to me to be unnecessary expense.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 19th October 1858.

I presume that Government have passed these orders under a misapprehension with regard to the relative position of the European Barracks, and the Police Corps lines, Stables and Gun-sheds. The two cantonments occupy the same plateau on an elevation of about 200 feet above the plain (being only separated by a piece of waste land about 300 yards broad;) and form conjointly a very strong position, the approach from Palghat (the public road from which to Calicut runs through both Cantonments) being commanded by the position of the Police Corps, and that from Calicut by that of the Europeans. When the new buildings lately sanctioned for the Europeans are erected, it is probable that the Cantonments will actually join, and would be advantageously formed into one.

The present directions from Government, which would appear to involve the pulling down of the Stables and Harness-rooms, workshops, Serjeants' houses, &c., (merely to shift them perhaps 400 yards) would utterly break up the establishment of the Police Corps, and would appear to me to be incurring very considerable expense with very little practical advantage. The materials would be almost useless, and the difficulty of transfer very considerable.

It is very justly considered inadvisable, that Guns should for the future be left within the power of any native soldiery. The Malabar Police Corps is however a very small body of men, consisting almost entirely of Nairs, about the most well affected and soldier-like class from which men could possibly be recruited, and even were the 39 Moplas of the Corps to rise in a body, they would be disposed of without doing much harm even without the assistance of the Europeans. I consider, that, considering there are no other Moplas on the plateau, except one or two bazaar-men connected with the Europeans, the Guns would be perfectly safe in the Gun-shed of the Police Corps, in charge of a European Guard; should however this be considered inadvisable, I would suggest that the Gun-shed should alone be removed.

Were the Detail of European Gunners (apparently adverted to in the last para. of the M. C.) attached, they might, if located near the Guns, be able to hold the position with perfect ease against almost any number of Native assailants.

On the question of the greater efficiency of the Train in the hands of a resident Officer, the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines has already recorded his opinion in which Government have concurred, I would therefore request, that until further instructions are issued, or an Artillery Officer specially appointed to take charge of the Train, you will kindly join me in representing to Government, the advisability of suspending such portion of their orders of the 24th August 1858, as neutralize the effect of the directions contained in the 1st para. of the same, and the ratification of the opinion of the Inspector General of Ordnance therein recorded.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. GRANT,
Acting Magistrate.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, No. 1447; dated 13th October 1858.

With his own observations the Acting Magistrate of Malabar submits, with the above letter, a communication from the Officer Commanding the Malabar Police Corps, respecting the transfer of the Mountain Train to the lines of the European Detachment at Malliappoorum. He also points out that the concluding sentence of the 1st para. of Extract Minutes Consultation of 24th August last, No. 1164, is at variance with the subsequent paras.

2. The sentence above alluded to has been inadvertently inserted in the order from an error of the copyist. It must be considered as cancelled. The intention of Government is—as expressed in paras 2, 3 and 4 of the Extract Minutes Consultation above quoted—that, it being objectionable that guns should be left within the power of any Native soldiery, the Mountain Train at Malliappoorum with the Ammunition, Tools, Stores, Ponies and Equipment of every kind should be made over to the Officer Commanding the European Detachment, and should be kept within the European lines. This arrangement will be carried out whatever may be the present expense and inconvenience.

3. To enable Government however to form a judgment of the arrangements required for attaining the above object, the Acting Magistrate of Malabar will be requested to submit at an early date, a plan of the Malliappoorum Cantonment, shewing the present position of the Euro-

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 19th October 1858.

pean and Native lines and chief buildings attached to them, and of those proposed to be provided, as also the measures which will have to be taken whether by the construction of new buildings or shifting of those now standing, to enable the intention of Government above expressed to have full effect given it. Meanwhile the removal of the Gun-shed, as ordered in para. 3 Extract Minutes Consultation 24th August, to the European Barracks should at once be proceeded with, as also the erection within the European lines of any buildings connected with the Mountain Train that have to be constructed *de novo*. The transfer of the buildings already standing may lie over until the Government have before them the plan now called for.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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was in the old story -

Judicial Department

No 11647

Extract from the minutes of Consultation
Dated 13 October 1858.

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from the Acting Magistrate of Malabar
(Here enter 22d Sept 58 No 121.)

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1st para of Sub. Minis. Cons. of 24th
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with the subsequent paras.

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inadvertently inserted in the
from an error of the copyist
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1st para of the order
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- on the 24th of
This was objected
- on the 24th of*

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an early date, a plan of the
Malliappuram Cantonment,
showing the present position

of the European Station Lines
and chief buildings attached to them
as also the measures which will
have to be taken whether by the
construction of new buildings or
shifting of those now standing
to enable the intention of Govt.
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effect given it. Meanwhile
the removal of the Gen. shed,
as ordered in para 3 R.R. Co. 24th
Sept., - to the European Barracks
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Copy to Act's Magistrate of Malabar.

Dr. Knapton Journal of Ordnance & magazines

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2 Aug. 20th

4. The whole of
rectifying them
noticed in para 2. } Prob worked Septth
Only Septth

W. L. Long 1857
of 1859 Jan 31 -

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