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Sectt. I (i)-I-10,006-7-10-70.

- (1) Number of pages 6
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

JUDL DEPARTMENT

CONFID-Go

G.O. No.	1573	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	24-7-1888	1975

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CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Defences—Coast.

Read the following papers:—

No. . From Brigadier-General M. C. FARRINGTON, C.B., Adjutant-General, Madras Army, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 21st June 1888, No. 16-CE. (Defences).

In compliance with Order of Government, No. 413, dated 20th January 1888, I am directed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to forward, herewith, a scheme of defence for the port of Madras prepared by the General Officer Commanding Eastern District, with the following observations thereon:—

1. With reference to an attack by land, Pondicherry is the only probable place for the disembarkation of a hostile force. In the event of a war with France, it should be seized immediately on declaration of war by a force previously detailed for the purpose.

2. In the event, however, of a landing being effected, the field force proposed by the General Officer Commanding would have to be augmented by troops from Bangalore and other stations.

3. With regard to the artillery force required for manning the coast armaments, an additional garrison battery would, of course, be very desirable, but failing that, the question of supplementing the battery of garrison artillery either by volunteers or by a local corps of native garrison artillery or by the addition of native gunners to the garrison battery of Royal Artillery must be decided. It is doubtful whether the majority of the volunteers are physically fit for the work of garrison artillery.

As yet the volunteers of this presidency are in no way under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief as they are in Bengal and Bombay, and, until they are so placed, they should not, in His Excellency's opinion, be included in the personnel of our coast defences. This has already been brought to the notice of Government.

It will, however, be necessary, whatever method may be adopted for supplementing the battery of garrison artillery, to have the British infantry stationed in the fort carefully trained in the drill of heavy guns.

4. With reference to the remark of the General Officer Commanding under the heading "Detailed Scheme" that "no detailed scheme of orders seems called for," he will be directed, in consultation with departments and civil authorities, to prepare detailed orders in the form of instructions which would actually have to be issued under the supposed circumstances, so that on the outbreak of hostilities a matured plan of action, with necessary orders and instructions, will be ready for the guidance of all concerned.

5. The work proposed to render the fort tenable would take many weeks of labor, and much of it would be of little use against high angle fire with heavy shell, and with regard to the remarks on barracks in Section XIII, there is probably not a bombproof in the fort which would keep out a heavy shell at a high angle.

6. In Section VII the General Officer Commanding advocates the demolition of the outworks, but as their demolition would be of little or no advantage in resisting an attack by sea, and as it would entail an enormous expense, His Excellency does not recommend it.

7. In Section VII, para. 13, the General Officer Commanding states that "the Defence Committee have decided strongly against the use of electric or other lights as only disclosing the position of batteries." In this His Excellency cannot concur, and is of opinion that there should be three search lights at intervals along the line of coast batteries.

8. With regard to transport, arrangements might be made with the Commissioner of Police, who could be informed of the number of vehicles and animals required to supplement Government transport, but His Excellency doubts whether it would be advisable to resort to registration other than what already exists as calculated to create unnecessary excitement.

9. With regard to Section XVII, Intelligence, His Excellency considers it is very necessary to have a small vessel with a high rate of speed for intelligence purposes as well as to take part in the defence. The selection of a vessel best suited for this purpose should be left to the Naval Commander-in-Chief.

10. With reference to Section XXV, there appears to be at present no provision in Madras for extinguishing fires; no fire brigade and no fire engines except those in military charge. Gangs of coolies new to the work would be of little use.

From Brigadier-General G. J. SMART, Commanding Eastern District, to the Adjutant-General, Madras Army, Ootacamund; dated Madras, 14th May 1888, No. 36 (Defences).

With reference to your letter, No. 46 T.C., dated Camp, Madras, 18th February 1888, the enclosures of which are herewith returned as requested, I have the honor to forward a detailed scheme for the defence of the port of Madras on the lines laid down by the Horse

G.O., No. 413, of 20th January 1888.
Procs. of Madras Govt., No. 2398, of 6th May 1885.

Guards in the instructions received with your letter above quoted.

2. As, by the instructions, it will be necessary to carefully revise the scheme annually, I beg that I may be supplied with G.O., No. 413, of 20th January 1888, and Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 2398, of 6th May 1885, to be kept by me.

From Brigadier-General G. J. SMART, Commanding Eastern District, to the Adjutant-General, Madras Army, Ootacamund; dated Madras, 14th May 1888, No. 37 (Defences).

With reference to my remarks in Section VI, page 15, of the scheme for the defence of Madras forwarded to you this day with my letter No. 36, I have the honor to point out that the 9" guns mounted in the Beach batteries are not of sufficient power to defend Madras from a ship at sea.

2. The range of these guns is estimated at about 5,000 yards, but this is far beyond a range at which good penetrating power could be secured. At present these guns, six in number, are the only modern guns mounted in Madras, and yet recent improvements in construction of ordnance have rendered them almost obsolete, and unless new guns of increased power and range are mounted in Madras, I cannot consider the town at all secure from a bombardment from the sea, as now a ship might lie in the roads out of range of the guns now mounted, and with perfect security to herself render a vast amount of damage to the shipping in harbour and the town.

3. The Defence Committee recommended larger guns for the defence of Madras, and I trust this recommendation will meet with the approval of Government and that the suggestions of the committee will be carried into effect. To render Madras secure from a bombardment from the sea heavier guns are urgently required.

From Major-General H. McLEOD, R.A., Inspector-General of Ordnance, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Royal Artillery, Ootacamund; dated Fort St. George, 2nd June 1888, No. 3068-O.

In reply to your letter, No. 2058, dated 29th ultimo, inquiring whether there are any 10" B.L. guns in the Madras Ordnance Circle, I have the honor to state, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that there are none at present nor is it likely that there will any for some time to come as the Director-General of Ordnance in India has intimated that the manufacture of guns of this description for India has not yet been put in hand.

2. A copy of the range table is not available for supply as none have yet been furnished and the range table for this gun is not included among those entered in the latest treatise on guns.

3. The Proceedings of Government are returned.

No. From Brigadier-General M. C. FARRINGTON, C.B., Adjutant-General, Madras Army, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 29th June 1888, No. 636-E (Defences).

Adverting to your telephonic message of the 25th instant, inquiring whether the scheme of defence for Lower Burma has been received and transmitted to the Adjutant-General in India, I have the honor, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief, to inform you that the scheme in question was forwarded to the Adjutant-General in India on the 28th instant in accordance with the instructions contained in para. 2 of Order of Government, No. 413, dated 20th January 1888.

No. ORDER THEREON, 20 July 1888, No. 4939.
Ordered that the foregoing papers be forwarded for the consideration and orders of the Government of India.

2. With reference to para. 4 of the Adjutant-General's letter above recorded, the Government request to be furnished with five copies of the "detailed instructions" for record in the Military Department.

No. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; dated July 1888, No.

(True Extract.)

A. Kenney-Herbert
Brigdr.-Genl.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant-General.
" Quarter Master General.
" Inspector-General of Ordnance.
" Judicial Department.

Ed. E. Fernandes.

Indians No 3168

Govt. of (1888) Madras.

MILITARY.



CONFIDENTIAL.

To
THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

Dated July, .

Issued

Recd.

*(Min's)
G. O. 20 July 1888
accompanied by Encl.
barr. 12.9.92. v. d.
Conf. 1892
G. O. 20 July 1888*

G.O., 20 July 1888, No. 4932

JULY.

Nos. — .

Defences—Coast.

Defence of the Port of Madras.—Scheme prepared by the General Officer Commanding Eastern District for the — with the remarks of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief thereon, ordered to be forwarded to the Government of India.

40. 24 July 1888 No. 1573

Recorded.

2127

24 July

ORDINARY, MS.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 24th July 88

No. 1573.

Confidential

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

Coast Defence Recording
 Proceedings of Military Dept
 forwarding scheme to Genl.
 Officer Commanding Eastern
 District for the defence of
 Madras Port.

3 Sheets

P. No. 1 and 2