

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Case No. 8-57

G.O. No. / 542	Press Mis.
Dated 8-8-18	5)

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2/17/37

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 11th August 1857.

No. 55. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, in the Military Department, dated 21st July 1857, No. 2429.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army ; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 16th July 1857, No. 266.

SIR,

I have the honor by order of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief, to annex for the information of Government copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding Artillery in the Southern Division, on the subject of constructing out of materials at hand a Reserve Magazine capable of holding an ample supply of Gun and Musket Ammunition in the vicinity of the European Barracks at Trichinopoly, the main supply at present being drawn from the Fort a position highly inconvenient and might be hazardous also.

2. All local authorities support the suggestion, and General Beresford recommends it for early adoption.

3. Captain Cadell's views cannot be better represented than by giving his letter in extenso.

Letter from Captain A. T. CADELL, Commanding Artillery, Southern Division, Trichinopoly ; to the Fort Adjutant, at Trichinopoly, dated 9th July 1857, No. 262.

SIR,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Brigadier Commanding the Station that as a great want exists in there being no Reserve or other Magazine in the neighbourhood of the European Barracks (excepting the very small one in the compound of the Fort Artillery Barracks) and as the place in the Barrack square used as a Magazine by the Troop of Horse Artillery is a very imperfect Building for such a purpose, and moreover as the Station has the great disadvantage of having the main Magazine isolated and in the Fort, it would be advisable I think as a comparatively temporary measure (for I trust the inexpediency of retaining the Arsenal and main Magazine in the Fort and at a distance from the European Barracks will, be recognised and amended by their removal to a judiciously selected position) that a Field Magazine such as are constructed in permanent Field works, and Batteries, should be constructed in the immediate vicinity of the small Magazine of the Foot Artillery.

2. In this a good stock of spare powder for the use of the Artillery, and of Musket ammunition, if the European Barracks were occupied by Infantry, would be kept at hand and in security, which the present stock of Powder cannot be said to be in, under the charge of a small Native Gaurd ; and if a fire broke out in the crowded neighbourhood of the Magazine, it would be very critically situated.

3. The Timber which is lying massed near the Batteries, would afford material I think for constructing the Magazine, and if the beams were thoroughly coated with tar, and a layer of Tarpaulins was laid over them under the earth-work, the building would resist the attacks of white-ants for some years by which time it may be hoped the regular Magazine which it was in contemplation to build outside the Town will be constructed—and if the flooring is composed to the depth of 9 or 12 inches of river sand and broken charcoal the contents of the Magazine might be preserved with moderate care, from white-ants.

4. A Magazine capable of containing 100 or 150—90 lbs. Barrels would be sufficient for preserving a good allowance of Powder clear of the Town in security—if two small Magazines could be more easily constructed and at a less expense than a larger one they might be substituted for the one which I have taken the liberty of proposing.

East India Company, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

General Sir George, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

General Sir George, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

General Sir George, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

General Sir George, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

General Sir George, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Major,

Adj. Dy. Secretary to Government.

General Sir George, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

General Sir George, Public Works Commission of 11th August 1857.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Adj. Dy. Secretary to Government.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 21st July 1857.

and the following letter, from Lieut. Col. F. A. Reid, Quarter Master General of the Army, 16th July 1857, No. 266; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Sir,

I have the honor by order of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief, to annex for the information of Government copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding Artillery in the Southern Division, on the subject of constructing out of materials at hand a Reserve Magazine capable of holding an ample supply of Gun and Musket Ammunition in the vicinity of the European barracks at Trichinopoly, the main supply at present being drawn from the Fort a position highly convenient and might be hazardous also.

2. All local authorities support the suggestion and General Beresford recommends it for early adoption.

3. Captain Cadell's views cannot be better represented than by giving his letter in extenso.

from Captain A. T. Cadell, Commanding Artillery Southern Division, Trichinopoly 9th July 1857, No. 262; to the Fort Adjutant, Trichinopoly.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Brigadier Commanding the Station that as a great want exists in there, being no Reserve or other Magazine in the neighbourhood of the European Barracks (excepting the very small one in the Compound of the Foot Artillery Barracks) and as the place in the Barrack square used as a Magazine by the Troop of Horse Artillery is a very imperfect Building for such a purpose, and moreover as the Station has the great disadvantage of having the main Magazine isolated and in the Fort, it would be advisable to think as a comparatively temporary measure (for I trust the inexpediency of retaining the Arsenal and main Magazine in the Fort and at a distance from the European Barracks will be recognised and amended by their removal to a judiciously selected position) that a Field Magazine such as are constructed in permanent Field works, and Batteries, should be constructed in the immediate vicinity of the small Magazine of the Foot Artillery.

2. In this a good stock of spare powder for the use of the Artillery, and of Musket ammunition, if the European Barracks were occupied by Infantry, would be kept at hand and in security, which the present stock of Powder cannot be said to be in, under the charge of a small Native Guard; and if a fire broke out in the crowded neighbourhood of the Magazine, it would be very critically situated.

3. The Timber which is lying massed near the Batteries, would afford material I think for constructing the Magazine, and if the beams were thoroughly coated with tar, and a layer of tarpaulins was laid over them under the Earth-work, the building would resist the attacks of white ants for some years by which time it may be hoped the regular Magazine which it was in contemplation to build outside the Town will be constructed—and if the flooring is composed to a depth of 9 or 12 inches of river sand and broken charcoal the contents of the Magazine might be preserved with moderate care, from white ants.

4. A Magazine capable of containing 100 or 150—90 lbs. Barrels would be sufficient for serving a good allowance of Powder clear of the Town in security—if two small Magazines could be more easily constructed and at a less expense than a larger one they might be substituted for the one which I have taken the liberty of proposing.

from Lieut. Col. G. Balfour, Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, 17th July 1857, No. 166; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Sir,

I beg to represent to Government that the Commissary of Ordnance Trichinopoly brought to my notice in letter as per margin the views of the Officer Commanding the Division on the subject of Flint Lock arms and the position of the Arsenal at Trichinopoly.

2. I expressed a readiness to look up the First Lock arms, and pointed out, in letter
 No. 1921 dated 10th July 1857, I also applied to the Adjutant General for information as
 to the intended use of the arms. The Adjutant General's reply, in letter No. 1941 dated 10th July 1857, was that the arms were to be used with the
 No. 3200, dated 11th July 1857, in which the Commander in Chief of the Madras Army, in
 these words, "I must continue to keep some First Lock
 pieces to meet demands as per letter from Adjutant General
 noted in the margin."

The Officer Commanding Southern Division has, in reply to my communication, intimated
 to me as set forth in the margin, that he has
 applied for permission to construct a temporary
 Magazine in the neighbourhood of the Fort Arul-
 very barracks in the Cantonment of Trichino-
 poly, and this I recommend to the favorable
 consideration of Government.

Sanctioned as proposed—and to be carried into effect without delay.
 As security against accidents by fire &c. a mud wall should be erected round the platform
 if practicable.

(True Extract and Copies)

W. H. D. Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
 " Inspector General of Ordnance.
 " Department Public Works.

Ex L. R. Spear.

