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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

[illegible] DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 6	Press Mis.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 1st September 1857.

Read the following papers.

No. 12. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 29th July 1857. No. 2535.

From Colonel A. T. Cotton, Commandant of Engineers.

(Here enter 17th July 1857, No. 442.)

From the Quarter Master General of the Army.

(Here enter 25th July 1857, No. 284.)

The Governor in Council authorizes the immediate execution under the directions of the Brigadier Commanding the Mount of the works proposed in the Quarter Master General's letter, leaving any further arrangements to be made hereafter.

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 13. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 8th August 1857, No. 2683.

Read the following letter from Brigadier Æ. SHIRREFF, Commanding the Mount; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort St. George, dated 6th August 1857, No. 394.

SIR,

To enable me to commence at once on the Works to fortify the Hill at this station sanctioned by Government, I have the honor to request you will be good enough to obtain me authority to draw from the Treasury Rupees (2,000) two thousand to be adjusted hereafter or as soon as the estimate of the expense is prepared by the local Engineer.

The advance of (2,000) two thousand Rupees applied for is sanctioned.

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 14. Letter from G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., Accountant General; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 14th August 1857, No. 119.

SIR,

An Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 8th Instant, No. 2683, in the Military Department, sanctioning an advance of Rupees 2,000 applied for by the Brigadier Commanding Saint Thomas' Mount for commencing the work of fortifying the Hill at that station, has been communicated to me from that Department, and Brigadier Shirreff requested me to instruct the Sub Treasurer at Fort Saint George, to pay him the sum in question, on his receipt.

In para. 49 of the Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 12th March 1857, No. 461, the Government observed, in order to avoid confusion in the accounts of the Paying Officers, that it is proper to sanction once for all certain sums for each District computed on some fixed principles: the sum so sanctioned remaining unaltered for the year. My compliance with the Brigadiers' request will, therefore, be contrary to the principles laid down by Government in respect to making advances for the execution of Public Works, because the proper course for that Officer to follow would have been to draw the amount from the District Engineer of Chingleput out of the funds placed at his disposal for meeting the expenses on account of emergent and isolated works, but in the absence of any specific instructions from the Government in the Department of Public Works, and in order to avoid any delay in the commencement of the work, I

for

have thought it proper to instruct, at once, the District Engineer of Chingleput, to advance the amount required by the Brigadier, I hope this proceeding will meet the approval of Government.

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, No. 1643; dated 26th August 1857.

In the first Extract above recorded, Government authorized the immediate execution of certain works proposed by the Quarter Master General of the Army, for fortifying the Hill at St. Thomas' Mount. In the second Extract, an advance of 2,000 Rupees applied for by the Officer Commanding the Mount was sanctioned, to enable him to carry on the above work.

2. In the third paper above recorded, the Accountant General reports that, on an application from Brigadier Shirreff, requesting that the sum may be paid by the Sub Treasurer, he desired the District Engineer of Chingleput to pay at once the advance required by the Officer Commanding the Mount from the funds placed at his disposal for the execution of Public Works. The Government approve of the course followed by the Accountant General; and direct that the two first Extracts above recorded be communicated to the Chief Engineer, in order that he may be enabled to admit the advance made by the District Engineer of Chingleput at the request of the Accountant General.

3. The Officer Commanding the Mount will furnish the District Engineer of Chingleput with a Bill for the sum that may be expended in the fortification of the Hill, so that he may account to the Chief Engineer for the sum he advanced.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

3P

Commandant of Engineer's Office

No. 442.

From

Colonel A. T. Cotton

Commandant of Engineers

To

Colonel C. A. Browne

Secretary to Government

in the Military Department

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a Memorandum on the immediate measures which appear to me adviseable to take at the Mount Cantonment, to prevent mischief there by any momentary disturbance that might occur. Agreeably to the orders I received from the Right Honorable the Governor, I met Brigadier Shirreff there and inspected the Mount with him, and the Paper I now send is the result of my consultation.

Fort Saint George
17th July 1857

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) A Cotton Colonel
Commandant of Engineers

Referred to the Provincial Commander in Chief for his observations as soon as convenient.

Fort Saint George
22d July 1857

(Signed) C. A. Browne Col
Secretary to Governmt

Memorandum on the defence of the Moun

Cantonment from any momentary disturbanc

The leading points that seem first to require attention in this case are.

1st. That the expense Magazine is on the outskirts of the Cantonment entirely out of the reach of protection with so small a Force as is now at the Mount.

2d. The Percussion Cap manufactory and the Field train are in a building quite unprotected by any works, though it is near the Barracks.

To remedy the first it is now indispensable at once to provide a Magazine, where it will be covered by the Troops. The spot I would propose is on the east

Cann
as soon
Fort
22 Fe

With reference to the approaches to the Cantonment, it is to be observed that there are no particular approaches that it would be useful to command, because the whole country is open and practicable, and even the river which flows at a distance of from 1 to 1½ mile from the Mount is passable at many points.

It would have been highly desirable to have thrown up about four Field works armed with Guns on the outside of the Trees and Houses in the Cantonment, so as to sweep the open country around, but without Infantry or Cavalry, to cover the retreat of the artillery it seems to be dangerous to place Guns where they would be liable to be seized. Such outworks just to cover small Detachments with rifles, who could

if

if necessary retire without any thing to delay them, would be of great use and I would recommend their construction.

I have applied to the Chief Engr for permission for Mr O'Hara to make an enlarged survey of the top of the Hill, and to take the levels of the Spurs referred to, so as to shew their Command. This can be done in a day.

In addition to the above works I think that it would be extremely useful to form a Communication along the East face of the Hill clear of the buildings, by cutting a ledge on its face from the North to the Southern Spur so as to allow of Troops moving, without being entangled among the narrow Streets and Houses that lie between the Hill and the Barracks. This could be formed without much labor. It would also be very desirable to make a cross road from the Depôt to meet this road.

If 68 prs could be provided for the Hill Batteries they would have the great advantage of ranging 1000 yards to 2000 yards beyond the Cantonment and thus sweeping the open country where there is scarcely any cover at all.

If there were time &ca to allow of further works being executed, I would recommend works being thrown up, connecting the Mess House Depôt, Hospital and Church, which are all in one line and near together, and would then form a very strong position.

Commandant of Engrs Office
Fort St George   Signed F. Cotton Colo.
17th July 1857-   Commandant of Engineers-

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PW 1833/57

Quarter Master General's Office,
Fort St. George 25th July 1857.

No. 284.

From The Quarter Master General
of the Army.
To The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

I am directed by the Provincial Commander in Chief to request you will be so good as to lay the following before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, being the result of General Beresford's perusal of Colonel Cotton's memo on the defence of the Mount Cantonment from any momentary disturbances, referred for the Provincial Commander in Chief's observations, under date 22d Instant.

The Commander in Chief in the first place, strongly advocates some protection of the mount by simple works grounded upon Colonel Cotton's able report and would suggest the following as a temporary measure.

As first and chief work, the excavated magazine. The present condition of the ammunition is very insecure. This seems to require chiefly cooly labour, which can easily be provided.

Six - 68 Prs placed upon two platforms 3 in each, this will require only levelling of the Hill as explained by Colonel Cotton, making the level communication he suggests on the east side, by cutting into the Hill and protecting it by a breastwork of rubbish and stones along its corner.

The

The Depot square to be protected by the very simple works called circular Redans at each of the four corners. These the Major General desires me to say he saw introduced during the troubled times in Ireland at all the Barracks.

They are placed upon strong beams well imbedded on the top of the walls with a sufficient length within to admit of being firmly propped up. Upon these can, in a few days be constructed the circular Redan, the floor of wood, perforated for musketry. The walls made Bullet proof say four feet high with outer and inner casing of boards the space between to be filled with earth and Sand. A Roof to shelter from rain and sun. These would, by their protection, enfilade all the sides of the Square, and be a protection to such parts of the Siege Train as cannot be brought inside. Each Redan should be capable of holding 8 men, and be accessable by a broad Ladder from within.—

On the completion of these, General Beresford would gladly desire to see the further protection, as given in Colonel Cotton's report, of a few simple redoubts of Earthwork at the angles of the Station, these might be held by the European of the Depôt without Cannon. The occupants would retreat into the Square, whilst a sharp

fire

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fire from them would check a rush of rabble and give time for the European Inhabitants to seek an asylum in the Depot.

If the Brigadier was authorized to prepare thus much alone. The Provincial Commander in Chief is of opinion that all would be completed in a very few days.

I have the honor to be &c.
(Signed) F. A. Reid
Qr. Mr. Genl.

Fort St. George
25th July, 1857.

Compd. Cr

PW 1633/57

Military Department

No. 2535

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 29th July 1857
Read the following Papers

From Colonel A. T. Cotton
Commandant of Engineers
(Here enter 17th July 1857 No. 142.)

From the Quarter Master
Genl. of the Army
(Here enter 25 " " " 284)

The Governor in Council authorizes the immediate execution under the directions of the Brigadier Commanding the Mount of the works proposed in the Quarter Master General's letter leaving any further arrangements to be made hereafter.

(Signed) C. A. Browne, Clk
Secy to Govt.

T.A.

To The Quarter Master General

" Commandant of Engineers –

" Mily. Auditor General –

" Accountant General –

" Town Major –

" Brigadier Commanding Mount

Inspector General of Ordnance

Dept. of Pub. Works –

P.W.C. Rects 1617 [illegible]
ref 21/5/57 No 1643

Public Works 1857 Departt
No. to Consn. 1st September

No. 1633.

Extract from the Mins. Consn
in the Military Depart.
Dated 29th July 1857.
Recd 17th Aug. 57

2 Enclos.

P.W. 16[illegible] x 31 Aug

[illegible]

Authorizing the pre-paration of specification under the directions of the Bri-gadier Comm'g. the North'n Divn of certain works pro-posed by the Qr. Mr. Genl., leaving any further arrangements to be made hereafter.

No. 12

Copy to the Chief Engr.
26 Aug/57.

C 21 Aug - R 25 -

Military Department

No. 2683

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 8th August 1857

Read the following letter

No. 394

To

The Secretary to Government Mad.
Fort St. George

Sir,

To enable me to commence at once on the works to fortify the hill at this station sanctioned by Government. I have the honor to request you will be good enough to obtain me autho-rity to draw from the Treasury Rupees (2,000) two thousand to be adjusted hereafter or as soon as the estimate of the expense is

C21 Aug - R25

is prepared by the local Engineer

Mount
6th August 1857 } (Signed) Stuart Shirreff Brigadier
Commanding the Mount

The advance of (2000)
two thousand Rupees applied for
is sanctioned.

(Signed) C A Browne Col
Secretary to Govt

To
" The Officer Commanding Mount
" Accountant General
" Military Accd. General
" Dept of Pub and Works.

Comp. F. C.

P.W. Offe No 1633 Cons.
1st Sept/57 to 1643

Pub. Works 1857 Dept
Fd to Cons. 1st Sept.

No 1617

2

Extract from the
Minutes of Consulta-
-tion in the Military
Department

D/ 8th & } August/57
Recd 13 }

No 394.

From the Accountt Genl. 14th
C No 1628 Cons. 1st Sept/57

Sanctioning the
advance of 2000 Rupees,
applied for by the Of-
-ficer Commanding
the Mount, to enable
him to commence on
the works, to fortify
the Hill at that sta-
-tion -

Copy to the Chief Engr
26 Aug/57.

No 13

S. E. No 1643. 26th Augt

c 21 Aug - R 25

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Public Works Dept

No 1643.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 26th August 1857.

Read the following papers.

Extract from the Mins of Cons
in the Mil Dept

/ Here enter 29 July 1857 No 2535

Do . Do . Do .

/ Here enter 8 August - 2651

From the Accountant General

/ Here enter 14 — " — " 119

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No

In the first Extract above recorded Government authorized the immediate execution of certain works proposed by the Quarter Master General of the Army ...

+ for fortifying the Hill at St. Thos. Mount. In the second Extract, an advance of 2000- Rupees applied for by the Officer Commanding the Mount was sanctioned, to enable him to carry on the above work.

2. In the third paper above recorded the Accountant General reports that, on an application from Brigadier Sherriff requesting that the same may be paid by the Civil Accountant he desired the District Engineer of Chingleput to pay up on the

advance

advance required by the Officer Commanding the Mount from the funds placed at his disposal for the execution of Public works. The Government approve of the course followed by the Accountant General, and direct that the two first Extracts above recorded be communicated to the Chief Engineer, in order that he may be enabled to admit the advance made by the District Engineer of Chingleput at the request of the Accountant General.

The

3. The Officer Commanding the Mount will furnish the District Engineer of Chingleput with a Bill for the sum that may be expended in the fortification of the hill, so that he may account to the Chief Engineer for the sum he advanced.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. Desp. 27
with Copies of the C. M. C. Mily Desp

3 – " – Mily Desp. 1

1 – " – Acct. Genl. 8

Public Works 185 Dept
Pg. to Cons: 1st Septr.

No. 1643

Extract Mins. of Cons:
Dated 26th August /57

Extract from the Mins. of Cons
in the Military Department
Of 4th Sept 1857 C No. 1811–in paras
22–
From the Chief Engr d/ 7th July /57 C No.
1779 in Cons

Approving of the Course followed by the Accountant General in directing the District Engr of Chingleput, to pay at once the advance required by the Officer Commanding the Mount for fortifying the Hill at that Station from the Funds placed at his disposal for the &c execution of Public Works.

No. 12@15.

&c 4

21st Aug R 25