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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 22.9.57

| G.O. No. 1771 | Press / Mis. |
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| Dated 17—9— 18 57 | |

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

## *Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 22nd September 1857.*

No. 28. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 7th September 1857, No. 3063.

Read the following letter from Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 24th August 1857, No. 335.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to enclose a Memo. from the Provincial Commander-in-Chief for submission to Government on the subject of having Magazines, especially at small stations, made tenable and places of refuge, in case of necessity.

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MEMO.

Recent events in Bengal have led me to consider deeply how, at the least possible expense to Government, some building might be constructed, in such stations as may require it which shall combine the security of the Ammunition and be, at the same time, an Asylum to which European inhabitants might fly with a chance of security for some short time.

The recent order for separate storeage of reserved ammunition led me to contemplate the following suggestions. Through Colonel Faber's kindness, I am much aided by a plan and probable estimate in explaining my views.

I do not propose any plan at present where European troops are quartered. In these stations the sole principle of security for lives and Ammunition, is the protection given by the European Barracks. In them is the safest Asylum, and close to them, should Arsenals and Magazines be constructed.

I speak more of single stations, or where only Native troops are quartered. In all the former, I believe, there is a Magazine sufficient for one Regiment's Ammunition. I would avail of that where it exists and round it I would construct the 4 small rooms as per plan No. 1, with the terraced roof. I have shewn by the plan the mode in which these should be constructed, floor to be somewhat raised, say about 4 feet so as that from within it should give a commanding fire through windows while the latter should be safe from outside attack. The roof to be terraced to hold if desirable—a pivot or traversing gun, the building to be entered by one door only. There are several minor details which may await the sanction of Government to the principle. These rooms could be employed in various public station uses. Every evening they should be bolted up keys being given to Commanding Officer and a few more of Staff functionaries. It would be very desirable and inexpensive to appoint a steady Pensioner as Store Serjeant for each, at some small remuneration. He should be required to live near and in selecting advertance should be had to his being unincumbered by a large family, This man would have instructions to occupy at once these rooms on any disturbance occurring.

I see that No. 1 plan estimate is 1,960 Rupees. In all single stations of my Division the Magazines are built, so I may therefore I think deduct Rupees 1,000 from this estimate at least, and it is to be observed, it is estimated for Madras, so perhaps at the two stations I have mentioned in my Division, Hurryer and French Rocks 800 Rupees would complete what I propose and such would be the general probability.

No. 2 Plan would be suitable for stations, where more than one Native Corps and no European Barracks existed, and I conclude, few of these are without a Magazine, so a like proportionate deduction would have to be made from No. 2 estimate.

It appears to me that by this small expenditure, we might obtain an Asylum to protect life and a security for the reserve Ammunition. I would then greatly lessen the amount left in the Regimental Barracks. Colonel Faber has also sent plans for more elaborate defences of Magazines, by entrenched emplacements. These are a vast improvement to my suggestions but they involve other considerations and are far more expensive, but they can be added after mine are completed, so I only ask at present for the simple plan I propose which would give security

to many families and enable a few resolute men to defend themselves till succour might arrive and to save the Ammunition.

(Signed) M. BERESFORD,
*Provincial Commander in Chief.*

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The Governor in Council fully approves of the suggestion contained in the Memorandum from the Provincial Commander-in-Chief, and considers that the plan No. 1, will best meet the object in view for single stations.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be pleased to submit for the approval of Government a list of the stations at which the Magazines now in use are convertible as proposed as well as those where entirely new buildings are necessary and to save delay plans and estimates for each work should be forwarded at the same time.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Major,
*Acting Dy. Secretary to Government.*

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No. 20. ORDER THEREON, No. 1771; dated 17th September 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for his information and guidance.

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

Military Department

No 3063.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
7th September 1857.

Read the following Papers -

Dr Mr General's Office
No 335.

From The Quarter Master General
of the Army -

To The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

I do myself the honor to enclose a Memo: from the Provincial Commander in Chief for submission to Government on the subject of erecting Magazines, especially at small Stations, made tenable and places of refuge, in

in case of necessity.

Fort Mc George } Signed Ja. Reid.
24th August 1855 }

Lt Col Mc Gregor & the Troops

The Governor in Council fully approves of the suggestions contained in the Memorandum from the Provincial Commander in Chief and considers that the Plan No 1 will best meet the objects in view for simple stations.

The Lords Justices in Council in Chief will be pleased to submit for their approval of Government a list of the Stations at which the Magazines now in use are convertible as proposed as well as those where entirely new buildings are necessary and to have detailed Plans and estimates for each work should be forwarded at the same time.

A true Extract

Signed R. Hamilton Major
A.D.C. Secy. to Govt.

To
The Quarter Master General.
Department of Public Works for information.
with Lr 26/5 & 2 Encl: & 2 Plans
& the returned. 3 Copies.

Public Works 1857 Dépt
D 46 Cons: 22 Sept.

No 1798

Extract from the
Minutes of Cons. in the
Military Depart.

Dated 7th
Rec'd 9th } Sept. 1857
Encl.

Approving of the dispo-
sition contained in the Me-
morandum from the Pro-
vincial Secretary on Chief
Justice Draper's report on
the petition of Inhabitants
of Toronto praying that
Lieut. Col. Gossett may be
made available for service
if necessary in case of
riot &c.

To
Lieut. Col. Alexander
&c &c &c
Toronto

No 1771 - 16 Sept

Ex. from Pro. Sec. to
Chief Sup. Ct. 6 Cons. 1857
Encl. 1994 in vol.
13 Ret.

No 1771.

Ordered to be com-
municated to the Hon. the Chief Sup.
for his information and
guidance.

Govt. House
11th Sept. 1857.

To Gossett to the Chief Justice &
with Letter.