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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.*Rec 1/5/38*

G.O. No. <u>45</u>	Press Mis.
<i>S.G.</i> Dated <u>26</u> <u>2</u> 18 <u>57</u> .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled97

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 1st March 1859.

No. 8. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 27th January 1859, No. 398.

Communicating letter from the Town Major with its enclosure regarding the removal of Clive's Battery, and the Black Town Bastion and Rampart running westward of the road leading to the Railway Station. } (Vide Military Consultation, 1st February 1859, Nos. 53 @ 55.)

No. 9. ORDER THEREON, No. 457; dated 26th February 1859.

The foregoing Extract communicates a letter from the Town Major, with its enclosure from the Acting Commandant of Engineers, in reply to the reference made in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 21st December 1858, No. 2745, as to whether any objections exist to the removal of Clive's Battery and Bastion and Ramparts westward of the road to the Railway Station, as recommended by the Committee recently appointed to report on certain projects for improving the communication between the Custom House and the Railway Terminus:

2. For the reasons assigned by the Acting Commandant of Engineers in para. 5 of his letter to the Town Major, the Government fully agree with him as to the inexpediency of removing Clive's Battery.

3. In para. 7 of his letter, the Acting Commandant states that he has requested the Superintendent of Marine to remove the Coal which has been temporarily stowed in the Battery. If this has not already been done, the Government desire that immediate measures may be taken to that end, in view to the Battery being armed as intended by the Acting Commandant.

4. Under the circumstances stated in the latter part of para. 8, the Government are not prepared at present to sanction any further demolition of the Town Bastion and Ramparts west of the Battery, and they do not consider it necessary for facilitating the communication in that direction.

5. The Government resolve to call the attention of the Chief Engineer to para. 3 of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 21st December last, and to request an early reply to their requisition as to the cost of purchasing and removing the buildings on the beach there referred to.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 398.

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 27th January 1859.**Read Extract Minutes of Cons. Pub. Works Dept.**Desiring that it may be ascertained, through the Military Department, whether any objections exist to the removal of Clive's Battery, and the Bastion and Ramparts running Westward of the road leading to the Railway Station.*

Here enter 21st December 1858, No. 2745.

Referred to the Town Major, as regards the proposed removal of Clive's Battery, and the Bastion and Ramparts westward, of the Road to the Railway Station.

24th December 1858.

From the Town Major, Fort Saint George, 21st January 1859, No. 281; to the Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department.

In returning the accompanying Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 2745, under date the 21st December 1858, referred to me for Report on para. 9, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor, to forward a letter from the Acting Commandant of Engineers, most strongly condemning the proposal put forward in para. 9, of the letter, from the Committee appointed to investigate the projects for improving the communication between the Custom House, and the Railway Terminus, in which His Lordship entirely concurs.

From the Acting Commandant of Engineers, 14th January 1859, No. 24; to the Town Major, Fort Saint George.

In reply to your letter No. 106, of the 8th instant, covering an Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2745, of the 21st ultimo, which contains the Report of a Special Committee recommending inter alia, that Clive's Battery and the Black Town Bastion and Rampart to the west shall be removed, and desiring my opinion on this remarkable proposition for the consideration of His Lordship the Governor, I have the honor to offer the following observations.

2. The views of the Committee recorded in para. 7, appear to me so far an assumption, that with the single exception of Lieutenant Colonel Lawford, I apprehend the unanimity of professional opinion to be entirely in the opposite direction—The increased danger to Masulah Boats alone, I believe has prevented measures being adopted for the effectual reclamation of the Beach, immediately South of Clive's Battery.

3. Inasmuch however, as an intermediate Dwarf groin has been established to prevent further erosion, (in which it has succeeded) since the late Captain Biden's exposition of his fears for the increased dangers of navigation, and as this work with its smaller saliency is reported to be entirely on a par with the 1st class groins in respect to danger, it would seem that we have only to extend the present intermediate secondary to seaward, to ensure sufficient deposit for a large metalled plateau being laid out as was so admirably done by Captain Rawlins in 1855-56.

4. I would suggest however, that on this special question, the deliberately recorded official opinion of our greatest authority on such points, Colonel A. F. Cotton be called for.

5. But even admitting that the Committee and Lieutenant Colonel Lawford are correct, and myself too sanguine and misjudging, I do not the less protest most vehemently against the removal of a most efficient emplacement for heavy Guns, to resist any aggressive measures against the Port of Madras, as being little less than an act of incredible insanity—The position is in itself admirable, and repaired as it lately has been, at no inconsiderable expense, I do not hesitate to term it the very best defensive work we either now, or in future, are likely to possess.

6. Like most other concessions, perhaps the consent to meet a great emergency in a sudden crisis, by permitting the Superintendent of Marine to store the large supplies of Coal required for Her Majesty's service, has now been converted into a reproach, and by a palpable distortion of terms, a Military Work of no mean pretensions for its character, has been termed "a Coal godown" simply because some Patent fuel has been stowed in its gorge.

✓ 7. To prevent further misconception, I have called on the Superintendent of Marine to be good enough to evacuate the Battery of its Coal, it being most desirable that no farther delay should take place in laying down the Pivots for the 68 Pounders, and in completing the armature of the Battery so as to be ready for an immediate use, which may be much more sudden and near at hand than those engaged in the pursuits of commerce would find it comfortable to think upon.

✓ 8. In respect to the Black Town Bastions and Ramparts west of the Battery, their continuity has been so much sacrificed already by improvements already introduced to the great facilitation of traffic, by measures concerted under His Lordship's personal directions, that it is of no very great importance, whether the demolition be continued or not. The section through the Rampart opposite the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Coal Store, which the Agent of that Body was allowed to make two years ago, is an instance of the subordinate consideration in which the old Fortifications are now held. But taking into account, the late occupation of a Bastion for the Minie Bullet Manufactory, and to the desirability of keeping the apparatus in security, to which the Ramparts may easily be made to contribute, it may be better to discontinue all further dismantling of the works that is not indispensable towards facilitating communication.

9. Nor, if such a measure can be avoided by recoveries from the soil, ought the present Granaries to be removed unless for the purpose of re-construction on an improved standard. These supplies of grain are now protected in a great measure from agrarian disturbances and attacks, by the new Thannah and the loop-holed gorge wall of Clive's Battery, between the fires of which, no party, especially loaded with booty, could hope to pass with impunity.

10. In conclusion, I venture respectfully to hazard the opinion, that the deliberations of no collective body on the Madras Beach, and the improvement of its thoroughfare can be expected to be final or successful unless the professional element of a Military Engineer be largely mingled therewith, for strange to say, two experienced Officers of the Madras Army, have been found to lend their countenance towards the proposal of wantonly abandoning our best and most salient defensive position.

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Town Major, with its enclosure, be communicated to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract and Copies.)

H. Marshall
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.

„ Town Major.

With 204 true Copies

P.W.P.

45/ W-457

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 26th February, 1859.

Read the following—
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department

/ Here enter 27th January 1859 N^o 398 /

The foregoing Extract communicates a letter from the Town Major, with its enclosure from the Acting Commandant of Engineers, in reply to the reference made in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 21st December 1858 N^o 2745, as to whether any objections exist to the removal of Clives Battery and the Bastion and Remparts westward of the road to the Railway Station, as recommended by the Committee recently appointed to report on certain projects—
for

FL
J. H.
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" W. M.

Contd 21st Decr 1858 N^o 284585

Wth March 1859 Oblique
Dth 10th June 1859
N^o 2745

Extract from
Minutes of the Military
Department

Dated 27th January
1859 N^o 398

Sept 1859. 26th Feb 1859.
Communicating letter
from the Town Major
with its enclosure
regarding the removal
of Clives Battery, & the
Bastion & Remparts
westward of the road
to the Railway Station

N^o 398

21st July 1859

for improving the communication between the Custom House and the Railway Stations.

For the reasons assigned by the Acting Commandant of Engineers in para 5 of his letter to the Town Mayor, the Government fully agree with him as to the inexpediency of removing Oliver Battery. ~~and they cannot therefore recommend its demolition as recommended by the Committee.~~

In para 7 of his letter, the Acting Commandant states that he has requested the Superintendent of Marine to remove the Coal which has been temporarily stored in the Battery. If this has not already been done, the Government desire that immediate measures may be taken to that end, in view to the Battery being armed as intended by the Acting Commandant.

Under

Under the circumstances stated in the latter part of para 8, the Government are not prepared at present to sanction any further demolition of the Town Bastion and Rampart west of the Battery, and they do not consider it necessary for facilitating the communication in that direction.

5- The Government resolve to call the attention of the Chief Engineer to para 3 of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 21st December last, and to request an early reply to their requisition as to the cost of purchasing and removing the buildings on the beach there referred to.

10 Copies to the Chief Eng^r & Dep^y 28th
7 - a - - - - - Mil^y Dep^y
5 - a - - - - - Marine Dep^y

[Signature]

