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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>920</u>	Press <u>Mis</u>
<u>62-63</u>	
Dated <u>2-8-</u>	<u>1862.</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd May 1862.*

No. 62. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 25th April 1862, No. 1,482:—

Referring for certain information to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief Proceedings Public Works Department } (Vide Military Proceedings, 25th April 1862,
regarding Perambore Lines. } Nos. 484-485.)

No. 63. ORDER THEREON, 2nd May 1862, No. 920.

Communicated to the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, for early attention, with reference to paragraph 3 of the Orders in the Military Department.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Military.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. CARPENDALE, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 7th March 1862, No. 11,222:—

SIR,

1. Letter from the District Engineer Presidency, No. 1,364, dated 20th December 1861.
1 Do. do. No. 1,951, dated 9th January 1862, with one statement of expenditure for 5 years.
1 Do. No. 2,464, dated 25th February 1862.
1. I have the honor to report as desired in Government Order No. 2,347, of 21st December 1861, on the Sepoy Lines at Perambore.

2. Simultaneously with the issue of the Government Order, the District Engineer had brought to notice that he had been called on by the Barrack Master to prepare an estimate for extensive repairs to the lines, but that he considered it was wasting money to be constantly turning the tiles, for that the condition of the buildings which was complained of was owing to original bad construction. The lines were then inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel Boileau who was of the same opinion. As he was just then embarking for England, I thought it as well that I should also inspect them, and I quite concur with both Officers that all the repairs that have been made in the last five years, and those which are now considered requisite, are entirely owing to original faulty design, and their condition does not appear to arise in any way from neglect on the part of any one. The construction of the buildings is as follows: a double *lean to* tiled roof, on palmyra rafters and bamboo reepers, erected on sun-dried brick walls, with compound walls of the same material, and little verandahs the roof of which is supported by light jungle wood posts. The rise of the roof is only 5½ feet in a span of 26 feet, or less than ¼th, while it should have been 8' 8". The most of the lines are double rows, but there are three outer rows of a single line of huts in which the walls are built half of burnt and half of unburnt bricks.

3. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the compound walls soon began to tumble down, that the roofs leaked; and the jungle wood posts became injured by white ants; I should have expected a good deal of such damage to occur the first year, and I have no doubt but the roofs did leak to some extent the first year, and I find that the chief part of the repairs made in the last five years were to replace the mud compound walls with burnt brick, shifting the tiles, and renewing damaged posts.

4. I considered it desirable before reporting to Government on the subject, to obtain from the District Engineer an approximate calculation of the cost of putting the lines in thorough repair, that is, raising the centre wall to give the roof a proper slope, re-building the damaged outer walls, and re-roofing the whole, for if the walls are raised, the present rafters will not answer, and he roughly estimates the cost at 22,000 Rupees; an accurate detailed estimate would more likely increase than reduce this amount.

5. The lines originally cost Rupees 42,757 and the repairs in the last five years have cost Rupees 23,766 as per Statement enclosed, and it now remains to be decided by Government, what is to be done on the present occasion. If the system of repair that has hitherto been in use is continued, what is now actually required may be done for about 1,500 or 2,000 Rupees, but I see there will be no end to such work, year after year there will be a repetition of building up tumbling walls, and turning tiles. The walls that are in a dangerous condition ought certainly to be built up, and the posts that are eaten must be replaced, but nothing short of renewal at the large cost mentioned above will prevent the roofs leaking. Leak they must: but I think it is worthy of enquiry, whether they really leak so badly as to justify the large expenditure. Sepoys' huts always do leak at every station in the country to some extent.

6. I have perused the whole of the correspondence on the subject of these lines from the beginning, and it does not appear that a strictly professional Officer was consulted at any time regarding their construction. The idea of building them originated with the Officer who was

then Barrack Master, the plans were designed by him, and matured by him and the Town Major, and the work carried out, the plan in the meantime being altered on the advice of the Native Contractor, by the same Officers, and by an inexperienced Infantry Officer, until Major Rawlins, then an Executive Officer of the Department, was put in charge; when he could only carry on the work as sanctioned and in progress, except that he caused the addition of the burnt brick facing to the three exposed outside walls without any extra cost, and which was certainly better than leaving the mud walls exposed to the elements.

ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1862, No. 686.

1. The present condition of the Perambore Sepoy Lines, as reported upon by the Officer Commanding the Centre Division in his letter to the Quarter Master General dated 5th December 1861, No. 1,308,* is attributed by the Engineer Officers, who have inspected them, to original faulty construction; these lines having been erected by a Native Contractor at a cost of 46,285½ Rupees (vide paragraph 4, Chief Engineer's letter 25th October 1861, No. 6,385)† under a plan matured in 1854 by the Barrack Master and the then Town Major, since which the annual repairs which have been executed to these lines have cost 23,766 Rupees for the last five years.

2. Colonel Carpendale's report will now be forwarded for the consideration of the Military Department, as to whether it will be preferable to remedy existing defects effectually by a thorough repair of the butts at a probable cost of 22,000 Rupees, or whether the present system of annual repairs may be continued.

3. It would however be desirable to enquire in the first instance, as suggested by Colonel Carpendale in paragraph 5, whether the butts do really leak so much as to justify the large expenditure which it is thought will be required.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Military Department.

N^o 1482

Paras. 2 & 3 of the foregoing Order are referred for the observations of the Commander in Chief (Quarter Master General's Department)

2. His Excellency is requested to cause work to be furnished with a statement of the amount which has accrued to work since the erection of the Perambore Lines, by withholding the regulated building money in the relief of Corps.

3. It is observed that the Estimate does not show whether the proposed repairs to the Lines in question have been calculated for the present reduced strength of Native Regiments, or at their former strength. Information on this point will likewise be submitted to work, and the Estimate revised if necessary.

4. Referring to the original cost of the Lines in question adverted to in para. 5 of Col. Carpendale's letter, it is observed that the Estimate for the Lines for the Sapper Militia, recorded in favor of work, is no margin, amount to Rs. two lacs and twenty five thousand for a Corps of 960 strong.

For T. George,
25th April 1862

M. M. M. M. M.
By Secretary to Govt.

To The Sr. Sec. General
Public Works
with four enclosures.
C. Brigadier Major, Fort St. George.
Capt. of Artillery, Secunder.

5 Feb 1862-1862-108

Public Order 1862-108
P.O. of Capt. to the

Feb 129

No. of Gov. in the
Military Department

Feb 129, 1862

Received

Order 1862

30/1/1862

Referring for certain info
-instruct to his Excellency
the Commander-in-Chief

Post O. N. D. regarding
Commander West

Department

The orders are the Military

reference to private of

for copy attention with

Engineer Contract Circle

to the Acting Deputy Chief

Communicated

No. 920

1862

for the Major Deputy City Engineer

with the Engineer
X-85
Military

1862-108

With the Order
1862-108