

(1) Number of pages 8(2) Date of repair 19-11-42.

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1222	Press
		~~Mis.~~
116-117		
Dated	5-5-	18 65.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1a

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th May 1865.*

No. 116. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Passing orders on the report submitted
by the Inspector General of Ordnance,
of the circumstances under which the
whole of the powder, excepting that
required for the immediate operations
of the Laboratory, had been removed
from the Fort without reference to the
Head of the Department; and request-
ing to be informed of the progress made
in the construction of the Magazine at
Saint Thomas' Mount.

(Here enter 29th April 1865, No. 1,610.)

No. 117. ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1865, No. 1,222.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 11.

1. Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer, 4th Division.

2. It will be intimated to the Military
Department, with reference to paragraph 4, that, owing to no funds being available, the
construction of the new Magazine at Saint Thomas' Mount, the plan and estimate of
which were sanctioned on the 11th January 1865, could not be commenced during
the latter end of the last official year. Funds to the extent of Rupees 30,000 have
been allotted in the current Budget, and the Superintending Engineer will be
directed to expedite the work.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
,, Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, 21st January 1865, No. 298; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor, with reference to concluding part of paragraph 2 of the Order of Government, No. 104 of the 11th instant, to explain the circumstances under which the Ordnance Officer in charge of the Arsenal removed the Powder from the Magazine in the Fort, without making reference to the Head of his Department.

2. On the 7th November, the Brigade Major, under instructions from the Major General Commanding the Division, called on the Ordnance Officer for monthly Returns of Powder in the Fort, and directed that the Powder stored in the Fort should be only sufficient for the current work of the Arsenal, and that no Powder in future should be brought into the Fort without the Major General's permission.

3. To this communication, the Ordnance Officer, on the 10th idem, replied that Powder was brought into the Fort only with the sanction of the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines; and requested therefore that the communication on the subject might be addressed to that Officer.

4. The Brigade Major, in his reply to the Commissary of Ordnance, directed that "immediate steps" should be taken to remove the Powder stored in the Fort, consequent on the danger of having so

large a quantity stored in a Fort, crowded with public buildings and in which 1,000 troops and families are located, being too great to admit of any delay, and adding that, as the Major General is responsible in such matter for the safety of the Fort, its inhabitants and buildings, he does not consider it necessary to refer to the Inspector General of Ordnance on the subject, both the Magazines being in such close proximity to the troops and public buildings in question.

5. The Brigade Major, in his letter of the same date, 12th November, further informs the Ordnance Officer, that he has communicated both his letters (that of 7th November and 12th November) to the Inspector General of Ordnance.

6. The copy of the Brigade Major's letter, dated the 7th November 1864, calling for Returns of the Powder stored in the Fort, and the copy of the Brigade Major's letter of the 12th, which gave orders for the immediate removal of the Powder from the Fort, did not however reach this Office until the 15th November. On the forenoon of the 16th, the day following, I called on the Ordnance Officer, for full information on the subject of the proposed removal of the Powder, with the view of addressing both Government and the Major General, and was informed in reply that the Powder had, early that morning, already been removed from the Fort.

7. The Ordnance Officer did not refer to me for instructions, as he had erroneously concluded that the copy of the Brigade Major's letter to him, directing the immediate removal of the Powder had reached me at the same time that it reached him. I pointed out then to the Officer in charge of the Arsenal, that irrespective of other authorities, he should, on receipt of the Order to remove the Powder, have communicated at once with the Inspector General.

8. The Government has been pleased to invest the Inspector General of Ordnance with the control of all Magazines in this Presidency, and Government hold

him alone responsible for the due execution of the charge entrusted to him. I conceive therefore that the Major General Commanding the Division, in the present instance, should have addressed the Inspector General of Ordnance and not his subordinate Officer, the more especially as the Ordnance Officer in charge of the Grand Arsenal at the Presidency, is in no way subject to the divisional or garrison authorities, but acts under the immediate orders of the Inspector General, to whom alone he is officially responsible.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief, with advertence to Proceedings of Government, No. 104 of the 11th January 1865, for His Excellency's observations.
24th January 1865.

Memorandum from the Adjutant General, Fort Saint George, 16th March 1865, No. 148; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

The Commander-in-Chief has the honor to submit to Government, the within letter* from the Officer Commanding Centre Division, in answer to the referred communication from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, dated 21st January 1865, No. 298.

2. Sir Hope Grant considers that Major General McCleverty has satisfactorily shewn the desirability of removing so large a quantity of Gun Powder from the Magazine in the Fort. His Excellency fully concurs in the views expressed by General McCleverty, regarding the quantity of Powder that has lately been stored in the Magazines of the Fort, upwards of five tons; and he considers that no greater amount should be deposited there than is required for the current duties of the Arsenal. The Commander-in-Chief is further of opinion, that, as the Major General caused his instructions to be communicated to the Inspector General of Ordnance, he did all that was requisite in regard to keeping that Officer informed, of measures that were adopted affecting his Department.

From the Officer Commanding Centre Division, Fort Saint George, 2nd February 1865, No. 394; to the Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Fort Saint George.

I. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memorandum, * No. 312, dated 26th ultimo, forwarding letter, No. 298, dated 21st idem, from the Inspector General of Ordnance, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, for my observations; in reply I beg to forward a copy of letter I sent to the Deputy Quarter Master General on the subject of the Gun Powder being removed from the Fort.

* Herewith returned.

No. 230.

To the Deputy Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 104, dated 11th January 1865, forwarded with your Memorandum, No. 648, of the 18th instant, calling for information as to the reason for the removal of the Gun Powder from the Magazine in Fort Saint George, without the authority of Government, I have the honor to offer the following explanation to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The Saint George's and Caldwell's Magazines are in dangerous proximity to the different Quarters and Cook-houses in the Fort. The former is within 40 paces of the large block of Family Quarters of the men of the Regiment quartered in the Fort, about the same distance from the Artillery Barracks, about 10 paces from the Commissariat Stores of issues, and in a public thoroughfare. Caldwell's adjoins the Quarters of the Officer Commanding the Regiment in the Fort, and only separated from the Quarters of the Staff Officers and the Garrison Dispensary by a

narrow street; except for these objections they are excellent Magazines, especially during War or disturbances; but I saw no necessity for the storage of large quantities of Gun Powder during time of peace, when the slightest accident or want of caution on the part of those employed about the Magazines might be attended with lamentable and fatal consequences to a large body of Troops of 1,000 strong, especially in Saint George's Magazine, awaiting the completion of Lightning Conductors. Apparently I had no control over the quantities introduced into the Fort, and yet I would partly be held responsible as Commanding in the Fort, in case of want of caution or negligence; and I was further desirous of taking every means in my power for the safety and interests of the men under my Command.

10th November 1864.	
Gun Powder Madras, C. P....	Rs. 5,800
Do. do. do. W. P.....	810
Do. do. do. C. R.....	4,050
Do. Sporting....	1,478
Total...	Rs. 12,138

3. At the date of my orders, viz., 7th and 12th November 1864, (copies of which were furnished at the time to the Inspector General) Caldwell's Magazine contained fully five tons of Gun Powder, according to the Return furnished by the Commissary of Ordnance as per margin.

4. The Order of Government, No. 2020, dated 22nd June 1863, was furnished for my information. I was guided by the 14th paragraph of the Commander-in-Chief's Memorandum, dated 30th May 1863, accompanying that Order, as also by the 2nd paragraph of the former, and to subsequent orders as relating to those paragraphs, and I therefore did not consider that the Commissary of Ordnance was justified in introducing large quantities of Powder into the Fort without the order of Government, or sanction of the Military Authorities in charge of the interests of the Troops.

5. I may have mis-construed clause 15 and those preceding it in the Proceedings of Government, No. 1162, 23rd March 1860; but I felt the interests of the Troops in the Fort were confided to me, and that at other Stations, if the Commanding Officer thought it necessary for the safety and interests of the Troops to cause Gun Powder to be removed to Magazines provided in places of greater safety, he had authority to do so. The quantity of Powder was gradually being increased for lodgment in Fort Saint George.

I have, &c.

BRIGADE OFFICE, FORT SAINT GEORGE,
23rd January 1865.

(Signed) W. A. McCLEVERTY, Major-Genl.,
Comdg. Centre Division.

II. With reference to paragraph 6* of the Inspector General's letter, I am unable to state how it was that the copies of the letters from the Brigade Major to the Commissary of Ordnance did not reach Colonel Simpson till the 15th, as they were sent by the same Orderly who took letter No. 625 to the former Officer on the 12th November and acknowledged in the Receipt Book by a Native.

III. In reply to paragraph 8 of the Inspector General's letter, I would observe that the Brigade Major's letters were addressed to the Commissary of Ordnance, Fort Saint George, whose services were placed (see paragraph 15 of Government Order, No. 1162, dated 23rd March 1860) "at the disposal of the Military Authorities so far as concerns his executive duties with the Troops only, (but) it is not intended to authorize any interference whatever with departmental arrangements and orders beyond that at present sanctioned by the General Regulations of the Service at other Stations." By G. O. C. C., No. 79 of 10th July 1858, page 723, the Commander-in-Chief directs "that all Contingent orders affecting the general arrangements of the Ordnance Department issued within the discretion of Officers Commanding Divisions and Stations be communicated without loss of time to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines." G. O. G., No. 97 of 7th April 1857, "invests the Inspector General with the direct control of the Ordnance Department and holds him responsible for the right management of the Department;" but I would submit, it was never intended that the Inspector General should have authority to store away in time of peace in the Powder Magazines in this crowded Fort sufficient Powder to reduce the whole Fort to ruins. I trust therefore that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may approve of my having assumed the responsibility of ordering all Powder, but what was actually required for the current duties of the Arsenal to be removed without delay, and which I believe I was justified in doing as soon as I became aware that in one Magazine alone (the other being under repair and empty) there were

upwards of five tons of Gun Powder, more especially as the Ordnance Regulations direct that Officers Commanding Divisions, &c., to exercise the most vigilant attention over the Magazines and Stores, reporting every circumstance which they may consider material to the proper conduct of the Department to the Inspector General.

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, 31st March 1865, No. 374; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor, in reply to your Memorandum, dated 21st instant, to state that the quantity of Gun Powder now stored in the Fortress is as per margin, exclusive of made-up small Arm Ammunition, stored in the small Magazine constructed under the authority of Government for that purpose.

2. With regard to any proposed increase, I may observe, that the quantity specified by the Major General Commanding the Division, although sufficient for the current work of the Laboratory, is insufficient with reference to the service of the heavy Guns now in position on the Sea Face. If a certain number of these Guns, say six 110-Pounder Armstrongs, and ten 68-Pounders, are to be maintained at all times in readiness for action, then I would suggest, for the consideration of Government, that not less than 3,000 lbs of Powder be stored in the Caldwell Magazine, on the south-east Angle of the Fort.

<i>Grand Magazine.</i>		Given over to Dept. P. W.	the Fortress are very ample, aggregating 5,052 Barrels 90lbs 6,062 do. 45,, or 727,470lbs.
90lbs Barrels.....	1,500		
45,, do.	1,800		
<i>Saint George's Magazine.</i>			
90lbs Barrels.....	2,052		
45,, do.	2,462		
<i>Caldwell Magazine.</i>			
90lbs Barrels.....	1,500		
45,, do.	1,800		

3. The means of storing Powder in the Fortress are very ample, aggregating 5,052 Barrels 90lbs or 727,470lbs.

4. Under the Regulations in force, I do not consider that any risk to the safety of the Fortress is involved in storing in excellent Magazines the Powder needed for Laboratory purposes and purposes of defence. The recent explosion at Erith has, no doubt, excited much apprehension in this country as well as in England; but the enquiry into the circumstances connected with that explosion, has elicited facts which, as examples of reckless indifference to the commonest precautions, are wholly exceptional. I allude to the existence of uncovered fires for cooking, in the Barges from which the Powder was being removed to the Erith Magazine.

5. I may report to Government that there has not been, for the last four years, any large accumulation of Powder in the Fort—the standing order on this head being that only the Powder needed for Ordnance purposes should be brought into the Fort, and that Powder for dispatch to out-station Magazines, and for shipment, should be taken direct from the Reserve Magazine at Vysurpaudy.

6. There is, in my opinion, greater risk incurred in the more frequent bringing into the Fortress of small quantities of Powder, and the consequent repeated opening and stowing, in the Magazine, than by bringing in at one time a larger quantity, and so avoiding these frequent removals.

7. Outside the Fortress the only Magazine available for the stowage of Powder (the Reserve Magazine at Vysurpaudy) is, as before brought under the notice of Government, of an extremely objectionable character, and I look with the greatest anxiety for the early completion of the new Reserve Magazine ordered to be built at Saint Thomas' Mount.

8. It is right that, with all deference, I repeat the opinion I brought under consideration on a former occasion, and I would therefore prefer stowing whatever quantity of Powder may be retained in the Fort in the Caldwell Magazine, before alluded to, should Government be pleased to suspend its demolition. I am aware that there are serious objections to the position of this Magazine in the event of attack from the Sea, but in that case other and more secure provision would have to be made for the Powder stored in the Fort.

9. I beg to add that I purpose addressing Government on the subject of the early removal of the Laboratory in the Fort to Saint Thomas' Mount; this measure, if sanctioned by Government, will restrict the quantity of Powder to be maintained in the Fort to that considered necessary for the Guns in position, salutes and signals.

ORDER, No. 1610, 29th April 1865.

The foregoing papers relate to the removal of Gun Powder from the Fort, adverted to in Proceedings of Government marginally noted.

2. The Governor in Council concurs in the remarks contained in paragraph 6 of letter, No. 374, from the Inspector General of Ordnance above recorded, regarding the greater risk incurred in frequently bringing into the Fortress small quantities of Powder; and the Governor in Council is constrained to observe that the position assigned by Government to the Inspector General of Ordnance has been ignored by the removal of the Powder which was in the Fort, without any reference to him, through whom, as Inspector General of Ordnance, all instructions relative to the Ordnance Department, should pass.

3. Government consider the removal of the Laboratory to the Mount to be highly desirable; and early measures will be taken to carry this object into effect, on the promised Report adverted to in paragraph 9 of the Inspector General's letter being submitted.

4. The Governor in Council wishes to be informed what progress has been made in the construction of the Magazine at the Mount, sanctioned in Proceedings of Government, adverted to in paragraph 1 of this Order.

(True Extract.)

Macmillan
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Ordnance.

Adjutant General.
Public Works Department.
Quarter Master General.
Barrack Master, Fort Saint George.
Brigade Major, do.
Controller of Military Accounts, for information.

Exd. T. Stubbs.

27 1865
 No. of Good for day
 No. 10748

Good Good with
 quick. Delicate

29 1865
 No. 10748

29 1865

During order on
 the report submitted
 by the surveyor of
 advance of the circum-
 stance under which
 of the houses,
 especially that requires
 for the immediate
 operations of the laborer
 - they had been removed
 from the fort with the
 house to the head of
 Dept. and frequently
 be informed of the progress
 made in the construction
 of the house
 at the same time

with an order
 29 1222-577 May 1865

Military Works
 29 1222 172
 Commenced to the Surg
 Engineer 4th Regt

Engineer 4th Regt

2. It will be intimated to the
 Military, especially, with reference to
 house 4, that, owing to no funds
 being available, the construction of
 the new Magazine at Fort
 Sherman - March 1, the plan of
 estimate of which was submitted
 on the 11th January 1865, could
 not be commenced, and during the
 latter end of the last official year
 funds to the extent of \$2,300.00 have
 been allotted in the current Budget,
 & the Survey will be directed to
 execute the work.

59 4th
 29 1222 172
 29 1222-577 May 1865