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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2471	Press Mis.
581-582	
Dated 24 - 8	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th August 1865.*

No. 581. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Communicating letter from the Govern-
ment of India, Military Department,
forwarding copy of a Circular on the
subject of Barrack accommodation for
European Troops. (Here enter 17th August 1865, No. 3,059.)

No. 582. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1865, No. 2,471.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 47.

No. 1,752, dated 23rd June 1865.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineers for information and
guidance, in continuation of the orders
marginally noted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineers.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Simla, 25th July 1865, No. 342; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

With reference to the copies of communications noted in the margin,* I am

* *Proceedings in the Public Works Department, No. ^{963M}/₅₉₀₆, dated 10th December 1864.*

Letter to Quarter Master General, No. 262, dated 6th February 1865.

now directed to forward, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of a Circular which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has been authorised to issue, on the subject of the abovementioned orders.

2. This Circular, while it in no way trenches on the sanitary principles already laid down, will, it is believed, be useful in preventing Commanding Officers from making unnecessary demands for increased space.

Proceedings of His Excellency the Governor General of India in Council, in the Public Works Department, No. ^{963M}/₅₉₀₆, dated Fort William, the 10th December 1864.

Over-crowding of Barracks.

Read the following letters :—

From the Government North Western Provinces, and Chief Commissioner Central Provinces, forwarding Reports of progress made in numbering and lettering Military Buildings. Also an Occupation Return of Military Buildings forwarded by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

North Western Provinces No. 4779A, dated 18th October 1864, and No. 2471, dated 2nd November 1864, Central Provinces No. 3798, dated 18th October 1864.

Observations.—From the Occupation Return above alluded to, it appears that the Soldiers are very much crowded in the Barracks in the Cantonments of the Central Provinces, especially at Saugor.

2. It seems to the Governor General in Council to be most important that European Soldiers should never be crowded in their Barracks, and that where there is not proper space for them, temporary accommodation should at once be provided

* *Viz. 90 suppl. feet of floor space per man.* to the full standard extent requisite,* whatever the cost may be, though of course it should be

done as cheaply as possible. His Excellency in Council considers that this rule should never be departed from, and that it should be the first duty of the Officers Commanding Stations to see that the full amount of space is given for all the Soldiers in their sleeping apartments, before provision is made for any subsidiary wants.

3. The Governor General in Council considers that the needful orders should be issued in the Military Department for an inquiry into the facts of every Station, in view to an exact record being made of the proper number of men to be put into each building. The Commanding Officers should then be held responsible that no more are ever put into them, and the Public Works Department, should be called upon to provide temporary shelter, when essential, to make good what was wanted.

4. When necessary, any rooms now occupied as Canteens, Libraries, &c., should be made available to supply the Barrack space really requisite for the men. Whatever be the inconvenience attending the temporary occupation of rooms now appropriated to such auxiliary purposes, it seems essential that it should be faced, rather than that the sleeping rooms of the men should be over-crowded.

5. Attention to these points is more especially requisite where the Barracks are of a temporary and inferior character.

6. It will be a matter for consideration how far any temporary wants may be met by pitching Tents near the Barracks.

7. His Excellency in Council is of opinion that the strict enforcement of the principle now laid down in all Cantonments would doubtless save very much disease and loss of life.

ORDER.—Ordered that the foregoing observations, with the papers* above read, be forwarded to the Military Department for consideration, and the issue of the further necessary orders.

* To be returned.

(Signed) R. STRACHEY, Colonel, R. E.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 6th February 1865, No. 262; to the Quarter Master General.

From the Returns,* shewing the mode in which Barracks are occupied by European Troop

at various Stations, which accompanied the Assistant Quarter Master General's letter No. 1096, dated 7th November 1864, and from the Proceedings of Government, in the Public

Works Department, No. 963 M. 5906, dated the 10th December last, a copy of which is enclosed, it appears that in many places, whether from the insufficiency of the accommodation in itself, or from portion of it having been allotted for other purposes than dormitories, the men have not the space in their sleeping apartments which it is considered expedient that they should have.

2. The standard area to be assigned to each Soldier has been fixed after much consideration at 90 square feet: where this is given, there can be no deficiency of space, and it is the desire of Government that it should be at once provided for the Troops, as stated in the communication from the Public Works Department.

3. I am therefore to request that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may be moved to cause Government to be furnished, as early as possible, with a simple Return shewing, in separate columns, (1) the area of each Barrack occupied by single men, (2) the number of men located in it, and (3) the area of each Barrack originally designed for single men, which may now be occupied by Libraries, Canteens, or for any other auxiliary purposes, which should be noticed opposite in a 4th column of "Remarks."

4. With this Return, the Governor General in Council will be glad to receive His Excellency's opinion, with reference especially to paragraph 6 of the Extract from the Public Works Department, as to the best measures for temporarily providing for each man the full area of 90 feet, until steps can be taken for completing the permanent accommodation on the new scale.

5. This will enable the Government to decide at once what must be done, and no time will be unnecessarily lost in providing what is required.

No. 48.

Circular Memorandum addressed to Officers Commanding Divisions and Districts.
Buildings, Barrack accommodation.

The attention of the Commander-in-Chief has, on more than one occasion, been drawn to the

1. Quarter Master General's Circular Memorandum, No. 880 C, dated 14th March 1865, and annexures.

Military Department Despatch, No. 262, dated 6th February 1865, covering Public Works Department, No. 963 M. 5906, dated 10th December 1864.

Proceedings of the Governor General in Council, Military Works.
Over-crowding of Barracks.

2. Quarter Master General's Circular Memorandum No. 21, dated 19th April 1865, and annexures. Military Department, No. 1536, dated 29th March 1865. Additional temporary accommodation.

3. Quarter Master General's Circular Memorandum, No. 38, dated 12th June 1865, and annexure. Public Works Department Circular, No. 48 of 1865. Allotment of Barrack accommodation for Hill Stations, 77 superficial feet per man allowed.

Officers Commanding Regiments to consider all such orders in a reasonable manner, and with

regard to the object held in view by Government, namely, the welfare, moral, and physical of the men, while extravagance is avoided.

4. Thus, in reading these orders, it is right to consider the average number of men which the Barracks are liable to hold, and not the merely nominal numbers, which are always greatly in excess of actual wants.

5. Thus, taking all the year round, there is an average of about five per cent. in Hospital. During the hot and rainy months the per centage rises to 6-10, and even fifteen sometimes. There is also a further per centage of men in prison, or of casual absentees from other causes.

6. Therefore, without reckoning the men on guard, it is quite safe to calculate the strength of the single men of a Regiment for whom the allotment of 90 feet, at superficial space is required, at about 7 per cent. below the nominal strength at Head Quarters.

7. If a Company or a Squad be exceptionally free from sick men or casual absentees, other Companies or Squads will have a surplus of such casualties. In such case it is for the Regimental Commander to equalise space and to correct the temporary inequality of the Companies requiring a barrack room, by detaching three or four men of one Company to another. The organization of a Regiment admits of this with great inconvenience, although such simplicity of arrangement is often forgotten, owing to a too pedantic consideration of the unity of Companies.

8. Institutions, such as Recreation, Reading, and Coffee-rooms, should not be broken up, without a prior reference in each case on its merits, being made to Army Head Quarters.

By order,

B. MR. GENL.'S OFFICE, HEAD QRS.,
SIMLA, 7th July 1865.

(Signed) J. S. PATON, Colonel,
Quarter Master General.

ORDER, No. 3059, 17th August 1865.

Ordered that the foregoing papers be communicated to the Commander-in-Chief and Department of Public Works, for information and guidance.

2. The Governor in Council observes that the points brought to notice by the Commander-in-Chief in India, are in accordance with the views of this Government, as recorded in paragraph 3 of Proceedings of Government, No. 2257, 18th June last.

(True Extract.)

William Hall
Deputy Secretary to Government.

the Quarter Master General.
" Public Works Department.
" Barrack Master, Fort Saint George.
" President Sanitary Commission.

With 20 space copies

T. Stubbs.

and

Richd. Tucker

2471
2471

Communicated to the

Superintending Engineers for in-

formation and guidance in con-

Re 1752

dated 23rd June in action of the order originally

1868

direct.

Stonh. & George
24th August 1865

W. B.

The Superintending Engineer of the

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Pro: of Govt. for Aug. 1865
No. 8129

Pro: of Govt. in the
Military Dep't

Of 17 } Aug.
Recd 22 } 1865

No. 8089
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Communicating
letter from the Govt. of
India, Military Dep't.
forwarding copy of a
Circular on the subject
of Barrack accommoda-
tion for European
Troops.

No. 551. 582

With an order.
No. 2471-2475, 24th Aug/65