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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>1035</i>	Press
<i>15-16</i>	~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>4-4-</i>	<i>1866.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No. 15. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd March 1866, No. 2,020 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nundicoticoor, 3rd March 1866, No. 30.

1. As the subject of camping grounds for marching troops is rather an important one for the town of Kurnool, I beg to lay before the Revenue Board a plan of the sites I have selected, and to solicit their approval.

2. The Fort, Town, and Cantonment of Kurnool occupy, as will be observed, a spot of land (between the Toombudra and Hindry rivers) which is now in fact formed almost into an island by the completion of the irrigation channel.

3. This confined piece of ground, measuring about one mile in length and half in breadth, contains a population of 200 Christians and 22,146 Natives.

4. In selecting sites for camps for marching troops, it is imperative to consider the stationary as well as the marching population, and it would, therefore, be in the last degree undesirable that camps should be formed within this area; for whereas the local population can be made to attend in some measure to sanitary rules, marching troops, and especially their followers, cannot be prevented from conducting themselves in a way that, whilst it does not injure them, who change their camp each day, renders the neighbourhood pestiferous for at least a week after their departure.

5. It being necessary therefore, if possible, to provide for the health and comfort of troops without injury to the local population, it seemed necessary at least to place the camps outside the space which is surrounded by the three streams of water referred to.

6. In company with the Civil Surgeon, and in consultation with him and the Commanding Officer of the station, I selected the four sites indicated (1, 2, 3, and 4) in the Map.

7. Of these, 1, 2, and 3 are each about a mile from the bazaar; No. 4, across the Toombudra, is between one and two miles.

8. Troops march upon Kurnool from the four directions of Nundial, Ghooty, Bellary, and Secunderabad, and these sites have been selected with a view to the convenience of troops coming on each of these roads.

9. Camps 1 and 2 are on high open ground west of a bridge over the Irrigation Company's Canal. The soil is a mixture of rock, red gravel, and soil, and is the best that could possibly be desired. The roads to Nundial and Ghooty part at this very point. For water, the camps would depend on the tank formed by the canal.

10. The Company, at present, is restricted from carrying water along their canal beyond the town of Kurnool during the dry months. The water in this canal being drawn from the Toombudra, troops cannot, I conclude, desire anything better; and I request that the Irrigation Company may be permitted and requested to keep this tank full during the whole year by emptying their canal into the Toombudra by the calingula opposite the junction of the Hindry and Toombudra, instead of, as at present, by the one about a mile and a half back above Kurnool.

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11. On a recent occasion two bodies of troops, strength as per margin, forming with their followers a body of about	
1st King's Dragoon Guards.	5,000 people, encamped on this ground
European Officers and Men	392
Natives	3,015
Animals	1,111
B. Battery, 23rd Battalion Royal Artillery.	
European Officers and Men	152
Natives	407
Animals	444

the locality to which, under all ordinary circumstances, troops should be conducted in future.

12. Unless the sanitary arrangements of a camp can in future be carried out in far more perfection than is usually found possible, it is not wise to camp two bodies of troops on the same ground within a few days of each other, i. e., until the sun has had time to disperse all noxious influences. On this account it is well to have several camping grounds, and the arrival at Kurnool within fourteen days (18th January to 31st January) of three bodies of troops, and one of 500 women and 500 children belonging to a Native Regiment forcibly demonstrated the necessity.

The ground at Nos. 1 and 2 is spacious enough to allow of such change, and No. 3 will also do to fall back upon when the others are not fit to use.

13. No. 3 situated near the aqueduct is an open dry ground on the road from Bellary, and depends for its water on the Hindry river and the canal, in both of which there is always an ample supply of flowing water.

14. No. 4 is intended for troops from Secunderabad, and has long been a camping ground. It is high and open, and consists of black and red soil with stones, the two latter preponderating. The Toombudra with its constant stream is not a mile distant.

15. *The bed of the river being chiefly deep sand, the passage of it by troops with their stores is a very laborious operation, and no long march can be taken either before or after it on the same day. The best arrangement, therefore, for troops coming from Secunderabad, is to cross the river and the Cantonment and halt near the Ghooty bridge; and for those coming from the Ghooty bridge camping ground (1 and 2) to cross the Cantonment and the river and halt on the high ground adjacent (No. 4.)*

16. This ground (4) should also be used by all troops infected with cholera.

17. The Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Doctor Jackson, also re-inspected these sites in company with me and Doctor Kees, and perfectly approved of them.

18. At the time of year when troops march there are seldom crops on these camping grounds; if there should happen to be on portions of them, it will be necessary for Government to re-imburse Ryots for injury sustained. There is no available ground entirely waste.

19. In connection with the subject of camping grounds, I beg to bring to notice the circumstance that though marching Regiments frequently send forward

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notice of their approach, this is invariably taken, as far as my experience goes, not to the Civil authorities, who are responsible for pointing out a proper camping ground, and providing the necessary supplies, but to the Commanding Officer of the station, or his Adjutant, who, except by a fiction, are not interested in the matter.

20. I have taken steps for obtaining early information through my own subordinates; but I submit that it would be by far the best plan if Regiments would send forward news to the Civil authorities.

21. It has so happened that I have myself been just in time personally to point out the right ground to troops, and prevent their camping by mistake in a spot that would have been alike inconvenient to themselves and most injurious to the station. This, although they had previously sent on an orderly, for he had been to the Military, and I had heard nothing of it.

22. Various reasons, I am aware, may prevent troops arriving exactly on the days they advertise; but the least they can do is to prevent such surprises by sending to the Magistrate's Office warning of their approach.

The letter containing the intelligence should be superscribed "Marching Troop Service," or something similar, and would then be opened and attended to by the proper officials even if the Magistrate should happen to be absent.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Plan.

1. Submitted for the information and orders of Government in the Military Department.

2. The subject appears to have been well and carefully considered, and the sites seem suitable and altogether unobjectionable.

3. *The Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works can doubtless arrange for maintaining the supply of water in the tank near Camps 1 and 2, as proposed. The causeway through the bed of the Toombudra near Camp 4 would doubtless be a great convenience.*

4. The Board request that the requisite orders may be given to ensure ample notice to the Civil authorities of the approach of troops to any Civil station, so as to ensure the use of the proper camping ground, and to facilitate the preparation of supplies.

No. 16. ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1866, No. 1,035.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 1.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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No. 1035

Recorded

Fort St George
Lt. C. April 1866 }