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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 227	Press
438-439	~~Mis~~
Dated 22-1-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd January 1868.*

No. 438. Read the following Circular from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Military Works,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, in the Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 29th November 1867, No. 112:—

1. I am directed to forward, for information and guidance, the enclosed Report on the best method of arranging fortified posts and places of refuge at minor Military Stations, drawn up by the Members of a Special Committee which was held at Simla, on the 21st August 1867, together with the lithographed sketches referred to therein.

2. The proposals of the Committee have been concurred in by the Government of India, in the Military Department.

Report on the best method of forming Places of Refuge at the minor Stations for European Troops.

The undersigned, namely, the Quarter Master General of the Army, the Adjutant General of the Army, and the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, having been directed to confer upon the subject of Fortified Posts in small Cantonments after consulting with—

The Inspector General of Hospitals,
The Inspector General of Military Works, and
The Sanitary Commissioner,

met at the Public Works Office on Tuesday, the 30th July 1867, when, after consulting with the Officers named, the following conclusions were arrived at:—

The intention of the Government of India, as laid down in the Military Department's Proceedings No. 1,151 of 22nd March 1865, was that the principal stations should be made secure, and that posts should not be constructed except where British Troops are stationed.

It is understood, therefore, by the undersigned, that it is not intended to construct strong posts, except at the principal stations; that it is intended that, in case of any general disturbance, the women and children and non-combatants should be withdrawn from the minor stations where European Troops are quartered; and that, therefore, it is only meant that at such stations there should be slight fortifications, such as should suffice to place the non-combatants in comparative safety for a short period during the continuance of a local disturbance, which might render it necessary for the bulk of the troops at the station to take the field for a time.

For such a purpose it is obviously undesirable to have a strong Fort. There should be nothing that would be formidable if it fell into the hands of the enemy or insurgents; and nothing that there should be the least hesitation in abandoning, if circumstances rendered it desirable to remove the non-combatants, and to render the entire force at the station moveable.

The women and children, the sick and convalescents, with a month's provisions and fuel, and the treasure, would be all that would require shelter in such a post for a purely Military Station. But the size of the post would depend in a great degree upon the probable number of the European and Eurasian civil refugees; and this would depend more upon local circumstances than upon the strength of the Military force.

For small stations, where the number of Civil refugees is not likely to be large, the post might consist of the hospital, or one or two barracks with out-offices and store-rooms for provisions, and, above all, a good well, easily accessible without exposure, the whole surrounded by an enclosure

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd January 1868.*

having small bastions to provide flanking fire, and could easily be made secure from assaults, and comparatively safe from musketry fire. To this end it is necessary that the enclosure should be surrounded by a perfectly open space fully commanded by its fire for 300 yards; or, at all events, for not less than 200 yards.

As a rule, the undersigned think that it would be best to form such an enclosure round the hospitals. There is no direct objection to its being formed round a barrack; but it is an object in all small stations to save ground, and to keep the buildings as compact as possible. Since it is necessary for other reasons that the hospital should be detached, it appears best to adopt it as the nucleus, and so not to have to detach another building for the sake of getting the necessary esplanade. It is further a great advantage not to be compelled to move the sick in case of disturbance, since this operation is more indicative of apprehension than any other movement within a station could be.

In view to recommending the arrangement above suggested, the undersigned have ascertained from the Sanitary Officers consulted that there is no objection:—

- 1.—To massing the hospitals when the force consist of not more than a Regiment and a Battery.
- 2.—To detaching the hospitals, provided they are kept within 500 yards of the nearest barrack.
- 3.—To enclosing the hospitals, provided the enclosure be an open railing on a 3-feet dwarf wall on the two sides opposed to the prevailing wind, with a similar railing in the centre of the other sides of 200 feet at least. The remainder of these last two sides may be occupied by store-rooms and other subsidiary buildings, or may consist of a dead wall 8 or 10 feet high.

If the hospitals at a small station were placed in such an enclosure, they would be rendered sufficiently defensible by constructing a trench, or raising a parapet to complete the cover on the line of the railing, and by blocking up 6 or 7 feet of the openings of both storeys of the hospital buildings by sand-bags or otherwise, so as to be musket-proof. There would still remain sufficient ventilation and all the comfort that could be expected during such a short occupation in a state of siege that the circumstances of the case require.

With slight alterations, as above indicated, the form of Fortified Post sketched for Nowgong, seems to the undersigned to be very suitable and proper.

Where the strength of the force, or the probable number of refugees, require a larger provision of shelter than would be afforded by grouping the hospitals to the extent above stated, it will be desirable to add one or more barracks, and to place the barracks and hospitals in that case as sides or curtains to the enclosure. If the requirements be still larger, as for instance when an Ordnance Depot is included, the form of the Place of Refuge should assimilate with that lately adopted for Rawul Pindee or Mooltan. The esplanade in such cases should be increased to 400 or 500 yards.

The above conclusions are agreed to by the Inspector General of Military Works.

(Signed) J. PATON, Major-General,
Quarter Master General of the Army.

(„) H. E. LONGDEN, Colonel,
Adjutant General of the Army.

(„) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R. A.,
Secy. to Govt of India, P. W. Dept.

SIMLA,
21st August 1867.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd January 1868.*

No. 439.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd January 1868, No. 227.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 20.

Communicated to the Military and
Revenue Departments and to the Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Military Department, with Note by the Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot, } with two Plans.
" Superintending Engineers,
" Revenue Department.

Capt. H. Longden with two Plans

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Enclosure to Circular No. 112 Public Works.

Report on the best method of forming Places of Refuge at the minor Stations for European Troops.

The undersigned, namely, the Quarter Master General of the Army, the Adjutant General of the Army, and the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, having been directed to confer upon the subject of Fortified Posts in small Cantonments after consulting with—

The Inspector General of Hospitals,
The Inspector General of Military Works, and
The Sanitary Commissioner,

met at the Public Works Office on Tuesday, the 30th July 1867, when, after consulting with the Officers named, the following conclusions were arrived at:—

The intention of the Government of India, as laid down in the Military Department's Proceedings No. 1151 of 22nd March 1865, was that the principal stations should be made secure, and that posts should not be constructed except where British troops are stationed.

It is understood, therefore, by the undersigned, that it is not intended to construct strong posts, except at the principal stations; that it is intended that, in case of any general disturbance, the women and children and non-combatants should be withdrawn from the minor stations where European troops are quartered; and that, therefore, it is only meant that at such stations there should be slight fortifications, such as should suffice to place the non-combatants in comparative safety for a short period during the continuance of a local disturbance, which might render it necessary for the bulk of the troops at the station to take the field for a time.

For such a purpose it is obviously undesirable to have a strong Fort. There should be nothing that would be formidable if it fell into the hands of the enemy or insurgents; and nothing that there should be the least hesitation in abandoning, if circumstances rendered it desirable to remove the non-combatants, and to render the entire force at the station moveable.

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J. PATON, Major-General,
Quarter Master General of the Army.

H. E. LONGDEN, Colonel,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R. A.,
Secy. to Govt. of India, P. W. Dept.

SIMLA,
21st August 1867. }

CIRCULAR No. 112 PUBLIC WORKS.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
MILITARY WORKS.

To

*The Secretary to Govt. of Madras
in the Public Works Department*

FORT WILLIAM, NOVEMBER 29, 1867.

SIR,

I am directed to forward, for information and guidance, the enclosed Report on the best method of arranging fortified posts and places of refuge at minor Military Stations, drawn up by the Members of a Special Committee which was held at Simla, on the 21st August 1867, together with the lithographed sketches referred to therein.

2. The proposals of the Committee have been concurred in by the Government of India, in the Military Department.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

A. M. B. B. B. Captain, R. E.,
Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India,

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MILITARY WORKS.

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No 4882.

Dated Norember 29, 1867.

Received Jan 24

Forwards for guidance Report of a Special Committee on the best method of arranging fortified posts and places of refuge at minor Military Stations.

no. 227-22nd Jan'y 1868

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