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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	392	Press
187-188		Mis.
Dated	6-2	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th February 1869.*

No. 187. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Communicating, to the Public Works Department,
a Minute by His Excellency the President,
with correspondence therein referred to, in
view to the preparation of the necessary plans,
&c., for the construction, on funds being avail-
able, of a new Hospital for the Body Guard,
and in connection with the change for the
amelioration of the quarters of the Farriers
and Trumpeters.

(Here enter 25th January 1869, No. 361.)

No. 188. ORDER THEREON, 6th February 1869, No. 392.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 12.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 4th Division, who
will submit the plans and estimates
called for.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Govt. of Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

1TH DIVISION.

&c, &c, &c

Dated February 1, 1869.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. C. February 1869, No. 302.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 137-183

Body Guard Lines.—Proceedings Military Department, relative to plans and estimates for a new Hospital in the Body Guard Lines, &c, at Madras, communicated to the Officer concerned.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
25th January 1869.

Read the following papers:—

No. 711. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT.

The accompanying correspondence illustrates a subject which I ought to have brought sooner under the consideration of Government, but which I have deferred, with a view to the numerous pressing claims on our attention and on the public expenditure. The hospital of the Body Guard is most defective both in respect to position and accommodation. The quarters of the Farriers and Trumpeters are so contracted, ill-ventilated and enclosed, that they must be generally unhealthy, and may become at any time the seat of some dangerous malady. In fact, typhoid fever has recently broken out, and it is referred by Medical authority to the state of these habitations. An inspection of the locality this morning leads me to believe that the most pressing want is the construction of a new hospital. If this was done, some workshops and repositories might be moved into the old hospital, and the adjacent houses of the Trumpeters and Farriers might be ventilated and enlarged. There is also a small latrine used by the families of two Serjeants which urgently calls for attention, and which, pending its eventual removal, might be greatly improved by being supplied with metal pans and tubs, and by a better application of the dry earth system. Colonel Macgregor and Dr. Miller, who accompanied me on my inspection, concur in the opinions which I have expressed. I propose, therefore, that the Department of Public Works be instructed to submit a plan for a new hospital in the Body Guard lines, and in connection with this change for the amelioration of the quarters of the Farriers and Trumpeters. The Department of Public Works might also confer with Colonel Macgregor, with reference to some provisional alterations that might, I think, be meanwhile effected in the latter.

(Signed) NAPIER.

January 1869.

From the Officer Commanding the Body Guard, to the Military Secretary to the Right Honorable the Governor; dated Madras, 14th January 1869, No. 9.

Surgeon Miller, in Medical charge of the Body Guard, having urgently brought to notice the unhealthy state of the quarters allotted to the Trumpeters and Farriers, to which he attributes the cases of typhoid fever which occurred lately, I have thought it advisable to forward certain correspondence which has already taken place, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor. For some years past, every Medical Officer has condemned the hospital in toto, and the quarters now complained of have, for some time past, been repeatedly reported on in the sanitary report. The quarters are so built that scarcely any air can get to them—in fact could scarcely be worse.

On the 24th of July last, a list of Military requirements, in the way of original works required in the Body Guard, was forwarded to the President of the Annual Committee, under G. O. C. C. No. 53, of the 9th May 1865.

From Surgeon Major J. PETERKIN, M. D., F. R. C. S., in Medical charge Body Guard, to the Officer Commanding Body Guard; dated Madras, 22nd July 1868, No. 20.

With reference to your application for my opinion as to the necessity of some improvement to the building now in use for the sick of the Body Guard, I have the honor to inform you that, considering the ill adapted nature of the site, I think it would be better at once to erect a new hospital on a better and more open site, and to throw down altogether the building now in use. 2. On reference to the hospital records, I find the building now in use has been condemned in most active terms by every successive Officer in Medical charge of the Body Guard for a long time past, and I cannot better conclude than by quoting the remarks regarding it, which were made by

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
25th January 1869.*

Surgeon Miller, M. D., in his last quarterly sanitary report. The hospital accommodation is insufficient, inasmuch as there is no separate ward for severe or infectious cases, and no bath-room or lavatory. It consists only of one ward and a surgery, which are both small, low, hot, badly situated and indifferently ventilated. On every side of the hospital are buildings in close proximity, and there is therefore no possibility of a free circulation of air. A new hospital is a great desideratum, and it might be built on a small open space in front of the Commanding Officer's office.

3. Under these circumstances, it seems to me highly desirable that the attention of the Annual Committee about to assemble on the 1st proximo, under provision of Clause XXXIII of G. O. C. C. No. 53 of 1865, be directed to the necessity for providing an efficient hospital for the reception of the sick of the Body Guard.

From Surgeon Major J. PETERKIN, M. D., F. R. C. S., in Medical charge Body Guard, Madras, to the Officer Commanding; dated 25th July 1868, No. 21.

In furtherance of my letter No. 20 of 22nd July 1868, I have the honor, under instructions from the Inspector General Indian Medical Department, to forward copy of records by Surgeon J. Miller, M. D., made in his last quarterly sanitary report, in view to the crowded and otherwise insanitary condition of the public quarters in the lines being brought to the notice of Government.

The men have not barracks or huts in the lines. They live in different localities all over Madras, an extremely objectionable practice, as disease is likely to be contracted in places where it is prevailing.

The Staff Serjeants' Farriers' and Trumpeters' quarters are in the lines. Those of the former are good houses, but those of the two latter are very confined, hot, badly ventilated, and insufficiently drained. Some improvement in ventilation was lately attempted, but to little good purpose.

The buildings are all crowded together in such a manner as to prevent due perfusion of air, and no remedy in this respect seems possible, as the whole available space is already fully occupied. There is no guard room, except a long building immediately in front of the hospital used at once as a place of arms and a guard room, which effectually obstructs the access to the hospital.

From Surgeon J. Miller, M. D., in Medical charge Body Guard, to the Officer Commanding Body Guard; dated 31st December 1868, No. 42.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that typhoid fever has broken out in the quarters of one of the Farriers in the lines of the Body Guard. A daughter was taken ill on the 2nd November 1868, and died on the 9th December 1868; another little girl was taken ill on the 20th December 1868, and is now in a dangerous state. The fever in these two cases must have been induced by the crowded, ill ventilated and ill drained condition of the Farriers' and Trumpeters' quarters, which has so often been pointed out in the quarterly sanitary reports of the last two years, and also by several letters. I have the honor to request that you will represent to the proper authorities that the occurrence of typhoid fever in those quarters proves positively that they are unhealthy, and that there is urgent need for their being either rendered fit for habitations or re-built.

From the Officer Commanding the Body Guard, to the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, South Range; dated Madras, 9th January 1869, No. 5.

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Officer in Medical charge of the Body Guard, bringing to notice the unhealthiness of the quarters allotted to the Trumpeters and Farriers of the Corps. The cases of typhoid fever which occurred lately he attributes entirely to the quarters.

I would therefore urge the necessity of steps being adopted for remedying the evil.

From the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, South Range, to the Officer Commanding the Body Guard; dated Madras, 11th January 1869, No. 742.

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, No. 5, I have the honor to state that I am not in a position to authorize any alterations to the quarters allotted to the Trumpeters and Farriers of the Corps.

2. It appears to me that Government should be addressed on the subject, with a view to the question of the necessity for the erection of new quarters being considered by them. If, however,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
25th January 1869.*

Doctor Miller considers that the present quarters can be improved to such an extent as to obviate the necessity of erecting others, I shall be glad to accompany him over them, and have estimates prepared for submission to Government for such alterations in the ventilation and drainage as he may suggest. The over-crowding is an evil which my Department cannot remedy.

3. I would remark that the compounds have lately been drained.

No. 712. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1869, No. 361.

Communicated to the Public Works Department, in view to the preparation of the necessary plans and estimates for giving effect to the suggestion of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor, on funds being available, and to their submission for his Lordship's approval through the Military Secretary on his personal Staff.

(True Extract.)

Macdonald Major General,
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Secretary to the
Right Honorable the Governor.
Public Works Department.
Officer Commanding Body Guard, ... } for information.
Barrack Master, Fort Saint George, ... }
Quarter Master General, ... }

392

Chas. H. Hall

No 392

Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer of the
4th Div, who will submit the
plans & estimates called for.

W. H. Hall

Port Saint George
6th Decr 1863

RE 4 Decr
Sincerely
depts

Recd 8/2/63

PP. 1869 23rd 4th
Cont. of 1869 30th Indus.
9th 364
MILITARY.

THE MILITARY SECRETARY TO THE
RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR.
Ac, Ac, Ac.

Dated January, 25th.
Recd. " 29 "
G. O. 25th January 1869, No. 364
S.

JANUARY.
Nos. 711-712.

No 392-6th Decr 1863

Communicating to the Public Works Depart-
ment a Minute by His Excellency the President,
with correspondence therein referred to, in view
to the preparation of the necessary plans, etc., for
the construction, on funds being available, of a
new hospital for the Body Guard, and in connec-
tion with the change for the amelioration of the
quarters of the Farriers and Trumpeters.

Dec 364
Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Eng^r
1st Division

Dated Dec. Dec. Dec.

Recd.

G. O. 6. Feb 1869 No. 392

Nos. 187 & 188

Body Guard Lines P.O. only
Depd calling for plans & site-
ments for a new Hospital in
the Body Guard Lines, in at hand,
and site off concerned.