M R O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 1

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2115 Press / Mis.

204-05

Dated 17 — 8 — 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th August 1871.

No. 204. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department.—

Transferring a letter from the Quarter Master General, applying for an additional grant of Rupees 300 for the corrections of defects in, and the improvement of, the Rifle Range at Trichinopoly, with a request that the application be sanctioned, if possible. } (Here enter 3rd August 1871, No. 2,518.)

No. 205. ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1871, No. 2,115.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 4.

His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to allot from the unappropriated balance of the Reserve under Military the additional sum of Rupees 300, required for Markers* and Stop Butts for the Rifle Range at Trichinopoly.

* Estimate of Rupees 830, sanctioned in G. O., No. 3,543, dated 5th November 1869.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

V/

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department, 3rd August 1871.

Read the following papers —

No. 84. Memorandum from the Officiating Quarter Master General, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 12th June 1871, No. 3928

Forwarded, with the support of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that Government may be pleased to sanction the additional Rupees 300 required, as His Excellency considers it is very important that the rifle range should be altered as proposed and be made efficient and available without delay.

From the Officer Commanding Southern District, to the Officiating Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, dated Head Quarters, Trichinopoly, 8th June 1871, No 190

In forwarding the correspondence as per margin, I have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that my attention having, during the annual course of musketry practice of the Detachment 45th Regiment stationed here, been attracted to certain defects in the range, I requested the Musketry Instructor of the regiment to report generally on the range, which he did in letter marked A, his remarks are fully concurred in by the Officer* Commanding the Detachment 45th Regiment at this station—himself the holder of a first class H the Certificate—these letters were sent to the Executive Engineer for his remarks, those given in his letter marked C admit the existence of the defects brought to notice

Report dated 24th March 1871, from the Musketry Instructor, 45th Regiment Sherwood Foresters, marked A
Letter No 202, dated 29th March 1871, from the Officer Commanding Detachment 45th Foot, marked B
Letter No 1, dated 5th April 1871, from the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly, marked C
Letter No 10, dated 12th April 1871, from the Chief Inspector of Musketry, marked D
Letter No 3, dated 1st May 1871, from the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly, marked E

* Letter marked B

2 About the time this took place, the Chief Inspector of Musketry visited this station, and I requested him to inspect the range in company with the Executive Engineer, their reports are marked D and E

3 The principal defects complained of are —

1st —That the butt is placed at such an angle that until the sun has risen to a considerable height† there is a deep shade on the targets, the firing party being in the full glare, thus creating a false light, which prevented the firing commencing as early‡ as it would otherwise have done, and entailing either extra exposure of the men to the sun, or indefinite lengthening of the annual course

† Letters marked A, paragraph 1
Do B, do 2
Do C, do 2
Do D, do 2

‡ Letter marked B, paragraph 3

2ndly —That the line of fire is over ground so unlevel—10 feet below the level of the target§ platform at 500 yards—that it was found necessary either to raise mounds for the men to fire from, or to raise the targets considerably above their platforms

§ Letters marked A, paragraph 2
Do B, do 2
Do C, do 2, clause 2nd
Line of level D, do 3
F,

3rdly —That the marker's butt—one only having been built as yet—is twenty-five yards from the stop butt instead of fifteen, thereby adding considerably to the difficulty of marking, ‖ and that the centre pillar is so placed as to obstruct the view

‖ Letter marked C, paragraph 2, clause 3rd, marked A, paragraph 4

4 To remedy these defects, it is proposed by the Executive Engineer and the Chief Inspector of Musketry, who together inspected the range—to slew round the stop butt¶ about 40° to the east which would give a line of fire over ground rising** gradually from the butt to 5 feet at 1,000 yards distance. The one marker's

¶ Letters marked D, paragraph 4
Do E, do 3

** Letter marked E, paragraph 4
Line of levels G

shots. Another drawback from this

butt already built would of course be useless, but the whole cost of the change is estimated by the Executive Engineer at Rupees 500* only, of which Rupees 200 would be met by a balance remaining on the sanctioned estimate for the existing range, leaving a fresh charge of only Rupees 300.

* Letter marked E, paragraph 5.

5 I would strongly recommend that the proposed alterations be made, and that they should be proceeded with immediately, so that the range may be completed and available for the annual practice 1871-72 of the Detachment 45th Foot and two Native Regiments stationed here; the 26th Regiment Native Infantry has been here three years, and with the exception of two Companies that went through the course early this year—has not during that time once gone through the musketry course for want of a range—which fact was brought to notice in my last inspection report

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No. 85. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1871, No. 2518.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

2. The Government in the Military Department desire, that the additional grant of Rupees 300 applied for be sanctioned, if possible.

(True Extract.)

Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with seven enclosures.
„ Quarter Master General.

Lxd J. E Cashart

P. W. 1871 Dept
Govt of } 1871 Military
Ch. No. 3842.

MILITARY.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

&c, &c, &c.

Dated August, 3rd

Recd. —, —14th Encl 7 ✓

G O, 3rd August 1871, No. 2518.

AUGUST.
Nos. 84-85.

Transferring a letter from the Quarter Master General, applying for an additional grant of Rupees 300 for the corrections of defects in, and the improvement of, the rifle range at Trichinopoly, with a request that the application be sanctioned, if possible.

A: 2115-17 Aug 6/71

Report on the Rifle Range and Butt. Trichinopoly A

March 24th 1871.

The Butt on the Trichinopoly Range is built at such an angle that until the Sun has risen to a very Considerable height above the horizon, the targets remain in deep shade while the firing point is in the full glare, the Consequence being "in my opinion a false light, than which nothing Can be more detrimental to good shooting. It is to this Cause I almost entirely ascribe the small figure of merit of the two Companies of the Regiment on detachment at Trichinopoly, as Compared with the remaining Companies at Head Quarters. On reference to the Registers of Target Practice it will be seen that the firing at the shorter distances was good and that it was at the longer distances where the effect of a false light would be more greatly felt, that the men failed, thereby Considerably reducing the Per Centage of first over third class shots. Another drawback from this

situation of the Butts is that on a morning when there is any dew, the targets will not dry, Consequently presenting an almost black appearance to the firer, and rendering it exceedingly difficult to mark.

2. The Range is extremely unlevel there bing a rise in the Ground Commencing at about sixty to ~~Culminating at about one hundred and fifty and~~ two hundred (Culminating at about one hundred and fifty) Yards from the target the Consequence of which is that when the targets are placed on the Platforms at 600 Yards an ordinary trained man loses sight of at least a foot of the target, at four and five hundred Yards this rool is very Considerably increased, in fact to such a degree that in order to enable the Soldier at these latter distances to see the target from a Kneeling position it would be necessary to throw up mounds to at least the height of six or seven feet for the men to fire off.

In order to get over this difficulty, Mounds to that height would have intrified with the shooting at the longer distances, I placed the targets at a height of about three feet up the Butts by which means we were enabled to fire with very Considerably smaller mounds.

3. This Range is only marked out up to (Two) three hundred Yards, and as the Officer of the Royal Engineers left the Station on duty, before the Commencement of the Course, it was impossible to Carry out Para 13 of Part 9. Musketry Instruction Regulations: I Consequently most Carefully measured the Ground myself.

4. There is only one Markers Butt on the Range, and that is built in such a manner that it is impossible for a man sitting in the Butt to show the flags denoting the value of the shots to the Party at the firing Point: The Butt is also placed at nearly twenty five Yards distant from the target platform instead of (15) fifteen as per regulation, thereby adding Considerably to the difficulty of marking. There bing only this one Markers Butt on the Range, I with the

assistance of the Crew of the detachment erected a temporary marker and two ricochet butts, with extra targets, which by the Brigadier Generals Consent are obtained from the Arsenal.

A great part of the earth used in making the Butts appears to have been taken from just in front of the target platforms, as there is an excavation extending along the whole front of the Platforms, to the depth of about eighteen inches to two feet running to a considerable distance up the Range.

In Consequence of this of course ricochets are extremely rare, almost all the shot that strike short ricocheting over the target, and in many cases even over the Butts.

This to a certain extent affected for the worse the Platoon firing.

H. Lambarde. Lieut & Capt
Musketry Instructor 45th Regt.

Fort St. George
Madras
March 24th 1871

No. 202/71

Trichinopoly
29th March 1871.

B

From
The Officer Commanding
Detachment 45th Regt. Sherwood Foresters

To
The Brigade Major
Southern Division
Trichinopoly

Sir

I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Brigadier General Commanding Southern Division, the accompanying Report, on the Rifle Range at this Station, & the Instruction of Musketry - 45th Regt. Sherwood Foresters, and I respectfully express my full concurrence in the views and opinions therein conveyed.

2 I consider that the low "figure of merit" of the two companies &c., is entirely attributable to two causes.

1st "The false light", resulting from the direction - or bearing - of the Range

And

and 2nd. The angle or inclination of the ground, whilst at the distance of 400 and 500 yards, is little, as to bracer the lower part of the Target, from a mean firing, at these distances, in the kneeling position.

3. During the time the Musketry course has been carried on here, during the position of the Target is pointed out in the first part of the Report by the Musketry Instructor - ball practice could not be commenced in the morning, till some Hourly minutes later than would otherwise have been and still greater delay was occasioned by the difficulty to persuade the Markers in discriminating the hits on the Target, some present on the "Markers butt", being too far from the Target, and precipitating the continual running out of the Markers to count the hits from these causes

I consider that the delay each morning amounted certainly to thirty and some times even to forty minutes.

The Medical Officers were continually reporting the late hour, at which the men returned to Barracks, from ball practice. and although, I do not think that the men suffered, any ill effects from being but little 9. or 9. 15 am. daily, when practicable, I consider that it is advisable that they should be in Barracks at an earlier hour.

I have the honor to be.
Sir
Your Obdt. Servant
W. Hayward. Capt.
Comdt. Dett. 45th Rgt. I.F.

Spiekinoploy
Executive Engr Office
5th April 1871

From
The Executive Engineer
Spiekinoploy

To
The Brigade Major
" Do

Sir,

I have the honor to return the Documents as per Margin which accompanied your Letter No 574 of 30th Instant.

The objections made to the Rifle Range lately laid out and which forms the subject of the foregoing Assm to be 4 in number.

1st The Butts in which shoon sometimes in the morning after the sun has risen thereby rendering difficult a distant view of the targets, this is of course utterly irremediable as far as the present Butts go Considered

2d The grass in the ground in front of the Targets, which, after some distance, renders the foot of the Target invisible

Spiekinoploy
Executive Engr Office
5th April 1871

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From a section I have had taken, and which I forward for your inspection, it appears there is a rise of about ¾ of a foot upto 50 yards from the Target the ground then falls upto 500 Yards from the Target where it is about 10 feet below the level of the Target Platforms.

This is a serious evil, and one which Could only be remedied at Considerable Expence.

3rd The faulty Construction of the Markers Butt.

With regard to this I cannot say that the Butt has been Constructed strictly in accordance with the Plan which was received from the Superintending Officer.

The Construction of the other Butt (the Foundations of which are laid) has been delayed owing to the non sanction of Funds.

4th Excavation of a pit in front of the Target

was dug to obtain part of the Earth for forming the Butts of Course it Can be easily filled up again

It cannot be denied that the defects of the Range are so radical that it would be better to look for an entirely new Range than attempt to remedy them. It may be difficult, if not impracticable to find a Range possessing all the qualities required, & at the same time within Easy distance of the Cantonment; If such Cannot be found, it will be time enough to endeavour to Amend the present state of Affairs.

I may here remark that any attempt to remedy the first defect by sloping round the butt so as more to face the East will in all probability take the other end of the Range a Cop the Road leading from St Johns Church

past the Fakirs Rock — while it would, moreover, render utterly useless the Marker's Butt

Thanks &c.

Lascelles Wortley Capt RE

1871
Dec 5 Rec'd
5-4-71

Brig Gen Engineer
Secunderabad

Secunderabad 5th Dec 1871

Returned herewith Plans of Range
Remarks on the Application

Lt Col
Chief Engineer
Q.R. 3842/71

Range
No 10
A

Office of Chief Inspector of Musketry,
Hythe
12th April
1871

D

From,

THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MUSKETRY,

To. The Brigade Major
Secunderabad

SIR,

With reference to your letter No. 610 of the 8th inst. and enclosures (two sketches) reporting the unsatisfactory state of the range at this station I have the honor to report that I have inspected the range, and beg to forward my remarks for the information of the Brigadier Commanding.

2 The first and principal objection to the range is, the position of the Stop Butt; so so placed that when the sun rises the target are behind the Shade, and remain so until late in the morning, and shining on the mens faces, it makes it not only difficult to see the target but the light is deceptive, & greatly against accurate shooting at long ranges

3 The ground rises at first from the platforms, for about 60 yds and afterwards falls so that at the longer ranges part of the target is lost sight of; this could

Obviated

No 3.

From Trichinopoly Brig. & Maj. & Offg. Sub Dist. 15th April 1871.

To The Secretary to Government Fort St. George.

The Brigade Major Trichinopoly.

The Brigade Major Southern Outposts

Sir

I have the honor to return herewith Documents as per margin which accompanied your letter (Dismt Office) of 12th & Ultimo.

I have instructed the Commandants of companies to carry out the Musketry Instructions as laid down in Circular Memo No 1 of 1871 dated 1st January 1871.

By sunset on the 15th Instant the Officers Commanding companies at the Stations mentioned in the margin hereof will forward to this Office a return of the practice made by companies at Stations under their command during the present month.

Should any of the companies not have completed the practice by the 15th Instant, the Officers Commanding companies will forward returns of the practice made by them up to that date

to the Roads through the Brigade Ground
by is 750 (4to) and, should a longer Range
be required, the Line prolonged for 250
Yards (making in all 1000 (Vto)) is still
very good. The adoption of this Line
will obviate all the objections to the
present Range, but it will render useless
all the Work that has been done.

5. On the Sanctioned Estimate
there is a balance of Rs. 200-6-6-
By somewhat removing the
eye of the Markers Butts, as proposed
by the Chief Inspector, who Considers
them not only too deep, but objectionable
likewise on account of a Central Pillar
in front, which obstructs the view, the
total Cost of the new Works required
will be about Rs 500, or deducting the
amount a fore noted the net balance required
will be Rs 300-"

I have &c

Lieuet Colonel
Chief Engineer

Rangoon Fortified 1891.

Rs. 300

Estimate for Rifle Butts

Rangoon Fortified 1891.

Rs. 200

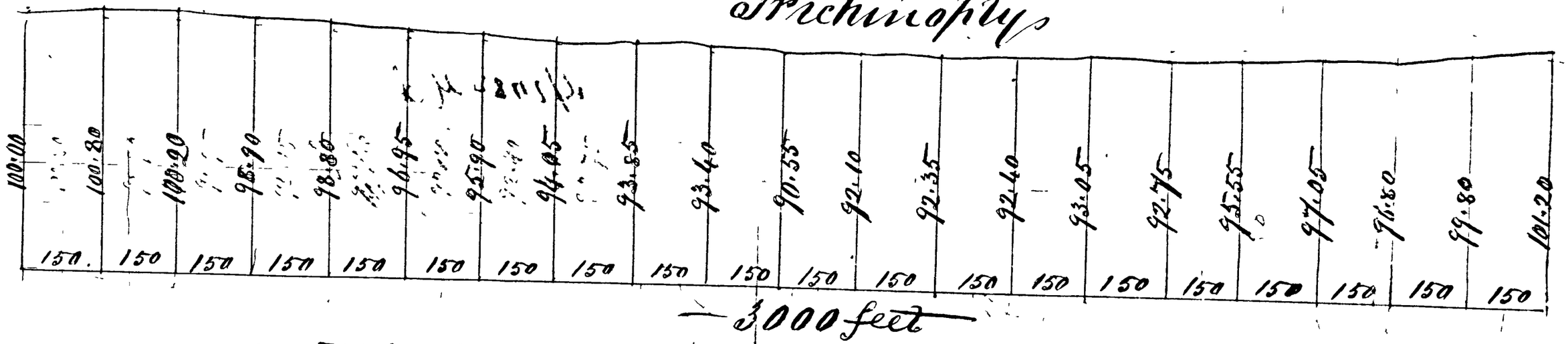
Estimate for Rifle Butts

at

F

Line of Levels on present Line of Fire. Rifle Butts

Trichinopoly



N.B. 100.0 is the Reduced Level of the Target Platform.

1/4/71

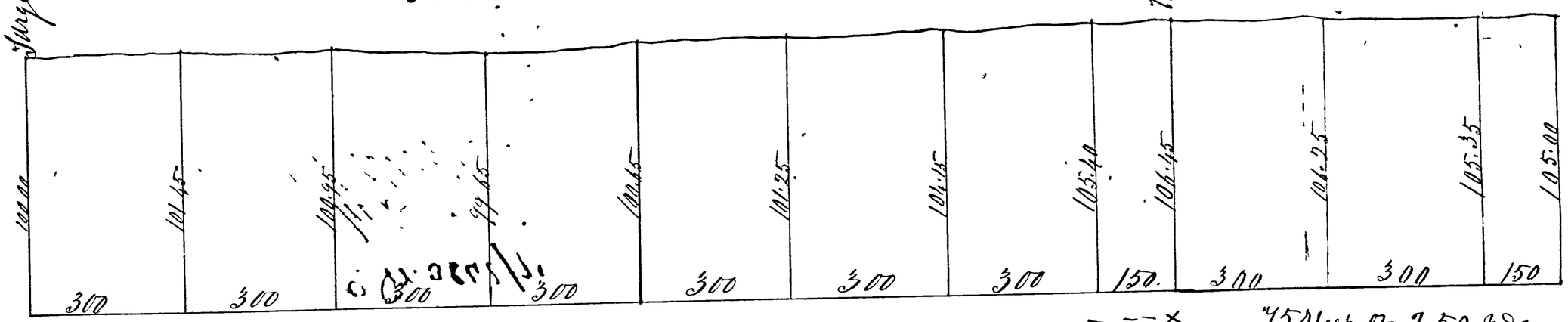
1500

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da 742614 f 1871

P.M. 3842/71

G

Line of fire that will be obtained at Rifle Butts if proposed alterations be sanctioned



Total 1000 Yards

Horizontal Scale 1/250
Vertical Scale 1/10.

Trichinopoly
20/4/71

Public Works Department

No. 2115 2117

13

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 17 August 1871

Read the following

Pro. of the Sr. Govt. in the Military Department, No. 2518 of 3rd August 1871

His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to allot from the unappropriated balance of the Reserve under Military the additional sum of Rs. 300, required for Markers and Stop Butts for the Rifle Range at

†Estimate of Rs. 830 sanctioned in G. O. No. 3543 dated 5th Nov. 1869—

No. 3842.

Govt of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr
6th Division

Print only obtained the Order

Dated

Recd Fwd

G O 17th Augt 2115.

Nos. 2048905

Markers & Shop Butts for Rifle Range at Trichinopoly.

An additional sum of Rs 300 allotted for Markers & Shop Butts for the Rifle Range at Trichinopoly.