

(1) Number of pages 18
(2) Date of repair 15-12-86
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	354	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	16-2-1880	197.

A.H.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

16th February 1880, No. 354 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Military Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 37. Endorsement of the Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 14th February 1880, No. 989.

From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 10th February 1880, No. 1,179.

I HAVE the honor, by order, to forward the enclosed letter No. 38, dated 2nd instant, from the Officer Commanding Centre District, reporting on the dangerous state of a portion of the old barracks at Poonamallee, and recommending the immediate demolition of the eastern and western sides of the barrack square, and the commencement at once of the repairs and alterations to the other portion of the old barracks.

2. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief requests that the Public Works Department may be instructed accordingly. The grant of Rs. 20,000 in 1880-81 for buildings at Poonamallee should be expended as early as possible in the year on works that will supply the most pressing of the needs for accommodation at Poonamallee. This could be arranged between the Executive Engineer and the local Military authorities.

3. If these recommendations are sanctioned and the Public Works Department urged to expedite the work as much as possible, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief thinks the temporary barracks suggested by the Officer Commanding Centre District in paragraph 7 of his letter need not be constructed.

From Colonel G. LESLIE, R.A., Commanding Centre District, to the Quartermaster-General, dated Fort St. George, 2nd February 1880, No. G-38.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that on the 28th ultimo the Officer Commanding Poonamallee forwarded, for special attention, a report of the Depot Barracks, addressed to him by Mr. Pringle, the Executive Engineer, Chingleput Division, which ran as follows :—

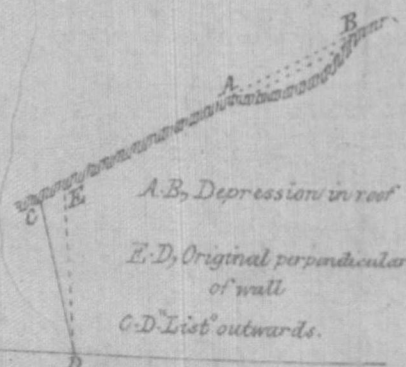
"1. I have reported to the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, that I do not consider the building* safe for occupation by troops on account of the decay of the roof timbers.

"2. There is no doubt that from many parts of the roofing a mass of tiles of sufficient weight to seriously injure, if not kill, any one below, may at any time fall; and under these circumstances I think it right to suggest that if possible the building may be vacated."

2. I accordingly directed my Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General to proceed to Poonamallee to inspect the barrack, and to confer with Major Hamilton, and the Department Public Works Overseer, Mr. Lord, as to the most advisable steps to be adopted to meet the emergency.

3. This duty was performed on Saturday morning last, Major Kenney Herbert reporting as follows:—

- "i. The whole of the roofing of the barracks at Poonamallee is in a dangerous state. Every here and there the tiling has subsided, evidently owing to the giving way of the timber beneath. The appearance is that of a number of waves, the depressions in some instances being very deep.
- "ii. These indications of decay are most serious in the roof of the eastern and western sides of the barrack quadrangle. Both of which, it will be remembered, are marked for demolition in the scheme for the new barracks at Poonamallee.



"iii. In addition to the evident rottenness of the roof, the outer wall of the western sides of the barracks has a decided "list" outwards, as though unequal to withstand the superincumbent pressure.—Vide marginal illustration.

- "iv. The eastern half of the southern side appears to be in a precarious state. The roof immediately over the guard-room is much indented, and, in the opinion of the Engineer, might collapse under any severe atmospheric disturbance, such, for instance, as would be produced by a loud clap of thunder."

4. In these circumstances the following alternatives suggest themselves:—

- (a.) The immediate removal of the men from the barracks which are considered most dangerous.
- (b.) The demolition (in pursuance with the new barrack scheme) of the eastern and western sides of the barrack square.
- (c.) The commencement of the re-roofing at once at the south-west end of the barracks, and the gradual continuation of the work till the two blocks be completed according to the scheme.

5. The men who are moved out of barracks can at once be accommodated in the tents which were pitched a short time ago for the invalids from Burmah, and have not yet been removed.

6. They can make use of the barrack latrines, wash-houses, cook-rooms, &c., as the camp is close.

7. In the meantime temporary barracks with thatched roofs, similar to the temporary hospital erected some six or seven years ago at Poonamallee, might be thrown up on the actual site of the new barracks, the foundations already laid being made use of.

8. A good deal of space is generally available at the hospital, room for 120 men having been reported in the last weekly return, but I hesitate to recommend the occupation of the building until I have obtained the opinion of the Officer Commanding the Depot, and that of the Medical Officer in charge, as there might be difficulties in the way of providing sufficient latrine, cook-house, and wash-house accommodation.

9. A plan of the old barracks is attached, showing the portions which have been marked for demolition in the new barrack scheme, and which, I think, should now be pulled down. It was decided that the northern and southern sides should be left standing, forming, after the removal of the eastern and western sides, two detached blocks. These I simply propose to re-roof.

10. The site of the new blocks is, you will remember, to the north-west of, and close to the old barracks.

11. The camp now pitched is on the north-eastern side, and equally near.

12. I await His Excellency's orders.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department, for very early attention, and for the prompt issue of orders in accordance with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's recommendation in paragraph 2.

(By Order.)

(Signed) H. N. D. PRENDERGAST, Colonel, R.E.,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, 16th February 1880, No. 354 W.

COPY to the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, for immediate communication to the Executive Engineer. No time should be lost in demolishing the condemned sides of the barrack square, and in setting in hand the repairs and alterations to the remaining portion.

2. Special exertions should be made for the early execution, from the grant of 1880-81, of such works as the local Military authorities in communication with the Executive Engineer may consider most needed.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, with tracing.
" Military Department.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
MILITARY WORKS.

G.O. of (1880) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
THIRD CIRCLE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February 16th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 16th February 1880, No. 354 W.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 37-38.

Poonamallee Barracks.—Directs the immediate demolition of the condemned sides of the barrack square and the execution of repairs and alterations to the remaining portion of the —.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Head-quarters, Fort St. George
10th February 1880.

No. 1179.

From

BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. O'CONNELL,
Quartermaster-General,

To

Colonel H. C. Pendergast, C.B., V.C., R.F.
Acting Secretary to Government
Military Department.

SIR,

I have the honor, by order, to forward the enclosed letter No. 38 dated 2d Instant from the Officer Commanding Central District reporting on the dangerous state of a portion of the old Barracks at Poonamallee and recommending the immediate demolition of the Eastern and Western sides of the Barrack Square and the commencement at once of the repairs and alterations to the other portion of the old Barracks.

I am, Sir, to inform you that the Excellency the Commander in Chief requests that the Public Works Department may be instructed accordingly. The grant of Rs 20,000 in 1880-81 for buildings at Poonamallee should be expended as early as possible in the year on works that will supply the most pressing of the needs for accommodation at Poonamallee. This could be arranged between the

the Executive Engineer and the local Military
Authorities.

3. If these recommendations are con-
-sidered and the Public Works Department urged
to expedite the work as much as possible, His
Excellency the Commander in Chief thinks the tem-
-porary barracks suggested by the Officer Com-
-manding Centre District in para 7 of his letter
need not be constructed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. T. Cornwell Brig. General

Quarter Master General.

Fort St. George 2nd February 1880.

No. G 38

From Colonel. G. Leslie. R.A.
Commanding Centre District,

To The Quartermaster General.
Fort Saint George

Sir,
I have the honor to inform you that on the 28th ultimo, the Officer Commanding Poonamallee forwarded for special attention a report of the Depot Barracks, addressed to him, by Mr. Pringle, the Executive Engineer, Engineering Division, which ran as follows:-

1- I have reported to the Superintending Engineer, and find, that I do not consider the building safe for occupation by troops, on account of the decay of the roof timbers."

2- "There is no doubt that from many parts of the roofing a mass of tiles of sufficient weight to seriously injure, if not kill, any one below, may fall any time, and under these circumstances, I think it right to suggest that if possible the building may be vacated."

3- I accordingly directed my Deputy Assistant

Poonamallee Barracks.

Building 1880 Department

No. 728

Fort St. George D.
14 Feb 1880

Mr. Leslie R.A.

Mr. Pringle to Government
Military Department

Depot 10th Feb 1880
No. 1203

No. 1179

By order of the
Quartermaster General.

Ag. Secy to Govt.

Col. G. Leslie.

Forwarded to

Proc. of Govt. dt. 16th Feb/80
No. 354

Back to 37.

Assistant Quartermaster General to proceed to
Panama to inspect the Barracks, and to
confer with Major Hamilton, and the Depart-
ment Public Works officer, Mr. Lord, as to
the most advisable steps to be adopted to meet
the emergency.

3. This duty was performed on Saturday
morning last, Major Henry Herbert reporting
as follows:

i. The whole of the roofing of the Barracks
at Panama is in a dangerous state. Every
here and there the tiling has subsided, evidently
owing to the giving way of the timber beams.
The appearance is that of a number of waves,
the depressions in some instances being very deep.

ii. These indications of decay are most seri-
ous in the roof of the eastern and western sides
of the Barrack quadrangle. Both of which,
it will be remembered, are marked for demolition
in the scheme for the new Barracks at Pana-
ma.

iii. In addition to the evident rottenness
of the roof, the outer wall of the western side of
the Barracks has a decided list outward,
as though unequal to
withstand the superin-
cumbent pressure. (See
marginal illustration.)

iv. The eastern half of the Southern side
appears.



SP 4 35/6

appears to be in a precarious state. The roof imme-
diately over the Guard room is much inclined,
and in the opinion of the Engineer might
collapse under any severe atmospheric dis-
turbance, such, for instance, as would be produced
by a loud clap of thunder.

4. In these circumstances the following
alternatives suggest themselves.

a. The immediate removal of the men from
the Barracks, which are considered most danger-
ous.

b. The demolition in pursuance with the
new Barrack scheme of the eastern and western
sides of the Barrack square.

c. The commencement of the re-roofing at
once at the South-west end of the Barracks,
and the gradual continuation of the work,
till the two blocks be completed according
to the scheme.

5. The men who are moved out of Barracks
can at once be accommodated in the tents which
were pitched a short time ago for the Swatich
from Panama, and have not yet been re-
moved.

6. They can make use of the Barrack
Latrines, wash houses, cook rooms, &c., as the
camp is close to the Barracks.

7. In the meantime temporary barracks
with thatched roofs, similar to the temporary
Hospital erected some six or seven years ago at

Possamallee, might be thrown up in the actual
site of the new barracks, the foundations already laid
being made use of —

8. — A good deal of space is generally available
at the Hospital, now for 120 men having been
reported in the last Weekly return, but I hesi-
tate to recommend the occupation of the building
until I have obtained the opinion of the Officer
Commanding the Depot, and that of the Medical
Officer in Charge, as there might be difficulties
in the way of providing sufficient latrine, work-
house, and wash house accommodation —

9. — A plan of the old Barracks is at-
tached, showing the portions which have been
marked for demolition in the new Barrack
scheme, and which, I think, should now be
pulled down. It was decided that the northern
and southern sides should be left standing, form-
ing, after the removal of the eastern and western
sides, two detached blocks. These I simply
propose to re-roof —

10. — The site of the new blocks is, you
will remember, to the North West of, and close
to the old Barracks. —

11. — The camp now pitched is on the
North eastern side, and equally near. —

12. — I await His Excellency's orders
and

and

have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant.

James Coll. R.A.
Commanding Centre District

P.W.D.

12/1/80

NO

date 2nd 1880

Nov 9th

Dr. ...

the dangerous condition
of the ...
at ...

has ...

1880

Back No. 37

8

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✓ C. N. 1090. A.
Govt. of (1880) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 16 Feb 1880, No. 254 W

Nos.

37-38

Poonamallee Banacko

Directs the immediate
demolition of the condemned
sides of the banack square
and the execution of repairs
+ alterations to the remaining
portion of the —