

Circular

Some years ago, I obtained the names of a large number of the officers of the Corps of Indian Engineers and having shown this list to some of my friends they suggested that I should undertake the compilation of a Military History of the Corps of Madras Engineers. This I at first declined to do but being greatly urged to attempt it by a friend I made up my mind to commence, thinking that even if I failed to complete the undertaking I should at least be greatly interested in my researches. The compilation is now approaching completion and I am seriously thinking of publishing the 1st Volume (the work will consist of 2 Volumes) this or next year in England. I have endeavoured to trace the services of the Madras Engineers, Pioneers and Sappers from their origin; and in my accounts of the various campaigns I have done my best to ascertain the manner in which those corps have contributed to their success. I have made use wherever practicable of letters and reports of Engineers themselves. In fact the compilation is a record of the gradual development of the Corps, with accounts of all the campaigns in which they have been engaged with a view to bring prominently to notice the work done by those corps. I well know that the work will be imperfect, and that many officers

in the Corps. are far better qualified for the task; but I trust this will be overlooked from a consideration that it is possible if I had not undertaken the work, it might not have been taken up by any one.

It will not be many years before the Indian Engineers will disappear from the Army List and I think it is high time that some record should exist showing the excellent work done in the past by the distinguished corps of Indian Engineers Pioneers and Sappers.

The work will probably cost 20/ or 25/ a volume.

I now propose to publish only the 1st Volume, but material for the 2nd is well advanced and I shall endeavour meantime to complete that also and perhaps in 1882 may be in a position to publish it.

A work of this nature is not likely to have an extensive sale and I trust therefore that my brother officers of the Engineers will support me by intimating their intention of becoming Subscribers.

Madras

15th January
1881

Henry N. V. V. V.
Major R. (M) E.

Cho. 452/81.

No. 3846

MADRAS,

Chepauk, 24 Jan 1889

From

Major A. M. Vibart, R.E.

~~THE~~ SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS,

PRESIDENCY,

To

The Colonel R. H. Sawney C.B. R.E.
R.E. R.E. R.E.

Sir,

Enclosures.

I have the honor to enclose a Circular which I propose to submit to the Officers of the Royal Engineers with reference to a Military History of the Madras Engineers and "Queen's Own" Sappers and Miners which I ^{intend} ~~propose~~ to publish in England this or next year.

As the work is one not likely to have an extensive sale outside the Corps, I venture to hope that the Madras Government may be willing to assist me in bringing out

out the work by stating their intention
of subscribing for 50 copies. All ne-
cessary information is given in the
Circular, and I beg that you will
be kind enough to address Govern-
ment on the subject; placing the
matter before them in the most
favorable light.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedt. servant

Henry Vivian Major &c.

Superintendent of Works
R. G. F.

Recd.

A.C. No. 3027. 15-9-74. R.D.

" " 20672. 15-9-73. "

J.W. C.A. 453.

1/1.

Recd 21 January 1881.

Forward which
Major Robert
was on 4th received
no assistance

Att

25/1/81

W

2 Copies sub-
mitted.

R.S.
28-1-81.

2 Copies herewith

C.R.W.

11/11 52/25/1

Send to Miller

W.O. and ask if

may be forwarded with
information currently as to
the character of the Ensign
as regards pay or otherwise
from to Col Wilson

25-1-81

W.S.

W.S.

A.C. No. 2027. 15-9-74. H.D.
" " 20616. 15-9-73. "

C. R. W.

Mr. Bulley
Can give us a
copy of the circular
on stamps paper
in our office

I should then
like to send it
a.o. to the Sub.
Secy to enquire
the terms on which
Colonel Wilson and
his late brother
were engaged by Govt.
to write the history
of the Andros Army
as touching to state
that Govt. are pre-
pared to aid in
efforts of the nation

485
27/11

but in the nature
of the work it
must at best have
a limited sale

It will be observed
in the G.O. that
according to that
the Government have
already the the case
of the history of the
Andros Army from
such encouragement
as they could to the
late Colonel Wilson
— and also to his
brother who is now
completing this work
Major Vibart's work
is of precisely an
analogous character
and equally I should
hope worthy of
superior

27/1/81

Att

No 320 W

P. H. A.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 5 Feby/87

Read the following:

Major W. D. Venable R.E. (W.E. No. 3846 of 24 Jan'y/81)

The Government are
prepared to subscribe
for fifty copies of Major
Vilear's book.

S
4/2

Major H. H. Tibbels R.E. ✓

Essex, P. L. Acad. ✓

22nd

5-2-80

12

Grass

The order

I beg to submit
herewith a request
on the part of Major
Vibart in same will
on the part of Govt.
in publishing a history
of the Corps of Madras
Engineers and in
process of extinction
His official letter
circular speaks for
itself, and I should
hope that Government
would be disposed to
encourage the under-
taking to the extent
indicated by
taking 50 copies
All present and
retired Officers of
the Corps will I have
no doubt subscribe

Certainly I don't
 like the \$100.50
 copies. But I
 don't think Col
 Wilson's conduct
 analogous. He
 got there the wrong
 night? Is this duty
 of compensating? I think
 don't require

C. 27.1. 10.6.2

C. 27.1 B. 4.2

9-9-81 ✓

B.A. 320 N 95 Febry/81

89 + 90

100

C. 271 R42

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

31st January 1881, No. 559.

Defences—Forts.

Read the following papers :—

No. 377. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 2nd August 1880, No. 826.*

I have the honor, by order, to request the sanction of Government for striking off the military returns the buildings at Bellary enumerated in the annexed list. These buildings are in the Upper Fort and Citadel of Bellary, they are in ruins and perfectly useless for military purposes. The fixtures were removed by the Public Works Department some time ago. It is considered useless to try and sell them for demolition by the purchaser, as the materials would not repay their carriage from the top of the rock.

List of Buildings on the Hill Fort proposed to be removed from the Triennial Return of Military Buildings.

Number of Buildings in Triennial Return.	Number and Description of each Apartment.	Remarks.
1	2 Powder Magazines	No fixtures in these buildings.
2	do. do.	
3	do. do.	
4	1 Officer's Guard Room	
5	1 Barrack Room	
	3 Rooms	
6	1 Barrack Room	
	3 Small Rooms	
7	2 Store Rooms	
8	2 do. do.	
9	2 do. do.	
10	1 Cook Room	No fixtures in these buildings.
	1 Necessary	
11	11 Solitary cells	

BELLARY,
21st July 1880.

(Signed) JOHN DALY,
Barrack Master.

(Signed) E. H. FYRE, Major,
Dy. Asst. Quartermaster-Genl.,
Ceded Districts.

No. 378. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 27th September 1880, No. 1221.*

With reference to Order of Government, No. 6012, dated 23rd instant, communicating to the Commander-in-Chief certain notes by His Grace the Governor on his recent tour to the district of Bellary, I have the honor, by order of Sir

Neville Chamberlain, to remark as follows on the following paragraphs of the notes which refer to the military :—

Para. 2.—The forts of Bellary, both upper and lower, are not under the military. They were included in the municipal limits by notification of Government, Public Department, 25th July 1867, and are not now maintained as forts. They are in the same category as the forts of Trichinopoly and Palamcottah, which are completely under the control of municipalities, and parts of the walls of which have, since they were included in municipal limits, been pulled down to carry out town improvements. The formation of a roadway through an existing breach in the walls of the lower fort of Bellary was sanctioned by Government, O.G., 5th January 1877, No. 30.

Para. 3.—The cutting of the trees has not been done by the military nor are the military responsible for it, as the trees are in municipal limits and not in any way under the military. The same remark applies to the flagstaff. As bearing on this subject, it will be in the recollection of Government that the flagstaff in the fort at Vellore, when that fort was under the municipality, was for sale. This was stopped by Government, and it was directed that the fort should be handed back to military charge. The transfer has not yet been finally made, pending the settlement of cantonments (O.G., Financial Department, No. 258, dated 4th February 1880; Military Department No. 1110, dated 18th idem). Recently at Vellore, when some trees in the fort were blown down, the military were about to take charge of them and clear away the debris, when it was brought to notice that the fort had not yet been finally handed over to the military.

Para. 4.—The gates and the beams supporting the roofs of old buildings are not under charge of the Military, but of the Public Works Department. Unoccupied buildings are not in charge of the military, except when they are temporarily vacant, when chowkeydars are usually hired for their care. These buildings in the fort at Bellary had been unoccupied for years, and were not in charge of the military.

Para. 5.—The fort of Bellary is not in charge of the military as before mentioned, nor are the military responsible for the care of the trees in it. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief does not consider the fort of Bellary suitable as a place of refuge for non-combatants in case of the troops being called out.

2. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief trusts that the above facts may be taken into consideration, and the military officially exonerated from the imputation of neglect of duty passed upon them in the notes by His Grace the Governor.

No. 379.

ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1881, No. 559.

The Government remark that there has probably been some misapprehension on the point, and they are willing to withdraw any censure on the military authorities at Bellary which the Proceedings of 6th September 1880, No. 1344 (Public), may be supposed to convey; but there can be no question that the inclusion of a cantonment in municipal limits does not transfer to the custody of Municipal Commissioners any public buildings, nor are the Commissioners legally competent, under Act 3 of 1871, to receive charge of, or to maintain in repair from municipal funds, any Government buildings other than such public hospitals, schools, choultries, &c., as are contemplated by Section 15 of the Act, and as may so be vested in them by specific order.

2. The cases of the Vellore and Trichinopoly Forts are not parallel with that of the Bellary Fort. The Vellore Fort buildings had long been in direct civil use and occupation to a considerable extent, but when the Municipal Commissioners meddled with the rampart and flagstaff, they were peremptorily stopped.

3. The Trichinopoly Fort is really a fortified pagoda in the custody of the religious community concerned. The filling in of the ditch was commenced directly by Government, and was only completed with their sanction, partly by the Commissioners and partly at State cost, by famine labor.

4. There is no question raised that up to 1867, the Bellary Fort was in the keeping of the military authorities, and the Government cannot admit that the orders then passed relieved them of that custody.

5. To place the Public Works Department in charge, a formal Order of Government and transfer from one department to the other would be necessary, but the Government are of opinion that the circumstances and position of Bellary and its fort render it desirable that the latter should be retained in military keeping. They are prepared to consider any detail arrangements for the purpose which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may deem necessary.

(True Extract.)

W. A. Raitt Colonel,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

B. 1. 321 waf 5 July 1881.

Communicated
to the Supg Engineer
Spt. Cade.

S. 2

200 24440. 23-10-81.

91 + 92

J. W. C. 678.

Capt. of (1881) Madras

MILITARY

R. 10 p. February

To THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.
Ad. Ac. Ac.

Dated January, 31st.

Issued

Recd. July 1881

Ad. Ac. Ac.

G.O. 31st January 1881, No. 550r

JANUARY.
Nos. 377-379.

Considering it desirable to retain the
Battery Port in military keeping, and requesting
the Commander-in-Chief to submit any detail
arrangements which His Excellency may
consider necessary for the purpose.

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