

There is however apparently
no objection to the papers
being recorded in the meantime,
& this perhaps would be the
better course.

CY

16/5.

Yes record

Q

101
 By order of the
 Lie over
 By order record
 Item?
 8
 Dec.
 C. no 7116 was ordered to lie
 over pending receipt of the
 report of which Major Vient
 was appointed a member
 there

7118.

11

For address.

The notes in regard
 to placing guns
 on the heads of
 the kitchen piece
 cannot be traced.
 Careful search
 in all directions
 has been made.

13/11 W.P.

D W

Major Vient
 was in a Committee
 then & then report will
 have to be accompanied
 27.1.81 G.D.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

29th October 1880, No. 6854.

Defences—Armaments.

Read the following paper :—

No. 530. *From Colonel A. JOHNSON, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department, Madras; dated Simla, 7th October 1880, No. 1721-S.D.*

Armaments—Fort St. George.

With reference to the communication from this department, No. 911-S.D., dated 24th August 1878,* I am desired to communicate, for the information of the Governor in Council, the scheme of a revised armament for Fort St. George, contained in the marginally-noted letter from the President, Defence Committee, which has received the approval of the Government of India, and to request that, under the orders of His Excellency in Council, the same may be carried into effect as early as may be practicable, with reference to the available supply of ordnance of the classes laid down by the Committee.

From the President Defence Committee, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; dated Simla, 2nd August 1880, No. 22.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 672-D, dated 11th March 1880, forwarding, for the consideration of the Defence Committee, a letter (herewith returned), No. 1312, dated 16th February 1880, from the Adjutant-General in India, regarding the defence and armament of Fort St. George, I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, the following remarks on the subject by the Committee, and to recommend its suggestions for favorable consideration and approval.

2. During the past twenty years, the question has been studied and reported upon by several committees, who appear to have established the fact that the existing ramparts are unable to carry ordnance heavier than 80-pounder rifled guns, and that for this (if for no other reason) the much heavier guns intended to cope with an enemy's ironclad fleet should not be mounted in the fort, but in independent batteries along the sea shore.

3. It has also been urged that Fort St. George is crowded with barracks, with men, women and children, with valuable Government property in the Arsenal and other buildings, and that some of these buildings are so close to the exposed sea face as to render the ramparts of this face untenable if exposed to a heavy cannonade which would cause showers of masonry splinters to fall like shell fragments among the defenders of the works. On this point Sir Neville Chamberlain remarked—"It is an axiom for guns to fire at guns; and the less fire that is drawn upon the fort, the better for its buildings and inhabitants."

These facts furnish additional reasons for transferring the scene of combat with the guns of an enemy's fleet, from the fort to isolated shore batteries.

4. It will accordingly be seen, on reference to its report on the "General Scheme of Coast Defences for India" (*vide* paras. 162—175), that the Defence Committee has allowed Fort St. George to take no part whatever in the "coast defence," which is entrusted entirely to 100-ton and 38-ton guns in turrets and iron-fronted batteries on the breakwater and on the shore.

5. The sole function, therefore, of this fort is to shelter the Arsenal and other public property now within its walls from assault by enemies *on land*, and to furnish a place of refuge to the Europeans of Madras and its neighbourhood in case of any local emeute.

6. With this object it will be sufficient to adopt the principles which guided the Defence Committee in determining the revised armament for Fort William (which has received the approval

of Government). But in applying these principles, it is necessary to take into account one particular in which the circumstances of the two forts differ. At Calcutta, the enemy's ships therein mounted, armour-piercing ordnance (12-ton R.M.L.) has been provided for the river fronts, whereas at Madras the nature of the shelving shore with its formidable surf precludes the possibility of the enemy's ships coming near enough to be within effective range of such guns as could be mounted (as shown in para. 2 above) on the ramparts of Fort St. George, and the task of fighting these is given to the Beach Batteries and Breakwater Turret.

7. The armament, therefore, of Fort St. George need be only for land defence, and the number and weight of the guns as recommended by the Defence Committee (and shown in the annexed tabular statement) are selected on this basis, and in accordance with the following principles:—

- The guns in number and weight should be sufficient to overmatch the artillery of any enemy likely to attack the fort on land.
- They should not, however, be more numerous than absolutely necessary, so that too large a number of gunners may not be needed to man the batteries, and the magazine and store accommodation need not be unnecessarily large and costly.
- To avoid confusion in regard to storing and issuing ammunition and working the guns, the types of guns mounted should be as few as possible.
- Guns available on the spot should be utilized.
- Guns which can be more conveniently utilized elsewhere should not be selected for this particular armament.

8. In accordance with the above principles (a) and (b), to every one of the six salients of the fort has been allotted a rifled gun on wooden traversing platform, C or D pivot, *en barbette*; approaches and flank the ditches; and to each redan and flank *en ressaout* on the sea face one S. B. gun; while the three mortars now in the fort are retained to shell the native town if necessary, and two gatlings are added to be available at any point threatened with assault.

9. To satisfy the remaining conditions (c), only one type of rifled, and one of smooth-bore, gun is selected (d and e), although the Defence Committee is of opinion that the $\frac{64}{32}$ pr. R.M.L. is the most generally suitable gun for land defences. The $\frac{80}{68}$ pr. R.M.L. has in this instance been allotted as the heavy gun for the salients, in order to utilize the supply of these powerful guns now available at Madras, which are not required elsewhere. In regard to smooth-bore ordnance, as it is proposed to reserve all 32-pr. for conversion into $\frac{64}{32}$ pr. R.M.L., the type of gun selected for the flanks and faces and redans is the 24-pr. S.B., of which there are now present eighty-four in the fort.

10. In regard to ammunition, the Committee recommends that for the rifled guns, there should be—

In Artillery charge	...	...	...	50 rounds.
In reserve	...	...	...	200 do.
Total	...	...	...	250 do.

And for the smooth-bore guns—

In Artillery charge	...	...	...	30 rounds.
In reserve	...	...	...	100 do.
Total	...	...	...	130 do.

This allotment applying only to the six $\frac{80}{68}$ pr. R.M.L. and thirty-eight 24-pr. S.B. guns mounted as armament on the ramparts—not to the guns required for the Saluting Battery, signals, &c., for which only blank cartridges are necessary. In regard to these last mentioned guns, it is a question for the local authorities to decide whether any guns in addition to the armament now proposed are required for the purposes of saluting, signals, &c., or whether some of the regular armament guns cannot be made available for these purposes.

11. For each of the six "units of armaments" specified in the annexed tabular statement there should be provided one set of expense stores, for cartridges, shells, and side arms, in a central position near the salient of the five bastions and the flag staff redan. The exact position and arrangement for these can only be decided on the spot, and will probably vary in each particular instance; but as a guide in designing these buildings, type drawings of emplacements and alternative plans of stores, as designed by the Defence Committee, can be furnished to the Madras Government, if required.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

Accompaniment to Defence Committee Letter, No. 22, dated 2nd August 1880.

FORT ST. GEORGE.		PROPOSED ARMAMENT.						
Portion of Fort (Unit of Armament.)	Site.	32-Pr. R. M. L.	24-Pr. S. B.	18-Pr. S. B.	6-Pr. S. B.	10-inch Mortars.	Gat- lings.	Remarks.
1. North-east Demi-Bastion.	Right face	...	1					
	Salient ...	1	...					
	Left face	...	2					
	Left flank	...	2					
2. Royal Bastion	Right flank	...	2					
	Right face	...	2					
	Salient ...	1	...					
	Left face	...	2					
3. St. George Bastion	Left flank	...	2					
	Right flank	...	2					
	Right face	...	2					
	Salient ...	1	...					
4. Wallajah Bastion	Left face	...	2					
	Left flank	...	2					
	Right flank	...	2					
	Right face	...	2					
5. South-west Demi-Bastion	Salient ...	1	...					
	Right face	...	2					
	Left face	...	1					
	South flank <i>en ressaout.</i>	...	1					
6. Sea Face	South redan	...	1					
	Flag Staff redan	1	...					
	North redan	...	1					
	North flank <i>en ressaout.</i>	...	1					
Totals—Armament mounted on ramparts.	...	6	38	...	...	...	...	* These 31 guns are not required for the armament. It is a question for the Madras authorities to decide whether some of the armament guns cannot be used for these purposes.
Saluting battery	...	...	31	...	...	...	...	
For signals and Observatory time guns.	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	
Morning gun	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	
Mortar	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	
Gatlings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Grand Total	...	6	62	6	1	8	2	

No. 531.

ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1880, No. 6854.

Communicated for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Departments concerned,—and for guidance.

2. His Excellency is requested to favor Government with his opinion as to the necessity for additional guns for the purposes of salutes, signals, &c.

(True Extract.)

For Secretary to Government,
Military Department.

To the Adjutant-General.

„ Quartermaster-General.

„ Inspector-General of Ordnance.

„ Controller of Military Accounts.

„ Public Works Department. with 10/10/1880.

Exd. A. Raitt.

P.W.D.

9 NOV 80

No. 7116

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MILITARY.

To
THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.
Ac., Ac., Ac.

Dated October, 29th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 29th October 1880, No. 6854.

S.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 530-531.

Communicating letter from the Government of India, approving the scheme of a revised armament for Fort St. George proposed by the Defence Committee, and requesting to be furnished with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's opinion as to the necessity for additional guns for the purposes of salutes, signals, &c.

Mr. K. J. There are some papers in line on this subject which must be forwarded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

9th March 1881, No. 1403.

Armaments—Fort St. George.

Read the following papers:—

No. 134. From Brigadier-General GODFREY CLERK, Officiating Adjutant-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort St. George; dated Bangalore, 25th February 1881, No. 606.

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

2. There are only 21 guns in the Saluting Battery, and not 24 as shown in the tabular statement at page 3 of Proceedings of Government, No. 6854, of 29th October last.

From Major G. F. CHAMBERS, R.A., Commanding Royal Artillery, Fort St. George, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Royal Artillery; dated Fort St. George, 16th February 1881, No. 258. (Forwarded through the Officer Commanding Centre District, dated 21st February 1881, No. 204.)

With reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 6854, dated 29th October 1880, I have the honor to bring to notice there are 24 24-pounder L.B. guns shown as in the Saluting Battery; as 21 24-pounder guns are the correct number in the Battery, I trust the necessary alteration may be made.

No. 135. ORDER THEREON, 9th March 1881, No. 1403.

Communicated to Departments concerned in correction of the Proceedings of Government quoted.

(True Extract.)

Maullin Colonel,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant-General.

„ Quartermaster-General.
„ Inspector-General of Ordnance.
„ Controller of Military Accounts.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

24-7-80 h 18124

S.W.C. No 1614

Govt. of 1881 Madras.

MILITARY.

Per March 87

To

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

3

Dated March, 9th.

Issued.

Recd.

" 14th

Per SC - 5
Encl.

G.O., 9th March 1881, No. 1103.

C. No 7116 & 1614 -
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781 W d/22 March 87

Recorded

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S. of W. Presidency

Rejnd

22-3-87

MARCH.

Nos. 134-136.

781

Communicating memorandum from the
Adjutant-General intimating that there are only
21 guns in the Saluting Battery at Fort St.
George, and not 24 as shown in Proceedings of
Government, No. 6854, of 29th October 1880.

With order