

1127 W-B

No 1832 w.d/18-7-82
B

Communicated to
the S. E. Fifth Circle,
who will submit
immediate proposals
for the disposal of the
military buildings
referred to in para 3
of the foregoing order.

Cu

13.7.82

Att

14/7/82

P.W. (m. 4585)
Govt. of (1882) Madras.
MILITARY.

To
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 20th.

Issued

Recd. 10th July/82

G.O., 29th June 1882, No. 3189.

No 1832 w.d/18-7-82
JUNE.
Nos. 552-554.

Two copies to Arty

Passing orders regarding the disposal of the
Vepery Lines and the public buildings attached to
them.

S. E. Fifth Circle

Sar P. W. a

only 11/7/82 1882-7

with order
Dated 21.7.82 P.D.

11/26/7

with order

with order

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

29th June 1882, No. 3189.

Military Buildings—Native Lines.

Read the following papers :—

No. 552. *From A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund; dated Madras, 20th June 1882, No. 471-G.*

I have the honor to address Government with regard to the impending abandonment and sale of the Vepery Lines now occupied by the 39th Regiment Native Infantry in process of disbandment, and to beg that, in the interests of the public, the Government will direct such measures to be adopted as will prevent the lines from being occupied as ordinary native dwellings, and so converted into a parcherry.

2. The Vepery Lines contain from 600 to 700 huts standing on low-lying ground which has again and again been condemned as unfit for habitation.

The land belongs to Cunniah Chetty, to whom a monthly rent of Rs. 374-8-0 is paid. It was originally leased by Government for eight years in 1841, but the lease was not renewed.

3. In a letter, No. 137-G, dated 18th May 1882, from Brigadier-General Stewart, C.B., Commanding Centre District, to the Quartermaster-General, the condition of the Vepery Lines is fully referred to. They are described as "Without exception the very worst description of huts that can be conceived, badly ventilated, low roofed, and so crowded together as to render the probability of a serious epidemic imminent at any time." In the same letter Colonel Carnegy, the Commanding Officer, 39th Native Infantry, reports that, in spite of certain improvements "with the restricted area on which the Vepery Lines are constructed, the narrowness of many of the streets and the way in which the houses are huddled together, it is not possible to do much towards improving them as they now stand. The situation is bad, and the drainage, such as it is, is worse."

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A letter, No. 24366, dated 15th January 1874, from Colonel O'Connell is given containing a report by Colonel Macaulay that, on the 1st December 1873, "The water was nearly knee deep in all the streets of the lines and in many of the huts."

The condition of the lines after the cyclone of 1872, and the impossibility of drawing off the water, is described in G.O., No. 2308, dated 19th July 1872.

4. In G.O., No. 241, dated 16th January 1879, Dr. Smith, Surgeon-General, says, "The lines of the regiment have no properly-constructed drains, nor will the low position of the site admit of any efficient system of drainage being carried out at a reasonable outlay, the consequence being that if foul fluids are not carted away, they must be disposed of by soakage into the ground close to the huts, or by being thrown broadcast on the streets in and about the lines."

In the same G.O. the Government sanction a grant of Rs. 100 a-month to the Municipality for making special arrangements for the conservancy of the lines.
G.O., No. 4574, dated 20th July 1880, contains further correspondence emphasizing what has preceded.

5. The papers I have quoted establish beyond all question that the lines are unsuited to be permanently occupied by human dwellings, and it has only been by strict military discipline everywhere enforced, and by special arrangements for conservancy, that the occupation has continued so long, and that outbreaks of epidemic disease have been averted.

6. I now beg leave to point out that if the huts are sold as they stand by Government, they will be purchased, either by Cunniah Chetty, the owner of the land, or by renters from him, and leased out to the poorest classes of the city and will speedily become a parcherry larger, more unmanageable and, owing to low level, more hopelessly filthy than any of the numerous existing parcherries which are the foci of disease in this city.

Apart from the drainage question, these huts ought never to have been erected of inflammable material. They now exist only by infraction of the municipal law requiring for their construction and retention formal municipal sanction which has never been given, and the municipal law has remained thus in abeyance merely because the lines were under the military control of Government (para. 9, President's letter in G.O., No. 4574, dated 20th July 1880).

7. On all these grounds, I would earnestly press upon the Government, in the interests of the public health, the necessity for the complete removal of all the huts before the land is relinquished to the owner. I would suggest that the woodwork, bamboos, leaves, thatch, &c., be removed from the huts to the parade ground and there sold in convenient lots, and that the mud walls of the lines be knocked down and levelled with the ground. If these measures should be approved by Government, I would also beg that the place be kept under military control till the orders are completely carried out; for, if opportunity be afforded to squatters to take possession of huts or walls, it will be almost impossible to eject them.

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Ootacamund,
26th June 1882.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Acting Under Secretary.

No. 553. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. EWING, Officiating Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 28th June 1882, No. 510.

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2. His Excellency begs that Government will be good enough to issue orders for the disposal of those lines, which, under the provisions of paras. 2308 and 2319, Madras Army Regulations, should be sold for the benefit of Government, Military Department, and that it will sanction the transfer to the charge of the Public Works Department of all the public military buildings attached to the lines for disposal under the orders of Government in that department.

3. In connection with the sale of the lines which stand on ground belonging to a private individual and not to Government, Sir Frederick Roberts thinks it probable that, in the interests of the public health, Government would wish to prevent the re-occupation of the site by bazaars, &c.; for it is notoriously unhealthy now, and the difficulties of draining it are so insuperable that it must continue to be even more so if covered with native huts, the sanitary condition of which cannot be as well looked after as that of lines of a regiment, and His Excellency would suggest that the lines be at once handed over to the Municipality of Madras, to be disposed of as they may consider best whilst Government is paying rent for the ground, their value being placed to the credit of the Military Budget.

There are no means at the disposal of the Officer Commanding the Centre District, either to remove the huts from the ground, or to permanently prevent squatters occupying them, or to carry out their sale, should Government decide to sell them to the highest bidder.

4. The early orders of the Government on this matter are requested, as the quantity and value of the materials of the huts will decrease rapidly after the lines are vacated, and therefore, in the interests of Government, their early disposal is recommended.

5. The Officer Commanding Centre District has in the meantime been ordered to prevent unauthorized persons from occupying them, but the troops at his disposal are too few to provide a strong guard for any length of time over the lines.

No. 554.

ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1882, No. 3189.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that the lines referred to should not, under any circumstances, be re-occupied. He accordingly directs that they be made over to the municipal authorities, who will, as suggested by Mr. Arundel, be requested to dispose of them by public auction, with a condition attached that the materials be removed within (10) ten days under penalty of forfeiture. The demolition of the walls will be effected by municipal agency. After deducting all expenses incidental to the undertaking, the sale proceeds will be placed to the credit of the Military Budget.

2. Rent will continue to be paid by the Military authorities to the owner of the land, on which the lines stand, until the huts have been razed to the ground.

3. The military buildings referred to in para. 2 of the Quartermaster-General's letter will be transferred to the custody of the Public Works Department as proposed.

(True Extract.)

For Ag. Secretary to Government,
Mily. Dept.

To the Quartermaster-General.

" Controller of Military Accounts.
" Financial Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Adjutant-General, for information.

*The substituted copy of the lines
as on date previously furnished the
return which is requested.*

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Gobt. of (1882) Madras.
MILITARY.

To
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 29th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

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JUNE.
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Passing orders regarding the disposal of the
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MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

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2. His Excellency begs that Government will be good enough to issue orders for the disposal of those lines, which, under the provisions of paras. 2308 and 2319, Madras Army Regulations, should be sold for the benefit of Government, Military Department, and that it will sanction the transfer to the charge of the Public Works Department of all the public military buildings attached to the lines for disposal under the orders of Government in that department.

3. In connection with the sale of the lines which stand on ground belonging to a private individual and not to Government, Sir Frederick Roberts thinks it probable that, in the interests of the public health, Government would wish to prevent the re-occupation of the site by bazaars, &c.; for it is notoriously unhealthy now, and the difficulties of draining it are so insuperable that it must continue to be even more so if covered with native huts, the sanitary condition of which cannot be as well looked after as that of lines of a regiment, and His Excellency would suggest that the lines be at once handed over to the Municipality of Madras, to be disposed of as they may consider best whilst Government is paying rent for the ground, their value being placed to the credit of the Military Budget.

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2. Rent will continue to be paid by the Military authorities to the owner of the land, on which the lines stand, until the huts have been raised to the ground. *! raised up, or raised*

3. The military buildings referred to in para. 2 of the Quartermaster-General's letter will be transferred to the custody of the Public Works Department as proposed.

(True Extract.)

Edmund Crisp
For Ag. Secretary to Government,
Mily. Dept.

To the Quartermaster-General.

„ Controller of Military Accounts.
„ Financial Department.
„ Public Works Department. *sent to life*
„ Adjutant-General, for information.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No 1832 Wd/18-7-82

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Communicated to
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for the disposal of the
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Cu

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13.7.82

Attt

14/7/82

P. W. L. M. 4585

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
MILITARY.

To
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&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 29th.

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W. H. H. H.
Encl. in Receipt Reg.

S. E. Fifth Circle
Sur P. W. A.
only 11/7/82 1830-7 1831/7

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
MILITARY.

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Order No 1832 Wd/18-7-82
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(True Extract)
124 A. S. Russell
under Secy. to Govt
A. H. D.

To the Suptg Engineer
Fifth Circle
a. Examined & accounted

No 1832 w.d/18-7-82
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Att
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Sur P. W. A.
only 11/2/82, 13.7.82

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Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.

- „ Controller of Military Accounts.
- „ Financial Department.
- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Adjutant-General, for information.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Gobt. of (1882) Madras.
MILITARY.

To
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 29th.

Issued

Recd.

Incl.

G.O., 29th June 1882, No. 3189.

Order No. 1832 W d/18-7-82

Communicated

to the Supty Engineer
Difta Circle, who will
submit immediate pro-
posals for the disposal
of the Military building
referred to in para 3 of the
foregoing order.

(True Extract)

/sd/ A S Russell

under Secy. to Govt
D W D

To the Supty Engineer
Difta Circle
a Revenue Account

Passing orders regarding the disposal of the
Vepery Lines and the public buildings attached
to them.

under Receipt kept

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MILITARY.

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To the Supty Engineer Difta Circle
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Passing orders regarding the disposal of the
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In the same G.O. the Government sanction a grant of Rs. 100 a-month to the Municipality for making special arrangements for the conservancy of the lines. G.O., No. 4574, dated 20th July 1880, contains further correspondence emphasizing what has preceded.

5. The papers I have quoted establish beyond all question that the lines are unsuited to be permanently occupied by human dwellings, and it has only been by strict military discipline everywhere enforced, and by special arrangements for conservancy, that the occupation has continued so long, and that outbreaks of epidemic disease have been averted.

6. I now beg leave to point out that if the huts are sold as they stand by Government, they will be purchased, either by Cunniah Chetty, the owner of the land, or by renters from him, and leased out to the poorest classes of the city and will speedily become a parcherry larger, more unmanageable and, owing to low level, more hopelessly filthy than any of the numerous existing parcherries which are the foci of disease in this city.

Apart from the drainage question, these huts ought never to have been erected of inflammable material. They now exist only by infraction of the municipal law requiring for their construction and retention formal municipal sanction which has never been given, and the municipal law has remained thus in abeyance merely because the lines were under the military control of Government (para. 9, President's letter in G.O., No. 4574, dated 20th July 1880).

7. On all these grounds, I would earnestly press upon the Government, in the interests of the public health, the necessity for the complete removal of all the huts before the land is relinquished to the owner. I would suggest that the woodwork, bamboos, leaves, thatch, &c., be removed from the huts to the parade ground and there sold in convenient lots, and that the mud walls of the lines be knocked down and levelled with the ground. If these measures should be approved by Government, I would also beg that the place be kept under military control till the orders are completely carried out; for, if opportunity be afforded to squatters to take possession of huts or walls, it will be almost impossible to eject them.

No. 453.

Transferred to the Military Department, in view to the favor of an expression of the views of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief being obtained.

OOTACAMUND,
26th June 1882.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Acting Under Secretary.

No. 553. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. EWING, Officiating Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 28th June 1882, No. 510.

Referring to the note appended to the programme of movements which accompanied my letter, No. 254, dated 19th May 1882, I have the honor, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, to report that when the disbandment of the 39th Native Infantry is completed, the lines occupied by that regiment at Vepery and the public buildings attached to them will no longer be required for military purposes, and on the men receiving compensation for their huts as sanctioned by Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 3083, of 22nd June 1882, the huts will become the property of Government.

2. His Excellency begs that Government will be good enough to issue orders for the disposal of those lines, which, under the provisions of paras. 2308 and 2319, Madras Army Regulations, should be sold for the benefit of Government, Military Department, and that it will sanction the transfer to the charge of the Public Works Department of all the public military buildings attached to the lines for disposal under the orders of Government in that department.

3. In connection with the sale of the lines which stand on ground belonging to a private individual and not to Government, Sir Frederick Roberts thinks it probable that, in the interests of the public health, Government would wish to prevent the re-occupation of the site by bazaars, &c.; for it is notoriously unhealthy now, and the difficulties of draining it are so insuperable that it must continue to be even more so if covered with native huts, the sanitary condition of which cannot be as well looked after as that of lines of a regiment, and His Excellency would suggest that the lines be at once handed over to the Municipality of Madras, to be disposed of as they may consider best whilst Government is paying rent for the ground, their value being placed to the credit of the Military Budget.

There are no means at the disposal of the Officer Commanding the Centre District, either to remove the huts from the ground, or to permanently prevent squatters occupying them, or to carry out their sale, should Government decide to sell them to the highest bidder.

4. The early orders of the Government on this matter are requested, as the quantity and value of the materials of the huts will decrease rapidly after the lines are vacated, and therefore, in the interests of Government, their early disposal is recommended.

5. The Officer Commanding Centre District has in the meantime been ordered to prevent unauthorized persons from occupying them, but the troops at his disposal are too few to provide a strong guard for any length of time over the lines.

No. 554.

ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1882, No. 3189.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that the lines referred to should not, under any circumstances, be re-occupied. He accordingly directs that they be made over to the municipal authorities, who will, as suggested by Mr. Arundel, be requested to dispose of them by public auction, with a condition attached that the materials be removed within (10) ten days under penalty of forfeiture. The demolition of the walls will be effected by municipal agency. After deducting all expenses incidental to the undertaking, the sale proceeds will be placed to the credit of the Military Budget.

2. Rent will continue to be paid by the Military authorities to the owner of the land, on which the lines stand, until the huts have been razed to the ground.

3. The military buildings referred to in para. 2 of the Quartermaster-General's letter will be transferred to the custody of the Public Works Department as proposed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.

- „ Controller of Military Accounts.
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- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Adjutant-General, for information.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

29th June 1882, No. 3189.

Military Buildings—Native Lines.

Read the following papers :—

No. 552. From A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund; dated Madras, 20th June 1882, No. 471-G.

I have the honor to address Government with regard to the impending abandonment and sale of the Vepery Lines now occupied by the 39th Regiment Native Infantry in process of disbandment, and to beg that, in the interests of the public, the Government will direct such measures to be adopted as will prevent the lines from being occupied as ordinary native dwellings, and so converted into a parcherry.

2. The Vepery Lines contain from 600 to 700 huts standing on low-lying ground which has again and again been condemned as unfit for habitation.

The land belongs to Cunniah Chetty, to whom a monthly rent of Rs. 374-8-0 is paid. It was originally leased by Government for eight years in 1841, but the lease was not renewed.

3. In a letter, No. 137-G, dated 18th May 1882, from Brigadier-General Stewart, C.B., Commanding Centre District, to the Quartermaster-General, the condition of the Vepery Lines is fully referred to. They are described as "Without exception the very worst description of huts that can be conceived, badly ventilated, low roofed, and so crowded together as to render the probability of a serious epidemic imminent at any time." In the same letter Colonel Carnegy, the Commanding Officer, 39th Native Infantry, reports that, in spite of certain improvements "with the restricted area on which the Vepery Lines are constructed, the narrowness of many of the streets and the way in which the houses are huddled together, it is not possible to do much towards improving them as they now stand. The situation is bad, and the drainage, such as it is, is worse."

The overflow of a neighbouring tank runs down through the Vepery Lines, and Colonel Carnegy says, "The waterway being restricted, the Vepery High Road and the lines are occasionally under water to the depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet, and I have myself waded through it when it has been fully that high." General Stewart's letter quotes several cases in which grants of money were made by Government as compensation for damage done to the huts of the men by continuous heavy rain and floods.

A letter, No. 24366, dated 15th January 1874, from Colonel O'Connell is given containing a report by Colonel Macaulay that, on the 1st December 1873, "The water was nearly knee deep in all the streets of the lines and in many of the huts."

The condition of the lines after the cyclone of 1872, and the impossibility of drawing off the water, is described in G.O., No. 2308, dated 19th July 1872.

4. In G.O., No. 241, dated 16th January 1879, Dr. Smith, Surgeon-General, says, "The lines of the regiment have no properly-constructed drains, nor will the low position of the site admit of any efficient system of drainage being carried out at a reasonable outlay, the consequence being that if foul fluids are not carted away, they must be disposed of by soakage into the ground close to the huts, or by being thrown broadcast on the streets in and about the lines."

3. In connection with the sale of the lines which stand on ground belonging to a private individual and not to Government, Sir Frederick Roberts thinks it probable that, in the interests of the public health, Government would wish to prevent the re-occupation of the site by bazaars, &c.; for it is notoriously unhealthy now, and the difficulties of draining it are so insuperable that it must continue to be even more so if covered with native huts, the sanitary condition of which cannot be as well looked after as that of lines of a regiment, and His Excellency would suggest that the lines be at once handed over to the Municipality of Madras, to be disposed of as they may consider best whilst Government is paying rent for the ground, their value being placed to the credit of the Military Budget.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.
" Controller of Military Accounts.
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