

P.W.C. No. 463

Govt. of 1883 Madras.

MILITARY.

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

B No. 1582 in 96 June/83

Recorded

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1/6

10 S.C.

Dated May, 28th.

Issued

Recd. 2/6/83 Encl.

G.O., 28th May 1883, No. 3017.

MAY.
Nos. 405-406.

No. 1582 in 96-6-83

Prisoners.

Military Prison at Rangoon.—Provision of a
— to accommodate thirty prisoners, sanctioned
by the Government of India.

81127

With the
Sudd. in Receipt Paper

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

28th May 1883, No. 3017.

Prisoners.

Read the following paper :—

No. 405. From Colonel G. CHESNEY, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department; dated Simla, 19th May 1883, No. 252-S.C.

Prisoners.

In reply to your letter, No. 6576, dated 7th December 1882, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a correspondence, and to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that the Government of India sanction the necessary steps being taken for the provision of a military prison at Rangoon to accommodate thirty prisoners.

Copy to the Adjutant-General in India; to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

Copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Adjutant-General in India; dated Fort William, 11th January 1883, No. 35-C. (Prisoners).

With reference to the despatch from the Secretary of State for India communicated under docket, No. 465-S.C., dated the 27th June 1882, I am directed to forward, for favor of the opinion of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, a copy of the correspondence marginally noted relating to the construction of a military prison at Rangoon.

2. The accommodation which it is proposed to provide seems to the Government of India to be in excess of probable requirements, considering the strength of the British troops in the province.

Copy of a letter from the Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; dated Simla, 7th May 1883, No. 1422-D. (Discipline).

With reference to Military Department letter, No. 35-C. (Prisoners), dated 11th January 1883, I am directed to state that the Commander-in-Chief considers the establishment of a military prison at Rangoon to be absolutely necessary.

2. In this Presidency it is estimated that prison accommodation is required for one per cent. of the garrison, but crime in Madras is, on an average, fifty per cent. in excess of that in Bengal, and on these data His Excellency is of opinion that thirty cells should be provided at Rangoon.

No. 406. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1883, No. 3017.

Communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with reference to para. 3 of Proceedings of Government, No. 6575, dated 7th December 1882.

(True Extract.)

For Secretary to Government,
Mily. Dept.

To the Adjutant-General.

„ Quartermaster-General.

„ Public Works Department, for information.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Govt. of (1882) Madras
MILITARY.

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

Dated December, 7th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 7th December 1882, No. 6575.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 52—54.

Prisoners.

Provision by the Public Works Department of ten additional cells in the Bangalore military prison requested; and application made to the Government of India for the construction of a military prison at Rangoon.

B. No. 3294 of 13 Decr/82
Comm^d to the S^r. S^r. Fifth Auditor who
will submit plans & ests. for the
req^d work. (S.) CCR
S^r. S^r. Fifth Auditor

No. 53.

ORDER THEREON, 7th December 1882, No. 6575.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council accepts the recommendations of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief contained in the foregoing letter for increasing the military prison accommodation in this Presidency, in view to effect being given to the proposed partial substitution, in the case of British soldiers, of imprisonment with hard labor in this country for sentences of penal servitude.

2. The necessary action will be taken in the Public Works Department for providing ten additional cells, as early as practicable, in the Bangalore military prison.

3. The Government of India will be addressed on the subject of the proposed military prison at Rangoon.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Adjutant-General.

" Quartermaster-General.
" Public Works Department.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

5. The above shows that on the date mentioned there were 45 military prisoners under sentence of court martial for whom there was no accommodation in the military prisons, and to remedy this the Commander-in-Chief would recommend that—

- (1) A military prison should be built at Rangoon for the accommodation of military prisoners belonging to the British force serving in Burmah.
- (2) That the present accommodation in the Bangalore military prison should be increased.

6. With regard to (1) His Excellency considers that a military prison for Burmah is most essential for the due maintenance of discipline.

At present soldiers under sentence by court martial are imprisoned in the Rangoon Jail. And in regard to the system which obtains in this jail a commanding officer recently reported that he did not consider it sufficiently deterrent to judge by the number of re-committals which occurred among the men of the battalion under his command.

7. Sir Frederick Roberts would therefore recommend that a military prison, to accommodate forty prisoners, with requisite subsidiary buildings, should be at once built at Rangoon.

8. The returns show that, on the 1st August last, about 1½ per cent. of the British Army in this Presidency were in confinement undergoing court martial sentences.

Forty prisoners would be rather in excess of this percentage as regards the British Force in Burmah, but as that force is liable to be increased at any time, the Commander-in-Chief considers it would be not only desirable that the accommodation provided in the first instance should be rather above present probable requirements, but also that the site for the prison should be chosen, and the building itself planned, in view to an increase of accommodation, at a future time, being possible without any great cost.

9. The General Officer Commanding Burmah Division has already, I am to say, been directed by the Quartermaster-General to report on the best site available for a military prison at Rangoon.

10. With regard to (2) His Excellency would recommend that the Bangalore military prison be increased by ten cells.

It would, Sir Frederick Roberts considers, be preferable to add to the Bangalore military prison rather than to those at Fort St. George or Trimulgherry, as the former prison could then receive prisoners from Burmah or Madras, who, on medical grounds, had to be moved to cooler climates, and this would, it is hoped, in time, obviate the necessity of sending military prisoners to the Ootacamund Jail on account of health.

11. If the above recommendations are sanctioned, the military prison accommodation in the Presidency would be—

	Cells.
Trimulgherry ...	62
Bangalore ...	32
Fort St. George ...	22
Rangoon ...	40
	156

or five in excess of the number of soldiers who were undergoing court martial sentences on the 1st August last. And this number of cells distributed as above would, it is considered, meet the requirements of this Presidency and admit of all soldiers under sentence by court martial carrying out such sentences under the discipline and rules of a properly ordered military prison.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

7th December 1882, No. 6575.

Prisoners.

Read the following paper :—

No. 52. *From Brigadier-General GODFREY CLERK, Adjutant-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 28th November 1882, No. 594.*

With reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 4138 of the 5th August last, I am desired to submit the following suggestions with regard to the increase of military prison accommodation in this Presidency for the consideration of Government.

2. The arguments in support of soldiers undergoing sentences awarded by courts martial in military prisons, as also the reason for increasing the present military prison accommodation, are given in letter No. 2605-D., of the 1st July last, from the Adjutant-General in India to the Government of India, Military Department, recorded in the Proceedings of Government under reference, and need not, therefore, be repeated here, as they hold good equally for this Presidency as for Bengal.

3. In this Presidency the military prison accommodation is—

Trimulgherry military prison...	...	...	...	...	Cells.
Bangalore	..	..	..	..	62
Fort St. George military prison	...	...	...	...	22
					14
					—
					98

This will be further increased when the sanction of the Governor-General has been received for the eight new cells in Fort St. George to form part of the military prison

Giving a total available in the Presidency of ... 8

4. Not including men undergoing short sentences (forty-two days' imprisonment hard labor and under) whose sentences might still be carried out in garrison or regimental cells, there were, on the 1st August last, 151* soldiers under sentence of courts martial confined, some in the military prisons, some in garrison cells, and some in the three "authorized prisons"—the Madras Penitentiary, the Rangoon Jail, and the Ootacamund Jail.

* About 1½ per cent. of strength.