

(1) Number of pages 36
(2) Date of repair 6-7-87
(3) Initials of the Referencer bw

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public works DEPARTMENT

GO No. BP No	Q381 - w	Press Mis
Dated	Q4-8-1883	198

N.C.

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

24TH AUGUST 1883, No 2381 W., PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Buildings and Roads
Military Works

READ—the following paper —

No 235 E

Proposals for the formation of a Military Works Branch of the Public Works Department for the Madras Command

For several years all the Military Buildings connected with the Bengal Army, distributed over the northern provinces of India, some of the minor Administrations, and Burmah, have formed a charge distinct from the several local Departments of Public Works, designated the Military Works Department

2 This Department has as its head the Inspector-General of Military Works (at present Colonel J. J. McLeod Innes, V C., R E) who is in direct communication with the Commander-in-Chief in India, and who has himself all the powers of a Local Government in regard to sanctions for works.

3 Possessed thus not only of large independent powers, but brought into intimate relations with the Commander-in-Chief, and through him with the Government of India, the wants and requirements of the Bengal Army receive prompt and effectual attention

4 In Bombay, where, however, disproportionately large sums have, as in regard to Civil Works, been the rule, difficulties have been experienced (see the Quarter-master-General's memorandum of 14th November 1882) from the fact the Bombay Army is distributed over five different Civil Administrations, through each of which correspondence having to take place before reaching the Commander-in-Chief of that Presidency, there is a great deal of circumlocution, and funds are said at times to be diverted in a manner which could not occur if there were a responsible head, such as an Inspector-General for the Military Presidency

5 In Madras owing to an analogous distribution of the local Army, as shown in Appendix A, correspondence has to pass through the Heads of several Administrations, the Provinces, &c, being—

- (1) Madras
- (2) Mysore
- (3) Travancore
- (4) Orissa
- (5) Central Provinces
- (6) Hyderabad
- (7) British Burmah, to which must be added three stations in the Presidency of Bengal now occupied by Madras troops

6 Where, as in the Central Provinces, the garrison is drawn from more than one Army a close scrutiny has to be maintained by the Officer Commanding as to the distribution of the budgeted amounts for the troops of the respective Armies, and in order to prevent any diversion or misapplication of the funds intended for each.

7 From the difficulty experienced in obtaining adequate establishment for the general works of this Presidency it has been found expedient to place all the Military Works, like those for Irrigation and Navigation, &c, under the General Establishment.

8 It thus arises that there is only one Executive Engineer's charge, and that of late formation, viz, of Fort St George, Madras and Bangalore, which may be said

to be an exclusively Military Works Division. In it even there are some Civil Works.

9 Not only are the great Irrigation and Navigation Works of the country more generally attractive to the professional Engineer, than Military buildings, but as must with such an amalgamation of charges as that adverted to frequently happen, the Military Works fall to the charge of a Civil Engineer and even to a Civil Upper Subordinate who, in addition to lacking the needful experience, look, it is to be feared, on such works as of secondary importance.

10 As a fact also from the relatively small amounts which have been assigned by the Government of India for the Madras Military Budget (see margin) it has been found quite impossible to devote adequate funds to the repair and maintenance of the important military buildings of the Presidency. Not only are the fortifications and buildings in Fort St. George a striking example of neglect, but it is notorious that all over the Presidency a large outlay is now required to replace defective roof timbers and effect much renewal which with the possibility of timely attention should never have been required, and which if left much longer unattended to, must lead to the most serious results.

Year	Demand	Grant
	RS	RS
1875-79	11,55,000	7,50,000
1879-80	11,47,500	6,96,712
1880-81	8,92,497	4,13,877
1881-82	4,10,629	4,10,000
1882-83	15,79,419	6,20,000

V.S.—In 1880-81 and 1881-82 the demands were as a fact much below the known urgent requirements.

11 Another material point connected with the inadequate supply of funds, and more particularly during the enforced rigid economy throughout the Afghan War, when this Presidency suffered more probably than any other, is the difficulty experienced in making a selection of Military Works Projects for entry in the Budget in their order of relative importance.

12 An inspection of the lists of military requirements which reach the Chief Engineer from the Quartermaster-General year by year exhibits a very singular state of matters in this respect, demands of the most pressing character jostling one another in a manner which prove how inadequate has been the supply of means in the past, and rendering selection a matter of the utmost difficulty.

13 The criticism of our Military Works Budget by the Government of India has latterly been most severe (undeservedly so, I would respectfully submit, if the facts were known) but the difficulties arising from the dearth of funds, both in regard to the supply of what is needful for repairs and for new buildings as above adverted to, are such that it is most essential to place this branch of the Public Works business as soon as possible on a well defined footing, under a responsible head who while acting under the general control of the Inspector-General, should be in immediate communication with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras.

14 The change now advocated is in accordance with what has long been understood to be the aim of the Government of India in constituting a Military Works Branch for the Bengal Army.

15 To the best of my judgment the officer specially selected for this responsible post should have the position of Superintending Engineer, and his circle of superintendence should extend to the whole Madras Command, with an establishment of four Executive Engineers, whose divisions would be somewhat as indicated in Appendix B.

16 At the present moment it would be needless to attempt to go into further detail as it will be seen that before giving effect to the scheme several questions affecting other provinces as well as Madras have to be decided by the Government of India.

17. Looking to the requirements of the Civil Works in this Presidency it would be impossible to eliminate any of the Superintending Engineers on the list sanctioned as of the general Madras Public Works Establishment, in order to create without

increasing the proposed post for the Military Works Branch, although there is an officer, in every way highly qualified for the post, whose services could be placed at disposal.

18 Of the four Executive Engineers it may be assumed that two and possibly three of the officers in this grade, who are employed on Military Works in Burma, Central Provinces and Hyderabad, would be available, leaving only one to be supplied by reduction of the Madras Establishment which I think may be fairly counted on.

19 Although the details of the establishment now engaged exclusively on Military Works are not available and would be difficult to ascertain, there can, I venture to think, be no doubt that even if leading to a slight increase of the general establishment charges, such will be amply repaid by improved efficiency in the management of the works.

20 Already in their Resolutions Nos. 1150-1472 G, dated 20th November 1881, the Government of India, have decided to transfer "all the business hitherto conducted in the Public Works Department in connection with Military Works * * to the Military Department," with effect from 1st January 1882 and the proposals now put forward are not only in accordance with this decision, but also with what is understood to be the recognized policy of the Government of India, to place these works everywhere throughout India under a separate branch of the Department, officered by Royal Engineers.

21 That in the interests of the buildings and works generally such a change is now urgently called for has, I trust, been made abundantly clear from the foregoing remarks, and that the Quartermaster-General's department would experience the greatest relief can hardly I think be questioned.

22 His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief would, moreover, have on his staff an officer, in the person of the Superintending Engineer, who could at once give him a reliable professional opinion, instead of having to seek this through a circuitous channel.

23 Incidentally, moreover, it may be remarked, with reference to the question raised some little time since about the position of the Barrack Department in this Presidency, that the creation of a separate Military Works Branch would at least facilitate the transfer including the supplies of furniture, &c, to the Public Works Department should such be desired.

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-Genl, R.E.,
20th July 1883 Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

APPENDIX A.

List of Military Stations, Madras Presidency

Military Stations	Provinces, Districts, &c	Remarks
Fort St George	Madras Proper	
St Thomas' Mount		
Poonamallee		
Pallavaram		
Vellore		
Samalkót		
Vizianagram		
Berhampore		
Wellington		
Trichinopoly		
Bellary		
Cannanore		
Malapuram		
Calicut		
Mangalore		

4 24TH AUGUST 1883, No 2381 W, PUBLIC WORKS

List of Military Stations, Madras Presidency—cont

Military Stations	Provinces Districts &c.	Remarks
Bangalore	Mysore Provinces	
Hosur		
Trichoor	Travancore State	
Trivandrum		
Cuttack	Orissa Commission	
Kamptee		
Raipur	Central Provinces	
Hoshungabad		
Sambalpur	Hyderabad State	
Sectabuldee		
Secunderabad	Provinces of British Burmah	
Tirumalgiri		
Rangoon		
Moulmein		
Thayetmyo		
Toungoo		
Port Blair		

N.B.—Dorunda, Hazeerabagh, Saugur and Jubulpore, in Bengal Presidency, are occupied by Madras troops.

Mercara, French Rocks, Mysore, Palamcottah, Chanda and Seroncha have been abandoned last year as Military posts.

Ootacamund,
2nd July 1883

(Signed) R C STEWART, Colonel,
Offg Quartermaster General

APPENDIX B

The four Executive Divisions under the proposed Superintending Engineer might be composed as follows—

Divisions	Military Stations
1 The Madras Division	Fort St George St Thomas' Mount Pallavaram Vellore Bangalore Hosur Bellary Trichinopoly
2 The Secunderabad Division	Secunderabad Tirumalgiri Kamptee Sectabuldee Mangalore Cannanore Calicut
3 The Cannanore Division	Malapuram Wellington Trichoor Trivandrum Rangoon Moulmein Thayetmyo Toungoo Port Blair
4 The Burmah Division	

N.B.—The work at all such minor stations as Hoshungabad, Raipur, Sambalpur, Berhampore, Vizianagram, Samalkot, &c, can easily be executed by the Divisional Executive Engineers. These stations need not therefore form part of the scheme for the Military Works Branch.

24TH AUGUST 1883, No 2381 W., PUBLIC WORKS

ORDER—dated 24th August 1883, No 2381 W, Public Works.

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed.

(Here enter No 2382 W, dated 24th August 1883)

(True Extract)

Major-General, R E,
Secretary to Govt, P W D.

Ltd E. Fernandez
Super Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS
MILITARY WORKS

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Date 1 August, 24th

Recd

Enc

G.O., 24th Aug. 1883, No. 2381 W

AUGUST.

Military Works Branch

Proposal for the formation of a — of the
Public Works Department for Military
Buildings in the Madras Presidency

Can

2381
W

Letter to India No
2382 W of 24.8.83 -

Two copies sent
for W's signature.

Three more copies
also forwarded for
use at Coly.

If fair be despatched
from Coly, kindly cause
advise to be sent to
Madras office, in view
to spare copies being
forwarded to Simla.

Ch

29/8

ation just the

N^o 235 E of 20th July 1883

Proposal for the formation of a
Military Works Branch of the P W Department for
the Madras Command

238/
5

For several years all the military buildings connected with the Bengal Army distributed over the northern provinces of India, some of the minor Administrations and Burmah, have formed a charge distinct from the several local Departments of Public Works, designated the Military Works Dept.

2. This Department has as its head the Inspector General of Military Works (at present Col. J. J. McLeod James V. C. R. E.) who is in direct communication with the

Commander-in-Chief in India,
and who has himself all
the powers of a Local Govt
in regard to sanctions for
work.

3. Suffered thus not only
of large independent powers
but brought into intimate
relations with the Commander-
-in-Chief, and through him
with the Government of
India, the wants and require-
ments of the Bengal Army
receive prompt and effectual
attention.

4. In Bombay, where
however, disproportionately
large sums have as in regard
to Civil Works been the
rule, difficulties have been
experienced (see the Quarter
Master General's Memo of
11th November 1877) from the

fact the Bombay Army
is distributed over five
different Civil Adminis-
trations, through each of which
correspondence having to
take place before reaching
the Commander-in-Chief
of that Presidency, there is
a great deal of circums-
-tution, and funds are paid
at times to be diverted in
a manner which could not
occur if there were a
responsible head such as
an Inspector General for
the Military Presidency.
5. In Madras owing to
an analogous distribution
of the local Army as
shown in Appendix (A) -
Correspondence has to pass
through the heads of several
Administrations, the result

Provinces being

(1) Madras. (2) Mysore

(3) Travancore (4) Cochin.

(5) Central Provinces

(6) Hyderabad

(7) British Government, &c

which must be added three
stations in the Presidency
of Bengal now occupied
by Madras troops.

6. Where as in the Central
Provinces the garrisons are
drawn from more than one
army a close scrutiny has
to be maintained by the
Officer Commanding as to
the distribution of the
budgetted amounts for the
troops of the respective
Armies, and in order to
prevent any diversion or
misapplication of the funds

intended for each

7. From the difficulty²³⁸
Experienced in obtaining
adequate Establishment
for the general works of the
Presidency it has been found
expedient to place all the
Military works like those
for Irrigation and Navigation
&c under the General
Establishment.

8. It thus arises that there
is only one Executive Engineer
and that of late formation
charge, viz. of Fort Saint
George, Madras and Banga-
lore, which may be said
to be an exclusively Military
Works Division. In it even
there are some Civil Works.

9. Not only are the great
Irrigation and Navigation
Works of the country now

generally attractive to the professional Engineer, than Military buildings, but as must with such an amalgamation of charges as that adverted to frequently happen, the Military Work fall to the charge of a Civil Engineer and even to a Civil Upper Subordinate who, in addition to lacking the needful Experience, look it, ^{to be} feared, on such works as of secondary importance.

10 As a fact also from the relatively small amounts which have been assigned by the Government of India for the Madras Military Budget ⁺ per margin, it has been found quite impossible to devote adequate ^{to} etc

Demands compared with the grants as made by the Govt of India

Year	Demand	Grant
1878-79.	11,55,000	7,50,000
1879-80	11,47,500	6,96,712
1880-81	8,02,497	4,13,877
1881-82	4,10,629	4,10,000
1882-83	15,79,419	6,20,000

N.B. In 1880/81 and 1881/82 the demands were as a fact much below the known urgent requirements.

to the repair, and maintenance of the important ²¹⁸¹₈ military buildings of the Presidency. Not only are the fortifications and buildings in Fort St George a striking example of neglect but it is notorious that all over the Presidency a large outlay is now required to replace defective roof timbers and effect much renewal, which with the possibility of timely attention should never have been required and which if left much longer unattended to, must lead to the most serious results.

11 Another material point connected with the inadequate supply of funds, and more

particularly during the enforced rigid economy throughout the Afghan War, when this Presidency suffered more probably than any other, is the difficulty experienced in making a selection of military works projects for entry in the Budget in their order of relative importance.

12 An inspection of the lists of military requirements which reach the Chief Engineer from the Quarter-master General year by year exhibit a very singular state of matters in this respect, demands of the most pressing character jostling one another in a manner which prove how

how inadequate has been the supply of means in the past, and rendering selection a matter of the utmost difficulty.

13. The criticism of our Military Works Budget by the Government of India has latterly been most severe (and deservedly so I would respectfully submit if the facts were known) but the difficulties arising from the dearth of funds both in regard to the supply of what is needful for repairs, and for new buildings as above adverted to, are such that it is most essential to place this branch of the Public Works business as soon as possible on a well defined footing, under a responsible head.

who, while acting under the general control of the Inspector General, should be in immediate communication with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras.

14. The change now advocated is in accordance with what has long been understood to be the aim of the Government of India in constituting a Military Works Branch for the Bengal Army.

15. To the best of my judgment the officer specially selected for this responsible post should have the position of Deputy Engineer, and his Circle of Superintendence should extend to the whole

Madras Command, with an Establishment of ^{23 3/10} Executive Engineers whose ¹⁰ ~~services~~ would be somewhat as indicated in Appendix (B).
16. At the present moment it would be needless to attempt to go into further detail as it will be seen that before giving effect to the scheme several questions affecting other provinces as well as Madras have to be decided by the Govt of India.

17. Looking to the requirements of the Civil Works in this Presidency it would be impossible to eliminate any of the Deputy Engineers on the last sanctioned scale of the general Madras P.W. Establishment per order.

to create without increase
the proposed post for the
Military Works Branch,
although there is an officer
in every way highly qualified
for the post whose services
could be placed at disposal.

18. Of the 4 Executive
Engineers it may be assumed
that 2 and possibly 3 of the
officers in this grade who
are employed on Military
Works in Burma, Central
Provinces and Hyderabad
would be available leaving
only one to be supplied
by reduction of the Madras
Establishment which I
think may be fairly counted
on.

19. Although the details
of the Establishment now
engaged exclusively ²³⁸ on
Military Works are not
available and would be
difficult to ascertain, there
can I venture to think be
no doubt that even if
leading to a slight increase
of the general Establishment
charges, such will be amply
repaid by improved efficiency
in the management of the
works.

20. Already in their
Resolution No. 1450-1472 G
dated 29th November 1881 the
Govt of India, have decided
to transfer "all the business
hitherto conducted in the
P. W. Dept in connection

"with Military works" x
"to the Military Dept," with
effect from 1st January 1882,
and the proposals now put
forward are not only in
consonance with this decision,
but also with what is
understood to be the recognised
policy of the Govt of India,
to place these works everywhere
throughout India under
a separate branch of the
Dept, officered by Royal
Engineers.

21 That in the interests
of the buildings and work
generally such a change is
now urgently called for
has I trust been made —
abundantly clear from the
foregoing remarks, and

that the Quartermaster
General's dept, ²³⁸would
experience the greatest relief
can hardly I think be
questioned.

22. His Excellency the
Commander-in-Chief would
moreover have on his staff
an officer, in the person of
the Deputy Engineer, who
could at once give him a
reliable professional opinion
instead of having to seek
this through a circuitous
channel.

23. Incidentally moreover
it may be remarked, with
reference to the question raised
some little time since about
the position of the Barrack
Dept in the Presidency,

I Wth Sept should, such has
desired.

Chief Engineer
J. H. Deft

[illegible]

Military Stations	Provinces, Districts, &c.	Remarks
Fort Saint George		
Saint Thomas' Mount		
Pornambour		
Velour		
Sancet		
Changanassery		
Berhampore	Madras proper	
Willington		
Trichinopoly		
Sehar		
Cananore		
Kalliapuram		
Cahicut		
Mangalore		
Bangalore		
Copoor	Mysore Provinces	
Trichoor		
Trevandrum	Travancore State	
Cuttack	Orissa Commission	
Kanpur		
Kanpur		
Koshungabad	Central Provinces	
Sambalpur		
Seetabuldee		
Secunderabad		
Trimulgherry	Hyderabad States	
Rangoon		
Bombay		

Military Stations	Provinces Districts &c	Remarks
Thayetungo _____	Provinces of British Burma	
Tongos _____		
Port Blair _____		

N.B. Dacca. Bagerabagh. Tangor and Jubbulpore in Bengal Presidency are occupied by Madras Troops.

Mercara. French Rocks. Mysore. Palamcottah Chanda and Seroncha have been abandoned last year as Military posts.

Calcutta
2 July 1855

(Sg^t) A. C. Stewart
Offg. Lt. Col. Genl.

Appendix B.

23/14

The 4 Executive Divisions under the proposed Superintending Engineer might be composed as follows:-

Divisions	Military Stations
1. The Madras Division	Fort Saint George St. Thomas' Mount Palaveram Vellore Bangalore Ossoor Bellary Trichinopoly
2. The Secunderabad Division.	Secunderabad Trinulgherry Kamptee Secatabaldee
3. The Cannanore Division.	Bangalore Cannanore Calicut Malliapuram Wellington Tuchoor Trianthram
4. The Burma Division	Rangoon Moulmein Thayetungo Tongos Port Blair.

N.B. The work at all such minor stations as Koshungabad, Raipur, Jubbulpore, Berhampur, Vizianagaram, Samalpur, Kotta &c can easily be executed by the Divisional Executive Engineers. These stations need not therefore form part of the scheme for the Military Works Branch.

No 2381 W P. W. Dept.

2381/15

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. ^{to}
Under date the 24 Aug/83
Read the following:-

Memorandum by the Chief Eng. } (No. No. 235 E of 20th July/83)
P. W. D. }
on the formation of a Military
Works Branch for Military
Buildings in the Madras Presidency

Ordered that the Govt.
of India be addressed.

(No. No. 2382 W of 24 Aug/83 ^{to})

To, The Secretary to Govt. of India
P. W. Dept.

Sir,

I am desired to submit
for the favorable consideration
and orders of His Excellency
the Governor General in

Council the accompanying
Memorandum on the formation
of a Military Works Branch
for Military buildings in this
Presidency. I am to add thereto
the following observations.

2 The object of the proposal
is, I am to say, to meet
more promptly and effectually
the many and various re-
quirements of the Madras
Army, to secure to the Military
authorities fuller control over
the funds assigned by the
Govt. of India to this service,
and to ensure the utilization
of the same on works and
repairs in the order of their
urgency. Its scope, embracing
as it does the requirements
of the whole Presidential
Army, extends to limits
outside the jurisdiction of
this Government and to
stations officered departmentally

238/6
by a Public Works staff
independent of His Excellency
the Commander-in-Chief and
therefore, to some extent less
influenced by his views and
wishes than appears to be
desirable.

3 The formation of a separate
and distinct branch of the
Public Works Dept. for the
sole execution of Military
works pertaining to the
Madras Army, on the same
footing as that which
has for some years worked
successfully in Northern
India, must it can hardly
be doubted lead to economy
and efficiency in work, and
will enable the Commander-in-
Chief to have that close control
and supervision over Military
works outlay which it is
essential he should exercise
in the interests of the Army.

under his command. In fact
the conditions which called
into existence the system of

13
of the necessities of the general
Military sub-divisions of this
p. 1