

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

MILITARY.

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

No: 3169 W of 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1883

Recorded

sof L. B  
26 S.

Dated October, 29th

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G.O., 29th October 1883, No. 5796.

No. 3169 W of 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1883

OCTOBER.

Nos. 396—401.

Ordinance Department—Arsenals.

Fort St George —Correspondence connected  
with the question of the removal of the arsenal  
from — to St. Thomas' Mount, recorded.

S. E. Fifth bundle

With Order

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS  
M I L I T A R Y   D E P A R T M E N T .

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29th October 1883, No 5796

**Ordnance Department—Arsenals.**

Read the following papers —

No 396      *From Colonel H K BURNE, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to Colonel J MICHAEL, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department, dated Simla, 29th August 1879, No. 1669-S D*

**Ordnance—Organization**

With reference to paras 2 and 3 of the letter from this department, No 581, dated 14th November 1876, I am now desired to state, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, that the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council having carefully reconsidered the question of the removal of the arsenal now located in Fort St George to some more suitable site such as Perambúr, St Thomas' Mount or Avady, as variously proposed by the several authorities who have been consulted on the subject, has been forced to the conclusion that any such measure is at present impracticable on financial grounds, and further that there would seem to be but little prospect of the Government being in a position within any reasonable time to afford the very large outlay involved in carrying out such a project

2 His Excellency in Council considers, therefore, that the previous decision arrived at on this subject must be put aside and the project be abandoned, the only action feasible for rendering the arsenal more secure being to put Fort St George into a sufficient state of repair without incurring any great or unavoidable expense

3 I am accordingly to request that, under the orders of His Grace in Council, the Government of India may be furnished with plans and estimates of what may be considered necessary for the above purpose.

No. 397.

No 5546.

The Secretary to Government, Military Department, is directed to request that the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines will consult with the District Engineer, and, with reference to para 94 of the report of the Special Ordnance Commission, will furnish Government, as soon as possible, with a roughly approximate estimate of the buildings which would be absolutely required, in addition to those existing at St Thomas' Mount, and the total cost which would be entailed on Government, including transport of stores, &c, if the Madras arsenal were to be moved to the Mount.

(By Order )

OOTACAMUND,  
4th October 1879

(Signed)      J MICHAEL, Colonel,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines

No 398 From Major-General R CADELL, C B, Inspector-General of Ordnance, to Colonel E L HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St George, 5th November 1880, No 303-G

I have the honor to forward, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, the estimate received yesterday which was called for in Order of Government, No 5546, dated 4th October 1879, together with a copy of letter regarding it from the Superintending Engineer, Second Circle

2 I have to remark, with regard to the conclusion of his 7th para in which that officer states that I had informed him "that none of the depôt buildings are available" for the new arsenal, that these words are capable of misapprehension. What I said was—"With regard to your 3rd para I beg to state that the whole of the rooms and sheds now at St Thomas' Mount will be required for the purposes for which they are now devoted, as the depôt at St Thomas' Mount is practically in many respects a branch of the arsenal at Madras. It is probable that the office at the Mount is larger than its present wants demand." The fact is that the buildings, &c, at the Mount are filled with the siege train second lines of wagons, &c, and will continue to be so should the arsenal be removed to that station. The other buildings will be incorporated with the new arsenal, but will be required for the various purposes for which they are at present used.

3 The estimate for the removal of the stores from Madras to St Thomas' Mount was estimated by Lieutenant-Colonel McLeod, the Commissary of Ordnance, late in charge, at Rs 60,889 using bullock carts. If sent by rail he estimated that the charge would be more than double that sum.

4 I would beg to add that to the estimate of the Engineer will have to be added the cost of a new mess house, racquet court, billiard room, &c, for the officers of the royal artillery at the Mount. The present premises, as they stand, cost Government Rs 40,000, but they actually cost, it is believed, the extinct Madras artillery to whom they belonged three times that sum.

From Major H R MEAD, R E, Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, Combatores, to the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, dated Combatores, 2nd November 1880, No 2270-M

With reference to your letters, No 4269, dated 21st August 1880, and No 6186, dated 27th October 1880, I have the honor to forward revised statements to show the rough approximate estimate of the buildings which would be absolutely required, in addition to those existing at St Thomas' Mount, on the removal of the Madras arsenal to the latter station.

2 The area of the buildings required, according to the lists that have been made out in communication with your department, is 154,097 square feet, or nearly 3.6 acres, this includes the additions required as pointed out in your letter of the 21st August 1880, and the cost of those buildings is roughly estimated at Rs 6,09,817.

3 The cost of building quarters for the warrant and non-commissioned officers attached to the arsenal, forty-eight in number, as classified in the list forwarded by you, would probably amount to Rs 1,88,000.

4 These two amounts, viz, Rs 6,09,817 and Rs 1,88,000, making a total of Rs 7,97,817 give roughly the approximate estimate for building a new arsenal (adapted to hold the stores, &c, that are now in Madras) anywhere, say, within a distance of 100 miles from the present Madras arsenal.

5 The area of land required for this new arsenal, exclusive of the quarters for the warrant and non-commissioned establishment, should not be less than 14 acres, or about four times the area to be occupied by the buildings.

For the quarters if built in pairs and allowing small compounds for gardens, out-houses, &c, not less than 12 acres should be given, this is at the rate of four quarters an acre.

6 I believe that the royal artillery mess compound has been selected as the site proposed for the new arsenal, it is Government property now let at a nominal rent. It is conveniently situated with regard to the ordnance depôt. Its area is 7.6 acres, and therefore, if this site is decided on, it will be absolutely necessary for the adjoining compound marked 106 in the revenue survey maps (No 188) of the Mount cantonment to be purchased, the area of this compound is about 6.6 acres.

7 The only Government building on this site that would be available as an arsenal building is the old mess house. I am not aware, however, that any other Government buildings at the Mount would be available if any other site was chosen, the barracks are all in use, and some of the staff sergeants, &c, are now drawing compensation of house-rent.

In your letter of August you state that none of the depôt buildings are available.

8 With regard to the site of the quarters of the warrant and non-commissioned officers, I can propose nothing, there would be, however, I consider no difficulty in purchasing a site, there is no Government land that I am aware of suitable.

9 The following may be taken as the rough approximate estimate for the necessary buildings for the arsenal, should it be moved to the Mount —

|                                                                                 |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|                                                                                 | RS       |
| Cost of buildings                                                               | 6,09,817 |
| Deduct value of the mess house . . .                                            | 35,000   |
|                                                                                 | 5,74,817 |
| Add for sundries, purchase of land, &c                                          | 50,000   |
| Cost of building forty-eight quarters for warrant and non-commissioned officers | 1,88,000 |
| Total                                                                           | 8,12,817 |

No 399.

No 119

In the event of the stores now in the Madras arsenal being removed elsewhere, that building would become available for other purposes, and the Government request that the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, will be good enough to favor them with an opinion as to whether it would be desirable or otherwise to establish a military hospital within the fort in the building now used as an arsenal or in any other part of the fort, and whether there are any objections, on sanitary or other grounds, to the proposed arrangement.

(By Order)

FORT ST GEORGE,  
10th January 1881

(Signed) E L HANKIN, Colonel,  
Ag Secy to Govt

To the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras

No 400 From Sir A D HOME, Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, to Colonel E L HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St George, 21st February 1881, No 50

In answer to your memorandum No 119 of 10th ultimo, I have the honor to say that, in my judgment, the arsenal in Fort St George is not suitable for conversion into a hospital for the European part of the garrison, the sanitary objections to the project will perhaps be best made apparent by an enumeration of the requirements of a military hospital, these are—

- (1) Wards to accommodate 10 per cent of the strength of the garrison, affording 2,400 feet of cubic and 120 feet of superficial space for each patient.
- (2) A separate ward for one patient.
- (3) Two separate wards for cases of infectious fevers, each to accommodate three patients, for each of whom 4,000 feet of cubic space and 200 of superficial area should be provided.
- (4) A prisoners' ward for two patients.
- (5) Suitable ablution rooms, bath rooms and closets in connection with the wards, in the instance of the infectious cases wards, separate and distinct from those of general wards.
- (6) A dining room or a broad verandah for the use of patients able to be up and about.

- (7) Suitable protection against the direct rays of the sun by verandahs on the exposed sides of the building
- (8) Accessory accommodation for the medical subordinates, hospital sergeant, office, surgery, steward's stores, foul linen stores, and mortuary, latrines, &c
- (9) A military hospital should be placed in a railed-in compound however small, even with the protection of walls and sentries it is difficult to prevent the patients obtaining drink, and to guard against other immorality, a compound also ensures some degree of quiet and the circulation of air
- (10) Though not absolutely required, it is very convenient for economy and for facility of administration to have the hospital for women adjacent to the garrison hospital

Writing in submission to professional opinion on this point, I do not think that these requirements could be had on an area (as I measure) of 90,200 feet closely shut in on two sides, distant on the east only 20 feet from the nearest building, and on the north only 50 feet from a range of stables

I may perhaps be allowed to remark that, though the adaptation of a store house to hospital uses is an undertaking which might be successful, failure would mean the prospect of never-ending alterations and additions

I think that a hospital for the garrison might be built in the north-east angle of the esplanade inside the fort on the ground (about 202,100 feet) now occupied by three ranges of buildings, should Government be advised that the space is sufficient I am of opinion that the sanitary objection, viz, the proximity of the main sewer of the town might be got rid of by its diversion, but should this improvement be unattainable, it would be better, on the whole, to construct a hospital outside, *but near to the fort.*

No. 401.

ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1883, No. 5796

O G No 6854, dated 29th Oct 1880

" " 4035, " 23rd July 1883, para 4

" " 5464, " 9th Oct "

Recorded, with reference to the correspondence noted in the margin.

(True Extract)

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

To the Quartermaster-General

" Inspector-General of Ordnance

" Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras,

with copy of previous correspondence

" Public Works Department

" Adjutant-General, for information

Exd E C Shunker.