

Dec 29 3 ✓

12/7/60 ✓

No. 245

No. 131 of 15th January 1886

Communicated
to the Superintending Engineer
II, IV, V circles

JS
H

Gobt. of (1886) Madras.
MILITARY.

To
THE QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 8th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

8th January 1886, No. 183.

JANUARY.
Nos. 116-117.

No. 131 of 15th Jan'y 1886

Military Buildings.

Report called for by the Government of India relative to the extra accommodation that will be required for the battalion of British Infantry and battery of Field Artillery allotted to the Madras Presidency, and also for the augmented strength of British Regiments, Cavalry and Infantry, forwarded.

With order

S & II, circle
S & IV, circle
S & V, circle

1/2
L. J. P. Encl
With order

Dec 29 3 ✓

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

8th January 1886, No. 183.

Military Buildings.

Read the following paper:—

No. 116. From Major D. J. S. McLEOD, Deputy Quarter Master General, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 5th January 1886, No. 23-A.

Referring to O.G., No. 6225, dated 6th November 1885, intimating the stations at which the extra battalion British Infantry and Battery of Field Artillery allotted to this Presidency are to be located, and calling for a report relative to the extra accommodation that will be required for these corps and for the augmented strength of British Regiments, Cavalry and Infantry, I have the honor, by order, to report as follows, the requirements at each station being detailed in succession:—

BANGALORE—*British Cavalry*.—Accommodation will be required for sixty-six single men and sixty-six horses. In the current year no expenditure at all will be requisite on either head, and next year, making allowance for absentees at Wellington, &c., the few extra men to be provided for could, without unduly interfering with either health or comfort, be easily accommodated in the verandahs of existing barracks at an outlay of Rs. 1,000. It would be desirable, however, ultimately to provide another block of barracks for single men, and the Provincial Commander-in-Chief would propose to include this building in the schedule of works required, which is annually submitted to Government, leaving its execution to be delayed until convenient with reference to other wants. For the stabling of sixty-six horses an expenditure of Rs. 11,880 will have to be incurred next year.

British Infantry.—The existing barracks contain ample accommodation for a battalion of augmented strength, and no expenditure will, therefore, be requisite on them.

BELLARY—*British Infantry*.—No expenditure need be incurred on the present barracks in which the extra strength can be properly accommodated without overcrowding.

CANNANORE.—The augmented strength of British Infantry Regiment can be accommodated in existing barracks without extra expense.

FORT ST. GEORGE.—As Government is aware nothing can be done towards providing additional accommodation for troops in Fort St. George until the buildings now occupied by the Accountant-General's and Military Accounts Department Offices are made available; the manner in which it is proposed to utilize these will be mentioned in the report which is under preparation in reply to the Reference Order of Government, No. 5126, dated 16th September 1885; but

Sayer Encl

With order

even with these buildings sufficient accommodation for the augmented strength of the British Infantry Regiment, as it will stand when the detachment at present at the Andamans rejoins, will not be available in the Fort, and it will be necessary to place a detachment of the regiment in the old, and now vacant, north barracks of artillery at St. Thomas' Mount; the expenditure connected with this arrangement will be noted in the remarks on that station.

ST. THOMAS' MOUNT—Field Battery, Royal Artillery.—This battery will be accommodated in the old south barracks, which were abandoned in favor of the new barracks; these barracks are complete with all subsidiary buildings for a Field Battery, and the horses of the battery can be placed in the old lines in the "Begum's compound;" the house in this compound is now used as an office by the Executive Engineer, which, however, would not be interfered with by the re-occupation of the horse lines.

British Infantry.—The detachment of the regiment quartered in Fort St. George would be placed in the old north (artillery) barracks, which contain accommodation for eight Sergeants and 145 men.

The fact that the two sets of old artillery barracks, north and south, above alluded to have been abandoned will account for the necessity of some considerable expenditure on their general repair; the approximate amount of this is Rs. 5,000, composed of the following items, and it is recommended that authority for their immediate execution be granted, so that, if possible, they may be completed by the time the barracks, &c., have to be taken into occupation:—

Re-roofing guard and prisoners' rooms near rear gateways	1,000
Do. cook-houses	1,200
Additions to shed to be used as shoeing shed	200
White washing, &c., of all buildings	500
General repairs to main roofings	500
Arm racks and shelves and pegs for kits	800
Contingencies	800
	5,000

SECUNDERABAD—British Cavalry.—The augmented strength can be provided for in existing barracks without extra expense.

British Infantry.—The augmented strength of two battalions can be provided for in existing barracks without any extra expense.

The third battalion, British Infantry, allotted to this station can only be accommodated by dividing it between the barracks of the other two battalions, and consequently the arrangement must be looked on as a purely temporary one, pending final redistribution of British troops in India.

The cost of the temporary additions requisite to the barracks in the shape of iron roofed outer verandahs, the existing outer verandahs having to be used for dining purposes, will amount to Rs. 12,000, and the blocking up of certain doors in married quarters will cost Rs. 300.

If it should be decided to give a more permanent character to the location of the third battalion at the station, without going to the expense of building new barracks for it, further expenditure, as below, would, at any rate, be essential; for, except as a very temporary arrangement, it is most undesirable that regimental institutions of two battalions should be combined:—

Extra hospital accommodation	60,000
Purchasing and adapting houses for Officers' quarters	30,000
Mess-house	32,000
Canteen	27,000
Recreation-room, &c.	20,000
Guard-room, &c.	25,000
Orderly-room	6,000
Stores	12,000
Workshops	11,000
Sergeants' mess	25,000

It has been assumed above that three battalions, British Infantry, will shortly be present together at Secunderabad; but under existing conditions a battalion of a regiment from this Presidency being assigned to Upper Burma, the Provincial Commander-in-Chief believes it will be unnecessary, at all events for an indefinite period, to provide for the location of a third battalion at Secunderabad, and, under these circumstances, no expenditure beyond the Rs. 300 mentioned as requisite in connection with blocking up of doors in married quarters would be demanded; the barracks now occupied by the depôt, 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, being large enough to accommodate a battalion on the augmented strength, together with the depôt of a battalion in Upper Burma.

The retention at Secunderabad of the depôt of the battalion in Upper Burma is necessary only so long as the depôt of the 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire Regiment, is located at Bangalore; when that battalion goes home it would be as well that Bangalore should be looked on as the station for the depôt of the battalion, British Infantry, employed in Upper Burma.

KAMPTEE.—Some additions to the existing barracks estimated to cost Rs. 3,000 will be required next year to provide accommodation for the augmented strength, British Infantry, immediately, leaving a new barrack to cost about Rs. 50,000 to be built ultimately in ordinary course.

RANGOON, THAYETMYO AND TONGHOO.—Existing accommodation at these stations in the British Burma command will contain the extra numbers of men of regiments at augmented strength, without any expense having to be incurred.

A tabular statement showing expenditure requisite this year and next year, as above detailed, is attached.

It will be noted that whereas in the letter of the Government of India, Military Department, No. 1040-B., dated 28th October 1885 (Proceedings of Government, No. 6225, dated 6th November 1885), "Bellary" is mentioned as the station for the extra Field Battery to be allotted to this Presidency, the report above made contemplates the location of this battery at "St. Thomas' Mount." It is therefore necessary to explain that, after the report to the Commander-in-Chief in India was made, upon which his proposal to locate this battery at Bellary was based, it was found that such great expense would be involved immediately in alterations and additions to existing barracks at Bellary to accommodate another battery there even temporarily, that General Rowlands was obliged to modify his original report and to recommend the location of the extra Field Battery at St. Thomas' Mount, instead of at Bellary, barracks, &c., being ready for the reception of the battery at the former place without extraordinary expenditure being demanded.

This recommendation has been adopted by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India and has been submitted to the Government of India, so that orders directing the indicated change in original arrangements may be expected shortly, and the report above made has been framed in anticipation of these orders.

Before closing, General Rowlands thinks it desirable to observe, with reference to para. 6 of the letter of the Government of India, Military Department, No. 1040-B., dated 28th October 1885 (Proceedings of Government, No. 6225, dated 6th November 1885), that, before long, when the work of remodelling the hill fort of Sitabuldi has been completed, another battery garrison artillery will be required by this Presidency permanently for that fort, and that, unless the garrison battery taken from Fort St. George for the Expeditionary Force to Upper Burma is sent back to that station, it would be desirable that the spare battery mentioned as to be kept in reserve might, with advantage, be sent direct to Fort St. George on arrival from England, it being most undesirable that the fort armament and guns in the shore batteries at Madras should be left without a battery to look after them for any time.

Statement showing expenditure necessary to provide extra accommodation at Stations, Madras Presidency, in connection with increased strength of British Troops.

Stations.	Purpose.	Expenditure.		Remarks.
		This year.	Next year.	
Bangalore ...	Additions to Barracks— British Cavalry ...	Nil.	1,000	A barrack block will be required ultimately.
	Stabling British Cavalry.	Nil.	11,880	
Bellary ...		Nil.	Nil.	
Cannanore ...		Nil.	Nil.	
St. Thomas' Mount.	General repairs to barracks for Field Battery, Royal Artillery, and Detachment British Infantry.	5,000	...	
Secunderabad ...	Additions, &c., to existing barracks if temporarily required to accommodate a third battalion.	12,300	...	If the third regiment is not actually located at Secunderabad, but merely two full regiments and depôt of a third, only small alterations to married quarters, costing Rs. 300, need be carried out this year.
Kamptee ...	Additions to existing barracks for augmented strength.	Nil.	3,000	A new barrack block will be required ultimately.
Rangoon ...		Nil.	Nil.	
Thayetmyo ...		Nil.	Nil.	
Tonghoo ...		Nil.	Nil.	
Total ...		17,300	15,880	

OOTACAMUND,
5th January 1886.

(Signed) D. J. S. McLEOD, Major,
Deputy Quarter Master General.

No. 117.

No. 183.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, in reply to Military Department No. 1040-B., dated 28th October 1885.

(By Order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
8th January 1886.

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Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

P.W.D.
Govt. of (1886) Madras.
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Exd. E. C. Shunker.

12/7/80 ✓

No. 131 W d/15th January 1886

Communicated
to the Superintending Engrs
II, IV, V circles

JSS
W

S & II, circle
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MILITARY.

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E. in ch. Mr. S. R. Surry
W. H. S. C.
JSS
12/1/86

2 copies to Mr. S. R. Surry
JSS