

No. 143 W of 18th January 1886

PB

Communicated to
the Marine Dept.
in continuation of
No. 2017 C of 2nd Dec.
1885.

W.
15-1-86

2017 C of 2/10/85
2724 W of 13/10/85
7342 of 10/10/85
5008 of 10/7/85
1971 W of 25/8/85
1977 of 14/8/85

Marine Dept
Military Dept
J. M. J.

From, *Sup^d*
THE ~~EXECUTIVE~~ ENGINEER,
5th Circa

To, *The Chief Engineer*
P. M. D.

No. 3792.
Dated *Dec 4th*
Recd. *6th* } December 1885.

No. 143 W of 18th January 1886
Subject.

Plantations at
the Light House
Battery

Offers pertaining
Suggestions in con-
nection with

No action deemed needed.

With disposal

No. 3792

MADRAS, D. P. W.,

Bangalore, 4th December 1885.

From,

Supg.
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
S. Leirel.
Presidency Division,

To,

THE *Chief Engineer,*
Public Works Dept.

SIR,

10325
In continuation of my report No. 3685
of 27 November 1885 in which I reported
that the Master Attendant had on the
26th ultimo waived all further objections
to the tree plantations at the Light House
Battery if limited to the boundary
then pointed out to him, but I
omitted all mention of "the necessity
of the Casuarina plantation which
Colonel Burton considers desirable".
The history of these plantations has
in reality nothing to do with what
I thought desirable - for it is as
follows -

G. O. No. 753 H of 26 March 1885 sent
to me by Colonel Henderson R.E. Supg
Engineer for guidance enclosed a
Confidential



Confidential Memorandum from the
Inspector General of Fortifications. I
consequently prepared an Estimate pro-
viding for 2 emplacements of sand on
either flank of each of the 3 Coast
Batteries at Madras, and a tree
plantation in front of Clive's and
Light House Batteries. The Committee
which selected the site of the Napier
Battery in 1878 renders it impossible
to provide any such shelter as was
required by the above Memorandum
at this work.

This Estimate reached the military
authorities in due course, but was
transferred back again to the P. & R. Deptt.
with Quarter Master General's letter 1197B
of 28 May 1885: in consequence of para
4 in which I was called upon to
revise the Estimate, so as to provide
for the "extension of the screen of trees
along the coast, thus giving no
"indication of the position of the
"Batteries from the sea". This
Estimate so revised was resub-
mitted

resubmitted to the Chief Engineer
by the Superintending Engineer
Vleirels with ^{Col. R. de Saxe} his letter No. 1651 of
18 July 1885 and was sanctioned
by Government in S. O. No. 1877 of
14 August 1885.

The 3 tree plantations as
originally proposed by me were
in fact thus increased to 12,
but I confined them all to
land which I believed to be
in charge of the Military Deptt.
so as to avoid loading the
Estimates with any sum for
compensation for land which
would otherwise have been
necessitated. For instance I
showed the plantation at Clive's
Battery within the Military
Department land, as bounded
on north and south by lines
running from flanks of the
Battery direct to the sea, at
same time avoiding all interference
with the existing tramways.

And

And the remaining 11 plantations
were all between the line running
seawards from the Military
Department Boundary Pillar
at N.E. corner of the Esplanade,
dated 1 January 1773, and the
usual mouth of the Cooum
River - this being land, accord-
ing to my experience, appertaining
to the site of Fort and Island
which are in charge of the
Military Department.

The 6 plantations and trees
in the 12 Plantations are in my
opinion really necessary to
render the 6 gun emplacements
as invisible as possible from
the sea. The plantations until
the time when the trees have
grown will render the sky line
of the Batteries as seen from
the sea less prominent in
outline - this object is being
aided as much as possible
by

by encouraging rank vegetation
and shrubs on the superior and
exterior slopes of the Batteries.

Lieut. A. Clarke the Inspector
General of Fortifications in
fact says in his Confidential
Memorandum of September 1884
(after the submission of the sanc-
tioned Estimate) circulated
with G.O. No. 1687 N of 20 July
1885) "Invisibility will be
"striven for by all possible
"means. It is the cheapest
"form of protection. Clean
"cut lines and even slopes
"will altogether disappear while
"vegetation will be judiciously
"encouraged. At Alexandria
"the great difficulty of our
"ships was to find a definite
"object to aim at. In a well
"designed earth Battery there
"should rarely be anything
"clearly

"clearly defined."

Again the extension of the 3 plantations as advocated by H.E. Sir Frederick Roberts and sanctioned by Government will not only very greatly increase the invisibility of the Light House and Rapier Batteries, but will render comparatively safe at all times communication between them, the Fort and the town when a hostile ship is off the coast - for such a vessel would not probably waste her ammunition by firing at a wood ^{extended plantations} 2500 yards long as these will be.

Should an opportunity of obtaining land for extending the plantation on either

either side of the Blue Battery offer, and when the Harbour Works are finished and the concrete blocks and rails on north side of the Light House Battery are removed, the extension advocated by H.E. Sir Frederick Roberts might be carried out inexpensively in these portions of the coast also.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

W.H. Thorton Col. R.E.
Offg. Supg. Mgr. S. Service.

Cu para
 Epa 672
 + para 1 responder
 Emb. Swael.
 1/4/1900