

5TH AUGUST 1886, Nos. 432, 433, MARINE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., dated 7th June 1886, Mis. No. 289, Marine.

Read—the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, dated 11th May 1886, No. 218 K.S.:—

With reference to your memorandum, No. 1490-C, of the 15th April 1886, I have the honor to inform you that the Executive Engineer, Kistna Eastern Division, states that the steam launch which is in the river here cannot be sent away to be examined until it is fitted up, and that as it is almost exactly of the same size and build as the *Sir Arthur Cotton* now in the Godáviri, it need not be separately examined.

No. 180-D.

MEMORANDUM.

Copy forwarded to the Marine Department, with advertence to its endorsement, No. 6256, dated 8th April 1886.

2. Information with respect to the steam launches in the Godáviri district was afforded in this office, No. 59-D, dated 30th April 1886.

OOTACAMUND,
27th May 1886.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Marine Department.

Order—dated 7th June 1886, Mis. No. 289, Marine.

Communicated to the Military Department, in continuation of G.O., dated 11th May 1886, No. 235, Marine.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Military Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Master Attendant, Madras.
" Board of Revenue.

READ—also the following paper :—

From Brigadier-General W. K. ELLES, C.B., B.D.C., Adjutant-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 21st July 1886, Mis. No. O. 1765.

With reference to Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 3246, dated the 31st May last, I have the honor, by desire

* Dated 9th July 1886.

† “Shamrock,” “Thistle,” “Arthur Cotton,”
“Victoria,” and “Godavari.”

of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of Government, the report * from Major Hewitt, R.A., on the steam launches named in the margin. †

ENCLOSURES.

From Major J. R. S. O. HEWITT, R.A., to the Officer Commanding Royal Artillery, Eastern District, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 9th July 1886.

I have the honor of reporting that, in accordance with instructions contained in D.O., No. 217, of 15th June 1886, and letter Mis. No. 1349-D., of 10th June 1886, from Adjutant-General, herewith returned, I inspected the steam launches of the Godavari district in company with Mr. Walch, Superintending Engineer, I Circle, on Monday the 5th July 1886.

2. Major S. C. Clarke, R.E., on being relieved by Mr. Walch, had left Dowlaishweram for the Kistna district on the 17th June, and the services of no officer of the Royal Engineers were available; but Mr. Walch was thoroughly acquainted with the capabilities and history of all the launches and had fitted some of them up for service during the Rampah outbreak in 1879.

The accompanying table will show the dimensions, &c., of each of the launches, and appended are some suggestions as to their armament.

3. The *Shamrock*—a paddle steam launch. The roof of the cabins and engine-room form an upper deck sufficiently strong to carry two 7-pounder R.M.L. guns of 200 lb., and there is sufficient room (3 feet 6 inches) on each side of the cabin hatch (which is situated near the bows) for these guns to be run up after being loaded to fire to the front, and they could also be used on either side as broadside guns; movable shields of plate iron might also be hooked on the railings running round the upper deck supported on cleats below and shifted as required. The bath-room or a portion of it could be strengthened with iron plates battened over with wood to serve as a magazine, and the cabin itself would serve as a shell store, the ammunition being passed up to the upper deck through a trap-door in the roof of the cabin.

4. The *Victoria*—a twin screw steam launch. This is a very slightly built steel launch and not suited to carry anything heavier than machine guns on the upper deck formed by the roof of the cabin, and might be fitted with one fore and one aft, either the 5-barrel 0.45 inch Nordenfeldt on cone mounting described in list of Changes in War Material, section 4922, or the 5-barrel 0.45 inch Gardner in section 4497, the holding down rings (section 4281) being permanently fixed one fore and one aft. The guns, cone mountings, and shields being kept either in the workshops at Dowlaishweram or in the Arsenal, Madras.

Part of the railings on the upper deck would have to be removed to allow of the guns being fired. A fore magazine, as in the *Shamrock*, could be made in the bath-room, and an after magazine in the servant's room.

5. The *Thistle*—a paddle steam launch, old and worn out, and as it will probably soon be got rid of, there is no need to offer any suggestions as to its armament; in its present state it is quite unfit to carry machine or other guns.

6. The *Arthur Cotton*—twin screw steam launch. This is a small launch, and a machine gun on cone mountings might be fitted in the bows, the davits for the anchors being moved back 4 or 5 feet, and the stanchion for the awning removed; it would make the launch too top heavy to place a gun on the roof of the cabin; the magazine could be placed as recommended in the *Shamrock* and *Victoria*.

7. The *Godavari*—stern wheel steam launch, is now employed as a ferry boat between Rajahmundry and the opposite side of the river; it is a long shallow weakly constructed vessel and will not apparently last much longer. Four 7-pounder R.M.L. guns of 200 lb. could be mounted on a platform inside the latticed bracings which support the upper deck, and raised sufficiently high to fire over the bulwarks through the bracings; but on account of the age and insecurity of the vessel it is not recommended that any expense should be incurred in fitting it up till it is absolutely required, and there is always plenty of material and artificers available in the Public Works Department Workshops at Dowlaishweram to prepare the steam launches for carrying guns.

8. None of the steam launches are well adapted for carrying guns, being too much hampered with cabins,

RETURN of Revenue Steam Launches in the Godavari district.

Name.	Date of construction.	Length.	Breadth.	Depth.	Extra width for paddle box.	Draft when loaded.	Load.	Average speed.	Propellers.	No. of horse power.	Engines.	Remarks.
		FT.	FT.	FT.	FT.	FT.	TONS.	MILES PER HOUR.				
“Shamrock”	1859-60 ..	95	14½	4½	9½	3	145	6	Side paddle.	16	High pressure.	
“Thistle” ..	1859-60 ..	95	14½	4½	9½	3	145	5	Do. ..	12	Do.	
“Arthur Cotton.”	1878-79 ..	60 10	9½	5	..	3	39	7	Iron screw.	5	High pressure, double engine.	
“Victoria” ..	1881-82 ..	91½	13	5½	..	3	68	10	Do. ..	150	Two compound surface condenser.	Steel.
“Godavari” ..	..	133½	25	3½	..	18½	..	..	Stern paddle.	..	..	Iron, thickness of plates ½”.

No. 513.

Forwarded.

10th July 1886.

(Signed) A. W. FERRIER, Major, R.A.,
Commanding Royal Artillery, Eastern District.

No. 4476.

Transferred to the Marine Department, with reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 235, dated 11th May 1886.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
26th July 1886.

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
Secy. to Govt., Mily. Dept.

ORDER—dated 5th August 1886, No. 432, Marine.

Ordered that Major Hewitt's report be communicated to the Government of India in continuation of G.O., dated 10th June 1886, No. 296, Marine.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.

„ Military Department.

„ Port Officer, Madras.

„ Revenue Department.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 5th August 1886, No. 433, Marine.

Copy to the Government of India, Military (Marine) Department.

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T.O'Connor.

2142 Wd/26-8-86

Communicated to
the Suptg. Engr. I circle,
in continuation of G.O.
No. 1405 W. dated 2nd
June 1886; also to the
Suptg. Engr. II circle,
with advertence to his
letter No. 550 K.S. dated
6th July 1886.

(sd) J.S.S.

To.

S.E. I circle

S.E. II "

Govt. of (1886) Madras.

MARINE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., &c., 5th August 1886,
Nos. 432, 433.

AUGUST.

Government Steam Launches.

Communicating to the Government of India a
report by Major Hewitt, R.A., of his inspection
of the launches of the Godavari district in view
to their possible armament.

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