

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

1st Aug 1887, No. 4612

Defences—Forts.

Read the following paper:—

No. . From Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quarter Master General, Madras Army, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 15th July 1887, No. 1789-B.

I am desired, by the Commander-in-Chief, to submit, for the information of Government, the Annual Inspection Report on Fort St. George for 1887, with the following remarks:—

Para. 11, Works considered necessary.

(a) *Improvements to Magazines.*—In this office letter No. 2267-A * of the 27th ultimo, the proposals of a Committee assembled to report on the improvements necessary to the Fort magazines for the storage of powder required for the armament were submitted, with the recommendations of the Commander-in-Chief, for sanction of Government. Of these proposals that for making the St. George magazine bombproof having been approved by the Director-General of Ordnance and funds for its execution provided in the budget for the current year, is the only one on which action can be taken, and the work will be put in hand as soon as estimates, which have again been called for, are furnished by the Public Works Department.

(b) *Demolition of Out-works.*—Sir Charles Arbuthnot desires to record his opinion as to the necessity for the carrying out of this work as soon as funds are available.

(c) *Removal of Worksheds of the Ordnance Department on south berm.*—His Excellency approves the suggestion made in this office letter † No. 2924-B, dated 11th September 1886, regarding the retention of these worksheds where they are, until necessity arises for using the guns they mask.

(d) *Facing walls of enceinte with Portland cement.*—This His Excellency considers a very desirable measure, and strongly urges provision of the necessary funds being made from the repair grant.

(e) *Repairs to Palisades at crest of the glacis.*—His Excellency recommends that this work stand over until the outworks are removed.

(g) *Removal of stables from the Fort.*—As it has been found impossible to obtain a site for these stables outside the Fort, His Excellency wishes the work to stand over until the demolition of the outworks has been carried out.

From Major-General A. C. JOHNSON, C.B., General Officer Commanding the Eastern District, to the Quarter Master General, Madras Army; dated Fort St. George, 25th May 1887, No. 236-G.

I have the honor to inform you that on the 29th April 1887, accompanied by the officers as per margin, I held an inspection of Fort St. George as directed in Para. 16, Section V, Madras Army Regulations.

2. The reports submitted by the Senior Officer, Royal Artillery, Fort St. George, and by the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, were duly considered on the spot and hereinafter embodied.

3. *Armament.*—The armament consists of—

- (a) Five 80-pdr. R.M.L. converted guns of 5 tons.
- (b) Thirty-seven * 24-pdr. S.B. cast iron guns of 50 cwt.
- (c) Three 10 inch S.B.C.I. mortars.
- (d) Two Gardner machine guns.

In addition to the above, there are the following used for signal, time and saluting purposes:—

- (e) Six 18-pdr. C.I.S.B. guns.
- (f) Six 9-pdr. bronze S.B. guns.
- (g) One 6-pdr. C.I. gun.

* Number reduced from thirty-eight under O.G., No. 7538, dated 4th December 1886.

The condition of the guns is good, as is also that of the carriages and platforms, excepting those of two of the 80-pdr. R.M.L. guns, which do not work very well; this will be attended to. All the guns are mounted and the armament is complete.

4. *Ammunition.*—The regulated proportions of ammunition are complete and in good order.

5. *Store-rooms.*—The shell, cartridge and artillery stores for each of the six groups of guns into which the armament is divided have been completed during the late official year, and all are in use.

Lamps have not yet been supplied, but the matter is under reference.

6. *Stores.*—The gun stores are all complete, with some few exceptions, which are being rectified.

7. *Magazines.*—In addition to the shell, cartridge and artillery stores for the various groups of guns and machine guns, one magazine only is in use, this is No. 9; it is dry and in good order, and is used for storage of powder for the armament.

8. *Defences.*—A detailed description of every part of the defences is contained in part II, annual report of Fort St. George, published in G.O., 23rd July 1883, No. 4035; it is, therefore, not repeated in this report.

9. *Works completed during the year*—

- (a) Removal of recess for Gardner gun on salient of Flag Staff Redan.
- (b) The shell and cartridge and artillery stores for the several groups of guns were completed during past year.

10. *Works in progress*—

- (a) Demolition of old gas work (continued).

11. *Works considered necessary*—

- (a) The rendering bombproof and proof against horizontal fire of magazines sufficient for the Fort armament, the Coast batteries, present and proposed armaments, viz., for about 5,500 barrels.
- (b) The demolition of all outworks inclusive of the traverses on the covered way.
- (c) The removal of the workshops of the Ordnance Department on south berm.
- (d) The rendering of the escarp walls of the enceinte with Portland cement.
- (e) Repair of the palisades at the crest of the glacis.
- (f) Demolition of the coal shed in the left flank of Royal Bastion.
- (g) Removal of the stables from the Fort.

- (a) A new magazine bombproof, &c., and capable of containing the reserve powder for fort armament, &c., and new 10-inch B.L.R. guns for the Coast batteries will cost Rs. 63,100 on the western berm. A proposal has been made by a committee assembled to consider the subject to convert the St. Thomé Curtain into a reserve powder magazine.

As it is understood the local manufacture of powder may shortly cease, the early construction of a suitable magazine seems imperative.

- (b) These demolitions are urgently needed, as not only are the outworks useless, but are in a ruinous state, very unsightly, and mask a great number of the guns on the enceinte, the space they occupy is much needed, when they are levelled, for erection of stables, which is very desirable should be removed out of the fort, in which they are for the most part not only very ill constructed, but being placed in very confined positions the effluvia arising from them causes much annoyance to residents in the fort and others. The Superintending Engineer has received a tender from an European contractor to level all the outworks in six months, from date of commencement, at a cost of about Rs. 35,000; it might be worthwhile for Government to consider this tender.

In the preliminary issue of the Imperial budget estimate, a sum of Rs. 7,426 is shown as applied for for the demolition of the Wálajáh ravelin and lunettes; this at least should be carried out during the ensuing official year.

- (c) This demolition is again entered as being necessary on account of its masking the guns on the left flank of the Wálajáh and right flank of the south demi bastions; the work would cost nothing, as the value of the materials would cover all expenditure.

- (d) It is proposed to expend Rs. 5,000 annually on this work until completed; nothing was spent last year, as the repairs grant was exhausted before any such work could be commenced after receipt of Government orders on the year's annual report.

- (e) It is proposed to expend Rs. 5,000 per annum in keeping the palisades in order, no repair has been executed to them during past two years; they have to a great extent fallen down and are fast disappearing.

- (f) This shed will be demolished shortly.

- (g) This work is urgently required, but nothing can be done till some at least of the outworks are levelled.

Part I of the annual report of Executive Engineer, consisting of plan and sections through the most important part of the works of Fort St. George, is attached.*

* Sent by parcel post.

No.

ORDER THEREON,

1 Aug 1887, No. 4612

Communicated, in continuation of Proceedings of Government, No. 6315, dated 11th October 1886, to the Public Works Department, for favor of early attention in regard to the works (a) and (d) referred to in the Quarter Master General's letter.

No.

To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department;
dated 1887, No.

(True Extract.)

Minney Herbert

Brigdr.-Genl.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

„ Public Works Department.

„ Inspector-General of Ordnance.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

15/3.c. sent to mpa

P.M.C. 5033

Gobt. of (1887) Madras.

MILITARY.

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

Dated

Issued

Recd. Augt 2, 1887
G.O., Augt 1, 1887, No. 4612.

Encl.

No. 2131 W dated 10th August 87

Nos.

Defences—Forts.

Fort St. George.—Orders passed on the
Annual Inspection Report on — for 1887.

No. 2131 W of 10th August 87

Communicated to the
Comm. to the
Supg. Engrs & Circle in
continuation of G.O. No.
2746 W of 18th Oct 86

The submission of
estimates for item (a)
para 11 of the report
should be expedited, and
the Supg. Engrs will
report whether funds
can be made available
for item (d) from the
military repairs grant
to the Presidency
division.

G.O. 1084 W of 29.4.86.
" 1085 W of 29.4.86.
" 1240 W of 17.5.86.
" 2497.8 W of 25.9.86.
" 2746 W of 18.10.86.

Sp. Engrs Circle
recd. 20/8/87
all done
20/8/87

with order