

MCN 596

Gobt. of (1888) Madras.
MILITARY.

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

Dated January, 5th.

Issued

Recd. 21.1.88 Encl.

5th January 1888, No. 42.

No. 285 w d / 24 Jan 1888

JANUARY.
Nos. 32-33.

Defences—Coast.

Madras Harbour and Coast.—Proceedings
of the Committee assembled to report on the
defences of the —, forwarded to the Government
for India.

2 Copies to only
for the order

No. 285 w d / 24 Jan 1888

Communicated to
the Supt. Engineer & Co
the Supt. Engineer
Circle

WCM
23.1.88

MMA
23/1/88

1719 w 23/7/85
60-61 w 8/1/88
343 w 7/6/87
2707 w 7/13/87
1153 w 7/15/85
2423 w 1/10/84
1663 w 7/17/85

S.E. Clerk
with ISC
24/1/88

HSC

12

The Clive Battery.

The Clive Battery to remain as at present both as to construction and armament for defence of water inside breakwater.

Position Finding.

Two position-finding stations will be necessary. Details should be worked out by officers specially appointed for this duty.

Search Lights.

Search lights established on shore not considered necessary.

Machine Guns.

Six machine guns, rifle calibre, to be provided for protection of batteries from close attack.

Under the peculiar conditions of the Madras Coast, the use of torpedo boats as so called is out of the question, but it is beyond doubt

Floating Defence.

that a vessel of the improved type of torpedo-catcher carrying 6-inch B.L. guns, torpedoes,

and search lights would be a most important addition to the defences. She would be a match for any small vessel; she would be able by placing her close to the outer edge of the breakwater to act as an advanced battery protected as to water-line and also to a considerable height up her sides by breakwater. She would at night-time be able to keep a much superior force on the alert and possibly inflict damage by her torpedoes; she could with her search lights help to direct fire of batteries and also screen them from fire; she could act as look-out ship and give earliest information.

A sea-going vessel is a necessity; a floating battery, unless much greater alteration in the condition of the harbour than at present contemplated are carried out, will most certainly come to grief in a heavy cyclone, and moreover would not be able to act offensively as a look-out ship. The cost of vessel cannot here be given, but might be referred to the Director of Marine for details as to expense and design if Government of India think the question worthy of consideration.

(Signed)	G. J. SMART, Brigdr.-Genl., R.A., <i>Comdg. the Eastern District,</i>	} President.
(„)	ROSS THOMPSON, Colonel, <i>Royal Engineers,</i>	
(„)	M. W. OMMANNEY, Colonel, <i>Comdg., R.A., Eastern District,</i>	} Members.
(„)	C. E. NAIRNE, Brigdr.-Genl., R.A., <i>Inspector-Genl., Artillery, India,</i>	
(„)	J. HEXT, Captain, R.N., <i>Director of Indian Marine,</i>	
(„)	G. E. SANFORD, Colonel, <i>Inspector-Genl., Military Works,</i>	

No. 33.

No. 42.

Copy of the above with proceedings of Committee, in original, forwarded, in continuation of this Department No. 8172, dated 23rd December 1887, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council.

(By Order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
5th January 1888.

A. H. Herbert Brigdr.-Genl.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

„ Adjutant-General.

„ Public Works Department. 10 copies

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

5th January 1888, No. 42.

Defences—Coast.

Read the following paper:—

No. 32. From Brigadier-General G. J. SMART, R.A., General Officer Commanding the Eastern District, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Madras, 3rd January 1888, No. 1.

With reference to your No. 8171 of 23rd December 1887, I have the honor to forward the proceedings* of the Committee therein directed to assemble and report on the defences of

the Madras Harbour and Coast. The Indian Defence Committee are to assemble at Calcutta on the 15th January, and it is most advisable that these proceedings should be forwarded in time to be placed before them, and so save delay that might otherwise occur.

2. The subject of a site for the new Court house was brought to the notice of the Committee, but did not apparently come within the scope of the Committee, having been already referred to the Indian Defence Committee.

PROCEEDINGS of a Committee assembled at Madras, on the 2nd January 1888, by order of the Government of Madras, dated 23rd December 1887.

President.

Brigadier-General G. J. SMART, Commanding the Eastern District.

Members.

Colonel M. W. OMMANNEY, Commanding the Royal Artillery, Eastern District.
Colonel ROSS THOMPSON, Royal Engineers.

in order to meet and confer with the following officers who have been deputed by the Government of India to consider and report upon the question of the Madras Harbour Defences, viz.,—

- “The Inspector-General of Military Works.
- “The Inspector-General of Artillery.
- “The Director of Indian Marine.”

The Committee meet at 11 A.M. and recommend as follows:—

That four 10-inch B.L. guns be provided, one pair placed in Napier Battery; another pair in a new battery to be constructed on a site about 1,500 yards north of the north end of the breakwater. The present tramway to be continued to this battery.

Napier Battery.
1st New Battery.

A new battery, about 1,000 yards north of north arm of breakwater, to be made to hold four 9-inch muzzle loading guns fitted as in Light House Battery.

2nd New Battery.

With reference to present guns and batteries, the Light House Battery extended to hold four 9-inch guns with carriages fitted if possible for both direct and high angle fire, the guns to be polygrooved.

Light House Battery.

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