

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.  
Military Works.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O., dated 24th September 1888, No. 6442, Military.

From Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 6th January 1888, No. 51 A.

With reference to the correspondence regarding the necessity of providing more accommodation for British Infantry in Fort St. George, ending with my letter No. 4874 A of the 13th ultimo, I am desired to say that, although it is decidedly an advantage that a battalion should be kept together under its Commanding officer, still, as in the case of the battalion quartered in Fort St. George, a certain number of companies have throughout a great portion of the year to be detached to St. Thomas' Mount or Pallavaram for rifle practice or military training, and if, as seems probable, it would be cheaper to build new barracks at St. Thomas' Mount than to acquire by purchase either existing buildings in the city of Madras, or land whereon to erect buildings for the Accounts offices, the Commander-in-Chief would be prepared not to press for the evacuation of the buildings in Fort St. George now occupied by those offices, provided that a special grant can be obtained for the erection of barracks for a wing of British Infantry at St. Thomas' Mount next year, *i.e.*, 1888-89.

Memorandum No. 260, Military.

With reference to the Quartermaster-General's letter No. 51 A, dated 6th January 1888, intimating that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will not press for the evacuation, by the Accounts offices, of the buildings now occupied by them in Fort St. George, if a special grant be given, in 1888-89, for the erection of barracks at St. Thomas' Mount for the accommodation of a wing of British Infantry, the Secretary to Government, Military Department, is directed to suggest, for the approval of Sir Charles Arbuthnot, the advisability of convening a committee to report in what manner the condemned barracks at that station can be rendered sanitorily satisfactory for the occupation of European troops either by the addition of an upper storey or improvements and additions to existing buildings, the committee being composed of—

An officer of the Public Works Department;  
An officer of the Quartermaster-General's Department; and  
An officer of the Army Medical Staff.

FORT ST. GEORGE,  
12th January 1888.

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,  
Secretary to Government.

From Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th January 1888, No. 283 A.

In acknowledging the receipt of your memorandum No. 260 of the 12th instant, I am desired to state that the Commander-in-Chief accepts the suggestions for the assembly of a committee to report on the possibility of altering and improving the old north and south barracks at St. Thomas' Mount either by the addition of an

upper storey or in some other way, so as to adapt them for the suitable accommodation of British troops.

2. His Excellency accordingly nominates Colonel Ommanney, Commanding Royal Artillery, Eastern District, as President, and Lieutenant-Colonel Smalley, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, as a member of the committee, and would suggest that the Public Works Department and Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, be desired, under the orders of Government, to nominate officers of their respective departments to sit as members of the committee, the date of assembly of which might be fixed by the General Officer Commanding Eastern District as soon as the names of the Public Works Department and Medical members are communicated to him.

Reference Order No. 508, Military.

Ordered that the Public Works Department and the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Madras, be requested, in accordance with the suggestion in para. 2 of the above letter, to be so good as to nominate, in communication with the General Officer Commanding Eastern District, an officer of their respective departments to serve as members on the committee in question.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,  
24th January 1888. Secretary to Government.

G.O., dated 31st January 1888, No. 354 W., Public Works.

Read—Proceedings of the Military Department, dated 24th January 1888, No. 508.

Order—dated 31st January 1888, No. 354 W., Public Works.

Colonel Ross Thompson, R.E., Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, is nominated as the Public Works member of the proposed committee. The Superintending Engineer, V Circle, will arrange for making Colonel Ross Thompson's services available, and instruct that officer to place himself in communication with the General Officer Commanding Eastern District in respect to further proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Colonel, R.E.,  
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

From the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, dated 1st February 1888, No. 266.  
Reference Order No. 783, Military, dated 3rd February 1888.

From Colonel M. PROTHEROE, C.B., C.S.I., Officiating Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 29th June 1888, No. 2363 A.

Referring to my letter No. 283 A, dated 19th January 1888, I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that the committee assembled on the 20th February 1888.

2. From its proceedings enclosed (A) it will be observed that a decided opinion is expressed against the reoccupation of the old barracks even when improved by the addition of an upper storey, it being added that no suitable site existed in the vicinity for the extra barrack building that would be required.

3. As it was suggested to the Commander-in-Chief that possibly the old Parade ground, no longer required for parade purposes, as the Royal Artillery Barracks have been removed to the other end of the station, would be held to be sufficiently removed from the Mount Hill and the Native houses under it, and be large enough to be utilized as a site for the barracks of a Wing British Infantry, His Excellency called upon the General Officer Commanding Eastern District to report upon this suggestion.

4. That officer's reply is enclosed (B) and its terms precluded Sir Charles Arbuthnot from recommending the adoption of the old Parade ground site for the new barracks.

5. The General Officer Commanding has now been desired to assemble a committee to fix upon a site to the south and west of the cantonment of St. Thomas' Mount for the new barracks if a suitable one can be found there, and a further report shall be made to Government when its proceedings have been received and considered by the Commander-in-Chief.

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)

Proceedings of a Committee assembled at St. Thomas' Mount on the 20th February 1888, by order of Brigadier-General Smart, Commanding Eastern District, for the purpose of reporting on the north and south barracks as to their suitability for the accommodation of a wing of a British Regiment.

President:

Colonel M. W. Ommanney, Royal Artillery.

Member:

Lieutenant-Colonel F. Smalley, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Attending Committee.

Deputy Surgeon-General S. B. Roe, C.B.  
Colonel Ross Thompson, R.E.

The Committee having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to thoroughly examine the north and south barracks, St. Thomas' Mount, and are of opinion that, should the existing buildings be capable of sustaining an upper storey, the accommodation thus obtained would roughly be for 320 men; this estimate includes the accommodation afforded by an upper storey on the gun-sheds as well as on the north and south barracks.

To complete the accommodation required for a wing of British Infantry, a new barrack capable of containing about 100 men would be required, for which there is no suitable site in the vicinity.

The Committee are also of opinion that, even if sufficient accommodation were available, the site is unsuitable for permanent occupation and most objectionable on sanitary grounds owing to "the Mount" hill being immediately in its rear, and the intervening space between it and the barracks being crowded with native houses thickly populated.

(Signed) G. J. SMART, Brigdr.-Genl.,  
Commanding Eastern District.

(Signed) M. W. OMMANNEY, Colonel, R.A.—President.  
( " ) F. SMALLEY, Lieut.-Col.,  
Dy. Asstt. Quartermaster-Genl., } Member.  
Eastern Dist., }

( " ) S. B. ROE, M.B.,  
Deputy Surgn.-Genl., M.S., } Attending Committee.  
( " ) ROSS THOMPSON, Colonel, R.E., }

(B.)

From Brigadier-General G. J. SMART, R.A., Commanding Eastern District, to the Quartermaster-General, dated Fort St. George, 9th June 1888, No. G. 233.

I have the honor to inform you that, with reference to your letter No. 1932 A., dated 18th ultimo, the Deputy Surgeon-General of the district reported that the site referred to was not in his opinion suitable for barracks for a wing of British Infantry, for, if placed towards the west and south-west, the buildings would crowd up the station hospital and church, and would probably be found liable to the same objection as that which rendered the old north and south barracks uninhabitable.

I in company with the Deputy Surgeon-General, the Assistant Quartermaster-General and Executive Engineer, Chingleput Division, inspected the ground in question. I am of opinion that there is not sufficient space for the barracks and subsidiary buildings required for a wing of British Infantry.

2. Ground sufficient for the purpose and good is, in my opinion, available on the south and south-west portion of the cantonment.

Reference Order No. 4758, Military.

The further report promised in para. 5 is awaited.

OOTACAMUND,  
12th July 1888.(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,  
Secretary to Government.

From Brigadier-General M. PROTHEROE, C.B., C.S.I., Quartermaster-General,  
to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund,  
7th September 1888, No. 3260 A.

With reference to this office letter No. 2363 A of 29th June 1888, I am desired to submit, for the consideration and orders of Government, the accompanying proceedings of a committee which assembled to select a site to the south and west of the cantonment of St. Thomas' Mount for barracks for a Wing British Infantry, together with a plan of the proposed arrangements of the several buildings.

2. The proposals of the committee include the provision of barracks for four companies in double-storied half-company blocks with subsidiary buildings and the following auxiliary buildings:—

- (a) Married quarters. (b) Quarter guard.  
(c) Orderly room.

Of these, the Commander-in-Chief considers (a) and (c) need not be provided as the few married men that need necessarily be with a detached wing could be suitably housed in the Royal Artillery married quarters which are not distant from the proposed site for the barracks, while an orderly room is not authorized as a separate building, accommodation for it being provided in the lower floors of one of the barrack blocks.

3. No provision has been made by the committee for the buildings enumerated in the margin, items (1) to (5) of which

- (1) Wash-houses.
- (2) Plunge-bath.
- (3) Refreshment-room (or canteen).
- (4) Magazine.
- (5) Bowling and Skittle alley.
- (6) Armourers' shop.
- (7) Blacksmith's forge.
- (8) Religious reading and prayer room.
- (9) Ball court.

His Excellency considers should be provided for with the barracks, leaving the provision of the remainder for future consideration as the necessity for each may arise.

4. With regard to the refreshment-room or canteen, His Excellency considers that when the new barracks are built, the conditions of an institute ought to be

kept in view and accommodation arranged and provided accordingly in the lower floors of one or more barrack blocks, which having been done, a small building for the issue and storage of malt liquor and spirits, and for a bar, should be erected in a situation convenient and adjacent to the building containing the remaining accommodation for the institute.

5. The plan of placing the barrack blocks in a square does not commend itself to His Excellency, for obviously under it all the blocks cannot benefit equally from the prevailing wind; but the arrangement of the buildings on the site is a detail which can be considered later when the general scheme for the location of a wing of British Infantry at St. Thomas' Mount has been approved and the provision of barracks for it there decided upon.

6. It will be noted that the site selected will necessitate the removal of the Royal Artillery Riding schools, but sufficient ground is available close at hand to the southward for new schools.

## ENCLOSURE.

Proceedings of a Committee assembled at St. Thomas' Mount on the 11th July 1888, by order of Brigadier-General G. J. Smart, R.A., Commanding Eastern District, acting under instruction from Army Head-quarters, for the purpose of selecting a site to the south and west of the cantonment of St. Thomas' Mount for barracks for a wing of British Infantry.

## President:

Brigadier-General G. J. Smart, R.A., Commanding Eastern District.

## Members:

Colonel Ommanney, R.A., Commanding St. Thomas' Mount.  
Lieut.-Colonel F. Smalley, Assistant Quartermaster-General, Eastern District.

## In attendance:

Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General Inkson, Eastern District.  
C. H. B. Burlton, Esq., Executive Engineer, Chingleput Division.

The Committee having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to inspect the ground lying to the south and west of the cantonment and select that shown in the accompanying plan. This site they consider in every way suitable, being very open, naturally well drained and having a good subsoil; it is also conveniently situated as regards the cantonment.

The accompanying plan shows also how the Committee recommend the various buildings should be arranged.

|          |                                                                              |                  |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| (Signed) | G. J. SMART, Brigdr.-Genl.,<br>Commanding Eastern District,                  | } President.     |
| ( " )    | M. W. OMMANNEY, Col., R.A.,<br>Commanding St. Thomas' Mount,                 | } Members.       |
| ( " )    | F. SMALLEY, Lieut.-Col.,<br>Asst. Quartermaster-Genl., Eastern Dist.,        |                  |
| ( " )    | J. INKSON, M.D.,<br>Offg. Dy. Surgn.-Genl.,<br>H.M.'s Forces, Eastern Dist., | } In attendance. |
| ( " )    | C. H. B. BURLTON,<br>Executive Engr., Chingleput Divn.,                      |                  |

Order—dated 24th September 1888, No. 6442, Military.

Ordered that the foregoing papers, together with the plan, be forwarded to the Public Works Department, with the request that the necessary plans and estimates for barracks and buildings for a wing of a British Infantry Regiment on the site at St. Thomas' Mount, selected by the committee, may be prepared with the least possible delay and submitted through the usual channel for the approval of Government in this department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,  
Secretary to Government.

ORDER—dated 2nd October 1888, No. 3084 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, who will arrange for the preparation of the requisite plans and estimates as soon as possible.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,  
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, with plan.  
" Military Department.

Exd. J. Henrius.  
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.  
MILITARY WORKS.

Gobt. of (1888) Madras.  
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated October, 2nd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd Oct. 1888, No. 3084 W.

OCTOBER.

Barracks and Buildings for a  
Wing of a British Infantry  
Regiment at St Thomas' Mount

Instructions to the Superintending Engi-  
neer, V Circle, for the preparation of plans  
and estimates for — to be constructed on a  
site selected by the committee.

188 .

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 10597.

From The Military Department.

ENCLOS.—

No. 8169.

Dated 23. 12. 87.

Received 24. " "

SUBJECT.

Referring to the Memo letter  
from the L. M. Genl regarding  
increased accommodation  
for British Infantry at Fort  
St. Thomas & the preparation  
of an estimate for conversion  
of the barracks and for adding an  
upper story to the condemned  
barracks at St. Thomas' Mount to  
render it healthy.

DISPOSAL.

No. 4870 C. of 30-12-87

No.

Dated

Rept to the L. M. Genl  
for only order of the appropi-  
=make estimate called for  
129 W. C. S.  
D. W.

20/11/12

1/1339 No/87 1/567 PS  
19 10 11

Telephone message

From

S. A. Finch sent

To

S. A. V.

Please say what  
has become of Finch.  
(Current)  
Diary Nos 5502 and 8826  
of 1887 that were re-  
ferred to P. W. Dept.  
under No. 8169 of 23?  
Decr. 1887.

RM

Papers please

CS

14/9/88

S. A. V.

Put up - No reply  
ypt received from  
S. E. V. J. P.

14-9-88

Remains sent

14. 9. 88

CS  
14/9/88

1/1339/20/87 1/567 P.S.  
19-10-11

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Ootacamund,

13<sup>th</sup> December 1887.

No. 4874 A

From

BRIGADIER-GENERAL E. FAUNCE,

~~QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,~~

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Having submitted to the Com-  
mander in Chief your letter no. 7531 of 15<sup>th</sup>  
instant, I am desirous to state that His  
Excellency has no further recommendations  
to make than those contained in this  
office letter no. 2807 of 10<sup>th</sup> August 1887;  
I am however to mention that the urgent  
necessity of obtaining increased accom-  
modation for British Troops in Fort  
Saint George is based on the belief that  
at least one of the British Infantry  
Battalions on the Madras Establishment

now

now serving in Burma will return to India shortly, for of the eleven Battalions under the Madras Command, Burma now absorbs four an undue proportion considering the climate of that Province, and one that ought to be lowered as soon as possible in view of the fact that the number of Battalions in the command will probably be reduced by one before long, consequent on the transfer to Bombay of the station of Lamptee, when the proportion in Burma will be even still further increased unless meanwhile one of the Battalions now there is recalled to India.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your obedt. servant

G. S. Woodroffe

Lieut Col

Lt. Genl

R.F. 902 W.

31 12 87

No 4870 @ 27 30 Dec 1887.

Referred to the  
Suply Engineer & Civil,  
for early submission  
of the approximate  
estimates called for.

Wm Boddington

Capt R.S.

Under Secy to Govt  
Mod.

322

REQUESTED TO BE  
RETURNED WITH REPLY.

For St George  
23<sup>rd</sup> December 1887

n<sup>o</sup> 8169.

Referred to the  
Public Works Dept  
in view to the early  
preparation of an  
estimate of the ap-  
proximate cost of  
converting the  
several offices in  
the Fort mentioned  
in the Quarter Mas-  
ter General's earlier  
letter into barracks;  
and also of rendering  
the <sup>condemned</sup> barracks at  
St Thomas' Mount  
healthy by the  
addition of an upper  
story.

By order  
A. Keane Herbert, B. Genl  
Secretary to Govt.

P.W. Cu: 15597  
Military (1887) Department.

No. 8824

From

THE ~~Q. M. G.~~ QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

No. 4874 A

Dated 13<sup>th</sup>

Received 18<sup>th</sup>

Dear

24/12

ENCLOSURES. Nil.

affords further  
inform<sup>n</sup> req. extra  
account<sup>n</sup> for British  
Troops in Fort St George

I am, Sir, Yours  
C. M. A.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

V Circle, Madras,

Baugubla  
Chopala, 25 October 1888.

No. 3229

From

Col. H. M. Vibart R.E.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, V CIRCLE,

To

THE Chief Engineer

P.W. Department

SIR,

Enclosures.

In returning your en-  
dorsement no. 4870C dated  
30<sup>th</sup> December 1887, I have the  
honor to state that the propo-  
sals contained in the Quarter  
Master General's letter, there-  
with received have been modi-  
fied by the proposals con-  
tained in the Quarter Master  
General's letter printed with  
G.O. No. 613 W. dated 21<sup>st</sup> Febry  
1888.

For the conversion of the  
old Adjutant General's Office  
and of the Block containing  
the

the main Guard hob Cap-  
tain's Quarters, and Ordnance  
officers quarters into  
Barracks for Singlemen <sup>Estimates.</sup>  
have been sanctioned in  
ly ~~no~~ No 3000 W, and 2612 W  
dated 9 November 1887  
and 24 August 1888.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

Arthur Robert <sup>Coll</sup> R.E

Suptg Engineer  
5<sup>th</sup> Circle

No 3084W - 2-10-88.  
 4870C - 30-12-87  
 3000W - 9-11-87  
 814W - 21.2.88.  
 2612-15W - 24.8.88.

Read Cues 10597/87  
 10987/88

No 3554W 27.5.88  
 No 3084W 27.5.88

Recorded with  
 reference to P.O.  
 No. 3084 W 27.5.88  
 Oct 1888.  
 Oct 1888

mem  
 30.10.88  
 Mh  
 30/10/88

Indy Depto!  
 Des 11/12  
 27/11  
 19/12

From *Public 10987*  
 THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
 V. S. S. S.  
 To  
 THE Chief Engineer  
 P.W. Department.

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> } October 1888  
 Recd. 29 }



ENCLOSURES. 2.

No. 3229.  
 Extra Accommodation for  
 British Troops in Fort St. George.

Refers Chief Engineer's  
 No. 4870C dated 30<sup>th</sup> Decr 1887  
 regarding the — and  
 states that the proposal  
 contained in Quarters  
 Master General's there with  
 received have been modified

with order