

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 1768W

DATED 17 Dec 96

[Despatch Abstract.]

Battalion of Madras Infantry -
Pro Public Dept passing order
on the question of the removal of the
from Royapuram to St. Thomas
Mount, recorded

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., No. 163, Public, dated 30th January 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces a letter from the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor intimating that His Excellency approves of certain reductions in the guard at Government House, Madras.

G.O., No. 208, Political, dated 19th March 1896.

READ—also the following papers:—

From Lieutenant-General C. M. CLARKE, Commanding the Forces, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 31st March 1896, No. 616-M.W.

In acknowledging the receipt of Order No. 208, dated 19th instant, and before I reply to letter from Quartermaster-General, India, No. 30 B-Camp, dated 14th January 1896, on the subject of the proposed evacuation of the Native Infantry lines at Ráyapuram, I have the honour to invite your attention to the following circumstances in connection with the second paragraph of the order.

2. As regards (1) the necessary arrangements for guards can be made from one regiment, but these arrangements will be facilitated, if the military guard now furnished to the Accountant-General is taken over by police.

3. As regards (2) the Native regiment removed from Madras would be retained at St. Thomas' Mount; this is fully recognized in the revised table * of minimum obligatory garrisons in which two Native Infantry battalions are shown for Madras and St. Thomas' Mount.

4. In Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 3808, of 15th June 1892, the Madras Government considered that the location of a Native Infantry regiment (its removal from Ráyapuram had been proposed for sanitary reasons) at St. Thomas' Mount was not in any way objectionable on political grounds.

5. In consequence of the state of the lines at Ráyapuram, a wing of the regiment stationed there was moved to St. Thomas' Mount under the sanction of the Government of India contained in letter No. 1782-C, Military Department, dated Simla, 16th August 1894, communicated under your Military Department, No. 5333, dated Ootacamund, 28th August 1894.

6. You are also aware that in letter No. 3417-C, dated 12th November 1895, from the Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department, the removal of the remainder of the regiment from Ráyapuram was urged by the local Government with a view to the acquisition of the land by the Public Works Department for the purpose of running a canal from the Madras Harbour to the Buckingham Canal, and in consequence of this I addressed the Quartermaster-General in India on the subject of the removal of the remainder of the regiment from Ráyapuram to St. Thomas' Mount in letter No. 1-T, dated 2nd January 1896.

7. As regards (3), I beg to point out (see marginally-noted correspondence*) that the minimum obligatory garrison of British Infantry at Madras was fixed at six companies in order to meet a possible attack from the sea, and that, as there is not accommodation in Fort St. George for more than head-quarters and a wing of a British Infantry regiment, the Government of India decided that two of the six companies were to be kept elsewhere until actually required.

8. In the face of this want of accommodation and of the above-recognized arrangement, it would not seem desirable to make the keeping up of six companies of British Infantry at Madras, a condition on which the local Government would agree to the removal of the Ráyapuram regiment to the Mount, especially as it was not urged by that Government in 1892† when the British Infantry garrison consisted, as now, of a wing—indeed, owing to the want of accommodation, it is impossible, unless additional barracks are built.

The head-quarters were, as you are aware, removed to Bellary with the consent of the local Government—see Military Department, No. 6519, dated Ootacamund, 2nd October 1893.

9. I may also observe that the retention of the Ráyapuram lines would effectually block the proposed canal scheme, as I think it will be admitted that there is no site in or immediately about Madras on which a Native Infantry regiment could be located.

10. With reference to (4), as I have no official information relative to any alteration in the status of the Body Guard, I will offer no remark, except to point out that it appears to be in conflict with the proposal contained in your No. 5 of 6th January 1896, as to the removal of the Body Guard to Bangalore during portion of the year.

11. I have forwarded a copy of the Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 208, and of this letter to the Quartermaster-General, India.

From Lieutenant-General C. M. CLARKE, Commanding the Forces, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 10th March 1896, No. N.A.-1389.

With reference to G.O., No. 163, Public, dated 30th January 1896, I have the honour to forward herewith an extract from my letter No. 2-T, dated the 2nd idem, to your address relative to a reduction in the guard now mounted over the Accountant-General's office, and to request you will be so good as to favour me with as early a reply as convenient.

2. The reduction in the number of sentries, which is sanctioned in the above-quoted Government Order, though a great assistance, does not quite meet the case, as the duties will still be rather heavy on a single regiment.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from letter, No. 2-T, dated 2nd January 1896, from His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

In connection with the request I have received from Government to vacate the lines at Ráyapuram, which has been submitted for the consideration of higher authority, I have the honour to point out that if the move is sanctioned, only one Native regiment will remain actually in Madras, and it has been brought to my notice by the General Officer Commanding Madras District that the garrison duties would then press heavily on that regiment.

2. On examining the list of guards, I find that . . . a guard is mounted styled the Accountant-General's guard, consisting of one havildar, one naique and twelve privates.

3. . . . With regard to the latter guard, which is mounted over a purely civil building, I am inclined to think, with reference to Army Regulations, India, Vol. II, Part I, paragraphs 1217 and 1220, the duties of guarding that building might be more properly entrusted to police, or at any rate the guard might be considerably reduced.

From F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Commissioner of Paper Currency, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 1st April 1896, No. 4.

With reference to your Assistant Secretary's Memorandum, No. 117, dated the 17th January 1896, on current No. 97, Financial, herewith returned, and in continuation of my letters, Nos. 3317 and 3602, dated 19th February and 16th March 1896, I have the honour to inform you that the Head Commissioner of Paper Currency, Calcutta, sees no objection, if a military guard cannot conveniently be furnished for the protection of the Currency office and vaults, to its place being taken by a police guard. The proposal, if carried out, will, however, involve a charge against Provincial revenues.

From A. P. AGAR, Esq., Acting Commissioner of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 23rd April 1896, No. 46.

In returning the correspondence forwarded with your endorsement, No. 796, Public, dated 10th April 1896, I have the honour to state that, from the existing strength of the City Police, I am unable to supply the necessary guard for the protection of the Currency office; but if the Government be pleased to increase the present strength by three head constables and twelve constables, I will be able to furnish the guard at a monthly cost of Rs. 152.

2. If my proposal be approved, a formal proposition statement will be submitted.

ORDER—No. 538, Public, dated 16th May 1896.

In paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 208, Political, dated 19th March 1896, His Excellency the Governor in Council informed the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces that there would be no objection to the removal of a battalion of Madras Infantry from Ráyapuram, provided that—

- (1) the necessary guards could be supplied from one regiment;
- (2) the battalion removed from Madras was retained at St. Thomas' Mount;
- (3) the minimum obligatory garrison of British Infantry, viz., six companies, was maintained at Madras; and
- (4) the strength of the Body Guard was maintained so that there might be some mounted men available in the event of a disturbance.

2. In his letter No. 616 M.W., dated 31st March 1896, the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces points out that, as regards condition (2), the table of minimum obligatory garrisons fully recognizes the necessity for the retention of two Madras Infantry battalions for Madras and St. Thomas' Mount.

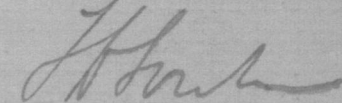
3. On reconsideration, the Government does not attach importance to condition (4) mentioned above as regards the strength of the Body Guard.

4. With reference to the remaining conditions, the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces considers as regards (1) that the necessary arrangements for guards can be made, but that they will be facilitated if the military guard now furnished for the protection of the Currency office and vaults were taken over by the police. The Accountant-General, who has consulted the Head Commissioner of Paper Currency at Calcutta, reports that there is no objection to this proposal, but points out that, if carried out, it will involve a charge against Provincial funds. The Commissioner of Police states that he is unable to supply the guard unless an addition of three head

constables and twelve constables, at a monthly cost of Rs. 152, is made to the strength of the City Police. His Excellency the Governor in Council agrees to the transfer to the Presidency Police of the duty of guarding the Currency vaults and is prepared to sanction the additional establishment specified by the Commissioner, who will, without delay, submit the necessary proposition statement and intimate the date from which the duties are taken over by the police.

5. In regard to condition (3), the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces will be informed that by reason of a change in the scheme for the canal connecting the Harbour with the Buckingham Canal, the importance of the evacuation of the Ráyapuram lines has, from that point of view and so far as this Government is concerned, disappeared. His Excellency in Council remains, however, of opinion that, in the event of the battalion of Madras Infantry now located at Ráyapuram being removed to St. Thomas' Mount, the garrison of British Infantry at Fort St. George should be increased to six companies, and earnestly hopes that, should the removal be carried out, steps will be taken as early as possible to increase the barrack accommodation in the Fort.

(True Extract.)


Chief Secretary.

To the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, Madras.

- „ Commissioner of Police, Madras.
- „ Accountant-General.
- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Financial Department.

Gobt. of {1896} Madras.
PUBLIC.

No. 178 W. d. 17 June

Recorded

Sd/- Mr. C.

W

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., No. 538, 16th May 1896.

MAY.

Removal of a battalion of Madras
Infantry.

Passing orders on the question of the — from
Ráyapuram to St. Thomas' Mount, and approving
the transfer to the Presidency Police of the duty
of guarding the Currency office.

Ch. for Irui.

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* Furnished with Proceedings of Government, No. 5440, dated 1st September 1892.

4. In Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 3808, of 15th June 1892, the Madras Government considered that the location of a Native Infantry regiment (its removal from Ráyapuram had been proposed for sanitary reasons) at St. Thomas' Mount was not in any way objectionable on political grounds.

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(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, Madras.
" Commissioner of Police, Madras.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.
" Financial Department.