

Public Works (1897) Department.

✓ G.O., No. 1941 W

DATED 16 July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Quarters for the British Infantry detachment at
Calicut: Comdg. to the S.E. IV Circle the Dy. Assistant
General's Endorsement regarding the construction of
family - and requesting the Lt. General Commanding
the Forces to report whether the work is of so
emergent a character that the grant should not be
withdrawn and that the sanction of the Govt of India
should be obtained to its being at once provided
with.

[illegible]

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following.

From Ex: Engineer West Coast Division No 303 S.E. d/27 May/97.
Endd: thereon by Supty: Engineer IV Circle No 300 W d/4 June/97.
Endd: from the Dy Adjutant, Madras Command No ^B m.W 9560
dated 19 June 1897.

No 194148 16.7.97

The Deputy Adjutant-General's
endorsement above recorded,
with a copy of G.O. No. 5786 Buib.
dated 15 September 1890, will be
communicated to the Superin-
tending Engineer IV Circle.

2. Under G.O. No. 17124 dated
28 June 1897, no new work can
be commenced without pre-
vious reference to the Govt.
of India. His Excellency the
Lieut. General Commanding
the ~~force~~^{forces} will be requested
to report whether the construc-
tion of family quarters for
the British Infantry detachment
at Calicut is considered a
work of so emergent a
character

character that the grant
should not be withdrawn,
and that the sanction of the
Government of India should
be obtained to its being at
once proceeded with.

Cm

8/7/97

Public Works (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 6129

Order

From

The Dy. Assistant General
Cotacamund.

No. B
M. W 9560

Dated 19.6.97

Received 24.6.97

Enclosures 3

Spare copies .

SUBJECT.

New block of married quarters
at West Hill, Calicut.

Stating that His Excellency the
Lieutenant General Commanding
the Forces recommends that the
work of constructing the —
be proceeded with.

To

The S.E. IV Circle with copy of
L.O. No. 5786 of 1890

Copy to the Dy. Asst. Gen. Comd. for
the information of H.E. the

Lieut. Genl. Comd. the Forces
(with copy of L.O. No. 1712 of 27/3/97)

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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No.	Date.
1712M	28-6-97
1205M	10-5-97
727-8M	12-3-97
320-1M	3-2-97
2786-7M	29-9-96
1016-17M	10-4-97
320-1M	3-2-97

No.	Date.
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Executive Engineer's Office
West Coast Division
Calicut 27th May 1897.

No. 303 S.C.

From, C. W. Wood, Esq.,
Executive Engineer
West Coast Division.

To, The Superintending Engineer
4th Circle.

Sir, In G.O. No. 1016 W 19th April 1897
Rs 12,400 are allotted for constructing a new
block of married quarters at West Hill Calicut.

There is an idea locally prevalent that when
the Madras Railway is extended to Cannanore
the detachment of British troops will be
removed from Calicut to Cannanore, and
apparently there is a prospect of this extension
being carried out in the near future.

If these events happen there will be a waste
of public funds and I feel it my duty
to bring the matter to your notice. In the
meantime I have called for tenders but
the work cannot be put in hand until
after

after the rains, that is, in November next

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient St
(sd) C. W. Wood
Ex. Engineer.

(True Copy)
No 300 of 4-6-97
Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer
P.W.D. for such notice as he deems fit.

W. H. Munro
Suptg Engineer 4th Circle.

6129(57)

Public Works (1897) Department.

Diary No. B 10918
Recd. 14. JUN. 1897
Branch L. G. C.

CURRENT No. ^{2.2} 5576
6129(17)

Order Subt.
No. 514 D. of 12th June 1897
Referred to the
Suptg. Assistant General
Manager Command. for
favour of A. B. An. Lint.
General's remarks

From The Suptg. Engineer,
4th Circle.

C. H. D. B. S. L. C.
under Suptg. Genl.

No. 300
W

Dated 4th June 1897.
Received 9. 6. 97
Enclosures ✓
Spare copies ✓

SUBJECT.
New Block of Married
Quarters at West Hill,
Calicut.
Submits letter from the
Asst. Engrs, West Coast D.
for such notice as the Chief
Engineer deems fit as to the
Construction of a

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1016-17	P. W	10-4-97
	147	"	15-1-96
	2320-21	"	19-9-95

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT, 15th SEPTEMBER 1890, No. 5786

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Accommodation for Troops—European.

Read the following papers :—

No. *From Colonel E. H. EYRE, Officiating Quarter Master General, Madras Army, to Brigdr.-Genl. A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 17th July 1890, No. 59-MW (Accommodation for Troops—European).*

With reference to Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 1338-W, dated 12th May 1890 (Military Department No. 3956, dated 14th June 1890), and correspondence ending with Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 7124, dated 15th November 1886, I am desired to forward for perusal copy of the correspondence as per margin, and to request you will be good enough to ascertain and favor the Commander-in-Chief at an early date with the views of the Madras Gov-

ernment in respect to the necessity of retaining a detachment of British Infantry at Calicut.

From Major-General E. H. H. COLLEN, C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Quarter Master General in India; dated Simla, the 19th June 1890, No. 1475-MW.

Accommodation for Troops.

I am directed to forward the correspondence marginally noted relative to the construction of a barrack with subsidiary buildings for the accommodation of 30 men at Calicut, and to ask that, under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, inquiry may be made of the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras

of the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army why it is necessary to retain British troops at Calicut. It is understood that its abandonment was recommended in 1886.

From Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. ELLES, for Quarter Master General in India, to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Madras Army; dated Simla, 26th June 1890, No. 2334-B.

I am desired by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India to forward the accompanying documents relative to the provision of additional barrack accommodation for the detachment of British Infantry at Calicut, and to request the favor of being furnished with

Your Excellency's opinion as to the necessity for keeping a detachment at that station.

No. 4686.

Referred to the Judicial Department for favor of opinion.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
18th July 1890.

(Signed)

A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Secretary to Government.

No. *Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department;*
dated 29th August 1890, No. 1436.

Read endorsement from the Military Department, dated 18th July 1890, No. 4686,
on letter from the Quarter Master General, dated 17th July 1890, No. 59-MW.

From the District Magistrate, Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government;
dated 2nd August 1890, No. 1717-M.

Adverting to Government reference on Current No. 2840, dated 24th July 1890, I have the honor to invite attention to letters, dated 5th April 1888 and 19th November 1888, Nos. 1360 and 3429, from Mr. Logan and Mr. Winterbotham, and to state that the position is unchanged. The district is perfectly quiet at present, but it is impossible to foretell when an outbreak may occur, and Mr. Winterbotham, after long experience, recorded his opinion that "Mappila outrages always occur just when they are least expected." My own opinion is that it would be an act of shortsighted policy to remove the detachment. Its services may not be required for years, but they may also be required at any time. Should an outbreak occur and no troops be available on the spot, the consequences would in every way be far more serious than is the expense of keeping the detachment where it is.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., District Magistrate, Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government;
dated 5th April 1888, No. 1360.

With reference to G.O., Judicial Department, No. 856, Mis., dated 1st instant, I have the honor to state that in my opinion the ordinary requirements of this district in the way of European troops would be sufficiently met by having detachments of the strengths named in Colonel Faunce's letter of 15th ultimo at the three places also named by him. These detachments are required for the purpose of quickly suppressing the local risings which used to be common some 30 to 40 years ago, and which unhappily have again of late years commenced. Experience has shown that every day's, almost every hour's, delay in promptly suppressing them brings recruits to the ranks, and the ultimate loss of life and other incidental evils are proportionally increased. Each of these detachments should be sufficiently strong to send 50 men into the field at Calicut and Cannanore and rather more than that, say 70 to 75 men, at Malapuram.

2. And while I am on this subject, I trust it will not be considered out of place in me to suggest that all three detachments should be made as effective as possible by training some of the men at each place to the use of explosives, as well as in serving the small howitzers furnished to the detachment at Malapuram. The Mappila fanatics have of late taken to fighting from behind stonewalls with firearms, so that something more than musket and bayonet, which used to suffice in former days to stop the frantic rushes then usual, is required. Of the 100 and odd men from the Oxfordshire Light Infantry and Royal Fusiliers present at the Trikkallur affair in December 1884, no one knew how to use dynamite, and if I with no experience of the article, never having even seen it before, had not myself undertaken the task of engineer, it is highly probable that we should have had to wait in front of the temple until guns had been brought from Madras. Each detachment should carry with it into the field explosives for forcing any one of the many very strong houses and temples scattered throughout the district, and some men in each detachment should be trained in using the explosives. After the Trikkallur affair in December 1884, this matter received I know the attention which its importance deserves, but detachments change frequently, and the necessity which forced the matter on the attention of the officers at that time is apt to be lost sight of by their successors, so that a general standing order on the subject is required.

3. As regards the necessity for placing the remainder of the European regiment at Calicut, the opinion also mentioned by Colonel Faunce was expressed by me in a demi-official form in considering where a reserve force would be most effectually placed, and the whole question was hardly sufficiently argued out on that occasion. The opening of the railway into Calicut will make the head-quarters of the district a still more important place than it has been in the past, and the efficient protection of the railway terminus is a matter for serious consideration. Besides which, when a disturbance does occur in the Malapuram division, it has generally been found necessary to push on men by forced marches from Cannanore through Calicut to Malapuram, a distance of nearly 90 miles, to take the place of those in the field, and to enable the remainder of the detachment to take the field if necessity should so require. That necessity has not so far arisen, but then the detachments sent into the field have so far been uniformly

successful. It does not follow that this will always be the case. And if it should at any time happen that a detachment in the field meets with a reverse, as may very well chance in these days of breech-loading firearms, the value of having a reserve of force at Calicut will become immediately apparent. With a reserve force at Calicut it would not ordinarily be necessary to move any troops either to Cannanore or Malapuram in the event of portions of these detachments being in the field. But any extra troops that might be required for field service in an extraordinary emergency could be taken from the reserve at Calicut and sent direct to the spot where their services might be required. With the railway and water-communication available, Calicut possesses great facilities for placing troops in any portion of the district likely to be disturbed. This was conspicuously shown in the Trikkallur affair of December 1884. Cannanore is too exclusively a military station and too out of the way to be popular with troops, whereas Calicut affords that due admixture of other elements which make it as a rule popular with all classes, and the early extension of the railway to the town will be an additional attraction. Moreover, an excellent high-lying plateau exists at a short distance inland at Calicut where the troops could be located in a healthy atmosphere if the present barrack hill were considered too small for the force to be stationed at Calicut.

From H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., District Magistrate, Malabar, to the Officiating District Staff Officer, Southern District; dated Calicut, 19th November 1888, No. 3429-P.

With reference to your letter dated 12th November 1888, No. 3353-Q, I have the honor to state that I cannot undertake to guarantee that the temporary reduction of 99 men may be safely effected. The district is at present perfectly quiet and I do not apprehend any disturbance; but past experience shows that Mappila outrages always occur just when they are least expected. If by "temporary" a period of not more than two or three weeks is intended, I do not think the reduction would be accompanied by any serious risk.

No. 1436, Judicial.

Order.—The foregoing letter from the District Magistrate of Malabar with its enclosures will be communicated to the Military Department. The Government concurs in the opinion of the District Magistrate and considers that the absence of a detachment of European troops from Calicut would be likely to serve as an incitement to outbreaks on the part of fanatical Moplahs.

(True Extract.)

29th August 1890.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

No. *ORDER THEREON, 15 September 1890, No. 5786*

The foregoing order of Government in the Judicial Department communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Quarter Master General.
„ Adjutant-General.
„ Judicial Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.

Gobt. of {1890} Madras.
MILITARY.

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

Dated September, . .

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 15 September 1890, No. 5786

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. . .

605.3
6/29/97

Accommodation for Troops—
European.

Calicut.—Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, intimating that the absence of a detachment of European troops from — would be likely to serve as an incitement to outbreak on the part of fanatical Moplahs, communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

No. B
MR 956
L

The Secretary to the Government of Madras—
Public Works Department

His Excellency the Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces is ignorant of any intention to remove the troops from Calicut to Kannanore. The local Government was entirely opposed to such a step in 1890 vide P.M.G. (Mil. Deptt) No. 5786^(a) of the 15th September of that year, and conditions as regards the Moplahs seem much the same now as then.

(a)
copy enclosed.

2 His Excellency recommends that the work should be proceeded with.

J. Perille Lt. Colonel
Asst. Quarter Master General
For Dy. Assistant General
M. S.