

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Police* DEPARTMENT.

|          |              |                |
|----------|--------------|----------------|
| G.O. No. | <i>281</i>   | Press<br>Mis.  |
| Dated    | <i>17/12</i> | 18 <i>44</i> . |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*5-10-46*

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,*

*17th December 1866.*

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No. 66. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 8th December 1866, No. 3883.

Passing orders in reference to the site selected for the erection of the proposed Military Hospital at Madras. } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department, dated 8th December 1866, Nos. 125—127.)

No. 67. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1866, No. 1281.

To be recorded.

(Signed) **A. J. ARBUTHNOT,**  
*Chief Secretary.*

**Ed. J. Tulloch.**

Read the following papers :—

No. 125. From the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 8th October 1866, No. 241.

I have the honor to request you will be good enough to submit, for the favorable orders of Government, the accompanying Proceedings of the Committee assembled in accordance with the Government Order No. 818, dated 15th August 1866, for the purpose of selecting a suitable site for the proposed Military Hospital at Madras.

Proceedings of a Committee assembled at Madras on 13th September 1866, pursuant to Orders of Government No. 818, dated 15th August 1866.

*Present.*

|                                                                                                                                 |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| The Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C.B., Sanitary Commissioner ...                                                                      | President. |
| J. SHAW, Esq., F. R. C. S., Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.                                                    | Members.   |
| Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.                                                     |            |
| J. G. INGLIS, M. D., C.B., Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals and Principal Medical Officer to Her Majesty's British Troops. |            |

*Absent.*

|                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Colonel J. TEMPLE, Municipal Commissioner, on other duty... | Members. |
| Major C. S. HEARN, Commissioner of Police, Sick...          |          |

The Committee is furnished with a copy of His Excellency the Governor's Minute, dated 25th June 1866.

The President informs the Committee, that it is assembled for the purpose of selecting a suitable site for a new Military Hospital, to be erected at Madras, for the treatment of the European Military sick of the Fort Saint George Garrison.

The Committee, after carefully considering the comparative advantages of the sites mentioned, as available for the purpose, in the Minute by His Excellency the Governor, unanimously decide,

That the best site is the triangular piece of ground on the Esplanade adjoining the Parade Ground, extending behind the Statue of Sir Thomas Munro to the burying grounds, and bounded by three public roads.

That this site will admit of providing Hospital buildings according to the principles of construction laid down by the Government of India, for one Regiment of Infantry, one Garrison Company of Artillery, and the sick details of European Regiments now treated in the General Hospital, and for the women belonging to all these, in the proportion allowed.

In selecting this site as the best which is available for the purpose, it is of course assumed that the graveyards in its vicinity will be closed, as this Committee are unanimous in recording their opinion that the continued use of these would be a sufficient reason for condemning the locality as unfit for the treatment of sick Soldiers.

The Committee also draw attention to the necessity which exists for having this ground carefully drained, as water has been observed to stand on it for a considerable time after heavy falls of rain.

|          |                                        |
|----------|----------------------------------------|
| (Signed) | R. S. ELLIS,                           |
|          | <i>President.</i>                      |
| ( " )    | J. SHAW,                               |
|          | <i>Print. Insp. Genl., Medl. Dept.</i> |
| ( " )    | J. G. INGLIS,                          |
|          | <i>Deputy Inspector General,</i>       |
|          | <i>P. M. O. British Troops.</i>        |
| ( " )    | C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,             |
|          | <i>Secretary to Government, D.P.W.</i> |
| ( " )    | J. TEMPLE,                             |
|          | <i>Municipal Commissioner.</i>         |
| ( " )    | C. S. HEARN,                           |
|          | <i>Commissioner of Police.</i>         |

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
8th December 1866.*

Transferred to the Military Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
11th October 1866.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,  
Secretary to Government.

Referred for the observations of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
15th October 1866.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Colonel,  
Deputy Secretary to Government.

No. 126. From the Officiating Quarter Master General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 14th November 1866, No. 900-8,967.

1. In returning the papers from the Sanitary Commissioner, referred to this department by your docket Memorandum, dated 15th October 1866, I have the honor, by order, to submit, for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that the Commander-in-Chief observes that it would be entirely opposed to correct Military principles, to erect the proposed Hospital on the part of the Esplanade recommended by the Committee, of which the Honorable Mr. Ellis, C. B., was President.

2. I am directed to solicit reference to the Orders of Government as per margin, in which it has been repeatedly observed that the Esplanade round the Fortress should not be encroached upon; and Sir Gaspard LeMarchant considers that this obviously sound Military principle should not be departed from, even for the erection of a Hospital for the Troops. His Excellency, therefore, hopes that the site referred to will not be given up for that purpose, in opposition to the principle so often enunciated by the Government itself.

3. I am further instructed to enclose a letter on this subject from the Officer Commanding the Centre Division, in whose views the Commander-in-Chief entirely concurs.

From the Officer Commanding Centre Division, to the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, dated Madras, 10th November 1866, No. 123.

1. In compliance with the request contained in your Memorandum No. 836-8,690, dated 29th October 1866, calling for my views on the

1 Order of Government on letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, dated 8th October 1866.

1 Letter from Officer Commanding Centre Division, dated 25th October 1866, No. 120.

site proposed by a Commission for the erection of a European Military Hospital at Madras, viz., the triangular plot of ground on the Esplanade near the Fort, in rear of Sir Thomas Munro's Statue, I have the honor to state that the site selected is very low, and after heavy rains and when the Cooum overflows its banks, a not unusual occurrence in the monsoon, it becomes one sheet of water. However eligible the Commission may consider this as a sanitary position, the construction of any large building there would, in my opinion, be most objectionable in a Military point of view. The necessity of having the immediate neighbourhood of any Fort kept free from all obstructions, is a Military principle so obvious, has been so repeatedly urged by the Military authorities here, and admitted by the Government, that the only excuse for my noticing it now is its having been apparently overlooked by the Commission, though it is now more than ever necessary to be kept sight of on account of the increased range and improvement in small arms.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
8th December 1866.*

2. I would also point out that the ground in question is the Parade Ground of the Madras Volunteers, is used for Drill purposes by the Right Honorable the Governor's Body Guard, and for Light Infantry Drill by the Native Infantry Regiment stationed at Vepery, whose former Parade Ground has been converted into the People's Park.

Transferred with No. 4,929 to the Department Public Works, for disposal.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Colonel,  
Deputy Secretary to Government.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
28th November 1866.

No. 127. ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1866, No. 3,883.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 11.

1. With the first of the letters above recorded, the Sanitary Commissioner submits for the consideration of

Government the Proceedings of the Committee which had assembled in pursuance of the Order of the 15th August last, No. 818, for the purpose of selecting a suitable site for the proposed Military Hospital at Madras.

2. The Committee, having carefully considered the advantages of the sites which were shown to be available in the Minute by His Lordship the President, under date the 25th June 1866, are unanimously of opinion that the spot best adapted for the erection of the proposed Hospital is the triangular piece of ground on the Esplanade near the Fort in rear of Sir Thomas Munro's Statue. The Committee, after explaining that this site will admit of the erection of Hospital buildings, according to the principles of construction laid down by the Government of India, for one Regiment of Infantry, one Garrison Company of Artillery, the sick details of European Regiments now treated in the General Hospital, and for the authorized proportion of women, recommend that the ground should be carefully drained, and that the Cemeteries in its vicinity should be closed, adding that the continued use of these graveyards "would be a sufficient reason for condemning the locality as "unfit for the treatment of sick soldiers."

3. The Committee's Report having been referred to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the Quarter Master General submits for the consideration of Government a letter from the Major General Commanding the Centre Division, wherein that Officer objects to the appropriation of the site in question to the erection of a Military Hospital on the grounds (1) that it is very low and liable to be swamped after heavy rains; (2) that, as it is against all principles of defence to allow the fire of a fortress to be masked by buildings or other external obstacles, the construction of the proposed Hospital on the spot selected by the Committee would be most objectionable, and more especially now since the increased range of Artillery and the improvement of small arms give advantages to the attack, and (3) that the ground is now used for drill and other purposes by the Madras Volunteers, the Right Honorable the Governor's Body Guard and the Native Infantry Regiment stationed at Vepery. In expressing his entire concurrence in the views of the Major General Commanding the Centre Division, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief strongly deprecates any encroachment upon the Esplanades round the Fortress, "even for the erection of a Hospital for the Troops."

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8th December 1866.*

4. On full consideration of these papers, the Government are of opinion that, if the defensive works of the Fort are to be regarded as placing it on the footing of a Fortress in the Military acceptance of the term, that is, as a fortified place capable of standing a siege by regular approaches, there would doubtless be strong objections to the erection of the proposed Hospital on the site selected for it, and indeed it would be necessary to go beyond the views of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and to remove the Medical College and the General Hospital as well as the Lighthouse, which are all in the way of the fire of the ramparts, and the first and last are even nearer than the proposed Hospital would be. The Fort, however, is not believed to be capable of making a defence against a regular attack. It is of importance, inasmuch as it commands and overawes the principal sections of the Native Town, and because it gives cover to Government stores and records, and, at times of popular excitement, would afford protection. There is little chance of the Fort being again invested from the land side, since there is no sufficiently powerful Native enemy to attack it, and no European nor American force would venture to land Troops for the purpose unless they had command of the sea, and, in that case, they would probably find it more easy to reduce the place from the sea than to undertake the difficult and tedious operation of landing the large force and quantity of material which would be necessary for a siege. The Government, therefore, cannot recognize the force of the objections raised by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief; but, there being some doubt as to the feasibility of an early removal of St. Mary's and the other burial grounds, the question of the selection of a site for the proposed new Hospital may be deferred.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.

- „ Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
- „ Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ Public Department.

Pro 15 August 1866 No 101 @ 103

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Public 1866

DEPT.

Proceedings of Government in the

P. W. Department.

No. 3883

Dated 8

Received

2 October 1866

No. 1591

Referring orders in reference  
to the site selected for  
the erection of the pro-  
posed military hos-  
pital at Madras

17 Dec 1866  
to be recorded

bb. 67