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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1198	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-6-1881	197 .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

1198
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16 June 1886.

My dear Mr. Hunter

~~The notes were sent to you~~

A copy of the note by Mr. Hunter.
The Governor was sent to you, and also
that should the Public Works Dept. be
unable to find quarters for Mr. Hunter
outside the Fort (which probably they
will not be able to do) he should be
forbidden to leave his quarters in
his quarters, in the Fort, & the arrangements
of his reception. I am, my

Yours truly
W. H. Murray

1198
✓

16 June 81.

My dear Harkins.

Will you please let
me know the object
in sending to the Pub. Dep't.
a copy of the note by the
Hon. the Governor on July.
Past. 1st June 1881. No. 2923
regarding Mr. Stradist,
the Director of the
Governor's Band.

Yr. Serv.
S. C. G. Master.

Vote by His Honor the Governor,

Moving the conductor of the Governor's Band from the Fort will not stop the practicing of music by the band in the Fort. Mr. Stradiot will have to come to the Fort for practice which must be carried on just as much as it is now.

I don't see why Mr. S. should not be interdicted from having evening musical parties in his quarters in the Fort.

I don't know where free quarters are to be found for him outside the Fort and as His Grace, the late Governor, observed. if found, it will entail a charge for carriage hire.

CURRENT No.

1198

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

1st June 1881, No. 2923.

Quarters—Office.

Read the following papers :—

No. 27. *From Major-General R. CADELL, C.B., R.A., Inspector-General of Ordnance, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, Ootacamund; dated Fort St. George, 6th May 1881, No. 51-G.*

I have the honor to request that you will bring the following subjects to the notice of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. I have received a respectful but strong remonstrance from the Commissary of Ordnance in charge Arsenal, Madras, regarding Serjeant and Assistant Overseer Balfour, attached to the Arsenal at Madras, who is also Superintendent of Fire Engines, being removed from his present quarters to the upper story of the building lately vacated by the Executive Engineer, Presidency, and having for his co-resident on that upper story the Conductor of the Governor's Band, as ordered in Order of Government, No. 1518, dated 15th March last, a copy of which was not sent to my office. Serjeant Balfour for the last six years has inhabited the lower portion of the quarters, the upper portion of which has been for the last twenty-five years at least inhabited by the Conductor of the Governor's Band. Serjeant Balfour's predecessors have occupied the same quarters for, it is believed, half a century. Brigadier-General Stewart, Commanding Centre District, in his letter recorded in the Order of Government referred to, describes the practising of music by Mr. Stradiot and his pupils to be an "intolerable annoyance to those who inhabit the adjacent quarters." Serjeant Balfour has had full experience on the subject, but a substantial floor has separated him from the music, and he says that the bandmaster has been kind in stopping his practice when requested to do so on account of there being any serious sickness in his family; but he most respectfully remonstrates regarding being placed on the same floor with Mr. Stradiot, whose zeal in his profession is well known. The Commissary of Ordnance reports that Serjeant Balfour is engaged hard at work all day in the Arsenal and is liable to be called up at night—he therefore requires all the sleep he can get—but that he will be totally unable to shut out the sound of the musical instruments and singing (it may be morning, noon and night) if he has to live on the same floor as Mr. Stradiot. He complains also of the rooms which he believes have been detailed to him not being suitable for a Serjeant and Overseer, but I am not in a position as yet to speak with regard to this.

3. In General Stewart's letter, he speaks of the upper story of the building lately vacated by the Executive Engineer being one in which Mr. Stradiot's

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"musical studies can be conducted without restraint and without causing any annoyance, for he will have no near neighbours." I cannot understand how this opinion was formed. It appears to me inconsistent with Serjeant Balfour being ordered to occupy the same story, and to the fact of the quarters of the principal Conductor of the Arsenal and his family being in immediate proximity to the building. Moreover, the Commissary of Ordnance has reported that Mr. Stradiot being brought to the closest proximity with the Arsenal—only the breadth of the road intervening—may seriously interfere with the work of the warrant and non-commissioned officers in the Ordnance godown, receiving and issuing departments, armoury and accoutrement godowns, all of whom will be disturbed—if they are capable of being disturbed—by what General Stewart calls "an intolerable annoyance."

4. Should Government see fit to sanction that the Garrison Serjeant-Major (to whom it is proposed now to allot the whole of the quarters now actually occupied by the Conductor of the Governor's Band and Serjeant and Overseer Balfour) be ordered to occupy the quarters in the Arsenal Street now proposed for these two individuals, there can, I think, be no real objections. The distance from the Brigade Offices to these quarters is only a few yards further than Mr. Stradiot's present house, and the latter individual and Serjeant Balfour could remain where they are. Mr. Stradiot's present quarters are much further from Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General's quarters than those, erroneously termed isolated, to which it is proposed to send him are from the principal Conductor's quarters and Paymaster's office, and he would disturb a far greater number of human beings in his new quarters than in his old.

5. In writing to me on the subject, the Commissary of Ordnance sent to me a copy of the Order of Government above alluded to, which I believe he had obtained demi-officially, and there is another point in which I think it my duty without delay to bring to the notice of Government. I see that it is considered as fixed that the building now occupied by the Surgeon-General should be converted into quarters for a Captain and Subaltern. No allusion in any of the correspondence in any way has been made to the fact that this building is within a few yards of a magazine in which a considerable quantity of ammunition has necessarily been kept for probably the last century at least, and that no fires are allowed to be lighted in its neighbourhood. Such is the order given to the sentry who has been on guard over it for very many years. Only last year, lightning-conductors for this magazine formed the subject of Order of Government, No. 1654, dated 12th March 1880. The magazine being where it is has hitherto been considered absolutely fatal to the building occupied by the Surgeon-General being turned into quarters. His Grace the late Governor, on personally inspecting the place in 1878, when searching for quarters for the Commissary of Ordnance, fully agreed with this view when I pointed out to him the position. Its inhabitants, if used as a dwelling, require cooking places, which have actually, I find, been recently constructed. Sheet-iron chimneys have been erected for the cook-rooms within fifteen yards of the magazine windows, and, to add to the danger, one of these, I perceive, runs through a wooden roof, the woodwork of which is in actual contact all round with the sheet iron, which would probably be heated to redness after a short time of use. Iron caps, moreover, top the chimneys. This arrangement ensues showers of sparks of fire constantly falling on the magazine roof and flying into the magazine windows when they are opened for ventilation.

No. 2543.

Referred to the Provincial Commander-in-Chief.

(By Order.)

(Signed)

E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

OOTACAMUND,
9th May 1881.

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No. 28. From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 21st May 1881, No. 609.

In returning letter from the Inspector-General of Ordnance, referred to the Provincial Commander-in-Chief under your No. 2543, dated 9th instant, I have the honor, by order, to forward, for submission to Government, letter, No. G/85, dated 16th instant, from the General Officer Commanding Centre District, on the subject of the re-distribution of quarters in Fort St. George.

2. The Provincial Commander-in-Chief concurs in the recommendation of Brigadier-General Stewart, that the Director of the Governor's Band be provided with quarters outside the Fort, and that the rooms proposed to be allotted to Mr. Stradiot, in Arsenal Street, be handed over to Serjeant and Assistant Overseer Balfour.

3. If only a wing of a British Infantry regiment is to be permanently located in the Fort in future, there will be no occasion to disturb the present arrangement for the office of the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces. If a whole British regiment is quartered in Fort St. George, then, as directed in O.G., Public Works Department, 1st December 1880, No. 2764-W, the offices of the two Surgeons-General and the Judge Advocate-General will have to be moved out of the Fort, and the buildings now so occupied appropriated as officers' quarters.

4. In such case, the Provincial Commander-in-Chief agrees with General Stewart that the godowns alluded to by the Inspector-General of Ordnance should not be used as magazines for the storage of powder or ammunition.

From Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Commanding Centre District, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated 16th May 1881, No. G/85.

In returning letter, No. 51-G, dated 6th May 1881, from the Inspector-General of Ordnance, to the address of the Secretary to Government, Military Department, forwarded to me for report under cover of your No. 533-3323, of the 10th instant, I have the honor to observe as follows:—

2. The quarters now occupied by the Director of the Governor's Band are situated in the very centre of most of the public offices in the Fort, and as he and his pupils are constantly practising music throughout the day, while at night he frequently has musical parties, great annoyance and discomfort is experienced by all in the vicinity. There is no part of the Fort to which he could be removed where he could carry on his musical lessons without giving cause of complaint to some one in his neighbourhood, and there appear therefore to be only two measures by which this nuisance could be entirely put down, viz., either to interdict all practice of music in the Fort or his removal out of it. I therefore strongly recommend that free quarters should be found for him elsewhere out of the Fort, where he could continue his musical lessons and evening parties without being a source of annoyance to those living around. Should this be done, the rooms proposed to be allotted to Mr. Stradiot in Arsenal Street might be occupied by Serjeant and Assistant Overseer Balfour, while the remaining quarters might be distributed as proposed in my letter, No. G/220,* dated 28th September 1880.

* Printed in O.G., No. 7986, Milly. Dept., dated 21st December 1880.

3. As regards the Inspector-General's protest against the building now used as the Surgeon-General's Office being used as officers' quarters, I beg to observe that this building had been assigned for the purpose previous to its conversion to its present use—vide G.O., No. 3748, dated 15th June 1880, in which Government sanction its use as the Surgeon-General's Office, pending the return of a British regiment to Fort St. George, when it would be required to provide shelter for the officers. On the authority of para. 4 of G.O., No. 2764-W, dated 1st December 1880, cooking ranges have lately been added to this building, so as to provide for the accommodation of a Captain and Subaltern of the British regiment. These have been fitted with sheet-iron chimneys with caps. One chimney passes through the wooden pent roof of a small room, at a point some 17 feet above the cooking range below, so that I consider there is no chance whatever of its ever becoming heated to any great extent, considering the small fire required for cooking and that in all probability the officer occupying the quarters would take his meals at business. The magazine referred to is one of three bombproof rooms in rear of the main guard and is not marked on any plan of the Fort as a magazine, and until two days

ago was not itself marked as a magazine. It was evidently never intended to be used for such a purpose. The doors are not covered with sheet copper as required for magazine doors, the building has no lightning-conductors, nor is there a sentry over it, and in my opinion it is in dangerous proximity to the main guard and other buildings, and should not be used for the purposes of storing ammunition and powder. If these two officers' quarters are to be given up, a deficiency in this respect must exist, as there are no other suitable quarters to be found within the Fort.

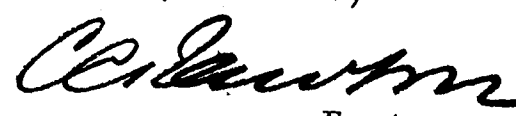
No. 29. ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1881, No. 2923.

Transferred to the Public Works Department, with the opinion of Government, in the Military Department, that quarters outside the Fort should, if possible, be obtained for Mr. Stradiot, and that the quarters proposed to be allotted to Mr. Stradiot be made over to Serjeant Balfour.

2. With reference to para. 4 of the letter from the Inspector-General of Ordnance, the Government observe that, as there is no immediate prospect of a whole battalion being located in the Fort, there is no necessity to disturb existing arrangements.

3. Hereafter, should it become necessary to appropriate the offices of the two Surgeons-General and the Judge Advocate-General as quarters for officers, the magazine alluded to by the Inspector-General of Ordnance must cease to be used for the storage of gunpowder.

(True Extract.)

 Captain, R.E.,
For Ag. Secretary to Government,
Mily. Dept.

To the Public Works Department.
„ Inspector-General of Ordnance.
„ Quartermaster-General.
„ Public Department, with copy of a Note
by the Honorable the Governor.

Exd. A. Raitt.

1198
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2923-4

Public (1881) Dept.
(Gen. Band)

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

MILITARY.

To
THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

DISPOSED OF

17 JUN 81

BY G. CURRENT No. 1198

Dated June, 1st.

Issued

Recd. // Encl.

G.O., 1st June 1881, No. 2923.

JUNE.
Nos. 27-29.

Transferring to the Public Works Department correspondence on the subject of the re-distribution of quarters in Fort St. George, with the remark that Mr. Stradiot should be provided with quarters outside the Fort, and that the quarters proposed to be allotted to him should be made over to Serjeant Balfour.

Conrad
Adged
W. B. Hall