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71

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Dated

16-4-1874 196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public Works Department.
26th March 1874.

Read the following papers:—

No. 709. • Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department, dated 19th July 1872, No. 2,308.

Read again Proceedings of Government, 29th February 1872, No. 715.

Read also the following paper from the Quarter Master General, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 18th May 1872, No. 4,144.

I HAVE the honour, by desire of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for submission to Government, an original letter from the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Centre District, giving the result of his inspection of the Lines of the three Native Infantry Corps at Madras, also the Proceedings of a Committee assembled Regimentally to report on the extent of damage done to the Lines of the 37th Regiment at Vepery.

2. Consequent on this representation, His Excellency directed a Committee to be convened to re-value the lines as they now stand as compared with the valuation proceedings formerly prepared and on which the Regiment is liable for payment to Government. These proceedings are now submitted.

3. The question of a better class of hutting for the Native Troops has very frequently been brought under consideration, and in connection with this, and in support of the proposal which His Excellency feels justified in submitting to Government, I am instructed to solicit the attention of Government to the views of Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner, so prominently referred to in paragraph 13 of the Memorandum from the Army Sanitary Commission in England, published with the Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, in Order of Government, No. 538, of 26th April 1872.

4. The question of the Vepery hutting lines was under the consideration of Government so recently as 1st December 1870, Order of Government, No. 3,536, when a Special Committee was nominated by Government and irrespectively of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to report on two sites for locating the Vepery Regiment, the one now in occupation, the other the open ground near Marshall's Road.

5. His Excellency is not aware if any orders have been passed by Government on the Committee's report, which is published in the Sanitary Commissioner's Report for January 1871, and dated 6th idem.

6. After the destruction which has again fallen on the Vepery lines by the recent cyclone, and considering the concurrent expense which will fall on Government for compensation for the losses sustained by the men, Sir Frederick Haines would earnestly urge on Government that the question of new lines may be at once re-opened and finally disposed of. Should further evidence be needed as to the necessity for building new lines for the Vepery Regiment, His Excellency would request attention to the immunity from damage enjoyed by the Regiment stationed in the good substantial lines of Perambore and Royapooram, as set forth in Captain Ewing's report.

7. Sir Frederick Haines having perused the report of the Committee above referred, desires me to say that he fully concurs in the opinion of the Committee in favor of the Poodoopett site, and considering that the question of the excess

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distance between the two sites is one of no moment strongly recommends that their recommendation may be adopted as set forth in paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 of the report, and that the work may be carried out.

8. As regards the Vepery lines, by a reference to the report referred in paragraph 2, it appears that Rupees 5,964-10-0 is the amount due by the Regiment to Government; and that the recent valuation is Rupees 4,332-10-0, giving a difference of Rupees 1,632.

9. Only the right wing lines, however, have as yet been occupied, and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief recommends that Government should sanction the Regiment taking them over at the present valuation, viz., for Rs. 2,787-6-0. The loss to Government on these lines will be Rupees 433-12-0.

10. The lines of the left wing which are now unoccupied will be re-valued on arrival of the Companies from Moulmein.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief submits a letter from the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Centre District, reporting on the state of the Lines of the three Native Infantry Regiments at Madras after the late cyclone.

2. It appears from this report that the lines at Perambore remain perfectly intact, and the damage sustained by those at Royapooram is so slight that the repairs can easily be executed Regimentally. The lines at Vepery, however, suffered very much. The huts occupied by the men of the right-half battalion are represented to have been injured considerably, while the lines of the left-half battalion have been rendered quite uninhabitable. The walls in both cases being of mud, and without any foundation, have been either entirely destroyed by the wind, or completely washed away. The roofs, composed of leaf and grass, have been blown off, and the water, even some days after the storm, stood in the huts. The situation of the lines is so low, and the fall of the ground so slight, that it is considered impossible to draw off the water.

3. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief strongly recommends that the Vepery lines be abandoned, and the Regiment removed to the site near Marshall's Road, Poodoopett, selected in 1867.

4. In view of the circumstances now reported, which it is observed are but a repetition of former similar occurrences in the same lines after heavy rain, exposing the men and families of the Regiment on each occasion to much inconvenience and discomfort, if not actual risk of health, and involving the Government in considerable expenditure on account of compensation, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council resolves to adopt the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and accordingly directs that measures be taken in the Revenue Department, as early as possible, for acquiring possession of the land required at Poodoopett, in addition to that already the property of Government (the necessary funds being provided by the Department Public Works,) and for the construction of new lines on that site.

Proceedings of Government, 19th January 1869,
No. 230, Military Department.
Proceedings of Government, 15th Feb. 1869,
No. 391, Revenue Department.

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5. The Controller of Military Accounts will report whether any, and to what extent, funds can be made available from the Budget for the current year for the latter purpose.

6. On the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the Government sanction the recovery from the men of the right-half battalion now at Vepery of the cost of their huts at the re-valuation rates made after the recent cyclone, and from the left-half battalion at those at which the huts may be re-valued on occupation by the men.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Offg. Secy. to Govt. Mily. Dept.

No. 710. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department,
dated 14th July 1873, No. 731:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd July 1873.
From J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to J. GROSE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 25th June 1873,
No. 152.

WITH reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 5,416, of 6th August last, communicating Government Order, No. 2,308, of 19th July last, Military Department, I have the honour to state that the extent of land required for the erection of Native Infantry Lines at Poodoopett is 37 cawnies 16 grounds and 1,800 square feet approximately. Of this, 21 cawnies 9 grounds and 1,032 square feet belong to Government, and is in charge of the Commissioner of Police. The remainder 16 cawnies 7 grounds and 768 square feet is private property.

2. The Deputy Collector reports that the acquisition of the last-mentioned area by amicable settlement is impracticable, as there are not less than 182 holdings in it to be purchased. He therefore suggests that the whole area should be taken up under the Land Acquisition Act No. X. of 1870. I agree with him and accordingly request that the Board will be good enough to move Government for—

(1.) A declaration under Section 6 of that Act that the land is needed for the public purpose.

(2.) An order under Section 7 directing "the Collector of Madras, or his authorized Deputy, or either of them" to take order for its acquisition.

G. O. of Madras Government, 17th September 1872, No. 1,229, enclosed.

3. A statement showing the boundaries and other particulars of the land needed is enclosed, but it will be some time before a correct plan of the land is ready. I am in communication with the District Engineer on the subject; but, as the land is urgently required, I beg to suggest that the declaration applied for be issued without any reference to plan, which I observe is allowed by the Act.*

* Section 6.

4. I also request instructions may be issued to the Accountant-General to place at my disposal a sum of Rupees 63,000 to enable me to pay for the lands without delay. Ready-money payment might induce parties to accept lower rates of compensation.

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SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

(True Extra.)

(Signed)

J. GROSE,

Secretary

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department in view to the necessary appropriation of funds, pending which no further steps can be taken for the acquisition of the lands in question.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

REFERRED to the Military Department to account for the discrepancy between the amount of land at Poodoopett proposed to be taken up by the Committee in their Report of 6th January 1871, being less than 10 cawnies valued at Rs. 30, 500 and that now entered in the registers received from the Revenue Department being upwards of 16 cawnies valued at Rupees 63,000. * Also whether the annual rental issued for the Vepery lines is Rupees 3,480 as stated in the report, or Rupees 4,494 as ascertained from former records.

OOTACAMUND,
9th August 1873.

(Signed)

G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

REFERRED to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

OCTACAMUND,
11th August 1873.

(Signed)

A. C. SILVER, Colonel,

A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M.D.

No. 711. From Colonel H. O'CONNELL, Officiating Quarter Master General, to Colonel A. C. SILVER, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 20th August 1873, No. 5,744.

In returning the correspondence referred to the Commander-in-Chief on the 11th instant, I have the honour, by order, to report that a Committee that was assembled on the 17th October 1872 to report on a site for lines at Poodoopett recommended an extension of the ground to secure perfect ventilation and more sufficient sanitary control. The Proceedings of the Committee are enclosed. The plan that accompanied them was forwarded to the Collector of Madras, and is probably amongst the papers submitted by the Board of Revenue.

2. With reference to the last portion of Colonel Walker's Memorandum, the annual rental paid for the Vepery lines is Rupees 4,494, as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
To rent of a Place-of-Arms per mensem	245	0	0
Do. of Hospital	94	8	0
Do. of Hutting ground	35	0	0
Total per mensem...	374	8	0
		12	
Total per annum...	4,494	0	0

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PROCEEDINGS of Committee convened in District and Garrison Orders of the 17th October 1872,
by Brigadier-General G. B. SHANESPEAR, Commanding Troops, for the purpose of
selecting and reporting upon the best sites at Poodoquet for the Line of a Native
Infantry Regiment, and for the Hospital, Magazines, Place of Arms, and other sub-
sidiary buildings.

President.

Colonel S. J. BATTEN, Commandant, 17th Regiment Native Infantry.

Members.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Z. CLARIDGE, 2nd in Command, 37th Grenadiers.

Lt.-Col. J. GODDARD, R.E., with sanction of Superintending Engr., 4th Division.
 Lt.-Col. J. GODDARD, R.E., with sanction of Superintending Engr., 4th Division.
 Lt.-Col. J. GODDARD, R.E., with sanction of Superintending Engr., 4th Division.

Dy. Insp.-Genl. of Hospitals A. BLACKLOCK, Presidency District, in attendance.

The Committee having assembled at Poodooppett at 6 A.M., 19th October 1872, proceeded to a careful inspection of the ground marked A, B, C, D, E, F in the appended plan, furnished by the Assistant Quarter Master General with his letter, No. 5,109, of 26th September 1872; and has now the honour to forward a copy of the plan marked A on which are exhibited the sites which have been selected and the proposed arrangements with respect to the lines, and with the view to the same being laid before Government in as complete a form as possible, an approximate estimate of cost is submitted therewith.

2. It will be observed that the formation of a proper basement for the huts and a thorough drainage of the lines, which is of great importance, has been considered and provided for in the estimate; the levels were taken under the direction of the Executive Engineer, and are marked in red ink in cross sections of the plan.

3. The lines are arranged with respect to prevailing winds in rows of half companies, so as to secure perfect ventilation, and with the view also of separating them more effectually from the village of "Comarleswarpett;" it is proposed to extend the boundary line on the east side to G H, which will bring under military, and therefore more efficient sanitary control, the nullah which is now a filthy open latrine, also a tank of water, and a piece of waste land which can be appropriated to sepoy's gardens and become a source of recreation and healthful amusement to the men, and the Committee recommend that the same be added to the present area.

4. The site selected with Dr. Blacklock's approval for the "hospital" is free and open on all sides. It will be bounded on the north and east by the parade-ground, on the west by Marshall's Road, and on the south by a public road and the Cooum river, which in this locality is a broad unpolluted stream; hence there can be no fear of the hospital becoming at any future period shut in by other buildings.

5. The space of ground does not admit of the roads within the lines being of the width prescribed by Army Regulations, but the breadth provided in the plan is 60 feet of main road and 30 between the respective rows of huts which is considered to be ample.

6. Several small tanks and broken ground will require to be made good, and an arrangement will be entered into with the Municipality to lay out the tanks for the use of the men; the tank project is to be carried out by the Municipality.

6. Several small tanks and broken ground will require to be filled up.

7. It is assumed that an arrangement will be entered into with the Municipality to lay down supply-pipes to the lines to provide drinking water for the use of the men; the tank proposed to be included within military limits will suffice for all other purposes.

8. The Committee visited the ground on the morning of the 23rd November, when they had an opportunity of examining its condition under circumstances peculiarly favourable, heavy rain of forty-eight hours' duration having just fallen.

9. At the north-west angle the water was lodging 2 feet deep over an area of 6½ acres, which will form part of the parade-ground, but can be drained with the greatest facility.

10. The remainder of the ground, however, was found to be very dry, with sufficient slope to prevent lodgment of water, and it was observed that the sites for the lines, hospital, barracks,

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26th March 1874.*

and other buildings had been well selected, and the Committee is of opinion that the whole site is in every respect a most excellent, healthy position for locating a Regiment of Native Infantry.

(Signed) S. J. BATTEN, Colonel,
Commandant, 7th Regt. N. I.—President.
(„) H. Z. CLARIDGE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
2nd in Command, 37th Grenadiers, }
(„) J. GODDARD, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E., } Members.
(„) A. BLACKLOCK, Dy. Insp. Genl. of Hospitals,
Presy. Dist., in attendance, }

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department, and the referred paper returned.
OOTACAMUND, (Signed) A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
27th August 1873. Secy. to Government, M.D.

No. 712. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1874, No. 854.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 20.

ORDERED that the following letter
be sent:—

(Here enter No. 855, dated 26th March 1874.)
(True Extract.)

Chamberlain Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.
„ Revenue „
„ District Engineer, Presidency.

Exd T. O'Connor.

70 Spare Copies

Sp 29 July/72 to 159 hrs

Rev: 1874 Dept
No. 1170
Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
Ac. Ac. Ac.

Dated March 20th.
Recd. 8 April/74 Encl.
G. O., 26th March 1871, No. 851.

MARCH
Nos. 709-712

1876 to 1877 of. Revised 20 April/74

By Mr.
Native Infantry Lines at Poodooppett. —
Passing orders on application for a special
grant for the purchase of a site for the
erection of Lines at Poodooppett.
No. 71
Commenced to the
12 of Nov. 1874
16 April/74