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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	3046	Press. / Mis.
Dated	16-12-1878	197 :

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GP

3046
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

12th December 1878, No. 6877.

Intelligence.

Read the following paper :—

No. 454. *From Colonel H. K. BURNE*, C.B., *Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Quartermaster-General in India ; dated Fort William, 29th November* 1878, *No.* 860.

Intelligence.

I am directed, in reply to your letter No. 2782-A, "*Intelligence*," dated the 1st August 1878, to acquaint you, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, that the Government of India approve generally, of the circular proposed to be issued by His Excellency, for the collection of information regarding all the forts and fortified positions in India not actually occupied by our troops,—an officer of the Intelligence Branch, when formed, being detailed to arrange the reports on the subject.

No. 863.

Copy of the above, and of that to which it is a reply, and enclosure, forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, Military Department, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council.

(By order,)

(Signed) H. A. SAWYER, Captain,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

From Colonel C. C. JOHNSON, C.B., Officiating Quartermaster-General in India, to Colonel H. K. BURNE, C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Simla ; dated Army Head Quarters, Simla, 1st August 1878, No. 2782-A, (*Intelligence.*)

I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Government of India, that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief proposes to issue a circular, a copy of which is attached, requesting the attention of General Officers Commanding Divisions and Districts to the collection of information regarding all the forts and fortified positions in India not actually occupied by our troops, and to detail an officer of the Intelligence Branch of this department to arrange these reports and any other information available on the subject, for record in this office.

2. I am, therefore, directed to request that, in order to make this record complete, the Government of India, Military Department, may be pleased to place at the disposal of the Intelligence Branch such information as may exist in the records of the Military Department on this subject ; to arrange that every assistance may be afforded to General Officers by the various local Governments and Administrations ; and that the Foreign Department may be moved to place such information as exists regarding forts in tributary states in that office, at the disposal of the Intelligence Department, and to aid His Excellency in such manner as may seem most desirable in completing any deficiency which may hereafter become apparent.

3. Should the Government approve of this suggestion, I am to add that Captain Gaselee attached to the Intelligence Branch, will be directed to place himself in communication with the Foreign Office with the above view.

No.

Circular Memorandum addressed
To General Officers Commanding Divisions and Districts.

OFFICE OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL IN INDIA,
ARMY HEAD QUARTERS,

Intelligence.

SIMLA, *August* 1878.

It being very important that the Intelligence Branch of this department should be in possession of complete information regarding all the forts and fortified positions and walled towns within British territories not garrisoned by British troops throughout India, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to direct that attention may at once be paid to the collection of this information in all divisions and districts.

2. The approaching cold season will afford a favorable opportunity for this purpose, and His Excellency therefore directs that General Officers Commanding will arrange that the officers of this department may be made, as far as possible, available for this duty, and that they may be assisted by as many regimental officers as can be spared.

3. Attention should of course first be paid to the more important forts; and in preparing the report of each, officers should consider and detail the route by which each should be approached from the station from which an attack against it would be most probably directed, and he should then proceed to give a detailed description of the fort and of such part of the surrounding country as would necessarily come within the sphere of the operations of an attack. In fact he will give such information as would be required by an officer undertaking its attack, from the moment of his leaving his cantonment till his arrival before the fort.

4. Each report is to be accompanied by a plan of the fort and a sufficient tract of surrounding country, on a scale of 12″ = 1 mile,—all elevations being carefully contoured.

5. This plan will, it is hoped, give full information on all points regarding the fort, but it is necessary, in addition, that particular attention should be paid to the following points:—

1*st*.—All positions which command the fort within range of guns should be carefully described, as well as the means by which guns could be got up to them. The nature of the soil on the summit, whether favorable or not for the erection of batteries.

2*nd*.—The position, nature, and quantity of the water supply, and whether it can be cut off.

3*rd*.—The position, nature and extent of storage for provisions, and what facilities exist for drawing in supplies from the vicinity.

4*th*.—The nature and dimensions of the walls and their state of repair.

5*th*.—The position and description of the gateways, and what cover exists for the approach to them.

6*th*.—The command and range of fire from the defences. The state of the loop-holes and embrasures.

7*th*.—All paths of approach should be carefully noted and described, especially such as give facilities for approach with little exposure.

6. While first attention is paid to the more important of the forts, care should be taken not to altogether overlook ruined forts or commanding positions which might, under certain circumstances, be made use of.

7. Officers detailed on this duty will be entitled to make use of the moveable column carriage wherever it can be spared.

8. Reports are to be sent in to Army Head Quarters as completed, and the names of officers making specially clear and good reports will be brought to the favorable notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

9. Copies of all plans and reports regarding forts in the ——— Division / District which exist in this office, are herewith sent for information.

By order,
(Signed) C. C. JOHNSON, Colonel,
Offg. Quartermaster-Genl. in India.

To

The General Officer
Commanding ——— *Division.* / *District.*

3046/2

No. 455. ORDER THEREON, 12th December 1878, No. 6877.

Communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, also to the Political and Revenue Departments.

(True Extract.)
Lieut.-Colonel,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.
" Political Department.
" Revenue Department. with 6 c/cs for

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Annual Dispatch
No 57 of 1878
Govt of India.

MILITARY.

To

THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL, &c.,
&c.,
&c.

Dated December, 1878.
Recd. 13 Decr. 78.
Read.

G.O., 12th December 1878, No. 1317.

S.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 454-455.

Communicating letter from the Government of India approving the circular proposed to be issued by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India for the collection of information regarding all the forts and fortified positions in India not actually garrisoned by British troops.

Copies sent to the Secretary of State for War
Secretary to the Government of India
16 Dec 78

9 To the Board of Ord 17 Dec