The entries made in pencil
on the margin in the volume
were made with the help of
the papers in the bundle at
the time of the weeding and
destruction of records

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B

2087

Tom Sturgeon 11th April 1797

Upon the enspection, and many
information, on the subject now under
consideration, in either of its component
parts, will be agreable to the Board, I
the Commissioner have subjoin a Report
of the Manufactory of Salt Petre in the
Zemindarry of Pittapore, by Doctor
Hugon, which they have been obligingly
favoured with.

The mode of manufacturing is
used by the Natives, is the following, In
the month of November, after the rains
are over, the Salt Renter sends People
out early in the morning before sun-
rise daily after your read, to search the
Mouldering Earth they find at the bottom
of old Walls, a fine earth, which is
shows signs of having attracted the
moisture of the air more than the
other, and which therefore has a
blackish colour. —

The

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The Salt Petre being on a
Superior Digree more soluble than
Mur Salts, and more so when not
quite saturated with the acid, it attracts
the moisture of the air and Dew, and
parts with it only when the heat of the
Sun, at 8 or 9 O'Clock dispersing it of
the same; retaining those parts which
contribute to its intire saturation with
the acid. —

The Earth brought to the working
Place, is there put on a heap, and if
sufficient hands are employed it
dispersed immediately, or if otherwise
it is allowed to remain two or three
months longer exposed to the air, during
which they take care to turn the heap
at least once a month. By pursuing
this, it is but natural that more of those
airy particles (Mephetic Gas and
vital air) which constitutes the Nitre
and, will unite with its alkaline basis

and

2089 Tom Lgunge W.K April 1797

and thereby render the native product
more abundant. —

This Earth is then put into
large Cisterns or Pits, and Water poured
upon it. From this the impregnated
Water is let off into others, and evaporated
by heat. The product which arises may
be computed at 1/16 of the earth used;
it is in very small Crystals, mixed
with a great share of heterogeneous
particles, and is called Salt Petre of
the first boiling. In this state, it
is hardly fit for any use, and must
therefore undergo a purification, which
is obtained by dissolving it again
in water and obtaining and re-
Crystallizing it, by which it is
rendered sufficiently pure for
common use. The Natives find it,
in common, advisable to keep
it some months in the Store Houses,
before they subject to this process. —

The

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The Price is there from 18 to 20 Ps per Candy of 500 ℔s

From Prospect who make it Privately I have learnd, that a Candy of the first Boiling, with come / inclusive of their trouble / for collecting the earth &c / is about 5 Ps which they sell for 6. and to give which a second boiling will reqeire from one to one & an half Pagoda more, but then they lose 1/3 or 1/2 upon the weight or quantity. —

This year the Renter, have engaged to make 100 Candies of Salt Petre, and I dare say he could make a great deal more, if he would employ more People for as it is incumbrantible first, it may be considerd, that all old Walls, especially those in large Cities, which are

made

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made from the earth, on the Streets, and
especially on such Roads as are traveled by
Cattle, produce Salt Petre; which will yield
a greater quantity in proportion as the
original soil is a vegetable one. This is
not owing the animal reasoning, or a
superstition of what every inquirer may
learn from conversation with the
Natives on this subject. I have taken pains
to ascertain it, and therefore collected the
earth on gulf at Samulcottah, and other
neighbouring places, and depositated it &c &
do not hesitate to pronounce, that in the
neighbouring Zemindaries, Salt Petre may
be made to a very large amount. The
Natural Stock will also never be exhausted;
for the earth which this year has been
depositated, attracts rapidly a new portion
of Salt Petre, and yields the next year as
much again, especially if Cattle is
permitted to remain for some time
upon it, an interesting observation

F.

 Tom St George 11th April 1797

of the natives, is that in years when the
rains are abundant, a greater share of
Salt Petre may be expelled, than in others;
a circumstance which should persuade
us almost to believe, that rain water
conveys along with it some particles which
favour the formation of Salt Petre, &
perhaps destroy one; as it is known, that
by passing an electric spark thro' moist
air, and atmospherical impure air,
Cavendish converted it into nitric acid

Another observation, which
probably would not be thought trivial or
uninteresting is, that the natives use
the same kind of earth that contains
Salt Petre, for a good manure for sugar
Fields, Chilley Gardens, and those lands
which they want to cultivate with the
Grain called Natchenny.

The mode in which the natives
manufacture this Salt, is extremely
simple, but by no means the best, if we

advert

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advert to the profits that may be expected
to arise from such a business. The Pots
the chiefs are subject to constant breakage,
and consequent loss of Salt Petre and the
product itself might be rendered less
susceptible of improvements more advantageous,
particularly if the evaporation was made
in some what large Vessels, and of thin sheet
copper, and the defiquations in Pots of
brick and Chunam, lined with thin
sheet Copper in order to prevent the
unsaturated Nitre from absorbing the
Chunam, by which it would not only be
debased, but the work itself
continually hurt.

By this mode the product
would be more abundant, & by the 1st
boiling, such Petre could be produced
equal in quantity to that of the
Natives of the 2nd boiling; as by enquiries I
have found, that the earth contains no
heterogeneous saline particles. A further
undeniable

undeniable fact, is, that Furnaces properly
constructed, consume, proportionably, a less
quantity of Wood, than many when they
are of a contrary sort; and that also fewer
hands are required in those large Works,
by which the expence of making it is of
course much reduced. -

In order to ascertain, that no
great quantity can be made upon the
present footing, it is only necessary to attend
to the mode used by the Natives. They
in the first place enter into an agreement
with the Renter for the Liberty of making
it, and for the delivery to the Rajah
from six to eight Candies of Gun powder;
and when they make most they employ
about 30 men to collect the earth, the
expence of which is about 150 Pagodas;
upon which footing they generally
make 80 Candies, and have still to
encounter the heavy expence of Pots and
Firewood; which with other smaller
articles

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articles, make the Seam for manufacturing
and refining, amount from 10 to 11 Pags
per Candy, by which they generally are
losers, altho it is to be remarked, that
this is only the Renters own Report.

The quality being very important,
(altho I understand that trials have
already been made by some Gentlemen)
I thought it incumbent upon me to
examine into it and found,

First, that the Saltpetre of the E. Boiling
is rendered impure by the great quantity
of earthy particles which are admitted, for
neither have I been able to discover by
a slow evaporation that any other
salt Crystals, require either a greater
proportion of Water to hold them
in solution or that they are equally
soluble in hot as in Cold Water, (the
Common Salts) and will therefore
Crystallize, and precipitate themselves,

whilst

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whilst this Salt Petre, by one of its s
pecial properties, is held in solution
by the heat of the Water.—

Secondly, a Solution of this Salt Petre,
turns in common the blue vegetable
juices, reddish, and afterwards destroys
their colour totally, a sign that the n
itrous acid, is not quite saturated
with alkali enough; to turn which
circumstance to advantage, a s
mall quantity of ashes may be added to the
solution of the Salt petre, which
will render it clearer, and containing
the required basis of the Salt petre
and will of course increase the q
uantity of the product considerably.

Thirdly, When thrown upon a
burning Coals, it detonates without
a crackling noise, a sign of its being
uncontaminated with common Salt.

Fourthly,

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Tom's Ginger 11th April 1797

Fourthly, It is equally unreasonable for to
making Gunpowder, with this difference
only, that the Powder-mills the Grain is
immediately, & this I believe is to be ascribed
to the great quantity of Water of Crystallizā-
tion which it contains, having been so
allowed rather slowly to evaporate, and
to take its proper Crystalline form. The
Gunpowder, on the contrary, requires dust
Nitre, that has the form of large masses,
of an irregular figure, and which of
course does not contain so much water
of Crystallization. The Gunpowder
fabricated by the Natives, is a mixture
of 4½ parts of dust Nitre, one part of
Brimstone, and one part of Coals of the
"Asclepias Gigantea."—

Fifthly, It is not affected by exposure
to the air, even not that of the first &
boiling which shows its being unadulter-
ated with the calcareous Salts.—

Tho Ginger.

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Sir Ashley, It cools the water as well, if not better, than the Bengal Saltpetre.

Sir Ashley. The Vitriolic acid does precipitate a substance from a solution of this Saltpetre; and in fact I do not know how substances Earth could ever be contained in it as no traces of this can the on the surface or upper strata of the earth hereabouts can be observed. —

If more convincing proofs however should be required, to shew its being far, from a heterogeneous Salt, and especially of those that contain the Muriatic acid, as of common Salt, Let before fusion of Sylvius ver and the calcareous Marine Salt, it might also satisfied from a retort with the acid of vitriol, which will unite with the alkaline and earthy basis, and the nitric acid will come over into the receiver.

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If this should dissolve Tin, it is a sure sign of its containing Marine Salt, & it will of course be an aqua regia; but if it should only corrode that a metal, it may be depended upon as a being perfectly pure.

I should with pleasure have instituted such an experiment, if the want of the distillery apparatus had not rendered it impracticable.

After having thus briefly stated several facts for ascertaining the quality of the Salt petre that is found here, and what may be reputed in regard to the quantity, I beg leave to suggest a few words more, on the mode of manufacturing it, which I dare to pronounce, will never arrive at any degree of perfection or a respectability, as long as it remains in the hands of the Natives entirely.

It is sufficiently obvious, that the

want

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want of enterprize, of industry, and of the
necessary knowledge, wch for ever kept
the manufacture in such a state of
insignificancy, as might
at length produce a determination to
stop all speculation upon the subject,
and to relinquish a scheme which
under proper management, would be
found to produce so material an
increase in quantity, and improvement
in quality as would have proved more
than sufficient to recommend very
encouragement that can be afforded
to it. -

In the beginning, such an
undertaking would certainly be
attended with much Expence, and an
apparent disadvantage, on the
manufacturing adult; so that the present
price of the Salt petre would become
necessary to be allowed to an
enterprizer,

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interfering, and continued for two years
at least, as the best encouragement which
can be given by Government, in case
they should see it convenient to contract
for it, & then that they will take the whole
quantity that may be fabricated. after
that period, it will naturally admit
of being lowered; provided however, that
the Zemindars do not require more
Rent than custom has authorized them
from time immemorial to draw
from this article, and indeed I hear they
are already willing to increase their
claim of Rent, from the little intelli-
gence they have received of the intention
of Government to prosecute the
manufacture.—

The President Sir Hunter in
this District, seems extremely
desirous of entering into an Engage-
ment for the provision of it, in
conjunction

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conjunction with an European who
understands it, but expense and
apprehension of the Rajahs aversion
raising an increase of Rent

This year he has engaged (as I
mentioned) to deliver 100 Candies and
promises with a little pecuniary
assistance, to procure next year at least
500 Candies. It admits therefore of
little doubt, but under intelligent
management, this quantity, even in
their confined way of conducting it, may
be doubled and trebled, and indeed
increased at pleasure.

Penetrated however with a just
Idea of the importance of the manufacture
of Salt Petre, to the immediate interests
of the East India Company, and of the
State, I would humbly recommend,
that it be taken up and prosecuted
by the Government, in that manner
that may appear to them to be most

expedient,

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appointment for its being established upon the best footing that the circumstances of the Country, and of the People, may permit, as the surest means of promoting the future success."

The Committee have pursued with much pleasure and attention, the Process at Bombay for improving the Gunpowder and in noting their progress, having at the same time reference to the mode followed at this place and at Bengal in the Manufactory, proceed to point out such improvements as appear to them may be introduced with advantage at Fort St George.—

The attention of the Bombay Committee appears first to have been directed to the construction of the Furnaces used in refining, from which they observe an obvious source of waste to have arisen, in the quantity of

fuel

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full made use of which experience had taught them to believe were three times more than was absolutely necessary in the proper construction. Reports are in circulation however of the Gunpowder at the Madras Powder Works, which already appear tolerably perfect. The Committee therefore do not recommend any alteration to be made in them at present.

The next and most essential article, namely the refinement of the Salt Petre, that has fallen under their inspection, is managed at Bombay in so superior a style that the Committee have no hesitation in adopting their opinions in their utmost latitude, not only as the most efficacious and cheapest method that can be employed of cleansing the Nitre from foreign substances, but as

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so perhaps the only Mode should be
followed in making of Gunpowder.

The Committee therefore recommend
that whatever quantity of Nitre may be
obtained from the two washings that
quantity alone should be suffered to enter
into the Composition. The Nitre obtained
from the second washing, being
tolerably pure may be sold in the
Market, to make use as much as
possible for the use of Fort Saint
Georg as generally received from Bengal,
treated in the Bombay mode and
afterwards crystallized would be
extremely very pure, and the advantage
of one after Crystallization would
be, that every Impurity or sandy particles
would fall to the bottom, and prevent
the possibility of accidents to be
apprehended in the Manufacture,
without the Nitre being dried in
solution and afterwards crystallized.—

Thos

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The Committee would therefore recommend that it should be invariably done, and the Crystallization carried on be attended with much expence, & requiring only as much Salt as can be sufficient & water to hold the Nitre in solution — if however the expence of the Crystallization should be considered an object, from the experience of Bombay, very good Gunpowder has widerly been made without it.

The Bombay Process may be even improved, by agitating the Nitre and water, by which means all the light earthy and vegetable impurities come to the surface, or are mixed with the water; and by passing this water immediately through Cloths, they are got rid of — The same waters to be again returned on the Nitre & and similarly treated, as long as any impurities can be thus separated;

when

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when the water is to be returned, it is
to remain on the Nitre all night. —
No loss can be sustained in this way,
as what the water can hold in solution
is inproper & the nitre being heavy
and immediately settling to the bottom
can easily be seperated — The Nitre that
we have had thus purified, is of a very
good white colour — Thirty Parcheles
cannot however be thus seperated, the
nitre therefore must be powdered —
and purified three time. and the
powders are reduced for the latter
reason to recommend it, and from a
belief, that Powder made in this way,
will not cost at Madras but three H
pagodas more per Candy than it
does at present, and that in time, it
will be considerably cheaper than it

Powder

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Powder imported from Bengal, where
the Saltpetre is included. — another
advantage to be derived from the
adoption of this plan, and which
the Committee must consider of the
utmost importance, is, that Gun-
Powder thus made, would scarcely
ever alter, and thereby produce
immense savings were it adopted
to the Public in the article of musquet
Cartridges alone; for it being indispensibly
necessary to have a large quantity of them
ready made up, where it is supposed
to the air under a large surface the
Cartridges soon become moist and
unfit for service, as it at present ins-
tanced in those now under examina-
tion at the Laboratory, and notwithstanding
the

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the dampness of the magazine may
fairly be brought in to the account,
it is at the same time evident that
the foreign Salts with which the Powder
is contaminated by attracting the
moisture, is the principal if not
the sole cause of their being damaged.

The Gentlemen at Bombay,
with their usual attention proceed next
to notice the water used in the
manufactory there, and every one
who considers this circumstance, must
have been equally surprised in finding
it so long to have escaped observation.
That would have though not liable to
such serious objection, yet containing
a small quantity of sea salt, but is
sufficiently proper however for every
purpose

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purpose except in mixing with the composition, and as no water can be more pure from every thing hurtful to the composition of Gunpowder than rain water, and it would be no very expensive matter to save in casks a sufficient rain water in the monsoon Season for all that can be wanted in the mixing the materials. — With such attention, Gunpowder will not suffer from long keeping. — pure nitre having no tendency to attract moisture. —

The Committee observe that in the 4th article of the Bengal Proceedings a preference is given to the Salt-Petre of Oude, known in Commerce by the name of Shawnpore Salt-Petre,

and

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and it has been found superior to
any other produced in Bengal, notice
should certainly be taken of this, and
the Patna salt Petre only substituted
when the other is not to be had. —

Under the 6th article of the
same proceeding, the Committee observe
that the Gombroon sulphur is much
the best of any that has been met
with, and believed to be superior
to any known in the world. This
character should as certainly give
it a preference, and the substitution of
Sulphur from Arabia or Manilla
should only take place, when the
Gombroon sulphur can not be got.
and it occurs to the Committee that
it might not only be obtained through
the medium of the Company's native
agents

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agent at Muscat, but that with a little address we might be enabled to ascertain Tippoo Sultaun's Market, who is stated to have engrossed the whole to himself, by the same means or by the establishment of another agent on the Island of Ormuze or at Gombroon itself. –

The Committee would certainly recommend the Bengal mode of preparing Charcoal and choice of the Materials to be adopted here in the Manufacture of Gunpowder its being of too hard or too soft a grain depends greatly on the firmness of the Powder and nature of the wood chosen. – after the alterations proposed, it can make but little additional expence to make the preparing the Charcoal

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Charcoal, part a Scientific Person's
Duty, to see that the proper Wood only
is used, that the Pieces to be charred,
are not Knotty, and that none but
what are properly charred enter into
the Composition. — Proper Charcoal
should be in large pieces of a shining
black, free of Knots and brittle. —
most of the Plants mentioned in Mr
Targehar's Papers may be had in
abundance here and a Letter opinion
can soon ascertain which of them will
afford the best charcoal. The Plant used
here (Sooroie) is considered in Bengal
as of too soft a grain and consequently
making Gunpowder dusty. The
Indigo plant considered better,
is to be found here in sufficient
abundance both in a Wild and
cultivated

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cultivated State. – The Morelle Kanta which is pursued above all others is probably also in abundance here, – when by reference to Bengal it is known what the botanical Characters are, for all the Mimosas grow with luxuriance on this Coast. – This information Doctor Berry will endeavours to obtain from Doctor Roxborough, the Company's Botanist at Calcutta. –

The Committee coincide in opinion with the Gentlemen at Bombay, in regard to the granulating of the Powder, and as it has frequently come within their observation, that large grained or what is called coarse Powder, does not inflame so readily, or stand so good a proof, as fine,

as this

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at the expence of the same composition,
and as many inconveniencies otherwise
accrue from the use of it, by sending it
into Batteries for pruning and purchasers
from inattention or wilfully in making
up musquet Cartridge of it, where in
the former case it is apt to choake the
vent, and in the latter to misfire altogether,
because of the grain being to large to
enter it. The Committee recommend
that in future, the Sieves for seperating
coarse, be entirely laid aside, and only
the medium and fine Powder be
manufactured hereafter.

That part of the Process, comprehended
under the articles of wetting, Milling and
perfecting the Composition at Bombay, the
Committee do not mean to direct
much upon, as they apprehend, the

Mode

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pursuant Such accidents as have
hitherto occurred, during this part of
the Process. —

The Gentlemen at Bombay
observe they have uniformly kept
to the proportion of 75 per Cent of
Salt Petre in the composition of
Gun Powder, the proportion of the
other Ingredients not having been
hitherto exactly considered upon; the
Committee agree in the opinion
regarding the proportion of the
Petre, and as it is the same followed
at Madras, they have directed, — In
order that the Board may have the
subject fully before them, three 100 lbs
Barrels to be immediately prepared —
the first of the common process heretofore
used — the second from Nitre after
two washings as at Bombay and
the

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the other from Nellore of two washings and one
Levigation.—

The Proportion of the Composition in
each tube.—

75. Saltpetre

11.5 Sulphur

13.5 Charcoal

100 and that those several Powders
be submitted to the usual proof, and again
after an exposure, in the manner prescribed,
in the open air for 24 hours, from which the
Committee apprehend the Board will have
the result of the improvement in the Manufac-
tory as recommended from Bombay, fully
before them, and from thence be enabled
of themselves to judge of the expediency
of its adoption and subsequent recommenda
tion to Government.

In regard to the mode observed
in

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in Proving the Powder at Bengal and
Bombay, the Committee are aware, that
it is a Thing much to be desired to know,
that every Barrel is not only proof, but
that not less Powder is contained in the
Barrel than there should be, and
which can only be ascertained by an
Officer attending at the Powder Mills &
seeing it weighed, but as this will be
imposing an extra Duty, they beg leave
to recommend, in the want of it &
meeting the Ideas of the Board, That
he be allowed some specific Sum,
monthly for this Duty, and that the
same Officer shall be pervaded as all
Proofs, that he may be able to
certify to the quality as well as the
quantity of the Powder contained in
each entire Barrel. The Consideration

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of this Board the Committee to the
Subject of Powder Barrels, which they
Want to should be Kept upon the Store
Returns, until they are regularly
surveyed and condemned by a
Committee appointed for that purpose,
either by a special order of the Military
Board, or the Officer Commanding
the Particular Station, to be countersigned
by him, and transmitted for the Boards
approval. When the Serviceable,
shall be kept entire, and when ordered
sent to the annual or Powder Mills,
and the unserviceable only written
off - the Store Returns. -

Impressed with the
importance of the subject, in a general
point of view; the Committee foresee

That

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That much attention will be required to conduct the different processes with regularity and economy and therefore submit to the consideration of the Board, whether the proposal of the Deputy Commissary Mr Bishop, transmitted by the Storekeeper, some time since to Government, might not at this time be brought forward, with advantage to the Service.—

Proposal for making Gunpowder by Contract

I offer to make Gunpowder at the rate of thirty three Pagodas per Candy and take all expences of the mills on my own account (accidents only excepted) for a period of five years, and give such security for the due performance of this Contract as is

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is usual on such occasions. —

I will also use the Standard for Proof to be measured to one Thousand yards, at present it is only 900, but I shall be permitted to attend the Proof. The Powder shall be served as at present by the Commanding Officer of Artillery, or in his absence such other Person as Govern= ment may appoint. —

I also offer to make up 600 Barrels monthly, each Barrel containing 100 lbs of Gunpowder, or more if required: provided when an increase is demanded I am allowed to erect another byliver or Mill, which I offer to do at my own expence, Government permitting me to use their Horse and allow me 2/3 the rate of 36 Pagodas per Candy for all such

such Powder as shall be delivered
monthly exceeding 600 Barrels, and if
this increase should be ordered, before
the first two years of the Contract are
expired, and I should deliver in extra
Powder in consequence of the annual
of 1080 Candy or three hundred Barrels
- extra per month for three years, then
in such Case the Mills shall become the
Honble Companys Property. Or, if after
the expiration of two years an increase
shall be necessary, I will erect the Mills
and make oath to its actual Cost, &
Government allowing me 10 per Cent
on its value, and one Pagoda increase
on every Candy, exceeding the rate of
600 per month or 720 Candy per
annum. -

The Honble Company to have Sumnich
Salt Petre as at present at the rate of 11½
Pagodas

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Pagodas per barrel, or allow one to
purchase it, in Calicut or any other
place where it may be procured with
the privilege of importing free of Duty, such
quantities as may be necessary for the
Manufacture. But if Government agree
to furnish it, and at any time may
not have a sufficient quantity, and Farm
ordered to purchase it. The Price shall
be determined by a Certificate from the
Merchant who sold it, or an Oath made
by me before a Magistrate, in which
case the Price of Gunpowder shall be
increased in proportion to the price of
the Salt Petre. —

The same Guard of Sepoys
for the protection of the Mills, and the
six Lascars for the repair of the Fences to
remain

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remain, and such articles as are
delivered from the arsenal for payment,
and cannot be procured elsewhere shall
be delivered in continually, except such
articles as remain the Company's property
and are returned monthly with the other
articles at the Mills, none of which shall
be written off until examined and ordered
by a Deputation from the Military
Board. This article is below under-
stood to apply to materials of Brass
and Copper, all others must unsparingly
be dealt with as at present that is
written off and replaced with others
at any expence.—

The Powder to be paid for as
follows, half the amount of each
months Powder to be advanced in Cash,
and the Remainder to be paid when the
Powder

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Powder has been reported Proof by the Officer appointed to prove it which shall always be done before the 15th of each ensuing Month. –

All the Powder not Proof to be returned on my Hands. on the above terms I am ready at any time to commence the Contract. –

(Signed) B. Bishopp

D. Commissy – Stores

Fort St George
20th June 1796

The Committee have turned their Attention in their minds and subjected the Intention in their minds, and however desirable they may be of Mr. Bishopp Merit and ability to conduct such an Undertaking; and however otherwise desirable it is to ascertain by means of a Contract the actual Expence attending the manufacture of Gun Powder – it never the less

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has not existed there. That under a Contract there may be more room for abuse and deception, on the part of the Contractor, than in the case of an agency, where an open and liberal profit is awarded, and foreseeing that imposition in this article is less liable to detection and may occur at a period of Service, involving the most serious consequences to the Company and to the Nation at large.— The Committee submit with every deference to the Board, whether the same Plan followed at Bengal should not be the standard for us to go by upon the Coast, that is That the Company should bear every expence of the Manufacture which is conducted by a Scientific man, as an agent, and who is to be allowed for every 100 lbs Bored of Powder delivered by him, and shall regularly gone

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gone through the prescribed process, and
been submitted to the usual proof; or that
a Contract be preferred.

The Committee in either case
presume to recommend to the Board, Mr
Bishop, who has had 10 years experience
at the Powder Mills, as a Person, well
qualified for the conducting of this
Business, either in the capacity of Agent,
or Contractor, as the Board may think
proper to recommend.

The three following experiments
were directed by the Committee and
conducted by Mr. Bishop.

First, 150 lbs of crude dale petre being finely
powder, and put into a Tub, with a cock
at the bottom. Fifty Pounds of pure water
which is 40 per Cent, was pour upon it, and

The

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The whole was agitated. It remained in this State 24 hours when it was agitated again, and while the water was thick & muddy, as much of it was poured off as could be done without carrying off any Nitre. The remainder was drawn off by the Cock at the bottom of the Tub, by this means the major part of the earth and vegetable matter was extricated, which if the whole had been drawn off by the Cock, must have remained mixed with the Salt Petre. —

The Nitre was found to have lost by this Operation 21½ Per Cent, 21½ — 150 = 128.5. The weight of Salt Petre remaining after the first washing. —

37½ pounds of water or 25 per Cent on the original weight of Salt-petre was now put on the Nitre remaining and after

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after standing another 24 hours, and
agitated as before, it was drawn and
poured off, when it was found to have
lost 13 per Cent, making the whole loss
of the two washing 34 1/2 per Cent. It was
then dried, and on being powdered and
weighed, 96 lbs of very pure salt petre
was got back fit for the purposes of the
manufacture, so that the loss of the whole
process of refining Salt Petre by two washings
is found to be 54 pounds out of 150, or
exactly 36 per Cent. It is to be observed
however that the Salt Petre now at the
Powder Works is of a very indifferent
quality. —

October 26th 1796 At 12 o'Clock
the 96 lbs of Salt petre refined by
two washings was put into the
smallest

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smallest boiler at the Powder
Works and boiled in the usual
manner, the Water used altogether
in this process was 96 pounds. —

At 3 Oclock the boiling was
finished, and the Solution loaded
off through double strainers into
a Copper cooler to crystallize; and
after standing as usual 2 days, the
Crystals were taken out, strained thro a
Basket and found to weigh whilst
wet 97 lbs. —

October 28th. The water remaining
after the first crystallization was
boiled again in the usual manner,
and after standing 2 days to Crystallize,
the Crystals were taken out, and on
being strained, they were found to
weigh 14 pounds while wet. These 14
pounds

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pounds being added to the 97 pounds
of Crystals obtained before, made a
total of 111 pounds, which being dried
sufficiently over a fire, gave of pure
nitre 85 pounds, so that the loss incurred
by refining Salt Petre, with 2 washings
and Crystallization, is 43 1/3 per Cent,
exclusive of the Nitre remaining in the
waters of the first and second washing

Experiment 2.nd

October 30.th At 9 o'clock A.M. Two
parcels of Salt petre were exposed to a
hot Sun on a Chunam Terrace, one
parcel refined according to Experiment
1.st — by two washings and one —
Crystallization, — The other was Salt=
=petre refined at the Powder works
according to the System hitherto
in use, and taken from a large
Bin of refined Nitre at the Powder
mills. —

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At 4 oClock P.M. both parcels were
taken from the Terrace, and separately
powdered in a Marble Mortar, an ounce
of each was accurately weighed, with a
Balance sensible to half a Grain, and
spread on two sheets of Royal Paper, the
Papers were laid on a Table in an
upstairs room with the Windows shut,
and the Nitre on each Paper being spread
as thin as possible they remained in
that state until next morning at 9 oClock
they were weighed again, and the Nitre
refined by experiment 1st had not acquired
the smallest addition to its weight, it even
appeared rather lighter, occasioned pr
probably by the loss of a few particles. —
Hence it is plain, that nitre refined by
two washings, and one crystallization
is perfectly pure — The Nitre of the Madras
Powder works had gained an increase
of 71 Grains. —

Thrac

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Three ounces of each kind of
Salt petre were exposed at the same
time in a crystalline form, and
that refined by two washings and
one crystallization was not the least
altered in weight, but the nitre of
the works had gained an increase
of nearly three grains. This points
out the necessity of pulverizing the
nitre, before it is examined by this
test, and pulverization admits of its
being exposed under a large
surface and the action of the
air and the salts contained in it
has then its full power. N
Nothing can better exemplify this
than the present experiment; and
Gunpowder being similar to this
proof must consequently be
proportionably affected —

The weights made use of in this
experiment were apothecaries, and are
divided as follows, 20 Grains 1 Scruple,
3 Scruples 1 Dram, and 8 Drams 1 o
ounce

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ounce Troy. — and as parts of any
Denomination are proportional to their
Wholes, grains may be considered as
pounds, hundreds or bandies, that is
the proportions hereby ascertained
are the same when applied to any
other weights. —

The moisture imbibed by
the Salt petre of the Madras Powder
works proved by this experiment is
$6\frac{54}{71}$ parts of the whole, or 14.79 Per Cent,
so that 100 lbs of Nitre, by one nights
exposure, even in a dry room, would
acquire near 15 pounds of water and
other humid matter, a quantity
sufficient to destroy the quality of any
Gunpowder. This proves the cause
of the damage sustained by the Musquet
Cartridges lately examined, and much
more also, that no uniform effect can
be expected from Gunpowder made with
Salt-petre refined after the manner
followed at present. —

Experiments

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Experiment 3d

November 7th - 8th An ounce of Charcoal made from the Dale Bush, was dried over the fire, and found to have lost by the operation 16 Grains. It was again compounded to an ounce, with Charcoal dried in the same manner. - it was then spread on a sheet of Paper, and exposed in the same room with for the experiment on Salt Petre; In the morning it was found to have increased in weight 18 Grains, nearly 3 3/4 Per Cent.

This proves, that if the Salt Petre with which Gunpowder is compounded is ever so pure, it will notwithstanding imbibe some moisture by exposure to the atmosphere, tho by no means in so large a proportion as appears by the above experiment of the Charcoal; the humidity imbibed by the Charcoal, when mixed with the other ingredients in the composition of Gunpowder, does not permanently injure its quality,

&c.

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as in the case with the moisture imbibed by an inferior quality of Salt petre, for an hours drying will restore the Gunpowder in the first instance to its original strength, but in the second, the moisture causes the Salt Petre to shoot into minute Crystals and thereby destroys the Powder which no drying can ever restore. —

Experiment 4.th — made with two parcels of Gunpowder, the first made with Saltpetre, refined in the usual Manner at the Madras Powder Works; the second with Nitre purified after the method recommended by the Bombay Committee, that is to say, by two Washings and one Crystallization; the proportions used were ordered by the Committee and were as follows. —

Nitre 75

Sulphur 11.5

Charcoal 13.5 = 100 pounds

A quantity of each was proved the whole day (the 6.th of November) on a dry Thursday

Fresh

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Terra; in the morning an ounce of each was weighed and exposed in an open upstairs room with the Windows shut, on two sheets of white paper — The night was wet with much thunder, — the next morning each parcel was weighed, and that made with the Madras Salt Petre, had gained an increase of weight of nearly 61 Grains which is 12¾ per Cent nearly. The parcel made with the nitre refined by two washings and one Crystallization, had gained an increase of two Grains only, and is not one half per Cent. — Part of this, probably the whole may have been imbibed by the Charcoal. The disposition of which, to attract moisture can perhaps never be entirely prevented; but the portion imbibed in this instance is so small in comparison with the quantity imbibed by the Salt petre as refined at Madras, that it scarce requires notice, because it will

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will not sensibly affect the strength of the
Powder, and part, if not the whole being
probably imbibed by the Charcoal, one or
Hours Drying will always restore it to its
original strength, whereas the moisture
attracted by the present Madras Powder,
is principally by the Saltpetre, as has
been proved by the foregoing experiments,
which amount to a moral certainty, destroy
the composition, and will cause the Salt-
petre to shoot into minute Crystalls, and
thereby injure the mass so effectually, as
to render it a difficult, if not an impossible
task, to restore it to its original strength.

Madras
12th November 1796

(Signed) Thomas Gills
President

To Masters of the Saltpetre and
Charcoal accompany it - for Circulation

Dear General -

I have received an answer from
Doctor Roxburgh regarding the Botanical
names

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names of the plants mentioned by Mr. —
Farquhar as affording the best charcoal for
Gun Powder.

1st The Baltis of the Bangalore is
the Instiera Adhatoda of Linnaeus not
cultivated here. —

2d Arroot is the Cytisus Cajan
of Linnaeus, the Dole plant of this Coast,
to be had in sufficient abundance.

3d Nonkaree — Euphorbia
Tirukalli of Linnaeus the common —
milk Hedge

4th Danchal, called by Doctor —
Koenig Rothyanaiore Cannabina, from
the Bark being used to make Cordage
by Fishermen — it is called by the —
Natives Hulchaddie, and generally
found growing in Tanks — least,
your people should not know it
by this name, I send a little of the
seed, it will soon come to its full —
growth. —

5th — Centre of the Bangalore, called

by

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by Doctor Roxburgh Robinia Sayomenta,
being its Telinga name, it is described in
the 4th Vol. of the Asiatick Researches
Page 297. N. 60. – it is the Chumba well
known here, and used for having Fences of
quick growth its Telinga name, I find is,
Seyendee Chittoo – so that Doctor Roxburgh
has made a little mistake in his
Telinga name

6th Mondle Kanta, Doctor Roxburgh
does not know – but Mr Targuhar has
promised to send Seeds to Bombay,
for the plant and flowers, so that I shall
probably soon learn its name, and likely
find it on this Coast, where all the Mimosa
grow luxuriantly

I am obliged to you for the
4th Volume of Toureroy, but am sorry
that I cannot in return send you Lavoisier,
I have not yet received it from Tanjore,
Excuse this hasty scrawl, and believe me,
December 20th 1796 Yours sincerely

(Signed) And.w Berry

True Copy –

(Signed) Lord. Rivers
Dy Military Board
Lisb

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List of the Packet

		Dates
	Report to Government	4th April 1797
No. 1	Minute of the Chief Engineer	23 March
2	Minute of the Military Auditor General	30th — —
3	Minute of the Commandant of Artillery	27th — —
4	Minute of the Adjutant General	3d April —
5	Minute of the Quarter Master General	2nd — —
6	Minute of the Commander in Chief	3d — —
7	Additional Minute of the Commandant of Artillery, subscribed to by the Commissary General of Stores	2nd — —
8	Additional Minute of the Chief Engineer	3d — —
9	Additional minute of the Military Auditor General	3d — —
10	Proceedings of a Committee of the Military Board on the Process of manufacturing Gunpowder at Bengal and Bombay	12 Novr 1796
11	Letter from Doctor Berry to Major General Gils	20th Decr 96

Military Board Office 8th April 1797

(Signed) Thos. Pierce
Sub Military Board
Having

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Minute upon the foregoing Papers submitted by the military Board on the subject of Gunpowder.

Having given the subject a consideration to the subject, which it's important demands, the Board decidedly concur in the opinion of the military board, that the most efficient means of providing Gunpowder at this presidency is by agency: resolved therefore that this article shall in future be provided by an agent under the immediate superintendance of the military Board, and that Mr Benjamin Bishop be appointed to superintend the Manufacture of Gun powder, under their orders with a fixed salary of sixty pagodas per month, for his labor and responsibility.

To The Right Honorable Lord Hobart

Governor in Council

&c &c &c

From the military Board submitting for the consideration of Government a proposed Draught of a General order for introducing the new system for

My Lord,

We have the honor to lay before your Lordship in Council herewith, a proposed Draft of a General order

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for the ordonnance and Store Departments together with a Code of Regulations for defining the Powers and Duties of their Boards — and minutes of the Departments Members on the Subject, Submitted the Propriety of the Members of Settling Precedence according to their army Rank — and of expunging that article, which gives the Governor a Seat at their Boards

order for introducing the new System for the ordnance and Store Departments, together with Regulations defining the Powers and Duties of their Boards, both of which having undergone a very particular and minute discussion, and being accompanied by the several Minutes and Papers delivered in on the subject, We hope will make your Lordships to form a decisive judgment thereupon, so that the outline which may meritoriously be approved, may be published in sufficient time to give the System effect on the commencement of the Official year 1797/8 — an Object, which we conceive to be highly desirable, and which has induced Us to submit only the general Plans to your Lordships consideration, without waiting to complete the detailed Regulations, which being of considerable extent, will require a further investigation before they are in a state to be laid before Government — but we beg leave to assure your Lordships that no time shall be lost in effecting it. —

J. H.

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It is proper that we should
request your Lordship's attention to the
2d Article of the proposed Regulations for
the Military Board, wherein we have
suggested an alteration respecting the
precedence of its Members, differing from
the rule in Bengal; and which we
have done on the Idea that, as it is a
Board composed entirely of Military
Officers, it is more consonant with the
principles of their profession that precedence
should result rather from Rank in the
Army, than from the periods they have
held Seats at the Board — a point
however, which we submit with
deference to the consideration of
Government.

We further beg leave to draw
your Lordship's attention to the
Minute of our President respecting
the Fifth article of the abovementioned
Regulations — which article does not

appear

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appear to have originated in the orders of
the Honorable Court of Directors, or to accord
with the practice at Bengal. –

Fort St George
7th of Aprile 1791

We have the Honor to be
Sir &c.
(Signed) " Gin: Harris
" Patrick Ross
" Thomas Gisborne
" W Tytherton
" Jn Richardson
" BJ Close
" George Hall

Regulations for the Military Board

1st. This Board as directed by the
of the Honble Company under date 21st September
1785 is to be considered as a Board of reference
and report and of check and controul on the
Military Expenditure in so far as they are not
under the separate revision and controul
of the Military auditor General and is to have
a

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a Secretary, and Deputy Secretary who are to receive Salaries besides such other assistants as may be required for transacting the business.

2. It is to be composed of the following Officers viz.t The Commander in Chief & President, the Senior Officer of the Troops at the Presidency, the Senior Officer of the artillery, the Chief Engineer, the adjutant General, the Quarter Master General, and the Military Auditor General, in all a President and six Members, only that when there shall not be any Officer specially appointed Commander in Chief, the Board will consist of the Officer at the head of the army as President, and the other Members, as with the exception of the senior Officer at the Presidency.

3. The Members are to take Precedence at the Board according to the rank they respectively hold in the army observing

already

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always that the President's seat is to be
filled by the Commander in Chief, or by
the officer at the head of the army, or
although not specially appointed Com-
mander in Chief

4 Whenever the Commander in Chief
specially so appointed or the Officer at the head of
the army, shall not be present the next Senior
Member shall be considered as the acting President,
but a Meeting of the Military Board shall not
proceed to, or continue in the dispatch of
business unless it consists of three at least

5 When any Member is prevented
from attending at the Meeting of the Board
the same be signified to the Secretary by
letter and that should this soon be
neglected by any Member, the Secretary
do insert opposite the name of such
Member the following words "absent
"without the assignment of a cause since
"the of ——.

6 Whenever any matter shall be
brought

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brought before the Military Board, relative to Estimates, Bills, or other matters of account in which any Member thereof is concerned, such Member is precluded from voting in it.

7 Whenever references are made to the Military Board by Government for their report on claims preferred by individuals, or Officers respectively, the Vouchers to which they refer and the authorities necessary for the support of, or elucidation of such claims, and the report of their proceedings to the Governor in Council, shall be accompanied with all such vouchers &c as to enable the Government to determine finally & upon them without any further reference.—

8 All Regulations of the Military Board whereby any Expence is to be incurred shall be regularly sent to the Governor in Council, and receive his confirmation

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confirmation before they are finally passed.

9 The Military Board shall from time to time send into Government for its information, copies of its proceedings, so as to bring the whole before Government, and shall annually send in to Government in the Month of September a copy of a Complete set in order that it may be transmitted to the Honble the Court of Directors.

10 It shall be the duty of the Military Board, to attend to the punctual performance of such Military Contracts or agreements, as may be communicated to them by the Right Honble the Governor in Council, and to report any failure. The Military Board from time to time shall report the progress made in all Works and Public Buildings carrying on.

11 A Return of the arms in Store in the arsenal, and Prisner Magazine at the Presidency,

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Presidency, and at all subordinate Stations, together with the number in charge of the different Corps under the heads serviceable and repairable, is to be sent to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors yearly, in duplicate in the month of September by the two first Ships. — The Military Board are also to transmit to Government annually in the month of September to be forwarded to the Hon'ble Court of Directors, in Duplicate a Return of Ordnance and Military Stores annually supplied from England for the arsenal at Fort St George, shewing the Stores proportions, the remains after the arrival of the last Ships of the season, and what is wanting to be supplied.

12 The Seal of this Board is to be affixed to all articles of Stores deposited in the Arsenal as approved musters, by which Stores are supplied for the publick Service are to be surveyed.

13 A Book of rates is to be formed by the Military Board, and submitted to the

consideration

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consideration of the Governor in Council, in order to regulate the charges for inconsiderable articles of Military Stores, which may fall to be made up at fixed rates, by Commissaries of Supply at out Stations, and the Book of rates so formed is to be revised once in two years by a Committee composed of two members of the Military Board, associated by the Commissary General of Stores at the Presidency —

11 A Book of rates shall also be formed by the Military Board, for the supply of Military Stores at the Presidency, in order that the charge for Military Stores in general on the same supplied may be regulated on the same principle as is directed for the out Stations, whenever the agent shall be ordered to perform the duty at fixed rates. —

15 It appearing from the Bengal Regulations that the Secretaries of the Military Boards at each Presidency, are reciprocally to communicate what it may be necessary

That

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That each of the Military Boards should know after the arrival of the last ships of the season at this Presidency — the Secretary of the Military Board shall communicate to the Secretaries of the Military Boards at Bengal and Bombay a List of the Supplies of Military Stores received from Europe during the season, for the information of their respective Boards.

16 Similar communications are to be made quarterly by the Secretary, of the Balance remaining in the annual and principal Magazines, under the head, annexable, of the following articles viz. Ammn, Accoutrements Cloths, ordnance, Carriages, Powder, Shot and Ammunition of every Denomination in alphabetical order.

17 Whatever communications or correspondence may be necessary to be carried on between this Board, and the Military Boards at the other Presidencies, or by their Secretary, shall be on the Subjects of the duties assigned

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assigned to this Board, and be annexed to with the approbation of, and through the Government, and not otherwise.

18 The Military Board shall meet once in every week or oftener if necessary at such place as shall be allotted for it by the Government - and as soon as possible after every Meeting of the Board, the Secretary shall send in circulation a fair Copy of the Proceedings, for the inspection of the President and Members, who are to affix the initials of their respective names, as a proof of their being correct.

19 In order that every article of the revision and controul of the Military Board, in so far as they are not under the separate revision and controul of the Military Auditor General, and in order to facilitate the dispatch of the important duties of the Board, and that the necessary

records

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records may be Kept, the following rules are to be observed.

20 Quarterly Returns of all ordnance Military Stores, arms accoutrements, and Camp Equipage monthly Returns of r receipts, Issues and Remains, in Magazine, and with Corps, and annual Returns, r including the receipts and issues, of the r whole year, and Balance remaining shall be made to the Military Board

21 That the Secretary of the Military Board, shall be considered their accountant and the proper Officer to Keep and check the accounts of the ordnance and Military Stores, and of the Provisions, from the r returns and accounts of the Receipts, & Issues, and remains of the several r Officers of custody in those Departments, and that the account of guarantees, shall accordingly be checked monthly in the Office of the Military Board.—

That

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22 That in the Office of the Military Board shall be made up annually a render separate heads on account of the Receipts. Issues and Remains as they stood on the 30th of april of each year of all articles whether of Military Stores or Provisions or other Stock the property of the Company in the Military branch of the Service and that to each account so made up the rates or value shall be annexed in the same Office to the account ensuing. —

23 The accountant General is to be furnished annually after the close of each years Books by the Secretary to the Military Board with an account of the value of all Military Stores and Provisions supplied for the Military Establishment in the course of the year distinguishing as nearly as may be practicable the value of the Issues and Expenditure to and for the Military branch of the Establishment. —

That

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24 That when advances of Cash are to be made to the agents for supplying military Stores, or any other agents or Contractors whose accounts come under the revision of the military Board, they shall be paid through the Military Paymaster General, but not before they are recommended by the Military Board to Government, and on such occasions, Government will give the necessary notice to the Military Paymaster General, that he may estimate to the extent that has been approved of by Government.

25 All orders issued through the Secretary are to be obeyed, and all applications to the Board to be addressed to him.

26 Every resolution of this Board whether published in General orders, or circulated by the Secretary, is to be entered in a book to be kept by the Commanding Officers of each Garrison, Detachment, or separate Corps, and by the Officers of

Ordnance

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Ordnance, and others, whose Duty may im-
mediately concern, which Book every
such Officer shall, when relieved deliver
over to his Successor in Command or in
Office. —

27 All Plans for new constructions,
and Improvements, in the Ordnance
branch, or for the Superintendence of
the Powder works, Laboratory, and
arsenal, shall be submitted to this
Board, as also all reports of proofs of
Ordnance and Powder —

28 A Committee of the Military Board
is to be appointed Quarterly to inspect
the state of the arsenal at the Presidency,
and the Members of the Military Board
are to act alternately as many shall visiting
members thereof, the Secretary is to
give notice at the end of every month,

&c

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to the Member whose turn it may be to visit the arsenal that ensuing month, and at the last Meeting preceding the expiration of the quarter, he shall notify the same to the Board, in order that they may appoint a new Committee for the ensuing Quarter. The Quarterly visiting Committees, and visiting Members of the arsenal, are to make written Reports to the Board of whatever they may deem worthy of remark.

29 Upon the same principles that the Members of the Military Board visit the arsenal, - The Commanding Officers of subordinate Stations shall inspect all Military Buildings and visit the Magazines of Military Stores, and Provisions, monthly, at their respective Stations &

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Stations, and examine whether the quantity,
and quality, specified in the Returns are
actually in the Magazines, or Store houses,
and report faithfully to the Military Board,
the state of the Buildings, and whether due
attention appears to be paid to the preserva-
tion and arrangement of the several Stores
Articles, and to suggest such remarks as
occur to him, for the better management
of the Department, but that there shall not
be any fixed Committees of Stores, at the
out Stations, as at present, although such
Committees may be formed by order
of the Military Board, as occasion shall
require. —

30 — To enable the Military Board to
give their attention to the state of the
Company's Forts, and all public Military
Buildings, and to report to the Governor
in

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in Council, whatever they may from time
to time think proper to be done respecting
them, the Chief Engineer, or other proper
Officers, shall lay before them, plans of
the different Fortifications, and other
Military Buildings, with accounts
of their present state, and survey Reports
shall be regularly sent to them in future,
at such stated periods as may hereafter
be determined on.

31..... all persons transmitting to the
Military Board, Bills for money
expended on public buildings, or Indents
for Materials wanted for the executing of
any public works, shall express on the
face of such Indents or Bills the authority
and date of the order or orders by which
they became authorized to make the
charge, or to indent for the materials,

and

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and all Bills or Indents not drawn out
agreable to this rule shall be returned
by the Secretary to the person from whom
they shall have been received

32 ... That Commissaries Store Keepers
or others in charge of Provisions, including
the Spirituous Liquors, provided for the
use of the troops, shall be in all respects
accountable to the Military Board, for
their Receipts, Issues and remains of
Provisions, in the same manner, as the
Commissaries or others in charge of ord-
nance and Military Stores, and shall
attend to the same forms in regard to
Returns, and keeping the accounts, subject
to such variation in the forms, as the
Military Board, shall see necessary
to direct.

33 .... The following is the arrangement of
the

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The Books for the Office of the Secretary of the Military Board.

No 1. Book of Letters dispatched with Index.

2. Minute Book

3. Fair proceedings and Duplicate for Europe.

4 Book of Regulations of the Board.

5. Book of General Orders

6. Book of Military Establishment

7. European Letter Book

8 Bill Book.

Department of Accounts

No 1 Indent Book with Index. } To consist of the
2 Returns of Magazines } Originals bound up.
3 Monthly Returns of Receipts and Issues of all Magazines Corps & Detachments of the army } The original to be bound up in the same manner with the Returns
4 Invoice Book & Index } To consist also of the originals bound up.

5 Monthly Receipts and Issues of Quantities.
6 annual account of Receipts and Issues, with their quantities.

General

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7. General annual Returns of all the ordnance and Military Stores remaining at the end of each year.

8. List of unserviceable Stores, the principal articles remaining at the end of each year to be united as nearly as can be estimated, and the amount entered in the General Abstract.

9 General Abstract

34 A Statement of arrearages that have not been complied with, accompanied by a Statement of the Quantities of the same articles remaining in the different Magazines of shewing the deficiencies of the several articles in each Magazine is to be laid before the Military Board, by the Secretary as soon as possible after the receipt in Office of the Quarterly Returns of the different Magazines, it is also to be considered his Special duty to report to the Military Board

Fort St George 11.th April 1797

Board, whenever Stores beyond the established proportions are drawn for, and to return to all Indents, to the Officers respectively who sent them that are not drawn out agreeably to the prescribed form.

35 It is to be a standing regulation that no Member of the Military Board, shall in future have any thing to do with the execution of public Works, or the Disbursement of public money, except as an Officer of Check and Controul, nor shall he have any concern with the entertaining, the hire, or the disbursement of the pay of any description of the public Servants; nor with the provision or custody of any of the Materials requisite in the construction of public Works.—

36 — The Military Board shall from time to time form for the approbation of the

Governor

2167 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Governor in Council such further Regulations
as may appear requisite for the more
Expeditious dispatch of their Business —
Four additional Paragraphs
recommended by the Military Board in their
Letter of the 26th June, and confirmed by the
Government in Council the 11th July. —

Minute of the Military Auditor General &
Special Meeting of the Military Board on
the 3rd April 1797. —

The Military auditor General
desires to record his opinion, That the orders
of the Most Regulations proposed in the
Draft of a General order by Government,
should be with as little delay as possible be
submitted to the Right Honorable the
President in Council, for altho' the
established Regulations for the More
Department may require some Revision
longer

Fort St George 11th June 1798

longer to complete, and on any appear in many parts to admit of improvement, yet as the outline above mentioned was before generally approved by the Military Board as being conformable to the Plan originally suggested by Govern.t, and according to the principle of the Regulations at Bengal, the Military Auditor General apprehends there can be no reasonable objection to its being laid before Government, and he is the more induced to press this point on the attention of the Board, as it appears to him to be of the greatest importance that the new System should commence with the official year 1797/8 to prevent the trouble, and confusion, which will be occasioned in the Books and Military accounts of this Presidency

if

2169 Fort St George 11th April 1797

if postponed to a later period, and it therefore becomes necessary, in his opinion, to publish the orders in time to enable the Commissaries, and other Officers of ordnance, to prepare charges of the Stores in the several Magazines, and to make the prescribed Returns to the Military Board as soon afterwards as possible. —

(Signed) W. Sydenham

Military Aud.r General

True Copy

(Signed) Frid. Pearce

Secretary Military Board

Minute of the adjutant General.

dated 3.d April 1797

I entirely coincide in the suggestion offered in the Minute just submitted by the Military auditor General

and

2170 Fort St George 11th April 1797

and the more so, as I conceive that
from the great length of time which has elapsed since the receipt of the
orders of Government of the 24th may
1793 the Board, in case of further
delaying to comply with the instructions
conveyed therein, may be reasonably
subjected to censure. —

I have perused the
proposed Store Regulations, and as
far as I can judge, the several articles
for the Government of the different Depart-
ments are well suited to the Service,
and as consonant to the principles of
regulation prescribed by Government,
as a just consideration of circumstances
on the Coast will conveniently permit-
with the exception only of the 13th Section
relating to Field Service, which I think
may be some what improved in
regard

2171 Fort St George 11th April 1771

regard to the wording, and duties contained
in some of the articles —

In this Idea, I must be of
opinion that the Draught of the preliminary
order should be sent in immediately to Govern-
ment with the recommendation of the
Board that it may be published, by which
the proposed system may be adopted by the
beginning of the official year, and not
otherwise. —

This proceeding I beg to observe
will allow of the proposed detailed
regulations being fully maturely considered
and revised, to any extent that may be
agreed on, consistently with the principles
laid down for our guidance. —

(Signed) B. Close
A. G.

True Copy
(Signed) Fred Pierce
Secretary Military Board Minute

2172 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Minute of the Commandant of Artillery

On the order proposed to be issued
in to be issued by Government, respecting the
charge of Stores being taken from the Civil
Servants of the Company, and vested altogether
in the charge of Military Officers. —

To this proposal, Major General
Spicks formally objects, and desires his
objection may be recorded for the informa-
tion of Government — as this Regulation
not only goes to depriving the services of
a number of Meritive Officers it can ill
ill spare, but that those Officers, with
perhaps a very few exceptions, have not
property sufficient to secure the Company
against embezzlement, or other defalcation,
in office — and so far as it regards vesting
such trust in Conductors, and Store Sergeants,

He

Fort St George 11th April 1797

the duties altogether inadmissible. —

Major General Gillespie is further of opinion, in order that the subject may be fully before Government, the whole of the Regulations should be revised together, and no order be recommended to be issued by them, until they have met with Government's final approbation. —

/Signed/ Thomas Gillespie

Military Board
3d April 1797

True Copy
/Signed/ Fred Pierce
Secretary Military Board

The Quarter Master General is of opinion, for the reasons specified in the minute of the Military Auditor General, and on account of the very long time this subject has been before the Board, that the general outline of the Plan for new Regulations

2174 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Regulating the ordonnee and Store Depart-
ments, should be immediately sent
in to Government, and that the detailed
Regulations, now nearly completed, should
follow with all possible expedition. -

Military Board
3. april 1797.

/Signed/ Jno Richardson
Dr. M. Genl.

True Copy

/Signed/ Fred: Pierce
Secretary Military Board

Major General Giles would not
have thought it necessary after his minute
of the 3d. Instant, to have again troubled
the Board with any further observations
on the proposed Regulation of vesting the
charge of Stores in Military Officers, but for
the Minutes that have this day been
given

2175 Fort St George 11th April 1799

given in by the Commander in Chief, and
Chief Engineer, and were now, he will be as
concise as possible that he may not intrude
upon the patience of the other Members further
than he deems consistent with a conscientious
&c discharge of his own duty. —

It is intended by this Regula-
tion that such Officers are to be supernumerary
to the Establishment of Corps, and can give
adequate Security, which owns Sale an other
necessary precautions may perhaps it may be
less objectionable, and as it is certain they
never can be called away to the Field, or other
parties of Corps, from the moment they become
Storekeepers — it will then only remain to be
ascertained, what Security will be required,
from each of them, according to the annual
valuation, before they are put in charge
of the respective Storehouses. —

Mercy

2176 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Many of the Gentlemen who are to hold those offices, it may be safely concluded, if not in debt, have barely the means of making the two ends of the month meet. That they may become men of property in a short time, it is to be presumed, from instances that might be adduced, but it must be observed at the same time, that this is done, at the risque and expence of the Service, and it is with a view to guard against such undue acquirements, that I presume, that the Regulations now in force, and in contemplation, are made, and intended.

Under this view of the subject, and as the alteration of System appears to me to promise nothing favorable to the Public - Government in my opinion should be warned against its probable

inconveniencies,

2177

Fort St George 11th April 1797

inconveniencies, as well as, of the appointment
of Civil Servants to offices where they are
not Resident, as in the case of Mr Hardon -
that if the name of a Deputy Commissary
be more conformable to the usage of Bengal,
than Inspector, it may as a matter of little
moment, be adopted here, but in no instance
should a Military Officer, in any humble
appprehension, - unless in very particular
cases, hold a Staff, or other, appointment,
that may deprive the public of his
services in the Field; - and however
desirable or proper it may be, to
establish uniformity in the System of
pay and Control in the Military
Department, as recommended by the
Supreme Government to the different
Presidencies, - local considerations may,
and certainly do, warrant a deviation

respecting

2178 Fort St George 11th April 1797

respecting the receipt, Issue &c &c of
Military Stores. — That We have improved
for example on the Bengal mode of
repairing Arms, as it would seem, is
clearly evinced by the Minute of the
Military auditor General, and
Commissary General of Stores, — wherein
they state an annual saving to the
public in this article alone, of so large a
Sum as 37,996 Pagodas a copy of which,
I earnestly recommend may be
submitted to Government, to be sent
through them to the Military Board
at Bengal — It will be fair to those
Gentlemen, to have an opportunity
given them of adopting the same
measures, or shewing accounting for
their conduct, and such discussion
will, as in the present one on the
subject

Fort St George 11th April 1797

subject of Gunpowder, be useful to the Company, by exciting a spirit of general emulation. —

The Extract of the General Letter of the Honorable Court of Directors in the Military Department dated 21st September 1785. constituting the Military Board from Paragraph 15 to 26 inclusive, being sufficiently explicit of the duties to be performed, and the 25th article expressly saying "The Board "the Regulations you shall frame, and "the Instructions you shall give to "the different Serjeants under you, "connected with Military business, will "be sufficient to bring before the "Military Board every material of "Information, necessary for them to "be possessed of, but if at any time either

2180 Fort St George 11th April 1797

"either additional instructions, or
"occasional orders, shall be requisite
"they are to apply for them to the
"Superior Council." in my mind
precludes the possibility of ever
framing Regulations for ourselves
as it is specifically detailed "We" are
"to apply for them to the Superior
"Council."

And as I did not understand
the intention to be that the Regulations
were to be sent ere Peice Meal to
Government, I send my despatch
to request that the whole of my
observations may be sent in at this
time, as I cannot seperate those that
apply only to the prospective order, and
order for the Military Board. -

(Signed) Thomas Giles

Fort St George
5th April 1797

True Copy
(Signed) Fred. Pierce
Secretary Military Board

2181 Fort St George 11th April 1797

I have perused with attention the minutes at our last meeting, of the military auditor General, the Adjutant General, Commandant of artillery, and Quarter master General, - and have to offer my opinion, for the reasons assigned by the majority, that the proposed outline for the Store Regulations recommended to us, by our Committee, should immediately be laid before Government, It being generally admitted, that the proposed detailed Regulations, may still be considered, and revised, in all their parts - which may be satisfactorily done, Section by Section; and such of them as we may finally approve may be sent to Government, after every step Proceedings on the subject, with a request, that they may be printed on their receiving the Sanction of the superior Board. -

(Signed) Patrick Ross
Chief Engineer

6th April 1797

True Copy (Signed) Ford Brice
Secretary Military Board
Minute

2182 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Minutes of Sundry Consultations & General Harris, in consequence of the Meeting of the special Board April 3d 1797

From the very short time & which has elapsed since I took my seat, it is not to be supposed that I have been able to go into a very & minute discussion of Regulations, & which perhaps necessarily entail so v voluminous an appearance, and v which have been, as I am given to v understand, never four years first, & and last, before this Board. —

However, as I can have no doubt but they have been considered with great attention by the Members, & from whom the Board must more particularly expect to get information

as

Fort St George 11th April 1797

as they appear to me to be mostly
adopted from the Bengal Regulations, which
I suppose have been found to answer the
Yest of sufficient check, and as they
are at all times open to revision, and
amendment, I can have no objection (after
offering one, or two remarks) to that part
of them, as proposed by the Auditor &
General, going up to Government - with
the Minutes of those Members who
have any to offer. -

Indeed, so far from having an
objection, to their going up to Government,
I perfectly agree with the Auditor General
that (supposing Government satisfied
of their efficacy) it would be a very
desirable object to have them commenced
with the ensuing Official year. -

The

2184 Fort St George 11th April 1797

The only remark I have to offer on the Regulations, as sent from Government, for our Guidance, and of course open to proper representation, if any part of them should appear to us unnecessary — I am the Article, which gives the Governor a seat at this Board. —

This I cannot conceive the intention of the Court of Directors in their letter constituting this Board of 11th September 1785 — nor have I ever seen any directions from them that could any way be construed in such a light, and as I do not think it can be of any advantage to the service, but perhaps the contrary, I think it my duty to draw the attention of the Right Honble the

President

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Fort St George 11th April 1797

President in Council, to this point which has probably occasioned their notice when these Regulations were first submitted to them for their approbation / or perhaps originated from the Governor and Commander in Chief being in the same person - in the hope they will give their authority to have the Article taken out of the Code.

True Copy

/ Signed / Jno D. Pierce -

Secretary Military Board

Major General Giels having read with a considerable degree of attention, the proposed new Regulations, begs leave to Submit to the Board his opinion on the several articles as they occurred to him on perusal. - and first the proposed Regulation, which might stand thus. -

Viz

2186 Fort St George 11th April 1787

For

The Military Board

The Honble the Court of Directors having been pleased to direct in their general Letter under date the 21st September 1786, that a Military Board shall be constituted for the purposes therein stated, consisting of

1st — The Commander in Chief President.

2nd — The Senior Officer at the Presidency

3d — The Commandant of Artillery.

4th — The Chief Engineer.

5th — The adjutant General.

6th — The Quarter Master General.

7th — The Military auditor General.

Resolved That the said Paragraphs of the Honble Company's general Letter be here inserted for their immediate guidance.

Extract of a Letter from the Honble Court of Directors in the Military Department dated 21st September 1786.

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The Military Board!

Paragraph 15. — We direct that this Board
consist of 1st The Commander in Chief, 2nd
the Senior officer at the Presidency 3rd The
Senior officer of the artillery 4th The Chief
Engineer, 5th The adjutant General 6th The
Quarter master General and 7th The
Commissary General. It is not our
intention by the institution of this
Board, to vest any military authority
in your Settlement, in any degree indepen-
dent of the superior civil executive Govern-
ment of the Country as vested in the
Board of Council, but we are of opinion
that much benefit will be derived from
this institution in the Detail of such
business as is immediately connected with
the regularity, the economy and the
effective strength of our army. —

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upon all matters of Military Debait, so
far as the expenditure of money is con-
cerned, we therefore direct our superior
Council to make use of the Military
Board, in this point of view, in order
that the expenditure of the publick money
on contingent articles may be sanctioned
by the opinion of the officers who constitute
this Board. — We do not mean that the
Superior Council are bound to refer such
points for their consideration, or that they
should be bound to act by their opinions
when they have received them; but we
do expect, that before any material ispue
of money, is ordered on the head of Military
Charges, the Superior Council will consider
it as a useful check against extravagance,
if material articles of Military Expenditure
are seriously considered and reported
upon by Officers, whose situations and
professions

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professions and them to be particularly
conversant in the Knowledge of every article
of Military Expence.

21st Although to report upon references made
to them by the Superior Council, will form
a very essential part of the duty of this Military
Board, it is not to be their only duty; we
consider as an essential part of the business
of the Board, and we direct that they
particularly attend to the various branches
of Military Detail, to which we have alluded,
and that they regularly from time to time
report to the Superior Council, the state and
condition of the respective articles of
service falling under their inspection

22nd If there is any difference of
opinion among them, either in matters
referred to them, by the Superior Council,
or in points, the consideration of which
has originated with themselves such
differences

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differences of opinion with the grounds of them, are to be specially reported by them. —

23d We Direct, that without delay, you form in concert with the Officers who are to constitute this Board, such fixed rules and regulations for the conduct of their business, as may effectually secure the means of their being furnished with such regular Returns from inferior Departments as may enable them to conduct their business with dispatch and regularity; they are to report their whole Proceedings to you, and you are to transmit them to us in separate Dispatches, under the Head of Military Department. —

24th You will likewise determine, what establishment may be requisite for the

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Fort St George 11th April 1797

The Conduct of our business in
their Department, and you will
from our Covenanted Servants at
a Secretary, and such other assistants
as may be necessary with allowances
adequate to the Duties and Services
to be performed by them, but in
settling these allowances, you will
attend to the same spirit of oeconomy
which it is our intention to introduce
into every other Department.

25th We trust the Regulations you
shall frame, & the instructions you
shall give to the different Servants
under you, connected with Military
business, will be sufficient to bring
before the Military Board every
material information necessary
for them to be possessed of, but if at any
time, either additional instructions, or

occasional

Fort St George 11th April 1797

occasional orders shall be requisite, they are to apply for them to the Superior Council

26th — After having these laid before you such alterations of this business as may make you to institute and regulate this Board, We think proper to conclude with a repetition of your explicit declaration, that this Military Board is to possess no authority exclusive of and independant of the supreme Government, but are in all respects to act under you, and through the medium of your authority. —

A True Extract

(Signed) D. Ince

Dpy Sec.y

Article 1.st 2.nd — and 3.d under Military Board) appears to me unnecessary, as they are fully provided for by the Honble Company's General

2195 Fort St George 11th April 1797

General Letter as inserted above

Art. – 4th – a necessary Regulation

Art – 5th – may be dispensed with

Art – 6th – may be dispensed with

Art. – 7th – is a proper regulation.

Art. – 8th – appears to be a matter of course,

and may or may not be inserted as a

Regulation. –

Art. 9th – 10th – and 11th – are proper Regulations

respecting progress in Works on Public

Buildings, must depend on the Reports

made to them – What last part may

or may be omitted. –

Art 12 – seems properly under these

Regulations

Art. 13 – is an existing Regulation. –

Art 14 and 15 – The Regulations for Books

of Rates, as set forth in these articles

may doubtless be of use, but I do not

see why a Committee of the Military

Board

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Board should be bound to call for explanations they may not deem necessary. —

Art. 16. 17. and 18, are very proper Regulations comprized under one head.

Art 19 — an existing Regulation at this time.

Art. 20, is sufficiently detailed in the Honble Company's General Letter, constituting the Board

Art 21 a proper Store Regulation. —

Art 22, 23 & 24 — are proper Regulations for the Secretary and the Board.

Art. 25, may be a proper Regulation, leaving out the words " — whose accounts can be "under the inspection of the Board" as the orders of the Company are sufficiently explicit of their Regulations on this Head.

Art. 26. and 27 — should be in the first instance authorized by Government

Art 28th There can be no objection to. —

Art

2197

Fort St George 11th April 1791

Art 29th of Bengal Regulations and may be of use. -

The General order proposed to be issued, will require revision, at least from the 3d article. - It would seem best to refuse the appointment of a Conductor to a Battalion Train, after it arrives to one that a Conductor of ordnance should be made generally from the artillery and not indiscriminately from every Corps in the Service. - and the Bengal Regulations positively say "The Offices of Commissary and Deputy Commissaries of ordnance shall be filled up by Officers of the Corps of artillery only"

The Gradations and Denomination of Officers employed by the Bengal Regulations are,

A Commissary of Stores at the Presidency

an assistant Commissary. -

Commissary.

Deputy

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Deputy Commissary

Conductors. –

Store and Park Serjeants.

Each Conductor is a temporary appointment on the Field, on the Coast, not known at Bengal, and where it is not regulated for special reasons, that no Officer above the rank of Captain shall hold the Office of Commissary. –

The appointment of Commissary General of Stores, should therefore in any opinion be done away.

I cannot by any means pass over the 5th article of the proposed order for doing away the present Storekeepers, and vesting the charge of Stores in Officers holding the appointments of Commissary &c. which I am clearly of opinion should not be the case, but in the Field, and were there, as seldom as possible, because in the first place it

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it experiences the Service of a number of effective
Officers it can but ill spare, and that by
military ones, with perhaps a very few
exceptions, have not property sufficient
to secure the Public against losses by
Embezzlement or other defalcations in e
their office. —

Under these considerations alone
this or any other might be adduced, I consider
it my duty as a Member of the Military
Board to dissent in the most formal
manner against this part of the Regula=
tions taking place, and desire that it
may be recorded and particularly
noticed to government.

The following is the Detail I suggest
recommend for the new arrangement of
the ordnance and military store
Department. —

Fort St George

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		Lieutenants	Ensigns	Surgeons	Asst Surgeons	Surgeons Mates	Adjutants	Quarter Masters
Fort St George including the amount		8	2	5	5	2	2	2
arrac		"	1	1	"	"	"	1
Vellore		"	1	1	"	"	"	1
Camboor		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Chinglepet		"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Cuddalore		"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Permaulee		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Tyagar		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Ongole		"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Total		8	4	9	5	2	2	9
Baramaul and Salem Countries								
Kistnaghurry		"	1	"	"	"	"	1
Sankerry Droog		"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Ryacottah		"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Chinnaraya Droog		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Verabudra Droog		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Penagra		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Namaul		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Salem		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Attoor		"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Gungoondy		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Total		"	1	3	"	"	"	10
Southern Division								
Tritchinopoly		"	1	2	"	"	"	1
Tanjore		"	1	1	"	"	"	1
Nagapatam		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Madura		"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Dindigul		"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Palamcotah		"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Total		"	2	5	"	"	"	6

see his orinate of the 1st June 1794

see L. Col. Gulds remarks on arrac in his original the 1st June 1794

Northern

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	Lieutenants	Surgeons	Assistant Surgeons	Conductors	Sub Conductors	Hospital Serjeants	Gentlemen Volunteers	Hospital Mates
Northern Division including the Guntoor Circar & Vizagapatam								
Masulipatam	"	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Vizagapatam	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	1
Ganjam	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	1
Innacondah	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Bellum condah	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Tinnicotah	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1
Cundapelly	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1
	Total	"	2	2	"	"	"	7
Centre Division		3	4	9	5	2	2	9
Barramaul Division		"	1	3	"	"	"	10
Southern Division		"	2	5	"	"	"	6
Northern Division		"	2	2	"	"	"	7
Grand Total		3	9	19	5	2	2	32

The number of ordnance officers at Bengal including Fort Marlborough 32.

The proposed Regulations at Madras 58

abstract 31

Article 6-7-8-9-10-11-12. 13 and 14th Those articles for the reasons before assigned cannot stand.

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stand in their present form, but may be
very proper, substituting the name of a
Military Store Keeper, who ought to be a
one of the Honble Company's Covenanted
Servants and not under the Rank of a
Senior Merchant.

Art. 16 – is very proper – but no suspicion
should be warranted, even in the Field, a
without the authority and opinion of no a
many of the Members of the Military Board
as may be present with the Army.

Art. 16 – This article may be in general
good, but cannot stand in its present form –

Art. 17 – 18 – 19. 20 – 21 & 22 – appears to be
proper general Regulations

Art 23d – Monthly Returns of Recruits, Issues
and Remains, with the Army for the a
Field, I consider as highly necessary in a
order that the state of the Magazines with

the

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the Arms may be speedily known and kept
as complete in Store as possible — but in
Garrison, Quarterly Returns should appear
are quite enough, the rest of this article may
stand as it does at present

Art. 24th a good Regulation.

Art 25 — Unnecessary, I should imagine
after the Detail of Monthly, Quarterly and
annual Returns with Monthly returns of
Receipts, Issues and Remains and vouchers
for the issues. —

Art 26 — Certainly — The Commanding
Officers of Corps having an adequate
allowance made them as in Bengal. —

Art 27th I see no objections to this
Regulation — The Chief Engineer however
will be better able to speak to it

Art: 28th The Office of Commissary General
of Stores being done away, the Posts of
Director and Sub-Director of the Laboratory
shall

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shall be abolished and fifty pagodas per Mensem added from the established allowance of the Chief Engineer to just hire upon a footing with the Commandant of artillery conformably to the new military arrangements. -

Art: 29. 30. & 31. The adoption of the regulations contained in those articles, I have already declared my sentiments decidedly against. -

Art 32. may eventually be a very proper Regulation

Section 5th

Agents and Commissaries of Supplies

Art. 1st - 2nd Due to the 10th - inclusive, appear to be a good outline and may be adopted or accomodated to existing Regulations. -

Commissaries of Supplies at different Stations. -

Art. 1st - A good Regulation if it is possible at Madras to fix a list of Rates for the out

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out Stations, that shall be invariable.

Art: 2nd - 3d 4th 5th to the 10th inclusive seem good

regulations. -

Section 2nd

Ordnance Officers

Art. 1st & 2nd - appear very proper Regulations

and comprize every thing necessary perhaps that

need be said under this Head.

Art: 3 - 4 - 5 & 6 - Contains a very proper &

Detail under existing Regulations. -

Art. 7th - The Commandant of artillery should

be a Member of the Committee, when Guns

Carriages or other articles in his Department

are under examination.

The Chief Engineer when Buildings and

implements of ingineering - The Quarter

Master General, when Camp Equipage and

accoutrements - but I cannot admit the

necessity

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necessity of their being detailed altogether
as in this regulation.

Art. 8 - and 9 - are of existing Regulations
at this time

Art: 10 - a proper Regulation, substituting
military Store Keeper for Commissary &
Journal of Stores. -

Art: 11 - This Regulation, as it appears
to me would involve an endless corres-
pondence, if it went beyond the principal
magazines. - The concluding part seems
proper enough. -

Art: 12. - is a very comprehensive article
- who is to be the judge when the arsenal
cannot furnish Ordnance if the Commissary
of Stores is also Store Keeper.

Art: 13. Tho' a proper Regulation might
best hinder upon Commissaries of such a
Station, than at the arsenal of Fort St.
George, where in place of the principal

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it might fall - only upon Mr Rogers Mr Bishop Mr Brathwaite or other person directed to carry the orders of the Store = Keeper into execution.

Art. 14. 15. & 16 - are proper Regulations where attached under the Store Keeper. -

Art: 17th - Fitting up Store houses or repairs in the annual should be done by the Store Keeper, and his artificers under the direction of the Commissary or in his absence by the assistant or Deputy Commissarys &c - but the Store Keeper is to lay before the Board &c -

Art 18 - Fitting up Stores and Repairs at out garrisons to be conducted in the same manner as at the Arsenal. -

Art. 19 & 20. may be good Regulations. -

Art 21 - is a Regulation at Bengal. -

Art 22d - such deficiencies I conceive should be reported by the Officer of

Ordnance

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ordonance, as he is called, to the Com=
=manding Officer of the Post or Detachment
and he should make due Reports &
respecting the Stores to the Board. -
Art. 23. 24 & 25 appear to be proper
Regulations. -

Art 26 - as Stores furnished to the other
Presidencies can only be done by order
of Government through the Military
Board. - I see no reason for this Regula=
=tion, which like many others, only tend
to an unnecessary multiplication of
business. -

Art. 27 - Wood and Iron, may be laid
in for a special purpose, it would be
improper to divert to any other. -

Art. 28th This article ought to be shortened,
Powder Barrels in future are not to be
broken up but with the Copper Hoops
which are to have the Company's Chops
with their weight stamped upon them,
are

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are to be invoiced and kept upon the Returns - and it may be further ordered - That Sale Bonds be got for special purposes, which shall be detailed by the Board, and from hence forth prohibited.

Art: 29 - The Military Storekeeper & assisted by the Commissary of Stores &c present &c &c

Art: 30. to 34 inclusive, Issue no order for a Regulation on this subject, as when Military Stores are issued under such circumstances, they can only be done by the express order of Government, which will sufficiently explain on what manner they are to be accounted for.

Art, 35 This article may likewise be made to apply to Stores issued for the use of the Honble Company's Ships. -

Art. from 36 to 45 inclusive, regarding the Dispatch of Stores whether by sea or

Land

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Land from the arsenal or out Stations and
Detachments or to the Field, may be reduced
to a single article, under the three following
Heads viz. Shipping or Dispatching of
Store, under similar security as upon would
any other articles of Merchandize, which is
done by the Store Keeper the charge on Board
of Ships or on the Road, and lastly the
Responsibility of the Store Keeper or
Person at the out Station to whom they
are consigned: but the Store Keeper who
ships or Dispatches such Stores should
not be removed from responsibility, if it
should appear the proper means has
not been observed in shipping them or
that they have been sent in charge of an
improper Person — There is no doubt,
much good detail in the foregoing 8
articles and which may be adopted
as interior Regulations for the arsenal
but

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but this Board Supposed should
only look to the heads of Departments
and in the Dispatch of Stores from
the arsenal, the Storekeeper should call
upon the Captain of the ships and the
Person to whom he entrusts and consigns
Stores, to answer for Deficiencies, and
"that Boat-People and Seamen are to
be made answerable for articles stole
or damaged" can only mean to apply
between them and the Storekeeper, does
not to screen him; I should hope, from
being called on immediately by this
Board in every case of deficiency or
apparent neglect of duty. — Much is
Responsibility seems to attach by the
general System of Naval Regulations to
Commissaries at out Stations and o
with the army where indulgence
many

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may often be necessary, whereas at the Presidency, it would seem if certain Forms only are observed and in abundance of Returns and other papers given in to the Military Board, little either of personal responsibility or else of zeal are required. — I ordered such a thing to be done the Storekeeper might tell the Board, — and as I have been strictly guided by the regulations, it is therefore not my fault, that was lost, for want of the Stores you directed should be sent there — The fault is in one of my Subordinates in office, or they were shipped on Board an improper Vessel Ver. Ver. —

Art: 46 to 51, are good Regulations, substituting the Storekeeper in the room of the Commissary General of Stores. —

Art: 52nd — The Storekeeper is to Indent Ver. —

should

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should not this be a Rule throughout
the Service, and by discharging the
whole of the Store Lascars, would
produce a considerable saving to the
Public; any work that may be
required beyond this, may be done
by application to the Corps of Lascarry.

Art: 53d. The Storekeeper is in like
manner to

Section 3d.

Books, Accounts and Returns

Art: 1 to 11 – appears to be no objection to these Articles

Section 4th

Indents and Receipts

Art: 1 to 11 – appears not to be liable to any objections

Section 5th

Surveys. –

Art:

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Art. 1 to 9 - appear to be well calculated for the Service

Section 6th

Ordnance or the Works. -

Art. No. 1 to 17 - artillery Details and Arrangements

be of Service - See Bengal Regulations on this

head.

Section 7th -

Arms and Accoutrements.

Art. 1 to 5 - appear to be proper Regulations.

article 6th & 7th - a Regimental Establishment

of artificers is not to be proper in the Field,

or when a Corps is detached, but in

Cantonments or in Garrisons where

several Corps are together, I would recom-

mend that the artificers be employed

under the Storekeeper, on the repairs of the

arms of the Corps at large or other public

business, indenting for Iron, Steel &c &c

upon the Stores to the full extent that

may be required - The mode following

at

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at present of Sickly Guards appears to me to have been the immediate cause of so many arms being at this time in an almost unserviceable State throughout the army; which waving of opinions in any degree can hardly attone for, if ill reality is the case Art: 8th appears a good Regulation, but I do not see why a Report should be made to the Military Board on a subject that might be settled between the Officer Commanding Corps and the Military Store Keeper at the time he objects to the arms. –

Art: 9th to 15 inclusive are very proper Regulations

Art: 16th appears very necessary leaving out that part, that seems to multiply Reports to the Military Board, as no arms ought to be issued to Corps or exchanged but after previous Report and having obtained the Boards sanction. –

Section

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Sultan 8th

Gunpowder)

As I prefer a contract to any
agency, and as I believe it to be
my way for the Company's interest
to adopt the former, in place of the
Articles I would propose, 1st The
Contractor for making Gunpowder,
being in charge of the Powder works,
is ordered to make monthly Returns
to the Military Board of all the
articles belonging to the Honble
Company specifying the numbers
expended and the quantity remain-
ing in Store. —

2 — When Powder is ordered to be
re-made by the Contractor, he shall
lay an account of the Expence incurred
before the Military Board, specifying
the quantity of Materials used and
the

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The number of Workmen employed for each Description, of which he shall charge according to the Table of Rates No. 1 — The said Petre and Sculpher at the Contract prices — and the Charcoal at 14 Pagodas per Candy.

3d — ditto ditto, — in a Contract

4 — Do

5 — Do

6 — Do

7 — Do

8 — Do

9 — Do

10 — Do

11th — Do

12th — Some thing may be said on this article, when it is determined by Government whether there shall be a Contract or an agency, and if the former, whether the Contractor shall furnish his own Materials or they shall be furnished by the Company. —

13th — Leftover. —

14th

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11th The Contractor is to receive and
remake any quantity of Gunpowder
from such of His Majesty's Ships as
may require it, on the proper Officers
presenting their Demands, signed by
their respective Captains with the
approving signatures of the Admiral
or Commanding Officer for the time
being of His Majesty's ships, the
Expence attending this operation is
regulated by the 2nd article of this Section
15th Accompany.

16th The Contractor is to report to the
Military Board when he has any
quantity of Powder ready to be delivered
who will give directions for the same
being proved, and no powder is at
any time to be received into the
magazine until it shall have been
proved under the directions of such
Officer

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Officer, and after such mode and manner as shall be recommended by the Committee appointed by the Military Board for the improvement of the Manufacture of Gunpowder - a Proof Report shall be laid before the Military Board, and such Powder as shall be found under Proof shall be returned on the hands of the Contractor. -

17th Necessary in a Contract

18 - Ditto

19 - Ditto

20 - Ditto

21 - Ditto

22 - Ditto

23 - may stand as it is

24 - Necessary

25 - may stand as it is.

26 - Whatever quantity of Gunpowder made by the Contractor, may at any time be rejected as not standing Proof, shall be returned to him to be remade at his expence.

27th -

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27th - Unnecessary.

28th - Ditto

29 - Ditto.

30th - For the rates of Workmen employed in drying, sifting or re-making powder received from His Majesty's ships &c see No. 8 of this Section. -

31 - Omitted as unnecessary. -

32 - may enter as an article or Allowance, as it appears of little consequence. -

Forms No. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. unless where there is a Contract. No. 8 may be No. 1 and a Standing Establishment Rates per day of Servants of every description that may be employed at the Powder Works in drying sifting & remaking Gun-powder received from His Majesty's Ships or Allowance. -

Section 9th

Laboratory. -

This Regulation appears calculated to - reintroduce a System widely exploded & by

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by Sir A. Campbell in 1786. - at which period
a scene of imposition speculation was brought
to light of so serious a nature, as not only
to attract public notice but to command
the most pointed attention of Government.
It was about this time discovered from
a minute investigation set on foot by
Sir A. Campbell that writing a charge
of the Stores of the arsenal in the name
Persons who also have charge of the
Laboratory gave him an opportunity of
ordering from the general Store any
quantity of materials he might have
occasion for, without the formality even
of an Indent, and the situation of the
Laboratory being so convenient for disposing
privately of Military Stores offered an
opportunity of selling of large quantities
as was clearly proved by the Trial of several
Delinquents at that time, and where it
appeared that some hundred Barrels of

of Gunpowder, Guns and shot had been
sold for the Benefit of the Commissary in
charge at that time of both Laboratory
and Arsenal. — These considerations
induced Sir A. Campbell to order, that
all the Stores in the Laboratory should
be removed to the Arsenal and that
no more than a weeks expenditure of
Gun powder or any other material except
Tools should be kept in the former
place, and as may appear by Records of
Government and Proceedings of the
Committee of Stores, about that time it
was resolved that the Arsenal and
Laboratory should never again be
under charge of one and the same
Person. —

After enumerating this much,
it will hardly be thought presumptuous
in one publickly to declare any opinion,

that

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That the Laboratory of Fort St George should continue to be under the Commandant of artillery, under the senior Officer of artillery at out Garrisons, and in both situations a decidedly a Distinct Establishment from that of the military stores.

I take leave to subjoin the present Laboratory Regulations which I think will be found better than those proposed to be substituted in their room.

1st The Laboratory at Fort St George, is to be under the entire superintendance and controul of the Officer appointed a Director, who is to have an officer a Superintendant in the preparation of a Laboratory Stores under him as Sub-Director with a Serjeant and a Corporal for carrying his orders more effectually into execution.

2nd The proportions of composition for every species of ammunition and stores ordered to be made up in the Laboratory, are

are to be determined upon by the Director
of the Laboratory, and delivered to the "
Sub Director, who is to Register them in
a Book to be kept expressly for the purpose,
open at all times to the inspection of the
Officers on Duty at the Laboratory and to
the Members of the Committee of Stores,
whenever they may chuse to peruse them.

3 – The Committee of Stores to determine
quarterly the quantity of Ammunition
and other articles to be made use of in the
Laboratory to answer all the exigencies
of the Service; The Director of the "
Laboratory is to conform strictly to the
instructions of the Committee in this
respect, and is ultimately responsible
for any deficiencies in the quality
and quantity of the Ammunition
that may be delivered from the "
Laboratory into the Stores for the
Public

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Public Service

4.th The Sub Director of the Laboratory is to
indent weekly to the Military Store Keeper, for such
articles and materials as may be wanted for
making the Ammunition and Stores required
for the Public Service which Indents are to be
countersigned by the Director of the Laboratory;
the Sub-Director is to give his Receipt to the
Storekeeper for such articles as are
received in consequence of those Indents &
and when the articles of ammunition &c
are completed, and made up, they are to be
examined by the Commissary General of Stores,
and if thought by him to be fit and proper
for Service they are to be delivered over to the
Military Store Keeper on his Receipt. -

5.th Such articles as are issued from the
Stores in consequence of the Sub Directors
Indents, are to be formed into monthly
Indents

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Indent in the Military Store Keepers
Books, and to be signed by the Director
of the Laboratory, on the first day of every
month, on his sending the Stores issued,
corresponding with the said Directors Receipts
for the month. — In like manner the
Ammunition and articles occasionally
made up in the Laboratory, & returned
to the Store, are to be formed into one
Monthly account, in the Director of the
Laboratory's Book of deliveries, and to
be signed by the Military Storekeeper
on the last day of the Month, on sending
his Receipts corresponding with the Stores
stated in the account of Deliveries; the
Commissary General of Stores is also to
certify at the bottom of this Monthly
account — That the articles were
properly made up and fit for Service

&c.

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6th As a sufficient expence Magazine for
Powder has been appropriated to the Laboratory
Service, no greater quantity of Powder is to be
Kept in the Laboratory, than what can be
readily worked up in the course of a day,
nor are there more Stores or articles of
any Kind to be Kept in the Laboratory
than what can be worked up in the
course of a week.

7th The Commissary General of Stores is
to see that the Store Rooms appropriated
for keeping the Laboratory articles delivered
to the Store Keeper, are properly arranged
and fitted up for that purpose, and that
the ammunition, or other Articles delivered
from the Laboratory to the Military Store=
Keeper, should be inspected by time, and
their force and effect be greatly preserved
from the dampness of the Bomb proofs

&c.

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or other Godowns in which they are unavoidably kept, the Committee of Stores shall, every year, in the months of February and September, take a Monthly and particular Survey of the Laboratory Store in charge of the Military Storekeeper, causing such experiments to be made as will clearly ascertain their quality and condition, and are to report their state to the Governor in Council, with their opinion of the Store-rooms in which they are kept, and the manner in which the different articles are arranged.

8th The Sub-Director of the Laboratory is to instruct the artillery Officers and men in the method of making up the different kinds of ammunition, he is to be constantly in the Laboratory at working hours, as well as the Laboratory

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Laboratory Sergeant and Corporal, and
is to make a Morning Report to the
Director of the Work done the preceeding
day, the number of People employed, and
the conduct and progress of the Officers
and men who attend for instructions.—

9th A certain proportion of European
artillery and artillery Lascars, are to
work in the Laboratory daily, for the
purpose of making up such ammunition
as may be wanted for the Public Service
the Europeans are to be allowed working
money agreeably to the rates hitherto &
established, viz.t Six fanams per day
for every non Commissioned Officer, and
four to every Gunner and Matross:
the Sub-Director is to enter in
a Book the names of the men thus
employed, that a regular account

may

may be made out monthly, and the working money drawn for accordingly; and in order to encourage the Lascars to put themselves in this laborious and oftentimes unhealthy employment one Syrang, one 1st Tindal, one 2d Tindal and 15 Lascars are to be allowed working money at the following Rates, a Syrang 3 fanams, 1st Tindal 2 fanams 2d Tindal one & half and a Lascar one fanam per day, which the Director is to see appropriated accordingly — all Bills for works performed at the Laboratory are to be signed by the Sub-Director, and certified by the Director, who is answerable that no charges are made but such as are just and reasonable;

10th — all Portfires, Fuzes Rockets &c. that are judged fit to be received into the Stores for the Public Service, are to have,

besides

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Besides the name of the Person who made them up, a particular Laboratory Stamp is affixed by the Sub-Director, who is answerable that the Stores &c. when received or stamped, are in every respect of a proper quality and well made, which he is to ascertain by previous trial and experiment.-

11th The Director of the Laboratory is to lay before the Committee of Stores the first meeting of every month, the Laboratory Books, specifying the Receipts, Issues and Remains, of all the ammunition, Stores, Utensils, compositions &c. under his Charge, that the same may be examined, and compared with the Store-Keeper's Books of Receipts and Issues, and that all deficiencies may be immediately examined into, and properly understood.-

12th The Sub-Director of the Laboratory, is to keep a regular set of Books, in which is

is to be written every particular respecting
his Department, ready at all times for the
inspection of the Senior Officer of artillery,
or any other Member of the Committee of
Stores; but it is not to be understood that
any individual Member of that Committee
is authorized to make any alterations, or
to give any orders to the Laboratory De-
partment as the Director is considered the
responsible official Officer of that Department
under the immediate orders of the Governor.—

13th— When any vacancy shall happen,
or removals become necessary in the
Laboratory, the Director is to report the
same to the Governor, that their places may
be supplied.—

14th— The Director is to be allowed
60 Pagodas, and the Sub-Director 25 Pagodas
per month; the Laboratory Sergeant 4
Pagodas and the Laboratory Corporal
3 Pagodas per month.—

15th

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15th — at all other Stations where Ammunition and Laboratory Stores are to be made up, the Laboratory is to be under the sole direction and orders of the Officer Commanding the Artillery on the spot, without additional pay, who shall have a Sergeant and a Corporal under him for conducting the detail and duties of the Laboratory.

It is necessary here to remark on the Table of Proportions for musket Cartridges whether and blunt, that the allowance of powder seems too great — I had occasion to notice this formerly, and an alteration was accordingly made in some of the blunt Cartridges, but upon representation made from the Commanding Officer of one of the Kings Regiments at Poonamalee, that this Firelocks hardly made any report, the alteration was dropped and the Army going into the Field shortly after, it never was afterwards

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afterwards assumed, but as I deem it a
matter of importance, and that it probably
cannot be brought up at a more favourable
Season than the present, I shall here take
leave to state my authority, and leave to
the Board themselves to determine or not on
the propriety of its adoption. By Experiments
made by Major Ranzier in the month
of august 1796, it appears, that under a
mean state of the Atmosphere the vertical
velocities of shot impelled by different charges -
of what he terms fine war powder, the
composition of which is 6 Salt Petre, 1
Sulphur, and 1 Charcoal, nearly, that used
at present - was as follows. -

Musquet length of bore 3 Feet 6 Inches	weight of Powder Drachms	Initial Velocities Feet
	5	1399 -
	7	1736 -
	10	1984 -

Upon which he remarks that a musquet

fired

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"fired with the ordinary charge of 7 drachms
"of Powder pass not range so far, as if the
"charge were larger, but as the Barrell would
"soon become too hot, the smaller charge is pursued -
It is further remarked, That 7 drachms of
this powder from a Musquet in every
moist weather gives an initial velocity
of only 1569 feet; under a mean state of the
atmosphere 1736 and 1829 in very dry
weather, from which it is deduced that the
Velocities of shot in very dry weather is
found by nearly 1/7 the velocities, when
the atmosphere is loaded with vapour
That fine wet powder produces
in Musquets the greatest effect that can
be obtained from a combination of
of Salt Petre, Sulphur and Charcoal

Section 10th -

Annual Practice and Exercise -
appears to be a tolerable good Regulation
but

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but will require correction in some of the Tables for the reasons assigned in the foregoing Section. —

Section 11th

Salutes.

Art.1 should stand thus, in all Cartridges for Salutes, or morning or evening Guns, the quantity of Powder is restricted to 1/6 of the weight of the shot for brass and 1/4 for Iron Guns. — and in article 4th — in Practice and occasional firing, spunging Powder is to be used and the metal Tubes reserved for Field Service only, and kept empty till required.

Art: 5th The concluding Paragraph of this article, strikes one as improper — Salutes may be restricted in particular cases but I do not see the propriety of precluding

Lieutenants

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Lieutenant Colonels and Majors from the
military honor of a Salute agreeably to
their Rank. —

Section 12th —

Dooleys and Puckallys

Art. 1 — is very proper

Art 2 — — ditto

Art. 3 — may be shortened, for example, Indents
for Dooleys to be made on Commissary of Stores
or Person in charge of them, signed by the
Surgeon or Surgeon's Assistant, the Indents
to be countersigned by the Officer Com-
manding the Corps or Detachment for
which the Dooleys are required, and a
a Receipt given by the Person who takes
the Dooleys in charge. —

Art. 4th — may stand — The Surgeon or
Assistant Surgeon to have charge of the
Dooleys in Camp or Detachment and
be answerable for all Deficiencies unless
he can prove that they were occasioned
by

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by unavoidable accident, all petty Thefts by
Dooly Bearers are to be made good by a
Stoppage from their monthly pay, such
Sums as may have been stopped from
the Bearers for Thefts are to be paid into
the hands of the Paymaster, who will
make good all deficiencies therewith, so
that the Doolies may be redelivered in
good order to the Commissary.

Art 5. a proper Regulation. –

Art 6 – is provided for by the 4th Article

Art 7 – is a good Regulation –

Art 8 – is a good Regulation

Art 9th – ditto. –

Puckallys –

Art 1st & 2nd – appear proper Regulations, and
to which I would beg leave to add, that the
One Kally allowed to each Company of
Gun Lascars be discontinued, and 2 hand
Beasties be substituted to each Company
in

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in its room. The reason for this Regulation is, that half a Company of Gun Lascars is the Detail for the Guns of a Battalion, and where one Puckally is only allowed, as has been the case hitherto, one half of the Company, it is evident, could only be supplied with water.)

Section 13th

Field - Service. -

Art. 1st agood Regulation, but the Tables No 1 & 2, appear in some instances, unequal to the requisites that frequently occur in Field Service. - Table No. 1 makes no distinction between Light and battering Cannon, & for want of this distinction, it is not easy to determine the number of Lascars requisite to perform the several Duties attendant upon one & hundred Pieces of ordnance, without such

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such discrimination.

Before the number of Lascars for a determinate number of Guns, can be fixed as a general Rule of the Service, it would be proper to make a distinction between Light and heavy artillery, and a certain number of Lascars be allotted to each. One hundred pieces of artillery, by Table No 1. are allowed 300 Lascars. It is singular enough that notwithstanding 100 Pieces of Battering Cannon, are only allowed 300 Lascars, that a Regiment of European Infantry should be allowed + double the number of Doolay Bearers. — assisting for example, that thirty only of those Pieces were for Battering, the 300 Lascars would not be more than equal to the duties attached to them during a Siege, this number only giving 10, to " each piece of Ordnance, and should

ib

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It so happen that the Magazine from a
unavoidable circumstances was also a
distance from the Battery, this number of
Lascars would hardly be sufficient to
supply it with shot. I would therefore
propose that Two Tables be made out,
one for battering Guns, including Mortars
and large Howitzers, the other for Field
artillery, on such a principle as to simplify
this part of the Service, so as to make an
Officer, no matter whether Artillery or
Infantry at once to attract from them the
number of Lascars, artificers, &c. &c. &c.
that might be necessary for any determinate
number of Guns, either the Field artillery
separately or each denomination collectively.

In Table N.o 2 - only four Horses are apportioned
to a Cavalry 6-pounder, I am of opinion,
not less than six, yoked 2 and 2, with
2 Spare are necessary to a Gun of this
Calibre,

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Calibre, and that a Three pounder would
require the number of Horses allotted in
this article only to a ship. —

Art 2d as far as it regards the charge of
Ordnance, is very proper, the latter part
beginning at "subject to exchange" be-
ing understood any explanation is
consequently superfluous.

Art 3d. - beginning at "ordnance officers in
the Field - and continued to the end of the
last three lines, appears to me to be very
thing necessary that need be said on that head.

Art: 4th Contains a caution that I should
hope is unnecessary, for, when "it appears"
that Stores are lost thro' neglect, I believe
there are few officers in the Service whose
zeal for it, would not prompt them to
a strict investigation without this
admonitory precept to their Duty, and
which if wanting the articles of War
might best inforce. —

Art: 5th

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Art 5th may probably be comprized with effect
under the following — Indents on the Com=
=issaries from Corps &c. and to be
complied with, on the Countersignature
of Officers Commanding Brigades and
should any Detachment or Corps be with
the army and not attached to any
Brigade, the Commander in Chief — will
appoint an Officer, who is to countersign
their Indents for Stores; no Stores however
of Gunpowder or ammunition Should
be made from the magazine without
the signature of the Commandant of
Artillery, or Special order through him
from Head Quarters. —

Art: 6th perhaps would be better Thus,
The ordnance distributed with the Corps
and Brigades in the army are to be
supplied with ammunition and Stores
on

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an Indents signed by officers commanding
Brigades and countersigned by the Com-
mandant of artillery. all Repairs &
necessary to Gun carriages &c to be reported
to the Commandant of artillery, and when
ordered to be executed, Indents will be &
presented to the Commissary, who is to &
make the repairs, By the officers com-
manding them respectively, which &
indents are to be countersigned by the
Commandant of artillery: and Indents
as executed are also considered sufficient
Vouchers - The Commandant of &
artillery with the army is to be vested
with the Controul and regulation of all
the Gunpowder, ammunition and
Carriages of every description attached
to the ordnance Department, they are
to be completed and arranged under his
Direction,

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Direction, nor should any alteration
be made without his concurrence, as
he alone is answerable for his Depart=
=ment to Head Quarters, and the re=
=gular Channel through which all
Reports are to be made.

Art: 7th does not appear to contain any
matter of general interest, and as a re=
=gulation of Corps, it need hardly be
inserted here.—

Art 8th would probably be better, Thus,
The Commissary in Corps and Officers
in Charge of Guns, and ammunition
in the Lines are to report Monthly or
oftner, if required, to the Commandant
of artillery, the quantity and state of every
species of ordnance and ordnance Stores
under their Charge, who will lay the
same

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same before the Commander in Chief.

Art: 9th appears hardly necessary to detail.-

Art 10th including 1. and 2 Separate

articles appears to comprehend no more

than, that the Commissary is to make

a monthly Return, specifying Issues,

Remains, and Stores brought under

another head, by means of conversion,

with the particulars of the Service for

which such issue was made, and

work performed. In place of this very

complex article might not the following

as more simple be substituted? -

The Commissary in Camp, on the

1st day of each month to lay before the

Commandant of artillery the following

Accounts Viz. - 1st a monthly Return of

every description of ordnance and

Stores under his Charge, arranged

alphabetically

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alphabetically specifying in the usual
manner all Recepts and Issues
during that month.

2nd Copy of a Day Book, wherein all
the Recepts and Issues are entered
particularizing the day of the month on
which Issues or Recepts were made, the
purposes to which issues were applied
and the places or persons from whom
articles were recieved, accompanied by
original Indents, and Recepts for Issues
and no issue shall be deemed admissible
that is not authorized by the appropriating
signature of the Commanding Officer
of artillery, and a Recept signed by
the Person who recieved the articles

Art 11th is provided for in art: 5th except
so much as regards from N° 3 sect: 1st
& art: 12th - Wheeled Stores or other articles
&c

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be lost by accident, or cut off by the Enemy,
a Report of the circumstances is immediately
to be made by the Person in whose Depart=
=ment the Loss was sustained, to the Com=
=manding Officer of the Brigade, if the
Loss happened in the Line, but if in the
Magazine to the Commanding Officer of
Artillery, who shall report such circumstance
to the Commander in Chief, - and if on
enquiry it shall appear that the Loss was
unavoidable, and that neglect could not
attach to any particular person, the
Commander in Chief shall give an
order under his signature to write
such articles as may have been lost off
the Books or accounts of such persons
as may have sustained the Loss. -

Art: 13th - is a matter that follows of course

Art: 14th - appears useless. -

Art: 15th -

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Art: 15th When an army or Detachment is
assembled – The ordnance officer shall
send a present state of all the ordnance
and Stores under his charge to the Military
Board specifying particularly the number
and quality he has received from the v
Different fixed Depots this state is to be
signed by the officer commanding the A
artillery and sent to the military Board
as soon as possible after the army or a
Detachment is formed, the first column
in the ordnance officers first field A
Return should correspond with this
present state, the same rule should
be strictly adhered to, in the Departments
of the Chief Engineer and Quarter Master
General.

Art: 16th – Appears necessary, as the
Military Board will see in the Returns
from the different fixed Depots, what

part

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part of ordinance Stores, Camp Equipage and Intrenching Tools have been furnished from each respectively and as their Issues will be punctually authenticated by Vouchers, the information conveyed by their Returns, will be as certain as any account that could be received from Camp..

Art: 17th perhaps it might be better by reducing the Number of Returns to two, in place of making them double to the number of Corps that compose the army. Whenever an army or Detachment is formed the Quarter Master General or senior Quarter master were directed to collect from the different Corps Vizt Returns of the ammn and Tents Vizt with the Troops and in Regimental Stores of each Corps, specifying the fixed Depots from whence any of them may have been received, there the Quarter master General shall make into two general

Returns

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Returns and forward to the Military
Board quarterly, observing that until
after the first Quarter, they are not to
include any article recieved from the
Magazine brought into the Field by
the Commissary.—

Art: 18th is provided for in the foregoing Article.

Art: 19th might specify that, on the breaking
up of an army or Detachment all Officers
in charge of Ordnance Stores, ammn, Camp
Equipage &c., or who may have sent in
charge of them to different Garrisons
or Cantonments, are to deliver in an
exact account to the person appointed
to recieve them, of their number, quality
and state and the person receiving
such stores, is to give the Officer who
delivers them a Receipt, specifying
the requisites abovementioned. The

Person

Fort St George 11th April 1797

Person receiving such article, on the
breaking up of an army or Detachment,
is without loss of time to apply to the
Officer commanding on the spot, who
will order a Survey, the Proceedings of
which are to be transmitted to the Military
Board, with a Return specifying the
quantity, quality and state of the Stores
thus surveyed.

Art: 20th When Stores are to be furnished
in Camp, by purchase or otherways, a
Report thereof is to be made, if ordnance
Stores, by the Commandants of artillery,
to the Commander in Chief who will
if he thinks proper order a Committee,
consisting of as many Members of the
Military Board as may be present
with the army, and such other
Officers as he may judge necessary, to

that

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That the Committee shall not be less or more
than five in number, for their opinion — and
such Stores as shall have been approved
by this Committee and sanctioned by
the Commander in Chief — shall be received
on the Commissary or other Returns. This
Committee will also judge of the Charges, none
of which will be admitted unless signed by
the Quartermaster and countersigned by the
Commander in Chief

Art: 21st This article may be comprised in the
the following. — All Indents on the army
on Fixed Depots countersigned by the
Commander in Chief, to be immediately
complied with, and the Officer Com =
manding Fixed Depots, from whence
the army may thus draw supplies
is immediately to send an account
to the Military Board of the Supplies
he may have furnished, accompanied
by

2254 Fort St George 11th April 1797

by the original Inserts. -

Art. 22. - The Commandant of artillery with the army or Detachment is to have a controul over all the Draft and Carriage Cattle, Lascars, artificers &c. &c. He is to see that the Number of Cattle in particular are complete to the Establishment, remove such as he deems unfit for the Service, & reporting this and all irregularities he may observe, to the Commander in Chief.

Articles, from 23 to 32 inclusive. When it may be necessary to furnish any of part of the army with stores or other articles, the Heads of Departments, where such a supply may be requisite, shall lay an account thereof before the Commander in Chief; who will authorize the purchase on the spot, or submit the requisition to a

Committee

2255 Fort St George 11th April 1799

Commanders as detailed in article 20. as the
exigencies of the Service may point out to
him to be necessary. The articles so
purchased with their quantity and price
particularly specified, shall be presented in
like manner to the Commander in Chief—
who will either grant the Bill himself or
submit it to the inspection of the Com-
manders before detailed, which if approved
of by them and authorized by the Com-
mander in Chief, shall be sufficient warrant
for its being discharged.

Art: 33d No contingent Charge whatever
shall be admitted. all Charges not
otherways provided for must be
regulated by article 20th

Art: 34. The variable Establishments
of the Quarter Master General, as it is at
present, and Provost Martial appears very
extensive. The Expence in Pay &c— should
be extended in Tables Nos. 4 and 5, to enable
the

2256 Fort St George 11th April 1797

The Board batter to judge Thereof
Art: 35th - might be, - Officers in Command
of Lines and Wings of the army, The
Commandants of artillery, Cavalry and
The Chief Engineer only when in the Field
are to be allowed six Lascars for carrying
and fetching their destinguishing Flags.

Appendix.

N.1. If the Flints, ammunition &c.
are judged sufficient, this may be a good
Regulation. but before it is ultimately
established, it might probably require very
mature consideration, as by fixing unalte-
rably a determined allowance of Flints
steel and artificers to a Corps, and thus
allowance regulated on contracted principles
may in many cases be attended with
consequences of an alarming tendency
to the service, suppose for Example a Corps
stationed

2257 Fort St George 1st April 1797

Stationed in some frontier Garrison in
time of War and their communication
cut off from any other Post or Station, -
whose arms through age or Service were
in a bad state of repair, but that might
be put in order, were they not absolutely
forbid the expence of materials by the
Establishd Regulations, enforced with
the most guarded Caution, and drawn
up in such terms as appear calculated
to dismiss any Officer from the Service, "
who through Zeal or other commendable
motive should dare to deviate from them.

No. 2, to 11. may in many points be
considered as the foregoing. — and I would
recommend that the consideration of them
should be submitted to the opinion of
certain Officers, whose length of Service in
the Field and known Zeal, constitute them
the

2258 Fort St George 11th April 1797

The last judges of the Nature of this Service
in every variety of Situation, and Inured
our persons to many Lieutenant Colonels
Mcatt, Browne and Macpherson as
Officers of this Description, and whose
opinion it might be desirable to ascertain
before the Establishments Vrs of Corps, +
were finally resolved upon - That this +
officer more immediately to the ordinance
Department, will appear if we advert to some
Situations within all our recollections +
and that have been so critical, that +
probably nothing but the most consummate
Military Character, could have brought th
the army out of them, without Eternal
Disgrace. I will only instance the Siege
of Bangalore, where the Power vest +
from the Presidency, calculated upon
some fixed Regulation, was found
to

2259 Fort St George 11th April 1797

to be unequal to the service. I shall not attempt
to describe what might have been the consequence
of a failure here, but only remark that however
disgraceful the event might have proved, its
origin can be established in no other quarter
than that of a parsimonious Regulation, which
it behoves this Board to be forever on their
guard against. This and many other considerations
would induce me to recommend not a profuse,
but a liberal allowance in all cases which
regard the equipment of our army, or its
component parts, for as it is certain that the best
way to ensure success is to make ample
provision for all cases of exigency and as it is
at this moment impossible to
[illegible]
that we may, at no very remote period be
engaged in. It seems likewise impossible
to fix any determinate quantity of ordnance
Stores, ammunition, Tents, Bullocks &c &c
I would therefore not attempt to confine
the

2260 Fort St George N. E. April 1797

The Corps of army to any thing absolute
and determinate, but would give a
latitude to officers in Command with
an opportunity of judging what may
be necessary for the particular service
they are to be employed upon. It is
probable these Tables in some cases allow
a much greater quantity of Diffferent ar-
ticles than is necessary and it is equally
certain that an army may be employed
on Service where the allowance and
Equipment in those Tables are by no
means sufficient.

With regard to the artificers
attached to the different Corps of the
army, I again repeat that I would re-
commend, when any Number of
Corps are stationed together either in
Garrison or Cantonments, that all the
artificers

2261 Fort St George 11th April 1797

artificers be sent, if at Fort St George to the a-
rsenal, at at out Garrisons or Cantonments
to the General Store, there to be employed
for the purpose of repairing the arms of all
such Troops as may be assembled at that
Station, and that Iron, Steel, and other ne-
cessaries shall be issued to them without
limitation, further than the Countersigna-
ture of the Officer Commanding on the
Spot, until the whole arms were reported
to be in a perfect state of repair, this ge-
neral repair which under existing circum-
stances may appear still more necessary
should be carried on under the Regulation
and Controul of Officers Commanding Stations
respectively, and when completed should
be reported by them to the Commander in
Chief, and Military Board. —

No 12. If approved by the Chief Engineer,
ought perhaps to be adopted. — At present
confined

Fort St George 11th April 1797

confess, I see no good reason to be assigned,
for any difference of Establishments made
to this Corps, whether in Pay and allowances
or in Corps Equipage, that is not participa-
ted in by the other Corps of the service and
on this subject I think there is good grounds
for an appeal to Government.

No 13. appears a Moderate Establishment.-

No 14. I see no reason why the Native
Pioneer Corps should be furnished with
Tents when the Gun Lascars are without
any. The Corps of Pioneers was heretofore
a part of our artillery Establishment, first
under the Name of Mannaty Men and
afterwards Pioneers, they were looked
upon in a secondary point of view to
Gun Lascars which renders the distinction
of Tents and assistant Surgeons to them
while the others are without any the

more

2263 Fort St George 11th April 1797

more extraordinary. —

The Table for Forts, Bullocks &c. which
appears to be under a wrong Number — for
officers not included in the Establishment
of Corps — appears very simple. —

No 16. is a good Regulation.

No. 17 — The principle here appears rather
contracted, five Bell Tent Poles, are too o
much for a Body to carry

No. 18. and 21, are Issues of Indents retained
under a Regulation that in formal Indents
shall be returned or rejected — Much o
inconvenience may arise from this o
Regulation if enforced, when it is difficult
to determine what advantage can accrue
to the Service by so rigid an observance of
Forms — In this particular instance, those
Indents do not include Prices consequently
they cannot be difficult to compare with
any

duty Each account, and as they will be
formally arranged in the Books of each
Person as may furnish the Contents, I must
see the use of adhering as strictly to form
in every possible situation, where it is
probable the advantage to be derived from
it may not be adequate to the trouble. —
Perhaps a more general Mode may yet
be brought upon, that will at the same
time insure as much regard to the
interest of the Service as the most pointed
adherance to the foregoing forms, — and
this leads me to offer a few words, which
the Heading of the 13th Section, Viz. Field
Service, brought immediately to my notice
and with which I shall beg leave to conclude
my observations. —

A Camp being a situation ill calculated
for keeping voluminous Books or accounts
and the harassing duties of an army - life
rendering

2265 Fort St George 11th April 1795

rendering it next to an impossibility to adhere to, or punctually observe all the Minutiæ laid down in this System of Regulations, I would recommend their being simplified, as much as possible on a plan to preserve the principle, but to free them from every thing superfluous, and with which it appears to me they are at this time so abundantly crowded. The Laws for regulating an army have always been concise, it is absolutely necessary they should be so, and perhaps in altering them otherways, would go a great way towards defeating the very purposes they were calculated to establish.

Impressed with this Idea, I have presumed to trouble the Board with my opinion on some long the on the Regulations submitted to our consideration, and where but a

without

2266 Fort St George 11th April 1797

without much arrangement, I have en-
deavoured by placing the ultimate Check
and authority in the Commander in
Chief, to prevent every species of speculation,
to conduct the business of the army with
that facility and dispatch on which its
success in the Field must ever depend,
for however proper and after audit may
be before the army accounts are
finally passed, it will certainly facilitate
the business when no Disbursements
are made but with the Commander
in Chiefs Sanction and through the
Channel and Medium of his authority

(Signed) Thomas Gisborne

Mount 27th March 1797

Lieut

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Fort St George 11th April 1797

List of the Packet

	Report to Government		7th April 1797
No	1 Proposed draft for General order		
	2 Regulations for the duties of the Military Board		
	3 Minute of the Military auditor General	3	— —
	4 Minute of the Adjutant General	3	— —
	5 Minute of the Comdt of artillery	3	— —
	6 Minute of the Quarter Master Genl	3	— —
	7 Minute of the Comdt of artillery	5	— —
	8 Minute of the Chief Engineer	6	— —
	9 Minute of the President	6	— —
	10 Minute of the Comdt of artillery	27	Onwards

Military Board
Office 8th April 1797

(Signed) Jno. Pierce
Secretary Military Board

The

226 8 Fort St George 11th April 1797

The President delivers in the following Minute

Lord Hobarts Minute in Council 11th April 1797

The several rules upon which the Military Board were directed to form Regulations for the ordnance and Store Departments as well as for defining the powers and Duties of that Board, having been determined by Government after advertising particularly to the Practice at Bengal and to the orders of the Company of the 21st September 1785 - with a view to a permanent arrangement at this Presidency conformably thereto it appears to me that the Plan proposed is well calculated for the purpose, that it contains a System of check and controul likely to be attended with the most beneficial consequences to the Company's Interests, and affords a strong and additional testimony of that fidelity

and

President's Minute on the foregoing Letter and Regulations delivered by the Military Board

Fort St George 11th April 1797

and Public Spirit with which the
proceedings of the Military Board, as far
as they have come within my Knowledge
have been uniformly distinguished.

I am clearly of opinion that the
members of the Military Board should
have precedence according to their rank
in the Service - and not according to their
Seniority at that Board - since whatever
particular reasons might have occurred in
Bengal for the latter arrangement, as a
permanent regulation it would seem
extremely objectionable, not merely because
it is repugnant to those ideas upon which
military ones justly set a high value,
but because it does not hold out any
adequate advantage for so peculiar a
variation from established practice.

I have paid that attention to the
suggestions

Fort St George 11th April 1797

suggestions of the commander in chief
upon the 29th article of the regulations, o
which must always be due to his rank
and authority, and though I can have no
objection to comply with the wishes of the
Commander in Chief for the separation of
this article from the ordinary regulations
of the Military Board, yet this Government
were not at liberty to supersede the force
of the order from the Honble Court of Directors
contained in their letter of 21st September 1785

Amongst the members who
are to compose the Military Board in
future, the Commissary General of
is very properly not included, and upon
a settled Principle I am of opinion he
ought not but as I am informed that
Lieutenant Colonel Hall, who now holds
the office of Commissary General of Stores has

has

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had a considerable share in framing the r
regulations prepared for that department and
from his long experience in this particular he
must be qualified to be of essential use to the
military board by his assistance in carrying
the new system into effect. I am indined to think
that his continuing a Member for a period not
exceeding twelve months from the commence=
ment of the intended regulations would be
highly expedient.

A Commissary of Stores at Fort St George
should be substituted, for an assistant Com=
missary General - which appears to be a
designation wholly unnecessary —

The Accounts of the Commandant
of artillery attended that matter from me,
to which they are entitled both from his
Situation, in the service, and rank in the

2272 Tom's Grange 11th April 1797

the army - but I cannot agree with him that the Military Board have in any shape exceeded the limits of their Duty, by the step to which they have gone in the proposed regulations.

The orders of the Government is expressly directed them to report upon the whole subject, and if any part of it had been omitted those orders would have been unperfectly executed.

The Complement of Military men in the Military Store department having been resisted by the Commissariat of artillery - I have been led to a consideration of the objections he has urged, but without being able to perceive that they have any solid foundation.

On the contrary I am most decidedly

perfectly convinced of the justice of the
observation stated in the 66th Paragraph of a
letter from the Governor General in Council
to the Bombay Government dated October 22d
1792 - 66 Our own opinion is that it ought
to be a fundamental regulation, that every
Military Storekeeper should be a Military
Man - The duty of their Office is such, that
they should be subject to Military orders
and discipline, besides professional attain-
ledge is decidedly necessary, and Civil S
Servants cannot be supposed to possess it.

If the Regulations are not strict-
ly & timely respective the unauthorized issues
or improper application of stores can-
not be long without detection, and in
consequently the Injury of the Service
might eventually sustain from an abuse
of trust in a Military Storekeeper cannot
possibly

Fort St George 11th April 1777

possibly be of a magnitude of a very
alarming nature, whilst upon have as a
pledge for his faithful performance of
the charge he has undertaken whatever
regard he may feel for his own character,
whatever value he may set upon his
Commission as well as the certainty of
his being made accountable for every "
deficiency - for although it may safely
be considered that those who may "
be appointed Military Storekeepers is
not in debt may safely have the strongest "
of making both ends meet - It may with
as much reason be presumed that a
breach of trust to any extent having "
enabled them to become "men of Property"
must at the same time have afforded
them the ability to make good the
Demands of Government.

The generality of Military men in
the

2275 — Fort St George 11th April 1797

the Company's service have stake[d] their, a
all their honor and their prospects on life
upon their Situation in the army — the a
temptation to a military storekeeper offers,
but a small inducement to hazard the
loss of both —

If we are to require adequate
pecuniary Securities we must accept Salaries
in proportion, and after all, considering the
Change which has taken place of late years in
the Civil Service unless we are prepared to
incur an expence to which the finances of
the Government are not equal, if we a
expect that the office of Military Store a
Keeper should be filled by Civil Servants
we must either appoint men without a
experience or make our Selection from
amongst those whose views in the a
Service have been limited by a want
either of integrity or Talents. The Military
Storekeepers

2276 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Store Keepers being confined to the Receipt and
Issue of Stores and having no concern in the
Supply of them, proper checks being established
to prevent improvident issues accompanied
by provisions for the detection of abuse, there
will be little risk in committing the Duties
of a Store Keeper to a Military man who shall
have given no other security than his good
opinion - even if he was ever so much
disposed to abuse the confidence reposed
in him and in point of Economy there can
be no doubt of the advantages of such an
arrangement. -

By opening the department of
Ordnance and Military Stores to Officers
of other Corps who may be duly qualified
as well as the Artillery, much of the inconveni-
ence apprehended by the Commandants of
Artillery will be removed and an Officer
from his Corps must unexceptionably be posted
at

2277 Fort St George 11th April 1791

at many of the principal Stations where a Military Storekeeper will be appointed, this nomination will scarcely be felt.

When the army is in the field, the issues of Stores will be extremely limited, and a Situations will be extremely limited, and a temporary arrangement may always be applicable to existing circumstances. The Principles of the proposed regulations keeping separating the offices of safety and Custody and placing the charge and provision of Stores in distinct hands is certainly a great and obvious improvement on the present System, where the Storekeeper acts in both Capacities without any sufficient check or controul to prevent abuse and the above principle which has so long obtained, and has been so strongly recommended from Bengal has the further advantage of having stood the test of experience without any

2278 Fort St George 11th April 1797

any of the inconveniences and moderations apprehended by the Commandant of artillery. —

It now remains for me to express my decided approbation of the measure that has been submitted and to propose that the General order recommended by the Military Board be immediately published for the purpose of giving effect to the system on the recommencement of the official year 1797/8 and that that Board be desired to lay before Government the detailed regulations for the Store Department with all the explanations which a subject of so much importance will admit of.

(Signed) Hobart

The Board's opinion approved by the Board —

As the Board entirely concurs in the sentiments of the President, resolved that the following answer be sent to the Military Board. —

2279 Fort St George 11th April 1797

To Lieutenant General Harris

President & Members of the

Military Board

Gentlemen

We have received your in

Letter of the 7th Instant with its several Inclosures

upon the subject of the ordnance and store

Department and on the description of the powers

and duties of the Military Board.

We have paid particular

attention to those papers, and think the plans

and regulations, which you have proposed

with a view to a permanent arrangement

at this Presidency, contain a system of check

and control likely to be attended with the

most beneficial consequences to the interests

of the Company, and that they afford a strong

additional testimony of that assiduity and

Publick

To the Military Board in reply to the foregoing Letter Copy of the General order and of the Regulations for conducting the Duties of this Board as approved by Government, inclosed —

2280 Fort St George 11th April 1797

A public Spirit, in the which the proceedings of the Military Boards have been conducted

We entirely concur in the opinion with you that the Members should have precedence according to their rank in the army, not according to their seniority at the Board, since, whatever particular reasons may have occurred in Bengal for the latter arrangement we deem it as a permanent regulation extremely objectionable, not only because it is repugnant to those ideas upon which Military men justly set a high estimation, but because it does not hold out any adequate advantage for so preceding a deviation from established practice

We have according to your desire paid that attention to the suggestion of

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of the Commander in Chief upon the a-
-rt. the articles of the regulations, which must
always be due to his rank and authority.
but in the present case we are specifically
prohibited by the orders of the Honble Court of
Directors in the 39th paragraph of their letter
of 21 September 1785 from expunging that a-
-rticle from the standing regulations.

Among the members who are to a-
-compose the Military Board in future
we observe that the commissary General of
stores is very properly not included, and
upon a fixed principle we are of opinion
that he ought not; but as Lieutenant a-
-Colonel Hall, who now holds the post
of Commissary General of stores, has had
a considerable share in framing the a-
-regulations proposed for that department,
and as his long experience in this particular

branch

Fort St George 11th April 1794

branch of the service must qualify him to be essentially useful in carrying the new system into effect we have judged it expedient and accordingly direct that he shall continue to be a member of the military board for twelve months from the 1st May next.

We have substituted a commissary of stores at Fort St George instead of the assistant commissary general, a designation which we have thought wholly unnecessary.

The Minutes of the commandant of artillery have attracted our serious notice, but upon the full consideration of the objections, which he has urged against the proposed regulations we do not think that they have any solid foundation.

2283 Fort St George 11th April 1797

I therefore only mention for your
to express your decided approbation of the
system which has been submitted to us, and
to inform you that I have published a
General Order in conformity with your
recommendation for the purpose of giving
effect to the new System on the commence-
ment of the official year 1797/8: We desire
therefore that you will lay before us the
detailed regulations for the Store department
with all the expeditions, which a subject of
so much importance will allow.)

We indorse copy of the General
Order together with the regulations proposed
by you and authorized by us for the
guidance of the Military Board

We are
Your &c &c
(Signed) Hobart
Pres. Council

Fort St George
12th April 1797

2284 Fort St George 11th April 1791

Read the following letter from

Bombay.

To the Right Honble Lord Hobart

Governor in Council at

Fort St George

My Lord,

We have the Honor to forward

the Copy of a Letter that, with its Enclosures,

we have this Day transmitted to the

Commissioners in the Malabar Province,

in consequence of the Information we

have been favored with from* as transmitted

to your Government by major Dowdeswell,

under the 27th of last month, the passport of

Intentions, to resist our Keeping Possession of

Wynaad, which the Bengal Government

have directed us to maintain our authority

in, in like manner as over the rest of

the Malabar Province, ceded as may also

be

From Bombay
expressive of
their apprehensions
that Tipoo is intent
upon a Breach of
the Peace with the
English by opposing
their right to the
Wynaad Province,
and upholding the
Pycke Rajah in his
rebellion against
the Company's
Government.

* The Cypher incorrect
supposed to mean
Seringapatam

2285 Fort St George 11th April 1797

be by the Commotions prevailing in
Cotiote, to which Wynaad is an Annexation,
we fond but too strongly corroborated by
the last articles of the same Date from the
George Rajah, in consequence that, notwithstanding
it be the opinion of the Bengal Government
as expressed true in their Letters of the 30th
January and 16 February last, that Tippoo
will not assist the Cotiote, more properly
styled the Pyche Chiefstain, or commit any other
Infraction of the Peace and Treaty, subsisting
between him and the Company, We deem
it nevertheless a Measure of incumbent
Duty, and precaution, on our part, to a
advise upon your Lordships Government of
which, under the Existing Circumstances,
we cannot but view as the strong Probability
that Tippoo meditates, and may, ere now,
have carried into Execution, hostile Designs
against, and have actually invaded, the
Malabar

2286 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Malabar Province, in which case, over a recollection of the former assurances of your Lordships Government, when a similar attempt was some months ago apprehended, leaves us no room to doubt of your Lordships ready assistance, in acting against the Sultaun's Territories, on your side, as soon as the Commissioners shall have advised your Lordship that Services Hostilities have superceded all Endeavours to pacify, and Conciliation, on their part.

We have the Honor to be,

Bombay Castle
21 March 1797

Your, Your,

Jon. Duncan
J. Stuart
W. Whitehill
J. Spencer

To

2287 Fort St George 11th April 1797

To James Rivett Esqr. & Wm Farquhar Commissioners for executing
the office of Superviser and Chief Magistrate in
the Province of Malabar

Gentlemen,

We forward the Copy of a
Letter received last night from the assistant
at Poona with further and more Authen-
tic accounts of the motions of Tippoo &
Sultaun towards the Tombuchurry Pass;
which if true we can only im-
pute to a desire or Resolution on
the part of the Sultaun to resist our keep-
ing possession of Mangaad, or to aspect-
ing the Cotiote Raja, or, into both of these views;
and not having heard from you since the
3d Instant when Captain Dewney had actually
taken possession of the Tombrachurry Pass, &
and Colonel Dow was on his March towards
it we are left in a state of very painful
anxiety

Fort St George 11th April 1797

anxiety as to what may have ensued in case
of Tipoo's passing beyond his Frontier Post
to Attrattah which Colonel Dows had for=
merly occupied, accompanying upon Letter of the
23d August of Tipoo to the Most Noble Princes
most Westerly station on that side, but
should the Sultaun or his Troops have
passed beyond that line of Boundary, your
will we trust have proceeded in
conformity to our Instructions of the
13th of January of which a Copy of the
2d Paragraph is hereunto added.

Under circumstances so criti=
=cal to the Peace of the Country, We
most earnestly recommend to your atten=
=tion the cultivating by every means in
your Power, the good Will of the native
Rajahs and Chiefs as well of all the Inha=
=bitants in general as also that you or
your

Fort St George 11th April 1797

your President will keep agents at the
Port of Manapalore to give him constant
advice for our monthly information of
what is passing there, of a Nature that
can have any tendency, near or remote
to affect our Situation, and the Peace of
the Province under your Charge, since
it cannot but prove Acceptable to us Being
repeatedly to hear by the Indirect Channel
of Madras of the arrival of the Enemys
Ships at that Port without sending any
notice taken thereof in your Dispatches, and
altho' we should from your silence be
willing altogether to discredit the Intelligence
thus received; We are nevertheless deterred
from confidently placing a reliance in
such a flattering conclusion by hearing
from the Commanders of Vessels lately
come up the Coast that they observed two
large

Fort St George 11th April 1797

large Ships in Mangalore Roads when
they passed it, besides (as it is said) a
Battalion mann'd with Foreigners which
some time ago captured a Country Vessel
laden with Timber on the Companys
account. under these uncertainty
of what Nation or Force these Ships may
be, We are prevented from applying for
the assistance of his Majestys Sloop the
Hobart, now laying here, lest they should
prove an overmatch for her, or otherwise
Captain Page would we doubt not be
ready to proceed at our Instance to look
into the Port of Mangalore and to destroy
if he met the other smaller French Equipt
ment, all which we have notice the more
clearly to point out to you the necessity
of your keeping us constantly advised of
the real state of Circumstances along

the

1st George II. 6 April 1797

the Coast, as well as within the Province;
and we need hardly add that whilst
Colonel Dow continues in Command of
the Troops in the Field he will of course
be the proper Officer you can employ
to communicate, should it prove requisite,
with Tippoo Sultaun or his Officers in the
Terms of our preceding Instructions of which
a Copy is abovementioned to go enclosed.

We are
Your loving
Friends

Bombay Castle
21st March 1797

(Signed) Jonn Duncan
Wm Page
Wm Farmer Council

True Copy
(Signed) Ja Grant
Asst Secy

Read the following Letter from the

Resident at Tanjore

J.
Jos.

2292 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Jos. Webbe Esqr

Secretary to Government

Sir Fort St George

Be pleased to inform the

Right Honble the Governor in Council &

That finding my repeated Solicitations for an

Interview with his Excellency to be utterly

fruitless I have been obliged to communicate

the Substance of your Letter of the 11th Ultimo

in writing, to which I have yet received

no answer. —

In the same Communication

I strongly pressed his Excellency to guard &

against the unfated Consequences of an

affair in Manargoody which had recently

happened. This was a quarrel, and

preparation for hostilities between

two Principal Inhabitant of that

Country. —

From the Resident at Tanjore - communicates to the Right Hon.ble the purport of the Boards order to him under Date the 14th. March last. - reports a very serious dispute and warfair amongst some of the Inhabitants of Manargoody

&/c

2293

Fort St George 11th April 1797

The Rajah I believe has paid no attention whatever to the warning Information on the above subject as Mann from a report just now made to me, which is that a fight has actually taken place between the 2 parties, - in which 12 or 14 people have been wounded - one of the parties had assembled upwards of three thousand men, with 3 small Guns.

I forward this Letter immediately on receiving the Report and will shortly transmit such further particulars as may be necessary for the Information of the Right Honorable the President in Council

I have the honor to be,

Sir, Your

Tanjore

3d April 1797

(Signed) Alexr. Macleod

Resr

Resd

2294 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Read the following letter from

Lieutenant Colonel Orme

Major General Clarke

Commander in Chief of the

Army &c &c &c

Sir

from Lieutenant Colonel Orme complaining of Captain Chalmers having been detached from his professional duty on a commercial service — recommends the appointment of Lieutenant Aldridge as Malay Interpreter — and applies for an allowance for writers and Stationary

I take the liberty of enclosing to you, a Copy of an order issued by his Excellency Admiral Rainier immediately before he sailed from hence, detaching Captain Chalmers from his military duties, and appropriating him to a Civil and Commercial office until the pleasure of Government shall be known. Had I been informed of any such application by Captain Chalmers in the first instance (which as I was next day to succeed to the Command of the Troops I had a right to expect,) or had I been apprized of it in any other stage, I should have stated such objections to the admiral as would have prevented its success. But it was perhaps

because

Fort St George 11th April 1797

because those objections did forever thereafter
that I was not apprized of the application.
Captain Chalmers has quitted his Post
Company which is left with another
Company of Europeans to the immediate
care of one Lieutenant and one acting Ensign
only; while he is to do the usual duties of
the Dutch Resident at Hitoe Banda van
Smith the surgeon remains at Amboyna. The
other Residents, one of Saparoa and one
of Harroka, were at the same time ordered
to proceed to their stations for the Purpose
of superintending the collection of Cloves
which will occupy them about three
months.

Previous to my leaving Madras,
having been informed that Admiral Rainier
Malloy Interpreter was a very intelligible
person to be employed I had the honor of
recommending Lieutenant Aldridge to your

Fort St George 11 April 1797

as one well qualified to fill that office:
and on our passage to Mallacca, Mr. Jones
having found that the Man sent with
him from Madras was altogether incom-
petent, he joined me in urging Lieutenant
Colonel Taldon to permit Lieutenant
Aldridge to accompany us to Amboyna.
When we arrived here we found that
the admiral had sent his Interpreter to
Banda, on account of those improper
practices of which I had been told he was
capable; but he had been already succeeded
in office by a Mr. Chardon, who is
continued in it under Mr. Jones; he is a
Dutch man, and intimately associated
with those whom we least trust. Lieutenant
Aldridge was taught both by Mr. Jones and
myself to expect some allowance here as
Malloy interpreter. He has been useful to
me, and I beg leave to submit the subject
to

Fort St George 11th April 1797

to your consideration. — I likewise request leave to bring under your notice that, there is no allowance made to the Officer Commanding in those Islands either for Writers or stationary and both are expensive. As the table money at Malacca seems to have been made a precedent to determine the sum allowed on that account to the Officer Commanding at Amboyna; I wish hope if my request meets with your approbation, that Government will be pleased to grant me the same allowance for Paper and Writers as is drawn by Lieutenant Colonel Tolson or any other allowance that may be deemed more adequate to this extensive command

I have the Honour to be with the utmost Respect. &c. &c.

(Signed) Dan.l Mc Neile
Major
Comm.g the Hon.ble Company's
Troops in the Moluca Islands

Amboyna
1st January 1797

2298 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Amboyna 29th Novr 1796

J.C. As the request of Wm Jones Esqr
Captain Chalmers is appointed to act in
the Commercial Department and in
all Civil matters under him till the
pleasure of the Madras Government
is known. —

Captain Chalmers is to be
resident at Hitto, and Mr. Jorkins
Captain of the Burgess to be under
Captain Chalmers. —

To The Right Honourable Lord Hobart
Governor in Council
&c &c &c

Fort St George

My Lord,

From Lieutenant Colonel
Macaulay with
copy of his Letter to the
Governor General
relative to supplies
of Rice and Money
required for the
Garrisons of Amboyna
and Banda — and
stating the alacrity
of the troops on
occasion of an
alarm of attack
from the Enemys
Ships which proved
afterwards to be a
Fleet of Indiamen
bound for China

I have the honour of addressing
your Lordship by the Jane Frances Frank
now under dispatch, and I have infinite
satisfaction in acquainting you, that the
Circumstances of this Garrison are at
altogether

Fort St George 11th April 1795

altogether are gratifying as under certain
circumstances I could have expected they would
be; and it is not a little pleasing to observe,
that they are equally so to all Ranks. —

I have the pleasure of informing
your Lordship that a good deal has been
done since I had the honour of succeeding to the
Command, towards insuring the safety of this
Island, and at so small an expence as to
be unworthy of notice. I hope it is not
necessary to add an assurance to your
Lordship, that no preparation shall be
omitted in the first instance, or exertion on
the part, to baffle and defeat any attempts
which the Enemy may project against
the British possessions in this part of
the globe. —

In the present state of the Treasury
I have judged it expedient to throw the
troops as much in arrear as may be
compatible

2300

Fort St George 11th April 1797

consistable with their Constitution, nor have it been necessary to correct and restrain claims, for both Courts and provisions, which seem to have been as irregularly made, as improperly complied with.

I have the honour of inclosing to your Lordship copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Governor General in Council. —

I have the honour to be with the utmost respect. —

your &c.

Dan'l Munro

Fort Victoria
Amboyna
11th January 1797

The Honorable Sir Jno Shore Bart.
Governor General in Council
Calcutta

Hon'ble Sir

I have the Honor to announce to the Supreme Board, the arrival of the Cartier

2301

Fort St George 11th April 1797

Cartier and Albion Transport with the
Supplies of Provisions Government were
pleased to direct for the Moluca Islands, I
they present a pleasing and abundant
supply to our wants, and I hope I may live
permitted to express my own, and the
Gratitude of those I have the honor to
Command for the suspensed Boards
attention to our peculiarly unhanced by
our remote Situation — The article of Rice
alone and which is in most parts of India
is the principal sustenance of the Natives
will be aurgmented want the Sago is substituted
by the lower Classes of the people and afford
a happy relief, yet the Consumption of Rice is
considerable both at Amboyna and Banda
and the necessary Consumption for the
Inhabitants in public employ of those Islands,
may be considered to bear a triple proportion
to the troops which renders further application
on that article requisite, and induces the
freedom

Fort St George 11th April 1797

freedom of any suggesting, that Merchant
Ships which may be permitted to touch at
this Port, may be recommended to bring
it as an article that will find a ready
market.

His Excellency Rear Admiral Rainier
sailed the 1 December on the Suffolk, accom-
panied by the Swift Sloop of War, the 4
Gloster, Ewer, and Yarmouth Transports,
the two Latter with the Same (the present
Dispatch.) brought the Reinforcement under
my Command to Amboyna convoyed
by the Bombay frigate — the Intrepid
Cruizer arrived in this harbour on the
28th December, and the Company of the 4
Wirtemberg Regiment joined this Garrison
from Banda the succeeding day. — A Fleet
of Indiamen detect for China which sailed
from St Helena the 27th October arrived here
on

2303 Fort St George 11th April 1791

on the 7th January, their appearance off this harbour
occasioned a belief that they were the fleet which
your Supreme Board in your Letter of the 17th Oct.
to Rear admiral Rainier gave reason to
imagine might attempt the Recovery of the
Spice Islands, and afforded me the gratifying
pleasure of seeing a degree of Ardor, and
Alacrity manifested by this Garrison on the
occasion, which confirmed the Confidence I
before professed for the security of the important
Charge confided to me — I hope I may be
permitted to assure the supreme Board that
nothing has been wanting in the preparation
to give that security as far as I have professed
the means, and that our exertions when
called forth, will keep pace with them and
convince the light vessel I am persuaded this
Garrison has of its duties. —

The money which the Supreme board
have signified their Intentions of sending to
the

2304

Fort St George 11th April 1797

The Mallacca will of it arrives within 2 or 3 months come very opportunely. -

I have the Honor to inclose a List of the China Fleet, which came thro' the Straights of Sunda. -

I have the honor to be with the utmost Respect. - &c &c &c

(Signed) Dan'l Mc Neill
Major

List of China Ships dirct sailed from St Helena on the 27th Oct. and arrived at Anjengo on the 9th January

Glatton - Commodore Drummond.
Commanded by Captain Jackson.

Thames - Captain Williamson.

Duke of Buccleuch Captain Wall.

Walmer Castle Captain Baird.

Royal Charlotte Captain Aspet.

Ordered

2305

Fort St George 11th April 1797

To lie on the Table

Ordered to lie on the Table

Read the following Letter from

the Paymaster at Fort St George & Chingleput

and Vellore

The Right Honorable Lord Hobart

President in Council

of Fort St George,

My Lord

From Summary of military Expenditure requesting that Government will decide upon their Claim to an adequate salary from the period of their being deprived of the emoluments they formerly derived from the Exchange

In the year 1793 we did ourselves the honor of addressing a Memorial on the subject of our situation which we have been given to understand was ordered to lay over until the new arrangements were finally settled upon, when opportunity should take place. In may 96. on the arrival of the Military arrangements Mr. Wyndh Paymaster of Vellore & we addressed your Lordship, not only pointing out circumstances respecting his own Situation, but also praying that from the length of time

The

2306 Fort St George 11th April 1797

The Paymasters had wailed on so small
and inadequate an allowance, that your
Lordships would be pleased not only to
fix a Salary adequate to their charge and
responsibility, but that you would be
pleased to allow them that Salary from
the time of their being deprived of the
benefit of the Exchange, which was an
Emolument allowed by the Honorable
Court of Directors time immemorial.

It cannot have escaped your
Lordships notice the great patience with
which we have waited more than four
years in the hopes that some thing
would be done to have bettered our
Situation but no notice has been taken
of us except that of throwing additional
trouble and responsibility on our
employ. We have now to request,
your Lordship will be pleased to
decide without further delay what
our

2307 Fort St George 11th April 1797

our Salaries are to be from the time the advantage by the Exchange was taken from us previous to which Mr. Secretary Jackson in his official address to the commandants of Corps dated 29th Novr. 1792 pointed out the Reluctance with which Government abolished our last remaining emolument, under the apprehension that it could not in equity be taken away without a compensation, which declaration we have always considered as an equivalent to a pledge on the part of Government. This my Lord we trust may be done without waiting for the Regulations that have so long been with the Military Board. and we conceive it will be a paying us but strict Justice for your Lordship at once to

determine

2308. Fort St George 11th April 1797

(determine upon it.)

Fort St George
7th April 1797

We have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
yrs &c &c
Basil Cockraine
Pay.r Fort St George
J.W Skardon
Paymaster at Chingleput
yrs &c &c
John Wynch
Paymaster at Vellore
yrs &c &c

the foregoing Letter ordered to lie on the Table

Ordered to lie on the table
Read the following letter from
Mr. Johnston's executors

To the Right Honorable Lord Hobart
President and Governor in Council
Fort St George

from the Committee appointed to audit Mr Johnstons accounts with a Letter addressed to them by Mr Johnston &c. that in each of accounts current on which he makes the Company his Debtor to the amount of upwards of 70000 Pag.s as in the Board's Decision on a very material difference of opinion between them and Mr Johnston relative to the Extent of the Duty committed to their charge

My Lord,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Secretary Webbs Letter of the 4th Instant appointing Us a Committee, for a Revision of the accounts of Mr Samuel Johnston late

2309 Fort Stanwix 11th April 1797

late Paymaster at Trichinopoly, and that a
Credit might be given him for any Vouchers he
may produce in diminution of the Balance of
Star Pagodas 19,516, 30, 16, - We in consequence
applied, as further directed, to the Asst Secretary
in the Military Department for information
upon this subject, and were furnished with the
account Current with Mr. Johnston, which
adjudged the above balance to be due from
him.

On looking over this account, you
perceive among the different Items, one
in which the claims of Mr. Johnston have
been deemed inadmissible and apparently
decided against him, not only for want of
Vouchers, but from being contrary to the
Regulations of the Service. -

The 8th Item is a charge in a
Suspense, "for want of Vouchers, and for
"which He was to have Credit when produced
"to the Satisfaction of Government"

The

2310

Fort St George 11th April 1797

The third and last Item is for an over charge in the Wastage of Grain for which no Vouchers can appear

With this information before us We conceived the Duties of our Commission to be confined to the Examination of such Vouchers as Mr Johnston might produce in liquidation of the two first Charges

We have now to inform Your Lordship in Council that Mr Johnston's interpretation of your orders differs widely from our Construction of them, as appears by a Letter We have addressed to our Committee, accompanied by an account Current, bringing a balance against the Honorable Company of Star Pagodas 1,20,525.. 22.. 42, Copies of these we beg leave to enclose - By the account Current as well as by Mr Johnston's Letter, Your Lordship will perceive, We call upon us to open again for Investigation Claims which have, We understand, been decided upon by different

2311 Fort St George 11th April 1797

different Committees and ultimately
confirmed by Government and the Court
of Directors

Under so material a difference
of opinion we think it right to refer the
Point to your Lordship in Council.

We have the honor to be,
&c &c &c

Fort St George
14th March 1797

(Signed) T Oakes.
Benj.n Torin.
Thos. Stote Jackson.

Messrs Oakes Torin and Jackson

Gentlemen

Nothing can be more satisfactory
to me than to find that Government has been
pleased to nominate a Committee for the
Revision of my accounts in capacity of
Paymaster and Storekeeper at Trichinopoly,
composed of men of your character and
impartiality, under this orders I will
immediately

2312

Fort St George 11th April 1795

immediately proceed to lay before you the several Claims intended for your investigation. and in doing so I will endeavour not to trespass very long upon your time. —

The accompanying account Current comprehends all those claims. and I will take the Liberty of making a few observations on the several Items as they occur;

The first article of debit is for 4 Pagodas 4893.38 — it will be necessary for you to call for the Vouchers which have been sent to the Military Paymaster Generals Office. as per the abstract No.1 of Indorsees. I understand some of the Vouchers are mislaid. I hope however I shall be able to explain to your satisfaction, any little embarrassments that may arise from this accident —

For the second debit Pr bj. 21. Inoculations the Officers Commissions. the amount of which has long since been carried to the Credit of the Company by me, and I was

prevented

2313 Fort St George 11th April 1797

prevented from receiving it from the Officers
by having been removed from my Office
For the Third debit of Pags 1199.16.2.
the Vouchers are now sent agreeably to the
abstract No 1 owing to my illness and
absence, some confusion arose on my
Office, and it is only since my arrival
from England, that I have been able
to Recover those Documents
The Fourth article is Pr 2754-32-78
an amount which was deducted from my
accounts on the idea that it was an
overcharge on Gunnies, It cannot be
denied that the price charged by me
was at a period when the demand
for them was at least as great if not
greater than it has been ever since
for I suspected the army at Trichinopoly
Plain when it was preparing to take
the field as the least exceptionable
criterion of the propriety of any charge,
I beg to refer to the subsequent accounts
of Mr Garrow whether the Price charged
Since

2314. Fort St George 11th April 1797

Since was left I will be seen by an authentic Document N°3. from the Comptroller Generals Office that Mr. Garrow charged, and was allowed the full price which I had claimed for Gunny Bags for those furnished by him, at a time tos when the army was gone from Trichinopoly and no extraordinary demand for the article. -

The fifth debit of Pag.e 2290-11-10 arises from a deficiency in the Grain after it was placed in the Companys Stores, in order to do me justice in considering this claim it must be ascertained what caused that deficiency it may be necessary for me to premise that when the subject of charge is a deficiency in the quantity of any article. the deficiency in general. may be referred either first to a fraud in the person charging for more than he can produce an account

2315 Fort St George 11th April 1791.

account for, or wasting in the article itself,
or a difference in the medium of ascertaining the quantity, or to want of
practice in those employed in measuring it, to make this charge bear
upon me I conceive that fraud was to
be imputed to me, for it could not be supposed
that I was responsible for the natural
wasting of the article or the difference of
measure which other persons might possibly
or for their want of practice in measuring
it But before fraud can properly be
imputed to me, I have a right to expect
that proper allowance was made me, for
the natural wasting of the article and
that those who do imputate fraud to me
were satisfied that the same measure
was applied to ascertaining the quantity
of Grain when Mr Garrow entered
upon the Office, which had been
applied by me in receiving the Grain
into Store, it is fit that you should know
that the Trichinopoly Committee, who
immediately

Fort St George 11th April 1797

immediately on the Spot to satisfy admit
their inadequacy to decide to what the
deficiency ought to be attributed. but it
positively acknowledges that an alteration
of Measures by Mr Gamon had taken
place" and that they found themselves
"unable to ascertain to what amount this
"might cause a deficiency in the grain
"in the Measurement." I have also to
observe on the wastage that although
5 Pct Pannum is the usual
allowance made by the Company it
cannot in fairness be said that if grain
is supposed to lose 5 Pct in one year
it will only lose 2½ Pct in six months for
it is well known that Paddy will lose
more the first three months of its being
stored than in the nine subsequent
and it is very justly observed by the
Victualling Commissioners that Rice kept
out Raw, is subject to more early decay
and wastage, than when it has been
some time in store, taking these different
circumstances

2317 Fort St George 11th April 1797

circumstances into your Consideration I am confident you will be of opinion That the amount of this article ought to be allowed to me. –

As for the 6th article Schedule 2 cap but little in addition to what is already said on the account Current. – The general Receipt of Mr. Woodfall, one of the Members of the Trichinopoly Committee to whom the Vouchers were ordered to be delivered, does not remark that they were deficient several months after I had parted with the Vouchers out of my hands, I was called upon to make good the Sum of Pagodas 1259. 2. 9. alledging that Clothing Certificates to that amount were not to be found, the Trichinopoly Committee was appointed and sent to Trichinopoly for the express purpose of receiving and examining all my Vouchers, it is to be presumed, that under such orders they did examine the Clothing Certificates with as much accuracy as they did all the

2318. Fort St George 11th April 1791

the Hon.ble and particularly those for temporary allowances to Officers and that if there had been any deficiency it would have been taken Notice of before the acknowledgment was granted. This acknowledgment is dated 20th December 1791. and is marked No 4 in the enclosures. Soon after the Committee had made their Report I was charged with the amount in question, it seems hard however that I should be held accountable for the production of vouchers delivered over to those who were appointed to receive and examine them on the Spot, and whose duty it was to have done so, before they gave their acknowledgment and made their Report, as wide might I be called upon now to be accountable for any Vouchers that cannot be found in the Military Paymasters Office, it is perfectly in my Recollection that I was examined

forth

2319 Fort St George 11th April 1791

with the most circumspection & caution, no
negligence is imputable to the Committee
on that score, and surely if Vouchers are
lost or mislaid, after I had parted with it
from it would be the height of injustice to
suppose that I ought to be the sufferer; it
they may yet be lying in the Comptroller
Generals office, or in the arsenal where it
I was told many of those formerly required,
had been found.

The seventh debit of Pags 600 for
Repairs done at Bidjent, stands thus, it
I hired a house known by that name, on
Trichenopoly Island, which had been it
occupied formerly by Mr Irwin when it
Collector; in order to make it habitable for
my family. I repaired it at different times,
at a much larger cost than I have it
charged; - upon my removal from it
Trichenopoly, and upon the Representations
of Mr Andrews at that time the it
Collector who thought the house would it

Fw

Fort St George 11th April 1797

be convenient for himself, I was ordered by Government to quit it, On entering took Possession, upon which I demanded payment of the Sum of 600 Pagodas, as a Reimbursement, I believe I was told that the demand could not be admitted, because I had no orders from Government to make Repairs. That certainly was true, indeed I never had Occasion of applying to Government for leave to disburse my own Money, on a House for which I paid an annual Rent for my own private accommodation, and which I considered as private property. —

Upon the Eighth article Pag. 283, 22, 30 arising from a short payment to me on some grain belonging to me at Madura, I have only to observe that I apprehend it is a mistake, for the Military Paymaster Books will shew that I received only Pag. 7,209, 20, 50 — whereas the amount of the Grain delivered into the Company's Store was Pag. 7893 —

The

2321 Fort St George 11th April 1797

The ninth article has been very fully investigated by the members of the Board of Revenue, and their report upon it is very decisive in my favor, my absence from this Country is the only reason why the claim has not been brought forward. No one is better informed on the nature of it, than one of the members of your Committee whose situation gave him an opportunity of furnishing the Board of Revenue with the explanations which led to this decision; The enclosure No 5 is, I believe a Statement which corresponds with the accounts of the Board of Revenue.

The Tenth and last article is Grain purchased and delivered by me, into the Company's Store at Trichinopoly; - I served towards the end of the year 1789, from the operations of Tippoo Sultaun in the Trawancore Country there was a great probability of war with him and that Grain would be wanted in large quantities for the publick Service and I was also informed from undoubted intelligence obtained

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obtained by myself on the spot, that Tippoo actually had agents at Vizianopoly to purchase up large quantities of Grain by tempting the annuldars of the Nabob with high price and ready money, and Jews very much alarmed least the annuldars should yield to that temptation, in order to enable them to make good the Money demanded of them by the Nabob; knowing that the Company would not pay the Nabob money for his grain, as he was their Debtor and that there was no means of keeping it out of the hands of Tippoo, but by paying Cash, I thought it my duty and highly meritorious under such Circumstances to take immediate Measures to counteract the designs of our enemy, and I therefore Collected all the money I could of my own, and all the money I could of persons amongst my Friends, and purchased for ready money as considerable quantity of the grain which those annuldars were on the point of selling to

to

Fort St George 11th April 1791

to Tippoo's agents, as I meant to furnish it to the Company, having purchased it with no other view, I deposited it in the Company's Store, and then delivered to the Company a great part of that grain which enabled the army, under General Medows to march from Trichinopoly plain; you who are acquainted with the oeconomy of this Country, will not be surprized that the Nabob was afterwards desirous of making the Grain which he had actually sold for Cash, and had received value for, part of his debt to the Company, in order to help to make up the Payment of this Debt, which were six a arrear and for which he was perpetually pressed by Government, and it will be remembered, that all the time he made the attempt I stood in the Situation of a person accused by the Company and that Mr Garrow whose situation expired on making Good the accusation against me, was upon the spot and

in

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in Office - when I was obliged from
the state of my health to leave Trichinopoly
I delivered over all the Grain that had been
purchased by myself and Thro my assens
to the Companys Store. The total quantities
upon my Returns was Cull.rs 1270 84, out of
which I have only received the value of
Cull.rs 20,000 - I delivered the Grain at the
same price I bought it, without any
Profit whatsoever to myself altho I might
have sold it to the inhabitants who
were extremely distressed on any terms
which I might have thought fit to
propose and who from the circum-
stance of all the Grain having been
called for the publick use, and not
being allowed to be sold in the Bazar,
were obliged to submit upon Matchmony-
whenever the Nabob understood that
the greatest part of the Grain was
ready stored in the Store, and that
I was applying for Payment agreeably
to the Companys orders, he signified
Thro

2325 Fort St George 11th April 1793

Thro' General Meadows, that it was the
property of the Circar, and that His
Highness had written to me, stating that
the quantity of Grain brought in and
bringing in would be accounted for
in the next Crop; If the Grain had only
been the property of the Nabob at this time
what ought they could there have been for his
writing to me, that it would be accounted
for to me in the next Crop; but on the
contrary, if the Nabob had sold and received
Payment from me for the identical
Grain as he truly had it, surely was a
Case and swindling trick in him, and
I have to regret, that he was indebted to
benefit himself of it, to prevent my
receiving Payment from the Company
especially as they were supplied with
the Grain, which was procured
solely thro the means of my
pursuits and by the advance of my
money I have correctly stated the
Grounds upon which my Claim
against

30.

Fort St George 11th April 1791

against the Company Nabob, and you will remember that whether the Grain is my property or the Nabobs is a question in which the interests of the Company do not appear either immediately or distantly involved. The exigency of their affairs, particularly the marche of the army demanded an instantaneous supply. The orders which I received especially those of the 11th January directing me in case of delays on the part of the Nabob to take measures myself for laying up the quantity of Grain wanted, were dictated by the urgency of the occasion; and I feel myself warranted to assert that my apprehensions were no more than suited to that urgency; my claim is of a civil Right, and if founded in justice can never prejudice the Company by its allowance, as the admission of it can operate in no other manner than to transfer the amount from the Credit which they may have given to His Highness the Nabob, to my Credit - It is to me irreconcileable upon the principles of justice how the Nabob could have been encouraged

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encouraging and aiding in wresting any property from me. I will put a similar case to you; suppose the Nabob had paid me fifty thousand ₹ Pagodas, and I had lodged that money in the hands of Government to remit or for any other purpose the Nabob finding that the money he had paid me was with Government, applies to them that the money is his, and that he will be ⁊ accountable to me, in the mean time for ⁊ it, would Government under that or any pretence, transfer any property to the Credit of the Nabob. I think not. Money and Grain are the same, and I submit to you whether I am not entitled to Credit for the amount of Pag.ᵃ 40176 ⁊ 22 ⁊ 78, which is the sum that has been carried to the Credit of the Nabob and for whatever balance is ⁊ due to me, agreeably to the account Current

No 6. —

I have the honor to be
&c. &c.
(Signed) Sam.ˡ Johnston

Mailapa Gardens
Choultry Plain
14th March 1797

DS

2328 Fort St George 11th April 1791

Dr. The United East India Company in account

No.	1	To the amount of Sundry Vouchers on the hands of the Military Paymaster General as Per List No 1		4893	38
		To the amount of 9 Commissions for officers now delivered		67	21
No	2	To the amount of 16 accompanying Vouchers No 2		1199	16 2
		To the amount of a charge upon Gunnys, agreeably to what was made by Mr Lyons and allowed to him, as appears by the account in the Military auditor			
No	3	Generals office but deducted from one	1,700 " 12 " 48		
		To the amount of ditto ditto ditto	1,057 " 20 " 30		
				2757	32 7½
		Sic Memorandum No 3			
		To a Short allowance for the Wastage upon Grain		2290	10 13
		To this amount in Cloathing Certificates all of which were acknowledged to have been received by the Fortification Committee as Their General Receipt dated 20th December 1790 No 4		1259	2 9
No	4	To the amount of Repairs done at Bellfort on Fortification Duty plain the house being my property was ordered to be delivered over to Mr Andrews the Collector, and no allowance was made for any disbursements		600	" "
		To this amount being a difference in the Cost of Cullums 10,943 of Paddy my property duged by Mr Vaughan Paymaster at Madura for account of the Company at 13 fanams 4 Cullums	7493 " —		
		Deduct received on account	7209 " 20 . 50	283	22 39
		Carried over		13,350	21 10

2329 Lent Plymouth 11th April 1799

Journal with Samuel Johnston . . . . . Esqr

2330 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Brought over . . . 13350 21 10

No 5 To this amount due me, for property in the Tanore valley Country as appears by the Books of the Board of Revenue and upon which the members of that Board decided in their Letter to Government of 10th may 1792, in the following Words "We think it therefore proper to acquaint you that we had occasion to refer to you some time ago on the subject of this claim, which under whatever shape it may now appear before you, is the same as that preferred by Mr Johnston, and is still on his account notwithstanding the changes which it seems to have undergone

See the account Current No 5 } 11,385 " 33 77 "

Interest on this Sum from 31 December 1790 to 28th February 1797 is 6 years and 2 months at 12 ℔ Cent ℔ annum 8,425 " 20 " 74

19811 12 71 —

No 6 To this amount being the Cost of 12,70 74 Cullums of Paddy purchased by me and laid up in the Company's Store at Trichinopoly as ℔ the monthly Returns and account Current sent to the Commissary General of Grain and provisions from January to July 1790 is 8668 " 33 " 20

deduct for this amount drawn on account in January and February 1790 . . 8666 " 31 " 20 .

48002 " 2 "

Interest on the above from the 30th April 1790 to 28th February 1797 is 6 years and 10 months at 12 ℔ Cent ℔ annum 39.361. 28 . 41 "

87.363 30 41 .

Star Pagodas . . . 120,525 22 42 —

Fort St

2331 Fort St George 11th April 1797

1797
February 28th By Balance new this Day — 120525 22 42

Star Pagodas — 120525 22 42.

George 28th February 1797
E.E.
(Signed) Saml Johnston

Rivaldi

2332 Fort St George 11th April 1797

Minutes of the Board on the foregoing letter from Mr Johnston's committee

Resolved to direct that the investigation of the Committee may for the present be orderly confined to the vouchers which Mr. Johnston's may be able to produce in support of the balance (Star Pags. 19,516.30.16) adjudged to be due from him on the Determination passed on his accounts in the year 1791, & which has been since discharged by Mr Joshua Bourn

Read the following letter from the Military auditor General

The Right Honble Lord Hobart
President and Governor in Council
Fort St George

From the military auditor General with a Statement of Money advanced on account of the Surprize Galley

My Lord

Agreeably to the direction contained in Mr Secretary Webbe's letter of the 5th Instant, I have the honor of laying before

2333

Fort St George 11th April 1797

Before your Lordship a Statement of the Sums passed in my Office on account of the Surprize Galley employed on the Expedition to the Eastward

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect
Yr Lp Yr
(Signed) W Sydenham
Mily Aud.r General

Military auditor Generals Office
Fort St George
7th April 1797

Statement of the Sums passed in the Military auditor Generals Office on account of the Surprize Galley employed on the eastern expedition.

1795 October 13.	12 for furnishing Stores	400 " - " -
1796 February 1.	8 Lascars for one month	757 " 24 " 14
March 1.	8 Lascars for one Month	757 24 . 14
April 1	8 Lascars for one month	748 . 21 " -
May 13.	8 Lascars for one month	748 21 - "
June 1.	8 Lascars for one month	748 . 21 . -
	Pagodas	4160 " 27 . 28

Military auditor Generals Office
Fort St George 7th April 1797

(Signed) W Sydenham
Mily Aud.r General

Rec.d

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Fort St George 11th April 1797

Read also the following
Survey and report of the Master Attendant on the Surprize Galley

From the acting Master Attendant reporting the measurement and Tonnage of the Surprize Galley

Agreeable to the order I have had the honor to receive - I this day repaired on Board the ship Surprize Galley - and have measured her, I find from the nicest Calculation, I can make that her Keel is 90 feet, the Breadth of Beam 26 feet, and her depth 14 feet, which gives Carpenters Measurement. 348 Tons, given under my hand on Board the Surprize Galley in Madras Roads this 6th Day of april in the year one Thousand Seven Hundred and ninety Seven -

(Signed) Henry Hall
acting master attendant

Received

2335

Fort St George 11th April 1797

Final Determination of the Board on Captain Binny's Claims. –

Resolved in conformity with the minutes of consultation dated 4th Instant that Straight be allowed Captain Binny from the 15th February, being four months from the date of the Surprize Galleys departure until the 16th December 1796 the day of her arrival being ten months at Sicca Pagodas per ten Month, which according to the master attendants measurement of the Surprize Galley entitles him to Pag.s 13,920, from which is to be deducted the sum of Pag.s 4,160.27.28.

advanced

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Fort St George 11th April 1797

advanced to Captain Binny's agents on account of freight: Resolved therefore that the balance being Pags 9.759..17..52. be paid to Captain Binny by a bill on Bengal at the rate of 355 a Rs ℔ 0/0 Rs. and carried to the head of expedition against the dutch Settlements.

Hobart

" Geo: Harris

" Edw Saunders

" Alt Falconer

John Turing Esq