

MEMORANDA ON ARTILLERIES  
IN  
INDIA

By

A. F. Oakes.

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## APPENDIX.

(REFERRED TO IN PAGE 2, PARA. 7—MISCELLANEOUS.)

In the detailed Statements (dated 21st December, 1849,) furnished by the Madras Military Board to His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir GEORGE BERKELEY, K. C. B., relating to the estimated cost of Army Equipments, &c. for the years 1836-37 and 1845-46, to which I have been permitted to have access, it will be observed, that the different descriptions of Arms and Accoutrements and other Stores, appertaining to the Establishment of a Brigade and Battalion of Artillery, are severally charged at certain fixed rates, and that each article is assumed to last a certain number of years,—for example, Arms and Accoutrements 10 years, Guns 22 years, and Gun Carriages 11 years; and the original cost of each article when divided by the number of years, gives a sum, which is denominated the “annual charge for Wear and Tear.” Now it is obvious that any error either as regards quantity, price, or period, must materially affect the result, and I would observe that the “period” assumed does not appear to be grounded on sufficiently well established experience.

2. With respect to the charge of “Wear and Tear” of Saddlery and Harness entered in these statements it is not unlikely that it may have occasioned a double charge in the Public Accounts against the mounted Corps of the Madras Presidency. Where the allowance of 1½ Rupees provides for the *repair and keeping up* of Saddlery and Harness; whereas in Bengal and Bombay, Government *besides granting a pecuniary allowance for repairing, also renew the Saddlery, &c. periodically.*

3. By these statements it will also be seen that the expense of feeding the horses of the Horse Brigade in 1845-46, was nearly double that incurred in 1836-37, although no great difference existed in the number of horses.

4. The charges for the Golundauz Battalion in 1845-46 are also nearly double those in 1836-37—although the Organization and Establishment were exactly alike at both periods.

5. The cost of the Gun Carriages in 1845-46 appears to be nearly double that of 1836-37, merely owing to the different mode of keeping the accounts of the Gun Carriage Manufactory; and by a recent statement from Bengal, the Annual charge for “Wear and Tear” of the Carriages of that Presidency is shown to be only half of that charged for ours. Whilst the charge for Wear and Tear of our Ordnance (obtained from the same Foundry which supplies Guns for the Bengal Army) is exactly double the amount entered in the Bengal Statement.

6. Many more instances might be adduced to justify the omission of the several items under Miscellaneous charges in the comparative tables of cost of the three Artilleries, and I think it will be admitted that had I, under existing circumstances, attempted, to deduce any results, from imperfect and contradictory data, I should have rendered my tables useless. Undoubtedly most valuable information relative to the Economical Working of the three Artilleries may be obtained from Tables showing the Wear and Tear of the Artillery *materiel* if compiled from *exact data*, but any omissions would necessarily vitiate all comparative calculations; as for instance, in the Bengal and Bombay Tables where the expense of repairing Arms and Gun Carriages is shown by the contingent allowance which simply and efficiently provides for their repair, whilst no such charge appears in the Madras accounts, the repairs being executed by Government by whom the requisite Stores and Artificers are supplied.

SAINT THOMAS' MOUNT, }  
24th December, 1849. }

A. F. OAKES, Captain,  
Madras Horse Brigade,  
Director Artillery Depot.

(Not Published.)

MEMORANDUM

BY

CAPTAIN A. F. OAKES, *Madras Horse Artillery,*

AND

*Director of the Artillery Deptt of Instruction,*

ON THE

ESTABLISHMENTS, SYSTEMS OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

AND

Nature of Equipments of the Three Indian Artilleries,

WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTING ASSIMILATION THEREIN

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION

OF

His Excellency General SIR CHARLES NAPIER,

G. C. B.

&c. &c. &c.

*Commander-in-Chief of the Army of India.*

MADRAS ARTILLERY HEAD QUARTERS,

*St. Thomas' Mount,*

*24th December, 1849.*

(NOT PUBLISHED.)