

POLICE ORDER No. 204

Care of
maintenance
of tentage.

All tentage on charge shall be entered in the committee and in the stock and store registers. This includes pegs, poles, tarpaulines provided to each tent.

(2) Name of the District Establishment with committee number and date shall be written legibly with indelible ink on every tent on charge.

(3) To prevent the poles, pegs, etc., of one tent getting mixed up with pegs and poles of other tent, identification marks of the tent should also be given on the poles and pegs.

(4) When not in use, the tents should generally be kept in a dry place on stands about 18" high so as not to be damaged by rat or white ants. During the moonson when they are not in use, they should also be spread out in sun to dry not less than once a month.

(5) One of the Sergeants in the case of District Armed Police and Quarter Master Jamadar in the case of Orissa Military Police shall be in direct charge of the tents and for the purpose of fixing responsibility a district order shall be issued mentioning clearly the name of the Sergeant/Quarter Master Jamadar in charge.

In addition to the Sergeant Quarter Master Jamadar in charge, the Reserve Inspector Subedar should check tents periodically and ensure their proper care and maintenance.

(6) Tentage, tarpauline, shall not be let out to private persons or parties or to other department of Government without the prior approval of the Inspector-General of Police.

(7) Every swiss cottage tent or shooting pal should be provided with camp furniture at the rate of one durry or tarpauline, one folding bed cot, one folding table, one folding arm chair, two folding chairs, one folding commode, one chamber pot, one bath tub, one mug, one bucket, one petromax light, and one wooden bathing platform.

These camp furniture shall not be taken out from the store without the tentage. All camp furniture supplied for use in a particular tent, shall be given a distinctive mark to prevent the camp furniture of one tent getting mixed up with the camp furniture of other tents.

(8) With every G. S. Pal or other type of tentage except swiss cottage tents and shooting pals, a tarpauline shall be provided for spreading out on the ground.

(9) With regard to pitching and striking of tents the following instruction shall be followed:—

(a) Tent should on account be pitched under tamarind trees.

(b) When tents are being pitched or struck and the ground is muddy, the tent bags or some straw should always be spread below them to keep them clean.

(c) Great care must be taken in pitching tents that the pegs for the ropes are placed in a straight line with the seams in the fly, so that the strain may be direct and equal and not crosswise. Ropes, shall not, therefore, be tied to trees they happen to be exactly in the true line, which will seldom happen. It is the safest plan never to allow them to be tied to trees. If tents bag at the corners, ropes which pass up inside the fly round the pole must be pulled moderately tight and tied to the corner ropes so as to make the strain come on them and not on the canvas.

(d) In stormy weather, the corner and the storm roles of tents should invariably be "bushed". If bushes cannot be procured, as in sandy tracts, a hole should be dug, a tent peg buried at right angles to the direction of the rope at a depth of a couple feet, the rope tied to it, the hole filled in and the sand firmly rammed down. It will be found that ropes so secured will hold in sandy soil far better than if tied to pages driven in the ordinary way.

(e) When rain comes on, all tent ropes should be slightly slacked off, so as to allow for the shrinkage of the ropes and canvas when wet. Ropes are otherwise liable to be broken and canvas to be torn and it often happens that their shrinking pulls the pegs of the ground, especially in the dry weather when the ground is hard, and the pegs have probably not been driven in deep. If this should happen at night, as it frequently does, the fact that the pegs have come out is likely to pass unnoticed and the tents will be liable to be blown down if the wind should rise.

(f) Care should be taken not to strike and pack tents when damp with rain or dew.

(10) Sufficient number of N. C. Os. and men in the A. P. R. should be trained in pitching and striking tents, so that they can be utilised when required. In the Orissa Military Police Battalions similar steps should be taken. It is further suggested that a tent pitching annual competition on Companywise basis may be held in each Battalion of the Orissa Military Police for which a running trophy and money reward should be given.

(11) Superintendents of Police/Principal, P. T. C./Dy, Inspectors-General, are requested to inspect the tentage periodically to ensure that proper care has been taken or their maintenance.

(12) In every Reserve Office in districts and Orissa Military Police a chart showing the tentage on charge shall be hung up on a *Takit* in the following *pro forma*:—

Sl. No.	Type, size of the tent and tarpaulines	Date of purchase with committee number	Condition of the tents
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
