

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
INDIA BURMA THEATER
APO 671

MSN/13-T

AIB 600.1

29 May 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Construction at Shamshernagar Airfield

TO : Commanding General
United States Forces, IBT
APO 885

1. Transmitted herewith is a copy of Airdrome Order Form Supplement #2, Headquarters AAF-IBT, 2 April 1945, for Shamshernagar, and a copy of The Approximate Estimate of Cost for Shamshernagar, as of 30 October 1944 as prepared by the British. The cost estimate contained in paragraph 7 of AOFS #2 was prepared from the attached estimate of cost, in accordance with the changes in facilities made at Shamshernagar since this cost estimate was prepared.

2. Reference is made to letter Headquarters IB-ASC, 25 May 1945, subject: "Construction at Shamshernagar Airfield", copy to your headquarters, which transmitted a report from the Assistant Air Engineer, Eastern Area, IB-ASC, regarding the expediting of construction at Shamshernagar.

3. The following is a brief report on the present status of facilities at Shamshernagar outlined in the attached ACFS #2. The percentage of completion of the entire job is 85%. All percentages of completion listed below are as of 30 April 1945.

a. Runways, taxiways, aprons and roads – 98% complete. The outstanding work to be completed under this heading is the laterite surfacing of the road to the Advance Chemical Park, which it is estimated will be complete before the advent of the monsoon.

b. Base Headquarters facilities – 95% complete. The only works under this heading not yet completed are the hospital facilities which have not yet been started.

c. ATC maintenance facilities – 35% complete. All work in this area has been completed, with the exception of the erection of Butler Hangars and hangar lean-tos. All concrete buttresses and concrete floors for hangars in the area are complete, and steel for one and one-half (1½) hangars has been erected. The erection of these hangars is being performed under the supervision of one (1) officer from this headquarters, and one (1) officer and four (4) enlisted men of the 879th Engineer Aviation Battalion. Sixteen (16) men from ATC and twenty (20) men from ASC have been provided as a nucleus for the erection crews. Headquarter IS-ASC is making arrangements for the assignment of additional men for erection crews, and with this augmentation it is estimated that the three (3) hangars for ATC, as well as one and one-half (1½) for ASC will be completed by 1 July 1945.

d. ASC Headquarters facilities - 88% complete. The only work remaining in this area is the completion of buildings already under construction.

e. ASC maintenance facilities – 65% complete. All facilities in this area, with the exception of the hangars, are complete. The concrete floor for the hangars is complete and pouring of the concrete buttresses is under way. The hangar erection crews referred to in paragraph 2c above, will complete the erection of the ASC hangars, which is expected by 1 July 1945.

f. ASC warehouse facilities were reported 85% complete as of 30 April 1945. However, a tornado occurred 23 May 1945 which completely destroyed eleven (11) buildings and damaged six (6) others, leaving only four (4) undamaged. Arrangements are being made for the repair of the six (6) damaged buildings, and the erection of one (1) Butler Hangar to replace the completely demolished buildings. There is a possibility that an additional Butler Hangar will be erected in this area, should it be decided that the present mission of ASC at Shamsheernagar justifies its erection.

g. ASC Ordnance facilities and ASC QM facilities were reported 40% complete as of 30 April 1945, but suffered severe damage during the tornado of 23 May 1945, and will have to be practically rebuilt. It is estimated that this will take approximately six (6) weeks.

h. ATC and ASC domestic facilities – 95% complete. These facilities are essentially complete, with the exception of a new housing area for ATC, consisting of approximately ten (10) buildings which is under construction. The busti type of construction used for these facilities is rather flimsy, and suffers considerably under the heavy storms which occur at Shamsheernagar. The bamboo shingle roofs and the tarra mat wall panels blow off in the high wind, and constant maintenance is necessary to keep these buildings livable. Any rain readily leaks through the roofs, and it is expected that eventually these roofs should be removed and replaced with thatching.

i. Advance Chemical Park was reported 35% complete as of 30 April 1945. However, thirteen (13) covered bomb hardstandings blew down on 23 May 1945. It is doubtful that the target date of 1 July 1945 can be met, but it is not expected that completion will be delayed for more than two (2) weeks.

j. Electrical facilities – 20% complete. The power requirements listed in Section Xi-a of ACFS #2, have been revised and the following power supply is being supplied by the British:

| | | |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| ATC Headquarters | - | 30 KW, AC |
| ATC Maintenance Area | - | 150 KW, AC |
| ASC Maintenance Area | - | 90 KW, AC |
| ATC Domestic Area | - | 50 KW, DC |
| ASC Domestic Area | - | 50 KW, DC |
| Link Trainers | - | 50 KW, AC |

This headquarters is making the necessary arrangements to have the power requirements listed in ACFS #2 changed to conform with the power requirements listed above.

k. Water service – 50% complete. This work has been held up, mainly because of non-availability of materials, all of which have been indented for by the Garrison Engineer, and are expected to be on hand shortly.

l. POL system – 70% complete. The only work to be done on the POL system is the installation of a 10,000 barrel storage tank which is under construction.

4. The above report together with the inclosures, should give a general picture of the status of construction at Shamshernagar. If more specific information is desired, it is requested that this headquarters be notified.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

E.A. Blue
Captain, AGD
Asst.Adj. Gen.

Incls:

Incl 1 – ACFS #2, Hq AAF-IBT, 2 Apr 45.

Incl 2 – Approx. Est. of cost as of 30 Oct 44.