[Edl. / 6]
800—29-3-00.

Educational (1900) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 675

DATED 20. 12. 00

INDEXED.

10

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording letter from the D.P.I forwarding certain papers relating to the prohibition against the use of Aluminium ware to the Madras troops

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

2,000—5-11-00.

1

Educational (1900) Department.

2

1 DEC. 1900

CURRENT No. 1713

From

[Name] The Hon'ble Mr. G. H. Stuart, M. A. Bar-at-Law,

[Designation] Director of Public Instruction,

[Station] Madras.

ASSISTT SECY TO GOVT. * LOCAL MUNL EDL & LEG DEPTTS *
11 DEC. 1900

Refa. Case No. ~~4862~~ 15821(a)

Dated 10th December 1900.

Enclosures 5

Received 11 — 12 — 1900.

Registered 12 — 12 — 1900.

SUBJECT.

Enclosing copies of correspondence between Mr. Chatterton and the Military department in regard to the prohibition against the issue of aluminium ware to the Madras troops.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Educational Department.

Sir,

E

With reference to para.4 of G.O.No 570,Educational, dated 7th ultimo,I have the honour to enclose copies of the correspondence between Mr.Chatterton and the Military department in regard to the prohibition against the issue of aluminium ware to the Madras troops.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G H Stuart

Director of Public Instruction.

Ex. UK

N.B.—All communications re Aluminium should be addressed to the Officer in charge of the Aluminium Department, School of Arts.

ALUMINIUM DEPARTMENT,

School of Arts,

Madras, 26th August 1900.

No. Al/3332.

From

ALFRED CHATTERTON, Esq., B.Sc.,

Officer in charge of the

Aluminium Department,

School of Arts, Madras,

To

The Assistant Military Secretary

to H. E. The Lieutenant

General Commanding

The Forces, Ootacamund

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that some time ago I supplied 50 Sepoy Canteen sets of Aluminium to the Officer Commanding the 13th M. I. He now writes to me "The Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces, Madras Command will not sanction the issue of Aluminium cooking pots to the men of the Regiment under my Command."

As the Madras Government have in this Department invested a very large amount of money in Aluminium with a view to develope its use in this country I should be glad if you would ask H. E. The Lieutenant General Com the Forces to kindly allow me to be informed if any special objections have been discovered to the use of Aluminium in the equipment of the troops and if so the nature of the objections. I have been supplying Aluminium cooking utensils and water bottles in large quantities to troops all over India and I need hardly point out that the action of H. E. The Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces is likely to have a very serious affect on the development of the Aluminium Industry. The Government of Madras have taken up this industry with a view to putting it on a firm commercial basis in the country under the impression that it was well adapted amongst other things for military cooking utensils. If experience has shown that this view is erroneous it will be necessary for me to communicate the fact to the Govt. of Madras so that they may consider the position as I do not think they would wish me to continue to push on the development of the use of a metal which was condemned by the military authorities.

I have &c.

(Signed) Alfred Chatterton.
Officer in charge.

(True Copy)

Alfred Chatterton
Officer in charge.

1/1713 Est.

Equipment N.A.

Ootacamund
31st August 1900.

No. N.T. 11669.

From
The Deputy Adjutant General, Madras Command

To
A. Chatterton Esqr.
in charge, Aluminium Dept.
School of Arts, Madras.

Reference your letter No. Al/3332 of 25th August 1900 to Asst. Military Secretary to the Lt. Genl. Commanding

Memorandum

Two sets of Aluminium Cooking pots manufactured by a native firm in Madras and by Messrs. Oppenheimer & Co Rangoon, have been given an exhaustive trial by troops in this command with the result that, besides being more expensive than the articles now in use in the army, they were found to be easily damaged and knocked out of shape by rough usage, inseparable from pack mule carriage; and too flimsy to stand the rough usage which they must undoubtedly receive on active service; it was not therefore considered desira Major introduce aluminium cook. 26. 16. 8

(True copy) (Signed) F. Ke

e Jull

Alfred Chatterton for Sec
Officer in charge

No. 1129/13.

Vizianagaram.
3d. September 1900

From.

The Officer Commanding,
26th M. I.

To.

The Officer in Charge
Aluminium Department,
School of Arts.

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that under Letter No. N.1/11020 from the Deputy Adjutant General Madras Command dated 18th August 1900, the issue of Aluminium cooking pots to Native troops in the Madras Command is prohibited and to request that you will kindly inform me whether you can take back the 32 sets which remain unissued of the 50 which were received from you in August last. Failing this could you take them back and supply me with brass dishes in exchange?

I have &c.

(Signed) W. V. Pakenham Major
Offg. Commandant. 26th M. I.

(True copy)

Alfred Chatterton

Officer in charge

3/1713 Est.

N.B. All communications re Aluminium should be addressed to the Officer in charge of the Aluminium Department, School of Arts.

ALUMINIUM DEPARTMENT,
School of Arts,
Madras, 3rd September 1900

No.

From

ALFRED CHATTERTON, Esq., B.SC.,
Officer in charge of the
Aluminium Department,
School of Arts, Madras,

To

The Deputy Adjutant General,
Madras Command,
Ootacamund.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. N.T. 11669 of 31st August 1900, I have the honour to request that the question of the suitability of Aluminium Cooking pots for troops be reconsidered in view of the serious check to a growing native industry which will inevitably follow, immediately the action of military authorities becomes generally known. As Officer in charge of the Aluminium Department I am responsible for the introduction of the metal into India and at the request of officers of native regiments I started supplying utensils for native troops and at the present time fully one half of the business of the Scho is with native and European troops all over India.

From the Officers themselves I have frequently received favourable reports and I think you will agree with me that it is very unfair to condemn the metal on samples supplied by a native firm in Madras who have very little experience of military requirements and by a firm in Rangoon who are simply Commission Agents for the sale of Aluminium ware.

I have supplied the following Madras Infantry Regiments with utensils 13th, 14th, 20th, 25th, 26th, 28th, 29th and 31st and some of them have now nearly two years experience of the metal and I would respectfully request that before the metal is condemned enquiries should be made amongst these regiments. The charges brought against the metal are–

1st that it is more expensive than brass. This may be so when purchased through Agents but in Madras I am prepared to supply any quantity of utensils at rates not exceeding and in many cases below those paid for similar articles in copper or brass.

2nd That the metal is easily knocked out of shape. It is true that the metal is not so brass but it is hard enough for all

practical

practical purposes and the ease with which some utensils are damaged is due to the fact that they have been made unduly thin. An Aluminium vessel should always weigh 2/5 that of a brass one but frequently they are made so thin as to only weigh 3/10 and the result is naturally unsatisfactory. I have supplied many regiments in Northern India with utensils and they have been used on active service and in the autumn manoeuvres of last year with great success and that is undoubtedly due to the fact that no attempt was made to reduce the cost by using too little metal in the vessels.

Aluminium is an exceedingly malleable metal and will neither break nor crack readily and in this respect it is greatly superior to brass. I have over and over again seen vessels apparently hopelessly knocked out of shape, put perfectly right in a few minutes with a wooden mallet.

I have had here a number of sepoys from Regiments stationed in Madras and at the request of the Commanding Officers they have been trained to keep the vessels in good order. It appears to me that the ad in the saving in weight by the use of aluminium is so great that it would be well worth while either modifying the shape of the present vessels to better suit the light metal or to train a few men in every regiment to repair and keep in order the utensils.

For experimental purposes I shall be prepared to have made any special sets that may be required and if H.E. the Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces, Madras would appoint a committee to report on the matter I shall be glad to render them every possible assistance.

I have &c

(Signed) Alfred Chatterton.

Officer in charge.

(True Copy)

Alfred Chatterton

Officer in charge.

u/m96

Clothing & Necessaries
Native army.

Ootacamund
15th September 190

No. N.T./12391.

From

The Deputy Adjutant General, Madras Command

To,

A. Chatterton Esq.
in charge of Aluminium Dept.
School of Arts
Madras.

Reference your letter No. Al/3460 of 3rd Sept. 1900

Memorandum

The question of the suitability of aluminium cooking pots for native troops is receiving further consideration and the result will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

(Signed) F. Kempster, Colonel.

for Deputy Adjutant General

(True Copy)

Alfred Chatterton

Officer in charge

5/1713 Edl.

E./17
500—6-11-00.

HM

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.
(Cno 1713)

9

NOTE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

The correspondence between Mr Chatterton and the military department in regard to the prohibition against the issue of aluminium ware to the Madras troops may be submitted to H.M. with reference to his note at 'flag V.

7.K. 15-12-00 DH 15/12/00

The Military authorities seem to be hardly aware of what their own orders have been.

Dy

15-12-1900 A.J.P.

Mr Chatterton tells ~~me~~ he is very hopeful now of a large development of this industry in the Indian Army, both here and in the other Commands.

HM. 17/12/00

We may leave the matter in Mr Chatterton's hands. It was absurd to condemn Mr C's utensils because those of a native firm were unsatisfactory.

AL 19.12.00.

HH 20/12/00

The current may be Re

Dy

20

N

A draft order recording the Director's letter is placed below.

R.H.
20/12/00

A.J.P.
20-12-1900

[E./4]
1,500—8-11-00.

10

N

READ AGAIN G.O., No. ...., dated .... 190 .

" " " " ...., " .... 190 .

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1713, From the D. P. I., Ref. C No. 15821, dated 10th December 1900.

" " ...., " " ...., " ...., " .... 190 .

desp. 20/12/00

" " ...., " " ...., " ...., " .... 190 .

ORDER No. 675, dated 20. 12. 00 ~~190~~.

Mis.

Recorded.

A.J.P.
20-12-1900

R.H.
20/12/00

When given for copying ________
When copied ________
When examined ________
When signed ________
} 190 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
190 .

CURRENT NO.

ENCLOSURES TO C. NO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.							
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.