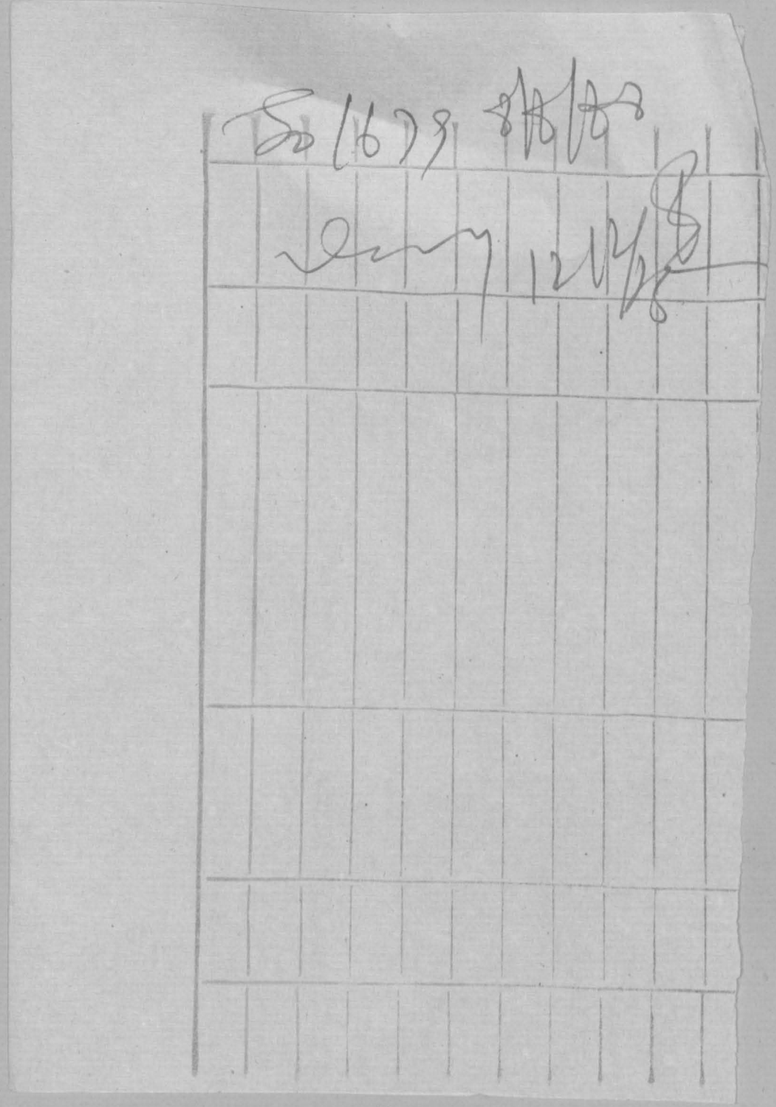


CONFDL—GO

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(1) Number of pages 28

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

JUDL — DEPARTMENT

CONFDL — G.O.

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1699 1679	Press / Mis.
Dated	8-8-1888	~~197 .~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Ordnance Department

Establishments No. 4225

(Confidential)

Government of Madras.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT,

Ootacamund, the 21st June 1888.

Read the following:-

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras. Military Department, No. 2241 dated 11 June 1888.

I am directed to forward a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin from which it appears that the Commissioner of Police, Madras, has been instructed, at the desire of the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, to institute an enquiry comprising a general scrutiny of late irregularities in the matter of shoes, lead, &c., in the Madras Arsenal.

From Director General of Ordnance in India, No. 1511 E, dated the 8th June 88, and enclosure —

2. I am to observe, for the information of the Governor in Council that the Government of India consid-

Read

that an investigation by the Civil Police into matters connected solely with the Ordnance Department under other orders than those of the Director General of Ordnance in India, might cause it to appear that his legitimate authority was set aside, and it is hoped the Government of Madras will concur in the view that it would be well to issue instructions to restrict the investigation to be made by the Commissioner of Police, Madras, to matters solely connected with the case of Sub Conductor Ford.

Order. Communicated to the Judicial Department with reference to Military Department No. 1163 dated 22nd May 88, with the request that the Commissioner of Police, Madras, be instructed to confine his investigations to matters solely connected with the case of Sub Conductor Ford.

/True Extract/
A Kearney Herbert
Secretary to Government

To The Judicial Deptt.
" Acctant General
" Inspector Genl. of Ordnance for info.

Copy of a letter from the Director General of Ordnance in India to the Secretary to the Govt. of India, Mily. Deptt, No. 1511 E dated 6th June '88.

An inspection of the books of the Madras Arsenal having shown certain heavy losses of lead to have occurred in 1883 certain quantities of ammunition broken up by Sub Conductor Ford, I directed the Inspector General of Ordnance, Madras Circle, to take steps for the trial of that warrant Officer by a Court martial. As however this was not feasible under the provisions of para 161 of the Army Act of 1881, I instructed the Inspector General to obtain the permission of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, Madras Army, to place the matter in the hands of the Civil authorities in order to Sub-Conductor Ford's being tried by a Civil Court on a Criminal charge. I am now informed that this has

been

been sanctioned by the Government of Madras, but at the same time the Commissioner of Police Madras, has apparently been instructed to institute an enquiry into the general question of defalcations at the desire of His Excellency the Commander in Chief of that Presidency.

I have the honor to submit a copy of the Demi Official note as per margin and solicit the early Orders of the Government of India in the matter.

From the Comr of Police Madras dated 30th May 1888 –

I beg to submit that an investigation into matters not immediately connected with the charge against Sub Conductor Ford should not be made by the Police authorities. I have no wish to screen any of the subordinates of the Department C. On the Contrary I am most anxious to trace these defalcations to the proper person or persons and possibly the evidence adduced at Sub Conductor Ford's trial may help to this end. But I consider that this should be left

left to me as the head of the Ordnance Department in India, and not interfered with by the Police unless their services are asked for by me.

—

Copy of a D.O. letter from the Commissioner of Police, Madras, to the Inspector General of Ordnance, Madras Circle dated 30th May 1888.

We have received instructions to enquire and report on the matters connected with your charges against Sub-Conductor Ford, vide your confidential letter No. 1837 dated 9th May 1888 to the Assistant General. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief also wishes a general scrutiny of late alleged irregularities in the matter of stores, lead &c. The papers sent are bulky and I have not been able to go through them carefully yet, but I write now to ask that none of the Employes in the Forge, Laboratory &c. including Tindals and Lascars, be sent away from Madras till we see more clearly whom it may

may be necessary to examine. I see from the papers with me that your depart a mentis enquiring you back to 1883 I daresay that you can kindly manage that all who were likely to have knowledge or to be concerned in my [redacted] instructions, to act here without exciting undue suspicion or alarm.

I write and you possibly a copy of my instructions, but I write now hurriedly as I hear some Lascars and others are under orders for transfer

[Three Copies]

A Kennedy Herbert
Secretary to Government

Bo[illegible]

C№2709

Judicial (1888) Deptt

From

The Military Deptt.

№4225

2/21st
2/21st } June 1888

Madras transmits
Charges against Sub Conductor
Ford

1. To H.E. the Comr. in Chief
2. Hon. Mr. Bullock's Ltr
G.O. No. 178 & encl. №2709 submitting
containing
previous papers viz etc"

A.G.
22 June.

H.C.
22/6

Confidential

S/109/5

Copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, No 4485 dated Ootacamund, the 3rd July 1888.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 2241 D. dated 24th June 1888, and to say that as therein desired, the Judicial Department has been requested to instruct the Commissioner of Police to confine his investigations to matters connected with the case of Sub-Conductor Ford.

2 ——— I am however to address you further upon this subject.

3 ——— In the month of May last, the Inspector General of Ordnance, Madras applied for

for the trial of Sub. Conductor Davidson by Court. Martial but while the matter was under the consideration of His Excellency the Commander in - Chief another application was received from Major General Mc. Leod acting under instructions from the Director General of Ordnance in India for the trial of Sub Conductor Ford by the Civil power, as the offence with which Ford was charged had been committed 3 years ago, and therefore was not cognizable by Court Martial.

4 _____ As the alleged offences of these Warrant Officers though committed at different dates, were of the same nature, it was in the opinion of Sir Charles Arbuthnot, most desirable in order to ensure uniformity of treatment, that both cases should be dealt with by the same authority and eventually by the same tribunal.

5 _____ Moreover, bearing in mind the failure

failure last year to discover the perpetration of a robbery of 18 cwt of lead in pigs in regard to which Conductor Balfour was tried by Court Martial and acquitted it appeared to His Excellency highly advisable that there should a thorough investigation by the Police for in these cases a Military Court of Inquiry not being competent to compel the attendance of civil witnesses or to force them to answer questions when they do attend, is of but little use.

6 _____ For these reasons I am to say that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that the case of Sub. Conductor Davidson should be handed over to the Civil power, and I am accordingly to request that sanction may be given to the proposal. On the event of the preliminary investigation by the Police showing that there is not prima facie evidence to support a criminal charge, this Warrant Officer can then be dealt with by the military authorities for neglect of duty assuming of course that there be

be proof of such neglect.

7 ——— I am next to submit a statement of the irregularities in the Madras Arsenal so far as they have as yet been brought to light.

(1) ——— In 1883 a loss of 69 cwts of lead

(2) ——— In June 1884 a loss of 3 cwt 3 qrs 8 lbs on coversion of 38 cwt 2 qrs. 8 lbs.

(3) ——— In August 1884 a loss of 10 cwt on conversion of 35 cwt.

(4) ——— In the middle of last year there was a robbery of about 18 cwt of pigs of lead taken out of the Madras Arsenal during working hours.

(5) ——— In September last there was a loss of about 4 cwts of lead on conversion of about 6 cwt It is for this loss that Sub-Conductor Davidson is now awaiting trial.

8 ——— The loss therefore of lead in the Madras.

Madras Arsenal during the last 5 years which has been discovered upto date amounts to nearly 5 1/2 tons.

9 ——— It is evident that these enormous deficiencies could not have been the results of petty pilfering but that there must have been systematic robberies for which opportunities were afforded by neglect on the part of responsible subordinates or which those subordinates have either committed or connived at.

10 ——— The Government of Madras cannot but believe that the Government of India are unaware of the extent of these frauds for had they been fully in possession of the facts of the case the Government of Madras feel sure that they would have recognized the necessity for full and unfettered enquiry at the hands of the Police. For it is clear that by confining such investigation to the case of Sub-Conductor Ford all attempts to detect the gang of accomplices

receivers

receivers &c., will be frustrated.

11 ——— Such frequent and heavy losses of lead during the process of conversion afford the strongest grounds for believing that there is a regular system established for the disposal of the stolen lead to outsiders, and although the Arsenal officers may be able to prove by their Ledgers that the losses have occurred, the Police alone are likely to discover how and by whom the robberies were effected.

12 ——— With reference to what the Government of Madras assume to be the decision of the Government of India viz that whatever robberies in Arsenals may be brought to the notice of the local Government no investigation by the Police can be ordered without the permission of the Director General of Ordnance in India, I am to say that it would seem decidedly impolitic that their authority should be so curtailed and hampered. If the local Governments are to be held in any way responsible for the satisfactory administration of the branch of the Department allotted

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allotted to their Presidencies they should surely be entrusted with the power so slight but still so necessary, of ordering immediate Police investigation in the event of a robbery, for it is obvious that the sooner such investigation is instituted the more likely is it to be successful.

13 ——— In conclusion I am to request that the Government of Madras may be favored with telegraphic orders on the subject of this letter.

(True Copy)

A Kennedy Herbert Brigr General.
Secretary to Government.

Ordnance Department
Establishments

No. 5317

Government of Madras.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT,

Cotacamund, the 4th August 1888.

CHIEF SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

From the Secretary to the
Government of India, Military Department,
No. 3010-3 Dated Simla, the 26th July 1888.

In reply to your letter No. 4485
dated 3rd July 1888, relative to the heavy losses of
lead which have occurred in the Madras Arsenal,
I am to say that the Governor General in
Council sanctions Sub-Conductor Davidson
of that Arsenal being made over for trial by
the Civil power, and also in view of the repre-
-sentation now made by the Government of
Madras on the subject, approves the thorough
police investigation being undertaken which
is recommended by that Government.

2. The Director General of Ordnance
will

1692/10

will accordingly be directed to instruct the local head of his Department at Madras to afford the police authorities every facility for carrying out this investigation.

Order ——— Communicated to His Excellency the Commander in Chief and the Judicial Department, in continuation of Proceedings of Government No 5149 dated 27th July 1888.

(True Extract)

A Kennedy Herbert Brigr General
Secretary to Government.

To

The Adjutant General.
" Judicial Department.
" Inspector General of Ordnance for information.

Judicial

CURRENT NO. 3405

From

The Military Dept.

No. 5317

Dy 4 6 Aug.t
Rf.

Relative to the police investigation into the heavy loss of lead from the Arsenal

1/ 1899
11

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department. No 4440 dated 29th June 1888.

"Gom 2241 S dated 14th June 1888.

"Please say definitely whether the Police may investigate the conduct of others, besides Ford, appearing to be mixed up in the same transactions, and also whether, if necessary to unravel the frauds, they may extend their enquiry to similar transactions appearing to be a continuation of the same system otherwise Police enquiry appears futile."

"Letter follows"

(True Copy)

A Kennedy Herbert Brig.r General.

Secretary to Government

Confidential

Ordnance Department
Establishments

No. 5749

Government of Madras.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Ootacamund, the 27 July 1888

Read the following:-

Telegram to the Secretary to the Government of India. Military Department, No 4440, dated 29 June 1888.

—

Letter to the Secretary to the Government of India. Military Department. No 4485, dated 3rd July 1888

—

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India. Military Department, No 3009-D, dated 26 July 1888-

" Your 4485 of 3rd ×
Action proposed regarding Sub-Conductor Davidson and Jute investigation by Police approved ×

—

Order:- Ordered that the foregoing telegram from the Government of India

699/13

India be communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Judicial Department with reference to D.G. No. 4225, dated 21st June 1888, and previous correspondence.

(True Extract)

A. Kenney Herbert Br. Genl:
Secretary to Government

To

The Adjutant General,
" " Judicial Department.
" " Inspector General of Ordnance.

I 12/8

Judicial
Comml No 3287

From
The Military Secy

Cl No 3709 & Con
3405

Jud
H. M

Rd 27 } July
Fy 27 }

Rd. 8 Augt/80 No 1677.

Comd to the Comr
of Police

Sgd
31 July. 11 Augt

Comr of Police dispd 9/8.

Copy to communicate the
opinion of the Telegraph
Deptt to India so
that it may be communicated
to the

Sgd
Secy

Note for Office

The Mid: Dept paper is a Confid: & should be so marked & treated in coming to Comm"

Noted
6/8

Sgd
7 Aug

Comg Govt India
Telegraph approving
proposed action to
be taken in the case
of Gutta Conductor
Davidson

Write Orig

1677/14

[7]

ORDINARY, MS.

Judicial Department.
G.O., dated 5th August 89
No. 1699

Confidential

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

Received here

14 Days

P. 010 1613