

Marine (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 599. Marine

DATED 30th June 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Wreck of the Steamer "Galatia."

Pres. P.W. directing the removal of
the _____ and the rock on which she struck
in the Tuticorin roadstead, by blasting, under
the direction of the S.E. ~~IV~~, aided by a diver to be
supplied by the Madras Harbour Trust Board,
Commr & the Presy. Port Officer & the
Chairman Harbour Trust B^d

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

Directing, with remarks, the removal, if possible, of the — and the rock on which she struck in the Tuticorin roadstead, by blasting, under the direction of the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, aided by the diver to be placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department by the Madras Harbour Trust Board.

No. 1465 W., 6TH JUNE 1899.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., No. 165, Marine, dated 21st February 1899.

Subject.—Authorizing the Presidency Port Officer to have the wreck of the S.S. "Galatia" at Tuticorin examined in view to an estimate of the cost of blowing it up being prepared.

G.O., No. 303, Marine, dated 5th April 1899.

Subject.—Requesting the Lieutenant-General Commanding the forces to favour the Government with information as to whether the work of blowing up the wreck of the S.S. "Galatia" at Tuticorin can be undertaken by a Military officer under his command.

READ—also the following papers:—

From Brigadier-General G. SIMPSON, Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Marine Department, dated Ootacamund, 12th April 1899, No. A./O. 5903.

I have the honour to inform you that the request contained in G.O., No. 303, Marine, dated 5th April 1899, has been referred to the Inspector of Sub-Marine Defences, Poona, and when a reply is received, it will be at once communicated to you.

2. As, however, no party of any Sub-Marine Defence detachment can be moved without the special sanction of the Government of India and as this will entail considerable delay, it might be well to make a reference to His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief on the East India Station asking if the work can be carried out by the Naval Forces.

From Lieutenant C. O. HALLIDAY, R.E., Officiating Inspector of Sub-Marine Defences in India, to the Superintendent Engineer, Military Works Department, Madras Command, dated Poona, 17th April 1899, No. 1039.

With reference to your No. 1635, dated 11th April 1899, regarding opening up channel at Tuticorin, I have the honour to forward the following remarks.

With regard to the "Galatia," no mention is made of the size of the wreck, nature of bottom, strength of tide, or to what depth the channel is required to be cleared.

It is generally inadvisable to blow up charges, where iron plates are lying as appears from the description, owing to the tendency of the explosion to up-end them and make matters worse. They could, of course, be cleared in time, but probably only at the expense of a large quantity of explosive. It might be found feasible to drag the plates apart into deep water if the vessel is thoroughly broken up as appears, or in all probability the coming monsoon will effect a clearance if the bottom is fairly hard.

The rocks could probably be blown away fairly easily, but it is very doubtful if 100 lb. dynamite or guncotton would be sufficient for the two.

Generally, from the information supplied, which is somewhat scanty on which to form an opinion, I consider that the cost of removal of the three obstructions would not be less than Rs. 2,500, and the operations would extend over at least a fortnight.

No. 1465 W., 6TH JUNE 1899.

The conveyance of explosives by rail or steamer will also add considerably to the expense, and most lines positively refuse to carry them.

It would appear advisable therefore, unless the traffic is very much interfered with, to trust to the monsoon to clear away the "Galatia," and place the destruction of the rocks in the hands of some local contractor.

Should it be still considered advisable to employ S. M. Personnel, they can be best supplied from Rangoon. Strength—one officer, three non-commissioned officers and six lascars.

No. A./O. 6799.

Forwarded in continuation of my letter, No. A./O. 5903, dated 12th April 1899.

(Signed) F. KEMPSTER, Colonel,
for Br.-Genl., Deputy Adjutant-General.

OOTACAMUND,
28th April 1899.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Marine Department.

Office-note from the Presidency Port Officer, No. 171/G., dated 5th May 1899.
" " " " 172/G., " 5th " "

Telegram from Colonel W. S. SHONE, Superintending Engineer, Madras Command, Military Works, to the Inspector, Sub-Marine Defences, Poona, dated Ootacamund, 15th May 1899, No. 2135.

Your 1039 of 17th April. Madras Government consider Public Works Department can carry out the work if you will kindly send general instructions for removing wrecks and sub-marine rocks by blasting. Please supply this information direct to Chief Engineer, Madras Public Works Department, Ootacamund.

No. 2137.

Copy of above forwarded by post, for information, with reference to his No. 181 D. of 12th May 1899.

(Signed) W. T. SHONE, Colonel,
Suptg. Engr., Madras Comd., Mil. Works.

15th May 1899.

To the Chief Engineer, P.W. Dept., Ootacamund.

From Major A. M. STUART, R.E., Inspector of Sub-Marine Defences in India, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Poona, 19th May 1899, No. 1296.

In accordance with instructions received from the Superintendent Engineer, Military Works Department, Madras, I forward, herewith, some notes on removal of wrecks and sunken rocks. I am not however in possession of information as to the local conditions or the size and description of vessel wrecked at Tuticorin, and it is very probable that these notes may not be found applicable.

The method of attacking sunken vessels depends almost entirely upon circumstances, and it is almost impossible to prepare general instructions. Experience would appear to be the only guide.

It is presumed that any one who may be employed to superintend the work will be thoroughly familiar with the use of the appliances employed for firing mines by electricity.

I have forwarded a copy of these notes and this covering letter to the Superintendent Engineer, Military Works Department, Madras, and have requested him by telegraph this day to supply you with a copy of the "Instructions in Military Engineering" referred to therein.

No. 1465 W., 6TH JUNE 1899.

From Colonel W. T. SHONE, Superintending Engineer, Madras Command, Military Works, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th May 1899, No. 2234.

In continuation of my No. 2137, dated 15th instant, I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a telegram No. 1283, dated 19th instant, from the Inspector, Sub-Marine Defences, and I now forward a copy of Instruction in Military Engineering, Part IV, as requested by Inspector, Sub-Marine Defences.

2. Please acknowledge receipt of the book and return it as soon as possible as I have no spare copy.

Telegram from the Presidency Port Officer, dated 25th May 1899.

Telegram from the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 26th May 1899.

Have arranged for diver to go to wreck of *Galatia* at Tuticorin. Will arrange details with Presidency Port Officer.

ORDER—No. 1465 W., dated 6th June 1899.

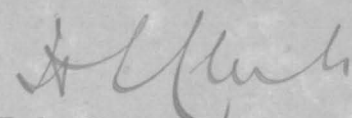
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The Superintending Engineer will be furnished with the instructions for submarine blasting supplied by the Military Works Department and the Inspector of Sub-Marine Defences. The publication entitled "Instructions in Military Engineering" lent by the Superintending Engineer, Madras Command, Military Works, will be returned as soon as possible, and the manuscript paper will be carefully preserved in view to subsequent publication should it prove useful.

An estimate of the cost of the work should be prepared and submitted for sanction as early as practicable. Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer will proceed with the operation and apply for such funds as may be required.

The pay and allowances admissible to the diver will be settled by the Superintending Engineer in direct communication with the Presidency Port Officer.

(True Extract.)



Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle,
with one book and paper of instructions.

" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

" Marine Department.

with Marine Dept. file to

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Government {1899} of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1465 W., 6th June 1899.

No. 599 Mar of 30-6-99

Communicated to the
JUNE. Presidency Port Officer and to the
Chairman, Harbour Trust Board.

(Ed) W. B. de W.
30. 6. 99

J.

The P.P.O.
" Ch. H.T. Bd.

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the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board.

(M) W.B. del.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle,
with one book and paper of instructions.

" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
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Exd. A. Rungasawmy Aiyangar.

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