1. Number of pages.
2. Date of repair. 66-6
3. Initials of Reference

3

M.R.O. 1—82 400—29-11-80

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 24.3.57

G.O. No. 520	Press Mis.
52-53	
Dated 21—3—	18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 24th March 1857.

No. 52. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 6th March 1857, No. 734.

Read the following letter from the Military Board; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 4th March 1857, No. 333.

SIR,

We beg to submit the accompanying report to Government, and to express our deep regret at the sad accident; but we beg to mention that it is the first serious accident of the kind.

2. We recommend that the repairs be carried out under the Director Artillery Depôt.

(Signed) Æ. SHIRREFF, Brigadier,
Commandant of Artillery.

(„) G. BALFOUR, Lieutenant Colonel,
Stipendiary Member.

Letter from Brigadier Æ. SHIRREFF, Commandant of Artillery; to the Secretary to the Military Board, Fort Saint George, dated 27th February 1857, No. 72.

SIR,

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Board, that an unfortunate explosion of Fulminate occurred yesterday evening about 10 minutes past 5 P. M., while Laboratory Serjeant Struthers* in charge of the Percussion Cap Manufactory was in the act of transferring about 1½ ℔ of the powder, from the drying plate, in the usual manner, whereby I deeply regret to say most serious injury was inflicted on his person, and considerable damage to the small house near the old Laboratory in which the explosion occurred, which is represented in the accompanying Statement of repairs requisite, and which would have been more considerable had not the door been open. The hands, right foot and eyes of the poor man had suffered most, so far as has been yet ascertained, the right hand was obliged to be amputated at once, and he is in a very precarious condition, from which, if his life be spared, he must rise most painfully maimed and crippled. An investigation has been held by a Court of Enquiry into the circumstances, but there is nothing to attach fault or carelessness to any party, it seems to have been one of those sad accidents incidental to the manipulation of such highly sensitive and dangerous Agents as Fulminate and such like, which no precautions seem adequate altogether to preclude the recurrence of. I beg that the requisite authority may be passed for the immediate repair of the damaged rooms‖ &c., that the manufacture of Caps may not be impeded.

* Who has prepared Fulminate during the last 9 years and upwards.

‖ Under the direction of the Director of the Artillery Depôt.

Statement of Repairs required to the Fulminate Room at Saint Thomas' Mount, consequent on an explosion on the 26th February 1857.

66 Panes of window glass broken
The Whole of the cloth lining of the roof torn to pieces.
The Flooring under the table broken.
One Teak wood table entirely destroyed.
One Writing desk broken.
One Chair broken.
8 Glass bottles ½ gallon common.

Sundry small boxes used in the Manufactory and small weighing stand with scales broken, but can be repaired in the Department.

(Signed) G. ROWLANDSON, Major,
Director Artillery Depôt.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 24th March 1857.

The Governor in Council has perused the foregoing report with much regret.

2. His Lordship approves of the requisite repairs being effected in the manner proposed by the Military Board.

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Lieut.-Col.,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, No. 520; dated 21st March 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, who will issue instructions to the District Engineer of Chingleput, to get the necessary repairs executed immediately to the Percussion Cap Manufactory at Saint Thomas' Mount. This should be done in communication with the Director of the Artillery Depôt.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Mc. D. 3e

No. 734.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
6th March 1857.

Read the following letter
from the Military Board.

To submit a report of an explosion in the Percussion Cap manufactory being the first serious one which has occurred. Recommend that the repairs be carried out by the Director Artillery Depot.

} Herewith 4th March 1857. No. 962.

The Governor in Council has perused the foregoing report with much regret.

2. His Lordship approves of the requisite repairs being effected in the manner proposed by the Military Board.

(Signed) H. Marshall Lt Col
Dy. Secy. to Govt.

To

To

The Military Board.
" Military Auditor General.
" Accountant General.
" Department of Pub. Works
" Quarter Master General
" Adjutant General.

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B

Pub. Lic. Wor. Ks. 1857 Dep.t
Dr. to Com.rs 24th March.

No. 510.

Extract from the Minutes
of Com.rs in the Military
Department

Dated 6th } March
Received 18th }

2 Encls: No. 534

Approving of the pro-
posed Repairs to the
Percussion Cap Ma-
nufactory being effec-
ted in the manner pro-
vided by the Military
Board.

No. 520

Ordered to be communicated
to the Chief-Engineer, who will issue
instructions to the District Engineer of
Chatham to get the necessary repairs
executed immediately to the Percussion Cap
Manufactory at Saint-Thomas' Mount.
This should be done in communication
with the Director of the Artillery Depot.

Fort St. George
21st March 1857

A Copy to the Chief Engr. Dep.t
3 — Subsy. Dep.t
with 2 original Letters

No. 52 & 53.

No. 520 — Military Order 21st March