M.R.O. 1—77,008—8-6-37.

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(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

# Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con 2072/57

G.O. No. 2895 Press / Mis.

10.41.

Dated 13-12- 1857

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

No. 40. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 28th November 1859, No. 7720.

Agreeably to Extract Minutes of Consultation marginally noted, I have the honor to report for the information of Government, the general progress of the military buildings, &c. at Jackatalla, for the quarter ending 31st October 1859.

No. 161, dated 28th January 1858.

2. The large room in No. 4 block nearly finished during the former quarter has been completed and fitted as a temporary place of worship and furnished with a communion table and 8 pews for officers. The church committee providing an old reading desk and pulpit which have been repaired; on week days it is used as a Regimental school room.

1 Original letter from the Special Executive Engineer, Jackatalla, with one enclosure.

3. No. 5 block of barracks has been completed with the exception of the granite flooring to the front verandah, was handed over to the officer commanding the station and occupied by the troops on the 17th of October last; the main rooms in the lower story, together with the passages at the end of the rear verandah have been laid with asphalti, there not being, however, a sufficient quantity in store at the time to complete the building within the time specified by the Superintending Engineer, the Special Executive Engineer floored the remaining portion of the verandah with teak which has turned out fortunately as it has since been found that in passages and doorways where exposed to sudden changes of temperature, the asphalti cracks and breaks up.

4. The walls enclosing the timber yard in the barrack square, have been taken down and the timber removed; two large culverts have been built between blocks 2 and 4 and 1 and 3 to carry off the water from the barracks square which is now well drained, and, with the exception of a small lime shed which will be removed as soon as the lime stored in it is used, is available for Regimental purposes.

5. Temporary arrangements have been made for the water service, and the barrack square relieved of the unsightly appearance of an open channel running through it.

*No. 1 Block—Married Quarters.*

6. Roofed in and plastering to main rooms upper and lower story commenced, the building will be completed in a month.

*No. 2 Block—ditto.*

7. Brick work nearly completed, terrace joists to front and back verandahs partly laid on, the remainder in a day or two.

*No. 3 Block—ditto.*

8. Foundation to back verandah laid and verandah pillars raised 6 feet.

9. The whole of the heavy excavation (sanctioned with reference to the construction of the new privies and back verandah), of the hill behind these buildings has been completed.

10. The four skittle alleys have been completed and handed over for the use of the troops.

11. Canteen and coffee room completed and handed over to the officer commanding the station on the 19th of October last.

12. The brickwork of hospital cell and guard room completed, and building nearly roofed in.

13. Commissariat store completed and handed over for the use of that department.

14. Ditch round the cantonment burial ground deepened and hedge planted.

15. Brickwork to robing room and godown at entrance of cantonment burial ground, finished.

16. Site for military prison cleared, foundations excavated and roads of approach formed.

17. Site for defensive tower cleared in part and roads of approach formed.

18. Engine house and mill shed built and steam saw mill set up.

19. Masonry repairs to military and other buildings attended to.

20. The number of artificers and coolies from the low country has increased very considerably during the last quarter and all turned out good work-men, they have come chiefly from Palamcottah and Trichinopoly.

21. A memorandum is attached shewing the average number of people employed, as also a list of the rates actually paid which are not exorbitant as has been reported, considering the climate and high price of food;—it was quite a fallacy to suppose that artificers and labourers were attracted to the Government works by lavish pay, the real fact being that the work people were carefully housed, regularly paid, cared for when sick, and well treated under Government, and prefer continuous employment as obtained on the Government works to the more precarious existence of daily cooly, as employed by private individuals even though offered a higher rate of pay by them.

22. Captain Farewell expresses himself highly satisfied with the exertions of Captain Morgan and Lieutenant Hankin to aid him in forwarding the works as rapidly as possible.

No. 227, dated 9th November 1859.

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No. 41. ORDER THEREON, 13th December 1859, No. 2895.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

*Secretary to Government.*

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Central Office P.W.

No 7720 Fort St George

From 28th November 1859.

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government

Sir

D.P.W.

Military

Agreeably to Mr Morgan's

No 161 dated 28th Jany 1858. Cow marginally noted I have the

honor to report for the information

of Government the general progress

of the Military Buildings &c &c

at Jackatalla for the Quarter ending

31st October 1859.

Encls. 2

1 Original letter from the Special Engr Jackatalla with one Encl.

2. The large Room in No 4 Block nearly finished during the former Quarter has been completed and fitted as a temporary place of Worship and furnished with a Communion Table and 8 Pews for Officers. The Church Committee providing an old Reading Desk and Pulpit which have been repaired;- on week days it

it is used as a Regimental School room.

3 No 8 Block of Barracks has been completed with the exception of the granite flooring to the front Verandah, was handed over to the Officer Commanding the Station and occupied by the Troops on the 17th of October last;- the main Rooms in the lower story together with the passages at the end of the rear Verandah have been laid with asphalte, there not being however a sufficient quantity in store at the time to complete the Building within the time specified by the Superintending Engineer, the Special Executive Engineer floored the remaining portion of the Verandah with Teak which has turned out fortunately as it has since been found that in passages and doorways where exposed to sudden changes of temperature the asphalte cracks and breaks



4 The walls enclosing the timber yard in the Barrack square have been taken down and the Timber removed, - two large Culverts have been built between Blocks 2 and 4 and 1 and 3 to carry off the water from the Barrack square which is now well drained, and, with the exception of a small lime shed which will be removed as soon as the lime stored in it is used is available for Regimental purposes

5 Temporary arrangements have been made for the Water Service and the Barrack Square relieved of the unsightly appearance of an open Channel running through it

No 1 Block - Married Quarters

6 Roofed in and plastering to rooms - Rooms Upper and lower Story commenced, the Building will be completed in a Month.

No 2. Block ditto

7. Brick work nearly completed Terrace joists to front and back Verandahs partly laid on the remainder in a day or two

No 3 Block ditto

8. Foundation to back Verandah laid and Verandah Pillars raised 6 Feet

9 The whole of the heavy excavation (sanctioned with reference to the construction of the new Privies and back Verandah) of the Hill behind these Buildings has been completed.

10 The four skittle Alleys have been completed and handed over for the use of the Troops

11 Canteen and Coffee Room completed and handed over to the Officer Commanding the Station on the 19th of October last

12 The Brickwork of Hospital Cell and guard room completed

1

completed and Building nearly roofed in.

13 Commissariat Stores completed and handed over for the use of that Department.

14 Ditch round the Cantonment Burial Ground deepened and Hedge planted

15 Brickwork to Robing room and Gateway at entrance of Cantonment Burial Ground finished.

16 Site for Military Prison cleared, foundations excavated and roads of approach formed.

17 Site for Defensive Tower cleared in part and roads of approach formed.

18. Engine House and Mill Shed built and Steam Saw Mill set up.

19 Masonry repairs to Military and other Buildings attended to.

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21 A Memorandum is attached shewing the average number of people employed, as also a List of the rates actually paid which are not exorbitant as has been reported, considering the climate and high prices of food, - it was quite a fallacy to suppose that Artificers and labourers were attracted to the Government work by lavish Pay, the real fact being that the work people were carefully housed regularly paid cared for when sick and well treated under Government and prefer continuing employment as obtained on the Government Works



Works to the more precarious existence of daily coolly, as employed by private individuals even though offered a higher rate of Pay by them

22. Captain Farewell expresses himself highly satisfied with the exertions of Captain Morgan and Lieutenant Rankin to aid him in forwarding the works as rapidly as possible.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt

Fort Saint George
28th November 1859

J. H. Hall Lt Colo
Chief Engineer

W. B. Stcole Lt Colo
Dy Chief Engr Southern Circle

To
The Secretary to Government
&c &c

No 227 dated 9th Novr 1859

Comd Pr Tel 7/58 No 34636

P W - 1859 Desp.
Rec'd Gov.r 29th Dec.r
No 3099.

From.
The Chief Engr
to
The Secy to Govt
D.O.W.

Dated 28th Nov.r/59
Rec'd 29th Nov.r 20.
Co-1 Returned 17-2-60

Respg
general's progress of the
Military Buildings
&c &c at Jachalalla
for the Quarter ending
31st October 1859

Encl. 1895
Recd 13th Dec.r

No 23 95

No 40 & 41.

c 30 Nov.r 29 Dec.r