

(1) Number of pages 19

(2) Date of repair 5-8-63

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1393	Press Mis.
23-3/1		
Dated	1-6-	1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st June 1863.*

No. 33. Read the following letter from Captain O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., District Engineer Vizagapatam, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government in the Department Public Works, dated Waltair, 12th May 1863, No. 55 :—

SIR,

Enclosure 1, copies of correspondence.

* No. 1,340 of 24th April 1863.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Madras Government marginally* noted, with the order thereon, No. 1,106 of the 1st May 1863, which order in paragraphs 4 and 5 states that Government consider that a certain view taken by me with respect to the execution of emergent works in a letter to Sir George Whitlock, K. C. B., late General Commanding Northern Division, should have been expressed more deferentially, and that the construction of the Fire Engine shed at Waltair having been undertaken, the neglect in completing its floor noticed by the Major General is "not creditable to the Department of the District Engineer at Vizagapatam," I beg to be allowed to say a few words in extenuation, if possible, of my own particular offence, and to be permitted to relieve the Department in this District of the slur cast upon it by Government, which slur has been further intensified in passing through the Public Works Department, Military, inasmuch as the expression "not creditable," originally used by his Excellency in Council, has been changed into the word "discreditable."

† No. 1,511 of 12th March 1863.

2. First, with respect to my letter as per margin,† which I annex (letter F), as an extract only from it has been laid before Government, I beg to observe that it was written by me without an idea that its language, though meant to be forcible, for it was not the first time that the Major General has been informed by me that he wished to do that, which by the rules of the Department he had no power to do (letter A), was anything but respectful in tone.

3. Sir George Whitlock himself found no fault with it on the score of want of deference; on the contrary, in his answer to me through his Staff (letter G), he noted my readiness in wishing to oblige him personally in carrying out a work for which no proper authorization, as far as I knew, was in existence.

4. Still, whatever Sir George Whitlock may have thought with regard to the tone in which my letter was couched, Government have expressed an opinion that it might have been more deferential, and I can only greatly regret that what I wrote, however free, in my correspondence with the Major General through his Staff, I may have been from the slightest intention of showing him anything but the respect due to his age and position, should have occasioned this expression of their opinion.

5. As to the second point, I have so much confidence in the justice of Government that I do believe most unhesitatingly when fully informed in the matter, they will come to the conclusion that it is not discreditable to this Department that the floor of the Fire Engine shed should have taken fourteen days to lay down.

6. I annex the whole correspondence on the subject, and beg that in particular Captain Molony's explanation of the cause in the delay of the work may be perused with attention.

Letter E.

7. I now proceed to state a few facts in connection with the construction of the shed and its floor.

8. The shed itself was ordered to be built on "emergency" by the Major General on the 22nd December last; Captain Hunter, R. E., then District Engineer must have been informed that the work had been ordered by the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, but there is no record in this Office to show by whose authority, other than that of Sir George Whitlock, it was sanctioned.

9. Its site was chosen by the Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General Northern Division; it was constructed under the orders of the Acting First Assistant District Engineer Captain Molony.

**Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st June 1863.**

10. On the 10th January Sir George Whitlock requested this Department to pull the shed down and build it elsewhere; it was immediately pulled down, but owing to some misconception of orders on the part of the native Gumastah in charge, his master, Captain Molony, being out in the District, it was not fully completed in its new position till the end of the month.

11. On the 2nd of February, Captain Molony gave the shed a final inspection, made a final payment and entered the work in his inspection report as finished.

12. On the 26th of February, 21 days after the shed's completion, the Major General, without communicating his wishes to me, or asking whether a floor was necessary, orders my Assistant to put down a kunkur floor to the building (letter B).

13. I will here observe that, in my opinion, and Captain Molony agrees with me, the situation of the shed and the nature of the soil render a floor unnecessary; a mere catch-water drain is amply sufficient to keep the interior dry.

14. The first time that I, the District Engineer of the District, who am responsible for the expenditure on all works, heard of this new work, is on the 10th March in a letter from the Deputy Quarter Master General, expressing in very strong terms the Major General's displeasure at Captain Molony's dilatoriness (letter C).

15. I immediately address Captain Molony (letter D), receive his explanation (letter E) and forward it on to Sir George Whitlock with the letter (letter F) on which Government have animadverted.

16. The Major General afterwards leaves the station without taking any notice of Captain Molony's explanation of the cause of the delay in putting down the floor of the shed, which appears to have been due to some petty quarrel between an Artillery Serjeant and a Department Public Works Gumastah, since dismissed, and without any notice of my Assistant's application to be relieved of the censure passed upon him.

17. The floor was completed on the 12th March, 14 days after the Major General's original requisition.

18. I make no comments upon these facts, but appeal from the Government ill-informed to the Government better informed, for a modification of the opinion expressed in paragraph 5 of their Order.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1863, No. 1,393.

Communicated to the Military Department with reference to Proceedings in that Department No. 1,340, dated 24th April 1863.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

Military Report No 55

Encl
Chief of Coms
= proposed

Vizagapatam Dist. Engrs Office
Daltain 12th May 1863.
From Captain P. H. S. Chambers R.E.
Dist. Engineer Vizagapatam
To General W. Birdwood R.E.
Secretary to Government
in the Dept. of Pub. Works

Sir,
In no manner denying the
No 1340 of 24 April 1863
No 1105 of the 1st May 1863
Government P Engrs Office noted, with
the order thereon, No 1105 of the 1st May 1863, which order in paragraph 5 states
that Government consider that as a
certain view taken by me with respect
to the execution of emergent works in a
letter to Sir George Whitlock. H. C. B. late
General commanding A.D.C. should have
been expressed more differentially, and
that the construction of the Div. Engine-shed
at Daltain having been undertaken, the
neglect in completing its floor noticed
by the Major General is "not creditable
to the Department of the District Engineer
at Vizagapatam," I beg to be allowed
to say a few words in extenuation, if
not in my own particular defence.

and to be permitted to resign the department
in this District of the Army and upon
it by Government, which duty has
been further intensified in passing
through the Public Works Department
Military, in as much as the expression
"not creditable" originally used by his
Excellency in Council has been changed
into the word "discreditably".

2. First with respect to my
letter as per margin, which I annex L.P. 11 9/12
March 1873.
(letter F) as an Extract only from it has
been laid before Government, I beg to
observe that it was written to me without
an idea that its language, though meant
to be serious, for it was not the first
time that the Major General has been
informed by me that he wished to do
that, which by the rule of the Department
he had no power to do (letter B), was
any thing but respectful in tone.

3. Sir George Whitlock to himself
found no fault with it on the score
of want of deference; on the contrary
in his answer to me through his staff
(letter G)

(letter G) he noted my readiness in
wishing to oblige him personally in
carrying out a work for which
no proper authorization, as far as I
knew, was in existence.

4. Still, whatever Sir George
Whitlock may have thought with regard
to the tone in which my letter was couched,
Government have expressed an opinion
that it might have been more deferential,
and I can only greatly regret that what
I wrote, however free, in my correspon-
dence with the Major General through
his staff, I may have been from the
slightest intention of showing him any
thing but the respect due to his age
and position, should have occasioned
the expression of their opinion.

5. As to the second point, I
have so much confidence in the justice
of Government that I so believe most
unhesitatingly when fully informed in
the matter, they will come to the conclu-
sion that it is not discreditably to this
Department that the Floor of the Fire-
Engine shed should have taken 14 days
to lay down.

6. I annex the whole correspondence on the subject and beg that in particular Captain & Holony's explanation of the cause in the delay of the work may be perused with attention.

7. I now proceed to state a few facts in connection with the construction of the shed and its floor.

8. The shed itself was ordered to be built on "Emergency" by the Major General on the 22nd December last; Captain Hunter R.E. then District Engineer must have been informed that the work had been ordered by the Commander in Chief of the Army but there is no record in the ~~files~~ to show by whose authority, other than that of Sir George Whitlock, it was sanctioned.

9. The site was chosen by the District Engineer, Major General, it was constructed under the orders of the Major. First Lt. R.E. Engineer Captain & Holony.

10. On the 10th January Sir George Whitlock resigned his appointment.

11. To pull the shed down and build it elsewhere; it was immediately pulled down, but owing to some misconception of order on the part of the Native Gun at a time in charge, his master, Captain & Holony being out in the field at that time, it was not fully completed in its new position till the end of the month.

12. On the 2nd of February, Captain & Holony gave the shed a final inspection, made a final payment and entered the work in his inspection Report as finished.

13. On the 26th of February, 24 days after the shed's completion, the District Engineer, without communicating his wishes to me, or asking whether a floor was necessary, ordered my Assistant to put down a Kien Kur floor to the building (lett. B).

14. I will here observe that in my opinion, and Captain & Holony agrees with me, the situation of the shed and the nature of the soil, rendered a floor unnecessary, a mere catch

water drain is amply sufficient
to keep the interior dry.

14. The first time that I, the
District Engineer of the District, who am
responsible for the expenditure on all
works, heard of this new work, is on
the 10th March in a letter from the Dy.
Supt. Mr. G. B. expressing in very strong
terms the Major General's displeasure
at Captain Molony's dilatoriness (letter C).

15. I immediately advised Captain
Molony (letter D) receive his explanation
(letter E) and forward it on to Mr.
G. B. with the letter (letter F)
on which Government have an-
=mended.

16. The Major General afterwards
leaves the Station without taking any
notice of Captain Molony's explanation
or the cause of the delay in putting
down the floor of the Shed, which
appears to have been due to some
petty quarrel between an Artillery
Sergeant and a D. T. W. Foreman,
since dismissed, and without any
notice of my Assistant's application.

to be relieved of the censure passed
upon him.

17. The floor was completed
on the 12th March, 4 days after ^{the} Major
General's original requisition.

18. I make no comments
upon these facts, but appeal from the
Government to the Government
better informed for a modifi-
cation of the opinion expressed in
paras of their order.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient
servant

Wm. Charles (affd. S. S.)
District Engineer Vyzagapatam

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