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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3265	Press
279-281	Mis.
Dated 15. 11.	1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th November 1861.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 279. Endorsement of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, dated 29th October 1861.

From Captain J. F. FISCHER, R. E., Controller of Public Works Accounts, late Executive Engineer, Bellary District, to Lieutenant-Colonel E. HEMERY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, dated Madras, 25th October 1861.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of G. O. of the 10th instant, No. 2,911, and to submit the following explanations for your consideration.

2. As regards the buildings attached to the D Troop Royal Horse Artillery, I beg to observe this Troop arrived in Bellary in March 1860, when the sanction of the Government of India had been received for the large Artillery Barracks in ground arches being constructed at that station. We were ordered to furnish the best accommodation we could for the men at the least possible expense, and the Guard Room, Harness Room, Gun Sheds, and Sick Stables were run up with any materials at hand, as it was not expected these buildings would be occupied for more than two years at the very outside; some accommodation was at the same time made for the married men, but on the completion of the Patcherry attached to the European Regiment these people have been transferred there.

3. The Guard Room belonging to the Troop is no doubt too small, but it was considered sufficiently large by the Military authorities at the time it was designed, and then it was well known no more money would be granted for a larger building. I regret to say I do not consider this building to be in a dangerous condition, it is far too small and excessively inconvenient on that account, and this I reported to General McLeod, at the same time furnishing an approximate estimate of the probable cost of a new one. The Harness and Store Room is a mere mud and stone building, without any verandah, and exposed to the inclemency of the weather on every side; its roof was made up of waste timber from the yard to save every expense; and during the heavy rains of August last it cracked very much, four years after it had been run up as a temporary shed; I then reported the state of the building, as quoted by General McLeod in paragraph 3 of his letter, No. 108, dated 8th September 1861. This building has no glass doors or windows, and as it was in so dilapidated a condition, it was impossible to state it was fit to keep valuable stores and harness in. The Gun Shed roofs are only of mud, the wood work of the cheapest kind, and as rain on an average falls only for thirty days in the year in Bellary, after so much exposure to the intense heat of the sun, it is hardly to be expected they should not leak; but these buildings, like the others, were built to afford some accommodation for the time being for the guns, and then it was never anticipated two Batteries of Artillery would be stationed at Bellary, and it is this arrangement which has kept these temporary buildings occupied so much longer than it was ever expected they would be.

4. The Sick Stables of this Troop are complained of as being unsafe for horses though only lately completed. I beg to state a sick horse was allowed to kick about in them till he died, and as the walls and pillars are only of mud and stone, without any cohesion, I am surprised he did not kick the building down. Three of the pillars which appeared to be out of the perpendicular were taken down at once and re-built, but I could find no sinking in the roof.

5. As regards the Barracks of the E Battery, the walls are perfectly sound, the roofs leak in a few places, but nothing to the extent they did when I first saw them on re-joining the District in October 1863; these buildings are 20 feet wide, so that the span of the roof is about 22 feet where the feet of the couples rest in the middle of the walls; of this, General McLeod complains. So have carried these beyond the walls would have increased the span to 26 feet, which I beg to submit it was quite impossible to do with common palmyra couples. The design for these Barracks was drawn out at Madras, and forwarded to us to execute with instructions to abide entirely by the sanctioned plan and estimate. I beg to recommend if these Barracks are to be long occupied by the Artillery, these roofs should be removed and permanent ones put

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15th November 1861.*

up as approved of by Government for the new Artillery married men's Quarters, Reading Rooms, &c. The Harbours Room of this Battery was completed in the beginning of this year, and at the commencement of the monsoon in May and June last there were no complaints of its leaking though the rains were rather heavy; when reported to leak so much after the severe fall of rain in August I examined the building, and had it thoroughly repaired; of the thousands of tiles used some may have been unburnt. In Bellary, where fuel is so very scarce, it is most difficult to insure the thorough burning of either tiles or bricks; and as the Contractors who supply these articles to the Government had been ordered by the Municipal Commissioners of the Cowle Bazar to remove their kilns, &c., at their own expense, from the place which they had occupied for years, they had no alternative but to finish their contracts as well as they could.

6. In sending up to you last year the revised estimates for the married men's Quarters for the Artillery, I brought to your notice that since I had returned to Bellary I observed that in these buildings of mud and stone, where verandahs had been omitted, the walls had cracked very much, and I then proposed buttresses to strengthen these parts; the buildings referred to in paragraphs 10 and 12 of General McLeod's letter are those which exhibited the most cracking, the Guard Room has been already repaired and reported fit for occupation before I left; the Orderly Room was not made over to me by the Officer Commanding the Battery, and nothing had been done to it in consequence. This building has a verandah on three sides, and it was only in the rear wall where this had been omitted these cracks have occurred.

7. Before dealing with the Committee's report, I would beg to all in behalf of those who have been employed on these works and who are now absent, that as far as the means would allow the work has been well executed; when all these complaints from the Artillery came in there was not a building in the place public or private which was not leaking, and many of them far worse than those of which so much has been said; but in none of them was the leakage to be compared to that at the new Railway station in Bangalore on the 15th instant, when it was difficult to find a dry place to stand on, on the platform, and in just as heavy rain I do not think half a dozen cots had to be moved in the Artillery Barracks.

8. A copy of the Committee's report, printed with the G.O. under reply, had been furnished to me in Bellary, but without note or comment of any kind. I did not therefore know what object it had answered, and as I was perfectly certain that in a short time I should again have an opportunity of drawing the attention of the Military authorities to the fact of the tiles being broken by stone throwing, I thought it just as well to let the matter rest, otherwise I should have entered a protest against the proceedings of the Committee; but even before I left Bellary I pointed out to the Quarter Master Sergeant of the D Troop the tiles smashed on the roof of the old European Hospital, and to the Quarter Master Sergeant on the Ramantrou, I showed the same thing on the Wash house and Skittle Alley, and in both instances the stones I took care were shown in the presence of the European witnesses.

9. When I called for an examination of the roof of the Battery Sick Stables, nearly every building belonging to this Battery was reported as leaking except this one, and here though the roof was as bad as bad could be there were no complaints; I had been previously shown two baskets full of stones taken off the roof by the bricklayers employed on former repairs, and I now reported the circumstances; the evidence of these Natives was entirely and contemptuously rejected by the Committee. I also pointed out a large stone in a patch of broken tiles on the roof of this Sick Stables, which was brought down and shown to the Committee, and thrown back on the roof in a fresh place by their President to see if it would break a tile, and though very gently handled, it at once accomplished that object.

10. I beg therefore to submit I was justified in attaching no importance to this Committee's report, particularly as I was never made aware how it had been received at British Head

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Quarters. The men of the Battery, I admit, may not be to blame in this matter, but there are dozens of Cook-boys, Horse-keepers, Grass-cutters, and others attached to a Battery of Artillery, who are always about the buildings, and from my own experience I am quite certain these people do very frequently damage the works as I pointed out.

11. In conclusion I beg to add I was not informed before leaving Bellary that a report of this kind had been preferred against me; on the contrary, I was led to suppose some inconvenience would be felt by my transfer from a station I had so long been associated with. I came away therefore without making any notes to reply to such charges as those now brought forward. I must therefore solicit an indulgence for the many imperfections of this report under these circumstances.

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, with reference to Order No. 2,911, dated 10th October 1861.

(Signed) E. HEMERY, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

Endorsement of the Under Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort Saint George, 2nd November 1861.

No. 230. Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, dated Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 25th October 1861, No. 416-9,757:—

From Major General W. C. McLEOD, Commanding Ceded Districts, to the Quarter Master General of the Army, Ootacamund, dated Bellary, 18th October 1861, No. 129.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to request that you will lay the accompanying copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding the Artillery in the Ceded Districts, which has reference to my letter

Sih ultimo, No. and subject as per margin, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The building referred to by Colonel Falls is that mentioned in the 5th paragraph of my letter. I have directed the proposal now made by that Officer to be carried out, as the only means of meeting the present difficulty. The alteration will cost about Rupees 150. I hope His Excellency will approve of the measure and also sanction the erection of another Guard Room.

3. I beg to add that the wall of the Gun shed of the D Battery, D Brigade Royal Horse Artillery, which was only finished a few months ago, has cracked to such an extent as to call for immediate repairs.

From Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. FALLS, Commanding Royal Artillery, Ceded Districts, to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Ceded Districts, dated Bellary, 3rd October 1861, No. 461.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to bring to the notice of the Major General Commanding the Division, that the late rain has caused the cracks in the Guard Room of D Battery, D Brigade Royal Horse Artillery, to open out, and that I do not now consider it safe for this building to be occupied.

2. There is no building or room at my disposal available for the Guard and Prisoners to be removed to, I would therefore suggest that the end of the Barrack (opposite the Orderly Room) should be partitioned off, the doors and windows strengthened, and bars put across the latter, for their accommodation, until the Guard Room can be re-built; these alteration and repairs

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th November 1861.

would not cost much, should not be long in execution, and this is the only arrangement that I can think of for the temporary accommodation of the Guard and Prisoners of this Battery.

(True Copy)
(Signed) W. A. RIACH, Major,
Deputy Assist. Quarter Master General, Ceded Districts.

Forwarded to Government for information, with reference to Docket on Major General McLeod's letter, dated 8th ultimo, forwarded to Government on the 20th ultimo, No 231.

(By Order)
(Signed) F. H. SCOTT, Lieut. Colonel,
Quarter Master General.

Transferred to the Department Public Works in continuation of former papers on the same subject, transferred on the 1st of October 1861.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Lieut. Colonel,
Under Secretary to Government.

No 231.

ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1861, No. 3,233.

1. The Governor in Council has read with regret the foregoing unfavorable reports upon the Artillery Barracks at Bellary. The late Executive Engineer, however, explains that it was not expected that these buildings would be occupied by the Artillery for more than a year or two; and that, being immediately required, they were hurriedly constructed, of inferior materials, and at small cost. His Excellency is not surprised to find that buildings of this description should fail to give satisfaction.

2. The Superintending Engineer will now inspect the Barracks personally, as soon as possible, and will report to Government the measures necessary to insure the comfort and convenience of the Troops occupying them, forwarding an estimate of the probable cost. Whatever is necessary for the safety of the buildings should be done at once, on emergency.

3. In the face of what is stated by Captain Fischer, the Government cannot agree with the Committee that the tiles on the roofs of these buildings had not been to some extent at least wantonly broken. If the Committee were right, it would be impossible to account for the large quantity of stones found on the roofs. The Military authorities will therefore be requested to take whatever precautions may be necessary to prevent a recurrence of such wanton damage.

(True Extract)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.
" Military Department.
" Quarter Master General.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

At 4.64.

5
Horse Quarter Royal Artillery
Bellary 30 October 1864.

Sir

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to bring to the notice of the Major General commanding the Division that the late rain has caused the cracking in the Guard Room of D. Battery D. Brigade Royal Horse Artillery to open out, and that I do not now consider it safe for this building to be occupied. There is no building or room at my disposal, available for the guards and Prisoners to be removed to, I would therefore suggest that the end of the Barrack (opposite the Orderly Room) should be partitioned off, the doors and windows strengthened and Bars put across the latter, for the accommodation until the Guard Room can be rebuilt. These alterations and repairs would not cost much, should not be long in execution, and this is the only arrangement that I can think of for the temporary accommodation of the guards and Prisoners of this Battery.

The Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General
Ceded Districts.

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No. 19 D
 The State of Texas
 Nothing firm
 by Robert Lee
 of the office
 Royal Authority.

Li-¹ ² Moamun

I have the honor to request that
 you will lay the accompanying copy
 of letters from the Office of the
 in the Civil District, which has re-
 ference being taken to the
 subject as per margin, for the infor-
 mation of His Excellency the Commander
 in Chief.

2. The history referred to by Col. Felt
is that mentioned in the 5th para. of
my letter. It has directed the post-
office inspector to ascertain the cost
out for this only means of hunting the
beetle. Apparently the estimate will
cost about \$150. — I hope this ex-
-cising will appear after measure
and also function the creation of the
guard home.

3. I have found that the bulk of the German funds after the D. Bakery & Brigade Royal knew nothing, which was only finished a few months ago. has crooked French an extent as to

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting at the top of the page]

10 1866
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Forwarded to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

sent for information [illegible]

with reference to [illegible]

Do not [illegible] [illegible]

General [illegible] [illegible]

Letter dated [illegible] [illegible]

Forwarded to [illegible] [illegible]

sent on [illegible] [illegible]

Albany [illegible] [illegible]

By order [illegible] [illegible]

Wm. [illegible] [illegible]

John [illegible] [illegible]

James [illegible] [illegible]

Charles [illegible] [illegible]

William [illegible] [illegible]

Richard [illegible] [illegible]

John [illegible] [illegible]

Wm. [illegible] [illegible]

John [illegible] [illegible]

[Large block of handwritten text at the bottom, including names like 'John', 'James', 'Charles', 'William', 'Richard', 'John', 'Wm.', 'John']

N^o -

Office of the Controller of P. W. Accounts.

Madras 25th October 1864.

From,

Captain J. F. Fischer R. E.

Controller of Public Works Accounts.

late Executive Engineer Bellary District.

To,

Lieut. Colonel C. Cernery R. E.

Superintending Engineer 3^d Division.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of G. O. of the 10th instant N^o 2911, and to submit the following explanations for your consideration.

As regards the Buildings attached to the D. Troop Royal Horse Artillery, I beg to observe this Troop arrived in Bellary in March 1860, when the sanction of the Government of India had been received for the large Artillery Barracks in grained arches being constructed at that station. We were ordered to furnish the best accommodation we could for the men at the least possible expense and the Guard room, Harness room, Gun sheds and Sick stables were run up with any materials at hand as it was not expected these Buildings would be occupied for more than 2 years at the very outside, some accommodation was at the same time made for the

21. 1865. Dated
21. 10. 1865.

Wm. de Vries

of the R. E.

at Bellary

Recd 21. 10. 1865

21.

From the 21. 10. 1865
to the 21. 10. 1865
of the 21. 10. 1865
of the 21. 10. 1865
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15
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4th. 1864. 23. 3. 1864.
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8. A copy of the Committee's report printed with the G. O. under reply had been furnished to me in Bellary, but without note or comment of any kind. I did not therefore know what object it had answered, and as I was perfectly certain that in a short time I should again have an opportunity of drawing the attention of

of the Military Authorities to the fact of the tiles being broken by stone throwing I thought it just as well to let the matter rest, other-
wise I should have entered a protest against the proceedings of the Committee, but even before I left Bellary I pointed out to the Quarter Master Sergeant of the 2nd Troop the tiles smashed on the roof of the old European Hospital, and to the Quarter Master Sergeant on the Commanagers, I showed the same thing on the Wash house and 'Whitely Alley' and in both instances the stones I took care were shown in the presence of the proper witnesses.

When I called for an examination of the roof of Battery sick stables nearly every building belonging to the Battery was reported as leaking except this one and in view of the roof as bad as bad could be then no more complaints, I had been previously shown two buckets full of stones taken off the roof by the bricklayers employed in former repairs and I now reported the circumstance the evidence of these matters was entire and contemptuously rejected by the Committee. I also pointed out a large stone in a patch of broken tiles on the roof of the sick stables which

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10. I beg therefore to submit I was justified in attaching no importance to this Committee's report particularly as I was never made aware how it had been received at Division Head Quarters, the men of the Battery. I admit may not be to blame in the matter, but there are dozens of Cook boys, horse keepers, gunsmiths and others attached to a Battery of Artillery who are always about the Buildings and from my own experience I am quite certain these people do very frequently & damage the works as I pointed out.

11. In conclusion I beg to add I was not informed before leaving Bellary that a report of this kind had been preferred against me, on the contrary I was led to suppose some inconvenience would be felt by my transfer from a station I had so long been appointed with. I came away therefore without making

making any notes to reply to the charges as those now brought forward. I must therefore solicit an indulgence for the many imperfections of this report under these circumstances.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant.

W. H. Watson - Captain R. E.
Late Executive Engineer Bellary District.

Received from the
 Engineer in Charge of the
 Barracks at Fort Mifflin
 the following description of
 the Barracks at Fort Mifflin

Delivered to the
 Engineer in Charge of the
 Barracks at Fort Mifflin
 the following description of
 the Barracks at Fort Mifflin
 at 3:30 p.m.
 1866

Reminders to the Barracks
 Commanded by H. E. D. to the Engineer
 to take a full list of the Barracks
 1866.

Edmund
 1866

Office of the
 Engineer in Charge of the
 Barracks at Fort Mifflin
 (Read the following
 papers.)

My dear Sir,
 The Barracks at
 the E. Battery were
 built of wood & stone
 with a chimney on each
 to draw the smoke out
 the roof of the Barracks in 1844
 for 6 or 8 years after
 built, it was found
 that the wood was
 so much decayed that
 the Barracks were
 found to be in a
 very bad state of
 repair.

1866. 20 Nov/61. No. 1
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To order of 27/11/64
 1864.

(Name)

11/2/64

11/2/64

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To Order of J. H. Bates
 1864.
 Dec 24
 E. Bates
 J. H. Bates

The Governor and Council has read with regret the foregoing unfavourable reports upon the Artillery Barracks at Kelling. The late Sec. Engineer, however, explains that it was not expected that these buildings would be occupied by the Artillery for more than a year or two; and that, being immediately required, they were hurriedly constructed, of inferior materials, and at small cost. H. E. is not surprised to find that buildings of this description should fail to give satisfaction.

From the Capt. ending
Engineer will now inspect
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In the face of what
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buildings had not been so much
wantonly broken.
The Committee were right,
that the tiles were broken,
but it would be impossible to
account for the large quantity
of stones found on the roofs.
The military authorities
will therefore be requested
to take whatever precautions
may be necessary to prevent
recurrence of such
wanton damage -

W.B.

The Capt. has 3rd Lt.
" Mily Left Lt.
" Quartermaster General.
" Comdr of P. M. A. Co.

12
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Another 3265 of
1871

Papers relating
to the state of the Union
including a list of
largest with notes
thereon.