

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1525	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	5-6-	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th June 1865.*

No. 113. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. FOORD, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Salem, 18th
May 1865, No. 224 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report for the information of Government that, on the 20th of April 1865, I called on Major Hunter to state whether he had completed his work on the Ahtoor Ghát, and when it would be ready for inspection. He informed me, in reply, that he completed the work on the 31st of December, and had reported to that effect to the Secretary to Government.

2. I inspected the Ahtoor Ghát on the 8th, and Lieutenant Edgemo inspected the Nagalore branch on the 15th. As I have no plan, estimate, or agreement, to compare the work with, and as the Ghát was inspected by Major Shaw Stewart and Mr. Pinson, C. E., in May last, I shall proceed to notice what seems to have been done from the date of their report.

3. In that report the average width is stated to be from 5 to 9 feet. It is now 12 feet, except when there is rock, and then it is 12 feet less the width of the rock, whatever that may be; for no rock has been blasted or got rid of in any other way, as far as I can see.

4. The road has been very imperfectly cleared of trees; for these have not been cut down to the ground, but stumps, a foot high, have been left to the great obstruction of the traffic.

5. Revetments of rough stone have been built in several places; but, with one exception, they have fallen down, and the width of the road very much reduced in consequence.

6. The zig-zags have been somewhat improved. They are not quite so steep at the turns, and the road has been widened. The error in the trace remains as before. In the first part of the Ghát the descent is too easy, and in the latter it is too rapid.

7. Lieutenant Edgemo reports that the Nagalore branch for the first mile is 12 feet in width, but is obstructed in many places by trees and tree stumps. The rest of the trace (1½ miles) consists of a series of precipitous zig-zags, but the road is for the most part 12 feet wide.

The revetments have been so imperfectly built that half of them have fallen down.

8. The zig-zags have been improved, and with two exceptions, near the foot of the Ghát, a sufficient width has been given at the turns.

9. There are three places on the Ahtoor Ghát which are certainly unsafe. One of these, where a smooth slab of rock, sloping outward, stretches completely across the road, is evidently alluded to in paragraph 11 of the first report. I have asked Major Hunter whether he will undertake to put these portions of the Ghát into proper order, but I have not as yet had any reply from him.

10. As regards the value of the work done, it is impossible for me, not having seen the first trace, and having no plans to guide me, to estimate it with accuracy. Supposing the valuation of Major Shaw Stewart and Mr. Pinson to have been correct at the time of their inspection, it is not so now. The Ghát, incomplete as it is, could not have been made for the sum named by them.

11. One thing is certain, that the work might have been much better done for the money, and it no doubt would have been much better done by the Public Works Department. If Major Hunter can be compelled to do any more work on the Ghát, the places where improvement is most required can be pointed out to him. Otherwise I beg to recommend that no time be lost in transferring the Ghát to this Department, and in making the maintenance allowances available for repairs and improvements.

Rupees 410 }
" 1,200 } page 62 of Budget of 1865-66.
" 853 }

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th June 1865.

No. 114.

ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1865, No. 1,525.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 17.

1. The report now read will be communicated to Major Hunter, and he will be informed that, as he is pledged to open out the Ahtoor Ghát to a width of 12 feet throughout with the comparatively large sum of money which he has received for the purpose, he cannot be allowed to hand it over in its present imperfect state. The Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division will at once call upon Major Hunter to complete his undertaking by removing the stumps of trees which now obstruct the track, by blasting out the rocks which project across the road, and by re-building the revetments which have fallen.

2. The last communication from Major Hunter on the subject of the Ghát is addressed to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, and is dated 12th January 1865. In it Major Hunter does not report the completion of the Ahtoor Ghát, but, on the contrary, mentions it in terms to lead to the supposition that at that date he did not consider it finished. He speaks of it in these words:—"I have not asked for a final inspection of the Ahtoor Ghát, I merely asked for a report on the Kurdiour line, 2½ miles, which is considered by Wilkieson and Edgcome as unfinished although the entire funds in my hands are not 100 Rupees;" and he was informed on the 1st February 1865, that the Government required him to complete the Ahtoor Ghát in accordance with his engagement, and that it would have to be inspected and passed by the Executive Engineer of the Range before it could be transferred to the charge of the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
To Major Hunter.

Encl. S. T. Augustin.

30
Wants that this Report should
be sent to Major Hunter and
that he should be called upon
to complete the Road. That it is
intend of clearing away the
stumps - of blasting the Rock
and of rebuilding the Revetments
which have tumbled down

MD
HG P WDN

Pro 29 June 1865 A 643-644

J. W. 1865 Office
Pro. of Govt for June
1756.

From
The Supy. Engineer
5th Div.

To
The Secretary to
Government
A.P.W.

Dated 18th May 1865.
Recd 19th
No 224

No 1525-5 June 1865
Reporting on the
Mittor Ghāt work
in the Salem District
and asking in case Major
Hunter is not to be com-
pelled to do any more
work to hand over the
work to this departt.
for expenditure of the
maintenance allowance
in repairs & improvements to
it.

No 1123

C 27 May 1865

Civil Works

Public Works Department

No 1525

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 5th May 1865

Read the following

From the Superintending Engineer

5th Division

Reporting on the Mittor

Ghāt work in the Salem

District, asking in case Major

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penditure of the maintenance allow-
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the Mittor Ghāt to a
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purpose, how can it be
allowed to hand it over

(Here enter 18th May 1865
No 224)

JP

Wm

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and

9c
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which is considered by
Mr Kieon and Edgcomb
as unfinished altho the
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are not 100 Rs, and he
was informed on the 1st
Febuary 1865 that the
Govt

I have required him to
 complete the plan in
 accordance with his
 engagement and that it
 would have to be inspected
 and passed by the
 Executive Engineer of the
 Range before it could
 be transferred to the charge
 of the Public Works Department

All to long, my father
 and me and *AB*
 to be made
 and all the...
 and you are...
 in the...
 and to be...

To the Supergr 5th Co
 Major Hunter

3
 Sept 5th June

The...
 the...
 the...

40 W 1865 Depo
Pro: of Govt for June

N^o 1525
Pro: of the M^gout
of 5 June/65

Letter from the
Supp. Encl^{ts} to Dep
reporting on the Alh^o
L^g hant M^ork^os. Salem
D^t - With orders
thereon.

N^o 110. 114