

(1) Number of pages 10(2) Date of repair 4.12.62

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2226	Press
78-79	~~Mis.~~
Dated 3 — 8 —	18 65.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 78. Read the following Circular from Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R. A., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Military Works,) to the Secretary to Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 28th June 1865, No. 61:—

SIR,

In continuation of Public Works Department Circular No. 39, dated 21st June 1864, I am directed to forward, for information and guidance, the following

letter* from the Deputy Quarter Master General, to the address of the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Military Department, which contains the opinion of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the subject of employing Soldiers in whitewashing their barracks and executing other petty repairs, and to intimate that it is the desire of the Government of India that the experiment may have a further and more extensive trial, and that, in every instance, Executive Engineers should communicate with Commanding Officers on the subject, sending them copies of the letter from the Deputy Quarter Master General above quoted, and obtaining from them the certificates suggested by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to the effect that the work will be fairly done.

(Signed) A. B. SAMPSON,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 1,201, dated 20th May 1865.

From Major P. S. LUMSDEN, Deputy Quarter Master General, to Secretary to Government of India, Military Department.

1. In forwarding the accompanying reports with a precis to Government, in compliance with Military Department communication No. 397, dated 8th February last, the Commander-in-Chief would testify his opinion, that whenever a Regiment or Battery is inclined to take the job of whitewashing, or other repairs of barracks which are within their competency, the men should be encouraged to do so at such rates as Executive Engineers are permitted to offer.
2. A simple specification should be afforded by the Executive Engineer to the Commanding Officer, showing the nature of the repairs required.
3. In the case of whitewashing, a Memorandum should be given by the Executive Engineer, declaring the proportions of the ingredients in the wash, whether the walls are to be scraped, or otherwise, in short, giving full instructions.
4. All such repairs, including whitewashing, require a certain skill, and cannot, therefore, be done by any inmate of a barrack room.
5. The Commanding Officers should be able to certify to Executive Engineers that the work will be fairly done, when they accept the contract on account of their men.
6. His Excellency holds a strong opinion that objections should not be listened to, but that the men of every Corps, whether they may have refused before or not, should be yearly invited to effect such repairs, it being, His Excellency believes, incontestible, that nearly every Corps possesses a sufficient number of skilled workmen capable of executing the repairs to the satisfaction of an Engineer.
7. The original enclosure of the communication under reply is herewith returned as requested.

*cl of Superintendent
Engineers will communicate*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd August 1865.*

Abstract of Reports of Commanding Officers whose men whitewashed their Barracks.

WRITER.	OPINION.
Officer Commanding Benares Division.	G-16th Brigade, Royal Artillery, undertook the whitewashing of their own barracks. No report on the actual trial is submitted.
Officer Commanding 34th Regiment.	The Left Wing of his Regiment, when at Roy Bareilly, whitewashed their barracks; did the work well, and were contented with the remuneration. The Right Wing at Seetapoor would not undertake the job on account of not having proper brushes. Is of opinion that he could always get a sufficient number of men who would willingly undertake such jobs.
Officer Commanding 104th Regiment.	The barracks were whitewashed by his men who did the work satisfactorily, were paid at the ordinary rates, and were content with the remuneration.
Officer Commanding 2-12th Regiment.	The barracks were whitewashed by the men, and the work was done quicker, and just as well as it could be done by the Natives. Is an advocate for the soldiers being employed in whitewashing, repairing, and maintaining their barracks in proper order.
Officer Commanding 107th Regiment.	The barracks were whitewashed by his men, the work was very well done, and the men are willing to have the job given them again this year; recommends that the work should always be done by the soldiers.
Officer Commanding 5th Lancers.	The barracks were whitewashed by his men, the work was very well done, and the men are willing to have the job given them again this year; recommends that the work should always be done by the soldiers; in no instance has the work been refused when offered.
Officer Commanding Oudh Division.	Supports the measure as one that could be made both profitable to the State and beneficial to the men.
Officer Commanding 3rd Battery Rifle Brigade.	The practice of having the barracks whitewashed by the men is a success; the work is done much quicker.
Officer Commanding 36th Regiment.	The men of his Regiment did a part of the whitewashing, and did it well; they would cheerfully undertake the work again if offered to them.
Officer Commanding Rohilkund Field Force.	Advocates the measure as one affording a healthy occupation to the troops.
Officer Commanding 82nd Regiment.	The men of the Regiment have twice whitewashed their barracks; the work has, on both occasions, been done well, and the men are very anxious to have the work always given to them.
Officer Commanding 42nd Regiment.	The barracks were whitewashed by his men, who are content with the remuneration they receive.

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Simla, 20th May 1865.

P. S. LUMSDEN, Major,
Deputy Quarter Master General.

No. 79. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1865, No. 2,226.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 8.

No. 2,141, dated 27th July 1864.

2. Whenever it is proposed to white-wash a Barrack, or to execute petty repairs to buildings of that class, Superintending Engineers will communicate with Commanding Officers with a view of ascertaining whether the Soldiers occupying the building are disposed to undertake the execution of the work at the rates provided for in the estimate, or at such others as it may be desirable to offer. In all such cases, Commanding Officers should be furnished with a Specification or Memo-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd August 1865.*

randum containing full particulars on the points noted in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the enclosure to the letter above recorded, and if the contract be accepted by Commanding Officers, on account of their men, they will forward to the Superintending Engineers a certificate that the work will be fairly done.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.
.. Superintending Engineers, with No. 2,141 of 1864.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th July 1864.*

No. 466. Read the following letter from Colonel R. STRACHEY, R. E., Secretary to the Government of India, to Local Governments and Administrations, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 21st June 1864, Circular No. 39:—

SIR,

1. A suggestion having been made in this Department that Soldiers might be usefully employed in whitewashing their barracks periodically, and the matter having been referred to the Government of India, in the Military Department, the views of that Department in Resolution No. 260 of the 27th May, are herewith forwarded; and I am directed to request that an experiment may be tried at two or three stations in the ——— of letting out the whitewashing and scraping of the walls of barrack buildings by contract to Regiments at the full rates of the regular estimates, and the result reported to this Department.

2. With reference to the scraping of walls before whitewashing, I am directed to state that it is certainly necessary for all dwelling rooms and out-offices, but it is hardly necessary for auxiliary buildings.

(Signed) R. STRACHEY, Colonel, R. E.,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

(Signed) E. C. S. WILLIAMS, Captain, R. E.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information.

(Signed) E. C. S. WILLIAMS, Captain, R. E.,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

*Extract from the Proceedings of His Excellency the Governor General of India in Council,
in the Military Department,—No. 260, dated 27th May 1864.*

Read the following documents relative to a proposed reduction in the expenditure of barrack buildings by

having the periodical whitewashing done by the soldiers themselves:—

Public Works Department Memorandum, No. 2,889 G. G., dated 17th November 1863.

Quarter Master General's letter, No. 307, dated 17th May 1864.

RESOLVED.—That it does not appear to the Government in the Military Department probable that any saving would result from the employment of British Soldiers on daily pay in whitewashing their barrack buildings, but that the experiment might be tried of giving the whitewashing to Regiments on contract, if they will take it, even though it may not appear that a saving can be effected thereby, payment being only made on the work being properly done.

With regard to the suggestion that, before whitewashing, all walls should be thoroughly scraped, it is believed in the Military Department that such is not the general practice now, and that its introduction would be productive of increased cost, but that the point deserves consideration.

Ordered, that the above be communicated to the Public Works Department for consideration, and, if the plan be approved in that Department, with a view to the necessary steps being taken in communication with the Military Authorities, for offering contracts to such Regiments as may be selected.

No. 467.

ORDER THEREON, 27th July 1864, No. 2,141.

Communicated to the Military Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

cl ap, superintending

31-7-1865

2141 7/27 July 1865

Public Works Dept
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2226

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under state No 2226
Read the following

From the Secretary to the Govt of India.
Further trial authorized of the experiment of employing soldiers to whitewash their barracks and execute petty repairs.

No 2141 7/27 July 1865

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Wm

Continued to the mil Dept, in continuation of the rules noted in the margin, also to the Supply Commission for their information and guidance.

2. Whenever it is proposed to whitewash a barrack, or to execute petty repairs to buildings of that class, Superintending Engineers will communicate

with Commanding
Officers with a view
of ascertaining whether
the soldiers occupying
the building
are disposed to under-
take the execution
of the work at the rates
provided for in the
estimate, or at such
others as it may be
desirable to offer. In
all such cases, Commanding
Officers should be
furnished with a
specification or memo
containing full parti-
culars on the points
noted in paras 2 & 3
of the enclosure to
the letter above recorded,
and if the contract be
accepted by Commanding
Officers, in account
of their men, they
will forward to
the Supply Officer

a certificate that
the work will be
fairly done - 9

Ab.

To Maj Dept

To S E with no 2141 of 1845

Sept 4th August.

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N^o 2226
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D^y 3^d Aug 5/65

Circular from the Govt
of India authorizing a further
trial of the experiment of em-
ploying soldiers to whitewash
their barracks and execute petty
repairs - Communicated to
the Military Department &
to the Superintending Engineer

Op. 78.79