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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2246

Press
Mis.

128-129

Dated 4-8

1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled*Q. 12-11*

12

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th August 1865.*

No. 123. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Recording Memorandum from the Quar-
ter Master General, submitting corres-
pondence on the subject of the unusual
out-break of sickness amongst the men
and families of the Detachment
of Sappers and Miners stationed at
Luckady, in Wynad. } (Here enter 31st July 1865, No. 2,819.)

No. 129. ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1865, No. 2,246.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 18.

Communicated to the Superintending
Engineer of the 7th Division, in continuation
of G. O. No. 2,140, dated 25th July 1865.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—
Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund,
13th July 1865, No. ¹⁹⁶7287; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.
Forwarded to Government, with reference to this Office endorsement, No. 142,
dated 4th instant.

From the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Ceded Districts, Acting in Mysore Division,
Bangalore, 8th July 1865, No. 1083; to the Officer Commanding Mysore Division, Bangalore.

I have had the honor of mentioning to the Principal Inspector General Medical Department,
Wynaad, of a body of sick from the Sappers and Miners who are employed there.

2. At my visit on the 2nd instant, I found "the Wynaad cases making progress, but slow,
"and this climate, as at present, is too cold and boisterous for them, they would do better in their
"Native villages in the low country; and so soon as the Medical Officer thinks it advisable they will
"be allowed to go there. Their families more or less suffering, are living partly in the neighbouring
"houses and partly in the old Cavalry Stables."

3. A few days previously, you had called for a report on the sick men who had arrived from
Wynaad, and its details will have shown the opinion of the Medical Officer regarding the men who
have arrived.

4. I have examined the Luckady Returns from the Corps, and find that, in the 25 weeks from
1st January to 23rd June 1865, out of a strength of about 200, there have been 496 admissions
and two deaths, one of the deaths from Cholera on the 26th February and one out of Hospital on
the 19th February; this death rate is very small; but from the appearance of the sick men who have
arrived here, though as yet not fatal, it will be long before the effects produced on their health, from
their residence in a malarious atmosphere, may be got rid of—some of these may never be fully
restored to health.

5. I enclose letter of 12th May 1865, from Assistant Apothecary Carey, in Medical charge;
on receipt of which, this Office, in No. 661 of 15th May, desired him to bring it to the notice of
the Brigadier General, through his Commanding Officer, and this has doubtless reached you, and I
suppose that it was on that representation that the sick men were removed.

6. By the Return for the week ending 23rd June, only 23 sick remained in Hospital out of a
strength of 247, of those 23 sick, 20 were from Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Fevers, all of them,
doubtless, from the climate.

7. I have the honor to submit, as my opinion, that the Luckady Detachment of the Sappers
and Miners might, with much advantage, have been withdrawn before the sickly period of the year;
and, if their services are not urgently required, I beg to recommend that they even now be so.

From Assistant Apothecary J. R. CAREY, in Medical charge Detachment Sappers and Miners,
Luckady, 12th May 1865, No. 12; to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Mysore
Division.

I beg to draw your attention to the very unusual out-break of sickness amongst the men and
families of the Detachment Sappers and Miners stationed at Luckady, in Wynaad. Dysentery,
Bronchitis and especially intermittent Fever with splenitis and other complications are rife.

2. From these diseases fully one-third of the men are almost entirely incapacitated for work
or duty of any kind, and the greater number of those at duty, have only lately left Hospital, and
are too weak to perform their duties efficiently. The state of the women and children is worse,
almost two out of every three are either laid up or ailing sufficiently to require Medical aid.

3. Last year with two Companies of Sappers, I had not one-fourth the number of cases to
treat as I have had during the past two months. During the past twelve days, the daily numbers
of sick have ranged as follows: men 60 to 100, women and children 100 to 150. Many of the latter
requiring attendance at home.

4. Wynaad has been unprecedently unhealthy this year. From the information I have received
from various quarters, I believe the sickness and mortality among the Coffee planting population,
has been, and is up to date, somewhat more general and severe than in 1864.

5. In the margin I have shown the mortality in the Detachment since the 1st January 1865,

Months.	Fighting men.	Followers.			
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
January.....	...	...	1	3	4
February.....	1	...	...	1	1
March.....	...	...	...	1	1
April.....	...	1	...	2	3
May.....	...	...	1	7	8
Total...	1	1	2	14	17

although this does not appear a very heavy list in a population of about 850 souls, yet we have the greater part of the worst month in the year to go through, and there is every probability of Dysentery and Lung diseases prevailing during the monsoons, and perhaps proving fatal in

a large number of those, so much debilitated by the intermittent Fever they are suffering from at present.

6. In the several Medical Returns and Reports, sent in to your Office, I have so frequently remarked on the low and damp position on which a part of the Lines stand, that I need not take up your time by repeating those remarks again.

7. A large number of the huts have been only lately erected, there are several yet unfinished so that both walls and floors will remain damp for a considerable time, and perhaps, not be thoroughly dry before September next.

8. Besides these draw-backs, the men will have to suffer from the want of good food during the monsoon, for it is well known, that all articles of food sold in the bazars, and weekly markets, are of a rather inferior description, and sold at higher prices. Frequently during the heavy rains, the supply of grain, &c., entirely fails, and cannot be had for days together, unless the men go great distances into the interior.

9. At present, a very good and cheap variety of rice is procured for the men from Calicut, but so limited is the supply, that the quantity allowed to each man monthly, is not half enough. Arrangements are about being made, to procure from Calicut, all the most necessary articles of food, in regular weekly instalments. It would take up too much of your time, if I were to detail all the difficulties that will probably be met with in carrying out this plan, during the heavy rains of June, July and August. It will be sufficiently well carried out, if these provisions are brought up in Carts to about three or four miles from this, and even then, the men will have to be constantly employed in the rains, in conveying these supplies up the remaining portion of the Ghaut to Luckady.

10. The men are sadly in want of warm working clothes, each of them having only one woollen jacket.

11. I have deemed it my duty to bring all these circumstances to your notice, to enable you to judge if there be any necessity for recommending to Government, the removal of the Detachment to the low country, as was done last year. If it be decided that the Companies shall be kept here during the monsoon, I beg you will be good enough to bring to notice the very urgent necessity there will be, for more assistance being granted to the men, to enable them to procure, with greater facility, all the supplies that may be required to be brought up from the low country.

12. In conclusion, I beg to call your attention to the very urgent necessity there is for bringing this subject to the notice of Government as early as practicable, for the heavy rains will probably set in about the end of the present month.

No. 221.

MEMORANDUM.

Submitted, with reference to my letter of the 1st July 1865, No. 213.

HEAD QUARTERS, MYSORE DIVISION,
BANGALORE, 11th July 1865.

(Signed) F. P. HAINES, Major General,
Commanding Mysore Division.

To the Quarter Master General, Ootacamund.

ORDER, No. 2319, 31st July 1865.

Recorded, with reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 2640, dated 7th July 1865.

(True Extract.)

Aluminium
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General, with an enclosure.
" Adjutant General.
" Controller of Military Accounts.
" Public Works Department, } for information.
" Public Department,.....

With 10 copies

J. E. Cashart

PT 1865 Depto
Chas. F. Smith for August
No. 2864

Pro. of Govt. in the
Military Depto

21 July/65

Recd. 2 Aug.

20th 1865
No. 2819

William

Receiving from

from the Master of the

General, exhibiting

correspondence on

the subject of the

unusual and the

of the same amongst

the men of the

the detachment of the

of the same stationed at the

Let

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22246

Communicated to the Super-

intending Engineer of the 1st Div.

in continuation of 22140

dated 25th July 1865-

Spent 24 George
1st August 1865

W. S.

To the Superintendent Engineer

of the 1st Division

20th 1865
21 August

No. 128. 129.