

(1) Number of pages 8(2) Date of repair 31/12/65

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3824	Press Mis.
393.394	
Dated 20 - 12 - 1865	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

17

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th December 1865.*

No. 393. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Communicating certain correspondence submitted by the Commissioner of Coorg, bringing to notice the dangerous state of the old Palace at Mercara, with a view to measures being taken for its immediate repair. (Here enter 4th December 1865, No. 4,461.)

No. 394. ORDER THEREON, 20th December 1865, No. 3,824.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 17.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, who is requested to direct Mr. Sub-Engineer

Martin to proceed at once to Mercara to inspect and report on the present condition of the building which is now occupied by the Officers of the 15th Regiment Native Infantry, and to submit an estimate for such repairs as may be deemed necessary.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
,, Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Commissioner of Coorg, Camp Kotagherry, 27th November 1865, No. $\frac{461}{5}$; to the Secretary to Government, Military Dept., Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to forward, for the information and orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter, No. 3316, dated 14th instant, with its original enclosure from the Chief Engineer of Mysore, bringing to notice the dangerous state of the old palace at Mercara, with a view to its repair before the next monsoon.

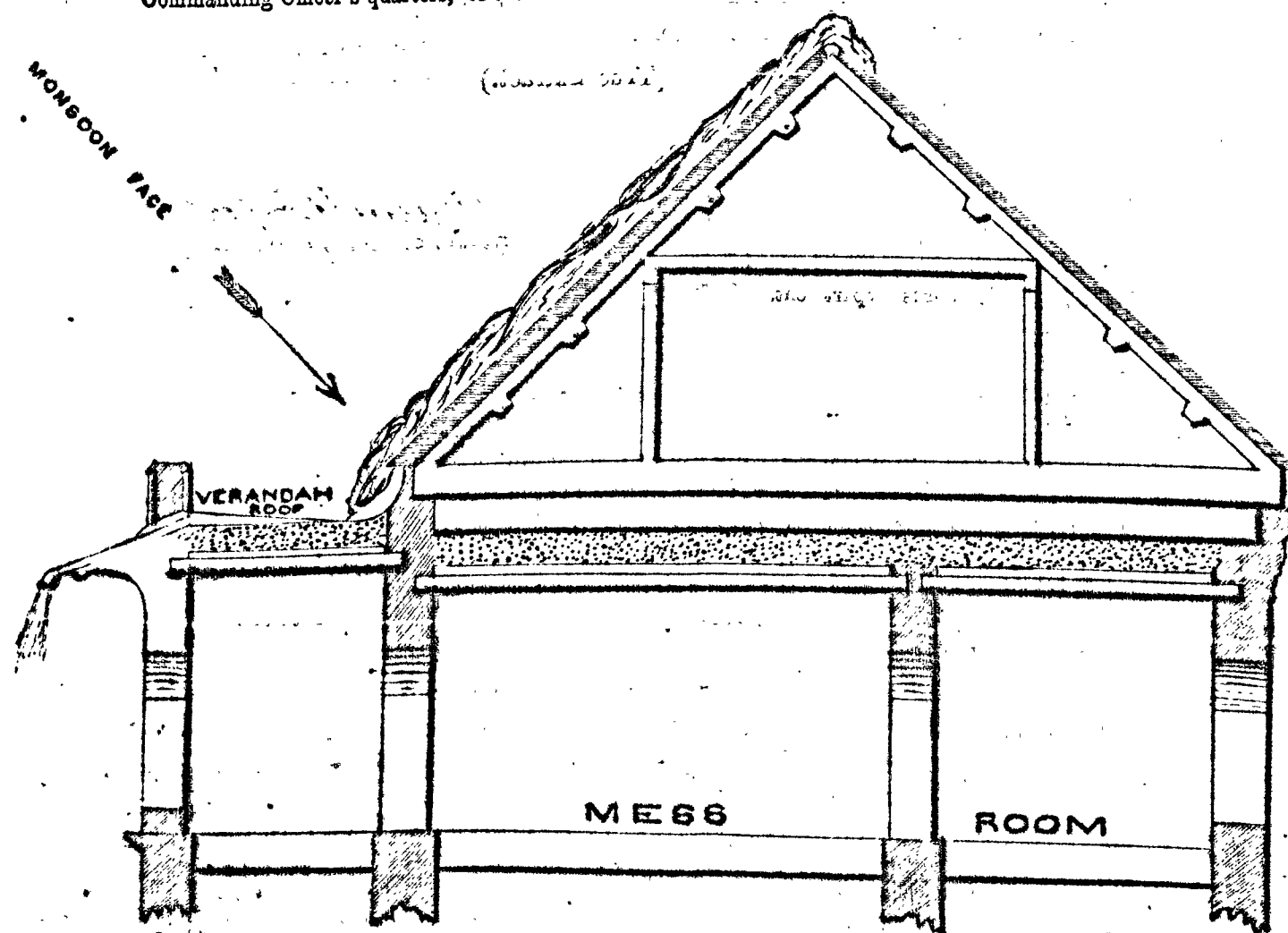
From the Chief Engineer of Mysore, Public Works Department, Bangalore, 14th November 1865, No. 3316; to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Coorg.

In forwarding for the Commissioner's information a report by Major Sankey on the old palace at Mercara, now occupied by the Officers of the 15th Regiment Native Infantry, I have the honor to suggest that the attention of the Madras Government should be immediately called to the dangerous state of the building, with a view to its repair before the next monsoon.

2. It is evident that the work will not only be expensive, but that it will require the careful and close attention of an Officer or Subordinate; and as Mr. Stoddard is far too much occupied to undertake the duty, except in the way of general supervision, I would recommend that one of the Madras Department Public Works should be employed on it, but there is no time to be lost.

MEMORANDUM ON THE MERCARA PALACE.

Having during my late tour of inspection in Coorg examined the above building, I found many portions of the floor and roof to be in what I consider a dangerous state, resulting directly from the moist condition in which the beams have been kept during a great portion of past years. The worst part of the building is the first floor of the front of the palace now used as mess-room and Commanding Officer's quarters, of the roof of which the following is a rough section.



2. It will be observed in the first place from this that the mass of concrete forming the ceiling of the mess-room (1½ to 2 feet thick and supported by massive timbering) has its upper surface

lower than the surface of the verandah roof, consequently none of the water which happened to drip through the old (Raja tiled) pent roof above could escape, thus keeping the beams supporting the concrete in a continual state of moisture.

3. I found the portions of the embedded ends of the beams come away in handfulls, and Mr. Stoddard, who has examined the condition of the roof more than my time admitted, informs me that the whole of the upper planking has rotted away, and the concrete now stands unsupported. Any vibration communicated to the building might bring the whole of the mass down to the destruction of all below. Although in the absence of such cause the concrete would possibly stand for a long time. I should not assume any responsibility regarding it, and therefore take this opportunity of bringing the matter to notice.

4. The Officers of the Regiment now occupying the palace have at their own cost thatched the monsoon face of the pent roof, but this of course has no effect in lessening the mischief already done.

5. It is quite clear that were a good watertight pent roof put over all the whole of the concrete and the rotten beams could be entirely removed (substituting a cloth or planked ceiling) and this is the course I should be inclined to recommend.

6. There is much more however than what I have mentioned requiring immediate attention, and as the executive Engineer Mr. Stoddard is quite overwhelmed by his other duties, I would recommend that the case be submitted for the consideration of the Madras Government, with a request that a Subordinate be at once sent up to Mercara to measure up the work to be done. Much of the old timber will doubtless turn to use or be saleable. I should think however Rupees 10,000 should be reserved in the Madras Budget for the work, which should, if possible, be commenced before next monsoon.

BANGALORE,
14th November 1865.

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major, R. E.,
Assistant Chief Engineer of Mysore.

ORDER, No. 4461, 4th December 1865.

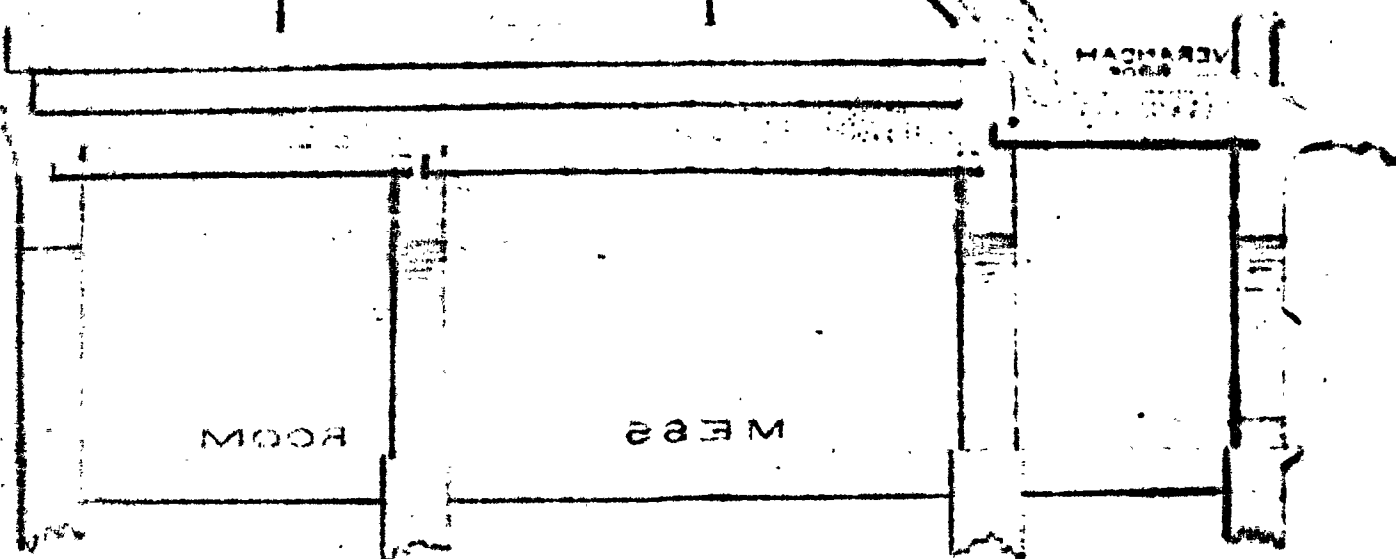
Communicated to the Commander-in-Chief, (Quarter Master General's Department) and to the Department Public Works, in view to immediate measures being taken to meet the exigency of the case, reported in the foregoing papers.

(True Extract.)

Maintained
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
Public Works Department.

With 20 spare Copies.



Exd. A. W. Cook.

PT 1865 Dept
Pro: of Govt for Dec 1865
No 4969.

No: of Govt in the
Mil. Dept.

Of 4 Dec
Recd. 14th

No 4461

Communicating
certain correspondence sub-
mitted by the Commissioner
of Engrs, bringing to notice
the dangerous state of the
old Palace at Mercara with
a view to measures being
taken for its immediate
repair -

No 890.

No 3824-20th Decr 1865

Exd. A. W. Cooke.

Public Works Dept
No 3824

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 20th Decr/65
Recd the following.

Proceedings of Govt
in the Military Dept
Communicating certain
correspondence submitted
by the Commissioner of
Engrs bringing to notice the
dangerous state of the old
palace at Mercara with a view
to measures being taken for its
immediate repair

J. E. 14th Decr 1865
No 4461

Communicated to the Supr
Engineer of the 5th Division who
is requested to direct Mr
Sub Engineer Martin to proceed
at once to Mercara to inspect
and report on the present
condition of the building which
is now occupied by the Officers
of the 15th Regiment Native Infantry
and to submit an estimate
for such repairs as may be
deemed necessary -

The Supr Engr 5th Division
Military Dept

Decr 20th December
P.O. 22

31/12/65

1865 Dep't

No. of Gov't for Deer

No. 3824

No. of the M. Gov't

2/20 Dec/65

2/12/65

Place at Morcaru. Pro-
ceedings Military Dept,
on certain correspondence
relative to the dangerous
state of —, communicated
to the Staff Engineers & Dr.
with certain instructions —

No. 393-394