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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>630</i>	Press
<i>615-316</i>	~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>28-2</i> — 18 <i>66</i> .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(17)

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23th February 1866.*

No. 615. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department :—

Passing orders on certain correspondence relative }
to the fitness of Moothoor as a Sanitarium for } (Here enter 21st February 1866, No. 679.)
European Troops.

No. 616. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1866, No. 680.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 37.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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, Fort Saint George, 6th February 1866, No. 1546; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Submitted to Government, for orders.

2. Under the circumstances stated by the Principal Medical Officer Her Majesty's British troops, the Commander-in-Chief does not feel justified in sending sick men to Moothoor, particularly as Wellington is now available, and the rail to Bombay from Kamptee is not far from completion in its whole distance.

From the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals and Principal Medical Officer British Troops, Bangalore, 27th January 1866, No. 133; to the Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Madras.

I have the honor respectfully to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, correspondence addressed to me by Surgeon Major C. B. Hearn, 1st Royal Regiment, in which he remonstrates against a selection of healthy men, directed by the authorities Nagpore Field Force to be made, in view to test the value of Moothoor, distant about 100 miles north of Kamptee, as a sanitarium for Europeans.

Dr. Hearn shows, both in his letter addressed to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals Nagpore Force, and in a notice of the locality made in his annual medical report for 1864 to me, that the neighbourhood of Moothoor is highly malarious, having in its vicinity the Dinoor valley covered with jungle and primeval forest, the malaria from which wafted up by the south west winds, rendering Moothoor unhealthy for nine months of the year.

I can corroborate Dr. Hearn's statement regarding the out-break of cholera in March 1864, by which five men of a detachment proceeding to Moothoor lost their lives, and as cholera is always more or less prevalent in the Nagpore Districts, I quite coincide with the opinions expressed by the Surgeon Major, and unless the Military and Medical Authorities at Kamptee can satisfactorily refute Dr. Hearn's statements, I most respectfully record my objections to the perpetuation of such dangerous experiments.

I am further of opinion, it will be imprudent to make use of such a locality as Moothoor, for, in addition to having belts of jungle in its immediate neighbourhood, it has not even the advantage of elevation sufficient to remove it beyond fever range, being, I believe, not much over 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, while the distance troops have to march to reach it, with the risk of exposure to cholera alluded to, is of itself a serious draw-back.

Those objections, I consider, come more prominently into view, when by means of the railway now open so close to Nagpore—with steamers and rail from Bombay, Invalids can in comparative safety be sent from Kamptee to Wellington which possesses now ample accommodation for such purposes, and advantages of climate so obvious, that no locality in the neighbourhood of Kamptee can compete with it. As the Royal Regiment has been stationed at Kamptee since 2nd February 1863, and the men are beginning more or less to exhibit the depressing influences of its climate, I would therefore, instead of sending Invalids or healthy men experimentally to Moothoor, recommend that a liberal selection of suitable cases of men and officers may be permitted to be made by Surgeon Major Hearn from the British troops generally at Kamptee, subject to my approval for change to Wellington.

I may mention that I have the utmost confidence in the capability of Dr. Hearn for the performance of this duty, founded on his superior professional qualifications and long experience as Surgeon of a British Regiment.

From Surgeon Major C. B. HEARN, Her Majesty's 1st Royals, Kamptee, 12th January 1866, No. 12; to the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's British Troops, Bangalore.

I have the honor to forward you a copy of letter addressed by me to the local Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Nagpore Force, requesting him to remonstrate with the Brigadier General against the proposal to send another Detachment of the Royal Regiment to the (so called) "Sanitarium" Moothoor.

I am convinced myself, and I should think sufficient proofs have been afforded to show, that the place is at some seasons most unhealthy, and that it is very improbable it can ever be available for a sanitarium.

It is scarcely fair that healthy Europeans should be sent up there on detachment as an experiment to try if they can keep their health.

I trust you will support my representation, and endeavour to prevent them being sent there until its advantages as a sanitarium, are more fully proved.

From Surgeon Major C. B. HEARN, 1st Royals, Kamptee, 10th January 1866, No 10; to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Nagpore Force, Kamptee.

I have been informed by the Commanding Officer that it is proposed to send a detachment of the Royal Regiment to Moothoor, to test its capabilities as a sanitarium, or rather, I should suppose, to try if it were possible for European troops to live there during the rains and cold season, as to the place ever becoming a sanitarium or convalescent station for sick or weakly men, I should think that there has been quite sufficient proof to the contrary.

If there are no political reasons rendering the presence of a European detachment necessary in this remote unhealthy place, I trust you will protest against their being sent there, as by experience, I am fully convinced the experiment will be attended with much loss of health and probably of life, if European soldiers are kept there after the commencement of rains.

I enclose a list of 24 healthy men who were sent to Moothoor sanitarium in the month of March 1864, of this number a few died on the march up, from an attack of cholera; and even in the healthy month of May, when I visited the station, I had to send down to Chindwarrah one man suffering under a dangerous form of low remittent or jungle fever, but 14 of this detachment are at present in the country, the others either died or have been invalided home, almost all suffering from the effects of fever contracted in this unhealthy locality.

I beg you will make enquiries into the state of health of the Hoosingabad prisoners who were employed in the construction of the temporary barracks at Moothoor, you will find, if I am not much mistaken, that the mortality among them has been about 50 per cent, the survivors were lately removed in a miserable state.

The Returns from the Company of the Bengal Sappers and Miners stationed there under Captain Strickland, will show that they were not remarkably healthy, although well housed in a well sheltered position.

Dr. Barter, the Civil Assistant Surgeon first in charge, could supply valuable information, he was obliged to leave the station after being nearly at deaths door from repeated attacks of intermittent fever, the whole of Captain Stricklands family suffered so severely from fever, that he has been obliged to remove them to Chindwarrah, and I do not believe, that any European has resided there, or could reside for many months without suffering severely in health; under these circumstances, it would be a cruelty and injustice sending British soldiers to remain any length of time in such an unhealthy locality.

The men have the greatest dread of, and dislike to the place. And I hope you will make a strong remonstrance on the subject. I stated my opinion of the place in my annual report of 1864, and I had hoped that the "Sanitarium" was found to be a mistake and finally abandoned. Chindwarrah has been found to be very healthy, and possesses, I think, all the advantages of an invalid station for patients suffering debility, resulting from fevers and the relaxing effects of the great heat of the plain of Kamptee.

RETURN of 24 healthy men selected to be sent to Moothoor in March 1864, with remarks on their health after return.

No.	Rank and Names.	Destination.	Remarks.
1	Serjeant.. T. W. Paul.....	Present with the Regiment, health pretty good.	Of the 24 men sent to Moothoor, 4 died, 5 were sent to England, 2 as Invalids, 3 Time expired, and one man was transferred to 80th Regiment, the remaining 14 are still present with the Regiment, but many of the latter have now very indifferent health since returning to Kamptee, in all probability the result of illness contracted at that station.
2	Corporal.. B. Keane.....	Present with the Regiment, health indifferent.	
3	Private.. M. Bennett.....	Died at Moothoor of disease of the heart.	
4	" A. Berry.....	Time expired, to England, sickly....	
5	" J. Bicknell.....	Invalided, to England for Hepatitis and Feb: Int.	
6	" J. Buckley.....	Present, very weakly, 10 admissions for Fever.	
7	" J. Button.....	Present, sickly, has had 6 admissions for Fever.	
8	" R. Chapman.....	Present, health delicate, 8 admissions for Fever.	
9	" J. Flynn.....	Present, health tolerably good....	
10	" J. Gilmore.....	Present, subject to pulmonary disease.	
11	" J. Johnston.....	Time expired, to England.....	
12	" M. King.....	Present with the Regiment, 7 admissions for Fever.	
13	" C. Lawrence.....	Present, is delicate and has had frequent attacks of Fever.	
14	" H. McCarroll..	Died of cholera en-route to Moothoor.	
15	" M. Meaney.....	Invalided to England for Fever.....	
16	" R. Mitchell.....	Present, enjoyed but middling health since returning.	
17	" C. Moahl.....	Time expired, to England sickly....	
18	" P. Owens.....	Present with the Regiment, health fair.	
19	" C. Rideout.....	Died of remittent Fever en-route from Moothoor.	
20	" P. Roach.....	Present with the Regiment, health fair.	
21	" J. Rowe.....	Transferred to 80th Regiment....	
22	" R. Sutton.....	Present, is weakly, has had 5 admissions for Fever.	
23	" W. G. Wilkinson...	Died of cholera, en-route to Moothoor.	
24	" T. Brimfield.....	Present with the Regiment, health pretty good.	

(Signed) C. B. HEARN,
Surgeon Major, 1st Royals.

KAMPTEE,
10th January 1866.

No. 476.

Transferred to the Quarter Master General.
(By order)

(Signed) E. A. TRAVERS, Major,
Asst. Adjutant General.

ADJT. GENL.'S OFFICE, FORT SAINT
GEORGE, 29th January 1866.
To the Quarter Master General.

ORDER, No. 679, 21st February 1866.

Ordered to be forwarded to the Government of India, with reference to former correspondence recorded in Proceedings of Government, marginally noted, also to
No. 2339, 22nd June 1865.

[Statement

2. This correspondence confirms the view taken by this Government in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of Government adverted to in the foregoing paragraph, regarding the Dépôt at Chindwarrah.

To the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept. | Here enter 21st February 1866, No. 680.
Docket to the Chief Commissioner Central Provinces | Here enter 21st Feb. 1866, No. 681.
 (Time Expires)

(True Extract.)

Macmillan & Co
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

the Quarter Master General.

"	Adjutant General.....	
"	Principal Inspector General Medical Department,	}
"	Commissary General.....	
"	Controller of Military Accounts.....	
"	President Sanitary Commission.....	
"	Public Works Department.....	

for information. *With 10 spare Copies*

Stuart St George
28th St July, 1866

Decided

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the Chief Commissioner Central Provinces, with an intimation that the Government concur with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that, under the circumstances reported, it is unadvisable to send any men to Moothoor.

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To W 1000 Dept
Pr. of Govt. for February
Pr. of the Madras Govt
in the Military Dept

Of 21st 2 Feb/66.
Recd 26th 3 Feb/66.

26 Feb/66

* Revising orders
on certain correspon-
-dence relative to the
fitness of Moothoor
as a Sanatorium for
European Troops.
M. J. E. Cashart

No 515. 616.

Recorded
Dec 650. 28th Feb 1866.
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Mrd. J. E. Cashart.