

(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. 1227	Press
456-58	~~Mis.~~
Dated 25 4	1867 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th April 1867.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 456. Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 6th April 1867, No. 120-2628.

1. Forwarded for the orders of Government.
2. The employment of a portion of the B. Company, Sappers and Miners, at Ahtoor, in Coorg, was sanctioned in Proceedings of Government No. 3,720, dated 25th October 1866.

(By Order.)

(Signed) C. COOKE, Colonel,
Quarter Master General.

From the Officer Commanding Mysore Division, to the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, dated Bangalore, 30th March 1867, No. 135.

1. I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, letter as per margin, from the Commissioner of Mysore, dispensing, for the present, with the services of Sappers in Coorg.

No. 724-6 of 27th March 1867.

2. The question of the nature of the work proposed for the Sappers at Mercara was raised by Colonel Hill, who understood from the Officer in command of the Company that the men were to be broken up into small parties, and employed at a distance from Mercara, like common labourers. To this I objected. Hence the letters of the Commissioner and Major Sankey sent herewith.

3. As it appears that neither Major Sankey nor the Commissioner are anxious to retain the B. Company for the present in Coorg, I would suggest to His Excellency, as there is no accommodation available at Bangalore, that the Head Quarters of the Company, and as many men as Colonel Walker can provide for, be sent to Wellington for work on the Kotagherry road, until their services are again required in Coorg. In his letter, No. 196 of 6th ultimo, to the Deputy Quarter Master General, published in Proceedings of Government No. 909, of 13th instant, Colonel Walker stated that he could accommodate at Wellington as many men (42) as are now employed on the Coonoor ghaut, and that he might manage to increase the accommodation. Should this suggestion be favourably received by His Excellency, the B. Company, or the greater part thereof, would be employed on works within a few miles of each other. Such men of the party from Coorg as cannot be sheltered at Wellington, must remain at Bangalore, until houses are ready for them.

4. I enclose the last received Health Report of the Sappers at Mercara, from which His Excellency will perceive that the men are still suffering greatly from their sojourn at Ahtoor, and that it is by no means unlikely that it may be necessary to send some of them away on sick leave, which will reduce the number to be provided for.

Health Report of the B. Company, Sappers and Miners.

	Captain.	Jemadar.	Havildar.	Naigue.	Buglers.	Privates.	Puckally.	Regt. Las- cars.	Artificers.	Tent Las- cars.	Apothecary.	Remarks.
Present	1	1	2	1	2	7	1	...	3	1	...	
On Duty	...	...	...	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	
Sick	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	1	...	...	1	
Convalescent	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	1	...	...	
Leave... ..	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	
Total at Mercara...	1	1	2	2	2	46	1	1	4	1	1	

MERCARA,
23rd March 1867.

(Signed) F. M. RAYNSFORD, Captain,
Commanding, B. Company, Sappers and Miners.

(Signed) E. GAGE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding Wing.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. R. MESHAM, Captain,
Dy. Asst. Quarter Master General, Mysore Division.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th April 1867.*

From the Officiating Commissioner, to the Major General Commanding Mysore Division, dated Bangalore, 27th March 1867, No. 724-6.

1. In continuation of my letter, No. 716-5, dated the 23rd March 1867, to your address, I have the honour to annex, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter, No. 1576-153, dated the 26th instant, from the Chief Engineer, relative to the employment and treatment of the Sapper detachment on duties connected with the Department of Public Works in Coorg.

2. After the severe sickness which has unfortunately prevailed amongst the men and families of the detachment since they entered Coorg in December last, which, though under the circumstances unavoidable, was perhaps at rather too late a period of the year to initiate, with any chance of success, the experiment of employing them in that somewhat treacherous climate upon the Public Works of the Province, I concur with Major Sankey in considering that, with reference to the objections which have been raised to the character of the works on which it had been proposed to employ them, their services are not at present likely to be advantageously turned to account in aid of the Department of Public Works in that Province.

3. Under these circumstances, and taking into consideration that the period of the south-west monsoon is approaching, and that the detachment may possibly suffer in their present debilitated condition more or less severely from its effects, I have no wish whatever to interpose any objection to their removal from Coorg and re-call to Bangalore, should such a step be determined upon by the Military authorities.

From the Chief Engineer in Mysore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner for the Affairs of Coorg, dated Mysore, the 26th March 1867, No. 1576-153.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of your No. 709-60, of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform the Commissioner that the Officer Commanding the Sappers and Miners is under a misconception in supposing that I have any intention of breaking up the portion of the Company of Sappers now employed in Coorg into small parties, and looking upon them or treating them as coolies.

2. When these Sappers were first sent to Coorg, I was desirous of making every arrangement in my power for their comfort, and of employing them in one body, with such liberal working pay as should render them perfectly contented with their employment. With this view and with the full consent of Colonel Hill, with whom I placed myself in correspondence on the subject, the Sappers were sent to be employed on the Gonicopal bridge at Ahtoor, which was represented to be as healthy a place as any in Coorg, and within easy reach of Veerajendrapett, the principal market of South Coorg. The amount of working pay was left to be settled between the Officer Commanding the Company and the Executive Engineer, the only limitation being that the amount paid to the Sappers for the work done should not exceed the sum for which we could have got the same work done in Coorg by ordinary cooly labour, and as this arrangement did not take into consideration the high pay drawn by the Sappers in the Military Department, it must, I think, be conceded to be a liberal one.

3. When fever unfortunately broke out so severely at Ahtoor, the Sappers were, in accordance with the orders of the Commissioner, moved up to Mercara, where shelter was available for them in the old Sapper building, and supplies were easily procurable. There being no work on which they could be employed within the station of Mercara itself, the Executive Engineer was directed to employ them in the construction of the road already marked out, connecting the Veerajendrapett and Sumpajee ghauts, and distant three miles only from Mercara, but this order was contingent on the opinion of the local Medical Officer as to whether they were fit for such work.

4. Under the above circumstances, I cannot admit that any want of consideration for, or disregard of, the health or comfort of the Sappers employed in Coorg has been shown, and can only regret that my motives and intentions have been so much misunderstood.

5. With reference, however, to the present disorganization of the Company, consequent on their suffering from fever, and the objections raised by the Major-General Commanding Mysore

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th April 1867.*

Division to the nature of the work which we are able to find for them, I think that it would be advisable to withdraw the Company from Coorg for the present season, at all events, leaving it to be decided hereafter whether they should be sent up again next year or not.

Referred to the Department of Public Works.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Colonel,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
12th April 1867.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division for early report, with reference to the suggestion in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Officer Commanding the Mysore Division. Colonel Walker will be good enough to state for how many men accommodation can be provided.

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

15th April 1867.

No. 457. From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 18th April 1867.

1. In reply to your endorsement of 15th April on correspondence connected with the B. Company of Sappers (herewith returned), I have the honour to report that, as stated by the Officer Commanding the Mysore Division, on the authority of former letters, forty-two men could be at once accommodated at Wellington in comfortable quarters, and I am of opinion that arrangements might easily be made before June for accommodating the rest of the Company. But what their nature and cost should be would depend upon the probable length of the stay of the entire Company. They can be determined hereafter between Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, Major Farewell, and myself, personally, on receipt of further orders.

2. Meanwhile, a detachment of all men fit for work might march for Wellington direct, by Mysore and the Seegoor ghaut, while the Head Quarters went to Bangalore to recruit for a time. Some of the heaviest work on the Kotagherry road, on which the skilled labour and supervision of Sappers can be best utilized, has to be carried out within a mile of their proposed barracks at Wellington, and fully to make use of the opportunity, I would suggest that the small allotment of Rupees 5,000 for the work No. 271, of this year's Budget, be doubled from the Reserve.

No. 458. ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1867, No. 1,227.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 49.

1. Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division be communicated to

the Military Department, with reference to the Docket of that Department of the 12th instant, and for the issue of the necessary orders.

2. The question of supplementing the Budget allotment for the Kotagherry road will be considered hereafter.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
" Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pl 1067 Dep't of War
Pr. of War for April
1867

From The Secy. of War
Military Secy

To The Secy. of War
R. D.

Pl 1471/67
By 12" } April/67
Recd 13" }

Referring to certain correspon-
dence relative to the employ-
of a portion of the 15 Comp'y
Sappers & Miners at Abt. 1000
in Coorg.

No 456

Referred

no 1227 - 25th April/67

Pl 1067 Dep't of War
Pr. of War for April
1867
From The
Secy. of War. 7th

To The
Secy. of War.
P. 10, D.

Dated 18 } April 1867
No. 22nd }

Refers certain
correspondence
relating to the
B. Company of
Sappers - and
reports thereon -

No 457

no 1227 - 25th April/67

1227
1227

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 25th April/67.
Read the following

From the Secy to Govt. Milly Dept. - (H.E. dated 12 "April/67.)
" Supg Engineer of the 7th Div. (Here enter No. and dated 18 "April 1867)

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Div. be communicated to the Engineering Department, with reference to the Docket of that Department of the 12th Inst. and for the issue of the necessary orders.

2. The question of supplementing the budget allotment for the Kotagerry road will be considered hereafter.

76
7 The S. Engr 7th Div.
7 Milly Dept.
26/4/67

[Signature]