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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	13	Press
		~~Mis.~~
30-31.		
Dated	4-1-	1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th January 1867.*

No. 30. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department :—

Passing orders on certain correspondence rela-
tive to certain proposed changes in the orga-
nization of the Corps of Madras Sappers and } (Here enter 19th December 1866, No. 4,404.)
Miners.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 4th January 1867, No. 13.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 1.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

67

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Memo. from the Adjutant General Here enter 22nd September 1866, No. 746.
From the Controller of Mily. Accounts..... " 19th October " E.

Memorandum from the Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 22nd September 1866, No. 746; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

The Commander-in-Chief has the honor to forward, for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the within letter, regarding the reorganization of the Sappers and Miners which has again been brought to notice by the Officer Commanding that Corps, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 13th April 1866, No. 1311.

From the Commandant Sappers and Miners, Bangalore, 15th September 1866, No. 1160; to the Adjutant General, Ootacamund.

Having, in accordance with the wishes of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, obtained an opportunity of personally representing to the Right Honorable the Governor, the bearing of the Order of Government, No. 1311 of 13th April 1866, on the subject of the proposed Sapper reorganization—I have now, by permission of His Lordship, the honor very respectfully to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the following remarks on that Order, with a view to the question being once more forcibly brought before Government.

2. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Order, I infer that Government considers my recommendation for assimilating the corps under my command to the present Bengal Sapper organization as tantamount to a proposal for employing them "chiefly as a Military body," I would respectfully observe that no such suggestion is to be found in any portion of my letters embodied in the Proceedings of Government, nor have I ever for a moment contemplated any such change.

3. To make certain alterations which will have the effect of bringing the men up to a high standard of military excellence when required for such duty is, I would submit, a very different matter to withdrawing them altogether from duties connected with the Department of Public Works. I believe the Bengal Corps is thus employed so far as considered necessary, but be this as it may, the question of continuing the Madras Sappers on these civil duties cannot possibly be affected by the new organization recommended. In my opinion the employment of Sappers on civil works is of the greatest possible utility not only to the public service but to the men themselves, and I would not diminish their operations in the department in the slightest degree. I would here beg attention to a comparative estimate (attached A) I have made of the difference of cost of the proposed, compared with the present organization; this document which I think very materially affects the question was unfortunately not embodied in the Proceedings of Government. I am of course in ignorance as to what view the report of the Controller of Military Accounts (dated 1st March 1866 A) may have taken of the question, but the calculation is so very simple that I scarcely think the correctness of my estimate can be questioned, and His Excellency will observe that taking the most liberal view of the matter, I mean by continuing to all Company Officers the extra remuneration of 100 Rupees per mensem, for their Engineering duties—a course I would certainly recommend—there is still a saving of more than Rupees 600 per mensem (and after the present Staff Corps Captains are *gradually* absorbed of more than Rupees 1,100 per mensem) by adopting the new and more efficient organization.

4. Referring therefore to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the Government Order, I would submit that the present budget estimate for the *Madras* Sapper Corps compared with that for *Bengal* can scarcely be held to affect the question; surely so far as the financial comparison goes, it should be made between that of the present and proposed organization in the *same* Corps, and this, as I have already shown, is decidedly in favor of the new Bengal system. It is I would urge still less to the point to compare the present charge for Madras with that of the *old* system in Bengal—A system which has been found faulty and discarded as such; thus one item in the new organization

is to increase the number in each company from 80 (as quoted in the Madras G. O. under review)

* Attached C.

neer Officers actually with the corps at the time the Order of Government was drafted cannot possibly bear on the case. The number in both corps have always been subject to constant fluctuations, thus had the Order been dated some months previous, in place of the two Engineer Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel C. Hill.
Lieutenant Marinden.

" Thompson.
" Morant.
" Pennyfather.
" Morris.
" Smith.
" Hamilton.
" Cumming.

to the Madras establishment of 100 men—(vide paragraph 9 of the G. O. G. G.,* 816 of 1865,) again it seems to me that the number of Engi-

noted as being attached to the Madras Corps, the number would have been 9 (as per margin) or one in excess of that taken as the Bengal complement, the absence of which it is urged, forms an impediment to our being placed on a similar footing. The truth is the proposed re-organization whilst it will greatly add to the efficiency of the corps entails very little immediate change.

Under our present system the 10 companies should be officered by 20 officers from the Staff Corps and line. Of these only 10 are supposed to be efficient and fit to command companies as Sapper Officers, the remaining 10 are supposed to be going through a course of instruction in Surveying and Military Engineering to fit them to succeed to Company Commands as vacancies occur. A part from all other objections the supply of eligible officers from the Staff Corps and line no longer exists—those who have qualified in languages are all employed with the Native Infantry Regiments, and were it not so there are not many who are able to pass the tests which fit them for a Sapper Command—the standard of education amongst the men having advanced of late, the tests for the officers have naturally become more stringent.

5. I have entered fully into the pressing want of officers at present experienced in the corps, in my letter No. 860 of 27th June 1866, (embodied in Proceedings of Government, No. 2394 of 30th July last) and my opinion having been favorably endorsed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in your memorandum No. 422 of 14th July, (vide the same Proceedings of Government) I need only here remark that the leading point in adapting the present Bengal organization to the Madras Corps is the gradual substitution of ten officers of Royal Engineers (who from their previous training must naturally be better qualified for the duty) for the 20 Line Officers, 10 of whom have always been inefficient and at the present time are non-existent. I would recom-

Captain Finlay.
" Rainsford.
" Dakeyne.
" Elliott.
Lieutenant McGoun.
" Mathias.
Captain Strickland.

mend that the change be gradual depending almost entirely on the absorption of the Staff Corps Officers at present in command of companies. The seven Company Officers noted in the margin are quite efficient and having been trained to their work with some degree of trouble, I should be exceedingly sorry to lose their services,

particularly as they have acquired an intimate knowledge of the men which would be wanting in the Engineer element if too hastily introduced.

6. The last named officer, however, having reported to me that he will shortly be obliged to proceed on sick leave, the number of qualified Infantry Officers is reduced to six, leaving four companies to be officered by Royal Engineers of the latter, I have two at present in the corps in command of companies, and supposing (with reference to former correspondence) Lieutenant Cunningham's services are placed at my disposal, filling up the place of Lieutenant Sheppard who will shortly at his own wish be transferred to the Department Public Works, it will only be necessary for the present to indent on the Home Establishment for two Company Officers or three in case of one of those now present is appointed Quarter Master of the corps. A very large saving being the result of this change of system, the next feature in the Bengal scheme is the employment of a portion of this in the formation of an efficient Head Quarter Staff, a point of vital importance and one on which the entire well being of the corps depends. I have so often emphatically urged the necessity of appointing a second in command and other responsible staff, not only to aid me in rais-

ing the standard of excellence of the men, but also to provide a body of officers trained up to lead them in the Field when occasion offers, and eventually to become eligible for the command of the whole corps; and His Excellency is so well aware of the necessity of this, that it would be superfluous here to add to what is already on record on the subject, and I think it is clear that the appointment of these officers, with a view to more efficiently instructing the men in the Military portion of their duties, as each company successively passes through Regimental Head Quarters, cannot act detrimentally to these companies when subsequently employed in the Department Public Works.

7. The 3rd point embraced in the new Bengal organization will be employing a further portion of the saving under the first head in encouraging the men to become skilled Sappers, every sepoy who passes a certain standard of excellence is to have one Rupee extra per month—nothing can be better than this—I do not suppose so long as the money is forthcoming any voice will be raised against it. The success of the Survey classes which I initiated under orders of the Supreme Government, (G. O. G. G., No. 3229 of 9th September 1859) shews how much can be effected by encouragement of this sort, and the grant of the extra Rupee is only following up the intention of the Supreme Government, as expressed in that G. O.—a copy of which I take the liberty of attaching*—this Order has not yet been carried

* Vide B, attached.

out in its integrity, the higher and more scientific classes having been left in abeyance, pending the expected reorganization of the corps. I will here briefly recapitulate the three points of improvement recommended.

1st. The substitution of ten efficient Royal Engineer Officers for the twenty officers of the present standard of which latter only six now exist, and these are not to be superseded but gradually absorbed.

2nd. By a portion of the saving effected under the 1st head, the appointment of a second in command and the one other Staff Instructor provided in the Bengal scheme.

3rd. The appropriation of a further portion of the aforesaid saving to the encouragement of the men to aspire to a higher standard of Military Engineering excellence.

8. Not one of these recommendations can possibly interfere with the extensive employment of the corps on civil works, or is in any way incompatible with any duty it has to perform. The financial aspect is entirely in favor of the change—not only will the corps be more efficient but it will become so at a lower cost.

9. Men will henceforth know their officers and officers their men, a thing which cannot be stated to exist with respect to half a dozen Engineer Officers in the country. The change can be so easily effected that only two of the officers now with the corps will have to be otherwise provided for.

10. It is only necessary to withdraw two officers from the Department Public Works, to fill the appointments of 2nd in Command and Instructor and to apply for the services of three more from England.

11. And I would here remark, that the scheme instead of being prejudicial to the interests of the Department of Public Works is on the contrary likely to prove of the greatest service to the Department. It is natural to suppose that of the young officers sent out to Command the Sapper Companies, a portion at least will be induced by the superior emoluments of civil employ to volunteer for the public works, and I believe this is the best, if not the only chance the Department has of obtaining candidates from the Corps of Royal Engineers.

12. It is scarcely necessary to remark that the Madras Corps being already at the strength proposed for Bengal in the G. O. G. G., and possessing also the native instructors therein referred to, neither of these points in the reorganization has been referred to.

MEMORANDUM shewing the difference of expense between the present Sapper organization, and that lately granted to the Bengal Corps.

Office.	Present salary.	Future salary.	Excess.	Saving.	Remarks.
Commandant	600	700	100		These officers increase gradually to Rupees 400 Staff, supposing they drew as follows :— 1. 400 2. 350 3. 300 4. 250
2nd Command	Nil.	100	100		
Adjutant	Sapper allowance, Rs. 60... Staff do. " 212... Sapper allowance " 60... Staff do. " 137...	Staff salary..... Rs. 250 } Office allowance " 80 } Rs. 250 Staff..... } " 50 Office..... } Rs. 265 Regimental Pay. } " 250 Staff..... } " 250 Staff..... }	58 103 515 515		
Quarter Master	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.		
Superintendent of Works...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.		1,300 instead of the 1,000 set down, the saving would be decreased by 300 per mensem.
Superintendent of Works...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.		+2 at 250 = 500 } Regimental Pay being the same, 2 at 162 = 324 } only staff salaries are taken 6 at 110 = 660 } into calculation.
10 Company Officers	2,000	1,484 †		516	1,454 *265 Regimental Pay. 60 Staff. 325 × 10 = 3,250. saving.
10 Subaltern Officers	3,250 *	Nil.		3,250	
700 Men, at Rupees 1-0-0.	Nil.	700	700		
			2,091	3,766	
				2,091	
				1,675	

N. B.—If the 10 Company Officers drew the usual Rupees 100 per mensem, extra remuneration, total Rupees 1,000, there would still be a slight saving in favor of the new organization, but the G. O. G. says nothing about the extra remuneration.

This is not the whole saving which ultimately results from the change : for at present five of the Sapper Companies are Commanded by Staff Corps Captains, whereas the intention is to give them all to Subalterns of the Royal Engineers. When this has been gradually effected, the monthly difference of pay between these officers, viz., Rupees 433-4-0* should be added to the saving above mentioned.

BANGALORE,
20th August 1866.

* Difference between Captains' and Lieutenants' pay, Rupees 108-5-0.
† Captains' pay will be saved, as one of the new Staff is to be a Captain.

(Signed) C. HILL, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Commandant Sappers and Miners.

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B.

Vide Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department, dated 9th September 1859, No. 3229.

C.

Vide G. O. G. 26th August 1865, No. 816.

Referred for the observations and report of the Controller of Military Accounts.
28th September 1866.

Report from the Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George, 19th October 1866, E; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor to return herewith the documents which were forwarded to me for report, under your docket of the 28th ultimo.

2. Colonel Hill the Commandant of the Corps of Sappers and Miners, on the 19th October 1865, submitted to Government an application for an assimilation of his corps to that in Bengal.

3. Government on a full consideration of the case decided that it was "inexpedient to contemplate any immediate alteration in the organization and establishment of the Corps of Sappers and Miners in this Presidency."

4. Colonel Hill in his letter now under report has, with the sanction of the Right Honorable the Governor, and with the permission of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, solicited a re-consideration of the decision which the Government had arrived at on the case.

5. It may be observed that, since that decision was passed, there has been no alteration in the circumstances of the case, except that two companies have been added to the Bengal Corps.

6. The two corps are, therefore, now nearly similar in strength and organization :—the Madras Corps has a greater number of European Officers serving with it, and has also an establishment of Pension and Recruit boys which the Bengal Corps has not, and which will account for the difference (Rupees 49,157) in the cost of the two corps, that of Madras being Rupees 3,67,033-10-0, while that of Bengal is only Rupees 3,17,876-10-0 per annum.

7. Colonel Hill does not now, as he originally did, propose an entire assimilation, but as far as his communication is understood, seems to contemplate only a partial introduction of the Bengal system, by allowing the Line and Staff Officers serving with the Sappers to become gradually absorbed, and eventually supplying their places with young Engineer Officers from Chatham.

8. But it is submitted, with all deference, that so long as the Madras Corps has its present detached duties to perform, duties almost entirely of a civil nature, and requiring very little Engineering skill, the present constitution of the European Commissioned element will be found to be practically better than that which Colonel Hill wishes to introduce.

9. It may be said to be matter of notoriety that young officers of the Engineer Corps never remain for any length of time with the Sappers; and this is no reproach to them, as the Public Works Department is open to them with better emoluments and a higher professional status; nor is it likely to be otherwise for some years to come, when the want of Engineer Officers for employment on such works is so seriously felt.

10. The Line and the Staff Corps can abundantly supply the place of Engineer Officers with officers possessed of a sufficiency of skilled knowledge for the performance of all the detached duties on which they are employed, and with more experience of the manners and customs of the people they have to command than young Engineer Officers are likely to acquire, during the short time they usually remain at Head Quarters. Practically, therefore, the present organization would seem to possess an advantage over that which it is proposed should be introduced.

11. But Colonel Hill has now brought forward an additional argument, *viz.*, that the change would be financially beneficial. The question has not hitherto been considered in this light, as the reduction in the number of officers, by which it is presumed the saving was to be effected, may, perhaps, be considered a questionable financial measure. The principle on which the statement has been prepared, and which Colonel Hill has appended to his letter in proof of the saving, is not understood, and its accuracy in details cannot, therefore, be admitted nor disputed; but it may be acceded that ten officers, the complement of the Bengal Corps, will not cost so much as nineteen officers, the established number of the Madras Corps:—ten officers, the whole complement of the Bengal Corps, and of which only four are "doing duty" or Company Officers, could not do the detached duties which are required of the officers of the Madras Corps; and the financial comparison between the two can hardly be said to have any bearing on the case. It may, however, be interesting to note that the European Commissioned element in the Madras Corps under all its heads costs Rupees 26,200-1-0 per annum, more than in the Bengal Corps—the difference arising chiefly from the greater number of Company Officers with the Madras Sappers, and from the Commandant and second in Command being Field Officers with corresponding regimental pay and allowances, whereas in Bengal these offices are held by Captains.

12. It may also be interesting to note that the working pay to Europeans and Natives, extra batta to Natives, extra pay after two years' service, Good Conduct allowance to Europeans and Natives, amount in Bengal to Rupees 53,056 per annum; while similar allowances in Madras amount to Rupees 67,204 (exclusive of rice money) or Rupees 14,148 in favor of Madras.

13. The only other point which seems to require notice is Colonel Hill's complaint of the want of a proper Staff of Instructors to aid him in bringing his men up to a higher standard. In Bengal there are two Instructors, *viz.*, the Superintendent of Instruction and the Superintendent of Park and field train.

14. If similar aid is required by Colonel Hill, it can be easily furnished, and the additional expense met by making a corresponding reduction in the number of doing duty officers, 15 is now the number estimated for, but 12 or 13 would suffice. It is to be borne in mind, however, that, with the exception of these Instructors, the Staff at the Head Quarters of the Madras Corps, where there is usually not more than two companies, is fully equal to the Head Quarter Staff of the Bengal

Corps, where, it is understood, there are always eight companies under Military Engineering instruction. I may add that the figures are derived from the budgets for 1866 and 67.

15. If the Madras Corps was restricted to Engineering duties and works only, it would no doubt be of advantage to it, and to the State to assimilate it with the Bengal Corps; but so long as it has its present civil duties to perform at so many far distant detached posts, it is not apparent that any advantage would be gained by the change. The decision, therefore, which has been already arrived at by Government would appear to me to be in strict accordance with the real merits of the case.

ORDER, No. 4404, 19th December 1866.

Ordered that the foregoing report from the Controller of Military Accounts, be communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with the expression of the opinion of Government that there is nothing in Colonel Hill's present communication, read with that report, which calls for any change of organization of the Madras Sappers and Miners.

2. The subject was fully considered by Government in April last, when Colonel Hill's proposition was rejected, and the Governor in Council sees no reason to depart from that decision.
Proceedings No. 1311, 13th April 1866.

3. His Lordship in Council will, however, be prepared to give full consideration to any fresh points in favor of Colonel Hill's proposed changes, which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may lay before the Government.

(True Extract.)

Thirsk Major General,
Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.

.. Controller of Military Accounts.
.. Public Works Department. *With 20 spare Copies.*
.. Quarter Master General, for information.

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

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Pro: of Govt for January
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Pro: of the Madras Govt
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Of 19" } Dec 16
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A 4404.

Passing orders
on certain correspondence
relative to certain pro-
posed changes in the
organization of the corps
of Madras Sappers &
Miners -

A 30 - 31

With all orders
etc. 13 - Jan 1867.