

(1) Number of pages 18
(2) Date of repair 27-4-43
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>2639</u>	Press ~~Mis.~~
<u>663-665</u>	
Dated <u>29-8-1867</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th August 1867.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 663. From the Special Executive Engineer, Wynaad, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Luckady, 1st August 1867, No. 329.

1. Presuming that it is intended that a second Company of Sappers is to be employed at Luckady during the approaching working season, I write to say that I shall be quite ready for it not later than the 10th of September, if its movements can be so ordered as to reach Luckady by that date.

2. From a general report prevailing amongst the men of the Company now here, it would appear that it is contemplated to send the B. Company. Although I think it very unlikely that there are any grounds for the report, beyond conjecture, (and I mention it under correction,) I think it best to be on the safe side, and with that object I venture respectfully to represent the objections to that particular Company coming here.

When His Lordship the Governor visited Wynaad last year, he asked me as to the period when I considered the whole of the Tambracherry ghaut would be open for cart traffic; and, on the strength of my reply, he held out the prospect of that event as fixed for the end of the ensuing working season. At the time, the precise wording of the reply of His Lordship to the Planters escaped my notice, but seeing it quoted in the letter from the Directors of the Southern India Coffee Company, attached to G. O. 18th July 1867, No. 2,161, I find that it went so far as to hold out the prospect of the completion of the whole work; this is more than I intended to convey, but that it should be so far completed, as to afford a perfectly easy and safe roadway fit for cart traffic, and in every respect as good as it will ever be, with the exception of extra width in some places, permanent bridges, and metalling, which has yet to be provided for in the estimate; the amount of allotment for the current year shows that it was not contemplated that all the work estimated for should be completed, as there will, at the end of the official year, be a balance of Rupees 40,574 of the estimate still to be allotted. I presume, however, the meaning intended to be conveyed, and indeed it is all that is necessary so far as the wants of the Planters are concerned, was that there should, by the time named, exist no obstacle to prevent the free use of the ghaut for cart traffic. This much I still engage myself to, but it is not, I respectfully submit, an unreasonable proviso, that my means of carrying out the engagement shall not be crippled, which would certainly be the case were the B. Company of Sappers sent here.

It will be in the recollection of Government, that part of this Company was lately employed in Coorg, where it suffered very severely from a virulent type of fever, so much so as to necessitate its withdrawal. I learn that a large proportion of the men have, since their return to Bangalore, been sent away on sick leave; and the consequence of the Company being selected for service at Luckady would necessarily be, that the number of men at my disposal would be very greatly curtailed, for of course there could be no question about sending here such of the men as had already suffered from the Coorg climate, and would naturally be more subject to the Wynaad fever.

Although, therefore, I am in all probability arguing without grounds, I venture to hope I shall, under the circumstances, stand excused for taking the precaution;

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29th August 1867.*

as unless I have undiminished means of executing the work, I cannot undertake the realization of the prospect held out to the Planters of South Wynaad.

It was very much against my wish that the 3rd Company, whose services were granted in 1865, was removed before it had been more than one year at Luckady, for then it was quite as much needed, as when it was first asked for; but I had no opportunity of bringing my wishes to notice. I trust, however, that no further diminution of strength in the detachment will take place.

3. I am happy to say that the keeping the E. Company here throughout the monsoon, and the season when fever is most prevalent, has not been attended with any ill-effects; the health of the men has been, I fancy, quite up to, if not, better than the average at most other stations; from all I hear, certainly far better than at Bangalore, and has borne out the opinion I have always held, that the season of 1865 was an exceptional one, and that the general sanitary character of the place should not be judged by it.

4. I conclude by hoping that not only may I obtain the services of a second full and effective Company by the date I have named, but that the one now here may be filled up to its proper complement, which at present is not complete; if that is done, I have strong hopes of carrying out the promise I have given, even at an earlier date than that named, and having the ghaut opened throughout by the end of the official year, in place of the end of the working season, seconded, as I shall be sure to be, by Lieutenant Crawford, the Officer in command of the detachment, who during the past season has never flagged in doing his utmost to push on the work, and the result of whose exertions is to be seen not only by the amount, but the excellent quality of all that was done under his superintendence, and that of Subadar Veeran, an old and very meritorious Native Officer of the Company under Lieutenant Crawford's command.

Referred to the Military Department for early and favorable consideration.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

3rd August 1867.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief (Quarter Master General's Department).

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

FORT ST. GEORGE,
6th August 1867.

No. 664. From the Quarter Master General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 21st August 1867, No. 950/5,372.

• Herewith returned.

1. In reply to the reference* from the Public Works Department, received with your docket of the 6th instant, I have the honor, by order, to state that

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29th August 1867.*

Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Dr. Orr, c. b., reports, after careful inspection, that "the health of the men of the B. Company Sappers and Miners, "now present at head-quarters, has very much improved since their arrival here "in June last, and there is no reason in my opinion why the Company should not "now be sent to Luckady."

2. The Commander-in-Chief purposes detailing the B. Company to proceed to Wynaad should Government decide on a second Company being again employed on the Tambracherry ghaut during the next working season. Eleven men of this Company who are sick, absent, as also those who are weakly and at present unequal to continued hard work, will be replaced by effectives from other Companies.

3. His Excellency directs me to request that Captain Kennedy may be instructed to keep the Officer Commanding Mysore Division informed, through his Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, of the state of the weather on the coast, so that the movement of the B. Company may be regulated accordingly. The forty-two men, who are now employed on the Coonoor ghaut will join the rest of the Company at Coimbatore *en route*.

Transferred, with No. 4,033, to the Department Public Works.

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

FORT ST. GEORGE,
27th August 1867.

No. 665. ORDER THEREON, 29th August 1867, No. 2,639.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 78.

1. A copy of the Quarter Master General's letter above recorded will be furnished to Captain Kennedy, who

will observe from paragraphs 1 and 2 that the men of the B. Company of Sappers and Miners have been medically pronounced to be fit for duty in the Wynaad, and that the few sick and absent of that Company will be replaced by effectives from other Companies. Captain Kennedy will thus see that he has no reason to apprehend any falling off in the assistance which he reckons upon obtaining from the labor of an additional Company of Sappers, and on which, in the opinion of Government, he seems too entirely to rely for the timely completion of the Tambracherry ghaut. His Excellency in Council is led to apprehend that sufficient use has not been hitherto made of local labor on the works of that ghaut, and he entertains the impression that the ordinary laborers of the country may be trained to carry on blasting and quarrying operations efficiently, and that the aid of the Sapper force may, to a great extent, be dispensed with, except as Superintendents.

2. Captain Kennedy will be careful to give effect to the wishes of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, as expressed in paragraph 3.

3. In paragraph 4 of his letter of the 1st instant, Captain Kennedy requests that the E. Company of Sappers, now in the Wynaad, may be brought up to its

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29th August 1867.

full strength. This matter will be referred, through the Military Department, for the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(True Extract.)

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

To Captain Kennedy.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, for information, with reference to the last clause of the Quarter Master General's letter.

.. Military Department.

.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Very
Spt. Engr. Office Wynnad
Luchade 1st August 1867. S

From
The Special Executive Engineer
Wynnad

To
The Secretary to Government
Department Public Works
Madras

Sir,
Presuming that it is intended that a second Company of Sappers is to be employed at Luchade during the approaching working season, I write to say that I shall be quite ready for it not later than the 10th of September, if its movements can be so ordered as to reach Luchade by that date.

From a general report prevailing amongst the men of the Company now here, it would appear that it is contemplated to send the B Company. Although I think it very unlikely that there are any grounds for the report, beyond conjecture, (and I mention it under correction,) I think it best to be on the safe side, and with that object, I venture respectfully to represent the objection to that particular Company coming here.

When His Excellency the Governor visited Wynnad last year, he asked me as to the period when I considered the whole of the Embanking

Grant would be open for East traffic; and on
the strength of my reply, he held out the
prospect of that port as fixed for the end
of the ensuing working season. At the time,
the precise wording of the reply of this Com-
-ship to the Planter, escaped my notice,
but seeing it quoted in the letter from the
Director of the Southern India Coffee Com-
-pany, attached to G.O. 15th July 1867. No 2161,
I find that it went so far as to hold out
the prospect of the completion of the whole
work; this is more than I intended to convey;
but that it should be so far completed, as
to afford a perfectly easy and safe landing,
fit for East traffic; and in every respect, as
good, as it will ever be, with the exception of
extra width in some places; permanent bridges,
and installings, which have yet to be provided for
in the Estimate; the amount of allotment for
the current year shows, that it was not contem-
-pled that all the work estimated for should
be completed, as there will at the end of the
Official Year, be a balance of Rs 2,57,74 of the
Estimate still to be allotted. I presume, however,
the meaning intended to be conveyed, and indeed
it is all that is necessary so far as the interests of
the Planter are concerned, was that there should,
by the time named, exist no obstacle to prevent
the free use of the Grant for East traffic. The
much I still engage myself to, but it is not,

79
I respectfully submit, an unreasonable proviso,
that my means of carrying out the engage-
-ment shall not be crippled; which would
certainly be the case, were the 12 Company
of Sappers sent here.

It will be in the recollection of Govern-
-ment, that part of this Company was
lately employed in Coorg, where it suffered
very severely from a violent type of fever; so
much so, as to necessitate its withdrawal. I
learn that a large proportion of the men have,
since their return, to Bangalore, been sent away
on sick leave; and the consequence of the Com-
-pany being selected for service at Suchadi,
would necessarily be, that the number of men
at my disposal would be very greatly curtailed,
for of course there could be no question about
sending here such of the men as had already
suffered from the Coorg climate, and would
naturally be most subject to the Wynad fever.

Although therefore I am in all probability
arguing without grounds, I venture to hope
I shall, under the circumstances, stand excused for
taking the precaution; as unless I have undi-
-minished means of executing the work, I
cannot undertake the realization of the prospect
held out to the Planter of South Wynad.

It was very much against my wish that
the third Company whose services were granted,
was removed before it had been more than one

year at Lachado; for than it was quite as
much needed, as when it was first called for;
but I had no opportunity of bringing my
wishes to notice. I trust, however, that no further
diminution of strength in the Detachment will
take place.

I am happy to say that the keeping
the Co. Company here throughout the season,
and the season when Fever is most prevalent,
has not been attended with any ill effects; the
health of the men has been, I fancy, quite up
to, if not better than, the average at most other
stations; from all I hear, certainly far better than
at Bangalore; and has borne out the opinion

I have always held, that the season of 1845 was
an exceptional one; and that the general sanitary
character of the place should not be judged by it.

I conclude by hoping that not only may
I obtain the services of a second full, and
effective Company, by the date I have named;
but that the one now here, may be filled up to
its proper complement, which at present is not
complete; if that is done, I have strong hopes
of carrying out the promise I have given, even
at an earlier date than that named; and having
the Ghaut opened throughout by the end of the
official year, in place of the end of the working
season, as decided, as I shall be sure to be,
by Lieutenant Crawford, the Officer in command
of the Detachment, who during the last season

has never flagged in doing his utmost to push
on the work; and the result of whose exertions,
is to be seen, not only by the amount, but
the excellent quality, of all that was done.
under his superintendence, and that of
Subadar Terrance, old and very meritorious
Native Officer of the Company, under Lieu-
tenant Crawford's command.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedt Servant
R. W. Kennedy Captain
Special Co. Engineer Mysore

Quartermaster's Office Ad. Ins.
 Ottawa and 21st August 1867.

No 950
 5372

From Colonel C. Cooke
 Quartermaster
 To Major General H. Marshall
 Secretary to Government
 Military Department

Sir
 In reply to the reference from the Public Works Department, received with your check of the 6th Instant, I have the honor, by order, to state that Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals Dr. Orr & Co. reports, after careful inspection, that the health of the men of the B. Company Sappers and Miners, now present at Head Quarters has very much improved since their arrival here in June last and there is no reason in my opinion why the Company should not now be sent to Lucknow.

The Commander in Chief proposes detailing the B. Company to proceed to Wynaad should Government decide on a second Company being again employed on the Sawbrachery that during

By the Order of the Quartermaster
 21st August 1867

From No. 22443
 The Officer in Charge
 of the B. Company

Referred to the side
 of the Department
 for consideration
 the consideration

By the Order of the Quartermaster
 21st August 1867

Referred to the side
 of the Department
 for consideration
 the consideration

31 August 67.

By the Order of the Quartermaster
 21st August 1867

Referred to the side
 of the Department
 for consideration
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during the next working season. Eleven men of this Company who are sick absent, as also those who are weakly, and at present unequal to continued hard work, will be replaced by Effectives from other Companies.

3. His Excellency directs me to request that Captain Kennedy, may be instructed to keep the Officer Commanding Mysore Division informed, through his Deputy, ~~Asst~~ Quarter Master General of the state of the weather on the Coast, so that the movement of the B. Company may be regulated accordingly.

The forty two men who are now employed on the Coonoor Ghat will join the rest of the Company at Coimbatore enroute.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

~~Mitche~~ Colwell

Quarter Master General

E. L. P.

St. P.
 24-105-1867-279-81
 24-105-1867-339-10
 24-105-1867-203-4

1867
 Pro. of Govt. for #3252
 Military Department
 From ~~N. 4034~~
 Quarter General
 To Secy. to Government

Fort Saint George,
 27th August 1867.

Transferred, with
 N. 4033, to the Department
 Public Works.

Hamilton Clerk
 By Secy to Government

Dated 21st Aug
 Recd 24-9-67
 Recd 28-9-67
 Encl. No 950
 5872
 States that the Comr
 in Chief proposes detaching
 the B Co Sappers to
 Luckaby.

2639-29th Aug 1867

Transferred

Subd

2664

2639-29th Aug 1867

2639
 Proceeding of the Madras Government
 Under date the 29th Aug 67
 Read the following.
 From the Special Engr
 Wynad
 To Mr Genl.

H. E. 3rd Aug 67. N. 329.
 21st " " " " N. 950
 5372.

The Genl. refers to the
 letter of the 21st Aug 67
 and states that the
 Govt. in Council is of the
 opinion that the
 detachment is not
 advisable.

Handwritten signature/initials.

Handwritten signature/initials.

A copy of the Quarter
 Master General's letter
 above recorded will be fur-
 nished to Captain Kennedy
 who will observe from
 paras 1 and 2 that the
 men of the B Company
 of Sappers and Miners
 have been medically pro-
 nounced to be fit for
 duty in the Wynad,
 and that the few sick
 and absent of that
 Company will be replaced
 by effectives from other
 Companies. Captain
 Kennedy

Kennedy will thus see
that he has no reason
to apprehend any falling
off in the assistance which
he reckons upon obtaining
from the labor of an ad-

ditional Company of Sappers,
and on which in the opinion
of Government, he seems
too entirely to rely for the
timely completion of the
Tambacherry grant.

His Excellency in Council ^{is led to apprehend}
~~long been of opinion~~ that
sufficient use has not
been ^{hitherto} made of local labor
on the works of that grant
and he ^{believes} that

~~with a little care~~ the or-
dinary laborers of the
country may ~~readily~~ be
trained to carry on blasting

and quarrying operations
^{almost} ~~as efficiently as sappers~~
~~and miners~~ and that
aid of the latter may
to a great extent, be dispensed
with, except as super-
intendents.

2. Captain Kennedy
be careful to give effect
to the wishes of His Excellency
the Commander in Chief
as expressed in para 3.

3. In para 4 of his
letter of the 1st Instant,
Captain Kennedy requests
that the E Company of
Sappers, now in the Wynad
may be brought up to its
full strength. This matter
will be referred, thro the
Military Dept, for the favor-
able consideration of His Ex.

4. ^{for information}
referred to the last clause
of the Dr. Ward's letter
of the 29th Sept. -
the Commander in Chief.
has decided to ^{send} Capt Kennedy, ^{with} 7 sappers, ^{on} 29/9/67

653-1664-5
Pub. Works 1867 Department

Pro: of Govt for August

No 2639

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

D 29th August 1867.

Adding orders on certain
papers relative to the employ-
ment of the B. Company of
Sappers and Miners during
the ensuing Season.

No 663 @ 665