T.M-5

M.R.O. 1—77,606—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 14.

(2) Date of repair 3-5-43.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3017 Press —Mis.—

686-687

Dated 27. 9. 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th September 1867.

No. 686. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Tadacherla, Cumbum, Talook, 16th September 1867, No. 1,672.

1. With reference to Government Orders as per margin,* I have the honor to forward an original letter, with enclosure, from the Superintendent of Police, Bellary District. The Inspector of Police when stating, "I am disposed to think that the fire occurred in the east end," appears to have quite overlooked the circumstance that at the time of the fire the wind was blowing strong from the west, which would cause the continuous roofing of the huts to ignite rapidly.

* No. 2,523 of 19th August 1867.
" 2,554 of 21st " "

From the Superintendent of Police, Bellary, to the Officer in charge of Military Buildings Range, dated Bellary, 5th September 1867, No. 425.

In reply to your letter No. 417, of 31st ultimo, I have the honor to forward you a report received from my Inspector regarding the burning of the Sapper huts. Repeated enquiries have been made since the occurrence, but nothing has turned up to show satisfactorily how the fire originated.

From the Inspector of Mofussil Police, Bellary Talook, to the Superintendent of Mofussil Police, dated Bellary, 4th September 1867.

1. With reference to Mr. Porter's letter, No. 417, I beg to inform you that I visited the scene of fire of the Sappers' huts near Alipoor, and investigated into its origin.

2. The fire occurred on the midnight of the 29th July 1867. The huts are about quarter of a mile from village of Alipoor, consisting of twenty-two in number, with grass chuppers, and extending in a line from west to east.

3. On the night in question two watchers, named Manuel and Mulliapa, slept in the east end hut. They state that the fire occurred at the west end, and on proceeding there, saw some men running away, whom they suspect are the incendiaries. They made no efforts to capture these men, or extinguish the fire. Mulliapa adds he frequently cooks his food in the east-end hut. He did so on the evening of 29th July. When only three or four huts were burnt, and the fire was advancing, the watermen employed on the Sappers' huts, named Booden Saib and Hanagadoo, came up from Alipoor, and to them was communicated the circumstance of men having run away immediately after commencement of fire.

4. Booden Saib and Hanagadoo state they came to Sappers' huts on the 29th night, on seeing a fire, and found the whole building in a blaze. The two watchers were seated some distance in front of the fire. On questioning them they said they did not know cause of fire, and that all their clothing to value of about rupees twenty, kept in the sleeping hut, was consumed. The watchers mentioned nothing of having seen men run away.

5. From the above I am led to believe that this is not a case of mischief. Had the watchers really seen men run away after fire, they would certainly have acquainted the watermen, and if the fire originated in the west end, they had ample time to rescue their clothing from east end, and which they would have done, as it must have been of great value to them, being men in indigent circumstances. Hence I am disposed to think, that the fire occurred in the east end, or sleeping hut, from carelessness in not putting out the fire in the cooking place, which accounts for time not being given for the removal of their clothing, and fearing blame would be attached to them they have concocted the story of having seen men run away.

Copies of the 27 - June/67.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 27th September 1867.

No. 687. ORDER THEREON, 27th September 1867, No. 3,017.

ACCOUNT, No. 74.

1. With this letter the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division submits, with reference to the Orders of Government No. 2,554, dated 21st August 1867, a report from the Superintendent of Police at Bellary of the result of the inquiries which had been made by the Police in connection with the destruction of the Sappers' huts near Allipoor by fire on the night of the 29th July 1867.

2. As it appears that the actual cause of the fire cannot be traced, though there is reason to believe it may have been the act of an incendiary, the Government resolve, in compliance with the Superintending Engineer's recommendation, to sanction the undermentioned sums being written off to "profit and loss":—

	Rs.
Value of Government property destroyed as per statement furnished by Assistant Engineer Mr. Porter	1,000
Do. of grass and nar referred to in Superintending Engineer's letter No. 1,399, dated 10th August 1867	240
Total...	1,240

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.
" Judicial Department.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

Bellary 4th September 1867

To
Captain G. J. Hicks.
Superintendent of Police
Bellary.

Sir, With reference to Mr. Porter's No. 417. I beg to inform you, that I visited the scene of fire of the Sappers huts near Allipore, and investigated into its origin.

The fire occurred on the night of the 29th July 1867. The huts are about ¼ mile from village of Allipore, consisting of 22 in numbers, in two rows facing each other, separated by a lane from West to East.

On the night in question two Watchers named Manuel & Muthiah slept in the East end hut. They state that the fire occurred at the west end, how proceeding there are some men running away, whom they suspect are

Thos

night of the 29th July 67,

[illegible] Sappers. They [illegible] to
[illegible] times these men, or [illegible]
the fire. But it is [illegible] to be frequently
cooks kitchen [illegible] in the Eastend huts.
did so on the evening of 29th July. When
only 3 or 4 huts were burnt, & the fire
was [illegible], the watchmen employed
on the Sappers huts, named Rodda
Reid & Hanna [illegible] came to [illegible]
[illegible] & to them was communicated
the circumstances of their having run
away immediately after the commencement
of fire.

Besides Sub Inspr [illegible] went to the
Police hut Sappers huts & on his
arrival at fire [illegible] the huts
seized same distance from the fire
fire & on questioning them they
did not [illegible] their clothes
[illegible] to the fire & that
[illegible] the clothes had been
consumed. The [illegible] were
[illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible]
believe [illegible]

mischief. Had the watchers really seen men run away after fire, they would certainly have acquainted the watermen. If the fire originated in the west end, they had ample time to rescue their clothing from East end, and which they would have done, as it must have been of great value to them, being men in indigent circumstances. Hence I am disposed to think, that that the fire occurred in the East end, or sleeping hut, from carelessness in not putting out the fire in the cooking place, which accounts for time not being given for the removal of their clothing, and fearing blame would be attached to them, they have concocted the story of having seen men run away.

I beg to remain
Sir
Your most obdt. Servant
Robt. H. Thorp
Inspector of Police
Bellarie Dist.

Night of the 29th July

No. 425

Office of the Superintendent of Police
Bellary 5th Sept 1867

From

Captain H. Hicks
Superintendent of Police
Bellary

To

Ensign W. Porter
Assistant Engineer
Bellary

Sir

In reply to your letter No. 417 of 31st ultimo I have the honor to forward now a report received from my Inspector regarding the burning of the Sapper huts. Repeated enquiries have been made since the occurrence but nothing has turned up to show satisfactorily how the fire originated.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
H. Hicks Captain
Superintendent of Police

Public Works Dept

Supdg: Engrs Office 3rd
Camp: Vadackula
Cumbum Valley
Peermaad District
16th September 1867.

No 1672.

From
The Superintending Engineer
3rd Div.

To
The Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

Sir,

With reference to Govt orders
as per margin, I have the hono
to forward for original letter with enclosu
from the Superintendent of Police, Bellary
District. The Inspector of Police when
stating I am disposed to think that
the fire occurred in the East end appears
to have quite overlooked the circumstan
that at the time of the fire the wind
was blowing strong from the West,
which would cause the continuous exp
-ing of the tents to ignite rapidly
I have

&c. &c. &c.

A. Walker Major R.E.
Supdg: Engineer 3rd Div.

No 2523 dated 19th August 1867
No 2554 dated 21st Augt 1867

From
The Superintendent of Police
Bellary

To The Asst Engineer
Bellary

No 1675/67

Dated 5th September 1867

Sir

No 425.

Transmitting Report from Supt & Co. Short regarding Explosion of Copper tents.

Public Works Dept

No. 3017

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 27th September 1867

Read the following

From the Supg Engineer
of the 3d Dn.

Nilgiri center 16th Sept 1867 No 16/31

With this letter the Superintending Engineer of the 3d Division submits, with reference to the orders of Govt No 2554 dated 21st August 1867, a report from the Supt of Police at Bellary of the result of the inquiries which had been made by the Police in connection with the destruction of the Sappers' huts near Allipore by fire on the night of the 29th July 1867,

1867. 6d
Pro: of Govt. for Sept 27
No. 3017

The Supg Engr
32nd

To The Secy: to Govt
P.W.D.

Rented 16th Septr 1867.
Recd 24.

Ex 3 No 1172.

Sappers Huts at Allipore
Forwards two original
letters from the Supdt
of Police instituting an
inquiry as to how the
fires set fire.

No 686

dated 25th Septr 1867 R. 26th

No. 3017 - 27th Septr 1867

As it appears that the actual cause of the fire cannot be traced though there is reason to believe it may have been the act of an incendiary, the Gov. resolve, in compliance with the Superintending Engineers Recommendation, to indemnify the insured Parties being Tenants of Gov. property & Discharged and Costs

Value of Gov. property Discharged as per Statement furnished by Asst Engineer Mr Potter —— £1000

£ of Grass and Vat repaired by Sup. Engineers Letter No 1399 of 10 Sept/67 — 240

Total £1240

To The Supply £3 Vouchers
—— Controlling Board
—— Accd General
—— Auditor Genl

Dublin 30/9/67

Sub: Works 1867 Department

Pro: of Govt for September

Civ. 3017

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

Dt 27th September 1867

Granting Authority for the value of Rs 1,240 of the property which was destroyed by fire at Alsipore in the Bellary District, on the 29th July last being written off to Profit and Loss.

Ch. 686- 687

2.25 Dolutch/67 02.26