M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 40

(2) Date of repair 15 6 [illegible]

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3059 Press Mis.

26-27

Dated 2. 10. 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 2nd October 1867.

No. 26. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Communicating to the Government of India certain correspondence regarding the strength of the Corps of Sappers and Miners in this Presidency. } (Here enter 25th September 1867, No. 3,672.)

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 2nd October 1867, No. 3,059.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 5. Communicated to the Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineers.
To Captain Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, M. D.	Here enter	22nd January 1867,	No. 736.
,, *Adjutant General*.....	,,	17th April ,,	,, 104.
Report from the Controller of Mily. Accts.....	,,	20th ,, ,,	B.
From the Adjutant General.	,,	28th June ,,	No. 373.
Report from the Ag. Controller of Mily. Accts.	,,	13th August ,,	B.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 22nd January 1867, No. 736; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

The Government of India in the Financial Department having had its attention drawn to the strength of the Madras Corps of Sappers and Miners, as compared with those in the other Presidencies, I am directed to transmit, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor-in-Council, an extract from memorandum, No. 3043, dated 29th October 1866, from that Department, and to request that the matter may be taken into consideration by the Government of Fort Saint George.

2. Although Corps of this branch of the service are undoubtedly required in each Presidency, and whatever their strength, work can generally be found for the men, it is deemed unadvisable, with reference to the expense which their maintenance involves, to have more men of this class than are really required; and the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council is desirous, therefore, to obtain information as to the actual requirements of the Madras Presidency in this respect, and to be favored with the opinion of His Lordship in Council as to the feasibility of gradually reducing the strength of the Corps.

Extract from a memorandum from the Financial Department, No. 3043, dated Simla, 29th of October 1866.

	Bengal.	*Madras.*	*Bombay.*
* *No. of Companies*	10	10	5
European Non-Commissioned Officers.	75	62	14
Native Officers and Non Commissioned Officers and Buglers.....	160	167	80
Privates,.....	1,000	1,144	500
Recruit and Pension Boys,.....	...	40	...
	1,235	1,413	594

The strength of the Sappers and Miners in the three Presidencies is as noted in the margin. *

The Madras Army is not much larger than that of Bombay, but the Madras Corps of Sappers is more than twice the strength of the Bombay Regiment.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Lieutenant Colonel,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief, (Adjutant General's Department) for His Excellency's observations.

7th February 1867.

From the Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 17th April 1867, No. 104; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have had the honor to submit to the Commander-in-Chief, letter No. 736, dated 22nd January 1867, from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, on the subject of the strength of the Corps of Sappers and Miners, forwarded under your docket, dated 7th February 1867, and am directed to offer the following remarks.

2. To make any reduction in the Corps of Sappers and Miners would, in the Commander-in-Chief's opinion, be most unadvisable, whether looked at in a Military or Financial point of view.

3. As soldiers, the Sappers are probably the most efficient branch in the Infantry of this Army, having rendered in the earlier history of India, most important services at Seringapatam, in Java, Egypt, at Assaye, Mahidpore, Nagpore and in later days at Meeanee, and Hyderabad, in China, Pegu, Persia, Central India and at Lucknow.

4. Ever have the Sappers and Miners been distinguished by their gallantry in the Field to which the numerous General Orders referring to them bear ample record.

5. Far from reducing their strength, the Commander-in-Chief would strongly advocate one Company of every Native Regiment in the Madras Army being converted into Sappers, and that they should be employed in the Public Works Department in turn with others, for periods not less than six months at a time. This His Excellency considers would be attended with the best results.

6. A report from Colonel Hill, Commanding the Sappers and Miners, is attached, herein is the system of employment thoroughly entered into—clearly exemplifying the advantage of the Corps in a financial point of view.

7. Sir Gaspard LeMarchant would earnestly urge on Government not to make any reduction in this most serviceable Corps—on the contrary to increase its usefulness by extending its professional advantages to all other Regiments in this Army, as suggested in paragraph 5 of this letter.

From the Commandant Sappers and Miners, Ootacamund, 9th April 1867; to the Adjutant General.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket, No. 968 of 21st February, referring to me, for confidential report, letter from the Supreme Government, No. 736 of 22nd January, herewith returned.

2. I would respectfully observe that the extra relative strength, or what is perhaps more to the purpose, the extra expense of the Madras Sapper Corps, as compared with those of the other two Presidencies, is more apparent than real.

3. During the many years I have had command of the Corps, always more than half the companies and often as much as two-thirds of the Corps has been employed under orders of the Department Public Works, in localities where labor of the most ordinary description is available only at exceedingly high rates, whilst skilled labor, such as is obtained from the Sappers, is not to be had at any price.

4. At least one-half of the whole body may, therefore, be looked on as an organized working Corps and as such, the cost of that portion should more properly be entered in the budget of the Department Public Works than debited as a charge against the Military Department.

5. At present, I believe, the cost of the whole body is entered in the Military budget, whilst the Public Works is debited with only the small item of working batta drawn by the men. How far this is just, may be gathered from the following figures.

6. I will presume that I will base my calculations only on that half of the Corps which are employed in such localities as Wynaad, Seroncha, South Coorg, Kimedy, Coonoor Ghaut, Port Blair, &c., &c., considering the companies at Secunderabad, Bellary Bangalore and other Military stations, (although generally worked advantageously and for the benefit of the Department Public Works) as a purely Military body engaged on Military duty, and therefore justly chargeable to the Military Department.

7. Now the Military pay of a Sapper is about 5 Annas per diem—his working batta if a laborer is 1½ Anna, whilst if skilled in any particular trade it is 2 Annas and 2½ Annas according to class. His aggregate daily pay is, therefore, 6½ Annas as a laborer, 7 Annas for a 2nd class,

and 7½ Annas for a first class tradesman. The daily rate of hire for an ordinary cooly in such places as the Neilgherries or Wynaad is 6 or 7 Annas, whilst a good carpenter, bricklayer or other tradesman would earn as much as 30 Rupees a month, a maistry being paid 40 or even 50 Rupees, and very often, as I have before stated, skilled labor of this description is not to be obtained on any terms.

8. I have chosen Wynaad as an example, because the Sappers have now been employed there for many years, and I believe it presents a fair average rate of wages for such like localities, but I have no doubt that in places like Seroncha, Kimedy and Port Blair, the rates for labor of any kind are considerably higher.

9. The cost of superintendence represented by the pay of the Native Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers doubtless forms a larger item of charge with a Sapper Company than with a gang of ordinary bricklayers or common coolies. I estimate this superintendence at from 25 to 30 per cent. which at first sight appears very great, and moreover to this must be added a further percentage for men who are on guard, sick or on furlough; but I would submit that the greater quantity and superior quality of the work turned out by the Sappers more than compensates for this, particularly as regards laborers. Take for example the item "excavation," the prescribed daily work for a Sapper is from 3 to 3½ cubic yards: can any Executive Engineer state that an ordinary cooly working on daily pay will, on an average, turn out half that quantity? I think not, and if I am right the value of superintendence is shown to be worth 100 per cent. as to quantity—the value as to quality of work executed by a body of trained men obeying orders with the precision of soldiers can scarcely be estimated.

10. To give another instance of the value of these men when really well trained to any special branch of their calling, I need, but note that the Superintendent of the Revenue Survey is only too glad to receive from me any number of men who I have instructed in this branch and is now giving them 30 and 40 Rupees, and in one instance as much as 60 Rupees per mensem. Men in this Department are paid entirely according to their qualifications, and I am informed that within the next two years some of my Sappers will probably be drawing double the last mentioned sum, or 120 Rupees a month.

11. The Madras system of working the Sappers affords a mutual advantage to the Military and Public Works Departments, for whilst the latter gains by the employment of men who are under strict Military control and can be depended on, and this in localities where ordinary labor is most difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain, the former benefits by the return to Military duty of soldiers accustomed to the performance of hard work under difficult circumstances; for it must be remembered that the companies employed as a working Corps in the Department Public Works periodically change places with those in the performance of purely Military duties, and the whole body being thus trained to arms are, on emergency, available to the State at one half the cost. Can any system work better than this?

12. The value of the men as a working Corps is undeniable, the call for their services in this Presidency is always much greater than can be responded to, and assuming that there are localities in the other Presidencies similar to those in which they are so advantageously employed in Madras, and where ordinary labor is equally scarce, the deductions I would submit from the foregoing arguments are—

1*st*. The expense of one half the companies (5) is more justly debitable to the Department Public Works than to the Military Department.

2*nd*. The expense of the remaining 5 companies which alone should be entered in the Military budget is comparatively less as regards the relative strength of the armies than either in Bengal or Bombay.

3*rd*. The suggestion to reduce the present strength of the Madras Corps is entirely opposed to every principle of economy inasmuch as the Department Public Works would in certain localities have to pay for ordinary cooly labor, rates certainly equal to the Military and working pay of the Sappers.

4th. The Sappers as a Military body have proved themselves in the estimation of every Commander, to be at least equal in the Field to other Native troops, whilst so long as they are located in stations where they can be advantageously worked, they are *in fact* less expensive than the ordinary Native Infantry Soldiers.

5th. The demand for Sapper labor in the Madras Department Public Works has always been in excess of the supply.

6th. From the last two paragraphs it follows, as a logical sequence, that so far as this Presidency is concerned the advantage would be altogether in favor of increasing, instead of diminishing the numbers of this useful body of men, even if such increase involved a corresponding reduction of Native Infantry Soldiers.

7th. That the limit to such increase is only to be found in the number of companies which can be advantageously employed in the Department Public Works, that is to say, in localities where labor is scarce.

8th. That so far as the other Presidencies are concerned, it would be both advantageous and economical to increase the Sapper companies to a corresponding relative strength with that of the Madras Corps, always supposing that, work of a similar nature can be found for them.

9th. That in other words it would be advantageous in every respect to convert a certain portion of the Native Infantry in each Presidency into Sappers. Men may be good Sappers without being worse soldiers.

13. Whilst advocating the Madras system as regards the working of the Corps in time of peace, I must not be understood to prefer our organization in other respects to that of Bengal (more particularly as regards its officers) the adoption of which I have from time to time suggested, and although the Madras Government has determined that no change shall be made at present, I still hold to the opinion that the appointment of Engineer Officers will ere long become unavoidable, and the Bengal organization (which cannot in any way interfere with the partial employment of the Corps on Civil Engineering works) must speedily follow.

With report from the Controller of Military Accounts, 30th April 1867, B.

From the Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 28th June 1867, No. 373; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

With reference to Order of Government, No. 1901, 23rd May 1867, referred to the Commander-in-Chief with a request that His Excellency will favor Government with his views on the proposed assimilation of the Madras Sappers to that of the Bengal Corps, I have the honor, by order, to intimate that Sir Gaspard LeMarchant has, on two occasions, strongly recommended this assimilation as will be seen on reference to Orders of Government marginally noted, and His Excellency still is of opinion the course is very advisable.

No. 1311, 13*th April* 1866.
,, 4404, 19*th December* 1866.

2. The only differences which are considered necessary, are, that as the Madras Sappers are employed to a greater extent under the Public Works Department, a greater number of Engineer Officers than that laid down for Bengal should be attached permanently to the Madras Sappers, and as recommended in a previous communication, no reduction as to the strength as regards men should take place.

3. The accompanying copy of memorandum from Colonel Hill, the Commandant of the Sappers, in which the Commander-in-Chief entirely concurs, so fully sets forth the reasons for an additional number of Officers, that I am desired by His Excellency to request the attention of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council may be drawn to it.

MEMORANDUM.

List of appointments under the new organization showing how they would be filled up.

2nd in Command and Superintendent of Instruction.

*Captain's pay,.....	Rs	433 10 0	
Staff salary	,,	400 0 0	
As 2nd in Command	,,	100 0 0	
Total	Rs.	933 10 0	
Major's pay (Staff Corps),.....	Rs.		640 14 6
Allowance to make up R. E. Captain's pay and allowances.	,,		292 11 6
Total	,,		933 10 0

A Captain of Royal Engineers is required to fill this appointment, but until the services of one can be obtained, it is proposed that Major Wetherall, Staff Corps, who is at present Officiating as 2nd in Command, should hold the appointment temporarily, and that he be allowed the next pay* which would be drawn by a Captain of Royal Engineers (being an Executive Engineer, 3rd grade, or who had done four years' duty,) holding the appointment.

Interpreter and Quarter Master.
(This appointment is temporarily held by a Staff Corps Officer in Bengal.)

Captain Foord, Staff Corps, acting until a Royal Engineer Officer is qualified in the higher standard in Hindoostanee.

Superintendent of Park and Field Train.
(Vacancy in Bengal.)

Vacant.—Unless an Officer of Royal Engineers of some little standing can be found to take this appointment at once, it might remain vacant until Lieutenant Morris, and Lieutenant Cunningham, have completed their 3rd year with the Corps, when one of them will be eligible for it.

Adjutant.

Lieutenant Hamilton, Royal Engineers, now holding the appointment, having served upwards of four years with the Sappers, would be rated as an Executive Engineer of the 4th grade on 300 Rupees per mensem, Staff salary.

Four doing duty Officers allowed by the Bengal organization.

1. *Lieutenant Morris* has almost completed two years' duty with the Corps, at the end of which he will be entitled to 200 Rupees in addition to Company Command allowance.
2. *Lieutenant Cunningham.*—This Officer will also be entitled to Rupees 200, when he has completed his two years' duty.
3. *Vacant.*—An Officer of Royal Engineers required—Staff salary Rupees 112, in addition to Company allowance.
4. *Vacant.*—Do. do. do.

Six extra doing duty Officers required by exceptional organization now proposed.

1. *Captain Baynsford* will be promoted in August 1868, when an Officer of Royal Engineers will be required to take his place.
2. Captain Dakeyne.
3. Captain Elliot.
4. Captain McGoun.
5. Lieutenant Crawford.
6. Lieutenant Mathias.

All these Officers will receive their present pay *viz*:—

Rupees 60 Sapper allowance.
,, 50 Company Command allowance.
,, 100 Extra remuneration.
(to be paid from the Department Public Works.)

These Officers have all served more than two years, and if Engineers, would be entitled to Rupees 200 in addition to Company Command allowance, but the object being gradually to absorb them, it is not proposed to extend the Engineer rule to them.

Memorandum showing Officers now with the Corps, and the way it is proposed to employ them.

ROYAL ENGINEER OFFICERS.

Lieutenant Hamilton.....	Adjutant.
Lieutenant Morris.....	Command of "G" Company on higher rate of Staff salary, or Rupees 200 in addition to Company Contingent.

Lieutenant Cunningham	Command of "H" Company, on higher rate of Rupees 200, in addition to Company Contingent.

OFFICERS OF THE LINE.

Major Wetherall.....	Second in Command and Superintendent of Instruction, or may be made available for temporary Command of one of the vacant Companies.
Captain Raynsford.....	Command "A" Company.
Captain Dakeyne	" "D" "
Captain Foord	Acting Quarter Master.
Captain Elliot	Command "K" Company.
Captain McGoun.....	" "F" "
Lieutenant Crawford*	" "E" "
Lieutenant Mathias	" "C" "
Lieutenant Bird.....	Not yet qualified.

B Company vacant.
I " vacant.

*N. B.—This Officer would be better placed as Adjutant or Wing Subaltern of Native Infantry Regiment.

BANGALORE, } (Signed) C. HILL, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
June 1867. } *Commandant H. M.'s Madras Sappers and Miners.*

MEMORANDUM.

The proposal to assimilate, as far as possible, the establishment and allowances of the Sappers and Miners in this Presidency to the present Bengal system has already been twice strongly advocated by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, as embodied, first in the Proceedings of Government, No. 1311 of the 13th April 1866, and again in No. 4404 of 19th December 1866.

2. The letters of the Commandant Sappers and Miners, (No. 770, dated 19th October 1865 and No. 1160, dated 15th September 1866,) which were endorsed with the favorable recommendation of His Excellency, are sufficient to show that the assimilation is not only feasible but may be carried into effect with the greatest advantage to the Corps.

3. There is but one point, in the present Bengal organization, to which exception can be taken; one which cannot be made applicable to the Madras Corps so long as their services are available for employment in the Department of Public Works. Only four Officers (exclusive of Staff) are allowed for the ten companies of Bengal Sappers. This may be found sufficient when the majority of the Corps is present at Regimental Head Quarters, and one Officer can command two or three companies as is at present the case at Roorkee: but taking into consideration the constant employment of Madras Sapper companies on detachment and very often on important works in isolated positions, it is absolutely necessary, that an Officer should be available for every company;—neither on service, detachment nor the march could the entire management of a company be advantageously left to a Native Officer.

4. The employment of the Madras Sappers in the Department of Public Works has hitherto worked so well and is attended with such great advantages to the public service and its revenues, that no alteration in this respect can be recommended. This question has been fully discussed in the Adjutant General's letter, No. 104 of 17th April 1867, giving cover to one from the Commandant Sappers, (dated 9th idem.) It is observed that, although only four Officers on regular staff salaries are allowed by the Bengal organization, a certain number of junior Officers are permitted to do duty with the Corps, and receive the old established Sapper allowance of Rupees 60 per mensem; this in addition to the Company Contingent, and Command allowance is not, in the opinion of His Excellency, sufficient remuneration for an European Officer in an independent command, and it is therefore proposed to continue the additional Rupees 100 (extra remuneration) to all Officers Commanding Companies who are not in receipt of the regular staff salary, and as this one exception to the Bengal organization is entirely due to the employment of our Sappers in important executive works, it appears reasonable that the additional expense should be borne by the Department of Public Works in the same way as the working batta of the men—in other words, that we should practically revert to the system in force previous to the G. O., No. 116 of 22nd

March 1860, which seems to have been passed for the purpose of equalizing the salaries of Sapper Officers, and not with the intention of transferring the charge to the Military Department, as appears to have been done, (vide note attached.)

5. The provisions of the order as regards Officers, would, it is presumed, come into effect gradually; that is to say, Engineers will take the place of the present Line Officers, as vacancies occur. At present one Captain of Royal Engineers is required as second in Command and Instructor, and three Subaltern Officers to fill existing vacancies; these should be sent from England as soon as possible (for military duty) as before succeeding to command of a Company, it is necessary they should do a certain amount of duty at Regimental Head Quarters with the native Sappers. Two more Subaltern Officers of Royal Engineers will be required early next year to fill other vacancies. If possible, these five Officers might, with avantage, be sent out together. All other points in the assimilation could be carried out without difficulty. The Recruit Depôt 100 strong would be speedily absorbed.

6. One of the Native Regimental Instructors is already in existence, as also the Company Havildar Instructors, who would simply have to be made non-effective, instead of being borne on the strength as Naigues.

BANGALORE, } (Signed) C. HILL, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
June 1867. } *Comdt. Madras Sappers and Miners.*

NOTE.

Regarding the Rupees 100 extra remuneration to be drawn from the Department Public Works.

In reverting to the system of paying the 100 Rupees extra remuneration from the Department Public Works, it will simplify matters if the payment is made *on account* of the company employed, and not to the Officer in command of that company.

Thus there are at present six companies as per margin employed on executive works. On this account the Military Department might be credited by the Department Public Works with Rupees 600 per mensem, which sum would be appropriated to equalizing the salaries of the Sapper Officers in command of companies. It might so happen that one of the Officers already in receipt of Rupees 200 per mensem (vide Bengal organization) is in command of the company employed in the Department Public Works. It would scarcely be fair that this Officer should receive the additional 100 Rupees, and on the other hand it would not be advantageous to the public service that Officers should be constantly shifted from one company to another in order to get over this difficulty.

1 *Seroncha.*
1 *Port Blair.*
1 *Bellary.*
2 *Wynaad.*
1 *Wellington.*

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

With report from the Acting Controller of Military Accounts, 13th August 1867, B.

ORDER, No. 3672, 25th September 1867.

Ordered that the foregoing correspondence from the Adjutant General and the Controller of Military Accounts be forwarded to the Government of India.

To the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, M. D. | Here enter 25th Sept. 1867, No. 3673.

(True Extract.)

Macmullen *Colonel,*
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
" Controller of Military Accounts. with 20 spare Copies
" Public Works Department.
" Quarter Master General, for information.

Exd. T. Stubbs.

Pro: of Govt for Octr.
No 3709

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Military Depts

Dis 25 Sept 67
Rec 30 "

No 3672

Lid

No 3059
Recd 3059

Comd to the
Supy Engineers.

M.

Fort St George
2nd Octr 1867

Communicating
to the Govt of India certain
Correspondence regarding
the strength of the Corps
of Sappers and Miners
in this Presidency -
No 3059 - 2nd Octr 1867

Letter and Enc

No 26-27

63 Vols
4 Capt. Kennedy

78
10

Desp 3/10/67