

(1) Number of pages 124

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3249	Press
408-409	Mis.
Dated 19-10-	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th October 1867.*

No. 408. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department :—

Communicating to the Government of India }
certain correspondence from the Quarter }
Master General regarding the general adop- } (Here enter 14th October 1867, No. 3,957.)
tion, at least in the Pegu Division, of Duff's }
cooking ranges, or such other stove as ex- }
perience may have shown to be preferable. }

No. 409. ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1867, No. 3,249.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 33.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

MILITARY DEPARTMENT:
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 20th September 1867, No. ¹³¹⁸/₆₀₀₅; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

On the receipt of the enclosed letter* from the Principal Medical Officer British Medical Service in the Pegu Division, the Officer Commanding Mysore Division was requested to report on the several cooking ranges in use at Bangalore.

*Bringing to notice the unsatisfactory means of cooking the Soldiers' rations at Rangoon, &c.

2. Major General Haines' reply, which is also enclosed, reports very favorably of Duff's cooking range and also of Grant's.

3. It will be seen, on reference to the correspondence recorded in the Order of Government dated 7th July 1864, No. 2329, that the general adoption of Duff's ranges in all Divisions of the Army was strongly urged by the late Commander-in-Chief. This was authorized for the European troops generally at Bangalore. But the Government of India having intimated, in letter No. 571A, dated 26th June 1865, that these ranges had not proved altogether satisfactory in the Bengal Presidency, this Government put a stop to any new works for Duff's ranges being undertaken—Order of Government, 21st July 1865, No. 2719.

4. The Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that it is very necessary steps should be taken, without further delay, to provide improved fireplaces for the Troops, and more especially is this requisite in the Pegu Division, where the Soldier is restricted to this one eternal beef ration, the monotony of which would, no doubt, be less felt were it possible to vary the method of dressing it.

5. His Excellency strongly recommends that the Government of India should be moved to sanction, as early as possible, the general adoption in the Pegu Division at least (if not generally) of Duff's cooking ranges, or such other stove as experience in the Bengal Presidency may have shewn to be preferable.

From the Principal Medical Officer British Medical Service, Rangoon, 3rd August 1867, No. 110; to the Assistant Quarter Master General, &c., &c., Pegu Division.

I have the honor to submit, for representation to the Major General Commanding, the very unsatisfactory means of cooking Soldiers' rations that exists at this station, especially with reference to the fire places. Complaints have been preferred as to the monotony of food given to the troops at this station. The chief evil, in my judgment, lies in the monotony of cooking. I have visited the cook houses previous to meals being served, and have observed that the mode of cooking employed in the great majority of cases is that of frying small portions of meat in "chatties" about 6 inches in diameter, sometimes in frying pans. In the latter case, each man's portion being drafted of into chatties.

At times soup is made—each man's portion being made in a separate vessel. Occasionally, curry is added—for this an extra charge is made. It will thus be seen that there is no soup made in bulk, and no meat served as joints. The process employed at present renders the meat dry and flavorless, and is thus less nutritive and palatable. I do not think that any amount of supervision on the part of a Sergeant cook would much improve this system, which, I submit, should undergo a radical change. This would be best effected by the adoption of some approved apparatus for cooking. I consider that the same amount of intelligence which the natives show in the successful prosecution of their various trades could, without difficulty, be brought to bear in enabling them to learn the comparatively simple change of system required.

I feel convinced that the above suggestions would, if attended to, produce good results, more than commensurate with the expense incurred thereby.

From the Officer Commanding Mysore Division, Bangalore, 13th September 1867, No. 387; to the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund.

In reply to your memorandum as per margin, I have the honor to inform you that a small Duff's range has been in use with the A-23rd Royal Artillery since February 1865, and is most favorably reported upon, being well adapted,

“ stewing, boiling and steaming, and a plentiful supply of hot water is always ready for cleaning “ purposes.”

2. A Grant's cooking range has been used by the 16th Lancers since 1st January 1866, and is also very highly spoken of. The trained Serjeant Cook states that the range is adapted to cook for 500 men, that it has given every satisfaction—the cooking utensils being in every way suited to the range, and that no improvement is required.

3. There are other ranges at Bangalore, viz. Dumbleton's, which has been a short time in use with the A-14th Royal Artillery, and is not favorably reported on, and a Madras Mint Range which has only just been supplied with proper cooking utensils, and cannot therefore at present be pronounced upon. 5, of these Mint Ranges are in Bangalore, for the use of the Infantry Regiment when it moves into the present Lancer Barracks.

4. I enclose the reports on the four ranges.

ORDER, No. 3957, 14th October 1867.

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of the foregoing letter.

To the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept. | Here enter 14th October 1867, No. 3958.

(True Extract.)

My dear Mr. Colonel,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General, with two enclosures.

Public Works Department, *

.. Controller of Military Accounts, ...

Adjutant General, ...

.. Inspector General British Medical Service,

for information.

with 20 space & pie.

Exd. A. W. Cooke.

17 1857 20/10
Pro: of Govt. for October
No 3949
Pn. of the Madras Govt.
Military Dep^t

Dec^r 14 3 Oct 57
A 3957

No 3219-19 Oct 1857

Communicating
to the Govt of India certain
Correspondence from the
Lt. Genl regarding
the general adoption ^{at home} in the
Pegu Div. of Buffs' Cooking
Rangas, or such other Stoves
as experience may have
shown to be preferable.

With very Respects

No 408 & 409