M.R.O. 1—77,004—8-6-31.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 436 Press Mis.

Dated 14 2 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department,
14th February 1867.

No. 239. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 30th January 1867, No. 376.

Read the following papers :—

From the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India...Here enter 30th October 1866, No. 331.
From the Adjutant General..... 7th January 1867, No. 9.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Simla, 30th October 1866, No. 331 ; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

1. I am directed to forward copy of a communication* from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, regarding British Staff Serjeants with Regiments of the Madras Native Army under the new organization.

* No. 908 E, dated 29th August 1866, and enclosures.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, I am to state, concurs with His Excellency that these appointments should cease, and is of opinion that the Non-Commissioned Staff should be gradually absorbed as casualties occur, and as means of employing them otherwise may be found.

3. I am, however, to request to be favored with the views of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council on this point.

From the Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Simla, 29th August 1866, No. 908 E ; to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

1. I have the honor to enclose correspondence as per margin, which has been referred to this Department by the Quarter Master General.

Memorandum No. 102, dated 21st June 1866, from the Officer Commanding Saugor District, to Quarter Master General, and enclosures.
Memorandum No. 1,776, dated 3rd July 1866, from Quarter Master General, to Officer Commanding Saugor District.
Letter No. 130, dated 4th August 1866, from Officer Commanding Saugor District, to Quarter Master General, and enclosures.
Letter No. 2,372 of 16th August 1866, from Quarter Master General, to Officer Commanding Saugor District.

2. The Commander-in-Chief in India would observe, for the consideration of Government, that the Quarter Master General has been requested to furnish quarters for British Staff Serjeants attached to the Regiments of Madras Native Infantry, now stationed in the Saugor District.

3. It is to be observed that the Madras Army is now organized in accordance with the principles stated in the G. G. O., No. 400 of the 3rd May 1861.

4. According to the establishments stated in that order, British Staff Serjeants are not allowed. It is, in Sir William Mansfield's opinion, extremely questionable whether they can be of any use in Regiments no longer on the old regular footings. On the contrary, it would seem that they must interfere with the position accorded to the Subadars and Jemadars on the new system. To abolish them, including those in the Madras Cavalry, would be to effect an economy of about 90 British Non-Commissioned Officers with all their concomitant expenses of pay, quarters, clothing, &c, if, as is assumed, every Regiment in Madras be still provided with them. The money economy thus effected would be slightly in excess of a lakh of Rupees a year.

Vide Madras Army list of March 1866, pages 87 and 123.

5. That the difference maintained by the Madras Army in the matter of British Non-Commissioned Officers was not contemplated by the Supreme Government is shown by the 5th paragraph of G. G. O., No. 400 of 1861, which acquiesces in the arrangement, that the Native Staff of the Madras and Bombay Regiments, being slightly different from that of Bengal Regiments, may be continued.

6. His Excellency remarks that it would probably be distasteful to the Officers of the Madras Army and to the individuals concerned to dismiss them summarily. If, therefore, it should be deemed expedient by the Government of India to invite the Government of Madras to cause these establishments to conform in the particular referred to, with the G. G. O., No. 400 of 1861, His Excellency would suggest that the measure should not be executed immediately, but gradually as the Non-Commissioned Officers are absorbed by discharges and invaliding vacancies not being filled up.

Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Simla, 16th August 1866, No. 2,373; to the Adjutant General, Simla.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has desired the Quarter Master General to forward copies of the undermentioned documents for submission, as far as relates to Staff Serjeants being attached to Madras Native Regiments, in the department of the Adjutant General.

Annexures.

Memorandum No. 102, dated 21st June 1866, from the Officer Commanding Saugor District, to Quarter Master General, and enclosures.

Memorandum No. 1,776, dated 3rd July 1866, from the Quarter Master General, to Officer Commanding Saugor District.

Letter No. 130, dated 4th August 1866, from Officer Commanding Saugor District, to Quarter Master General, and enclosures.

Letter No. 2,372, dated 16th August 1866, from Quarter Master General, to Officer Commanding Saugor District.

Regarding the construction of quarters for Staff Serjeants of the 32nd Madras Native Infantry.

Copy of a Memorandum from the Officer Commanding Saugor District, dated 21st June 1866, No. 102; to the Quarter Master General.

Copy of No. 192, dated Adjutant General's Office, Ootacamund, 26th May 1866, forwarded for submission to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with a view to orders being obtained as to whether Staff Serjeants' quarters shall be erected in the new Native Infantry lines at Saugor, it being understood that it is in contemplation to relieve the Madras troops at no distant period by Bengal Regiments, to which European Staff Serjeants are no longer attached.

The cost of the two quarters is estimated at 4,800 Rupees.

Copy of a Memorandum from the Adjutant General, Ootacamund, 26th May 1866, No. 192, to the Quarter Master General.

The Quarter Master General is informed that the Madras Army not having been made "Irregular," two European Staff Serjeants are still on the strength of each Corps. Quarters should therefore, be provided for the Staff Serjeants attached to the 32nd Regiment Native Infantry.

Copy of a Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, Ootacamund, 28th May 1866, No. 161; to the Officer Commanding Saugor District.

Forwarded to the Officer Commanding Saugor District, in reply to his letter, No. 69, dated 11th instant.

Copy of a Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, Simla, 3rd July 1866, No. 1,776; to the Officer Commanding Saugor District.

1. With reference to his Memorandum, No. 102, dated 21st June current, and annexures, is requested to state the authority under which it is supposed that the Madras troops at Saugor are about to be relieved by Bengal Regiments, as no correspondence relating thereto can be traced in this office.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th February 1867.

2. Information is also desired as to the manner in which the Staff Serjeants have heretofore been provided with quarters, and whether such cannot be continued, or other temporary accommodation provided, so as not to interfere with the progress of the urgent Public Works at Saugor.

3. The Superintending Engineer's opinion to accompany the above called for report.

Copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding Saugor District, 4th August 1866, No. 130; to the Quarter Master General.

1. I have the honor, with reference to the 3rd paragraph of your letter, No. 1,776, of 3rd July, to forward a copy of the Memorandum, relative to the construction of quarters for Staff Serjeants of the 32nd Madras Native Infantry, submitted by the Superintendent of Works, in whose opinion I entirely concur.

2. I am not aware of the existence of any official correspondence which forms the ground for the report that the Madras Troops will be relieved at no distant period by Regiments from Bengal, but such report has existed here for some time and still continues to be believed, and should it be in contemplation to carry out that arrangement at any future period, I submit the construction of Staff Serjeants' quarters would be a very unnecessary expense, and could be avoided by transferring the Serjeants to some other Regiments in Madras, as I originally suggested to the Quarter Master General of that Presidency.

3. Staff Serjeants' quarters existed in the old Native Infantry Lines, which were of course occupied by the Non-Commissioned Officers of the 29th Madras Native Infantry while it was here. There being no other accommodation whatever available, the Staff Serjeants of the 32nd Native Infantry have been living in the same quarters, but as they are at least three-quarters of a mile from the new Lines, it is apparent that the services of these Serjeants are practically useless to the Regiment to which they belong.

Copy of a Memorandum from the Executive Engineer, Saugor District, Saugor, 23rd July 1866, No. 355; to the Superintendent of Works of Jubbulpore Circle.

All masons employed on other buildings no doubt tend, in a measure, to retard the progress of the new barracks, but it should be remembered that if ever the work of barracks were to come to a stand-still for want of timber or iron, it would be as well to have other buildings in progress upon which to employ masons, who have been collected for the new Barracks. As, however, the three Royal Artillery stables are now in progress the end required is obtained, and the undersigned would therefore recommend that, if possible, the construction of the 32nd Staff Serjeants, quarters should be deferred till the four new European Infantry Barracks are completed.

Copy of a Memorandum from the Superintendent of Works, 27th July 1866, No. 1,491; to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Saugor District.

Recommends that the construction of the Staff Serjeants' quarters be postponed for the present, so as in no way to retard the completion of new Barracks or Horse Artillery stables.

Copy of a letter from the Quarter Master General, Simla, 10th August 1866, No. 2,072; to the Officer Commanding Saugor District.

Letter No. 130, dated 4th August 1866, from Officer Commanding Saugor District, to Quarter Master General, and enclosure.
Relative to the construction of quarters for Staff Serjeants of the 32nd Madras Native Infantry.

Having submitted the correspondence noted marginally to the Commander-in-Chief, I am desired to acquaint you that His Excellency considers that all requirements of the service are fully met, and the Staff Serjeants attached to the 32nd Regiment Madras Infantry well provided for, in their existing quarters at Saugor.

Referred for the observations of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

13th November 1866.

From the Adjutant General, Fort Saint George, 7th January 1867, No. 9 ; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket, dated 13th November 1866, transmitting correspondence from the Government of India, relative to the proposed gradual absorption and ultimate abolition of the European Non-Commissioned Staff at present attached to Native Regiments, and to convey, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the views of the Commander-in-Chief on the subject.

2. The basis on which the above change is contemplated appears to be the altered condition of Regiments,—His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India being of opinion that "it is extremely questionable whether Staff Serjeants can be "of any use in Regiments no longer on the old regular footing.".

3. With reference to the above, Sir Gaspard LeMarchant observes that the Madras Army is not assumed to be on the irregular footing.

4. Under orders from the Secretary of State for India, it has been clearly impressed on the minds of all that the irregular system has not been introduced—simply a new organization affecting Officers alone.

5. It would, therefore, be consonant to the Commander-in-Chief's wishes to retain both the Staff Serjeants ; but, as the question has been raised, His Excellency is not inclined to oppose the suggestion of the Supreme Government, as far as Serjeant Majors are concerned.

6. As regards Quarter Master Serjeants, their retention is strongly advocated. To give over charge of all arms and ammunition to a Native Non-Commissioned Officer might be attended with evil, and the cause of serious difficulties hereafter.

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1. His Excellency the Governor General in Council having expressed the opinion that the European Non-Commissioned Staff attached to Native Infantry Corps in this Presidency should be gradually adsorbed, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council accordingly directs that the measure be carried into effect as casualties occur.

2. Adverting, however, to the views expressed in paragraph 6 of the Adjutant General's letter above recorded, in which the Government is disposed generally to concur, the absorption will be carried out, first, in the grade of Serjeant Majors retaining the grade of Quarter Master Serjeants with Corps so long as their services can be made available by postings from the existing rolls of Non-Commissioned Staff—no new appointments being admissible pending the receipt of further instructions from the Government of India, for whose consideration and orders the views and wishes of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be submitted.

To the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, M. D. | Here enter 30th January 1867, No. 377.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 240. ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1867, No. 436.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 20.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers, with reference to paragraph 40 of the Orders on the Public Works Budget for the ensuing official year.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineers, with Military Order No. 376 of 1867.

436 & 436

Communicated to the Superintendent with reference to para 40 of the Orders on the Budget for the ensuing year.

W. Seymour

W. Seymour - with Mr Cole's No 376 of 1867

Sept 15/2/67

Grant St George 11th Sept 1867

Lieut.

Millington Col. Genl

Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
Quarter Master General.
Controller of Military Accounts.
:: :: Superintendent

Ord. A-W. Cocle.

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William Peel