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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2158	Press ~~Mis.~~
60-61	
Dated 3 - 7	1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd July 1869.*

No 60. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 14th June 1869, No 2,227 —

Read the following papers —

From the Adjutant General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, dated Head quarters, Coonoor, 22nd May 1869, No 66.

I HAVE the honour, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the consideration of Government, letter, dated 26th April 1869, from the Commandant Sappers and Miners, number and subject as per margin.

2 Lieutenant-Colonel Prendergast suggests that a certain number of Engineer Officers may be sent out annually for the Sappers and Miners

3. Paragraph 2, Section II, of Royal Engineer Orders, dated Horse Guards, 1st July 1862, directs that, "as a rule young Officers of Engineers join the Headquarters of the Sappers and Miners on arrival in an Indian Presidency, and "serve with them until transferred to some other duty at their own request;" but for some years past this rule has been discontinued, and these Officers have at once been nominated to appointments in the Public Works Department

4 There are no qualified Captains or Subalterns of the Staff Corps or Local Service available for appointment to the Sappers and Miners as formerly, all Officers being required for Regimental appointments His Excellency, therefore, recommends that Government may be moved to request the Home authorities to send out Royal Engineer Officers to be appointed to the Sappers, and that the ruling of Horse Guards' Order, dated 1st July 1862, paragraph 2, Section II, may be carried out in the case of every Officer of Royal Engineers arriving at Madras hereafter.

From the Commandant, Madras Sappers and Miners, to the Adjutant-General, Fort Saint George, dated Bangalore, 26th April 1869, No 416

I HAVE the honour to request that you will do me the favour to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the following statement, regarding the paucity of Officers now serving with the Madras Sappers and Miners, with a view to measures being taken for attaching an adequate number of Officers to the Corps

2 The establishment consists of—

1 Commandant from Engineers

1 Adjutant, Lieutenant Hamilton, Royal Engineers.

1 Quartermaster, Lieutenant Matthias, Staff Corps

E Company Officer (by special orders of Government) 1 Major Wetherall, Staff Corps.

F. do do. do 2 Major Strickland, do

I do do. do 3 Captain Dakeyne, do

K do do. do 4 do Elliott, Madras Native Infy.

D. do do. do 5 do McGoun, Staff Corps

A do do. do 6 do Crawford, do

C. do do. do 7 do Bird do

G do do. do 8 Lieut Morris, Royal Engineers

H do do. do 9 do Cunningham, do

B do do. do No Officer.

11 vacancies

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd July 1869.*

3 Of the nine Company Officers, two are Majors, and are avowedly only retained as a temporary measure. In less than a year, the third will be a Major. A fourth will be a candidate for furlough to Europe, and Lieutenant Morris will complete his tour of service in India; so that, at the commencement of the official year 1870-71, if there be no casualties, four permanent Company Officers will remain with the Sappers and Miners, of which three are Captains in the Staff Corps, and one is a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers.

4 In Memorandum, No 422, dated 14th July 1866, from the Adjutant-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, "the Commander-in-Chief begs to bring to the

* At that time there were eleven vacancies.

notice of Government that it is most necessary that some measures should at once be adopted for efficiently officering the Corps of Sappers and Miners, and the way of doing so is unquestionably by nominating Engineer Officers to the Corps."

5 The complement of the Bengal Sappers and Miners is fixed by G O G G, No 816, dated 25th August 1865, at nine Officers, and as the whole Corps is usually with the Head-

A Company Bangoon.
B } " Lucknow
K } " Bellary
C } " Secunderabad
D } " " "
G } " " "
H } " " "
E } " " "
I } " " "

quarters at Roorkee, a great number of Officers does not seem so requisite as with the Madras Sapper-, from whose Head-quarters at this moment no less than six detachments are absent, yet the Army List of April 1869 shows that upwards of twenty Engineer Officers, besides the Quartermaster, who is a Staff Corps Officer, are

now with the Bengal Sappers and Miners. The number of Officers at Head-quarters is probably the result of a rule similar to paragraph 22 Section XXXV of the Madras Regulations being in force in Bengal.

6 If paragraph 22, Section XXXV. of the Madras Regulations, which directs that "every Engineer Officer upon his first arrival in India is to be posted to the Corps of Sappers and Miners, and to join at Head-quarters, where he is to do duty until reported by the Commanding Officer to be qualified for detached employment" were enforced, the Corps of Sappers and Miners would benefit by the services of the young Officers of the Royal Engineers, and the Officers would have the advantage of studying the languages of India, and observing the manners and methods of work adopted by the Natives before being entrusted with the conduct of engineering operations.

7 In Department Public Works, G O, 30th July 1866, No 2,394, paragraph 2, it is stated that application has been made to the Home Government to send out a certain number of Officers of Royal Engineers every year for employment in the Department of Public Works, but no mention is made of the number of Royal Engineer Officers required for Military duty with the Sappers and Miners.

8 To an ambitious Soldier, few more tempting careers can be held out than a tour of service with the Madras Sappers. Had any Engineer Officer who arrived in this country in 1851,

† Burmah
Persia
Mutiny War
China
Abyssinia

1852, remained with the Sappers till now, he would, in all probability, have already gained five† war medals, besides any special rewards that he might have earned for himself. In the hope of maintaining the prestige of the Corps,

and of emulating the deeds of the Sappers in former wars, it may be assumed that many young Officers of the Royal Engineers will elect for Military service with the Madras Sappers, if the option of joining this Corps be granted to them.

9 I most earnestly entreat that Government may be moved to request the Secretary of State for India to cause a certain number of Officers of Royal Engineers to be sent out every year, for

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd July 1869.*

Memorandum from Adjutant General, to Secretary to Government, Military Department, No 422, dated 14th July 1869,

employment with the Sappers and Miners, and that the number so sent out in this year may be unusually great, as "the Regiment is much under-officered for its efficiency, being short of its complement by eleven."

UNDER the circumstances brought to notice in the foregoing letter, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council resolves that until further orders, all young Officers of Royal Engineers shall, on first arrival in this Presidency, be placed under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for employment with the Sappers and Miners.

2 Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

To the Offg Secy to the Govt. of India, Mily } Here enter 14th June 1869, No. 2,228.
Dept.

(True Extract)

(Signed) A WILDE, Colonel,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

No 61. ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1869, No. 2,158

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 6

Order to be recorded.

(True Extract)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts

" Officer in charge of Public Works operations Wynaad.

Exd F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1869 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS

&c, &c, &c

Dated July, 3rd

Recd

Enc.

G. O, 3rd July 1869, No 2,158.

JULY.

Nos. 60-61

Officer of Royal Engineers—Proceeding
Military Department directing that until
further orders, all young Officers of Royal
Engineers shall, on first arrival in this Pres-
idency, be placed under the orders of His
Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for
employment with the Sappers and Miners
recorded.

[Handwritten notes and signatures in the right margin, including "1869", "July 3rd", and "G.O. No. 2158"]

P. W. D. 1869
From *Pro. of Fort St. George*
2994
The Superintending Engineer
3rd Division.

To,
The *Secretary of Govt*
P. W. D.
Fort Saint George

No. 1263

Dated *14* } *July* 1869
Received *15* }

Requests an extra
amount of Rs 200 per
mile for keeping the
Trunk Road No. XVIII open
for 27 miles in the Pal
lary District.
28.2.11-25 July 1869

No 613

Officer of Royal Engineers—Pro
Military Department directing the
further orders, all young Officers
Engineers shall, on first arrival in the
agency, be placed under the order
Excellency the Commander-in-Chief
employment with the Sappers and
recorded.

File

21 *Encl.*
No 2158

Ordered to be recorded

Fort St. George
3rd July 1869

[Signature]

55 The Sup^d Engineer
+ - - (introduction of the amount)
Major *Reynolds*

14
15 *Sept 5/7/69*

Cue 2550
Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To *The Superintendent
Engineers*

Dated

Ac, Ac, Ac

Recd

G O. 1st Feb 5 1869, No 2158

Nos. 60-61

Offr of Royal Engrs P. 100 July
Refers directing that, until fur-
ther orders, all young *Offrs of Royal
Engrs* shall on first arrival
in this Presidency, be placed under
the orders of His Ex. the Commander-
in-Chief, for employment with
the M. Records.

Officer of Royal Engineers—The
Military Department directing
further orders, all young Officers
Engineers shall, on first arrival in
Presidency, be placed under the orders
of His Excellency the Commander-in-
Chief for employment with the Sappers and
recorded.