

(1) Number of pages _____
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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	802	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
295-297		
Dated	14-3	18/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following letters:—

No. 295. From the District Engineer, Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Vizianagram, 2nd February 1873, No. A/3.

I HAVE the honour to report the occurrence of a most lamentable accident, by which sixteen* persons lost their lives

* Four men and twelve women.

and five were wounded, on the 22nd

ultimo, at a place about 40 miles to the north of Vizagapatam, on the road from Vizianagram to Bowdara.

2. The site of the gravel pit in which the accident occurred was about 200 yards from the ruins of the old Mardam bridge on the western side. The pit itself is surrounded by jungle, which I have no doubt concealed from the workmen the boulder of rock mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Executive Engineer's report.

3. The road at that place runs along the foot of a range of low hills covered with thick jungle, and at the time of the accident a large party of coolies, about 45 in number, were supplying gravel for the repairs of the 400 yards of road in its immediate vicinity by task work.

4. By the evidence collected on the spot it appears that notwithstanding repeated warnings the coolies had, in the absence of the Gumastah, for their own convenience undermined part of the hill side; and the presence of the large boulder of rock in the red clay above the side of the pit that gave way accelerated the catastrophe.

5. I do not consider that the Overseer is to blame in the matter. It is true he had not inspected the pit since work was recommenced there at the end of November, after an interval of several months; but the Overseer's charges in this district are so extensive, there being only six*

* Three Imperial and three Local.

Overseers to an area of 5,400 square

miles, that it is manifestly impossible to have each gravel pit frequently inspected, and he was on his way to the place when the accident occurred.

6. The pit was in the side of the hill; the coolies were warned not to undermine the sides, and they did so in the absence of the Peon or Maistry, who superintended the repairs, on the side towards the hill, where there was of course the greatest danger.

7. This report has been delayed in consequence of the absence of the Executive Engineer on special duty at the most distant part of his large range.

8. I have not yet been able to get a copy of the Proceedings of the Coroner's Inquest, but will forward it as soon as possible. I send off this report now without it because there has already been much but unavoidable delay, and it is accompanied by the report of the Range Officer and that of the Tahsildar to the Assistant Magistrate

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th March 1873.*

No. 296. From the same Officer, dated Camp at Salur, 18th February 1873,
No. 401.

In continuation of my letter No. A/3, of 2nd February 1873, I have the
honour to forward you herewith a copy
1 Proceedings of the Court of Inquest. and translation of the Proceedings of
1 Police Charge Sheet. the Court of Inquest held on the bodies
of the persons who lost their lives at the recent accident near Mardam on the
Bowdara Road.

2. The submission of this document has been greatly delayed owing to my
absence in the Jeypore country with the Inspecting Engineer for Ports and
Communications.

No. 297. ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1873, No. 802.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 37.

ORDERED to be recorded.

2. The Gumastah Veesana and Peon
Nursimloo have clearly disregarded the
orders against undermining the sides of pits. Their services should be dispensed
with.

3. The attention of all Officers and Subordinates of the Department will
again be called to the subject, and they will be instructed to take every precaution
against a practice which in this instance has cost no less than sixteen coolies
their lives.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings.

" " " for Ports and Communications.

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To District Engineers.

To Major R. B. Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

No 5
To

The Assistant Magistrate
Vizagapatam

Most Honored Sir

At 5 P. M. the 22nd Instant while
some coolies employed on the repairs of the
road from Vizianagram to Bowdara
under the public works Department were
digging gravel out of a pit near Mushimipuz
of my Talug 16 of them (Men & women) were
crushed under the weight of a mould, 10
yards long on the eastern edge of the pit
Five wounded were taken out. The report
of the Panchayet submitted together with that
of the Police might have reached your honor
I went to the locality and to took oral in-
formation from the Coolies then working
there. The pit was 5 yards deep and 60 in
circumference. It was reported that the
H^d Cooly had ordered the Coolies to dig up
gravel near the east end of the pit and then
went to certain other places where work was
then in progress on that road. On his
return in the evening he called out the

jungle

Coolies to be numbered when he found that one yard of mould had already been undermined; for the convenience of Coolies, and to save time they had dug up at the bottom of the same place. The ground there being somewhat moist the upper edge fell down.

The Gumnastah in charge of these works was on the 21st & 22nd instant Superintending the works of my office Bungalow at Srungarapukotah but never went to that place. It appeared that the death had been occasioned by the Coolies own proceedings and by the will of God.

I told the overseer and the Gumnastah not to continue work any more in that gravel pit but to dig up the same somewhere else. I therefore beg to bring all this into your honors notice.

/s/ Summalapully Subbarao

3rd Class Magistrate

(True Translation)

/s/ P. W. Subbiah
Taluk Officer

(True Copy)

/s/ Beatty Major Rf

District Engineer, Vizagapatam

District Engineer's Office
Camp, Vizianagram

2nd February 1873

From

The District Engineer
Vizagapatam

To
The Secretary to Government, D. P. O.
Fort Saint George

I have the honor to report the occurrence of a most lamentable accident, by which 16 persons lost their lives and 5 were wounded on the 22nd ultimo, at a place about 40 miles to the north of Vizagapatam, on the road from Vizianagram to Bowdara.

2. The site of the gravel pit in which the accident occurred was about 200 yards from the ruin of the old Mardam bridge, on the western side. The pit itself is surrounded by jungle, which I have no doubt concealed from the workmen the boulder of rock mentioned in para 5 of the Executive Engineer's report.

3. The road at that place runs along the foot of a range of low hills, covered with thick jungle.

x 4 Men and
12 Women

jungle, and at the time of the accident a large party of coolies about 45 in number were supplying gravel for the repairs of the 400 yards of road in its immediate vicinity, by Tack work.

4. By the evidence collected on the spot it appears that, notwithstanding repeated warnings, the coolies had in the absence of the Gumastah, for their own convenience, undermined part of the hill side; and the presence of the large boulder of rock, in the red clay above the side of the pit that gave way, accelerated the catastrophe.

5. I do not consider that the overseer is to blame in the matter. It is true he had not inspected the pit since work was recommenced there at the end of November after an interval of several months; but the overseers' charges in this District are so extensive, there being only 6 overseers to an area of 5400 Square miles, that it is manifestly impossible to have each gravel pit frequently inspected, and he was on his way to the place where the accident occurred.

6. The pit was in the side of the hill, the coolies were warned not to undermine the sides, and they did so, in the absence of the peon or

Maistry who superintended the repairs, on the side towards the hill; where there was of course the greatest danger.

7. This report has been delayed in consequence of the absence of the Executive Engineer on special duty at the most distant part of his large Range.

8. I have not yet been able to get a copy of the proceedings of the Coroners' Inquest, but will forward it as soon as possible. I send off this report now without it, because there has already been much but unavoidable delay; and it is accompanied by the report of the Range Officer, and that of the Tahsildar to the Asst. Magistrate.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obdt. servant
F. Beatty. Major Rb.
District Engineer
Vizagapatam

* 3. Imperial
3. Local

[The page contains dense handwritten text in Telugu script, which is mostly illegible due to extreme fading and bleed-through from the reverse side.]

gravel

From Mr 867
The District Engineer
Vingachalam

To
The Secretary to Govt. D. C.
Washington

Dated 23.
Dec 10 } February 1878
N. A.
3

Reporting the occurrence of a most serious accident on a gravel pit on the Road from Burgamagnum to Bowdrie, by which 16 persons lost their lives and 5 were wounded.

61 March 1973
1050 Feb 11/73 CR. 115

Ch 802-14, Abundant 1950

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Free

- 23rd January 1873
1. Yallai Paupoo Naidu of Madupanda
 1. Challapureddy Appala Naidu of Thatipudi
 1. Lomila Kanniah of Mooshenepully
 1. Pantanapu Gallundora of
 1. Vooramoo Nagooloo of Chinakundipully

Punchayetnama drawn up by 5 Men

When the Police Inspector of the Srungarapulis-
tah, Talig and the Mansiff and Merasidar of
Mooshenepully were examining, at 2 o'clock P.M.
of this date, the dead bodies of the persons whose
names are given below, in a gravel pit which
was being dug by the people of the Engineer Depart-
ment between Bowdara Road (north of Mooshenepully
and Guntacondah (near the river), we two, in com-
pany with them, examined the above dead bodies.
The heads, faces, backs, thighs of the dead bodies
were smashed. Gadala Paupoo had her legs also
broken. We did not find any blood on the dead
bodies. All the dead bodies had a pustuled
appearance. There were no indications of wounds
from edged instruments or from sticks.

2. The bodies bore traces of having been exhumed
from a gravel pit, being smeared and stained with
gravel

gravel; and the heads and faces being smashed, we conclude that these died from the falling in of the east bank of the gravel pit while at work. We examined the state of the gravel pit. The east bank of this pit appears to have given way for 10 yards in length.

3. On considering the reason as to why the bank gave way in this manner, we think, that it is owing to undermining the gravel at the bottom. The depth of this pit, at the eastern side, is 5 yards from the bottom to the top.

Names of Deceased.

1. Dacamurri Guravadu of Booradapad, Washer-
man Caste. Age 20 years. Male
2. Goodithy Seethadoo of Gopalapully Pariah
Caste. Age 16 years. Male
3. Synada Thammados of D. Pariah
Caste. Age 16 years. Male
4. Sempurapu Chendry of Vasady. Velama Caste
Age 20 years. Female
5. Sornapoddi, Gooriah of Booradapadu.
Weaver Caste. Age 12 years. Male
6. Daughter of Kappala Jaggunnaihoole named
Pydie of Booradapad, Weaver caste Age 10 years Female

7. Gondala Bungari of Vasady Pariah Caste
Age 25 years. Female
8. Lumbana Mookhee of Vasady Pariah Caste
Age 45 years. Female
9. Thada Atchee of Vasady Weaver Caste
Age 12 years. Female
10. Muddilah Atchee of D. Pariah Caste
Age 13 years. Female
11. Gadala paupa of Davatapallem Velama
Caste Age 12 years. Female
12. Daughter of Varray Appadu named Jeda-
ru Atchee of Madanapuram Velama Caste
Age 10 years. Female
13. Daughter of Synada Thamadu named
Dammidy Chinnee Voorapu. Atchee Voorapu
Seta of Gopalapully Pariah Caste Age 50
years. Female
14. Synadu Chinnee Voorapu Paupa of
Gopalapully Pariah Caste Age 20 years. Female
15. Vanapully Paupa of Vasady Pariah
Caste Age 25 years. Female
16. Vanapully Appy of Vasady Weaver
Caste Age 35 years. Female

(Signed)

(Signed) Yella. Paupoo Aaidoo

D. Chellapureddy Appala Aaidoo

Mark of Samila Kannyah

D. of Puntanapu Gallandora

D. of Vooramoo Nagooloo

(Signed) Vonuthuruvilly Nrusimhuloo

Merasedar of Mooshenepully

Mark of of Racota Dorappa

Village Munsiff.

(Signed) Soorabhee Rungiah

Inspector of Police

(True Copy)

(Signed) W. A. Willock

Asst. Magistrate

(True Translation)

L. Beatty Major Rb.

District Engineer.

Viragapattani

8th. 12. 90/13

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31/12/90

30. 2. 1960

[illegible]

Form N^o 43
Memorandum of crimes and other occurrences reported to the Magistrate by the Superintendent of Police in the District
of _____ on the _____ of _____ 187
23^d January 1873 Memo of crimes & other occurrences reported to the Magistrate by the Head constable of Srungarapukotah

23² January 1873 Memo of crimes & other occurrences reported to the Magistrate by the Head constable of Trungarapukotah

12

No. of occurrence		Date of occurrence	Salug Station Village	Nature of occurrence with concise detail	By whom Reported	Property			Persons			House		Remarks.							
Station House	District Office					Lost	Recovered	Concerned	Arrested	Sent to	Searched	House	Searched								
10		22-1-73	Near the Village of Mooshe- nepully	Accidental Death While the people of the Engineer Department were digging gravel from a pit north of Mooshe- nepully 16 persons as per annexed list were killed by the fall- ing in of the side.										The Police Inspector of the Division and 2nd class constables Nos 406 & 1198 went to the spot, where the accident occurred, and after investigating the particulars affecting the case, inform- ed me that while 24 persons were working in the gravel pit the eastern side gave way, in consequence of which the persons from Nos 1 to 16 met their death and that numbers 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21 received slight wounds on their heads while running out of the pit. There was gravel over the dead bodies to a depth of 5 feet which was removed and the enclosed Panchayetnama was then drawn up. (Signed) Coda Audiah 1st Class 2nd Constable (True copy) / s/ W. A. Willock Sub. Magistrate (True Translation) P. B. S. Major R. B. District Engineer Vizagapatam							
														1. Dacamarry Eurooradu 2. Kanethy Bethadoo 3. Synada Namadu 4. Seripoorappu Chendri 5. Lornapooddy Gooriah 6. Daughter of Kappala Juggenaiikloo named Pydee 7. Gondala Bungari 8. Lumbana Mooshe 9. The da Atchee 10. Mattala Atchee 11. Gadala Paupa 12. Bundara Atchee 13. Damedy Chinnee Voorapui Akhee Voorapui Seta 14. Synada Chinnee Voorapui Paupa 15. Wakapally Paupa 16. Wanapally Apper 17. Corla Paradassy 18. Cottana Butchee 19. Gondala Ramoodu 20. Soora Butchee 21. Synada Apper							

District Engineers Office
Camp Salur 18th February 1873

No. 401

From

The District Engineer
Viragapatam

To

The Secretary to Government D. P. W.
Madras.

Sir

In continuation of my letter No. $\frac{A}{3}$ of
2nd February 1873 I have the honor to forward
you herewith a copy, and translation, of the pro-
ceedings of the Court of Inquest held on the bodies
of the persons who lost their lives at the recent acci-
dent near Mardam on the Bowdara Road.

2. The submission of this document has been
greatly delayed owing to my absence in the Jeypore
country with the Inspecting Engineer for Ports and
Communications.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obdt. Servant,
L. Beatty. Major Rb.
District Engineer
Viragapatam

1. Proceedings of
the Court of
Inquest

1. Police charge
Sheet

P.O. 1299/73

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Handwritten text in the top right corner, possibly a date or reference.

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Letter from the District Engineer
Vizagapatam, dated 2^d February 1873, No. $\frac{A}{3}$.

Circulated for
information pending
further report.

 J. Munro Col. R.E.
Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

Received by
The District Engineer
Vizagapatam

To
The Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.
Madras

Dated 18th February 1873
No. 261. P.W.D.
Encl. 2

In continuation of letter
No. 2 of 2^d February has the
honor to submit proceedings
of the Court of inquiry into
case of the recent accident
near Madras.

No 802-10 "Madras" 173.

No 298
101 March 173

802 Public Works Dept.
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Read the following

From,

The District Engineer

Vizagapatam

Do

Do

(H. E. No. 3 of 2nd July 1913)

Ordered to be
recorded.

The Gomastah
Veerna, and
peon Musimloo
have clearly
disregarded
the orders as
issued under
mining the

W.E.

SD 2 - 14 kach

The codes of Juto.
Their services
should be dis-
pensued with.

The attention
of all officers
& subordinates
of the Dept will
again be called
to the subject,
and they will
be instructed
to take every
precaution to
prevent a prac-
tice which in
this instance
has cost us less
than 10 lives
their lives.

Yours

Respectfully, for Buildings
As. Porto & communication
Chief Eng for Bldg. S
H. Eng. S
Major Henry S

Dec 2 19/3/73

61st Mar 173

Ck 87

Genl. of 1873

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Inspecting Eng.
for buildings
for ports &
Communication

G. O. 14 March 1873.

Nos. 295-297

Accident. Passing

orders in reports, Mr.
mitted by the O. Eng.,
of a fatal accident
on the Samdara
Coast in the Vigna.
Baham B.

61st March 73