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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	25-24	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5-9-1954	6874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th September 1874.*

No. 119. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 13th June 1874, No. 1,867.

Read the following papers:—

Docket from Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 16th May 1874.

REFERRED to the Military Department, with the remark that unless the same rules are made to regulate promotion to the Warrant grade in the Sappers and Miners as in the Department Public Works, those officers who rise in the latter would appear to serve under less favorable conditions than those who have remained in the former.

From Conductor G. E. WIFFEN, Sub-Engineer, in charge of No. 1 or Cuddalore Range, South Arcot District, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated Cuddalore, 8th May 1874, No. 64.

I beg respectfully to bring to your notice that I find by the last Army List, that Conductor Jackson has been placed my senior in the warrant grade, and as I consider I have been

Enclosure one.

superseded I beg to lay the following facts before you.

2. With reference to a Government* order, a subordinate of the department has to serve fifteen years of actual service, of which five

* The files for 1857 not being in either the District Engineer or my office, not able to give No. and date.

years must be as Serjeant, before he is entitled to get the warrant grade; I served that length

of time before I was promoted to Sub-Conductor: I entered the army in August 1851, and was promoted to Serjeant Major, Sappers and Miners, in 1854, entered the Department Public Works, 1856, and obtained my warrant in August 1864, the two years Her Majesty gave all soldiers volunteering for general service was, by order of Government, allowed to count towards actual service; Conductor Jackson entered the army on the 18th April 1855, and was made Conductor from Serjeant in the Corps of Sappers in September 1863, his promotion was for no particular service rendered, but to fill the vacancy caused by a death. The warrant in the corps is given to a Serjeant serving in the corps at the time, and not to the senior Serjeant in the department, and it is on these grounds that I respectfully beg to say I consider I should not be superseded by Conductor Jackson, who only served eight years when he got his warrant, while I was by the orders of the Government obliged to serve fifteen on account of being in the Department Public Works; I now most respectfully beg you will reconsider my claims as to seniority in the warrant grade.

REFERRED to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

21st May 1874.

From Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Adjutant General, to Colonel A. C. SILVER, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 30th May 1874, No. 141.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum, dated 21st May 1874, referring letter No. 64, of the 8th idem, from Conductor and Sub-Engineer G. E. Wiffen, Department Public Works, and, in reply, to state that a similar reference was made by this warrant officer in his letter No. 678, dated 19th October 1872, to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, recorded and referred to the Commander-in-Chief in Proceedings of Government, dated 7th November 1872,

and His Excellency's observations on that application were conveyed to Government in letter No. 582, dated 14th November 1872, from this department.

2. The position of Conductor Jackson on the list of warrant officers of the Public Works Department is strictly in accordance with the ruling in the order of Government in the Department Public Works, No. 1,827 of 2nd August 1872, and this ruling, I am to observe, is also in keeping with the custom of the service in the matter of promotion in the ordnance department, with respect to Troop Quarter Masters, who were brought on the list of warrant officers in that department, according to date of rank, and then were promoted to the higher grades of warrant officers, according to seniority.

3. Conductor Jackson is Conductor Wiffen's senior as a warrant officer, and therefore it is considered that the latter has no just ground for complaint.

4. Sir F. P. Haines is of opinion that if changes of promotion can be secured on any slight pretext, there will continually be applications of this nature, and as a consequence, nothing but dissatisfaction among the warrant officers—I am however to state that where there are just complaints, His Excellency is willing to give his support, but in this case there seems to be none which calls for his recommendation to disturb the existing arrangements by which Conductor Wiffen was placed below Conductor Jackson.

ORDERED that the Adjutant-General's letter above recorded, be communicated to the Public Works Department, with reference to Proceedings of Government, 22nd November 1872, No. 3,710.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M.D.

No. 120.

ORDER THEREON, 5th September 1874, No. 2,524.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 8.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that the excellent departmental service of Mr. Conductor Wiffen cannot prevent his supersession by Mr. Conductor Jackson in attaining an Honorary Commission, inasmuch as the latter officer received his warrant before him. But to make some amends for his disappointment, and in consideration of his meritorious departmental service, His Excellency in Council is pleased to anticipate the departmental promotion which his next step of Military rank will give him, by admitting him to the Engineer Establishment, with rank of 1st Assistant Engineer, from the date on which Mr. Hannan may avail himself of the furlough to which he has been gazetted.

2. The discussion of this case having elicited the fact that warrant rank is obtainable by Serjeants of Sappers in much less time than it can be attained by Serjeants on the Public Works Establishment, the following rules are approved as necessary to guard the interests of the latter, who are otherwise liable to super-

session on the warrant list of their own department by men who join it under more favorable circumstances:—

1. In the event of a Conductor of Sappers and Miners being transferred to the Public Works Department he shall be graded below all Conductors in that department whose total service, whether in the Army or the department, exceeds his own service in the Sappers and Miners.
2. All Sub-Conductors in the Department of Public Works whose service whether in the Army or Public Works Department exceeds that of the Conductor so transferred shall on promotion to Conductor pass over the Conductor transferred, and be graded above him for the purpose of promotion to the higher warrant grades.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To District Engineers.

To the Executive Engineer, Wynaad.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Public Works Deptt.
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following
Papers from the Public
Departts (F.C. to 1867) dated
13 June 1874

G.O. No 2524

21/8

His Excellency the
Governor in Council
regrets that the excellent
departmental service of
Mr Conductor Driffen
cannot prevent his
supercession by Mr
Conductor Jack Rean
in attaining an Hono-
rary Commission;
inasmuch as the latter
officer received his War-
rant before him.
But to make some
amends for his disappoint-
ment and in consideration

I don't think that it is ad-
visable to make a list of
approved cases. The rule
is to be treated as precedents
and in consequence of this
that it is unusual to the pub-
lic service in general.

I do not object to the
alteration of rule so far as
I understood it - as Col
Walker has it will not add
in any way the cost of the
Dept. will be fair to all
rank. - vide D.O. 18/8.

21/8

I think he is very

of his meritorious se-
- fragmental service
His Excellency in Council
is pleased to anticipate
the departmental pro-
- motion which his
next step of military
rank will give him,
by admitting him to the
Engineers Establishment
with rank of 1st Assistant
Engineer from the date
on which Mr. Hannan
may avail himself
of the Furlough which
he has been gazetted.

The discussion of this
case having elicited
the fact that Warrant
Rank is obtainable

well the at. His
Wife's specially.
He is an excellent
man

LOS. 24/10

I think in my
apex of the Col-
Walker's judgment

24/8

15-8-74

21/10

by Sergeants of Sappers
in much less time than
it can be attained
by Sergeants on the
Public Works Estab-
- lishment the following
Rules are approved
as necessary to guard
the interests of the latter
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- able circumstances.

1- In the event of a
Conductor of Sappers
and Miners being trans-
- ferred to the Public
Works

1. If a Department he
shall be graded below
all Conductors in that
Department whose total
service, whether in the
Army or the Departt,
exceeds his own service
in the Lappers and miners.

2. All Sub Conductors
in the Department
of Public Works whose
service whether in the
Army or Public Works
Department exceeds
that of the Conductor
so transferred shall
on promotion to
Conductor pass over
the Conductor transferred,
and be graded above
him

him for the purpose
of promotion to the
higher warrant grades.
C.M.A.

31-5-74

180

To District Engineer
The Chief Engineer, Wymond
W. Controller
Military Dept
M.C. S. Capin despt 12/9/74
701 800 800 800 800 800

Colacamus
July 1874-7a

As representative of the
Department Public & Co the
Chief Engineer is constrained
to take up the case of Mr Conductor
Griffen and to observe that the
question now brought forward
was not mooted at the time L.C.
(Milly. Departt) No 3710 of 22nd
November 1872 was issued, as
supported in the Adjutant General's
letter No 141 of 30th May 1874. The
propriety of Conductor Jack Reon's
promotion to the Warrant Rank,
after an Army service of only 8
years and 5 months, performed
in the Corps of Sappers and Miners,
while Conductor Griffen (nearly 4
years his senior in the Army) had
to serve 13 years for his Warrant,

is

119-120.

See 15/7/74, Ref 27/7/74

is the point now in question.
The fact was not brought to notice
of the Chief Engineer when he wrote
his memorandum of the 18th June 1872.

Without the slightest dis-
paragement of Conductor Jackson
who has done credit to the Public
Works Department since he
entered it 2 years ago, the Chief
Engineer is bound to uphold
Conductor Whiffen's claims to pro-
motion as superior to his; in
consideration not only of most
exemplary conduct, but of con-
siderable ability, shown by him
during a Departmental Service
of 18 1/2 years.

Wm. R. C.
Chief Engineer
P.W.D.

Public Works Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Prop^d Milly Deptt - (Rd Coe 1869 dated
13th June 1874)
Rd

The correspondence above
quoted refers dealing with
Case of Conductor Whiffen
of the Dep^t of Public Works
proposed to be
is again referred to the
Military Dep^t with the
remark that the special
points of Conductor Whiffen's
letter appears to have

escaped the notice of the
Assistant General.
There is no question that

Conductor Jackson is senior
to Conductor Whiffen by Warrant
Rank & so long as the date
of his warrant holds good

he is entitled to be placed
above him. The hardship

What is the need of
this further delay?

It is also to be seen
for this reference - no doubt
Conductor Jackson had
fulfilled all the conditions
of his service which promoted
him to it. It would not have been
recommended by the Committee
in the 1867-68 or 1868-69
This is a mistake. It is a
very appreciable service a
man who has done a
great deal of work.

It should be
the Chief Engineer's
duty to see that
the case is properly
presented to the
proper authorities.

of the case as regards Conductors
Whiffen is that whereas
he as a subordinate in the
Public Works Department
was by rule obliged to complete
fifteen years of service
before he could obtain the
warrant grade, Conductor
Jackson serving in the
Sappers & Miners was exempt
from this rule & attained
his warrant rank after
eight years service.

Sergeant Whiffen was
Sergeant Major of Sappers
& Miners before Jackson
entered the service. His
grievance really is the
promotion of Sergeant Jackson
to the rank of Conductor in
September 1863 when he

had not attained the
warrant grade though
counting 15 years more
service than the former.

Henry Jackson, a
Conductor in the
Sappers & Miners
Department, is
promoted to the
rank of Conductor
in September 1863.

It is obvious that unless
the rules in the Sappers
& Miners & Public Works
Department are amended
this sort of case will repeat
itself.

4. It may be observed that
Conductor Whiffen has been
tardy in bringing forward
his case seeing that the
ground for doing so existed
as already observed in
1863. W.M.

I get them from Col
Newlin's report that
a man who stays
with the Sabers can
get his warrant after
8 yrs service - whereas
one who enters the O.M.
must first serve 15 yrs.

I presume there
are counterbalancing
advantages in the O.M.
which induce a man
to enter it - thus freeing
military rank & risk
-ing supersession.

If so, and if we
believe these are the
his claim is not worth
much.

But the general
question - whether the
disadvantage of the O.M.
remains - perhaps
this had better be referred
to the Council / 11.7.

Consideration of the question

How I & the Council
shall be guided

We can do nothing in
the matter of the
which seems to be in
accordance with the
Whitaker & what
means the Rules
should be altered
promptly, we can
discuss in Council

22/7
Success in the
aim - D

Chambers & Fred Matthews
saddled with a
Captain (consequently
military experience) who
a sound system of nature
employment of advantage
lead to a cheaper and
less efficient class of
men entering the O.M.
Sorrow for

W. Whitaker
1873.

The Statute book of
1873. Business is now

My dear

just received
some

The 2
Sept 1873

even

The
holder

of which

W. Whitaker

(6) Sept

to me

is the 3

of

13 below its proper com-
plement. He is far
superior in professional
attainments to many of
the other Conductors of
Sub Engineers in the Es-
tablishment, and will
do credit to the nomi-
nation. By deferring
his promotion till after
Mr. Hannum's going on
furlough, he does not
supercede those to
whom promotion to the
rank of Asst Engr. 1st Gr.
is due when the next pe-
riodical promotion takes
place on the 1st September.

G.M.W.
15.8.74

The Hon^{ble} Mr. Som^{ers} has
rightly apprehended the
point of this case; viz.
that a man who sets
his Warrant rank of-
fer 8 years comfortable
life with the Sappers,
comes into the P.W. Dept.
in a position given him
in the suppression that
he had earned his War-
rant after 15 years
service wh. is exacted
from all Mil^{itary} men in
the Pub. Work Dept. -
and he ends by super-
ceding at least 7 years
men senior to him
as Sapper Sergeant jumps
at once to the rank of
Conductor; i.e. P.W. Sergeant
only to that of Sub Conductor.

The Chief Engineer's Memo.
of 18th June 1872, para 3.
which is now quoted in
Mr. Jackson's memoirs,
was written in ignorance
of the fact that his pro-
position to the Warrent
Rank was not made
on the same terms as
that of Sub. Wth Sergeants.
Had that been understood
the C. E. would have
stated that Mr. Jackson's
term for permission to the
Departmental Rank of
Adj. Asst. Surg., & the rank
of Major would come
after permission of Mr. (a.
directed

G.M.W.
26.7.74

~~5410~~ 3734

JOINT. OF U.S. & CANADIAN

PUBLIC WORKS.



Desk. Engrs.
Soon

G. O. 5 Sept. No. 2524

Nov. 119. 120. 1-9-74

Conductor Wiffen ad
mitted to the Engineer.
Establishment with rank
of 1st Asst Engr from
the date on which Mr
Hannan may avail
himself of the Tenonche
to which he has been ap-
pointed & certain Rules
prescribed to regulate
future promotions to the
Warrant grade -