

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	610	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	9-3-	1874	
		-195-	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

C/S 115
Govt. of 1187-4 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To the District Engineer,
Madras

Encl. 1
No. 182 of 1874

Nos. 182 & 183
Fatal Accident. Report
a fatal accident to a
coolie in the Goodaloor
Ghaut Works on the
23rd Jan 74, recorded,
direction of gratuity to the
family of the deceased as he
was considered an acceptor
of the promised application
in the prescribed form.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th March 1874.

No. 182. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 31st January 1874, No. 4,525:—

It is with sincere regret that I have the honour to report a fatal accident on the Goodaloor Ghaut Works. The enclosed letter from Lieutenant Greer, R.E., under date 26th instant, No. 637, gives every information in regard to this unfortunate occurrence and leaves little therefore for me to add here.

2. I think it only due however to Lieutenant Greer to mention that the Government may feel satisfied that no precaution has been omitted on that officer's part to prevent such a catastrophe as that which has happened.

3. During my recent visit to the ghaut, on one day of which no less than 64 charges were successfully fired, I had the means of observing the practice in force, and of assuring myself that every precaution was taken, by duly warning the coolies at work, to prevent accident. Indeed all the working parties are kept under strict military discipline, and nothing but wilful disobedience of orders could have led to the disaster, nor, on the other hand, without such discipline, could so many hundred tons of rock have been blasted without any kind of accident whatever, as has been the case heretofore.

4. I have only in conclusion to add that the proceedings drawn up in the form given at page 383 of the Circular Standing Orders of the Public Works Department will be sent so soon as the same is received from the Executive Engineer on special duty.

From Lieutenant M. GREER, R.E., Executive Engineer on special duty, Madura District, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, dated Camp at Coomulie Tavalum, 26th January 1874, No. 637.

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that a cooly was hit by a stone and killed on the Goodaloor Ghaut works on the afternoon of the 22nd instant during blasting operations; there is no doubt his death was caused by his own recklessness, as there was a large tree within about 10 feet of him, behind which if he had only taken the trouble to place himself he would not have been hit, or even if he had only taken the precaution of looking at the place where the blasting was going on, he was at a sufficient distance (about 200 feet and a height of about 30 feet above the blasting point) to have removed to one side on seeing the stone (about 1rd cubic foot in size) coming towards him.

2. At the same time the cooly ought not to have been as close as he was, as my orders to Mr. Tapp, the person in charge of the blasting, and who actually sees every hole loaded and fired himself, are that "before setting fire to the fuze every one except the operator should be at least 200 yards distance, and men should be set on all sides to warn passers-by," but of course it was not intended that this rule was to be strictly adhered to when cover was obtainable at a closer distance; he says he screeched out for a couple of minutes that he was about to fire, but that owing to the thickness of the jungle he could not see whether all the coolies had gone a sufficient distance or not.

3. Having stated the above facts it is only necessary for me to state that one of the relations of the deceased, who was employed at another part of the works, says that one of the maistries, under whom the deceased was working, prevented him from going to a further distance; this the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th March 1874.

maistry denies, and from inquiries made by the Police, among the coolies, I believe the accusation to be unfounded; but even if it were true the maistry never prevented him from getting behind the tree which was within 10 feet of him, or of using his eyes.

4. The fact is that when I first commenced blasting operations here, about two years ago, it was as much as I could do to get coolies to believe that if they obeyed my instructions, or rather order, there would be no more danger in blasting than in felling trees, etc., but latterly they have got so accustomed to what is in reality a danger, if caution is not used, that rather than hide behind a tree (of which there are plenty in the jungle) or other cover, they stand exposed to see a sight that they believe to be as good as a display of fire works.

5. It is very unfortunate the above death happened just as I was congratulating myself that the Ghaut Works had been finished without a single accident.

6. In conclusion, I recommend that sanction of Rupees 45 (which is six months' pay) be granted to the widow of the deceased; he was about 18 years old, and married about six months.

No. 183.

ORDER THEREON, 9th March 1874, No. 610.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 12.

RECORDED. The question of a gratuity to the family of the deceased will be taken into consideration on the receipt

of the promised application in the prescribed form.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No. 637. Special Executive Officer
Camp Coomly, Sivalum
Dated 26th January 1874.
From The Executive Engineer
on Special Duty
Madura District
To The District Engineer
Madura District
Sir
It is with deep regret that
I have to inform you that a Cooly was
hit by a stone and killed on the
Goodaloor Ghaut works on the after-
noon of the 22nd instant during
blasting operations, there is no
doubt his death was caused by
his own recklessness as there was
a large tree within about 10 ft of him behind which
if he had only taken the trouble to place himself
he would not have been hit or even if he had
only taken the precaution of
looking at the place where the
blasting was going on he was at
a sufficient distance (about 200 feet
and a height of about 30 feet above
the blasting point) to have removed
to one side on seeing the stone about

- 1/2 cubic foot in size / coming towards him. —
2. At the same time the levolly ought not to have been as close as he was as my orders, to Mr. Tapp the person in charge of the blasting & who actually sees every hole loaded and fired himself are that "before setting fire to the fuzes every one except the operator should be at least 200 yards distance, & men should be set on all sides to warn passers by" — but of course it was not intended that this rule was to be strictly adhered to when cover was obtainable at a closer distance — he says he screeched out for a couple of minutes that he was about to fire but that owing to the thickness of the jungle he could not see whether all the Coolies had gone a sufficient distance or not. —
3. Having stated the above facts it is only necessary for me to state that one of the relations of the deceased who was employed at another part of the work says that one of the Maistries under whom the deceased was working prevented him from going

- going to a further distance. This the Maistry denies & from enquiries made by the Police among the Coolies I believe the accusation to be unfounded. But even if it were true the Maistry never prevented him from getting behind the tree which was within 10 feet of him or of moving his eyes. —
4. The fact is that when I first commenced Blasting Operations here about 2 years ago it was as much as I could do to get Coolies to believe that if they obeyed my instructions or rather orders there would be no more danger in blasting than in felling trees &c. but latterly they have got so accustomed to what is in reality a danger if caution is not used, that rather than hide behind a tree / of which there are plenty in the jungle / or other cover they stand exposed to see a sight that they believe to be as good as a display of fireworks.
5. It is very unfortunate the above death happened just as I was congratulating myself that the ghāt work had been finished with — out

= out a single accident.

6. In conclusion I recommend that sanction of Rupees 45 (which is six months pay) be granted to the widow of the deceased, he was about 18 years old and married about 6 months.

I have the

Signed / Macgregor Greer Lieut R
Exec: Judge on Special Duty
Madura District

/ True Copy /

Lieut Coll R
District Revenue of Madura.

Enclosure in a letter
from the District Engi-
-neer of Madras to the
Secretary to Government
dated 31st January 1874.
No. 4525.

Pl. 7 9th March/74
to M. 182 p. W. 615/74

Copy of a letter
from the Executive Eng-
-on Special duty Madras
to the District Engineer
of Madras dated 26
January/74 No. 637.

No. 4525 District Engineer's Office,
Madras 31st January 1874
From

Lieut. Col R. A. Roberts RE
District Engineer of Madras

Colonel G. W. Walker RE
Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

Sir

It is with sincere regret
that I have the honor to report a
fatal accident on the Goodaloor
Enclure 1. 1-Copy of letter to Lieut. Work. The enclosed letter from
from the Sec. Lieut. Green RE under date 26th Inst.
Engineer on Special Duty, Madras No. 637, gives every information in
No. 637 d/26-1-74 regard to this unfortunate occurrence
and leaves little therefore for me
to add here.

2. I think it only due,
however, to Lieut. Green to mention
that the Government may feel
satisfied that no precaution has
been omitted on that Officer's part
to prevent such a catastrophe as
that which has happened.

3. During my recent visit, to the Ghat, on one day of which no less than 64 charges were successfully fired, I had the means of observing the practice in force, & of assuring myself that every precaution was taken, by duly warning the Coolies at work, to prevent accident. Indeed all the working parties are kept under strict military discipline, and nothing but wilful disobedience of orders could have led to the disaster, not on the other hand, without such discipline, could so many hundred tons of rock have been blasted without any kind of accident whatever, as has been the case heretofore.

4. I have only in conclusion to add that the Proceedings drawn up in the Form given at page 383 of the Circular Standing Orders of the P. W. Department will

will be sent so soon as the same is received from the Executive Engineer on Special Duty.

I have the honor to be,

Sir
Your most Obedt Servt
Lieut Robert Licutt Collyer
District Engineer of
Madras.

