

(1) Number of pages 18

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.

519

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated

1. 8

1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1st August 1877, No. 519 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 11. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 14th July 1877, No. 4,050.

From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 11th July 1877, No. 346-4,875.

I HAVE the honor, by order, to forward, for the consideration of Government, a letter from the Commandant, Queen's Own Sappers and Miners, on the health and general condition of the British Non-commissioned Officers of the Royal Engineers employed on the Buckingham Canal.

2. A statement in one of the Madras papers on the mortality and sickness amongst these men led to the Commandant of the Sappers being called upon for a report on the subject, and for suggestions for the improvement of the condition of the men.

3. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief trusts that the recommendations in the enclosed letter will receive the attention of Government. British soldiers are, at all times, well cared for by the State, and, even amidst the hardships of actual warfare, great pains are taken to provide them with regular and good food. This is economical as well as humane, for the death of every British soldier causes a considerable pecuniary loss to Government.

4. It was these considerations that led His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, when giving the services of these Non-commissioned Officers for employment on the canal, to request that care should be taken to provide good food and other necessities for the men. (See letter No. 284, dated 13th January 1877, published in Proceedings of Madras Government, Public Works Department, 24th January 1877, No. 225.)

5. His Excellency desires to recommend, for the favorable consideration of Government, the suggestions at the end of Colonel Prendergast's letter, that the Europeans employed be treated liberally as regards pay and allowances and that rations be supplied them; also that Native Commissioned and Non-commissioned Officers of the Sappers be employed as Overseers.

From Colonel H. N. D. PRENDERGAST, R.E., v.c., c.b., Commandant, Queen's Own Sappers and Miners, to the Quartermaster-General, dated Bangalore, 7th July 1877, No. 971.

WITH reference to your letter, dated 29th June 1877, I have the honor to state, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that from what I saw in the Nellore District during my inspection of the "B" and "I" Companies of the Queen's Own Sappers and Miners, and from what I have heard from the Non-commissioned Officers lately returned from the Buckingham Canal, I am of opinion that the Civil Surgeon of Nellore has judged nearly correctly regarding the condition and the reasons for the ill-health of the establishment of the canal.

2. The following Non-commissioned Officers of the 42nd Company, Royal Engineers and Queen's Own Sappers and Miners, have been employed:—

Rank and Names.	Date of joining.	Left the Canal.	Remarks.
Serjeant Anderton ...	12th Nov. 1876...	...	
Do. Balding ...	1st Feb. 1877 ...	...	
Do. McCormack ...	1st " " ...	...	
Do. Bishop ...	8th Jan. " ...	...	
Do. Price ...	1st Feb. " ...	...	Died 21st June 1877.
Do. Bassett ...	22nd June " ...	...	
Corporal Ranson ...	6th Aug. 1876...	19th June 1877...	On three months' sick leave.
Do. Terry ...	1st Jan. 1877...	...	
Do. Knight ...	6th Aug. 1876...	...	Died 26th May 1877.
Do. Rawlings ...	12th Nov. " ...	12th June 1877...	On four months' sick leave.
Do. Dean ...	1st Feb. 1877...	...	
Do. Bailey ...	1st " " ...	...	Died 24th May 1877.
Do. Tizzard ...	1st " " ...	...	On two months' sick leave.
Do. Curtis ...	1st " " ...	24th April 1877.	On four months' sick leave.
Do. Rundle ...	16th June " ...	...	Wife and child died

Or excluding the two Non-commissioned Officers who joined in the last half of June. The Non-commissioned Officers, thirteen in number, have served on the canal for an average of about six months, during which time three have died, four are on sick leave, and the health of others is bad.

3. So far as I can judge the want of good food is the principal evil from which the Overseers have suffered; if they had been well fed some of those who have succumbed would probably have stood the hard work and exposure. All the Non-commissioned Officers who have returned state that they experienced great difficulty in obtaining supplies, and that prices of such things as could be procured were very high.

4. There is, I believe, only one way to secure good and ample food, and that is to pay for it. It is of little use to trust to the Revenue Department to aid in procuring food at a time when the Revenue Department is overwhelmed with other work. The sanitary condition of the Overseers is, I conceive, in a great measure the result of this confidence. I would suggest that proper provisions should be purchased at Nellore or Ongole and sent out by cart to the canal; probably one cart for each division on the canal every week would suffice. The cost to Government of carting rations to the head-quarters of each division, whence they might be distributed departmentally, would be trifling as compared to the loss caused by the deaths and ill-health of the Overseers, and it would seem just that European Non-commissioned Officers whose whole time is occupied with most arduous and important duties in connection with famine relief should themselves be protected from anxiety regarding food for themselves and their families.

5. If European Overseers cannot stand the want of food, exposure, and hard work that is required of them on the canal, the Officers commanding the "B" and "I" Companies of Sappers would doubtless be able to pick out Native Non-commissioned Officers who would perform the duties of Overseers, for the Native Sappers are in excellent health.

6. The Government of India found it economical to build permanent houses called chowkies at every 5th or 6th mile on the Ganges and Bara Doab Canals: they have terraced or tiled roofs, those of the first class are about 64 feet in length by 45 in width, and those of the second-class are about 40 feet square, while on the Buckingham Canal the Overseers have small mud huts with roofs of cadjans or palayra leaves. I mention this to show that everything on the East Coast Canal is done in the most thrifty way, and that there would, therefore, probably remain a margin for extra expenditure when necessary.

7. I would beg the favor of His Excellency's consideration of G.O.O., No. 1,124 of 1877. Serjeant McCormack. Do. Price. Do. Balding. Corporal Tizzard, sick leave. Do. Dean. Do. Bailey, dead. Do. Curtis, sick leave. Cholera, fever, and stroke. Wife and child dead. Rupees 60 Overseer's allowance and Rupees 20 double horse allowance as was shown by a subsequent letter from Mr. O'Shaughnessy, yet Corporal Tizzard who kept a pony was only allowed Rupees 60 a month and no horse allowance.

8. Corporal Tizzard claimed regimental pay as a Corporal of Royal Engineers, good conduct pay and batta, as he was only a temporary Overseer and might be remanded any day to his Company, but was only allowed the pay of a Line Corporal. The Corporal had to keep up a separate house for his family at Bangalore during his absence; he has completely broken down in health; in fact from his appearance his death seems to be imminent, and I know of no order by which a Corporal of Royal Engineers can be deprived of his Royal Engineer pay when temporarily employed by the Department Public Works. When the District Engineer asked for Non-commissioned Officers it was not settled whether they should be attached to companies or be detached as temporary Overseers, and hitherto temporary Overseers not on the Unattached List have always received Engineer's pay.

9. I would respectfully recommend that the Non-commissioned Officers shall be treated liberally as regards pay and allowances, considering the amount of sickness and death, perhaps the Wynaad allowances of 50 per cent. increase would not be excessive.

2nd.—That rations shall be supplied by Government to the men and families either gratis or on payment.

3rd.—That Native Non-commissioned Officers of Sappers shall be employed as Overseers if required to save European Non-commissioned Officers.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(By order.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1877, No. 519 W.

In G.O., No. 456 W, of the 20th July 1877, the Governor in Council entrusted to the care of the Collector of Nellore the difficult question of supplies. But he would again urge Mr. Grose to give his best attention to this subject, and to endeavor to arrange for the periodical transmission to the Non-commissioned Officers of those supplies which are needed to keep them in health and comfort.

2. Should the Collector find that he is unable to carry out the wishes of Government, should any difficulty in procuring the necessary provisions in the district arise, he should without loss of time communicate with Government.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.
" Collector of Nellore.
" Revenue Department.
" Military "

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies

Statement showing the amounts paid, and paid to Corporal Buzzard & to Corporal 3rd Grade employed in the East Coast of Canada, Yellow.

1877	Salaries 3 rd Grade	Military Pay	Amount Allowed	Debit to Horse Allowance	Debit to Single Horse Allowance	Total	
From 6 th to 25 th July 1877	29 40	28 70	11 22	-	12 50	94 10	Arrived at Yellow 1 st February 1877
March	30 00	30 00	11 90	23 37	-	119 11	On sick leave from 1 st to 23 rd March 1877 inclusive.
April	30 00	29 40	11 80	23 37	-	119 67	
May	30 00	30 00	-	-	-	60 00	On sick leave from 24 th April 1877 for 2 months and 2 days
June	30 00	29 40	-	-	-	59 40	
Still pay payable for a month of 30 days, suffering that no sickness is taken during the month.	60 00	29 40	-	30 00	-	119 40	When travelling in excess of 20 miles a day, by Road 2 annas and by Rail 15 annas - and if a tent is necessarily kept up he will be entitled to Rs 15 a month but horse allowance is not admissible in addition to the tentage. Prior to the last order in the subject, I am allowed Rs 15 would have been payable in addition.

GOVT.
OF MADRAS }

1877.

{ P.W.
DEPT.

EXAMINER, P. W. ACCOUNTS.

Madras. 13th July 1877.

OFFICE NOTE.

To Mr.

Recd Endorsement from letter
from the Quarter Master General
No. 4050 dated 11th July 1877.

The annexed statement
shows the amount passed to Corporal
Seymour for monthly from the date
of his arrival at Bellary to 30th June 1877.

The Military Pay of all
non-commissioned officers and soldiers
employed in the Public Works Department
is admitted by this office in accordance
with the scale prescribed by the Govt.
of India and printed with G.O. No. 117
of the 5th January 1877.

The full pay which would have
been passed to Corporal Seymour for an
entire month of 30 days is also shown,
supposing he had to have
been there.

Reference to Sec. XXII, Para
28, of Military Pay and Audit
Regulations will show that a soldier
on any duty other than Regimental
which gives him Staff pay, cannot
draw good conduct pay.

And 13.7.77.

Endorsement in the Military Department
No. 4050 dated 11th July 1877, on letter from
the Quarter Master General.

FOR ORDERS.

In continuation
of previous papers cir-
culated yesterday to the

Honble Mr. Hindleston.

The draft disposal of
those papers, written in

accordance with the remarks
of Government, and which

deputes to the judgment
and care of the Collector

the difficult question
of

I had passed on the
former papers before
the reached here.
I think the subject
for supplies need
have distinct instructions
have been given in
the draft. No. 117. Specially
deputes to the Collector
give his best attention
to the subject. And arrange
K.P.

of supplies runs counter
to the fifth paragraph
of Colonel Prendergast's
letter.

The proposal to raise
the pay of the Non-Com-
missioned Officers of the
Royal Engineers employed
on the Canal cannot be
entertained; this principle
has been laid down in
the draft above mentioned.

Edw. M. Col. P.E.

Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

for prudential transmission
to the M. Officers of the
Army and to keep them in
health & comfort.

Had not, try
a collection, seen
previous papers
but sent to the
all the news about
set at

26/7

Johnston has
been sent to
be sent to
the Govt.

Agreement with Mr. Huddell
but would add that I collect
that any difficulty in procuring the
necessary supplies in distant parts
at once communicate to Govt.

By 29/7

7/10/19

FOR ORDERS.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Head Quarters, Ootacamund,

11 July 1877.

No. 346.

4875

From

BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. O'CONNELL,

Quartermaster-General,

To

COLONEL J. MICHAEL, C.S.I.,

Secretary to Government,

Military Department.

Sir,

I have the honor, by order, to forward for the consideration of Government, a letter from the Commandant of Queen's Own Sappers and Miners on the health and general condition of the British Non-Commissioned Officers of the Royal Engineers employed on the Buckingham Canal.

2. A statement in one of the Madras papers on the mortality and sickness amongst these men, led to the Commandant of the Sappers being called upon for a report on the subject and for suggestions for the improvement of the condition of the men.

3. His Excellency the Commander in

519 W.

4012 August 17, 1877

4012 August 17, 1877

in. Chief trusts that the recommendations in the enclosed letter will receive the attention of Government. British Soldiers are, at all times, well cared for by the State, and, even amidst the hardships of actual warfare, great pains are taken to provide them with regular and good food. This is economical as well as humane, for the death of every British Soldier causes a considerable pecuniary loss to Government.

It was these considerations that led His Excellency the Commander in Chief, when giving the services of these Non-Commissioned Officers for employment on the Canal, to request that care should be taken to provide good food and other necessaries for the men. (See letter No 284 dated 13 January 1877, published in Proceedings of Madras Government Public Works Department 24 January 1877 No 225.)

His Excellency desires to recommend for the favorable consideration of

of Government the suggestions at the end of Colonel Prendergast's letter, that the Europeans employed be treated liberally as regards pay and allowances and that rations be supplied them. Also that Native Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Sappers be employed as Overseers.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
H. J. G. Smallbridge
Quartermaster General

PAFC.

Buildings & Roads
Civil works

No. 519 W. Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 1st Aug. 1877
Read the following:-

Enforcement in the Military Department
No. 4050, dated 14 July 1877, in letter from
the Quarter Master General.

In Government
Order No. 456 H of the
20th July, 1877, the Governor
in Council has en-
trusted to the care
of the Collector of
Nellore the difficult
questions of supplies.
But he would again
urge Mr. L. to give
his best attention to
this subject, and to
endeavour to arrange
for the periodical trans-
mission to the Non-
commissioned officers
of those supplies which

in 4 years
1877

16 JUL 77
6025

14 July 1877

1877
14th July

Military No. 4050
From the Quarter Master General
to the Secretary to Govt.

No. 346. 1877

No. 4050, forwarded
to the Public Works
Department.
(Copy only)
14 July 1877

Forwarded for
consideration of Govt.
a letter from the Comd.
of O. S. Engineers in
the North of the British
Non-Comd. Officers of
the Royal Engineers
employed in the Buckingham
Canal.

To C.
For Remarks with
reference to para 7 and
8 of Col. Pendergast's
letter.

16/7

25.1.77 No 328 hris
4.4 - 1124
11.6 - 242 W
24.1 - 225
Office note of Mr
4/18 July 1877

11 August 77

19/7

cat
30/7

1991

18925



GOVT. OF INDIA
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The D. C. Nellore

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 1st August 1877, No. 519 W

Nos. 11-12

Buckingham Canal
Instructions Collector of Nellore
to arrange for the periodical
transmission of such
supplies as are needed
& keep in health and
comfort the Non-Commissioned
Officers of Royal Engineer
employed on the —

For the D. C.

2nd D. C. 8-8-11
1st S. D. 1 Aug 11