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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PW DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2803 W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated 8-7-1878		197

(Signature)

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2303

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

8th July 1878, No. 2,803 W.

General
Establishment.

Read the following paper :—

No. 92. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Godavery District, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 21st June 1878, No. 941.

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, a report received from the Executive Engineer, Dumagudem Division, that One letter from the Executive Engineer, Dumagudem Division, No. 75, of 20th May 1878, with its enclosure, One Mr. Lyons' explanation. Color-Serjeant Lyons had been found drunk, and that he had called upon him for any statement or defence he might have to make.

2. I have good reason to believe that Mr. Lyons has previously been seen, on more than one occasion, in a disgraceful state of intoxication; that he is an habitual drunkard; and that all advice and warning is thrown away upon him.

3. I therefore directed Mr. Vanstavern to relieve him of all work and Government property, and to inform him that he has been suspended* pending the receipt of your instructions.

4. I send herewith Mr. Lyons' explanation dated 17th June, or about one month after he was called upon for it.

5. I am decidedly of opinion that his services in this department should now be dispensed with.

No. 93. ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1878, No. 2,803 W.

COLOR-SERGEANT T. LYONS will be remanded to military duty forthwith.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

(True Copy.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Godavery.
Military Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

Govt. of (1878) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
GODAVERY

1864 July 17

1. *Aspergillus*

Figure 4

H. O., 2nd Jan 1878, No. 2, 3rd 11

1022

000000

Color Sergeant T. L. Ingram, Goldsboro Dist.
1st - Remanding - to military duty.

125

Dumaguete
18th May 1878

From

M. Lyaswamy № 538
1st Class Hospital Assistant



The Executive Engineer
Demagundum Division

Li

In reply to your Docket
No. 74 I respectfully beg to report for
your information that I visited Sergeant
L. Lyons Overseer D. W. D. and found
him under the influence of liquor
I beg to remain

Chin

Your most obt. Servant
 (Signed) M. Sigismund
 1st Class Hosp. & Assistant
 Beaupiedum D. G. D.

(True Copy)

James T. Austin
Executive Engineer
Quincy, Mass. U.S.A.

1875

Dumagueta

20th May 1878

From

The Executive Engineer
Dumagueta Division

To

The Superintending Engineer
Godavery District

Sir

Referring to your D. O. I have the honor to inform you that Color Sergeant J. Lyons Overseer has been indulging in liquor 2/- On Saturday last he did not appear on his work and I heard that he had been drinking on enquiry at his dwelling in the afternoon I was informed that he had fever I then directed the Hospital Assistant to go and see him and report the condition he found him in I enclose a copy of the Hospital Assistant's letter to myself.

3/- Color Sergeant J. Lyons Overseer has been furnished with a copy of the letter

letter and called on for any explanation
he has to offer when received it will be for-
warded to you.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant.

Wm Stevenson
Executive Engineer
Dumagudem D. G. D.

in regard

has been including

deposited to D. G. D.

information that Col

subject

Recd 11th May 1898

Del 24/5/98

Secretary District

The Deputy Engineer

Dumagudem D. G. D.

No 506
To Mr. Stevenson

Bangalore
11th May 1898.

Mr. Lyons -

I am always sincerely pleased and
gratified to hear of the prosperity &
happiness of any of my old comrades
of the 89th, but more especially of one
with whom my duties, as Asst. of the
Regt., caused so intimate an acquaintance,
and of whom I formed so high an opinion
as yourself. —

Thank you very much for the kind
expressions of regard & congratulations
contained in your letter, (Recd 9th) also
for the photo you send me which I
recognize immediately. I regret I am

unable to return you one of mine, as
I have none by me at present. — That I
am not much changed however during
these last 6 yrs appears probable, as
several old soldiers, now in Bangalore,
of the 89th, have come up to exchange
greetings. — I hope to return to England
next year, for I presume intend making
this country your home for some years
at least, and you are no doubt
wise in doing so, for being still a
young man, and with your talents,
habits of industry &c. there is no doubt
a fair field for advancement open to
you here. As an old friend may I also
add, without offence, that I trust
the experience which years give one

of drink on the date in question, there is much
that I could say as to the cause that led to
this offence, and if I am permitted to offer

letter and called on for any explanation
he has to offer when received it will be for
and I hope

has taught you to be less sensitive,
impetuous & anxious for changes - more
patient in doubt. This para. will
perhaps bring you round the other,
or rather what might have been written
by our old friend Col. Boyle (since
his name with remembrance & love) but
I write it with every kindly feeling
as he might, and am sure you will
understand it.

Again thanking you for your very
kind remembrance of me, and wishing
you very heartily & warmly, good
health, happiness & prosperity always.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely
R. A. B. B. B. B. B.

Dunagudem
17th June 1878.

From

2803/6
Colon Sergeant T. Lyons
Overseer P. W. Deptt

To

The Executive Engineer
Dunagudem Division

Sir

In reply to your Memo of Saturday-
the 15th Instant, N: 119, forwarding copy of the Su-
perintending Engineer's Memo of 10th idem, N: 746,
I beg most respectfully to offer the following state-
ment - I do not wish to call it defence or ex-
planation because as to the actual fact of the
unfortunate occurrence referred to I have nothing
to say - which I trust will receive favourable
consideration.

2/- But although I have nothing to say as
to the actual fact of my being under the influence
of drink on the date in question, there is much
that I could say as to the cause that led to
this offence, and if I am permitted to offer

I can explain in the manner I shall describe
in this letter I am almost certain that the offence,
- however much it may be blamed, will be pardoned,
or at all events that it will not subject me to
the greatest penalty that can be inflicted, namely,
renewal to my regiment.

3/- The cause that led to my taking drink in
excess on the occasion in question were (1) Trouble,
and (2) Sickness, but the latter cause alone would
not have been sufficient to cause me to forget
myself, as I can bear bodily pain, but the
former, unfortunately for me, is what I can
badly bear against especially when I consider
the cause of it, as I do in this case, to be
quite undeserved.

4/- I will first explain the sickness:
From the time I enlisted 1864 to the time of
my coming to this country in 1870, I was one
of the most active soldiers in Great Britain
or Ireland. This may appear a doubtful
statement, but it is never-the-less quite true
as there were few, if any, who equalled me in
athletics during those years in any of the large
garrisons.

garrisons of England or Ireland: 3 3/4
5/- On coming to this country the change of
Climate and the want of exercise that I had
at home brought on an attack of, first is
Dyspepsia, and afterwards Dysentery and
for two years and six months after coming to
to the country, or up to the time I left the
Civil Engineering College, I suffered
continually - as probably, for ever suffered
who lived - from those diseases. At the final
examination of my class I was unable to
attend and joined the Public Works De-
partment without passing the final ex-
amination, a Certificate being given me
on my college Course books.

6/- The Dysentery took such hold of me that
I never properly got rid of it and ever since
then I am subject to attacks, with the
greatest pain, particularly if I don't
change my wet cloths and drink some
very hot Tea, or Brandy, instantly I
come into camp after a hard morning
work when my cloths are wet with pers-
piration.

inspiration or rain. On this account
I have been obliged to keep some Brandy
with me as a medicine ever since I joined
the Department, but except as a medicine,
on this particular account, I have never in
the whole course of my life drank intoxicating
liquor up to one year ago. —

For 6 weeks before the present occurrence
I was engaged on the repairs of the ancient here
and rode every morning up to the bank of the
River opposite the ancient, from which I
was rowed across in a boat to the work.
For 8 or 10 days before this I was suffering for
the second time since I came here, from bleeding
Also the result being that by the time I got back
again to the bank of the river on my return
home I was drenched with blood and unable
to ride, and being ashamed or loth, to let
the Lacars see my state I got out out
of the boat as soon as possible and walked
home a distance of nearly 2 miles. It was
then generally 10 or 11 o'clock, and being very
weak, being as you know suffering from

Consumption as well as every thing else, by the
time I reached home I was more dead
than alive. ^{7/8}

On Friday the 18th May when I return-
ed from my work in the state mentioned I took
about a half a wine glass full of Brandy
as a preventative again Dysentery but just
as I was laying down the glass the Safford
Rou handed me a large Official looking
registered letter which on opening I found
to be a decree of the Acting District Commissary
Court, Ellamonehelly, deciding against
me in the suit referred to in my letters of
the 17th and 18th January last. In ad-
dition to the decision being given against me
Rs 277 was claimed of which Plaintiff got a decree
for Rs 145 ^{with costs} the Acting District Commissary (Mr.
Wiltshire) thought fit to indulge in remarks,
which were both hurtful and injurious to
me, as to what was done in the Range in
when I was there and what is done now.
The remarks he made were quite unfounded,
as I am prepared to prove, and could only have

have been made because he thought they
would be well received by the District Judge
who had previously called for the proceedings.
As regards this suit I am of opinion
that neither law nor justice sanctioned my
being thrown personally into it. I acted
as I was strictly bound to do, as I hope to
show yet, and yet I was left to defend the
suit myself although I was 200 miles away
from where the case was tried and quite unable
to instruct a Valer in the case, or of course
to defend it in person. It was truly a
most surprising case. I have reason to
know that the Valer did not follow the
instructions I gave him, probably because
he could not read English, and
I learned, for the first time, from the
proceeding of the Court that the Contractor
actually took away and sold, I believe,
half of the materials in dispute after
leaving the Sagapaton District, and
while the case was before the court, and
to get a decree in fully the acting
district.

District Judge remarking that the removal
of the materials was not a matter for the Court
to hear.

10/- This upset me and was, I regret to say,
the cause of my indulging in drink on the occasion
in question, but I most earnestly beg to
hope that some allowance will be made for
me, and that my weak state of health and
the trouble and anxiety of mind I am
suffering from and have been suffering
from during the past twelve months, will
be taken into consideration in dealing with
the case.

11/- I have already mentioned that I
can but badly bear trouble when the cause
of it is undesired or unmerited. This is
I am well aware, unfortunate for me
but I cannot help it. I enclose here
with a letter I received two years ago from
an Officer who knows me better than any
other person in this world, and from the matter
passages of which my disposition can be
seen at once. This is a matter I do

not care to dwell upon but if it is taken into consideration with Official and other correspondence that I can produce if permitted, and which took place between April and October 1877 when I was in charge of the Lalgonda Range, I am certain that this last offence of mine will be overlooked. The letter which I enclose, and which I most respectfully request may be returned to me, was written by Captain (Local Major) R. G. Twigg H. M. S. 15th Regiment on his joining from half pay two years ago. This Officer was 13 years adjutant of the 89th Regiment, during 6 years of which I sat with him daily in the same room as his Clerk. He therefore had an opportunity of knowing me thoroughly, and I leave his note to speak of what he thought of me.

17/- The cause or causes, I have mentioned were only what may be termed the "last straws", as the real cause can not be separated from other matters that occurred

occurred during the past 14 months. 18/-
Between April and October 1877 I was accused of "Insubordination", "Incompetence", "Untrustworthiness", "absence without leave", "Quitting my Range without leave", "neglect of duty", "Disrespect to my superior", "Dishonesty", and such phrases as the following were of common occurrence. your statement is unreliable; "send a reliable statement", "your statement is not worth the paper it is written upon", "This statement is absurd on the face of it", "I insist upon a straightforward answer", "If you take my advice you had better assist the contractor I have seen fit to give this work to". The District Engineer "does not believe your statement as he cannot believe it to be true", and there are cases where I received direct orders and was afterwards called to account for carrying them out.
13/- Of all the charges mentioned

in the foregoing para I was not afforded an opportunity of answering a single one, and the humble position I held prevented my replying to the choice phrases I have quoted. Every one of the charges referred to stand against me to my prejudice ⁱⁿ my register of service although I am prepared to disprove, or explain, every single word in one and all of them if only facility is allowed me to do so. Even should the Chief Engineer be pleased to consider the trouble I have endured and to overlook the present case, these charges would still remain against me, and I trust I will be pardoned if I say that I should still remain unsatisfied until such time as opportunity was afforded me to answer them.

14/ Besides the charges referred to there is the case of the Civil Suit about the stone, amounting to about Rs 200/- and also the loss of a number of tools in the Golconda Range amounting

to upwards of Rs 600/- which I have been called upon to account for, although the District Engineer knows that I had no more to do with their loss than the child unborn, and as those matters are too serious to trust to chance I should like to answer them, and defend my whole conduct during the past 14 months, in person before the Chief Engineer, or any Officer he may be pleased to depute to investigate the whole matter.

15/ The Explanation I have given with regard to the case now against me is by no means all that I wish to say, but I am unable to go into particulars for want of certain correspondence in the Range Office at Ellamchelly, and beside that I am not able to put my thoughts together in a very coherent form on account of the anxiety of mind I am laboring under. I am much afraid that this letter is not very intelligible, but I trust that some allowance will be made

made for me, under the circumstances.

16/- Although I have written this letter I do not wish the case to be decided upon it, as I wish if possible to clear myself of all the other charges against me first; and then I shall leave this one, after a further explanation which I shall furnish to the favourable consideration of the Chief Engineer. To decide upon this one first would be working backwards, my earnest desire being to clear myself of all charges prior to this one.

17/- I trust I will be pardoned if I respectfully point out that every one, even the meanest Criminal, is allowed to appear before his Judge and to hear the charges against him, and I most respectfully, most earnestly, and most fervently beg to express a hope that this indulgence may be extended to me, a British Soldier.

18/- My desire then is to appear in person before the Chief Engineer

or before any Officer he may be pleased to appoint, to explain my whole conduct since ^{28th/12} it was first assailed, 14 or 15 months ago, and to answer all and every charge made against me. To enable me to do this I most respectfully beg to request that I be granted 2 months leave of absence with or without pay, with permission to visit Ellamanchelly for copies of the correspondence I wish to produce in my defence. My defence of my conduct will be in the best possible form as it is all, or nearly all, contained in Official correspondence. There is nothing whatever for me to do here as the rainy weather is about setting in, and as I am quite willing to go without pay the Public Service can not suffer in any way by my absence, and I alone will be the loser.

19/- Should the Chief Engineer please not to accede to my request, and decide this case at once, I most respectfully beg to hope that a remand to my Regiment will not be the penalty inflicted.

I enlisted nearly 15 years ago, and a year
afterwards was appointed as assistant Clerk
in my regiment. 3 years afterwards I was
promoted orderly Room Clerk of the Regiment
which appointment I held up to the date of my
joining the Civil Engineering College. It is
now 7 years since I left my regiment so
that out of a total service of nearly 15 years
I only did a soldier's duty for one year.
Now I know nothing in the world about
soldering no more than the Recruit who
joined yesterday, and at my age, and
broken down in health, it is now far too
late to begin soldering. In fact I am
not now fit or able to perform a soldier's
duty. I gave up bright hopes and pros-
pects when I left my regiment, as I was then
one of the steadiest and most respected non-
commissioned Officers in my regiment,
vide testimonials enclosed with my letter
of 8th March last. I held the Rank of
Color Sergeant which no other soldier
except one man I know of held in the

Department in this Presidency, was Head
Clerk of the Regiment, Canteen ^{Assistant} and Savings Bank Clerk. None of those appoin-
tments are open to me now if sent back, nor
are there many in the regiment who were in
it when I left it 7 years ago.
It will then be seen that I gave
a good deal to join the P. W. Department,
and I hope that this will be taken into
account. It is not to my interest or ad-
vantage to do what is wrong and for 6 years
after I left my regiment I gave perfect
satisfaction to everyone under whom I
served. Can it then be possible I turn-
ed "dishonest," "insubordinate," "disre-
spectful," "untruthful" &c &c all at once
and that all the good qualities of a lifetime
deserted me under the present District
Engineers of the Nagapatam. That such
is not the case I am prepared to prove
and in justice to myself and family I trust
the Chief Engineer will be pleased to
accept of my most respectful and
humble

18
humble request that I may be permitted
to appear before him in person to explain
my conduct. No person ever saw me under
the influence of drink until these troubles
commenced, and I am sure that any
one never will again if once I am clear
of the trouble, misery and anxiety
that still hangs over me on their account.

2/- Should, after all I have said, the
Chief Engineer decide upon not allowing
me explain my conduct before him, and
removing me from the Department, which
I respectfully hope will not be the case, I
would in such an event beg to express an
humble request and hope that I may be
permitted to exchange to the Commissariat
Department, as there I could perform the
duty required of me although quite unable
to do so in my regiment.

Trusting for a speed and favourable
reply

I beg to remain
Sir
Your most Obedt. & Humble Servant
Over Sea
Thos. J. Thompson

Enclosure in a letter
No. 941 dated 21st June 1878
from the Superintending
Engineer Godavery.

1000-1303-4-8-7-48

NO. 941 Establishment.
FROM, THE ~~CHIEF~~ SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
GODAVERY DISTRICT.
TO, THE CHIEF ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MADRAS.

CAMP DOWLAISHWERAM, 21st June 1878

Letter of the
Executive Engineer
Dumaguaden Division
1275 of 22nd June
1878 with its
enclosure.
M. Lyons ex-
planation.

I have the honor to forward
herewith a report received from the
Executive Engineer Dumaguaden Division
that Color Sergeant Lyons had been found
drunk, and that he had called upon
him for any statement or defense he
might have to make.

2. I have good reason to believe
that Mr Lyons has previously been seen
on more than one occasion, in a disor-
derly state of intoxication; that he is
an habitual drunkard; and that all
advice and warning is thrown away
upon him.

3. I therefore directed Mr Vaneta
to relieve him of all work and

Government property, and to inform
him that he has been suspended pend-
ing the receipt of your instructions.

X The suspension
dates from
23rd ult.

1. I send herewith Mr. Lyon's ex-
planation dated 17th June, or about
one month after he was called upon
for it.

5. I am decidedly of opinion
that his services in this Depart-
ment should now be dispensed with.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servt
L. Beatty - Lieut Col. R.
Super Engineer Godavery.

CD 27 1428 1878
Establishment.

FROM,

THE ~~OFFR~~ SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

GODAVERY DISTRICT.

TO,

THE CHIEF ENGINEER

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MADRAS.

DATED 21st June 1878.
RECEIVED

No. 941

ENCLOSURE 2

Color Sergeant J.
Lyons - Recommend-
ing his removal
from the Department
for drunkenness.

Lo acty 27-6-78

air 5.7.78. Recd 8.7.78

Genl. Post Off.
Public Works Department.

No 2503 W
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

8 July 78.

1878

From,

The Supt. Engineer
Godavery

(H.E. No. 941 of 21 June 1878.)

Color Sergeant
J. Lyons will be
remanded to military
duty forthwith.

at 5/11

B. W. 7/7
Sh. Ingo. Godavery
Military Supt.
at 15-7-78

Handwritten text in a rectangular box, possibly a signature or date.

Loatly 27-6-78

Cir 5.71.78 Dtd 8.7.78

Over Sea 10/10/78

7207

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 8th July 1878, No. 28036

Nos. 92 to 9

Colon Sergeant J. Lyons, Esq.

at

Remanding — to military
duty

End. in App.