

Inch 10025



Rec 2/12/84

Copies at once to
S. E. V. and to
Lt. Col. Perryman
at Red Hills.

By No. 2969 May 2nd Dec 84.
Communicated
to the S. E. V. Circle, and
to Lt. Col. Perryman R.E.
on special duty.

cy.

2.12.84

Jan 5/12 84

S. E. V. Circle
Lt. Col. Perryman R.E.

sent per
2/12/84

Ordinance Dept. Camp Equipage.
No. 5985

Government of Madras.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT,

Fort St. George, the 1st December 1884.

Read the following papers
regarding tents required at the Red
Hills for accommodating about 3,000
coolies employed there in repairing the
breach in the tank bund.

Demi-official from Colonel
Shaw-Stewart, dated 29th November 1884.

Demi-official from Colonel
P. Chamier, dated 1st December 1884.

Order ——— The issue of the available

96 Circular Cotton tents to accommodate 10 men each.	960	tents is
20 Madras Sepoy tents — do —	20 — 400	} sanctioned the ex- pense that may be
55 Lascars Pals — do —	20 — 1100	
16 British Privates tents — do —	16 — 256	
24 Single Fly Mountain Battery tents — do —	10 — 240	
	<u>2956</u>	

incurred being defrayed by the Public
Works Department.

(True Extract)

AKMuney Herbert Esq. Lt Col.

Atty: Secy to Govt.

To
The Inspector Genl of Ordnance
Public Works Department
Controller of Mil. Accts
Public Department

Mc 10025



Rs 2/12/84

Copies at once to
S. E. V. and to
Lt. Col. Sanyal
at Red Hills.

By No. 2969/May 2nd Dec 84.
Communicated
to the S. E. V. Circle, and
to Lt. Col. Sanyal R.E.
on special duty.

2.12.84

S. E. V. Circle ✓
Lt. Col. Sanyal R.E. ✓
2/12/84

IRRIGATION.

Govt. of 1884 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 25th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th Nov. 1884, No. 1064 I.

NOVEMBER.

Red Hills Tank

Orders recording regret of the Govern-
ment at the breaching of the — and calling
for a report of the full extent of the cala-
mity, and directing the submission daily of
a report of the progress of the repairs.

ORDER—dated 25th November 1884, No. 1064 I., Public Works.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires to place on record the sorrow of the Government at the unfortunate catastrophe of the breaching of the Red Hills tank, and of the deplorable loss of life thereby caused. Further reports will be called for in the Revenue Department regarding the full extent of the calamity, and of the measures necessary for the relief of the sufferers.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Pennycuik, R.E., will forward daily to Government, till further orders, a report of the progress of the repairs undertaken at the tank.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Revenue Department, with extract from a note by His Excellency the Governor.

- „ Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
- „ Lieutenant-Colonel Pennycuik, R.E., on special duty.
- „ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- „ Financial Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

25TH NOVEMBER 1884, No. 1064 I., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following papers :—

From Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Under Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, dated Chepāk, 24th November 1884, No. 3253.

I have the honor to report that on the 22nd instant, the day after the bursting of the Red Hills tank, the tahsildar on the spot mentioned that six lives were lost; some houses and huts were washed away in the village at Tuluken Chattram; it was not known how much damage was done to villages at a distance.

2. The next day, the 23rd, I did not meet the tahsildar at the tank; he had gone to ascertain more of the results of the flood from the tank breaches, and to give assistance, if necessary. There was a vague rumour that thirty people had perished, but there was no one to confirm the statement.

3. Colonel Pennycuik came out, as directed by His Excellency the Governor, and I left him in charge of the work. I came away before day-light this morning.

4. All the 21st the water was escaping from the bank with great force, nothing could be done; on the 22nd, preparations were made for closing the breach; orders were sent out for the collection of labor and materials. On the 23rd, work was begun towards forming a ring-bund, but very little progress was made. The water was still too deep and strong. There had been rain in the night.

5. Tools were sent for yesterday, and a larger supply of work-people was expected to-day to carry on the ring bund.

No. 180 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The Superintending Engineer forwards this letter in reply to a call from this office, asking him to report immediately the accidents to life and property caused by the bursting of the Red Hills tank, and to send in, for the information of Government, daily reports of the progress made in the repairs now in hand.

2. The establishment at the disposal of the Public Works Department does not admit of accurate information being collected regarding the amount of damage done. From the Superintending Engineer's letter it would seem that the first reports were, as usual, much exaggerated. The village of Tuluken Chattram, being in the immediate vicinity of the breach in the Red Hills tank, no doubt, suffered severely; but it is hoped and believed that the villages at a further distance were less unfortunate.

3. Everything that can be done towards the restoration of the tank is in full progress under the superintendence of Lieutenant-Colonel Pennycuik.

MADRAS,
24th November 1884.

(Signed) A. S. RUSSELL,
for Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

IRRIGATION.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 24th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 24th Nov. 1884, No. 1051 I.

NOVEMBER.

Red Hills Tank

Orders on report of the breaching of the —.

24TH NOVEMBER 1884, No. 1051 I., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following paper:—

No. 178 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

At 6 o'clock last night, a message was received in this office, by telephone from the Fort, to the effect that the Collector of Chingleput had reported that the Red Hills tank breached that morning. The Superintending Engineer, who was known to be away at the Chembrambakam tank, was immediately communicated with by telegram, and, as the Executive Engineer was also understood to be touring in the district some distance from the Red Hills, a special messenger was at once sent out to the Red Hills tank, to ascertain whether assistance was required, and what was the exact state of affairs.

2. The messenger has just brought back the following brief letter, dated Red Hills, 7 A.M., this morning, from Mr. Ellis, Assistant Engineer:—

“Red Hills tank breached from surplus sluice to a length of nearly a mile and depth to bed of tank. Breached 21st, about 7 A.M. No assistance can be of any use at present. Tank nearly empty. Many villages appear swamped. Water subsiding. Villages probably washed away.”

Later reports received state that the Cholaveram tank has also breached; that the road to the Red Hills is rendered quite impassable by fallen trees; that the telegraph line is broken; and that the cause of the breach in the Red Hills tank was due to the waves, caused in the tank by the gale of wind on the night of 20th instant, dashing over the bund. As the water in the tank was, it is believed, before the breach took place, barely up to F.T.L., and the top of the tank bund and its revetment is 6 feet above this level, and a dry stone wall, varying from 2 feet to 3 feet in height, is built on the top of the bund, it can readily be imagined that the height and violence of the waves generated by the wind must have been very great.

3. The tank receives a supply from the Kortalayár river, and, as a further supply from the river may be expected this season, a ring bund should be made round the breaches as soon as practicable, so as to enable the tank to store as much drinking-water as possible for the water supply of Madras.

MADRAS,
22nd November 1884.

(Signed) A. S. RUSSELL,
for Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

ORDER—dated 24th November 1884, No. 1051 I., Public Works.

The Government most deeply regrets to hear of the breaching of the Red Hills tank, and of the serious damage that has been caused thereby. The Superintending Engineer is requested to submit a full report on the subject as soon as possible, explaining, amongst other things, what steps had been taken within the last three months to insure the safety of the tank, whether the destruction that has occurred could have been averted by wise foresight, or arose from causes quite independent of human control. The duties of all officers connected with the tank will be carefully stated, and the share of blame, if any, due to each distinctly set forth.

2. A ring bund should be constructed at the earliest possible date to enable the tank to partially fill again and to avert a famine of drinking water in the town of Madras. Having regard to this contingency, the Superintending Engineer will report, without any delay whatever, whether it will be necessary immediately to stop irrigation under the tank, as was done in the year 1877 when there was a scarcity of water in it.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
To Lieutenant-Colonel Pennyquick, R.E.
To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Financial Department.
„ Revenue
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
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