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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No:	726.W	Press. Mis.
Dated	23.3.1885	198.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

58
23RD MARCH 1885, No 726 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following papers :—

From the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, dated	4th February 1885, No. 4113.
To	" " " " 9th " " 259 C.
From	" " " " 2nd March " " 4456.
To	" " " " 10th " " 491 C.
From	" " " " 14th " " 4650.

ORDER—dated 23rd March 1885, No. 726 W., Public Works.

The above correspondence relates to the robbery, at Cuddalore, of the cash chest of Assistant Engineer Lieutenant Keenan, on the night of the 16th January last.

2. The chest, containing Rs. 577-2-0 in cash, was placed in one of the rooms of the sub-divisional office, a detached building in the divisional office compound, and left there without any special precautions being taken to guard it. During the night the chest was removed through an opening made in the wall, and its contents abstracted.

3. Lieutenant Keenan states that the small building in which the chest was placed was used as an office by him under orders from his superior officer, but it is impossible to acquit him of great carelessness in not taking proper precautions to insure the safety of his cash chest, especially when he knew that it contained an unusually large sum of money. He will therefore be called on to make good one-fourth of the amount lost by his carelessness. The remainder will be written off.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spars Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 23rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 23rd March 1885, No. 726 W.

MARCH.

Robbery of Cash Chest of Lieuten-
ant Keenan, Assistant
Engineer

Orders on correspondence relating to the
—, at Cuddalore, on the 16th January last.

D. P. W.

No. 47

SOUTH ARCOT DIVISION

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

CAMP Cuddalore

25th January 1885.

FROM

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

SOUTH ARCOT DIVISION.

TO

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

5TH CIRCLE.

SIR,

ENCLOSURES.

(1) I have to report that on the night of 16th Instant the Cash Chest of Assistant Engineer Lieutenant Keenan was taken out of his office, opened & Rs 577-2-0 which it contained stolen.

(2) Lieutenant Keenan's Imprest was Rs 600 it was raised (to this on account of emergent expenditure caused by recent floods) but as from 15th Instant he was given a drawing account it was necessary to close the imprest account and send the balance to the Divisional Office.

+ See your No 3712
dated 6th January
1885.

(3) On the afternoon of the 16th (which was in Cuddalore a gazetted holiday on account of the Pennar festival) Mr. Keenan sent the balance of cash in his hands by lascar to the Divisional Office, but the lascar returned

returned with it and said the Cashier was away; and this it appears was really the case, though it is said he was only away for a short time. At all events other members of the Divisional Office including the Accountant, were, notwithstanding that they were entitled to the holiday, at the office till after 5 P.M. and they say that nothing was said to them about the wish to have the money referred to paid into the Divisional Office.

(4) Mr. Keenan on receiving the money back put it into his Cash Chest and left it in one of his office rooms in the detached building in the Divisional Office compound, locked the building, and went away leaving Moore specially to look after it.

(5) During the night some one made an opening through the wall, where there was open brickwork for ventilation, carried the chest away for some distance, opened the lock, a good Chubb's padlock, took the money but left the cheque books, which there also were in the chest.

Rs 549-11-0
2 annas 8-2-0
Current 20-11-0
Rs. 577.2-0

(6)

(6) On calling on Mr. Keenan for explanation as to how the cash chest was guarded, he replies "I beg to state that separate guards have never been kept by any of the upper subordinates who had Cash Chests in the Division Office store room rooms, at Budalore, nor is there any place for a guard to stop. There is no verandah or any place to shelter a guard, and it was always understood that the guard kept in the Division Office had a watch over the whole premises at night, and it never occurred to any one that a separate guard should be employed for the Sub Division Office room."

(7) His idea is of course quite erroneous that the Divisional Office Messenger who guards the Divisional Office Cash Chest at night could also guard the Sub Division one in a separate building and in a room into which entrance, through the open brickwork mentioned, is easy; and it is almost beyond belief that anyone could have left a cash chest in such a position without anyone to guard it.

(8) As regards the fact that the Cash Chest

chest padlock which is quite uninjured
had evidently been opened by a key.

Mr. Keenan writes: "I cannot say, how
the lock could have been opened, but
imagine that an impression of the key
must have been taken by some person
in wax or some other likely substance,
when my keys were suspended from
my office box as the key was on a ring
together with my office box key. I
have always been very particular
not to leave those keys about. I keep
my private cash in this office box,
but I have no doubt that some person
who were accustomed to come in and
out of the office and was watching
for an opportunity to take an im-
pression of my key, I believe they
could do it and that is the only way
I could account for it being done."

With reference to para 2:

2. The key was kept on a ring together
with the key of my office box and
table drawers. This bunch of keys
are always kept in my trousers
pocket

pocket during the day and laid
under my pillow at night along with
my watch. —

With reference to para 3.

3. The duplicate key is always locked
up in my office box. I keep the
office box when at home on a table
in the hall and when I go to office,
the box is brought by a lascar and
kept on the office table. —

(9) It is impossible to acquit Mr. Keenan
of want of sufficient care of the lost
cash; he appears to have been lulled
into a feeling of security from often
having with impunity left the
Cash Chest in the same place and
without guard when there was
little in it; but I trust that he
may be treated leniently and not
made to bear the loss or at all
events most of the whole of it.

(10) There has been delay in the sub-
mission of this report chiefly
because when the robbery took place

I was away from Cuddalore and
did not return till 22nd. + ab. Thalia-
tope.

(11). Of Course the matter is in the
hands of the Police but there is no
probability of recovery of any of
the lost money and very little,
I fear of detection of the guilty
parties.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

C. P. Swaleh
Executive Engineer

N^o 4113

Submitted to the Chief
Engineer P. W. Department.



5/26

I regret that I can see no excuse
for the careless mess which led to
the robbery of Rs. 577-2- from
the out building in the compound
of the Executive Engineer's Office.

Q. Assistant Engineer
Lieutenant Fecceau is respon-
sible for the money paid, sub-
ject to the orders of the Government;
should make good the amount
by monthly instalments of one sixth
of his salary, as if refunding an
advance under Code para 283C.

Depant
7 February
1885

W. S. Sander not
Col. R.E.
Superintendent
5 Miles

D. P. W.

FROM

The Executive Engineer

South Arcot Division.

No. 47

Dated

25th

Despatched

27th January 1885

Received

ENCLOSURES.

To W
for orders.

Cy.

5-2-85

Upon the information available,
I consider that Mr. Keenan
should be held responsible,
as suggested by the S. E.,
—but, before orders are
passed, he should be
allowed opportunity to
show cause why the sum
stated should not be made
good by him.

W

6-2-85

Cash Chest —

Reporting that the
of Mr. J. Keenan
Assistant Engineer
was robbed away
with Rs 577-2-4
on the night of the
16th January 1885.

Please note rules dealing
with such matters, which
Mr. Keenan infringed.

Tot

Para 1914 to 1916
of the S. W. Code refer
to the custody of
Cash. The E. E. and
the S. E. consider that

No 259 Copy to P. W. Department.
February
Memorandum

Letter from the Ex. Engr, South Arcot Dist. No 47
of January 25th 1885.

Endorsement thereon by the S. E. V. Circle No 4113
of February 4th 1885.

Mr. Keenan did not
take sufficient pre-
cautions to guard
the cash. That he in
fact, took no precau-
tions at all.

The Ld. Commr. do
not lay down precise
rules on the subject
of precautions. It
is a case. The matter seems
to have been left to
the discretion of officers
holding cash.

Before taking the orders
of Government in this case,
the Chief Engineer desires
that Mr. Keenan be
allowed an opportunity
to show cause why the
sum stolen should not
be made good by him,
as recommended by the
Supt. Engineer.

A further report —
will accordingly be

awaited.

C.S.
6.2.85

all
7.2.85

No. 259 Camp 9-2-85

E
C.S.

S.E. V Circle

14. 10. 12
13/2

D. P. W.
5TH CIRCLE. No. 69

Head Quarter SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICE,
CAMP Cad alone
21st January 1885.



From The Officer in charge of
Head Quarter Sub-Division.
To The Executive Engineer,
South Arcot Division.

ENCLOSURES.

Sir,
With reference to your endorsed No. 131 of 20th Instant on this office No. 58 of 17th Instant (returned herewith), I have the honor to report that I cannot say, however the lock could have been opened, but surmise that an impression of the key must have been taken by some person on wax or some other likely substance, when my keys were suspended from my office box, as the key was on a ring together with my office box key. I have always been very particular not to leave those keys about. I keep my private cash in this office box, but I have no doubt that some person who were accustomed to come in and out of the office, and was watching for an opportunity to take the impression of my key. I believe they could do it, and that is the only way I could account for it being done.

With reference to para 2
2. The key was kept on a ring together with the key of my office box and table drawers. This bunch of keys are always kept in my trousers pocket during the day and laid under my pillow at night along with my watch.

With reference to para 3

3. The duplicate key is always locked up
in my office box, ^{keep the office key} when at home on a table
in the hall and when I go to office, the box
is brought by a lascar and kept on the office
table

I have &c

(Signed) J. Keenan Lt.
Assistant Engineer

"True copy"

Keenan Lt.
Asst Engineer

22-2-85.

Keenan

N^o 131

Head Quarter Sub Divisional Office
Camp Buddalore 16th February 1885

From

The Officer in charge of
Head Quarter Sub Division

To

The Executive Engineer
South Arcot Division

Sir,

With reference to your endorsed
N^o 306 of the 14th Instant on Chief
Engineer's N^o 259 C and Superintending
Engineer's N^o 4231 of the 9th and 12th Instant
respectively granting me an opportunity
to show cause why the sum of Rupees
stolen should not be made good by me,
I beg to state that I have been a
sub Division officer except for two
short periods since 62 and during this
time was in charge of very important
sub. divisions, where I had often an
expenditure of from ten to twelve thousands
of rupees monthly, and on account of
my constant vigilance in the custody
of cash, I never lost one pie during
the whole of my service until this un-
fortunate

Enclosure -
1. Letter
No 69 of 21-1-85.

unfortunate occasion.

My office was kept in a small dark verandah room 6'-9" x 13' in a detached building, the centre rooms of which were the Executive Engineer's store. This detached building is only 14 yards distance from the Executive Engineer's office, in of course the same compound. I was aware that one of the Executive Engineer's lascars and the gardener employed in the compound were ordered to watch the place at night, and considering that the Executive Engineer's stores formed the most important point for these men to watch, I certainly considered that my cash chest was quite safe. The subordinate officers who were my predecessors here, and had imprinted cash were exactly of the same opinion as myself, and never considered it necessary to take further precautions for having the cash chest separately watched at night.

I have 2 lascars, but during the present difficult time when emergent works are

are in progress or in preparation, these men are very often away on emergent ^{or} tappal duties from the station all night; besides, if I wanted to put a man to watch my office room at night, there is no place for him to get shelter, as my office room is only the enclosed verandah of the Executive Engineer's store rooms. The man would have to remain outside in the open all night.

I had to occupy this miserable little office room, by orders of late Executive Engineer, but as it is now seen that there is about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the rooms in the main building entirely unoccupied, unless by a lot of old useless records shelves &c, the Executive Engineer has been pleased to give me a room in the main building and my cash chest kept, as it should always have been, near the Executive Engineer's cash chest in the Division office.

I therefore respectfully beg to state that I consider it would be doing
me

me a very great injustice, if I was
compelled to make good the amount
of money stolen.

I have to
(Signed) J. Keenan *Asst. Engineer*

True copy /

22-2-85.

C. D. Wall
Executive Engineer

Ab

D. P. W.

No. 88

SOUTH ARCOT DIVISION

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

CAMP

Chudaloe

22 February 1885.

FROM

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

SOUTH ARCOT DIVISION.

TO

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

5TH CIRCLE.

SIR,

ENCLOSURES, 3

1 Chief Engineer's
memo.

1 Copy of Lieut

J. Keenan's
letter with its
enclosure.

With reference to your No. 4231
dated 12th Instant on Memorandum
No. 2590 dated 9th Idem from the Chief
Engineer P.W.D., herewith returned, calling
upon Lieutenant J. Keenan for an
explanation to show cause why the sum
of Rs 577-2-0 stolen should not be
made good by him, I have the honor
to forward herewith copy of his letter
No. 131 dated 16th February 1885, afford-
ing explanation on the subject.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

C. D. Wall

Ab Executive Engineer

under to ...
Enclosure 2

D. P. W.
1836
FROM
The Executive Engineer
South Arcot Division.

No. 88

Dated 22
Despatched 75
Received
J. Army 1885

ENCLOSURES. 3

N^o 4456

Forwarded to the
Chief Engineer
P.W. Department
with reference to his
Memo N^o 259 dated
9 February 1885.

Under Secretary at Col. R.E.

Sup^y Eng^r W.
B. Circle

23.0 March 1885.

To W. for orders.

CA
4.3.85

Quint J. Keenan Assistant
Engineer - Howland's
a copy of letter N^o 131 of
16.2.85 from - affording
explanation on the
subject of the theft
occurred.

N^o 2910 of 10th March 85 P.W. Department

Memorandum

Copy of letter from Lt. J. Keenan dated 22 Feb 85
Letter from the Ex. Engr. South Arcot D. N^o 25 dated 9 Feb 85
Encl^{ts} thereon by the Suptg. Engr. II Circle N^o 4456 of 25 March 85
Letter from the Ex. Engr. South Arcot D. N^o 88 of 22 Feb 85
Encl^{ts} thereon by the Suptg. Engr. II Circle N^o 4456 of 25 March 85

The Chief Engineer would be
glad to have an expression of the
Suptg. Engineers opinion upon the
explanation submitted by Lieut.
Keenan.

(By order)

Chepak
March/85

Sd/- C. Bowser Major R.E.

To
The Suptg. Engr. II Circle
(white papers in original to be returned)

Memorandum No. 259C of 9-2-85

No. 4,650

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
V CIRCLE, MADRAS,
Chennai 14th March 1886.

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

V CIRCLE,

To

THE Chief Engineer
D. P. S.

Sir,

Enclosures. 3.

- 1. Chief Engineer's
Circular No. 491C
dated 10th March 1886.
- 1. Copy of letter No. 69
dated 21st January 1886
from Chief Engineer
to D. P. S.
- 1. D. P. S. - No. 1312
16 Febry. 1886
from D. P. S.

No 491C of 10th March

With reference to your Memo
No. 491C dated the 10th March.
I have the honor to state that
in my opinion, the fault lies
in there having been so large
a sum of money in the Sub Divi-
sional Officer's possession. Usually
there would be only a few
rupees; and as that fact would
be known to the people about the
Office, no harm had come from
putting away the Cash Chest
in the detached building.

2. On the one occasion,
however

14/3/86

However, when a sum of
nearly 600 Rupees was brought
to the Office of the Executive
Engineer, and taken away
because the Cashier was
absent. The Lascar and several
other people must have
known that there was a
considerable amount in
cash, going about, and they
could ascertain where it was
deposited for the night.

Lieutenant Heenan
trusted to the common precau-
tions of taking no special
precautions for the safety
of the money. It was only
after the robbery was effect-
ed, that he perceived how
insecure the place was, in
which the money was lodged.

Lieutenant Heenan
states that he had to
occupy the small building by

by order of the former Executive
Engineer, and under this order he
must be exonerated from blame
as to the room in which the cash
chest was kept.

Lieut. Heenan has served in the
Department for nearly 23 years; and
has recently obtained an Hono-
rary Commission for good service.
Taking this into consideration,
I would like to modify the
view I first took of the loss of
cash; and to recommend
that a more lenient disposal
of the case may be made.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servt.
H. W. Sanderfoot. Coll. R.E.
Superintg. Engr.
G. Circle

To W for orders -

Cd.

17.3.85

No. 259 Cal 9.2.85

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

5TH CIRCLE,

To

THE Chief Engineer
P. W. D.



Dated 14

March 1885.

Recd.

ENCLOSURES. 3

No. 4650.

Lt. Keenan

States that, in his opinion, the fault lies in there having been a large sum of money in the possession of Sub-Divisional Officer, South Street Division.

726 W. (N 2356) on 17.3.85
Lieut. Keenan states that the small building used as office by him was so occupied under orders from his superior officer, — but it is impossible to acquit him of great carelessness in not taking proper precautions to insure the safety of his cash chest, especially when he knew that it contained an unusually large sum.

He should be called on to make good $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount lost by his carelessness.

111
19.3.85

8/20
726 W

General
account

82

To W for orders

Cd.

17.3.85

No 259 Cap 9.2.85

17/20
I should like to have
an expression of opinion
from S. E. upon the
explanation submitted
by Lieut. Keenan.

W.
9.3.85

18/20
726. W

General
account

808

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 23rd March/85

Read the following

From The Supt. Ingr & Civil (H.C. No. 4118 of 4th Feb/85)
To do do do (" " 259 C of 9th " " "
From do do do (" " 4456 of 2nd March/85)
To do do do (" " 491 C of 10th March/85)
From do do do (" " 4680 of 14th " " "

The above corres=
=pondence relates to
the robbery, at And=
=alore, of the Cash
Chest of Assistant
Engineer Lieut. Stenau,
on the night of the
16th January last.

The Chest, contain=
=ing Rs 577-2- in
Cash, was placed
in one of the rooms
of the Sub-divisional

Office, a detached building in the Divisional Office Compound, and left there, without any special precautions being taken to guard it. During the night, the Chest was removed through an opening made in the wall, and its contents abstracted.

Lieut. Keenan states that the small building in which the Chest was placed, was used as an office by him under orders from his superior officer,

but it is ^{19/20} impossible to acquit him of great carelessness in not taking proper precautions to insure the safety of his Cash Chest, especially when he knew that it contained an unusually large sum of money. He will therefore be called on to make good one fourth of the amount lost by his carelessness. The remainder will be written off.

S. C. I. Circle ✓
Lt. P. W. A. ✓

Col.

20.3.15

W. S.
20.3.15

RS

726

The Hon. J. B. Sullivan



E.

*M.
243*

Ans. 1 12/3/85

*20
726*

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

25-3-85

Dated

Recd.

From

G.O. No. 23 Nov 1885, No. 77

Rebber's certificate of
suit return as per

Orders in correspondence
relating to the — at
Puducherry on the 16 June
last.

50
3

Id
12/3/85