

No. 107
E.W.

Supg. Engrs: Office, 4th Circle
Bombay, 3rd March 1887

From

Colonel J. Beatty, R.E.,
Superintg. Engineer
Fourth Circle

To

The Chief Engineer,
S. W. Department.

Sir,

Enclosures 17.

I have the honor to forward,
for your information and orders, the
correspondence relating to an entry
by the late Lieut. Colonel Morant
at page 9 of the Service Book of
Conductor and Sub Engineer Lannon
which he desires to have expunged.

2. The entry was as follows:-

"I formed a very poor opinion
of Mr. Lannon 4 years ago when
under me at Calicut. The As-
sistant Collector's House at

Mallapuram

Malliapooram for example. His conduct since has been so unsatisfactory that I was on the point of reporting him to Government. He then left me at his own request. His work is dear slow and indifferent."

It was dated 22^d December 1883

3. Mr. Lannon states "I only became first aware of any entry having been made in my service Book by the late Colonel Morant when I received it in (I believe May last). I write from memory. I have no records here." Mr. Lannon casually became aware that a wrong entry had been made in his record of service, and sent for his service book, thinking some other mistake might have crept in."

Vide letter
A of 19th Augt.
1886.

* May 1886 apparently.

It was thus he became aware that the entry by Colonel Morant had been made.

Vide letter
A of 19th Augt.
1886.

4. Mr. Lannon also writes, "If

Vide para 7 of
letter no. 301 of
28th Jan'y 1884.

"If the intention of Government had been carried out and a copy of the entry had been furnished as per strict orders in such matters, I could have applied for the decision of a competent authority or court, but knowing nothing until 2 1/2 years after, I had no chance of vindicating myself. I cannot quote exact dates, but I think it was in last April, I first became aware of this entry."

5. I am of opinion that Colonel Morant's entry was altogether irregular, and should be expunged, both (1) for the reason Mr. Lannon has put forward that it was not communicated to him at the time it was made, and (2) because it should not have been entered there under any circumstances.

6. I addressed the Consulting Engineer to ascertain whether there

there was anything on record to show that a copy of the remarks was communicated, about the time they were written, to Mr. Lannon; either direct, or through the officer under whom Mr. Lannon next served. But from the Consulting Architect's reply I gather that there is no record of the kind.

7. But apart from this, it will be evident from a perusal of para 864 of the Code that the service book is not a record of opinions but of facts. Appointments, leaves, suspensions, breaks of service, &c., are to be recorded there, but not opinions.

8. The Defaulter's Book, too, is a record of offences, not opinions. In fact the Code does not provide for any record of opinions. And in the para 680 relating to Defaulter's books it

it is specially ordered that "an extract of the entry will be sent to the subordinate."

9. I am of opinion, as stated above that the entry in the service book was irregular and should be expunged, but as such a proceeding is exceptional, I report the case for your orders.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servt.

L. Beatty. Col. R.E.
Supg. Engineer, 4th Circle.

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From

Colonel J. B. Catty R.E.
 Supg. Engineer,

Dated 3^d }
Recd: } March 1887.

107
E.N.

Enc: 17

Service Book of Conduc-
-tor and Sub Engineer
Mr: Lannon: -

Forwarding for in-
formation and orders
certain correspondence
relating to an entry
made in the — by the
late Lucett Colonel Mo-
rank, and stating that
the ^{Engineer} Surgeon of opinion
that the entry in ques-
tion was irregular and
it may be expunged.

Ans 1818

To Put. for orders -

Para 864 of the
P.W. Code, quoted in para
7 of the S. G.'s covering letter,
does not give any
instructions with respect
to the "Character" column
of the service book.

The heading of
that Column (Column 8)
says "no entry need
be made in this Column
except when there is
any thing either good
or bad to be recorded"

Cr
7.3.8

Other

The first observer that remarks, either
good or bad, entered by an officer
in a Subordinate's Service book, if
other than a record of punishment
or commendation, can only be understood
to represent the officer's opinion of
the subordinate, and if the officer
has formed a bad opinion of the
Subordinate, he is bound to enter
that opinion as a fault between
officers - a subordinate always
has it in his power to examine
his Service book, and hence the
remarks made by an officer when
he is transferred to another division -

2. The elements made by the late
Lt Col. Mervant in Auditor Lemon's
Service book ^{are} ~~is~~ doubtless become
quite misleading, as it would ap-
pear from the correspondence that
Auditor Lemon only served
1 month & some days under Lt
Col. Mervant after that officer la-
tined Mrs. Phelps, and the least
regarding 'his Auditor since' must
relate to the time Auditor Lemon
was under Lt-Col. Mervant before
that officer went in Phelps-

1 month to 9th day

There was no reason for
the extract to be communicated
to Com^d. Pennum; as para
650 of the Code refers to
Defendants' books (M 156.

Wm
7. 3. 57

The first observer that demands, either
good or bad, entered by an officer
in a Subordinate Service book, if
other than a record of punishment
or reward, can only be understood
to represent the officer's opinion of
the Subordinate, and if the officer
has formed a bad opinion of the
Subordinate, he is bound to enter
that opinion as a fault before
officers - A Subordinate always
has it in his power to examine
his Service book, and hence the
remarks made by an officer when
he is transferred to another division -

2. The statement made by the late
Lt Col. Mowatt to Auditor Lemmon
concerning his ^{own} military service
is entirely misleading, as it would ap-
pear from the correspondence that
Auditor Lemmon only served
1 month & some days under Lt
Col Mowatt after that officer re-
turned from Mexico, and the least
sagacity "his Auditor's" must
relate to the time Auditor Lemmon
was under Lt Col Mowatt before
that officer went to Mexico -

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 11 March

READ the following

Letter from P. E. IV Arile (H.E. No 107 W. of March 3rd 1887)

The Government observe that remarks, either good or bad, entered by an officer in a subordinate's service book, if other than a record of punishment or reward, can only be understood to represent the officer's opinion of the subordinate, and if the officer has formed a bad opinion of the subordinate,

3. The fact cannot however stand the remarks the subject, but this order will be communicated to the subordinate concerned, & he will be permitted to put forward a statement in defence of his conduct as by the P.E. in the absence of any explanation from the officer who proposed to unfavourable an opinion of his work.

J. A.

10/3/87

he is bound to state that opinion as a guide to other officers. A subordinate always has it in his power to examine his service book, and peruse the remarks made by an officer when he is transferred to another division.

2. The remarks made by the late Lieut. Colonel Mowatt in Condr. Lennons service book are doubtless to some extent misleading, as it would appear from the correspondence that Conductor Lennons only served one month and some days under Lieut. Colonel Mowatt after that officer returned

from furlough, and the remarks regarding "his conduct since" must relate to the time Conductor Lennons was under Lieut. Col. Mowatt before that officer went on furlough.

3. The Government cannot allow the remarks to be expunged, but this order will be communicated to Conductor Lennons, since it is not possible to obtain an explanation from the officer who expressed ^{an} unfavorable opinion of his work.

J. E. IV. L. with
17 * Enclosures

8/11/3 J. E.
10/3/87

B. 42756 W. 11 March 11

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