

no. 3258 W of 29. 11. 87

in the remarks, and exhibiting the rates of compensation admissible (1) at the presidency and (2) at other stations in parallel columns, the recast table in no way essentially differs from the former table.

3. The subject matter of paras 2 and 3 of my office note above referred to has been already separately disposed of, vide G.O. No. 3258 W. dated 29th. November 1887 and subsequent correspondence ending with my office note No. 1533 dated 21st. May 1888.

h/s

c.

df 31/5

49 3/5

P.W.C. No. 5136

13. 6. 88

E. 2

No. 18 W of 9 - June 88
P.W.C. 67

The draft Standing orders are approved. The Examiners will take the necessary steps to embody them in the P.W. Code

WCB
2. 6. 88

File 576/88

0 4/6 - 21/6
22/9/6
2. 9. 88

The Examiners P.W. Accounts
with 2 enclosures

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Military Works.

READ—the following papers :—

From Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 1st June 1887, No. 1983 A.

Recently, when representing the desirability of permitting all Medical Warrant officers employed at Madras under the orders of the Deputy Surgeon-General, Eastern District, to receive compensation instead of being provided with hired quarters by the Public Works Department, when public quarters were not available, the General Officer Commanding Eastern District brought to notice that the Public Works Department authorities at Madras decline to admit compensation even to Medical Warrant officers passing through or temporarily detained there on duty pending orders, but require bills for actual rent paid by them under such circumstances to be submitted.

2. In the face of the expressed wish of the Government of India that the payment of compensation should be discouraged (Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 3338, dated 20th June 1885), the Commander-in-Chief does not propose to ask Government to move towards a modification of existing rules by admitting compensation to Medical Warrant officers on permanent duty at Madras when not provided with public quarters, but he would submit for the consideration of Government that, in the absence of spare public quarters at Madras, the Public Works Department might, with advantage, be authorised to admit compensation to Medical Warrant officers passing through or casually detained on temporary duty at that station for such period as they may have to spend there under these circumstances.

3. This course His Excellency believes would be an economical one to the State, and at the same time fair to Warrant officers, for, while the State would not be exposed to the liability of expense in hiring quarters for short and uncertain periods, the Warrant officers concerned would be enabled, with the compensation they receive, to pay for such temporary accommodation as they may require.

4. The practice of requiring Warrant officers in this position to produce receipts for quarters they may hire seems undesirable, inasmuch as regulations do not authorise it, but require the Public Works Department either to "provide" quarters or to pay compensation.

5. In connection with this matter it has further come to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief that the Public Works Department does not "provide" Medical Warrant officers on permanent duty at Madras with hired quarters, but pays the rent of houses they hire for themselves on presentation of the landlord's acquittance for the amount.

6. It appears to His Excellency that, under this arrangement, Medical Warrant officers are placed in the very position in which, by regulation (Public Works Department Code, paragraph 1209), they become entitled to receive compensation, in fact in the position which Government does not wish them to occupy, for there is no rule to the effect that, if a Medical Warrant officer receives from the Public Works Department the actual rent of a house which he may hire for himself, he shall have been deemed to have been "supplied by the Public Works Department" with free quarters.

7. It is therefore suggested that, to remove any doubts and prevent any question arising, the Public Works Department officers at Madras be required in future to adhere to the rule under which they are required to provide hired quarters for Medical Warrant officers when public quarters are not available.

No. 3260, Military.

Transferred to the Public Works Department for favor of issue of the necessary orders.

2. The Government in the Military Department concur in the views therein expressed.

(By Order.)

Ootacamund, (Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,
3rd June 1887. Secretary to Government.

Office note to the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated 8th June 1887, No. 1923 C.

Office note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated Madras, 22nd June 1887, No. 235.

Your office note, No. 1923 C., dated 8th June 1887.

The Quartermaster-General's letter deals with two classes of cases, viz. :—

(a) Medical Warrant officers passing through Madras, or temporarily detained there on duty.

(b) Medical Warrant officers on permanent duty at Madras.

2. As regards the latter it is a fact that the Executive Engineer in some cases pays to the Medical Warrant officer the rent of a house which he (the Medical Warrant officer) has himself engaged, whereas, according to the letter of the rules, the Executive Engineer should provide quarters for the Medical Warrant officer or pay him compensation at the authorised rate. In such cases the action of the Executive Engineer is, no doubt, technically irregular; but I believe that, in these cases, this irregularity is the consequence of previous irregularities, for which the Executive Engineer is not solely responsible.

3. According to the rules (*vide* Code paragraph 1136) it is the duty of the officer, or of his departmental superior, to apply to the Executive Engineer to provide the necessary quarters; but, when the matter was inquired into about a year ago, it transpired that, in a considerable number of cases, Warrant officers who had never applied for quarters were receiving compensation largely in excess of the rents paid by them for suitable quarters. One Warrant officer was receiving Rs. 75 and living in quarters for which he paid Rs. 21 a-month. It seemed evident that in these cases the Public Works Department could hire the quarters for the same rents that were being paid for them by the Medical Warrant officers, and that the Public Works Department would thus fulfil its obligations to the Medical Warrant officers, and at the same time effect a considerable saving to the State. Executive Engineers were therefore instructed to hire quarters, when possible, instead of paying compensation.

4. On receipt of these instructions, if the Executive Engineer could have found cheaper quarters, or if he could not at once substitute himself as lessee of the quarters occupied by the Medical Warrant officer, he might, I suppose, if he had chosen to stick to the letter of the rule, have hired other quarters, which quarters, though not inferior to the prescribed scale, might have been inferior to those actually occupied, and he might have insisted on the Medical Warrant officer turning out of the quarters occupied and going into the new ones; but in my opinion such a proceeding would have been a gratuitous piece of cruelty. Instead of doing this, the Executive Engineer, studying as far as possible the convenience of the Medical Warrant officer, arranged to substitute himself for the occupying Medical Warrant officer as the lessee

of the quarters, and it was probably a necessary part of the arrangement—in some cases at any rate—that for a time the rent should continue to be paid through the occupier, the real lessee. It is possible that this arrangement as to the payment of rent was more general than it need have been, and continued longer than it should have; but that, I believe, is the full extent of the irregularity.

5. To the best of my belief, with the exception of the cases referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, no case has ever come to the knowledge of this office, in which the Executive Engineer, though unable to provide quarters (by hiring or otherwise) when requested to do so, has nevertheless refused compensation or has claimed to limit compensation to the amount of rent paid by the Medical Warrant officer concerned. If any such case has occurred, the action of the Executive Engineer has been quite irregular.

6. If further orders are required, there can be no objection to the course proposed in paragraph 7 of the Quartermaster-General's letter, provided always that the Executive Engineer is allowed to continue existing arrangements for so long as it may be absolutely necessary in cases in which he cannot at once substitute himself as lessee of quarters, the rent of which he now pays through the occupying Medical Warrant officer.

7. With regard to the first of the two classes of cases mentioned in paragraph 1 of this office note, it appears necessary to make a distinction between Warrant officers passing through Madras, on transfer or otherwise, and those who are detained on temporary duty at Madras. The former are not, as far as I am aware, entitled either to quarters or to compensation in lieu thereof. This point appears to have been decided in G.O., No. 657 of 28th February 1870, and this decision is not, I believe, affected by any subsequent orders or rulings. Moreover, there is on record in this office a letter from the Controller of Military Accounts, No. 118, dated 11th May 1872, in which he states his opinion that "compensation for camp equipage or house allowance is not payable to Medical Warrant officers travelling at the public expense."

8. Medical Warrant officers detained on temporary duty in Madras if they do not draw travelling allowance and if they are not entitled to camp equipage under rule 13 of Army Circular No. 1, India, Medical Department, dated 16th July 1884, are no doubt entitled to quarters, or to compensation in lieu thereof, and if there are no barracks or other suitable quarters in which these Warrant officers can generally be accommodated, as to which I have no information, it will probably save much trouble and expense to the Public Works Department as well as much inconvenience to the Warrant officers themselves if Government adopt the suggestion of the Quartermaster-General in paragraph 2 of his letter.

9. If Government, after satisfying itself as to the title, or absence of title, to travelling allowance or camp equipage in such cases, approves of the adoption of the Quartermaster-General's suggestion, it will then be necessary for Government to define the meaning of *temporary duty*, i.e., to specify some limit of time during which the Executive Engineer may pay compensation as a matter of course, without attempting to provide quarters, and without special sanction; and the claim made on the Executive Engineer for compensation, whether preferred by the Medical Warrant officer or by his departmental superior, should be supported by a certificate by the Pay Examiner to the effect that the Medical Warrant officer has not drawn, and will not draw, any other allowance or receive camp equipage for the period in question.

10. If, on the other hand, there are barracks or other quarters which would ordinarily be available, without necessity for hiring, it seems doubtful whether the adoption of the Quartermaster-General's suggestion would be of any advantage either to the Public Works Department or to the Medical Warrant officers.

11. If Government adopt the suggestion of the Quartermaster-General as to the payment of compensation to Medical Warrant officers detained on temporary duty, and if it would save trouble to the Medical or Military Departments, or to the Medical Warrant officers themselves, it could no doubt be arranged that the compensation should be paid in the Medical (or Military) Department, and I would accept the debits, if within the rules, and if supported by the required certificate as to other

allowances, and when necessary by the Executive Engineer's certificate, that quarters could not be provided.

No. 329 D.

Referred to the Military Department, with advertence to its endorsement, No. 3260, dated 3rd June 1886, herewith returned for reference.

2. The Quartermaster-General's letter deals with three classes of cases:—

- (a) Medical Warrant officers on permanent duty at Madras.
- (b) Medical Warrant officers temporarily detained on duty at Madras.
- (c) Medical Warrant officers passing through Madras on transfer or otherwise.

3. With regard to (a), the Government in the Public Works Department approve the course suggested in paragraph 7 of the Quartermaster-General's letter, and propose to issue orders accordingly. The principle has already been insisted on in several recent orders in this department.

4. With respect to (b), there seems no doubt that the adoption of the suggestion in paragraph 2 of the Quartermaster-General's letter would save trouble and expense to the Public Works Department as well as inconvenience to Warrant Medical officers, but, before definite orders are issued, it appears desirable to define what period of detention at Madras will constitute "temporary duty." If His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief sees no objection, it is proposed to rule that, if a Warrant Medical officer be detained at Madras on temporary duty not likely to exceed three months, the Public Works Department will take no steps to provide him with quarters, but will pay him compensation in lieu of free quarters. Information is further requested whether the terms of the certificate suggested in paragraph 9 of the Examiner's office note, to support claims to compensation, are approved in the Military Department. In the case of Warrant Medical officers on civil duty, the certificate would probably have to be furnished by the Accountant-General. Attention is also invited to paragraph 11 of the Examiner's office note.

5. With regard to (c), it would appear that Warrant Medical officers passing through Madras on transfer or otherwise, and travelling at the public expense, are not entitled to compensation in lieu of free quarters, and information is requested whether the Military Department accept this view.

6. The Quartermaster-General's letter refers only to Madras, but as the rules which it is proposed to issue would affect all stations in the presidency, it proposed to make them of general application.

7. The proposed rules would apply to Warrant Medical officers on civil as well as on military duty, and it seems desirable to obtain the views also of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras and of the Accountant-General on the matter. If this cannot conveniently be done in the Military Department, the papers will be referred through the Public Department on their return from the Military Department.

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

12th July 1887.

Office note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated Madras, 22nd August 1887, No. 473.

G.O., No. 1713 W., dated 27th June 1887.

Before proposing any modification of the Code in connection with the ruling communicated in the above quoted Government order, I should be glad of orders on the following points.

2. In the first place if a Medical Warrant officer (or any other Warrant or Non-Commissioned officer entitled to quarters or compensation) proceeds on leave *when under orders for transfer*, is he entitled to quarters, or to compensation in lieu thereof, during such leave; and, if so, at or in respect of which of the two stations, his old

station or his new station? Two cases have occurred recently, in which it appeared that the officer must have taken leave when under orders for transfer, and I am doubtful whether compensation is admissible. The reason for the grant of quarters, or compensation during leave, seems to be the necessity under which the officer may be of housing his family at his station, although there is no reference to this condition except in the case of Conductors and Sub-Conductors in military employment; and perhaps he should retain a claim to quarters, or to compensation, if he requires quarters for his family either at his old or at his new station; but, in the absence of any distinct ruling to the contrary, his claim to quarters (and therefore to compensation) at his old station apparently lapses with his transfer, and no claim in respect of his new station accrues until he joins it for duty.

3. Secondly, are the conditions as to grant of compensation, or claim to quarters, in any way modified by the circumstance of an officer being transferred *whilst on leave*?

4. Thirdly, I beg to point out that, in the remarks in the table printed at page 23 of the appendices of the Madras Public Works Code (which is practically a transcript of the Government of India Public Works Code, appendix VII), there are certain verbal and other differences, which apparently imply varying degrees of right to quarters and to compensation. For instance, an Honorary Surgeon is said to be "*absolutely* entitled to free quarters or compensation," but a hospital purveyor or a regimental schoolmaster is simply "entitled" to "free quarters" only, without any mention of compensation in the remarks, although rates of compensation are given in the table. There are other differences also. I understand, however, that the rules in the body of the Code, and the various rulings of the Government of India, do not contemplate any such differences of degree. It seems desirable therefore either that these verbal differences should be eliminated, or that their meaning, if they have any, should be more definitely stated. The table might, I think, with advantage be recast, the rates admissible (1) at the presidency, and (2) at other stations, being shown in parallel columns, and all meaningless differences in the remarks eliminated.

No. 492 D.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 referred to the Military Department for favor of opinion in connection with the question dealt with in paragraph 5 of this office memorandum, No. 329 D., dated 12th July 1887.

2. The Examiner, Public Works Accounts, is requested to recast the table at page 23, appendix C., to the Public Works Code, and to submit the draft for consideration and submission to the Government of India for approval if necessary.

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

30th August 1887.

From Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 25th August 1887, No. 3012 A.

In returning papers received under reference order, No. 4201, of the 14th July 1887, I am desired to say, with reference to the memorandum of the Public Works Department, No. 329 D., dated 12th July, that, after consulting the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that—

I. If "temporary duty" at Madras is held to extend to a maximum period of two months all requirements will be met.

II. The terms of the certificates suggested in paragraph 9 of the Public Works Department Examiner's note will meet the case, but this certificate ought to be supplemented by one from the Barrack Department that no public quarters were available for the period for which compensation is claimed.

2. In regard to the proposal made in paragraph 6 of the Public Works Department note, I am to observe that the extension of the proposed rules to any other stations than Madras itself does not seem to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to be necessary or desirable, because it is only at Madras that subordinates are often liable to detention on temporary duty, and because at all stations up-country public quarters of some kind are, as a rule, available for the accommodation of any subordinates who by chance might be temporarily detained there.

3. The adoption of the suggestion in paragraph 11 of the note of the Public Works Department Examiner would doubtless save trouble if the Controller of Military Accounts can accept it.

From Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 5th October 1887, No. 3662 A. (Through the Controller of Military Accounts.)

In returning correspondence regarding rules under which compensation for quarters should be granted to Warrant Medical officers at Madras, referred to the Commander-in-Chief under G.O., No. 5356, dated 1st September, I have the honor, by order, to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of a letter * from the

* No. 2814, dated 28th September 1887. Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, which disposes of the questions raised by the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, in his note, No. 492 D, dated 30th August 1887, which require notice in this department.

2. His Excellency accepts the view expressed in paragraph 5 of Public Works Department memorandum, No. 329 D., dated 12th July 1887, that Warrant Medical officers passing through Madras and travelling at the public expense are not entitled to compensation in lieu of free quarters.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-General J. IRVINE, M.D., Q.H.P., Her Majesty's Forces, to the Quartermaster-General, dated Fort St. George, 28th September 1887, No. 2814.

In returning the papers referred under your No. 3187 A., dated 9th instant, I have the honor to submit the following remarks.

2. It has always been the practice to avoid, as far as possible, the granting of leave to Medical Warrant officers when under orders for transfer, and this practice is still pursued. In cases where such leave is granted, I am of opinion that they are not entitled to quarters or compensation in lieu during such leave. Paragraph 3 of the Examiner's No. 492 D., dated 30th August 1887, therefore needs no reply.

H.

Forwarded.

2. This office has no remarks to offer, except that, as compensation in lieu of quarters is payable by the Public Works Department and as in the case of Medical Warrant officers on temporary duty at Madras it will rest with that department to determine their title to compensation in lieu of quarters, it seems preferable that it should be paid to them direct by the Public Works Department on the certificates suggested in paragraph 9 of the Examiner's office note and paragraph 4 of memorandum No. 329 D., dated 12th July 1887, from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

27th October 1887.

(Signed) C. CARTER, Colonel,
Controller of Military Accounts.

No. 7038, Military.

Transferred, and the referred papers returned, to the Public Works Department.

2. The Government in the Military Department concur in the views expressed in the Quartermaster-General's letters, No. 3012 A., dated 25th August 1887, and

No. 3662 A, dated 5th October 1887, and attention is invited to paragraph 2 of the earlier letter.

3. With advertence to paragraph 7 of Public Works Department memorandum No. 329 D., dated 12th July 1887, the papers are returned without the opinion of the Civil Department, owing to the receipt of reminder, dated 23rd August 1887, requesting an early reply from this department.

(By Order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
14th November 1887.

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Secretary to Government.

ORDER—dated 29th November 1887, No. 3258 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, who will now frame standing orders in accordance with the views expressed by the military authorities. The drafts of the standing orders will, however, before issue, be referred through the Public Department for the opinion of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, so far as they may affect Medical Warrant officers in civil employ.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Military Department.
" Public "

Exd. J. Moses.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
MILITARY WORKS.

Govt. of {1887} Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 29th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 29th Nov. 1887, No. 3258 W.

NOVEMBER.

Quarters for Warrant Medical
Officers

Orders on correspondence relating to the
provision of —,

GOVT.
OF MADRAS.

1888.

P.W.
DEPT.

EXAMINER, P. W. ACCOUNTS.

Madras, 31 May

1888

OFFICE NOTE No.

1572

Encl: 2

To

W.

Your memo No. 492 D. dated 30th.
August 1887.

+ vide para 5-4-80.
3258 W by 29-11-87

KEEP-WITH

Genl. No.

dated

188 .

With reference to para
2 of the memo quoted above, I beg to
forward herewith for the approval
of Government, section II B of
Appendix C recast in the manner
suggested in para 4 of my office note
No. 473 dated 22nd. August 1887,
together with a draft standing order
introducing new paras 1209 A and
1209 B into the Code, dealing with
the title of the different classes
of military and medical subordinates
to quarters, or compensation in lieu
thereof. It hardly appears necessary
to obtain the approval of the Gover-
ment of India to the Appendix as
recast, as, otherwise than by embodying
therein two or more recent orders of
the Government of India, eliminating
verbal and meaningless differences

1,000-7-2-88.