(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 24

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் [illegible]/1991

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

24

அரசாணை எண். / மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 1699

அச்சகம் / பலவகை

நாள் : 4-6-1852 ~~198~~ .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

12 Sheets

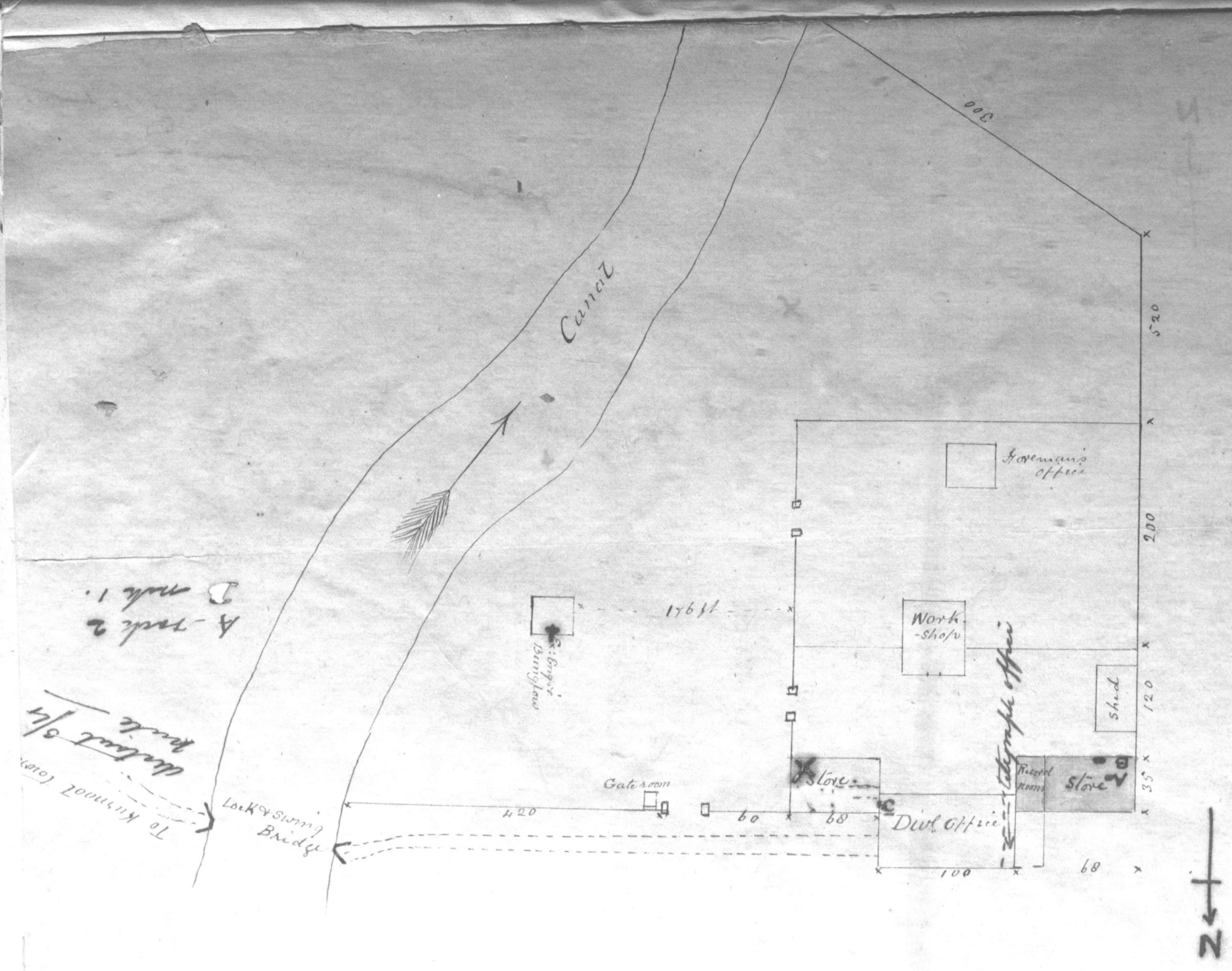
A.H

ஆவண, கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

Plan I

Plan of
P.W. office compound -
Canal Buildings
Kurnool.

1699/1



A - rack 2
B rack 1.

P.W 5.4/5626/92

Kurnool 24th May 1892

J. C. Johnston Esqre,
Executive Engineer

1693/3

Sir,

With reference to the explosion of Dynamite in the west Store Room early this morning I beg to inform you that Wharf Lascar Hussain Sab came to my house at 4-30 a m and on my wife going in the Verandah to see what he came about the Lascar told her that there had been a fire in the room next to the Telegraph Office - but that the Executive with the assistance of other Lascars had put it out. My wife asked the Lascar if I was required at office - the Lascar told her that the Executive Engineer only told him to go and inform me of the fire. On my hearing this from my wife, I at once surmised that nothing serious had happened. but would go up to the office as soon as possible after taking my Coffee which was about 7- a m.

I went into the West Store room

only

only yesterday afternoon to deposit 4 Swelling Stones which I received from Madras. At that time everything was all right. Except the Dynamite no other Combustible was in the room or any other of the Store rooms in my Charge. I can only account for the explosion from the high temperature in the room. and may add, that some 12 years ago, five times the quantity of Dynamite was stored in the same room.

No. 298
92
DIVISION

I beg to remain,
Sir:
Your most obed.t Serv.t
E Dawson
Storekeeper

4/3
P.W. 5/7 4/92

Johnston 24/5/92

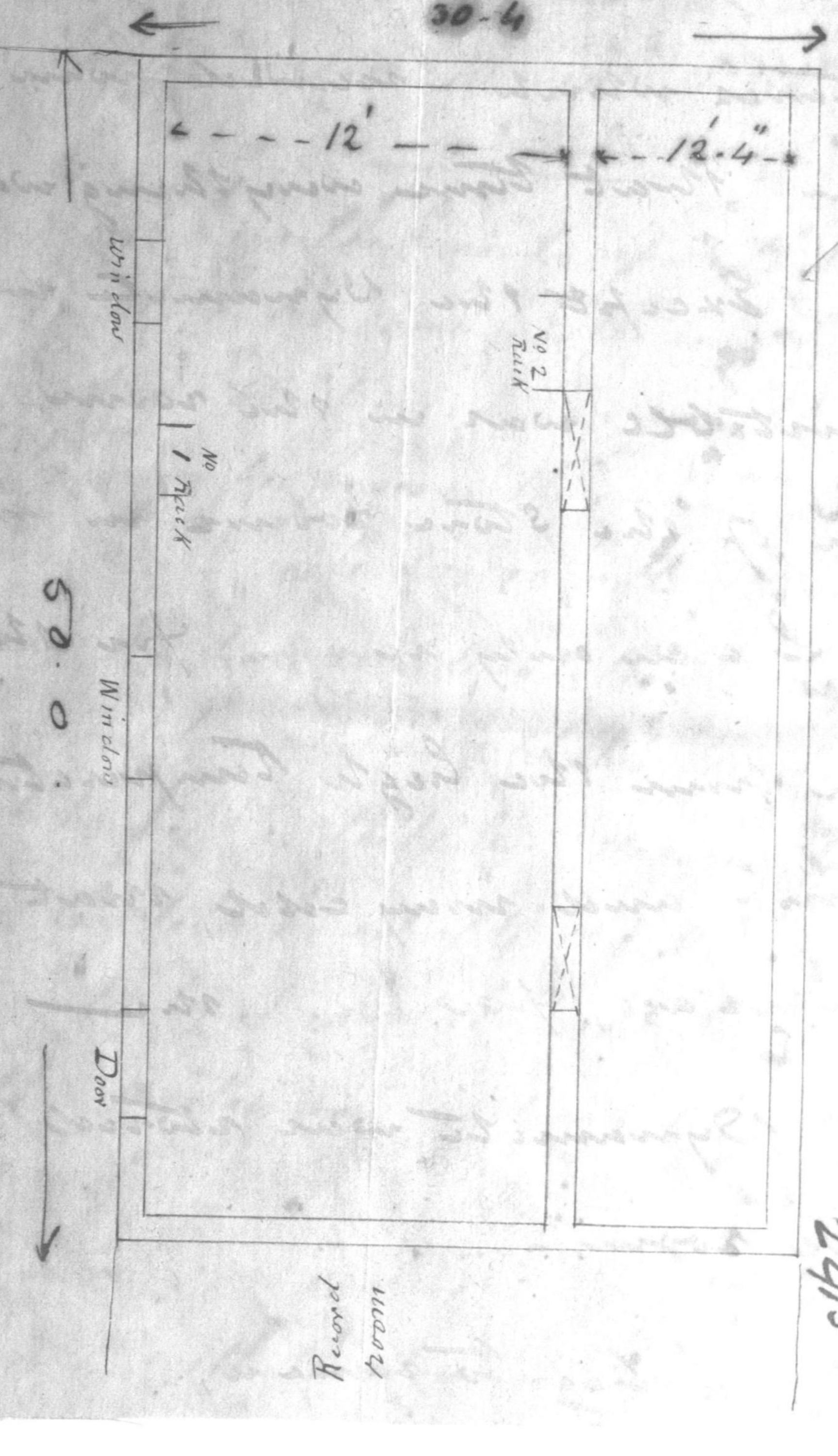
When the dynamite was first placed in the room it was put on a table - and about 6 weeks ago it was removed to the racks - on which it exploded. For about two weeks ago about 20 lbs was removed to be sent to Mundaal - since that time the cases of dynamite have not been opened - or even touched as far as I know - I keep the keys of 1 & 2 the store rooms in the office cash box -
E Dawson

Plan II.

Enlarged plan of storeroom where dynamite was kept. —

24/5

1859
4



No 1 Rack 4 full cases Dynamite about 240 lbs
" 2 Rack 3 part cases do " 26 "

---

but no detonators. I have ordered the storekeeper to the store godowns in the office

C. Dawson

Letter from the Executive Engineer Kurnool Division No. 130 dated 24th May 1892 to the Supdg. Engineer III Circle, Bellary.

I have the honor to report that we have had in stock for some months some dynamite which had remained over from a quantity purchased for blasting purposes in the canal. The quantity in hand yesterday according to our books was 205 lbs. but according to the storekeeper's, the quantity was about 266 lbs. This dynamite used to be kept in the Police Magazine, but on arrival of the detachment of the 14th Madras Native Infantry it was taken out to make room for the Military ammunition and placed in one of our store godowns.

2. I enclose a plan of the compound (No. 1) with the store room shown colored and plan II shows where the dynamite was placed on racks in the store room.

3. A few weeks ago all the detonators and fuze available in Division stores were despatched to Cumbum. The store room contained a miscellaneous quantity of small stores such as rammers, mamoties, saws & perambulators &c. but no detonators. I have ordered the storekeeper to

to furnish a list.

4. Last night at 2.30 A.M. I was awakened by a loud explosion. The side of my bungalow marked by a + seemed to have been struck by an intensely swift wind accompanied by a noise like thunder. There was a sudden blow and the noise seemed to pass on towards the Town. I got up, saw a cloud of dust outside towards the East (wind was blowing strongly from the West) and towards the West I saw near the Office a mass of sparks flying about. I went down at once not realizing yet what had happened. The sky was almost cloudless and consequently there was no lightning. On proceeding towards the sparks I found the store room a mass of ruins, and a great many of the bamboos forming part of the roof in flames. I had 3 men with me and by 3 A.M. we had succeeded in extinguishing the flames. After this had been done I sent one man to inform Mr Dawson the Storekeeper of what had happened.

5. The dynamite which had been placed × in store must have exploded, and spontaneously, I fancy, we have not yet advanced far enough in civilisation to have anarchists

in

× in the original wooden cases which were nailed down.

in our midst, and in the absence of lightning and detonators, I must put down the explosion to spontaneous combustion; though why if dynamite is given to spontaneous combustion, Railway and shipping Companies do not object to carrying it in large quantities, I do not understand.

6. I fully recognize the advisability of keeping detonators and dynamite far apart till required for use. When sending explosives to Cumbum I ordered the dynamite to be sent by road via Nandial and the detonators by Rail via Kurnool Road. When the detonators were in store in Kurnool they were kept in the Store room marked X in plan I.

7. Beyond the total destruction of the Store room and the small record room at the end, and the breaking away of some plaster of the telegraph Office and the loosening of a door frame or two in the Office at C, no damage to buildings seems to have occurred. Value of stores destroyed will be reported after the debris has been removed and a survey made. The records kept in the Record room have probably been destroyed.

8. I may mention that a few inches below the surface of ground lies the Kurnool lime stone; this must have offered great resistance to the

explosion

explosion and thus have confined the evil effects to such a small extent. With a deep cut and rock the adjacent buildings must admittedly have been shaken and perhaps ruined.

9th Mr Dawson did not turn up till nearly 7½ A.M. He said my messenger informed him at about 6.30 that the Office had taken fire. His explanation is enclosed.

10th Mr Dawson opened the store room in question yesterday to put away some tools which had been returned by a contractor. His report is enclosed.

(True Copy)

Head Clerk, S.E. Office, III Circle

27/5/92

E.I
P.W. 5074/92

No. 646

Superintending Engineer's Office,
3RD CIRCLE.
Bellary 27 May 1892.

FROM
J. W. Martin Esquire
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
IIIRD CIRCLE.

TO
THE Chief Engineer
P.W.D.
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to forward copy of letter No. 130 dated 24th instant from the Executive Engineer Kurnool division, bringing to notice the explosion, on the morning of the 24th May at 2.30 A.M., of between 205 & 266 the dynamite stored in the store room attached to his office. You will see from the report that at the time of the explosion there were no detonators or any fuze in the room, and, so far as the Executive Engineer is aware, there was no lightning and under these circumstances he is unable to account for the explosion except by spontaneous combustion. His report is not quite complete for he has not given a description in detail of the store nor has he stated what was the maximum temperature on the 23rd day and the minimum temperature recorded during the night of the 24th. I am also giving the Executive Engineer instructions to send a copy of his report to the Firm from whom he obtained the dynamite to know if they can give any explanation as to the cause of the explosion. I shall get these particulars from him and send them to you.

The dynamite was originally stored in the Police magazine but on the arrival at Kurnool of a detachment of the 14th Madras Infantry it was removed to the store at the division office which was a most fortunate thing if the explosion was the result of spontaneous combustion, and I think, the question to be considered now is, whether it will be safe to store dynamite in Police magazines in future.

169/8

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedt. Servant

J. W. Martin
Supt. Engineer
3 Circle

From, P. W. CURRENT No. 5674

The Superintending Engineer,
IIIrd Circle,
Bellary.

To,
The Chief Engineer
P. W. Deptt
Madras

Dated 27 } May 1892.
Received 28 }

Enclosures, 4

No. 644

Subject.

Reporting the explosion of dynamite in the Kurnool Division Store by spontaneous combustion.

Ovn
28.5.92

With order.

P. W. D.

Letter from the S. E. III Circle No. 644 d/27. 5. 92

Note by the Chief Engineer
P. W. D.:—

1657/9

The further particulars promised by the Supdg Engineer must be awaited. The name of the firm from whom the dynamite was obtained, and the exact description of the dynamite should also be reported and the original invoice forwarded.

2. Enquiries should also be directed towards ascertaining

as far as possible how the fire in the building was actually caused. "Spontaneous combustion" is a very easy way of evading inquiry, but a very unsatisfactory one. The undersigned is very sceptical as to its occurrence.

E.W.

30.5

Madras
May 30, 1892

P.W.D.

Read the following:—

Letter from the S.E. III Circle No. 644 d/27.v.92

Note by the Chief Engineer P.W.D. d/30.v.92

For orders

1697/10

W

30.5

I believe dynamite will not explode even in a burning building but am not sure. The theory of spontaneous combustion owing to the heat is nonsense I should say. There must have been a detonator left about.

Order as per CE's note

1 June

Note for Hon: Member.

With regard to the Hon: Member's remark that he "believes dynamite will not explode even in a burning building", there is no doubt that it will generally — (especially if loose) burn without exploding, but on the other hand it will very often — explode under precisely similar circumstances without apparent reason.

2. This is particularly noticed in Cundill's Dictionary of Explosives (the official text book on the subject) and users of dynamite are cautioned not to trust

to the property which it is supposed to possess of burning without exploding.

3. It is known also that cartridges packed in cases are more likely to explode from combustion (without detonation) than loose cartridges.

4. If the building caught fire from any cause this would be sufficient to account for the explosion without the necessity for assuming that any detonators were lying about, which I think is improbable as they are not things to pass unnoticed.

5. As already stated I am utterly without belief in the 'spontaneous combustion' theory.

S
2.6.

B

From orders

No. 1699 W d/ 4 June 1892

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

Letter from the S. E. III Circle (H.E. No. 644 d/27. V. '92)
Note by the Chief Engr. P.W.D. (" " d/30. V. '92)

1699
12

The Superintending Engineer will make the inquiries and submit the further information indicated in the Chief Engineer's Note recorded above.

S
2.6

S. E. III Circle

1st Reminder 4-7-92

No. 1699 Way 4-6-92

[illegible]