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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rubbie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1595

Press

Mis.

(153-154)

Dated

17-12-1957

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
17th December 1867.*

No. 153. Read the following letter from the Brigadier General Commanding Northern District, to the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George; dated Waltair, 22nd November 1867, No. 242.

Agreeably to your Memorandum, No. 6911, of the 1st instant, transmitting for report a letter from Major Applegath, regarding the effect of the late cyclone at Vizianagram, I have the honor to forward the accompanying reply, in detail, from Colonel Rich, the Officer Commanding the station, to whom these papers have been referred, and who, it will be seen, does not consider Government aid required.

2. The day after the cyclone Colonel Rich communicated to me, generally, the effects of the storm, requesting my opinion regarding claims to compensation for losses. In reply, I expressed a doubt whether any would be passed by the Finance Department; claims for the loss of sepoys' huts destroyed by fire or other accident being under regulation held inadmissible. I pointed out, however, the prescribed course of assembling a Committee for the investigation and record of any claims he might receive, but none appear to have been preferred.

3. I learn from the Collector that the Maharajah of Vizianagram, who is a householder in the Cantonment, was, with his usual liberality, anxious to assist the distressed, but had found a thousand Rupees only sufficient for the purpose in the town (a small sum, considering the number of inhabitants), and that none of the people of the Cantonment, to whom he would equally have been glad to extend his aid, had solicited it; the Maharajah concluded, therefore, none was required.

4. I think it right to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that Colonel Rich feels himself aggrieved that Major Applegath, an officer under his command, should thus, without previous reference to himself, have addressed the Sanitary Commissioner on a subject within his own immediate cognizance and province, and that the letter of his subordinate, which the latter professes to have been "private,"* should so have been submitted to Government.

* Vide Major Applegath's letter.

From Colonel A. RICH, Commanding Vizianagram, to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Northern District, Waltair; dated Vizianagram, 19th November 1867, No. 938.

I have the honor to return the enclosed papers in accordance with orders, and with a view to being as explicit as possible I will reply to each paragraph of Major Applegath's letter *seriatim*.

Paragraph 1. Major Applegath speaks of "another cyclone." I know but of one, which occurred on the night of the 29th September, upon which occasion all the houses in the Cantonment, roofed with the palmyra leaf, were more or less damaged and unroofed, and the officers who occupied them had their clothing and furniture, as a necessary consequence, saturated and injured, as very heavy rain fell at the same time; even those who lived in tiled houses did not escape, as in two instances their houses were partially unroofed, and their property to a certain extent damaged. With reference to the direction of the wind, I do not profess to be a judge, but, during the force of the cyclone, it appeared to blow from all quarters. In my opinion, it is utterly impossible that 1½ feet of water could have lodged in any house in the Cantonment during the cyclone, but that from 3 to 4 inches might have done so. The houses occupied by Major Harrington, Captain Wroughton, Lieutenant Williams, and the Reverend J. D. Ostrehan, appear to have suffered most, and it is probable these officers have sustained the greatest loss, the two former and the latter being married and their wives and children with them, but I do not think that any of their houses were "literally and actually" destroyed.

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Paragraph 2. The "above ladies," alluded to in paragraph 2 of Major Applegath's extraordinary letter, must have been Mrs. Harington and Mrs. Ostrehan, as Mr. Ostrehan appears from the latter clause of this paragraph to have been on duty about midnight, on the 29th September, at Vizagapatam.

Paragraph 3. All buildings, such as godowns, constructed of mud walls and leaf roofs, were destroyed.

Paragraph 4. The Europeans alluded to were, I believe, Mr. Yates, formerly private in the King's Dragoon Guards, and a Mr. Richmond, both birds of passage. Although I issued orders regarding either Europeans or Natives who might be in a state of distress not one case came before me, and if these two cases existed, and were known to Major Applegath, I consider that he should have made them known to me in my official capacity, to say nothing of my private position. I believe both these men left the Cantonment shortly after the occurrence of the cyclone, and I do not believe in their distress, otherwise the Reverend Mr. Dawson would, I know, have brought their condition to my notice.

Paragraph 5. needs no reply or comment.

Paragraph 6. The two Europeans above referred to, as already stated, have left the Cantonment, and even had they been here, I could not, on any account whatsoever, have felt it my duty to ask relief for them from Government. The trifling assistance they could have required should have been, and was, bestowed locally.

Paragraph 7. There has been no distress during the past year at this station requiring any assistance from Government; had there been so, I am convinced that it would have been brought to my knowledge, and the idea of placing a sum of 5000 Rupees in the Reverend Mr. Dawson's hands I consider preposterous.

Paragraph 8. From all I can gather, I do not consider that owners of houses that have been damaged have sustained any very great loss. I come to this conclusion from a rough estimate furnished by one man, the owner of eight houses within military limits, and at his own estimation 3000 Rupees would cover all repairs. Taking into consideration the return he gets by the rent on these houses, it does not appear to me that he has any right to expect compensation.

Paragraph 9. No reply needed.

Paragraph 10. With reference to the heavy losses said to have been sustained by Major Harington and the Reverend Mr. Ostrehan, all I can say is that the former officer in a private note mentions "his actual loss as a mere trifle," and as the latter has preferred no claim for compensation, I came to the conclusion that they needed no advocate in the matter.

Paragraph 11. From frequent personal and minute inspection of the huts in the lines of the Regiment under my command, I have never been able to see that they were in the "precarious" state alluded to. That they suffered from the cyclone more or less is not to be doubted, and indeed had even the Right Wing, which is under Major Applegath's immediate command, been in the condition he states, I conclude it would have been his duty to have brought the same officially to the notice of his Commandant, which has not been, up to this time, done. To the clearing of the Cantonment I will refer shortly. The remainder of this paragraph is totally incomprehensible to me.

Paragraph 12. As regards the want of tools, I cannot say in which direction that want was felt. All useful tools were at once issued to those requiring them, and everywhere the "debris" of trees and houses was being rapidly removed from early in the morning of the 30th September, but work did not proceed so rapidly as could be wished, as every one who was able was more desirous of procuring some shelter for the ensuing night, as rain continued falling heavily.

Paragraphs 13, 14, and 15 need no reply.

Paragraph 16. It now remains for me to express regret that the Sanitary Commissioner should have submitted Major Applegath's letter to Government without a reference to me.

I beg to append a Demi-official letter from Surgeon A. H. Beaman in medical charge of the 33rd Regiment, N. I., and station.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
17th December 1867.*

From Surgeon A. H. BEAMAN, Her Majesty's 33rd Regiment, M. N. I., to Colonel A. RICH, Commanding Vizianagram; dated Vizianagram, 9th November 1867.

With regard to your request to know my opinion as to the completeness of the measures taken by you as Officer Commanding Vizianagram immediately after the cyclone, with which this station was visited on the night of September 29th last, I beg simply to state they appeared to me to be so satisfactory and perfect, in a sanitary point of view, that, although in my capacity as Medical Officer of the station, and dreading the possibility of an out-break of disease, I gave the subject my especial consideration. I could suggest nothing to be done that had not been done; nor did a moment's unnecessary delay occur in the issue of all necessary orders.

2. I beg, moreover, to state that I can testify from personal observation to the anxiety evinced by you for the welfare of the officers, their wives, and families; nor have I from any quarter whatever, or at any time, heard a single statement made to the contrary.

No. 1.

MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge Memorandum No. 1, dated this day, and to state that his letter to Dr. Montgomery was private, and that Dr. Montgomery was at liberty to show the letter to any one he thought fit, which is of itself a reply to the latter part of the Memorandum under acknowledgment.

(Signed) F. APLEGATH, Major,
2nd in Comd. and Wing Officer.

VIZIANAGRAM, 19th November 1867.

No. 7721.

MEMORANDUM.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to its Order in the Public Department, No. 1320, dated 23rd October 1867.

(By Order.)

(Signed) C. COOKE, Colonel,
Quarter Master General.

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
3rd December 1867.

To the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Transferred to the Public Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) H. MARSHALL, Major General,
5th December 1867. Secretary to Government, M. D.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1867, No. 1595.
To be recorded.
(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No 13
Khangnam
Memo 19th Nov
1867

The undersigned has
the honor to acknow-
ledge Memo No 1 dated
this day, and to state
that in return to Mr
Montgomery has
privately and that
Dr. H. was at liberty
to show the same
to any one he thought
fit. which is getting
a reply to the letter
sent of the more
desires acknowledgment.

I am Sir
Yours
J. H. King
J. H. King
2nd Nov 1867

Quartermaster General's Office
Fort St. George 3^d December 1867.

N^o 4721.

Memorandum

7

For

The Secretary to Government
Military Department.

Submitted for the information of
Government with reference to its Order in
the Public Department N^o 1320 dated 23^d
October 1867.

/By order

W. M. M. Colonel

Quartermaster General.

h. e. m. g.

Pro 23^d October / by Nov 22^d 2022

Military Department

Transferred
to the Public Depart.
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Marchant M.
Secy to Government

For S. George
5th Decr 1867.

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