

(1) Number of pages 14
 (2) Date of repair _____
 (3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	463	Press.
~~BP~~ No.		Mis.
Recd. 28th dated 13-1-77		
Dated	24-1-1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Quarters Master General's office
Fort Sam Houston, 13th January 1877.

No 284.

From Brigadier General H. O'Connell
To Quarters Master General
Colonel J. Michael C. S.
Secretary to Government,
Military Department

Sir,

I have the honor, by order, to forward
for submission to Government, letter in original
from Col. Rensselaer V.C.C.B., Commandant Texas
Own Sappers & Miners, reporting on his inspection
of the S. Company Sappers and Miners employed
at the Relief works in the Allamore District.

2. The report is full and satisfactory. The
Sappers are legitimately employed and will materially
assist in successfully carrying out the wishes
of Government to employ the distressed population
in a work of utility to the Country.

3. With reference to the concluding para-
graph of Col. Rensselaer's letter, His Excellency the
Commander in Chief will be happy to give the
services of some European Non-Commissioned
Officers of Sappers as superintendents, if so
required, but in doing so, he would request that
the comfort of these men may be considered
by the Department employing them. Tent will
be provided by the Department, but arrangements
should be made for their obtaining good food
and other necessities. I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,
H. O'Connell, Brigadier General
Quarters Master General, Camp

Application
for
Sappers
to
be
employed
at
the
Relief
works
at
Allamore
District

Camp Ramathuram
7th Jan'y: 1877

From
Colonel H. H. D. Prendergast
To
Commandant Queen's Own Sappers & Miners
The Quarter Master General,
Madras.

Sir;

With reference to your letter No 8207 dated 27th November 1876, I have the honor to report that I have visited the I Company of the Queen's own Sappers and Miners which is employed on work connected with the Eastern Coast Canal and to state for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief that the Head Quarters of the Company at Tokapully is rather more than a mile to the north of the Pylons and the left half Company under the Subadar is at Ramathuram about 8 miles south of Tokapully and 3 miles north of the river Pennar.

under Dr. Digby R.E.

2. The Sappers at Ramathuram on the 3rd January were employed as follows.

- 1. Squire 13 Privates superintending Canal work
- 1. Havildar 12 Privates superintending construction of Cooly Camp.
- 1. Havildar 16 Privates constructing Hospital out houses and Police Station
- 1. Private cutting stone bench marks for canal.

1. Squire 6 Privates making well rings

The men are employed on suitable work

work that has enabled the Engineers to receive cooies from a distance & to commence canal work.

3. The Sappers at Ramathuram have constructed a hospital for 19 patients and 3 sheds for cholera and small pox, a police station, a store for tools and a grain store, they have sunk 3 wells and the walls for their own Barracks have been raised to full height.

60 x 16' walls and roof of palm-leaf and ventilation.

4. The Sappers at Tokapully have constructed a hospital and 2 sheds for the ^{they have laid out the camp} Cooly Camp and dug 3 wells for the same, but materials for the construction of the huts have not yet arrived, the men are erecting a police station, a store room and barracks and are looking after the line of canal.

5. Both half Companies are in tents on good sites near the sea, with wholesome water and all sanitizing precautions are

are observed. The Sappers are well fed and in excellent health (only one sapper on the sick list suffering from asthma and spirits the only anxiety expressed by the Native officers was that they should lose an opportunity of field service in consequence of being absent from Head Quarters.

6. It is proposed to detach a section to Loomolopute almost immediately to be employed in laying out the line and marking out the tracks for gangs of workmen.

7. The canal will be 30 feet wide at bottom and the slope of the sides will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, the excavation commences at the lower Pennair and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile miles have been dug to a depth of about 3 feet, north of Ramathiertham about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile has been dug to a similar depth.

At

8. At a distance of about 2 miles to the north of the Pennair is the Southern Camp which is intended for about 1000 coolies, the huts are made of sticks and palmyra leaves they are in regular streets laid out according to the wishes of Dr. Patton. Water is good. Latrines are marked out, and considerable care has been taken in planning the camp, but police are required to enforce sanitary rules.

It is proposed to place a permanent grain store in this camp and locate an Overseer there, and perhaps a party of Sappers under a Non-Commissioned Officer.

9. All the Coolies from a distance are at present received at Ramathiertham, a mile north of the Southern Camp, to each on arrival a measure of rice and a small sum of money to buy condiments is given before settling down in his place in camp. An Assistant Engineer 2 Overseers and a Police guard besides the half Company of Sappers are stationed at Ramathiertham. The Camp is far from the village but close to its temple and grove of trees, it has the sea on the east and a backwater on the south; beyond the backwater on an excellent site is the Hospital its walls are of matted reeds and the roof is thatched it is well ventilated 40 feet long by 15 feet broad divided into wards one for 12 men the other for 7 women; on the 3rd January the patients were

were 2 women suffering from dysentery; in the cholera shed I found 3 men and 3 women suffering from cholera and it was necessary that day to build a shed for a small poor patient.

More Hospital accommodation will be made as soon as possible and a separate shed for sick lappers.

10. A mile to the north of Pannathiertham is the north Camp intended for 1000 coolies but not manfully occupied; on the 4th January, 2 cases of cholera in this camp were reported as I rode through it, it is not yet thoroughly organized but it was laid out in accordance with the views of the Medical Officer and orders calculated to improve its sanitary condition were given in my presence.

11. A third Camp is in course of construction about a mile N. W. of the north Camp, it is intended for about 1000 inhabitants. Lappers were sinking wells for it and Superintending the erection and disposition of the huts on the 14th instant.

12. The District Engineer intends to establish Camps for 1000 coolies at intervals of 2 miles all along the line and if requisite intermediate camps can be interposed half way between these, in that case 40,000 people will be sheltered in 40 miles of the Division of the Canal.

13. As time has not been allowed to lay out much work for the coolies before they arrived, all labourers that have arrived hitherto have been employed in the part of the line that was first set out and are excavating within 5 miles of Pannathiertham. On the 5th January 7000 coolies were at work of whom it is estimated that 1000 were lodged in the Engineers Camps, 2000 were in bivouacs behind hedges and in woods, and 4000 resided or lodged in adjacent villages.

14. The occupants of the Engineers Camps are principally immigrants from Buddapah and Bellary, the people in bivouacs and the lodgers in villages are principally dwellers in various parts of the Koller district.

15. In order to prevent so far as possible loss of life among the multitudes whom it is proposed to employ on the work it seems desirable that Sanitary Conservancy shall be established throughout the line of country through which the Canal will pass.

16. The Engineers fully appreciate their responsibility in laying out camps. Water supply, direction of the prevailing winds, sites for latrines and burial grounds are considered; but arrangements are not yet perfect for the large number of coolies that are expected.

17. The Engineers hope when more camps have been completed and Police to enforce regulations have arrived, that the coolies now in bivouacs will be induced to live in Camps and be compelled to

obey

In Police
J. B. H.
C. S. H.
1886

obey sanitary rules.

18. Arrangements for the preservation of health in the adjacent villages should be made by the Collector of the District, so I have asked Mr. Sharpe to enforce ~~the same~~ and have recommended him to cause graves to be dug beforehand near all villages for the burial of Mussulmans and firewood to be provided for burning the corpses of all other natives.

19. Cholera seems to be prevalent in many villages near the coast and I observed on the 5th January several human corpses thrown on the ground close to a hamlet of Takapully, the bodies were lying about a quarter of a mile to windward of the Hospital that the Lappers had completed the day before. As no coolies have been employed at Takapully the bodies were evidently those of residents in the village.

20. The necessity for Sanitary arrangements is extraordinarily urgent in

in these deltas, as the soil consists of a shallow layer of sand overlying an impervious bed of alluvium impregnated with salt so that the water supply depends upon surface drainage and wells about 6 or 8 feet deep. Hence a comparatively small quantity of deleterious matter is sufficient to poison the water of a large area of ground, on this account I specially recommend burning corpses in preference to burying them.

21. The Medical officer appointed to the Medical charge of the Canal works who is expected in about a week will doubtless assist the Engineers in enforcing the necessary Sanitary arrangements & will, I should suppose, ask for an increased Hospital establishment.

22. The Hospitals will be about 10 miles apart and the establishment at each will consist

of

- 1 Hospital Assistant
- 1 Hospital Cook
- 1 Cook
- 2 Sweepers.

although the number of sick at Ramathirtham was only 8, or little more than 1 in a thousand, yet considering the gravity of the disorders, the establishment seemed to be insufficient and it appears advisable to provide a reserve force of medical attendants who could be employed at any Hospital when attacks of cholera may demand their presence.

23. The Police force at the disposal of the Canal officers on the Takapully Division, 40 miles in length, is not more than 12 or 14 men, this is not sufficient to guard the grain and treasure, repress crime, keep order & perform the other duties of constables and to cause the Coolies who now live in detached camps and in the woods to live decently and

and in order in regular lines.

24. Coolies are paid at the following rates daily without reference to the amount of work done.

Each man	1 measure of rice & 6 Pies
Each woman	$\frac{3}{4}$ measure of rice & 4 Pies
Each child above 10 years of age	$\frac{1}{2}$ measure of rice & 3 Pies

The work executed having been measured, those who earn more than the cost of their rations receive the difference in money, about 4 & 5 Annas a day. Bazaars are established at Rama Thirtham at which condiments are sold.

25. I am marching along the proposed Line of Canal towards the Head-Quarters of the B.C., the Line is not marked out, I shall have the honor to submit a report about the B.C. hereafter and to reach Nellore about the 15 in returning to Madras.

I have the honor
Signed / Wm. D. Brewster Col. Col.
Commandant 2. O. Sappers & Miners.

26. If application be made
for the services of European Non-Commissioned
officers for the Canal work I think
that the work would be very instructive
to them as a preparation either for
active service or for employment in
the Department of Public Works, but
there is no shelter for them, so I would
suggest that the Non-Commissioned
officers shall have their families at
Head Quarters and be provided with
hill tents under your orders by the
Commissariat Departt. Each Non-Com.
missioned officer would require a hill
tent as he might probably be placed
in charge of a detached camp for 1000
coolies.

Indirectly
H. D. Brewster
and

/ True copy /

Wm. D. Brewster Col.
by blunts

