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INDIA OFFICE, August 1, 1868.

THE following further Despatch has been received from Lieutenant-General the Lord Napier of Magdala, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., lately commanding the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force :—  
(Sir Robert Napier to the Military Secretary, India Office.)

Sir, *Paris, 1st July 1868.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for submission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, the Report of Lieutenant-Colonel Warden, Director of the Transport Corps in Abyssinia, with a Report attached from Captain Hand, Sub-Director, Transport Corps, on the Highlands.

Enclosure No. 1.

Report on the Transport Train, Abyssinian, E.F., by Lieutenant-Colonel R. Warden, Bombay Staff Corps.

THIS train was organized under the orders of the Bombay Government in August 1867, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. Warden was appointed director to organize the same, under the orders of the Commissary-General of the Army.

2. The establishment for every 2,000 animals was laid down by Government Resolution, No. 144*a*, of the 28th September 1867, at the strength as per margin\* for 14 divisions in the train, and which, with the Commissariat, was placed under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Holland, Controller of Supply and Transport, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

3. At the first starting the sole work of organization fell upon the director, without a second in command, staff, or any officer to assist him.

4. The duty of supervision devolved at first on the inspectors and head muccadums, consisting chiefly of civilians, *i.e.*, persons who may have been or were then attached to the Commissariat, Railway, and similar departments. Among the muleteers and muccadums a few were collected who had belonged to the field column carriage under the Commissariat; the rest were the off-scouring of the Bombay streets, consisting of broken-down native tradesmen, discharged Europeans and Eurasians from other departments, and the class termed "loafers."

5. Prior to their embarkation, the first detachment that proceeded with the advanced brigade, strength as per margin,\* were inspected by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in Bombay, who expressed himself as under the gravest apprehension in regard to the stability of a transport founded upon such a nucleus; and on the 15th of October 1867 a military organization was sanctioned, approaching very nearly to the first scheme as laid down by the Director in his Report dated 15th August 1867.

6. On the 4th November 1867 a second detachment of the Transport Train was despatched to Abyssinia, strength as per margin.†

7. The change in the organization of the corps by the Order of the 15th October 1867 was as follows :—

Four head inspectors to be European non-commissioned officers of good character, and able to read, write, and keep accounts, and of some education.

Four second inspectors (two European and two native non-commissioned officers); they were also required to be equally efficient.

Ten third class (half European and half native), the latter to be able to keep accounts in the vernacular; and

Twenty fourth class (all native), to be drawn from native regiments.

8. On this circulars were issued to officers commanding Her Majesty's British and Native Regiments of Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry, to collect good intelligent men for this work, and the following numbers were received :—

European Regiments ... ..	160
Native Regiments ... ..	405

9. This supervision was found however, by experience, when the work actually commenced in Abyssinia, to be still inadequate, and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief therefore increased the same by attaching 37 men from the 3d Regiment N.I. in Abyssinia.

10. It may be added that the 14 divisions of the Transport Train now included the Lahore and Rawul Pindee Train.

11. The proportion of men to animals, *i.e.*, mules and camels, was fixed at one to three, but,

\* 1 Captain; Civilians :—4 Head Inspectors, 4 Second ditto, 20 Head Muccadums; 80 Second ditto, 351 Drivers, 54 Artificers, 392 Mules collected from Nuggar, Malligam, Poona, and Calcutta; 18 Tattoos, Poona.

† 2 Subalterns, 2 European Inspectors, 125 Drivers, 42 Artificers, 140 Draught Bullocks, 126 Carts.

\* 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 4 Chief Inspectors, 8 Second ditto, 2 Weighing men, 16 Head Muccadums, 80 Second ditto, 1 Man to 2 Mules, 4 Beegaries.