

Ecclesiastical (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 59

DATED 3rd Sept. 1895

INDEXED.

506

[Despatch Abstract.]

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST, POONAMALLEE.

Informing the Most Revd. Archbishop Colgan that this Government is precluded from passing orders regarding the allowance of the Roman Catholic Priest attached to the Convalescent Depot, Poonamallee, as the matter is a purely military one.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Order No 1773.

Forwarded to the
Lieutenant General
Commanding the
Forces for favour
of remarks.

Headquarters
Chief Secretary

Diary No. 5468 E.H.
Recd. 2 AUG 1895 7 AUG 95
Branch. BA

30/7/15.

Se. Lacamund

1st August 1895

C.L. to Govt of Madras

My opinion on this subject,
which is concurred in by the
Govt of India, is contained
in the letter from C.M.A. Madras
of 15th May last to the Secy. Govt
of India, copy of which is in
this file.

It was applied in considering
the pay of the Commandant,
see Madras G.O. 21 August 94 No 5769,
& there does not appear to be any
reason why it should not be
equally applied in the case of
the R.L. Clergyman.

Attest the Secy.
Comd Forces Madras.

Ootacamund.

7. August 1895

CURRENT No. 167

Military (1895) Department.

July 39 87 No. 654
5169 No. 854
From 319 No. 1-58.

The most Rev. J. Colgan
D.D.

Archbishop of
Madras

To

The Chief Secy. to Govt.

Ootacamund

No. 1

Dated 27 July 1895.

Received

Enclosure b.

Subject

Submitting for the favor-
able consideration of His
Excellency the Governor in
Council, copies of correspon-
dence between the Secretary
to the Govt of India, Military
Depart, Simla, and the Com-
troller of Military Accounts,
Madras, relative to the services
of a Roman Catholic Priest
at the Cavalry Depot
of Poonamallee.

Catholic Cathedral, Madras.

27th July 1895.

28 JUL 95

The Most Rev. J. Colgan, D. D.,

Archbishop of

Madras.

The Chief Secretary to the Government
of Madras
Ootacamund.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose correspondence, as per margin, for submission to His Excellency the Governor in Council.

The Controller of military accounts, Madras recently disallowed the allowance of the Catholic Priest attached to the Convalescent Depot, Poonamallee, on the ground that the letter, No. 1712, 7, dated 5th June 1895, military department, Simla, addressed to him by the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, conveys the decision of the Government of India that the Poonamallee Convalescent Depot should be viewed as a 2nd Class Depot for the purposes of the rule in article 843, A. R. India. Vol I. Part I.

I desire to point out that, while the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India draws the conclusion that the Depot is not entitled, under the rule, to the services of a paid Roman Catholic Priest, he also goes on to add the saving clause "unless its strength reaches or exceeds 200 men."

The actual strength

Enclosures.

1. From Cont. Military Accounts Madras to Secy Govt of India 15 May 1895.
2. From Secy Govt of India to Cont. Military Accounts Madras No. 1712. 7. 5 June 1895.
3. Pay Gamini Madras to Commandant Poonamallee 18 June 1895.

Enclosures

4. Commandant Poonamallee to Pay Gamini No. 1180 - dated 1 24th July 1895.
5. From Pay Gamini to Comm^d Poonamallee No. 5408 dated 20 July 1895.
6. Letter from Rev. J. Fitzpatrick, dated 26 July 1895.

of this Depot happens at the present time, to be below that strength, but I contend that, under the rule quoted, it is not the actual strength of the troops in a Depot, at any given date, but the established strength of the Depot, that governs the question, as to whether a Roman Catholic Priest should be allowed, vide A.R., India, Vol. I. Part I, British Troops, sec. V., Art. 845 and note to Art. 843, - which run as follows: - 845. "The pay of a priest will not be

affected by any temporary reduction in the strength of the garrison, if its bona fide established strength entitles it to the services of a priest even though such reduction shall have lasted for six months or more: the pay will be passed not with reference to the actual, but the bona fide established, strength of the garrison."

note to 843. "The established and not the actual strength of the troops at a station will be taken as the basis of calculation, in determining whether the garrison is entitled to the services of Roman Catholic Priests."

The Rev. Mr. Fitzpatrick states in his letter that the Convalescent Depot at Poonamallee provides for the accommodation of 204 men in the Barracks: 16 men in the married quarters, and 90 men in Hospital, or 310 men in all, with a proportionate establishment of Commissioned and Warrant Officers &c, so that, in accordance with the above quoted regulations, the established strength of the Depot entitles it to the services of a Catholic Chaplain.

Under these circumstances, I venture to submit that the saving clause must be held to be in operation and would submit to His Excellency in Council, that the Controller of Military Accounts, Madras, be advised to pass the allowances for the Priest at that Depot, or else that the case, as now represented by me, be submitted for the re-consideration of the Government of India. I have the honor &c,

Your Obedient Servant,
J. Colgan
Archbishop of Madras.

A depot cannot be said to have an established strength, it is constantly fluctuating. Colgan

7/8

[G.
28.]

100-7-5-95.

Eccl DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 167.

I do not see how this concerns this Govt. Whatever our sympathies may be, it is no business of ours. I sh^d tell arch bishop Colgan to - and (D.O.) that he had better apply direct to the Mil^y Authorities at Simla.

W
28 Aug^r

FOR ORDERS.

It is more probable that the Govt will negative the proposal that a R.C. priest should be allowed at Poonamallee whether the strength is 200 or not, but the depot is one with a R.C. priest ought to be attached & we cannot make sure that one will be posted here without paying him regularly. What is the average strength at Poonamallee? Some days for 3 years there have been 200 men.

21/8

I quite agree that it is wrong that the priest should get the allowance. But I don't see what this Govt has to do with the matter, which is Military

The opinion expressed by the Subject & the b. of I. as to the meaning of a 1st class convalescent depot in Art 843(d) I. A. R. Vol. I Part I is no doubt correct; but the attention of that Govt has not been specially invited to the note to 843(c) and 845. The exact meaning of "established strength" as used therein requires explanation. At present the case is one of opinion versus regulation. It is submitted that it is a hard case for the R.C. Chaplain who labours at Poonamallee, & that India may be addressed.

30/8

The same

in this case seems to be an exceedingly
 inequitable one. That established strength
 means there is nothing to show. It will
 be seen that the L. & S. Commanding remarks
 on P. Colman's letter (in blue marked
 with red tape) that a depot can have
 no established strength as it is constantly
 fluctuating. The S. & I. has held
 that unless the ^{high} depot reaches or
 exceeds 200 it is not entitled to the
 services of a R.C. Priest. Thus for a
 couple of days the depot may reach
 the 200 and for the remainder of a month
 be 199. The priest would get ^{two} days
 allowance and nothing for the remainder
 of the time - one cannot expect any
 man who looks to payment for his
 services to do any real work when
 one day he receives remuneration and
 the next nothing.

However the S. & I. has applied to
 the Commandant of the Poonamallee
 depot the same principle as it has
 to the priest and they are not
 likely to alter their mind. The only
 remedy for the priest if he is not
 inclined to give the remuneration
 that appears to be to be continued
 attendance at the depot and at the

FOR ORDERS.

R. C. Chaplain at Poonamallee

Hon. J. Brooke
Hon. H. W. Bliss
H. G. the Governor

22/8
 28/8

Secd. C. 167

G.O. 3rd September 1895, No. 59.

The Most Revd:
 Archbishop Colgan
 will be informed that
 this Govt: is precluded
 from passing any
 orders on the subject
 of his letter of the 27th
 July last as it is a
 purely military matter.

JG
 31/8

35/8/95

To The Most Revd:
 Archbishop Colgan D.D.
with 5 rupees.

Sept
 4/9.

Cateamund
 3rd Sep 1895

My dear Dr. Colgan.
 In connection with
 G.O. No. 58 Secd of this date
 I am directed to let you
 know that as the matter
 is a purely military one
 you should: com: direct with
 the military authorities
 at Simla in regard to it.

Yours truly
 35/8/95

The Most Revd Archbishop
 Colgan D.D.

1893

R. C. Chaplain, Permanent

ms

Hon. J. Crose

CHIEF
SECRETARIAT,
D. O.
No. 340
Dated, 3^d Sept 1895

C 31/3
2/9

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATE

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES to G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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IN ORIGINAL.

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