

Home (1918) Department.
(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 398

DATED 20-4-1918

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Nationality of Mr. Georges Cornet.

Recording papers relating to the question of the ———.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No.

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S.C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S.C.).	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.

CURRENT NO.

PUBL

Ref: 11-378

MADRAS BRANCH.



CHAIRMAN:
J. H. THONGER ESQ.
VICE CHAIRMAN:
SIR BERNARD HUNTER.
JOINT HONORARY SECRETARIES AND
TREASURERS.
H. H. CHETTLER ESQ.
H. M. SPENCER ESQ.
POST BOX No. 237.
MADRAS

MADRAS, 9th March 1918.

TEL. ADDRESS: "EURASSO."

The Chief Secretary

to the Government of Madras,

M a d r a s.

Sir,

I have the honor to give below extract of a letter received from Mr: Georges Cornet, a member of this Association, and to request that you will kindly favour me with your opinion on the points he asks the Association to advise him of.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOINT HONORARY SECRETARY.

"Born in French territory, I was called up in April 1916 by the French Authorities for war service.

In 1908 I claimed from the Madras Government and obtained after due ministerial enquiry a certificate of age and Nationality - in order to go up for the Indian Civil Service competition. In October 1914 after the outbreak of war, the Madras Government issued a G.O in reply to a reference by the Collector of Tinnevely to the effect that I was exempted from registration under the Foreign Act, since I was a "a natural born subject of His Majesty".

P.T.O

When the French called me up I did not object in April 1916 as I did not wish to make a nuisance of myself by raising an issue between them and the Madras Government and secondly (a personal reason indeed!) I did not wish it to be believed that I was "shirking" and although in the French army I hold to my British citizenship and nationality.

What I wish to know - and here is where the Association comes in, by obtaining from officialdom (I suppose the Military folk at Wellington) definite and precise information - is:

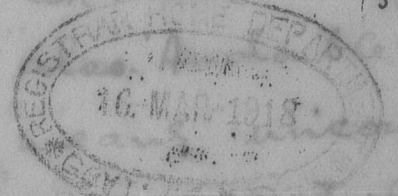
- (1) What is my status since I joined an allied army before compulsory service came in - either in the U.K or in India?
- (2) What must I do to see to it that I retain my British citizenship? (I mean what formalities, if any - as I do not wish to be told when the war is over that I should have done this or that)
- (3) Must I - if so, can I and how? - get myself transferred to the British army (English or Indian or Indian Defence Force)

I am at present in the heavy artillery (the "big" guns) and am undergoing training as a wireless operator for service eventually with my battery. I have been now 18 months in France - and my colonial leave of 30 days is now due to me. I should like to be able to get through any formalities, when I shall be in India on leave (if I am allowed to go, that is!). That is my reason of my asking you to obtain if possible precise replies to my questions.

Home (Misc)
CO. 996
16.3.18.

Public Dept
Home (Misc) no

(M. Cornet was a first class fencer + once won a D. Collecting)



13.3.18
17th Sunday
CO. 996
14.3.18
War no 852-7
16.3.18
Note

Questions of the loss or retention of British nationality relate to the Home (Misc) dept

13.3.18

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.

MADRAS BRANCH.

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VICE CHAIRMAN: SIR BERNARD HUNTER.
JOINT HONORARY SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS: H. H. CHETTY Esq. H. M. SPENCER Esq.
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Home (His) Dept

Nationality of Mr. Cornet

(U. 996)

From the European Association, No. 9-3-9

Mr. Cornet was considered a natural-born British subject as his grand-

-father was born in British territory, though he himself and his father were born in Pondicherry. A certificate

of age and nationality was thus issued to him in G.O. 474 of 4-6-08. The

Advocate-General then remarked "Even

"if under the French law the applicant

"could be regarded as a French subject,

"it would not be inconsistent with the

"continuance of a British nationality

"also. A double nationality is by no

"means uncommon". Please see also

G.O. 2267 of 16-10-14. When called

up by French Govt. for military duty

he requested this Govt. in 1915 to

inform the former that he was a British

Subject. His request was not complied

with. vide G.O. 1573 of 13-11-15.

The Honble. Sir A. G. Cardew then

observed "Mr. Cornet is essentially

"a French man and ought to serve.

"The decision in G.O. 474 of 4-6-08 may

"have been right, but seems to me

ps of 60476 (W) 4-6-08

(W)

(V)

J

ps 8 (J)

(W)

When the French called me up I did not object in April 1916 as I did not wish to make a nuisance of myself by raising an issue between them and the Madras Government and secondly (a personal reason indeed) I did not wish it to be believed that I was "shirking" and "slacking" in the French army I hold to my British citizenship and nationality.

What I wish to know - and here is where the Association comes in, by obtaining from officialdom (I suppose the Military folks at Wellington) definite and precise information - is:

(1) What is my status since I joined an allied army before compulsory service came in - either in the U.K. or in India?

(2) What must I do to see to it that I retain my British citizenship? (I mean what formalities, if any - as I do not wish to be told when the war is over that I should have done this or that)

(3) Must I - if so - get myself transferred to the British army (English or Indian or Indian Defence Force)?

I am at present in the heavy artillery (the "big" guns) and am undergoing training as a wireless operator for service eventually with my battery. I have been now 18 months in France - and my colonial leave of 30 days is now due to me. I should like to be able to get through any formalities, when I shall be in Indian leave (if I am allowed to go, that is). That is my reason of my asking you to obtain if possible precise replies to my questions.

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"to depend on hair-splitting". Under section 13 of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, "a British subject who, when in any foreign State and not under disability, by obtaining a certificate of naturalization, or by any other voluntary and formal act, becomes naturalized therein, shall thereupon be deemed to have ceased to be a British subject". Mr. Corne says he joined the French army before compulsory service came in. It would therefore appear that by his ~~act~~ of his joining the French army ipso facto extinguishes his British nationality. ~~There seems~~ It would seem therefore that he has lost his British nationality. There seems however ~~no objection~~ nothing to prevent him from applying for a resumption of British nationality and obtaining a certificate of naturalization under the conditions in section 2 of the Act, after his return from military duty with the French army. It does not appear possible for him to acquire British nationality while continuing in the French army, as under clause (2) of section 2, ~~as~~ an applicant

should have been residing in British territory for not less than one year immediately preceding the application. Mr. Cornet has now been 18 months in France. In his present position, it does not appear that he can get himself transferred to the British army.

~~Since the consideration of the application for the purpose of the British nationality, it is not possible to do so without a decision.~~ For orders whether a reply may be made on the lines of the 21.8.18 above note.

He was not naturalized in 1908. He was given a certificate of age and nationality. Papers at (W).
I don't agree with this. Mr. Cornet was declared a naturalized British subject in 1908. As far as I can see, done nothing to direct himself to the nationality he then acquired. His joining the French army might just have such effect. The answers to his question seem to me to be:

- (1) British subject
- (2) nothing necessary
- (3) A liability can be arranged

only by the military authorities
 may not be possible.

Mr. Corbett LWS
 28.3.18

H.M. (Jud.)

Decree

Law with U.S.

LWS
 30.3.18

A draft letter to the Honorary Secretary
 of the European Association, is submitted.

MOR

5.4.18.

Dec

6.4.18

Dec. 18.

(Letter No 926-12 8.4.18)

Submitted that the papers may
 be recorded to facilitate
 future reference.

Order No 398 20.4.18

Recorded.

MOR

18.6.18

Dec

19.4.18

Home (Misc) Dept
 8
 Letter
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The Honorary Secretary,
 European Association,
 Madras.

I am directed to refer
 to your letter of the 7th

March 1918 regarding the
 nationality of Mr. George
 Cornet, and to state that

the Govt. are of opinion that
 the questions raised by him
 may be answered as follows:-

(1) He is still a British subject.

(2) Nothing is necessary in
 order to retain his British

nationality.

(3) A transfer can be made to the

British army can be

arranged only by the military

authorities, and may not be

possible.

Yours faithfully,

Home (Misc) Dept

5.4.18

Recd 5.4.18

5.4.18

Home (Misc) Dept
 Letter No 796-18 8.4.18
 2

2/4

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5.4.18
 Recd 5.4.18

5.4.18

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MADRAS BRANCH.

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H. H. CHETTLE ESQ.
H. M. SPENCER ESQ.
POST BOX No. 237.
MADRAS:



MADRAS, 11th April 1918.
TEL. ADDRESS: "EURASSO."

The Secretary

to the Government of Madras,
Home Department,
Fort St: George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed
favour No.996-1 dated 8th inst: and thank you for the answers given
therein to the questions put to the Association by Mr: G.Cornet. I am
sending a copy of your letter on to this gentleman who I feel sure
will be extremely grateful for the trouble taken in putting me in a
position to reply to his letter.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOINT HONORARY SECRETARY.

Home (mis) dept

Recd. 156
18-4-18

Ans
15-4-18
17-4-18

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

MADRAS BRANCH

MADRAS, 11th April 1918
TEL. ADDRESS: "EURASSO"



CHAIRMAN:
T. E. WELBY ESQ.
VICE CHAIRMAN:
J. H. THONGER ESQ.
JOINT HONORARY SECRETARIES AND
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H. H. CHETTY ESQ.
H. M. SPENCER ESQ.
POST BOX NO. 287
MADRAS.

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Fort St. George.

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I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOINT HONORARY SECRETARY.

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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Q = Copy heading only.