Sectt. II-48—22,303—17-1-18.

HOME (Misc) (1918) Department.

Ordinary SERIES.
F.S.

G.O. No. 682

DATED 26·9·18

[Despatch Abstract.]

Passport.

Recording papers connected with the ~~off~~ request of Mrs. H. Gillan to secure for her a passage to go to England.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Cs

Hon DP

I suppose the answer must be non possumus. Could you suggest a formula & let me have the papers

23/D

O

1 College Road
Nungumbaukam
Madras.

22nd Sept. 1918

CHIEF SECRETARY
3 SEP 191
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Dear Mr Davidson.

Many thanks for your letter of the 11th Sept, also for returning me my Passport and Steamer correspondence. I am very distressed that my Passport cannot be endorsed Enable me to travel via the usual manner, but as in the mean time I cannot say that my need for going Home.

though very urgent is a case of
"life and death" I see the
unreasonableness of the Government's
position in refusing to endorse
my Passport re the maintenance
earn.

But is there no other way in
which Government can help
me? Have you any suggestions
that you can kindly give me?
What is the good of a Govern-
ment granting a passport of
"Urgent—Private affairs" if the
holder is unable to proceed
Home to try to alleviate

those affairs; or if she can reach
Home at once, only by such a circuitous
and delayed route that she may
reach home too late. [illegible] of
any use? Surely a Government
is not so impotent as that!
If you can think of anything
to help me I should be most
grateful.

I have heard from time to
time rumours of a Government
boat going Home with women
and children. Can you tell me
anything about this? I have
heard these rumours several
times lately. The Shipping

people like us there is a Boat-
coming out with women & children
Is there any chance of that going
back with women and children?
And could I travel on that? I
have a first-class P.&O. return
ticket. I had hoped to get
Home before the turn of the year
as I dread my little boy's facing
a winter and spring in his
present delicate condition. He
has had bronchial pneumonia
& several attacks of bronchitis,
and it would have been a
comfort if I could have helped
him over the trying time of the

Yes.

If I go by Cunarder I do not
know when I should reach Home.
Sir Robert & Lady Clegg advised
me to try and travel with them
as they might be able to help
me. I wired to see if I could
get a berth, but there was not
one vacant, and as my pass-
port had not been returned
from Delhi I could not go off
on the chance of perhaps
getting a berth if I was on

the spot: I am told that the mail-boat does not go for seven weeks, and that there is no guarantee that I shall get further than New York!

Still I must try to reach my child, sooner or later, and if nothing else can be thought of I shall start out alone via America.

If there is any other solution of this problem I feel sure you will kindly tell me of it.

With kind regards and apologising for troubling you.

I remain

Yours sincerely

Helen Gillan.

Since writing the above I have heard from Calcutta re the line that goes via America, the Pacific Mail — the agents say the "Pacific" have steamers from Calcutta to Colo

Francisco on liberty landed

expense up to and including

June 1919 – "

This makes my case

very hopeless unless

Government can help me

X

Home (Misc) De

Send up the G. of I's letter ab
a letter about a boat going h
for ladies and a "waiting list".
Give me also a rough idea
the number of applicants we a
likely to have for it.

H. B.
24. 9.

The file containing the Govt. of Ind
letter has been sent by the Issue
Branch to Madras Office for iss
of the circular memo. to all
D.M.s, the Commr. of Police, Madras
and the Resident in Travancore & Cochin
It is expected back to-day.
Applications are likely to be
received from the following ~~women~~
ladies who have been ~~issued~~
granted passports, since the sailin
of the steamer "City of York":—

Recd - copy of letty put up - (P).

Mrs. Elsie Steptoe, Ootacamund.
Mrs. W. Worsdell, Tanjore.
Mrs. Alice Fischer, Chittoor.
Mrs. A. Hoare, Madras.
Mrs. D. Morrison, Ootacamu
Mrs. Gillan, Madras.
Mrs. M. E. Walker and two attendants.
Mrs. Dunlop and ~~child~~ daug
Mrs. E. L. Prudh

× (E)

vide Endt. 2314-1
15-8-18.

Mrs. Gillan was granted an endorsem for travelling to England by sout permissible under admiralty instructions. Her request for permiss to travel via Mediterranean was refused - in vide papers recorded in G.O. 839 of Public of 14-9-18.

T

HDR
24-9-18.

PdeR.
24-9-18

C.S.

With reference to Mrs. Gillan's latest communication, please see the notes above. The Govt. of India made some very guarded remarks as to the possibility of a second "City of York" coming home, & asked us to keep a list of ladies eligible for passages thereon. They didn't say definitely that such a ship *would* sail. Beyond telling Mrs. Gillan that her name has been placed on such a list & that we will do our best to secure her a berth I don't think we can do anything for her. It must be remembered that her case for a passport at all was regarded as

page 4 of E

S°. 299 (R)
21-3-18.

on the border-line & her circumstances are a great deal more comfortable than most of our other applicants. All the other ladies mentioned on p1 ante would, in my opinion, be entitled to preferential treatment over Mrs. Gillan. I met Mrs Dunlop, for instance, in Coonoor this morning: her daughter is worse, her husband has gone back to Secunderabad & she has no prospect of a passage at all. Besides these ladies there are others to whom passports were issued before the City of York sailed & who may be still stranded. A reference has gone out to D.M.s to find out which of them are still in India.

2. It seems to me, generally speaking, that the passport rules are getting hopelessly behind the times. The endorsement on men's passports for instance "by other than mail steamers" is becoming meaningle practically every steamer carries mails & what, therefore, is a mail steamer or what are the "other th

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mail steamers" by which the unfortunate people are to travel. Then the Mediterranean restric on ladies is all very well, bu here is the American route blocked up till June 1919 & no guarantee of getting beyond Ne York at that. The Cape route equally liable to strand one a an undesirable half-way hous & the ~~ch~~ skippers of the Japanese lines can't be induced to carry women. We can get ladies as as Egypt if they are only going to tranship there but have no information as to whether there is or, if there were, whether they wd. be allowed to do any thing for them to tranship into. The whole position is becoming impossible & unless the C of S. take it in hand I don't see what's to be done.

3. I'm afraid we must tell Mrs Gillan that "Government is so impotent as that", mention what I have suggested on p. 2. & at the sa time warn her not to place over reliance on that &, if she sees an chance of doing any thing [illegible]

I quite agree & shd. be of Home (Ks. Wd. draft acc. my signature & I will then see both letter & reply for record Home (Misc.)

D
24/9/18

Govt. of India's letter re: a boat for home for ladies is in the file below.

HDR
25-9-18

D.O. No 2662-1 of 25.9.18

Dear Mrs Gillan,

In reply to your letter 22nd September I write to say that the restrictions at present placed upon passports to England leave this Govt. to help you further powerless; beyond endorsing your passport in prescribed terms nothing can be done. With regard to the question of a boat reserved for ladies & children sailing for England in the near future, no official information has been received: ; that there is, however, some possibility of such an arrangement may perhaps be inferred from the recent receipt of instructions from the Govt of India to prepare and keep up to date a ~~believe however, there is a~~ ~~remote~~ ~~bare possibility of such an event and the Government of India have~~ ~~ordered~~ ~~called for a~~ ~~that~~ list of possible passengers. ~~should be kept.~~ Your

Scot. II—8 (a)—160,004—16-1-17.

NOTES.

course, be included in this list & should ~~be~~ a boat be set apart wholly or partially for the purpose every effort will be made to secure you a berth. I would strongly advise you however, not to depend ~~in any way~~ over much on this possibility, for it may be remote, and should any other opportunities present themselves to you, you wld. certainly be wise not to neglect them ~~for~~ on this ~~reason~~ account.

Yours sincerely

L.D.
25/9/18

To
Rev. H. Gillan
1 College Road
~~Ma~~ Nungumbakam
Madras

Desp. 26/9

REGISTERED HOME DEPARTMENT
25 SEP 1918

C.S.

Will this do?

25-9-18.

Yes: many thanks.

25/9/18

687-8 infra

I attach a d.o. from the Revd. Mr. Gillan (since received) & my reply in original which please have despatched

D
25/9/18

Done
vide infra

p.9 infra

Public No 2980-2
25.9.18

C No 2662 Home
25-9-18

Despatch d.o. to Mr Gillan & Record.
26/9/18

G.O. No 682

Pub. 2980
25.9.18

~~9~~

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Telegrams:—ADMORDET.

NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR

No. —

Office of the Presidency Senior Chaplain
of the Church of Scotland, Madras,
1 College Road, Nungambaukam,
23 Sept. 1918

Dear Mr. Davidson

I understand that such a thing has been known in the past as the allotment by Government of passages to women and children in a Home-going boat. Circumstances may have changed, but if the same thing should happen again I hope you will see your way to allot a berth to my wife, to enable her to utilize the Passport given her: at present it looks as if that feat is beyond

---

D.O. No.2980-1, dated the 25th September 1918.

My dear Gillan,

Your letter of the 23rd instant is substantially answered in one to Mrs. Gillan drafted in accordance with instructions which I gave yesterday.

25/9

The case which you have in mind is no doubt the City of York ex Calcutta and Colombo about 2 or 3 months since. I have as yet had no advice of another, but your wife's name is down on the waiting list of eligibles..

The crux is that the Admiralty have set their faces sternly against the Mediterranean route for women and children - not without reason in my personal opinion - and there is no prospect so far as I can see of this prohibition being further relaxed. Only 'life and death' cases go thr

NOTES.

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now and that subject to special approval by the Govt. of India and communication in each case to the Secretary of State.

The fate of the Galway Castle on the African route is not likely to help matters.

L.D.
25-9-18.

VB 13 ~~H~~ 12 C No. 2661 Home
25.9.18

CURRENT NO
2976
Pub.
25.9.18

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CHIEF SECRETARIAT
25 SEP 1918
MADRAS GOVT

Telegrams :—ADMORDET.

NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR

No.

Office of the Presidency Senior Chaplain
of the Church of Scotland, Madras,
1 College Road, Nungumbaukam,
23 Sept. 1918

Public
Was replied. [illegible] please note that Mr. G is to be informed if we again hear of a special boat. Home (this) but better see also
HM
25.9.18

25 SEP 1918

Dear Strathie,

In course of frequent and varied enquiries about the possibility of a passage Home for my wife I have been told that on one occasion at least Government allotted passages Home to women and children. If you ever happen to know of anything of the sort being in prospect I shall be much obliged by your telling me how to proceed in the matter; my wife has got

Pub. No 2976—1
25.9.18

Home (Misc) G.O.

a Passport on accnt private affairs — as you probably know — but at present there seems to be little chance of her being able to utilize it!

Yours sincerely,

D H Gollan.

VB

13 ~~H/C No. 2661 Ahie~~
25.9.18

URRENT NO
2976

25.9.18

13

Pub. No 2976—1
25.9.18

Home (Pass) O.O

When given for copying
When copied ______ } 191 .
When examined ______
When signed ______

Read again G.O. No. , dated
191 .

Current No.

Enclosures to C. No.

Order of Government .. .. .. A A A A A A A

Letter of Government

tatement with ditto.

apers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.