

Home (1918) Department.
Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 800

DATED 21-11-18

[Despatch Abstract.]

Passport.

Recording correspondence regarding the grant of a -----
to Mrs. H. Bourne travelling to ~~England~~ 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.

SECRET
21-X-1918
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS



Somerford, 2
Adyar, Madras,
21st October 1918.

My dear Todhunter,

Mrs. H. Bourne (who is a cousin of Sir Alfred Bourne) has sent me the enclosed passport granted to her in 1915 and a medical certificate signed by Dr. W.R.Gibson and is anxious to obtain a passport to proceed to England. Her husband died suddenly of enteric fever a short time ago and has left her with a baby in India while she has three small girls in England. Will you kindly consider whether on this ground or on the ground of health or both combined a passport may be granted? Her address is c/o Sir Alfred Bourne, Hebbal, Bangalore.

Yours sincerely,
A.G. Cardew.

The Hon. Mr. C. G. Tondhunter, I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to Government.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
HOUSE 298.
OFFICE 594.

Monteith Road, 119
Egmore,
Madras,

26/9/1918

I hereby certify that
Mrs J. M. Bourne is
at present under my
treatment & I am of
opinion that it is
imperative for her to
proceed home to England
for special treatment on
account of her case.

She should be allowed
to take her young child
under 2 years with her.

W. R. Gibson M.D.
F.R.C.S.
F.R.S.

U.S.

B

Permission for Mrs. Bourne to proceed to England is sought on the following grounds:—

(a). a medical Certificate stating that it is imperative for her to proceed to England for special treatment on account of her ears.

(b). Mrs. Bourne's three small girls left in England.

In the medical Certificate it is also stated that ^{she} should be allowed to take her young child with her to England.

As for (a), medical ground, the general principle governing the grant of permission on such grounds is stated in para 3, fourthly, of Bombay Govt's letter at p. 3 of G.O.

21b Put of 27.2.17. It seems doubtful whether Mrs. Bourne's medical Certificate can be regarded as strong enough.

If considered necessary, Home (Case) may be consulted if in any other case on a medical Certificate parallel to Mrs. Bourne's permission has been granted.

P-2 ante

P-1 ante

B

3/ As for the small girls left at home, the general principle governing the grant of permission on such grounds is stated in para 3, thirdly, of Bombay Govt's letter at p. 2 of G.O. No 216 Dated 2/2.17. I am Sir Alexander Cardew's D.O. to C.S. at p. 1 ante it is not clear whether or not Mrs. Bourne has any relatives or other friends who could take charge of her small girls in England.

4/ As for the permission sought in Mrs. Bourne's medical Certificate for taking her young child with her to England, the general question of young children being permitted to accompany their parents who are ordered home on urgent medical grounds was referred to the G.O. in January last & their ruling will be found at p. 4 of G.O. No. 160 Dated 16.2.18.

Sub 2. for orders.

Yours.
21.10.18.

All
vs
C.S.

The medical certificate apparently implies danger to hearing but not necessarily to general health.

I presume the existence of the children at home cannot be considered a grounds for granting a passport. Presumably the children are being looked after as they must have been without their mother for some time. The lady came out in 1915.

in
inner

A precis of the general orders on the subject of the grant of passports to women and children to travel through ~~the~~ danger zone is submitted below:--

2. (i) In February 1917 it was notified that under instructions from the Secy. of State for India passports or permits to travel through any danger zone or to the United Kingdom will not be granted to women and children, unless travelling for very urgent reasons (e.g.) taking up work as nurses or other work in connection with the war, or unless exceptionally urgent business or domestic reasons or exceptionally urgent reasons of health can be shown.

It was at the same time notified that (as desired by the Secy. of State) the above orders will be worked strictly with a view to preventing women embarking except for really urgent reasons.

(ii) In the same month (February 1917) the Govt. of India forwarded for the information and guidance of this Govt. a correspondence on this subject ^{with} ~~the~~ the Govt. of Bombay. This correspondence contained the following explanations and limitations of the grounds on which permission should be granted to ladies:--

(a) As regards war work it should be held that it is necessary for the applicant to show that she has some definite post or appointments which she is bound to take up on arriving in England. It should be held not to be sufficient if the lady merely asserts that when she reaches England she will take up some work in connection with the war.

(b) Exceptionally urgent business reasons, when urged, must have some connection with business which is

Ljo. 166 Pub 14-2-17
A

Para 3 of Ljo. A.

Ljo. 216 Pub 27-2-17
B

Para 3, Firstly, of Bombay Govt's letter in Ljo. 216 B. 27-2-17.

Para 3, secondly, ibid.
B.

Para 3, Thirdly of
Bombay Govt's letter
in G.O. 216 Pub. 3/3/17
B

Para 3, Fourthly, of
Bombay Govt's letter
in G.O. B.

P. 17 G.O. 504 Pub.
16.6.17.
C

is of national importance at the present juncture.

(c) In connection with the domestic reasons, a case is cited of a lady ~~who~~ allowed by the Govt. of Bombay to proceed home on this ground. The circumstances were that the lady's young family were in England and the house where they were was about to be broken up. The lady and her husband had no relatives or other friends who could take in the young children.

(d) As regards reasons of health it should be held that a doctor's certificate merely to the effect that a change of air is required and that a lady would benefit by a stay in England is not sufficient. The certificate should show on the face of it that the lady's health is in such a dangerous condition that a journey to Europe is imperative.

(iii) In April 1917 the Secy. of State issued the following revised rules:--

(a) Passports will not be granted for women and children through danger zones except in very urgent cases, such as war work, or unless exceptionally urgent business or health or domestic reasons can be shown.

This rule must be strictly interpreted.

(b) Women and children arriving at a port en route elsewhere will be warned of risk and allowed to proceed.

(c) Merely on grounds of husbands holding an official position wives and families will not be allowed to proceed abroad.

(d) Except in cases of great emergency permission to travel through the Mediterranean should not be given at present and generally when an alternative offers, ~~in~~ the safer route should be adopted.

R 27 Co. 804 Pub.
16.6.17.
C

(iv) In May 1917 the Govt. of India forwarded for the information of this Govt. copy of a telegraphic correspondence with the Chief Secy. to the Chief Commissioner of Assam. This correspondence contained an instruction that in cases, where passages for women and children to England are granted, the route via the Cape is preferable, that the Atlantic and the Mediterranean are danger zones and that passengers should be given to understand that at the Cape they may have to break voyage.

(v) The rules permitting the grant of passports for war work (Vide (ii) (a) above) were subsequently tightened up, it being laid down that applications on grounds of war work in England should be granted only on production of certificates from the India Office that the applicant has secured war work at home - G.O. 1211, Public, dated 3-10-17. The India Office would grant such certificates only when the work secured by the applicant is of sufficient national importance to justify a journey to England - G.O. 163, Public, dated 21-2-1918.

(vi) As regards the route permissible to ladies, it will be seen that from paras (iii) (d) and (iv) supra that the Cape was considered the safer route, though the Mediterranean was not entirely closed. But in March 1918 His Majesty's Govt. placed an absolute prohibition against women and children proposing to travel via the Mediterranean. Subsequently however it has been decided that permission may be granted to ladies to travel via the Mediterranean only in cases of life or death, each such case being reported by telegram to the Secy. of State. This decision was arrived at by the Secy. of State on a representation made to him by the Govt. of India regarding

Flag R in file relating
to Mrs. Gilbert
(linked file I)

Flag M in file relating
to Mrs. Gilbert
(linked file I)

Co. 285 Home (Misc)
20.3.18. G.

Co. 524 Home (Misc)
21.6.18. P

regarding the practical difficulties of travel owing to the closing of the Mediterranean.

(vii) About May 1918 the Govt. of India proposed to the Secy. of State a general relaxation of the restrictions, referred to in (iii) supra in certain classes of hard cases. The Secy. of State's reply was that these restrictions still remained in force and must be observed, but that some latitude might be allowed in very & special circumstances. At the same time the Secy. of State added the proviso that any passports granted to women and children should be on the express understanding that no subsequent overseas journey ~~will~~ would be permitted during the war.

(viii) In May 1918 when issuing strictures for the grant of passports generally for men the Govt. of India stated ^{that} in the case of women and children travelling through danger zones the restrictions already imposed remained and that in addition passports should be refused to women desirous of leaving India through zones other than danger zones except for an object of cogent private necessity.

3. The present position in regard to grant of passports to women and children for leaving India is therefore as follows:--

(a) For travelling through zones other than danger zones, passports should not be granted except for an object of cogent private necessity

(b) For travelling through danger zones passports should not be granted -

(i) except in very urgent cases such as war work or on exceptionally urgent business or health or domestic reasons,

(ii) via the Mediterranean except in cases of life or death.

P. 1 of Gp. 524 Home
Misc. of 21-6-18 P.

P. 1 of Gp. 524 Home
Misc. of 21-6-18 P.

P. 1 of Gp. 524 Home
Misc. of 21-6-18 & Gp.
491 Home Misc. of
7-6-18 X

Para 4 of their
memo. in Gp.
431 Home Misc.
9-5-18 K.

Gp. 285 Home Misc.
20-3-18

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(1) that some latitude is allowable in very special circumstances in enforcing the restrictions on travelling through danger zones.

4. An extract is submitted below of the terms of some of the medical certificates which have been accepted by this Govt. as sufficient to justify the grant of permission:--

"I am of opinion that a change from this climate to her (Mrs. A.L. Alexander) native land in Europe is absolutely and promptly needed for her well-being and recovery."

Endt: No. 750 Home (Mis), dated 7-3-1918

"Mrs. M. Worsdell in my opinion requires an immediate change to England to avoid a serious break-down in her health".

G.O., 623 Home (Mis), dated 27-8-18

"I hereby certify that Mrs. Fischer has been indifferent and her present condition is such that it is absolutely necessary for her recovery to proceed to Europe as soon as possible."

G.O., 641, Home (Mis), dated 6-9-18

"This is to certify that Miss F.C. Mc Carmick of Queen Mary's College, Madras, is in poor health, suffering from lung disease and nervous strain She is a fit subject for exemption from the restriction concerning ladies travelling overseas."

G.O. 642, Home (Mis), dated 6-9-18

" I am of opinion that as Mrs. Morrison is in such a bad state of health it is absolutely necessary for her to proceed to England as early as possible."

Endt: 2520-1, dated 10-9-1918

"This is to certify that Mrs. T. Walker is suffering from melancholia and she is rapidly going down hill, in my opinion the only chance of recovery is for her to be sent to England via the Mediterranean at once for proper treatment. If the journey is postponed until a passage via South Africa can be secured it is probable that a fatal termination will happen. Her condition is such that during the voyage she must be accompanied by two attendants."

Major R.D. Wilcocks, I.M.S.

(I)

(II)

(III)

(IV)

(V)

(VI)

P. 67 2.7.
10.9.18
2.7.18.
(VI)

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P-7 4-7 10-90. 657
2-10-18

(Mrs. Walker)
"I am of opinion that she is suffering from melancholia with delusions that her condition is aggravated ~~x~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ by the climate of India and is rapidly growing worse and that the only hope in her recovery lies in ~~the~~ immediate transfer to England by the shortest route. If her transfer is delayed I consider her chances of recovery will be lost and a fatal issue probable.

Major Leet Palk, I.M.S.
G.O. 687, Home (Mis), dated 2-10-18.

5. An extract of the terms of certificates rejected as insufficient in some cases is submitted below:--

"Miss Fanaken will ~~be~~ no doubt benefit greatly by a change to England where she had resided for seven years before returning to this country".

Endt: 3033-3, dated 20-9-1917

"Miss M.G. Lodge applied for a passport to France on the ground that she was unable to work on the plains of India as a missionary for medical reasons".

Endt:- No. 3159-2, dated 24-9-1917

"Miss C.E. Finch is suffering from post typhoid trouble ~~x~~ that she should leave India at once and return to her home in England".

Endt:- No. 3396-1, dated 22-10-1917.

"I certify that Mrs. England is suffering from anemia debility and am of opinion that it is necessary for her to proceed to recruit her health."

"On a further reference to Dr. Gibson who granted the certificate he said that her case was not one of grave and really urgent necessity."
G.O. 218 Home (Mis) dated 9-3-1918

"I am of opinion that leave to Europe is desirable for you (Miss McLeod) though I cannot say that health reasons are exceptionally urgent at present in your case."

G.O. 268 Home (Mis), dated 14-3-1917

6. From the cases cited in para: 4 supra it will be seen that this Govt. have granted passports for women ~~by~~ producing medical certificates showing that their health was in such a dangerous condition that a journey to Europe was imperative. Please see also ~~para~~ para 3 fourthly of Bombay Govt.'s letter at

p. 3 of G.O. 216 Pub. 7 27 2.12.

B.

1 p. 0

at page 3 of G.O. 316 Public, dated 27-2-17. Apparently complaints which do not affect life, e.g. deafness, are not to be considered as sufficient ground for leaving India to travel through danger zone.

7. It may be observed in this connection that German sub marine has since been withdrawn and this together with the fact that the Govt. of India propose to send another ladies' boat in addition to the "Herefordshire" which recently left India, may lead to a more lenient view being taken of the rules being taken at present.

8. Orders are now solicited on the case of Mrs. Bourne in this file and the cases of Miss Spencer and Mrs. Gilbert in the linked files. Perhaps the file may be circulated to H.M. (Judl) and H.M. (Public) through Home (Mis).

20-1-18

C.S.

which refers to the grant of a passport to Mrs. Bourne
This file was linked with the main file relating to the "Mercara" and was returned by Home (Mis) to Pub. Dgt to day (7. 11. 18).

~~This file relates to~~
Mrs. Bourne ~~the~~ has been allowed a berth in the "Mercara" which sails from Colombo on the 9th inst. no further action seems necessary.

27 28 29 30 31 1 P.D.O.

** File on this subject is sub? separately.*

*with no effect
this is decided
placate*

(X)

(X)

(X)

* Cap Laven.

of general orders relating to
the issue of passports to women
& children (submitted in paras
1-6 above) be approved by
the Chief Secretary, a copy
of it will be added to
the Chief Secretary's ready-
reference file on the subject.
The file will then be returned to H.A.
J.W.R. Dgt.
7.11.18.

Please do so

Pub No 3292-1
11-11-18

21.11.18

9.11.18

How (MIS) 20



Order No. 800 21-11-18.

Recorded.

21-11-18

Home (mis) 3285
12-11-18

abstract
Recording correspondence regarding the
grant of a passport to Mrs H. Bourne
travelling to England.

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

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