

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1168	Press
194-195		~~Mis.~~
Dated	20-7-1963	10

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
20th July 1863.*

No. 194. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 17th June 1863, No. 13.

I herewith forward for your information and guidance a copy of a Despatch* (together with a copy of its enclosures) addressed to the Government of India, relative to the insufficient supply of clothing allotted to certain Military Convicts embarked at Calcutta for conveyance to this country.

Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 17th June 1863, No. 48.

1. I herewith forward a copy of a letter from the Horse Guards, dated 28th ultimo, together with a copy of its enclosures, relative to the insufficient supply of clothing allotted to the Military Convicts embarked at Calcutta on board the "Adamant" for conveyance to this country.

2. I have to request that this matter may at once meet with the attention of your Government with a view to prevent a recurrence of the evil complained of by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.

From Major General Sir RICHARD AIREY, K. C. B., Quarter Master General of the Forces; to the Under Secretary of State for India, India Office, dated Horse Guards, London, 28th May 1863.

In forwarding the accompanying correspondence respecting the insufficient supply of clothing for the use of certain Convicts embarked at Calcutta for this country on board the "Adamant," I am instructed by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to request that the particular attention of the Secretary of State for India may be drawn to the report of the Medical Officer in charge of the Troops on board, of the wretched condition as regards clothing in which these Convicts were embarked, and His Royal Highness trusts that Sir Charles Wood will see the necessity of causing this case to be brought to the notice of the authorities in India, as it is most important in so long a voyage, that cleanliness, as well as warmth, should be considered and provided for in all cases of Convicts being placed on boardship for conveyance to England.

From Major General W. PAULET, Commanding S. W. District; to the Quarter Master General to the Forces, Horse Guards, London, dated Portsmouth, 24th May 1863.

In returning to you the enclosures, I have the honor to observe in reference to the report of the Assistant Surgeon in Medical charge of the Troops arrived in the "Adamant," and to your Memorandum annexed that the 12 Convicts alluded to, were not under the command of the Military Officer on board; they were merely transfers from the Convict establishment in India to a similar one in this country, and shipped, for passage, in charge of the Master of the vessel, with instructions to hand them over to the Convict authorities on arrival, all the Military authorities are called on to do on the passage is to furnish a guard should it be considered necessary. I forward Dr. Skinner's report for the information of the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief in order that should His Royal Highness deem it desirable, the attention of the Secretary of State for India might be drawn to the circumstances complained of, with the view to remedy being applied on any future occasion.

From T. ROSS JAMESON, Esq., M. D., P. M. O., Deputy Inspector General; to the Assistant Adjutant General, &c., &c., &c., Portsmouth, dated Portsmouth, 14th May 1863, No. 407.

I have the honor to submit for the information of His Lordship the Major General Commanding, the accompanying letter from Assistant Surgeon Skinner, 92nd Highlanders, complaining of an insufficient supply of clothing for the use of certain Convicts who returned to England, on board "Adamant" Freight Ship.

*of the office of surgeon,
Marine.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
20th July 1863.*

From D. S. SKINNER, Esq., Assistant Surgeon, 92nd Gordon Highlanders; to the Inspector General of Hospitals, Portsmouth, dated Portsmouth, 12th May 1863.

I have the honor to bring to your notice the insufficient supply of clothing with which the Convicts arrived on board the "Adamant" for the voyage to England.

No information was given to me concerning them before or after our departure, and it was found that there were no Blankets or any bedding for them beyond the bare mattress and pillows furnished by the Prison authorities; for the thin coarse material they used as Blankets was intended for bags to hold their necessaries, and their day clothing was quite inadequate for keeping out the cold, so much so that one man named "Fraser" paid 20 shillings to a Sailor for an old coat, and another named "Nixon" two shillings and six pence for a pair of shoes; the Cabin passengers finding how badly off they were, collected as much clothing as they could and distributed among them, and for bedding I gave out two blankets and settringes from the Medical comforts which were over what was required, and some of the Soldiers gave them a few blankets, as many as could be spared, but the total was insufficient for all. The Captain of the ship since supplied them with old pieces of canvas which made up the deficiency. According to the list of clothing sent on board, the day before they embarked, one country blanket seems very small protection against the cold which is experienced after crossing the line on this side of the Cape, considering also that they have standing berths which must be much colder than Hammocks provided for the Troops.

I cannot help thinking that it has had a very prejudicial effect on their general health, for they look now far less healthy than they did on leaving Calcutta, and it has been in a great measure the cause of the repeated slight attacks of Diarrhoea they have had, but which fortunately in most cases have readily yielded to treatment.

Submitted for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.
PORTSMOUTH, (Signed) W. PAULET, Major General,
14th May 1863. Commanding South-West District.

The Major General Commanding at Portsmouth is requested to state, whether any report was made to him by the Officer Commanding the Troops on board the ship "Adamant" of the insufficiency of clothing for the Convicts brought Home in that vessel from Calcutta, as if not, he should be called upon for an explanation of his reasons for not mentioning the matter.

His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief would be glad to be furnished at the same time with any remarks the Officer Commanding may wish to offer on Assistant Surgeon Skinner's letter.

HOUSE GUARDS,
23rd May 1863.

(Signed) RICHARD AIREY, Major General,
Quarter Master General.

No. 195.

ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1863, No. 1,163.

Communicated to the Commissary General, the Commissioner of Police, and the Master Attendant in charge of the Office of Superintendent of Marine.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Ed. T. McMootry.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read Despatch from
the Secretary of State - Inter 17 - June '63 N^o 13.
Order - 20 July 1863 N^o 1168.*

*Communicated to the
Commissary Genl., the
Commr. of Police, & the
Master Attendant in
charge of the office of
Suptdt. of Marine.*

JAS

The Commissary Genl.

Commr. of Police.

*Master Attendant in charge
of the Office of Suptdt.
of Marine.*

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Handwritten: 1000

7-20-22

My dear Mr. Pitt

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Edw. J. Kane

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