

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 159

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 27. 5.

1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N^o 1639

From

Cecil Beadon Esq^r

Secretary to the Gov^t of India

To

Captⁿ David Robertson

Offy Supd^t of Marine

dated the 4th Nov^r 1856.

Home Dep^t Sir,
Marine

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to forward for your careful consideration and report after consultation with such persons whether in the service of Government or otherwise as you may think to be good authority on the several points referred to, copy of a despatch from the Government of Madras N^o 206 dated the 13th September last with a communication from Captain Biden the Master Attendant at Madras

(and)

and the observations of the Marine Board thereupon relative to the dangers to navigation along the East and West Coasts of the Peninsula in the Indian Ocean and in the Bay of Bengal. -

2^d His Lordship in Council thinks that the Survey of the Indian Seas and especially of the Coast from Madras to Point Calimere should be carried on much sooner and more vigorously than is possible with the means now employed for the purpose and that as soon as a suitable Vessel can be spared from other service measures should be taken to organize another survey party in addition to the one now employed in the Straits of Malacca under Lieutenant Heathcote P.N.

3^d You are therefore requested to favor the Government of India with your opinion as to the best means of extending the present Maritime Survey and of employing it so as to accomplish in the most expeditious and systematic manner the ends proposed by the Madras Government by completing the Hydrographical Survey of all

2,
all those portions of the Coasts and Islands of the Indian Seas which are now imperfectly delineated on the existing Charts and of which the true geographical position has not been accurately ascertained and recorded.

4th His Lordship in Council would also be glad to have your opinion as to the advantage of building Light Houses at all or any of the points indicated by Capt. Biden. It has already been determined to erect a Light on the Alaguada Reef and much correspondence has passed though without any satisfactory results regarding the erection of lights on the Coasts of Arakan and the Tenasserim Provinces but His Lordship in Council is desirous that the whole subject of the Navigation of the Eastern parts of the Bay of Bengal should be again carefully considered on one general plan with a view to the adoption of the measures best calculated and most urgently required for the security of Vessels resorting to the Ports on that Coast or otherwise exposed to its dangers. -

Council Chamber }
The 4th Novr }
1850.

I have the honor to be &c.

J. B. Beadon

Secy. to the Govt of India

A.

N. 1447

From
Cecil Beason Esqre.
Secy. to the Govt of India

To
Colonial Secretary Ceylon
dated the 11th November 1856.

Sir,

Home Dept.
Marine

I am directed by the Governor General of India in Council to transmit for the information of the Government of Ceylon and for the adoption of such measures as may be deemed expedient copy of a valuable report on the navigation of the Indian Seas by Captain Biden the Master Attendant at Madras.

2^d The Governor General in Council is engaged in devising means for the more speedy accomplishment as soon as the means at the disposal of the Government of India will permit of the ends proposed in this report so far as concerns the Coasts and Islands of the Territories under the Govt. of the East India Company and His Lordship in Council desires respectfully to recommend the subject as it relates to the Island of Ceylon to the attention of the Colonial Government.

Fort William
The 4th Nov
1856.

I have the honor to be
Yrs
/S/ Cecil Beason
Secy. to the Govt of India

A.

3.

N. 8

Colonial Secretary's Office
Colombo, 15th December 1856.

From

Honble C. J. MacCarthy
Colonial Secretary
Colombo

To

The Secretary to Government
Fort William

Sir,

In reply to your letter N. 1447 of the 4th Ultimo, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honble the Governor General of India in Council, that this Government has no means at present of undertaking the Survey of the Coasts of Ceylon, as suggested by Captain Biden.

2 I am therefore to express the Governor's regret that from want of Naval resources of any kind, it will be impossible for this Colony to cooperate in the undertaking in question.

I have the honor to be
Yrs
/S/ C. J. MacCarthy

A.

N^o. 500

From

Captain D. Robertson

To

Offg. Supd^t of Marine

Cecil Beadon Esq^r

Secretary to the Govt of India

Home Department

dated the 28th January 1857

Sir /

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter N^o. 1039 of the 14th November last forwarding for careful consideration and report copy of a despatch from the Government of Madras N^o. 286 dated the 13th September last with a communication from Captain Bider the Master of Attendant at Madras and the observations of the Marine Board thereupon relative to the dangers to navigation along the East and West Coasts of the Peninsula in the Indian Ocean and in the Bay of Bengal.

2 In the 2^d and 3^d paras^s of your letter the opinion of His Lordship the Governor General in Council is conveyed that the Survey of the Indian Seas and especially of the Coast from Madras to Point Calimere should be carried on much sooner and more vigorously than is possible with the means now employed for the purpose, and that as soon as a suitable vessel can be spared from other service, measures should be taken

4.
taken to organize another survey party in addition to the one now employed in the Straits of Malacca, upon which I am desirous to express my opinion as to the best means of extending the present Maritime Survey and of employing it so as to accomplish in the most expeditious and systematic manner the ends proposed by the Madras Government.

3 With reference to the above I beg leave to state that we have at present no vessel which could be spared for the purpose indicated.

4 There are now Eight Pilot Brigs in Bengal which number under ordinary circumstances, allows of one being laid up ready for service on an emergency, or to relieve another vessel coming in for repairs; but the spare vessel has already been made over to the River Surveyor, the old Surveying Vessel having been condemned and being now stationed as a hulk in the "Mutlak."

5 The "Cavery" the spare vessel alluded to, is larger than is required for Surveying purposes in this river, and a smaller one might either be built, or be purchased into the Service, if an eligible opportunity offered; this latter plan was suggested to His Honor the Lieut^g Governor some time ago, but as the "Cavery" was available for the purpose required, and pending further report, His Honor did not deem it necessary then to carry it out.

6 Should either of these measures now meet with the approval of Govt., and be

be sanctioned, the "Canary" thus placed at disposal might be fitted out to be employed as a Sea Surveying Vessel under the Command of a Scientific Officer of the Indian Navy, and at once undertake the Survey of the Coast from Madras to Point Calimere joining the Survey on with those of the Pulicat Shoal.

7. Captain Biden remarks that that very important and much frequented Port Coringa is very imperfectly delineated on the Charts which were published after the last Survey in 1846/47 of the Coast from Madras to the Santapilly rocks, and therefore this defect might be supplied on the completion of the Survey from Point Calimere to the Pulicat Shoal.

8. The Shoals between Coringa and the Santapilly rocks being already well delineated as Capt. Biden states, do not appear to require further examination, but this might be left to the judgment of the Marine Board when the Vessels are upon the Surveying ground and the survey might subsequently be completed from the Santapilly rocks to Point Pulmyras.

9. As recommended by Captain Biden in his 7th para. the Survey of the N. E. the E. the S. E. and the Southern Coast of Ceylon including the Basses, might then be commenced upon, and be continued to its completion.

10. The Madras Govt. have intimated that they will adopt measures for carrying out the propositions of Captain Biden which are referred to in paras. 7, 8 & 9 of the Marine Board's letter relative to the Malabar Coast from Cape Comorin to Bombay, and

nothing

nothing further would at first sight appear to be required on this Coast, but for the difference of opinion expressed by Captain Biden as compared with that of the Board on this point.

11. The Board state in the 7th para. of their letter that the completion of a Chart of the Western Coast extending from Bombay might almost be effected with the existing materials, and they recommend that in communication with the Govt. of Bombay this useful work be carried out.

12. Captain Biden however in his 8th para. earnestly recommends a fresh Survey of the Malabar Coast from Cape Comorin to Bombay, and points out the desirability of all doubts being removed regarding the Longitude of every Maritime position on that Sea-board as deduced from the true situation of Madras, Mangalore and Bombay.

13. Captain Biden proceeds to state that the erroneous Longitude of Promontories on the Malabar Coast and adjacent Islands, is not so generally known as it should be, "the error being eighteen miles too far to the Eastward"; this is very important, and I would beg to recommend either that a fresh Survey of this Coast including all its lights, bays, and headlands,

* if the error pointed out by Capt. Biden has not already been corrected, which I have reason to believe will be found to be the case.

be undertaken, or that in accordance with the views of the Board a compilation be made of such recent Surveys as may be depended upon, and a Chart compiled therefrom, upon a uniform scale.

14. The Laccadives and Maldives might be included in this Survey, or in the compilation above described, should a fresh Survey be deemed unnecessary after communication with the Bombay Govt.

15. But as the Survey of the Malabar Coast may be said properly to belong to the Bombay Govt.

Govt. and as they have in the Indian Navy great resources at their Command, I would respectfully recommend that any work of the above description that may be required on that Coast, should be left to that Govt. to undertake.

16 While the Surveys on the Madras Coast, and about Ceylon and the Bayes are in course of being executed by the newly organized expedition, the "Krishna" and "Spy" which have lately returned from Surveying the Western Channels from Wedgerce to Sea, might be despatched to the Coast of Arracan where they can be most usefully employed as long as the weather will permit them to remain off the Coast.

17 The first thing demanding attention on this Coast is a Shoal patch which has been discovered about 7 miles to the S. E. of the extremity of the Oyster Reef, some $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the Great Savage Island on which the Light House is erected.

18 The bearings given by Capt. Hackford of the Brig "Repsina Anna Maria", who discovered the Shoal, indicate a spot on the Chart where there is nothing less set down than 10 fathoms, but as described by Capt. Hackford there are not more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms over the patch at low water, and as this lies right in the way of ships working out after crossing the bar, a deeply laden rice ship would strike upon it in the least swell.

19 I would therefore propose that the "Krishna" and "Spy" be at once despatched to examine this Shoal, and to survey the passage between the Oyster Island and the reef of the same name; and

and I consider it highly desirable that the whole of the ground off the Coast between the Oyster Reef at the entrance of Akyab Harbour, and the "Terribles" off Kyauk Phya Harbour, should be carefully redurveyed.

20 Volcanic eruptions are of frequent occurrence in the Province of Arracan both on land, and near its shores, and it is not improbable that the shoal patch in question has been thrown up by Volcanic Agency, which may at the same time have caused some further disturbance of the ground off the Coast.

21 Another matter requiring attention in this Province is the entrance of the river Naaf where Lieut. Mead Es. Engineer of the Arracan Road has lately reported that he has traced out a safe and direct Channel having not less than four fathoms at low water spring tides.

22 Colonel Goodwyn the Chief Engineer Lower Provinces who brought Lieut. Mead's Report to my notice states that the matter appears to him "to be an important one and well worthy of consideration, for if there really is, as reported, 4 fathoms at low water, the river will be navigable at any time of tide, & this would be a great advantage, for if the works on the Arracan road are to progress speedily, it will be necessary to send laborers from Bengal, and it is agreed on all hands that the best plan to secure this end would be by despatching the men direct to the Naaf."

23. As I have already been applied to on the subject of despatching Coolies to the Naaf on

our Sea Steamers for employment on the Arracan road, and the navigation about the entrance of that river is at present unsafe & uncertain for want of an accurate delineation of the Soundings to the Northward and inside of St. Martin's Island. They to recommend that this work may be undertaken by the Officer in Command of the "Krishna" after the completion of Surveys of greater importance to navigation.

24. From the "Terribles" down to "Negrais", and the Channel between Negrais and the Rapais, together with the Gulf of Martaban and the Martaban Coast the ground has been accurately surveyed, & excellent Charts have been formed.

25. The Tenasserim Coast also has been well surveyed, and there are no impediments hereabouts to safe navigation and no dangers in the way of trade generally speaking, although there are one or two banks and rocks to the South of the Mergui group of Islands, which have been discovered, the position of which might be fixed by the Surveying Vessels when next proceeding towards Sunk Ceylon and Penang.

26. Of these the rocky Shoal called "Roe Bank" is the most important, in Lat. $9^{\circ} 50' N.$, Long. $96^{\circ} 50'$ East, lying right in the track of ships passing between Bengal and the Straits of Malacca or other Eastern Ports.

27. The least water met with on this shoal was $8\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms, but as Horsburgh says, there may be less in some patches, and although it is probably not dangerous in any part, it should be carefully examined.

28. Shoal water has also been reported to have been fallen in with some 25 miles to the Southward of this bank, and it should be determined whether this is a new discovery or whether Roe Bank has been misplaced

misplaced on the Charts.

29. There is also a detached rock off "Chance" Island further South which requires laying down, and a dangerous Reef has been reported about 3 miles to the Eastward of the Southernmost of the Seyer Islands.

30. From Sunk Ceylon to Penang the Coast has never been placed under regular Survey, the Charts which exist of this part are mere outlines, I would therefore recommend that this much frequented track should be included in the surveying operations of the "Krishna" and "Spy" when next they get upon that ground.

31. Before commencing this work however there are some dangers about the "Andaman" group which should be correctly laid down.

32. First of these may be mentioned the "Keel" rock about 5 miles South of the Little Coco, and on which that Vessel struck in 1809 drawing only 10 feet water. The position of this rock should be accurately laid down in the Charts, and the Channel between the Little Coco and Sandfall Island should be examined.

33. The West Coast of the Andamans is not much known, but it has been partially surveyed; there is a bank off the West Coast of the Great Andaman which Horsburgh represents as very shoal and probably dangerous, this extends 8 or 9 leagues from the shore, and soundings have been obtained on it of 6 to 14 fathoms, this requires examination as do also the passages between the Islands which are occasionally used by ships, since dangers are known to exist thereabouts.

34. In the month of July 1854 the Honble Company's Steamer "Sesostrie" whilst pursuing her examination of these Islands in search of the "Lady Nugent" struck upon a Reef off the Northern end of the Little Andaman in a spot marked on the Charts 12 fathoms.

These

35 These are the most important of the subjects connected with Maritime Surveying in the Indian Seas down to the Straits requiring consideration.

36 As Vessels will now so constantly be passing between Madras and the Coast of Pegu and the Tenasserim Provinces, the Survey of the Andamans as above described will no doubt appear one of primary importance.

37 So also may be considered the Survey of the Madras Coast from Madras to Point Calimere, while the danger, reported near the entrance of Akyab Harbour is of no less importance.

38 I would beg to solicit early instructions for the despatch of the "Krishna" and "Spy" to the Coast of Arracan to take advantage of the present fine season, every day of which is invaluable.

39 Lieut. Meathcote is now employed in bringing up his Survey of the Western Channel at the Sandheads, when his Chart is submitted to Govt. the question of buoying off this Channel for the use of Ships in part supercession of the Eastern Channel including the Gasper, will require to be taken into consideration, but in the mean time much valuable work may be done on the Arracan Coast, and I would respectfully suggest that no time should be lost in undertaking it.

40 The Survey of the Madras Coast to be undertaken by a newly organized party would require the assistance of a second vessel as a tender in addition to the "Canary" or other Chief Surveying vessel.

41 With reference to the contents of the 4th para: of your letter which I have now the honor of replying to, I will with permission submit my views on the question of the advantage of building Light houses at the points indicated by Capt. Riden in a separate letter.

Fort William } I have the honor to be &c.
Mar: Supt's Office } B. J. Kinie Robertson
The 28th Jan. 1857. } Offy. Supt. of Marine

From

Cecil Beadon Esq.

Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

Lieut. Col. P. M. Melvill

Secretary to the Govt. of Bombay

dated the 27th March 1857

Home Dept. Sir,
Marine

I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of papers as per margin, relative to the dangers to navigation along the East and West Coasts of the Peninsula, and in the Bay of Bengal.

Letter from Chief Supt. to Govt. of Fort George, 27th Sept. 56 with enclosure.
Letter to Offy. Supt. of Marine, A. 1639 of the 4th Nov. 1856.
Letter from Bith. A. 500 of 28th Dec. 1857.

2 The Right Honble the Governor General in Council thinks it probable that the Trigonometrical Survey will have settled the longitude West of the Madras Light House of every point on the West Coast: and at all events the Government of Bombay will do what is necessary to correct the defects of the existing Surveys of that Coast.

3 His Lordship in Council desires me to request that the Right Honble the Governor in Council will select from the Indian Navy and place temporarily at the disposal of this Government a Scientific Officer competent to undertake the Survey of the Coromandel

ascertaining whether the Colonial Government will be willing to defray the expenses of such a survey if the Government of India supplies the vessels and Officers necessary for the service. -

Fort William
The 27th March
1857.

I have the honor to be &c
S^{ty} Cecil Beadon
Secy. to the Govt. of India

N^o
From
Cecil Beadon Esq^r
Secretary to the Govt. of India
To

Captain R. Robertson
Offy. Supt^d of Marine
dated the 27th March 1857.

Home Dep^t
Marine

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter N^o 500 dated the 28th January last, reporting the measures which you propose to adopt for the accurate survey of the several dangers to navigation in the Bay of Bengal, and along the West Coast of the Peninsula, and in reply to communicate to you the following observations and orders.

2 The Right Honble the Governor General in Council authorizes you either to build or purchase a vessel fitted for survey duty in the Hooghly river so as at once to set the "Cannery" or any other of the Pilot Briggs which you may consider better suited for the

the

Coromandel Coast in the "Cannery" as proposed by Captain Robertson commencing with the portion South of Madras. - It is the intention of the Governor General in Council to place Lieutenant Meathurst in charge of this survey as soon as Lieutenant Ward returns from leave of absence, so that the services of the Officers now applied for will not be required for more than five or six months. -

Fort William
The 27th March
1857.

I have the honor to be &c
S^{ty} Cecil Beadon
Secy. to the Govt. of India

N^o
From
Cecil Beadon Esq^r
Secretary to the Govt. of India
To

Honble C. J. MacCarthy
Colonial Secretary
Ceylon
dated the 27th March 1857.

Home Dep^t
Marine

Sir,
I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter N^o 8 dated the 11th December last expressing the inability of the Ceylon Government from want of naval resources to undertake the survey of the Coasts of Ceylon.

2 The Right Honble the Governor General in Council is desirous of ascertaining

the purpose free for the Survey of the
Eastern Coast of the Peninsula -

3 The Government of Bombay will be
requested to select from the Indian Navy and
place temporarily at the disposal of this
Government, a scientific Officer competent to
undertake the Survey of the Coromandel Coast
in the "Lauvery" as proposed by you, com-
mencing with that portion of it lying between
Madras and Point Calimere. It is the inten-
tion of the Governor General in Council to place
Lieutenant Heathcote in charge of this Survey
as soon as Lieut. Ward returns from leave of
absence, so that the services of the Officer
now applied for will not be required for
more than five or six months -

4 His Lordship in Council authorizes
you to send Lieut. Heathcote with the
"Krishna" and "Spy" to the Coast of Arakan
and Chittagong without loss of time. When
his operations there are either completed, or
brought to a close by the Monsoon, Lieut.
Heathcote can proceed towards Penang taking
in his way the dangers referred to in the 25th
and five following paragraphs of your letter,
and perhaps examining the Daphne rock
and the Channel between the Little Coco
and Landfall Island -

5 Regarding the Survey of the
Western Coast of the Andamans
you

10
you will receive further instructions
hereafter -

Council Chamber }
The 27th March }
1857. - }

I have the honor to be &c.
/ S^d Cecil Beadon
Secy. to the Govt. of India

/ True Copies /

W. M. B. B.
Secy. to the Govt. of India

N^o 428

From

Cecil Beadon Esq^r
Secretary to the Govt of India

To

J. Pycroft Esq^r
Chief Secretary to the Govt of
Fort St. George
dated the 27th March 1857.

Hon^{ble} Capt. Sir,
Marine

With reference to your letter N^o 286
dated the 13th September last and its
enclosures, regarding the dangers to navi-
gation along the East and West Coasts
of the Peninsula in the Indian Ocean
and in the Bay of Bengal, I am
directed to forward for the informa-
tion of the Right Honourable the Governor

To Offg. Supt^r of Marine N^o 1639
of the 6th Nov^r 1856.
To Colonial Secretary Ceylon N^o 1447
of Ditto.
From Ditto N^o 80 dated 11th Nov^r 1856
From Offg. Supt^r of Marine N^o 570
of 28th Jan^y 1857.
To Secretary to Govt of Bombay of
this date.
To Colonial Secretary Ceylon - Ditto
To Offg. Supt^r of Marine - Ditto

in Council, a copy of the cor-
respondence noted in the
margin on the subject, from
which His Lordship in Council
will perceive that steps have
been taken for extending the

Maritime Survey of the Coasts and
Islands of the Indian Seas with
a view to accomplish the ends
proposed

Marine on 6 Aug 8. by 24th
Oct 26 of 1857.
Pam 14

N^o 1057. B.
N^o 10142

proposed by the Government of Fort
St. George. —

Fort William
The 27th March
1857.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Cuthbert

Secy. to the Govt. of India

Can 16 Sept 1857. 2c 10.

3

Manie & Co. Aug 24

Oct 26 of 1857.

Para 14

Reflected to 29 of September
28/10/1858.

14 7/5

Further Ref from M. D. 208

Manie - 1857. Depart

From the day to the day
of India. No 428.

of March 57

1857/11/2.
1/2

Obtained copy of cover
tendence regarding the
danger of navigation along
the East and West Coast of the
Peninsula in the Indian
Ocean and in the Bay of
Bengal from which it will
be perceived that the route
proposed by this Court will be
advantageous.

With a. R. 208

1857/11/2. 1857. dated 27 April 1857

It is proposed that the
Board and the cor.

California which is a

By the Board and with

reference to the Department
of the Board in the report of

the 20th August 1857. No 2111. for

the 20th August 1857. No 2111. for

the 20th August 1857. No 2111. for

the 20th August 1857. No 2111. for

the 20th August 1857. No 2111. for

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