

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	215	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	21-5-18 59	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

7.6.32

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 18th to 27th May 1859.*

No. 13. Read the following letter from Commander A. FOULERTON, Indian Navy, Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer Punjaub, Indian Navy; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras Roads, 19th May 1859.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of copy of letter No. 211 from Quarter Master General to your address dated 17th May, with order thereon No. 206 dated 18th May. I beg you will inform the Right Honorable the Governor that it was with no small degree of astonishment that I learned of Captain Nicolls' complaints contained in the two Extracts of his letter.

2. In the 1st Extract he seems to infer that he had some difficulty in obtaining one Cabin for himself and 4 other Officers, a difficulty I knew nothing of, as I had informed the 1st Lieutenant as to the accommodation and space for Baggage they were to have prior to his visit to the Ship; but if he had thought himself aggrieved by the accommodation being so small I should have thought a person of his mature years might have spoken about it at the time instead of acting as he has done; for he on various occasions during the passage and after our arrival at Rangoon expressed for himself and those with him the satisfactory manner the Officers had behaved to them, making every room that they could for them, although they felt they must be very much in their way, which no doubt they were; Captain Nicoll states that there was only one Cabin for himself and 4 Officers, which is true to the letter, but I cannot help thinking had he stated the case more explicitly, I should not have to do so now; the regulations and customs of the service are "if there is a vacant Cabin it is given to the Officer Commanding the Troops" which was done, and Captain Nicoll had a larger

* Size of Cabin 8 feet by 7 feet 4½ Inches and Cabin* than any of the Officers of the Gun-room. Three of the Gun-room Officers shared their Cabins with three of the Subalterns (and

Captain Nicolls' complaint which I have shewn them is the thanks for their very great consideration) Captain Nicoll I believe shared his Cabin with the remaining Subaltern. Regarding the Baggage I told the Quarter Master General that the heavy Baggage being sent in the Vessel in tow of us (which is a customary thing as Vessels of war have very little room for baggage) would tend to the comfort of the Troops, for unfortunately both the coal holds were full, had they been empty the Baggage might have gone with us without being in the way of the Troops; I don't know what amount of Baggage they expected to bring on board. I saw the Staff Serjeants as theirs came off, and certainly none of the Officers of the Ship could have room for so much.

3. Regarding the 2nd Extract from Captain Nicoll's letter, although I cannot presume to give the Right Honorable the Governor my advice as to the means which he should adopt to ascertain the amount of accommodation to be had in an 1800 Ton-Ship, I may add that I can have no possible objections to the advice offered by Captain Nicoll to the Commander-in-Chief being resorted to; I consider Captain Nicoll referring to the paucity of room for the sick quite uncalled for, he never having applied for accommodation, and there being no sick on board that I heard of, except that a very large number of Troops were embarked covered with a cutaneous eruption, a Serjeant's Wife was confined during the passage, but the Gunner had given up his Cabin to the 2 Serjeants' Wives and taken them and their families into their mess putting the Warrant Officers to considerable expense in feeding them, the remuneration for which was rejected at Rangoon, as it appears that Staff Serjeants are not entitled to mess with Warrant Officers they only being allowed room on the deck the same as the Sepoy.

4. With reference to the 1st part of the 2nd para. of the Quarter Master General's letter, he has stated the case fairly, I told him our coal holds were full and Baggage that could not go in our Orlops must go on deck and be in the way of the Troops there being only the upper deck available for them. Regarding the 2nd part of the para, I regret to see that the Commander-in-Chief has termed my conduct as not justifiable, a comment I consider quite uncalled for, and one that I think he would not have made had he known the facts of the case, and the rules of Her Majesty's Indian Navy regarding Troops in Vessels of war; a space of 26½ feet by 8 feet and 6½ feet high having been portioned off for the Officers Baggage in event of course of the

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whole not being required for theirs, other Baggage would have been placed in it, and every accommodation given that they were entitled to, and a great deal of consideration in the Officers allowing them the use of their private Cabins as well as providing them with beds to which they were not entitled.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, 21st May 1859, No. 215.

Communicated to the Military Department in reference to the Quarter Master General's letter, 17th May 1859,

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Con 27th May 59 Expt No. 206
Anton. Lupton May 59

The Mily. Dept. 21st May 59

To the Mily. Dept.
21st May 1859.

Communicated to the Mily. Dept.
in reference to the Quarter Master Gen-
eral's letter, 17th May 1859.

13-14
12-13

No. of Boat 27 May 59
Marine 1859. Dept. ✓

From Commander A.
Foulerton M. Comd.
H.M.S. Puyaubert. In.

4/19 May 59.

10.214.

Submits explanation in
regard to the complaint
made by Captain Nicolls
that great discomfort
was experienced by the
Officers and men who
proceeded to Rangoon
on the "Puyaubert."

With an Order.