

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Medicine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	273	Press Mis.
Dated	22.6	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 18th to 24th June 1859.*

No. 8. From Senior Lieutenant H. A. FRASER, I., N.; Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Coromandel" I., N.; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 3rd June 1859, No. 24 of 1859.

I have the honor most respectfully to appeal to the Honorable the Governor in Council against the Superintendent of Marine at Madras, in the following instance.

On the 16th Ultimo, I addressed a letter to the Superintendent of Marine, stating for the information of Government, that I had detained the "Coromandel" beyond the regulated time, at Masulipatam, to embark the Troops which I was ordered to receive there, for conveyance to Vizagapatam, also that in consequence of the crowded state of the Vessel, and the inclemency of the weather, I had left Coconada earlier than the specified time, to enable the Troops to be landed at Vizagapatam the same day, thereby saving them from exposure to another night of wind and rain without shelter.

In reply to this communication, the Superintendent of Marine was pleased to express his approval of my having waited at Masulipatam; censured my conduct in not waiting the specified time at Coconada, and cautioned me for the future.

This I humbly conceive to be an assumption of authority which the Superintendent does not, and cannot exercise over me, as a Commissioned Officer Commanding a Vessel of the Indian Navy.

The orders of the Supreme Government contained in para. 2nd of letter from C. Beadon Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India to your address, dated 22nd January 1859, distinctly specify that "while any of the transports are Commanded by Officers of the Indian Navy they will be guided by whatever orders are issued to them by the Government of Madras" through the Superintendent of Marine at Madras, or by the Superintendent of Marine acting "under the general authority of that Government;" these orders I respectfully beg to submit, give no authority to the Superintendent of Marine at his pleasure to express approval or disapproval of my conduct as a public Officer, and I therefore solicit the Honorable the Governor in Council may be pleased to restrain the Superintendent of Marine from a further continuance of this course.

Forwarded for explanation to the Superintendent of Marine.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
7th June 1859.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

No. 9. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 9th June 1859, No. 2270.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Lieutenant Fraser, I. N., Commanding the "Coromandel" to Government, dated the 3rd Instant, and referred to me for explanation.

2. Lieutenant Fraser represents that I had censured his conduct in not waiting for certain Private Passengers at Cocanada, and appeals against this as an assumption of authority which I have no right to exercise over him. Before entering on the question of right, I will state the circumstances.

3. On the passage up the Coast in the early part of last month, the "Coromandel" was detained at Masulipatam about 20 hours, as the Troops to be received there were not ready to embark. He left that Port at 8 A. M. of the 14th and anchored at Cocanada at 8 P. M. of the same day. The instructions for his guidance require him to wait at each of the Northern Ports during eight hours of day-light, but wishing to land the men he had on board for Vizagapatam, he left again at or about 7 A. M., on the 15th and reached the last named Port at 4 P. M., the same day.

franklin

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 18th to 24th June 1859.*

Captain Tod, Commanding 1st Extra
Regiment.
Mr. F. Copleston, C. S.
Miss Lugard.

4. Three Passengers had arrived at Cocanada for the express purpose of proceeding in the Vessel to Vizagapatam. One had telegraphed to me inquiring the time at which the Steamer might be expected, and all had shaped their arrangements accordingly. Early on the morning after the Steamer had arrived at Cocanada the Master Attendant proceeded on board, and, according to the rules laid down for his guidance, handed the Register of the Passengers to the Commander, who is said to have replied that he could not wait five minutes for them as his Vessel was too crowded, and he did not wish to experience another wet night in the crowded state of his Vessel. The Master Attendant expostulated and explained that the parties were actually already on their way to the Ship. The delay would therefore have been very trifling for they shortly after arrived at the mouth of the river, but Lieutenant Fraser was not to be moved from his purpose and proceeded on his way, leaving behind the parties who had come in from Rajahmundry and Samulcottah expressly to proceed by her, and who had been at the expense of keeping a boat engaged for three days with a view not to detain the Steamer on her arrival.

5. The Collector of Rajahmundry in his letter to me reporting the circumstances further remarks that the rain during the night of the 14th was on shore confined to one rather heavy shower.

6. The foregoing statement will, I think, clearly shew that Lieutenant Fraser did not act up to the spirit of his instructions; his Vessel is employed as a packet to carry Mails and Passengers, private as well as public: the circular Memorandum for the guidance of Commanders of these Vessels, copy of which accompanies, enjoin on him, among other

No. 1.

things, a stay of eight hours of day-light at each Northern Port; and however he might have wished to avoid keeping the Vizagapatam Detachment of Troops on board during another night, there was no occasion for his haste in quitting the Port, and refusing to take the Passengers who, he was told, were actually on their way to the Vessel. He arrived at Vizagapatam at 4 p. m., on the same day. Had he been there at 6, the Troops could equally have been landed the same evening. I looked on the proceeding therefore as at variance with the spirit of his instructions, and brought it to Lieutenant Fraser's notice in a letter copy of which I feel it but just to myself to submit, to shew that I assumed no undue arrogance but conveyed my opinion in the mildest terms possible.

No. 2.

Dated 27th May 1859, No. 2088.

7. As regards my right to express an opinion to any Indian Naval Officer engaged on this line as to the mode of conducting the duties entrusted to him, I would solicit a reference to the order of the Supreme Government of the 22nd January last, No. which Lieutenant Fraser, himself quotes. A careful consideration of the concluding part of this sentence will shew that, while engaged on this particular service, they are to be subject to my orders. I therefore drew up the memorandum appended for their guidance, in order that there should be no mistake; and if the instructions therein conveyed are not attended to, it surely comes within my province, as the controlling authority, to point out where they have done right or wrong. The Government, I presume, would hardly wish to be troubled with minor questions of detail. It will be sufficient to submit for their consideration any serious infraction of orders. On the present occasion it seemed, or was open to be treated as, an error of judgement, and the Government will I believe, readily decide that it was my duty to notice it as I did.

"While any of the transports are commanded
"by Officers of the Indian Navy they will be
"guided by whatever orders are issued to them
"by the Government of Madras through the
"Superintendent of Marine at Madras or by
"the Superintendent of Marine acting under
"the general authority of that Government."

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 18th to 24th June 1859.*

8. But while indicating the course I pursued in this matter, I cannot be surprized at Lieutenant Fraser's appeal against my exercising authority over him, a Commissioned Officer in the Indian Navy. It is a mistake employing Vessels in commission on work of this description, which entails on the Officers duties required of those in the Merchant service. I foresaw that these collisions regarding authority were likely to occur, and in 8th para. of my letter of the 24th September 1858, recommended that Indian Navy Vessels so employed should be commanded by acting Masters. From what has since transpired I would, however, carry my recommendation further, and urge that such Vessels should be put out of commission, and be handed over entirely to this Government. If it is necessary to provide for Officers of the Indian Navy who sought commands, there is no reason why they should not be conferred on them; but it should be on the footing held by Lieutenant Sweny of the same service, who commands the Surveying Brig "Mutlah," not on commission.

No. 3830.

9. It was always the policy of the late Marine Board to advocate for themselves full control over the Steam transports placed at the permanent disposal of this Government. They did not wish that Vessels of the Indian Navy should be assigned for this purpose, feeling assured that the rules and usages of a regular naval service would ill accord with the rough and dirty work required of regular transports. They likewise dwelt on the difficulties that were likely to arise from the Officers being under no local control, save and except as regards their actual movements which they report direct to Government. This restricted authority must necessarily render the Vessels less efficient than would be others, like the "Hugh Lindsey," which was entirely under the orders and control of this Office. It appears therefore to me that the transport service should be kept distinct from the Indian Navy, to whose Officers the movement of Troops is particularly distasteful.

No. 10.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1859, No. 273.

Resolved that Lieutenant Fraser be informed, in reply to his letter under date the 3rd Instant, that the Government having referred to the Superintendent of Marine for explanation on the subject, can perceive nothing in the Superintendent's proceedings to which exception can be taken or which calls for their interference.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

Graves

3
Memorandum for the guidance of the Commanders
of the Madras, Northern Ports & Burmah line of
Steamers.

1 Commanders are requested to keep to
the published dates of arrivals and departures as
nearly as circumstances will admit, bearing in
mind that any anticipation in the date of
leaving Madras is to be kept up throughout
the trip.

2 A List of passengers and freight, public
and private, will be delivered to the Commander
of each steamer before she leaves Madras, and his
portion of the passage money will be handed
to him.

3 The Commander's share of the passage
money will be half that of cabin passage and of
children, and two thirds of quarter deck passage.

4 Government passengers will be paid for
at the rates of table money authorized in the
Indian Navy upon the production of the usual
messing certificates.

5 At the Northern ports the Master's Sten-
dant, and at Rangoon the Superintendent of the
Irrawaddy Flotilla will on the arrival of a steamer
hand a register of applications for freight and
passage.

passage, public and private, to the Commander, who will decide on the quantity of stores and number of passengers to be taken. He is then to receive from the above named officers the freight and passage money, accounting for it on his return to Chedras to the Superintendent of Marine.

6. On the return of each steamer to Chedras the Commander will deliver to the Superintendent of Marine a list of the passengers and freight received during the trip, and will pay to him the Government share.

7. Bills of lading will be signed at Chedras by the Superintendent of Marine, and at outports by the Commander.

8. Art. 13 of the Rules empowers the Commander to send to the Custom House all goods which may remain on board 24 hours after arrival at Pangoon or Madras, or three hours after arrival at the Northern ports, unless previously applied for. They should be put into a boat addressed to the care of the Master Attendant, or Superintendent of the Navy, at the Flotilla, as the case may be, with a description memo: and although it will be the fault of

49
Consignees if loss ensues endeavours should be made to secure cargo from miscarriage.

9. The stay at each of the Northern ports is to be for eight hours during daylight.

James Franklin
Lt. of Marine

N^o 2000.

From

J. J. Franklin Esq.
Superintendent of Marine

To

Lieutenant Fraser, J. S.
Commanding
H. M. Steamer
"Coromandel"

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th instant N^o 14, and to observe that you were quite justified in delaying the "Coromandel" at Masulipatam for the purpose of embarking the troops then awaiting passage to Vizagapatam and Rangoon; but that it is expected on future occasions that timely arrangements will be made by the proper authorities which will prevent the recurrence of such detention.

The

1871

In a letter to the Chief
Secretary to Government
Rangoon dated 9 June 1871

Memorandum for the
guidance of the Hon.
members of the Council
for Home Affairs and Revenue
and of the Secretary

M. 57. 81
no 248

2. The subject of your concluding para: has been brought to the notice of the Quarter Master General of the Army, who will doubtless take measures for avoiding in future the inconvenience you point out.

3. I regret however, that you should have determined to proceed on from Cocanada without waiting for the passengers who had come from the interior to that port for the express purpose of taking passage in the "Coromandel", and who might have been embarked an hour later than your actual departure. I fully understand and appreciate your anxiety to spare the troops the discomfort of another night at sea with such crowded decks, but this might equally have been accomplished had you waited the very short

short time necessary to allow the Cocanada passengers to embark, for they were at the mouth of the river soon after you left.

4. I request therefore that you will have the goodness to bear in mind that this line of packets is established for the benefit of the public, as well as for the purposes of Government; and that every endeavour should be made to keep to the spirit of the rules laid down for your guidance, a departure from which has on the present occasion caused much inconvenience to the disappointed parties. The 9th para of the Memorandum for the guidance of Commanders of Steamers employed on the line, provides for a stay of 6 hours during daylight at each of the Northern ports; and it would have been quite within the

the spirit of that rule to have
just stayed long enough to
have admitted the combustion
of the paper.

I have the honor to be
W^m J. Franklin
Supt of Marine
Madras
Marine Supt's Office
8th May 1859.

True Copy

W^m Mother

Supt of Marine.

Reference is made to the
letter reporting the delay ex-
perienced at the station
in the embarkation of the
troops awaiting passage to
Singapore & Bangkok &
the delay in the report, that the
delay had been determined
to proceed on from Cochin
without waiting for the
passengers.
H. 59 B.
in 2149

182088

Recd 29 May 1859

Smith Fraser & Co.
Com of the M^{rs} of Marine
Colonial

In a letter to the Chief
Secretary to Govt dated
9 June 1859. 182270

1822

Marine Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter
From Lieut. A. A. Fraser S. M. Comd. M. S. Cochin
from the Superintendent of
Marine.
(Here enter 9th June 1859)
182270.

Order thereon 22nd June 1859. 182273.

Resolved that Lieut.
Fraser be informed, in reply
to his letter under date the
3rd instant, that the govern-
ment having referred to the
Superintendent of Marine for
explanation on the subject,
can perceive nothing in
the Superintendent's proceed-
ings to which exception
can be taken or which
calls for their interference.

Lieut. A. A. Fraser S. M. Comd. M. S. Cochin
Supt of Marine

I do not see any public
service should be made
suppose for the Government
of these Officers. They
will have wisdom in
whenever

2. - Resolved also that
this correspondence be sub-
mitted to the Government
of India and it be intimated
to

to them that this govern-
ment concurs in opinion
with Mr. Franklin that
such misunderstandings
are not unlikely to be
frequent, if Commissioned
vessels of the Indian Navy
are employed as transports,
and that they would there-
fore support the recom-
mendation contained in
para. 8 of the Superin-
tendent's letter.

JP

Marine Department.

No.

To,
The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Sir,
I am directed by the
Honorable the Governor in Council
to forward for submission
to the Government of India the
accompanying correspondence
as per Margin relative to a
complaint made by Lieut.
Fraser Commanding H. M.
Steamer "Coronado" V. C.
against the proceedings of
the Superintendent of Marine
for this Presidency.

2.- The Government think
it unnecessary to enter into
the case. They have informed
Lieutenant Fraser in reply
to his letter that they perceive
nothing objectionable in the
conduct of the Superintend-
ent nor of its nature to re-
quire their interference.

Yours

JP

2.- Their object however in laying these papers before the Government of India is to request their attention to the remarks made by Mr. Franklin in the concluding paras. 289 of his letter - The Honorable the Governor in Council has to express his concurrence in Mr. Franklin's opinion that Commissioned Vessels of the Indian Navy are not well adapted for the Madras and Rangoon or indeed for any transport service - that such mismanagement as that now under report - are likely to be frequent whilst they are so employed - and that the course recommended by Mr. Franklin is deserving of consideration.

3.- I am further desired to bring to notice that the instructions conveyed in Para. 2 of Mr. Secretary

Readon's

9
Readon's Letter of 22^d Jan^y last. Home Department by which officers of the Indian Navy in Command of transports are placed in a measure under the superintendence of Marine have been understood to apply only to transports on the Madras and Rangoon line - which it is ^{to be} observed carry private passengers - Merchandise and specie as well as public stores - troops &c. - They have not been regarded as applicable to any other vessels of the Indian Navy nor even to the Rangoon & Madras Steamers when employed on any duty out of that line - On all such occasions the officers commanding Steamers expect to receive their instructions direct from Government and under the hand of one of their Secretaries. The

inconvenience

inconvenience of this course
will be obvious.

J.P.

111

111
C/S June
1879

Am. V. M. Co.

Pro of Govt 24 June
Maine 1859. Dep. H. H.

No 293

Proceedings of Government

Dated 22 June 59

8 @ 10

18 June
1822