

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT

O.O. No.	296	Press
Dated	1 7	18 37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 25th June to 1st July 1859.*

No. 17. Read the following letter from Commander F. W. HOPKINS, I. N., Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie"; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 20th June 1859, No. 114.

With reference to the orders of Government received, directing that this Vessel is to be employed in carrying private merchandize and private passengers, I most respectfully beg to state as follows for the information of Government, the suitability of the Vessel for such work, and also that of conveying Troops. The "Dalhousie" has no spare holds or Store Rooms for Government Stores or Cargo and the room I make for Troops baggage (when possible) is made available, by not quite filling up the forehold with Coal; when Troops are on Board, there is no room for Government Stores or private Cargo; the only place to put Cargo in is the main and after Troop decks amongst the Troops, where it is liable to be broached, or damaged: part of the Troops baggage I often have to stow under the Troop deck 2 feet, 4 inch high on the water tank (where nothing is usually stowed in a Ship) and besides this a portion of baggage has often to be stowed in the Troop deck taking up part of the men's room, to their great dis-comfort.

The Vessel is small and not well adapted for Trooping purposes in this climate, particularly in bad weather; and during the late trip from Calcutta although not in a gale of wind the Troops, women, and children, were in a state of the greatest discomfort from rain and the Sea washing over them on the upper deck; it was too hot below with all the scuttles closed which has to be done even with a fresh breeze blowing; the Vessel has generally a far greater number of Troops sent on Board and baggage than she can conveniently take with proper safety, and comfort to the men, women and children.

I beg to enclose copy of a letter to Commander G. G. Wellesley C. B. R. N., Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, respecting the Ship and also letters from Captain C. D. Campbell, Indian Navy.

The Vessel should carry about 300 European (Adults) and their Cooks or 400 Natives all told.

From Commander F. W. HOPKINS, I. N., Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie"; to Commodore G. G. WELLESLEY, C. B. R. N., Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, Bombay, dated 18th June 1859, No. 113.

In continuation of my letter No. 112 dated 16th June 1859, I most respectfully beg to report that the "Dalhousie" is ill adapted for carrying Troops particularly in any sort of heavy weather in this climate, even with a fresh breeze and a moderate sea the side scuttles have to be closed; the heat is usually so great below, particularly when the scuttles are shut and sloped Taraulins over the hatches, that the Troops won't stop below, and on the late trip from Calcutta to this the European Women and the Children suffered much from the sea washing over them on the upper deck; the Vessel I think might carry a slight spar deck as a protection for the Troops from the weather, and I would most respectfully suggest that she be sent to Bombay in September for any alteration you may deem necessary to be made (October being a hurricane month round here.) The Vessel is small for a Troop Ship, particularly where much space is wanted for the enormous quantity of baggage Troops have on this side, good room and ventilation is essential for the Men, Women and Children.

2. The Ship has been nearly 3 months at Calcutta getting some slight repair done to her Machinery and a spare hause pipe fitted, and a few trifling jobs; which would have been completed in Bombay in a month's time and much better done.

3. There is no spare store room or holds in the Ship for carrying Government Stores or private Merchandize, if Troops be on board at the same time, the Troop decks are the only places it could be stowed in, and consequently liable to be broached and damaged. A small space 2 feet 4 Inches high over the Tanks under after Troop deck is the only place there is for Troops and the baggage of the Troops has often to be stowed in the Troop decks to the exclusion of the room for the Men and I can only make room available below by not filling up the coal in the main hold.

*stated her accommod-
dations.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 25th June to 1st July 1859.*

4. I beg to enclose copy of Captain Campbell's report on this Vessel on her arrival in India.

5. I most respectfully beg to mention that the "Dalhousie" would be better adapted for carrying Government Stores and a few Troops and first Class Passengers between Bombay and Kurrachee, where the people would not be long on board, than she is for the conveyance of Troops in the Bay of Bengal.

Referred for the report of the Superintendent of Marine.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st June 1859.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

No. 18. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 24th June 1859, No. 2521.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from Commander F. W. Hopkins, R. N., Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie" of the 20th Instant, No. 114, with annexures referred to me for report under date the 21st. In this letter it is represented that the Vessel has no spare holds or Store Rooms in which Government Stores or private Cargo, can be securely stowed, and that she is not adapted from her limited accommodation for the transport of Troops, who ought not to exceed 300 European adults with their cooks, or 400 natives.

2. Commander Hopkins moreover suggests in his letter of the 15th Instant, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy that she should be ordered round to Bombay in September next for any alterations that it may be considered necessary to make, and concludes by observing that she is better adapted for carrying Troops and Stores between that Port and Kurrachee than in the Bay of Bengal.

3. Commander Hopkins is quite correct in representing that his Vessel is not well adapted for the conveyance of Troops or Cargo, there is little or no hold for the latter, and for the former there are now but too lower deck compartments. There were originally three, but when she was sent to Calcutta in October 1857, some alterations were effected regarding which I am not acquainted, as she is in commission of the Indian Navy and such matters are not reported to my Department.

4. But although the "Dalhousie" cannot give shelter below to a large number of Troops, there is no reason why she cannot carry them on deck during the fine weather season; and it is only at that time of the year that Steamers are filled with a full allotment, as far at least as my authority extends to prevent it. In reply to another communication from Government of this day's date, I am about to ask for the "Dalhousie" to be employed in taking the next mail to the Northern Ports and Rangoon, and it was my intention not to embark more than 200 men in her for the opposite Coast, this being the number she can accommodate below. I do not consider it right that Troops should be exposed to the dis-comforts of a deck passage to Burmah during the South West monsoon, and for this reason the numbers taken by the "Sydney," the last Steamer that left, were restricted to 300.

5. Although therefore the "Dalhousie" is not all that could be wished, her services are very useful, particularly when small parties have to be moved, and I would respectfully suggest that she should be kept under the control of this Presidency. The "Prince Arthur," a much finer Vessel as a Troop Ship, was sent out in 1857 expressly with reference to the communication between Madras and Rangoon. An Establishment of Indian Navy Officers Engineers and crew was to have been in readiness at Madras to take charge of her. None were here on her arrival and she was sent to Bombay for them in October of that year, with a request from the Government that she might return as early as possible yet she has never since been at Madras.

6. With regard to Government Stores and private Cargo, I will endeavour to enter into some arrangement with Commander Hopkins for the conveyance of a small quantity.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 25th June to 1st July 1859.*

No. 19.

ORDER THEREON, 1st July 1859, No. 290.

Government approve of the "Dalhousie" being employed to take the next mail to the Northern Ports and Rangoon.

2. In his letter recorded above, Commander Hopkins described the "Dalhousie" as being unsuited for Trooping purposes, and stated her accommodation as being limited to carrying 300 European Troops with their cooks, or 400 Natives, all told. In his letter, 18th idem, addressed to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, Commander Hopkins suggested that the "Dalhousie" should be sent to Bombay in September next in view to a slight spar deck being constructed on her, and expressed his opinion that the Vessel is unfitted for the conveyance of Troops in the long voyages across the Bay of Bengal, and would be better adapted for plying between Bombay and Kurrachee.

3. From the report of the Superintendent of Marine on Commander Hopkins' letter, Government learn that it is only during the prevalence of fine weather that the "Dalhousie" is filled with a fair allotment of Troops to convey, whereas for the proposed voyage across the Bay it was not intended to embark more than 200 men on her. The Government rely on Mr. Franklin seeing that more Troops are not put on board of her, than she can properly accommodate, and think it proper, under the circumstances, the Commander should be consulted as to the arrangements for conveying Government Stores and private Cargo.

4. With respect to the "Prince Arthur," Government resolve to refer to the Government of Bombay. Meanwhile the "Dalhousie" must be kept under this Government until they can be supplied with a more suitable Steamer to take her place.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

*stated her accommoda-
tions.*

Marine.

things of the Madras Govt.

following letters—

Commander of

Mr. Dalhousie—Enter 20th June 1859 N^o 114.

Superintendent

" 24th do ————— 2521

Order thereon—1st July 1859 N^o 290.

Govt. approve of the
Dalhousie being em-
ployed to take the
next mail to the Nor-
thern Ports & Rangoon

2. In his letter recorded a-
bove, Commander Hop-
kins described the Dal-
housie as being unsuited
for Trooping purposes, &
stated her accommo-
dation.

accommodation as be-
ing limited to carrying
300 European Troops with
their cooks, or 400 Na-
tives, all told. In his
letter, 18- idem, addressed
to the Commander-in-
chief of the Indian Navy,
Commander Hopkins
suggested that the Dal-
housie should be sent
to Bombay in Septemr.
next in view to a slight
spar deck being con-
structed on her, & ex-
pressed his opinion that
the vessel is unfitted for
the conveyance of Troops
in the long voyages across
the Bay of Bengal, & would
be better adapted for fly-
ing between Bombay &
Purrahee.

3. From the report of the
Superintendent of Marine

^x the circumstances, the
Commanders should
be consulted as to the
arrangements for con-
veying Govt. Stores and
private cargo.

on Commander Hopkins
letter, Govt. learn that
it is only during the pre-
valence of fine weather
that the Dalhousie is
filled with a fair allot-
ment of Troops to convey,
whereas for the proposed
voyage across the Bay, it
was not intended to em-
bark more than 200
men on her. The Govt.
rely on Mr. Franklin
making it his duty to
see that more troops
are not put on board
of her, than she can pro-
perly accommodate, &
think it proper, under
4. With respect to the "Queen
Arthur," Govt. resolve to
refer to the Govt. of
Bombay. Meanwhile
the Dalhousie must

5

he kept under this coat.
until they can be sup-
plied with a more
suitable steamer to
take her place.

JP

The Commanders of the *Dalhousie*.
 Superintendents of Marine.
 Quarter Master Genl.
 Mil. Department.

} Dispt. 2^d

Pro. of Goodm.

Pro. of Goodm. 1859

1859

Pro. of Goodm.

28/12/59

1859

c 28 June
1859