

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	469	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	20 7 -	1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 17th to 23rd September 1859.*

No. 5. Read the following letter from Commander F. W. HOPKINS, Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie" to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 16th August 1859, No. 165.

I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter from Assistant Surgeon McConnel of this vessel and in doing so most respectfully beg to state to the Honorable the Governor in Council, that Assistant Surgeon McConnel has had great difficulty and put to some expense to recover the small amount of Head money allowed him for the Extra duties of attending to sick on board, and he has not as yet been able to realize the amount due him, he is appointed to the Ship for attendance on her Officers and crew, total strength about 150, and each vessel of the Indian Navy carries an Assistant Surgeon, or a qualified Apothecary, in small vessels; it is only when Medical Men cannot be spared from the shore that the ship's Surgeon is called on to attend on sick proceeding in the ships.

2. With reference to private remuneration for Medical attendance on persons who are proceeding by the ship and supplying them with Medical comforts, it rests with the Government to decide whether such is to be given gratis or not, but I respectfully beg to mention that even on shore I believe the wives of Government Officers don't receive Medical attendance and Medicines free. The Government charge for passage to the Northern Ports and Rangoon, appear to be high; and persons would naturally expect Medical attendance and Medicines free; but if the vessel when so employed is considered as a *Packet*, I respectfully beg to state that at one time the Officers of the Indian Navy serving in vessels so employed received two Rupees per day batta, and I beg to solicit the favourable consideration of the Madras Government to allow as a special case Batta for the *Wardroom* Officers to meet their extra expense for messing, &c. as the "Dalhousie" has no *Wardroom* for the Officers and they are obliged to mess with me; and she is the *only* vessel in the Indian Navy, not provided with separate accommodation for the Captain.

From Assistant Surgeon McCONNEL, in Medical charge, Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," Indian Navy; to Commander F. W. HOPKINS, Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," dated 13th August 1859, No. 29.

I have the honor to request you will be good enough to ascertain from the Government authorities at Madras whether private passengers are entitled to be supplied by the vessel with Medicines, Medical comforts, and such other Medical appliances as may be found requisite for the treatment of the diseases and casualties, common on boardship in rough weather, as at the present time in the Bay of Bengal during the S. W. Monsoon.

2. Also whether I am supposed to attend on every call and render gratuitous Medical advice to passengers who consist of Merchants and Traders, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Natives who have no claim to such on shore; the latter being deck passengers not provisioned by the ship and unprovided with accommodation, and whose penurious habits will not allow of their providing themselves with the common necessities of life, must undoubtedly suffer most.

3. The above reference to the authorities at Madras is in compliance with the wishes of the Superintending Surgeon, P. D., and Indian Navy, Bombay, to whom I reported the Extra duties imposed on me by the recent regulations, making Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," perform the duties of a regular Mail Packet.

Referred for the remarks of the Assistant in charge of the Office of the Superintendent of Marine.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, }
19th August 1859. }

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 17th to 23rd September 1859.

No. 6. From J. B. CROWTHER, Esq., Assistant Superintendent of Marine; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd August 1859, No. 3300.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from Commander Hopkins to Government, enclosing one from the Officer in Medical charge of the Steamer "Dalhousie," on which I am directed to remark, and accordingly beg to submit the following.

2. With regard to Medical attendance and medicines, I should consider that passengers on board Government vessels are fully entitled to receive such free of extra charge, and that if called upon, the ship's Surgeon is bound to grant the same; in respect to his remuneration, it is for Government to decide whether or not they consider him in a position to claim Batta, and its amount, if conceded. I observe that formerly it was the usage in Bombay to grant half Batta to the Wardroom Officers in vessels of the Indian Navy when engaged in the packet service, but it was discontinued in 1850, under instructions from the Home Government. With reference to the Surgeon it may be proper to communicate with the Bombay authorities to ascertain the rule now obtaining there in view to considering what allowance might be granted at this Presidency, but in the case of the other Officers I cannot perceive on what grounds they can advance such a claim as mentioned by Commander Hopkins, especially as he states they mess with himself, which in a pecuniary sense, would, I imagine, be rather advantageous to them than otherwise.

3. As regards the great difficulty and some expense which Commander Hopkins states Assistant Surgeon McConnell has been put to in recovering the Head money allowed him, I apprehend that lays with himself, in omitting to procure in the first instance the necessary certificates to support his claim.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, 20th September 1859, No. 469.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished, through the Superintendent of Marine, to Commander Hopkins in reference to his letter of the 16th Ultimo.

The Government entirely agree with Mr. Crowther that passengers on board Government Steamers are entitled to receive medicines and Medical attendance free of charge.

With respect to the claim of himself and his Officers to Batta, Commander Hopkins should address the Bombay Government.

The Government cannot, as requested by Assistant Surgeon McConnell, authorize a regulated monthly allowance being substituted for Head money on account of the Medical charge of Troops and details in Government Steamers. The enclosures in his letter are returned.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

R. L. McConnell.

Feb. 25-1857 Details for 3 days @ 14 As 13.12.6.
Mar. 27-498 do for 5 days @ do 84.12.6.
Apr. 97-12.6.

Bombay Medical Code. - When a Medical Officer does not accompany Troops embarked on a Govt. Steamer, the Medical Officer of the Ship assumes medical charge of them & receives the regulated allowance.
General Orders. - A monthly allowance of 14 As. per man is granted to Ship Surgeons in medical charge of Troops proceeding from Port to Port in India.

On the 1st July 1859, the Asst. Surgeon in Medical Charge of the Dalhousie, forwarded to the Paymaster Presidency an Abstract for Head Money for Details proceeded by that Steamer, & in substantiation of his claim, furnished Extracts from the Bombay Medical Code & General Orders by the Commander in Chief of the Bombay Army. He also attached to his letter a Certificate from the Commander of the Dalhousie.

2. The application was submitted for the instructions of the Military Auditor General, who replied, 9th idem, to the Paymaster that as the Assistant Surgeon does not belong to this Presidency, the order placing him in Medical Charge of the Details referred to his Abstract, must be confirmed by the Commander in Chief, or if no order was issued, his having been in medical charge must be certified by the Adjutant General. This was communicated to the Assistant Surgeon.

3. On the 13th idem, Dr. McConnell addressed the Adjutant General, remarking that in the face of the

Contracts furnished by him (see para
I above) & the Certificate of the Com-
mander of the Dalhousie that no
Medical officer accompanied the
Details, the Military Auditor General
declined to pass his bill for the
reasons stated — & requesting that
in future, orders placing him in the
charge of Details proceeding by the
Dalhousie should be forwarded
from the Adjutant General's office in
substantiation of his claims."

4. On the 15th August following, Dr.
McConnell again addressed the
Adjutant General, complaining
that he had received no reply to
his first letter, requesting that the
documents which accompanied
it may be returned, & observing
that he had ^{been} put to a great deal of
trouble, inconvenience, & delay
by the Adjutant General omitting
in the first instance to furnish him
with some document in proof of his
having had, or been placed in charge
of Troops.

5. On the 17th idem, the Adjutant Ge-
neral replied that both his letters
had

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had been transferred to the Direc-
tor General of the Medical Dept., &
that — as he had been informed
of this verbally when he called at the Ad-
jutant Genl's office to enquire about his
first letter, he had no just cause of com-
plaint.

6. In a letter dated 11th idem, the Director
Genl. furnished Dr. McConnell with a
copy of the B. O. C. C. required by the Mi-
litary Auditor General, & a Form in
which his Abstract should be prepared.
From a pencil note in the Form, the rate
for the Head Money appears to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas
of head. If a Bill was made out in this
form with a "present State" attached, there
would be no difficulty in drawing the
amount from the Pay Dept.

7. In a Memo. 19th idem — the Paymas-
ter required Assistant Surgeon McCon-
nell to submit "present States", inform-
ing him that "a claim for per diem
allowance should be supported by
a nominal roll shewing the period
they were treated as indoor patients
& a Certificate that they were seriously
indisposed." A form of the Present State
accompanied the Memo. & the rates
are stated as being Rs. 25 for Euro-
peans, & $12\frac{1}{2}$ for Natives.

8. The Bill last submitted to the Paymaster & returned with the above Memo. - is calculated at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ Annas, & includes an additional item for charges of Details proceeded by the Steamer in the voyage to & from Rangoon, made since the first Bill was presented - & is accompanied by copies of certain orders by the General Commanding the Pegu Divn.

9. Dr. McConnell finally submitted his case to the Commander of the Dalhousie representing that he had been personally at the Fort 8 times since forwarding his first Abstract for Head-money in July last, at an average expense of Rs. 5 & 6 pice for boat & conveyance hire - & that payment of his claims is still withheld for want of additional documents.

From the Comdr of H. M. Steamer - Salween - 16 Aug - 1858
Asst. Supt. of Marine - 22 - 1858

No. 469 - 20 September 59

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished, thro' the Superintendent of Marine, to Commander Hopkins in reference to his letter of the 16th Uto.

The Govt. entirely agree with Mr. Crowther that passengers on board Govt. Steamers are entitled to receive medicines & medical attendance free of charge.

With respect to the claim of himself & his officers to batta, Commander Hopkins should address the Bombay Govt.

The Govt. cannot, as requested by Assistant Surgeon McConnell, authorise a regulated monthly allowance being substituted for Head money on account of the medical charge of troops & details in Govt. Steamers. The enclosures in his letter are returned.

The Supt. of Marine -
with enclosures ret'd. 30 Sept 59