

^{war}
Public Works (189 ^P) Department.

G.O., No. 303 ^{war}

DATED 22 April 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Salute: Pro: Public Dept. Comdg. Letter
from the Govt of India giving instructions
regarding the procedure to be followed in
saluting the Naval Commander in Chief
East Indies when he arrives at Madras.
Comd to the P. D. Officer.

Di 3.5.98

Indexed.

3/5/98

no. 824 of 29.10.47
has been marked
on the back

PUBLIC.

Regd.

15 April } 1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 459, 19th March 1898.

Commenced
to the Presidency Pol. affair
in continuation of G.O.
MARCH. 884 Marine, d/27 October
1897.

MARCH

884 Marine, d/27 October
1897.

Salute.

Communicating to the Marine Department letter from the Government of India giving instructions regarding the procedure to be followed in saluting the Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, when he arrives at Madras.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 1352, Public, dated 11th October 1897.

Read—the following letter from Commander H. A. STREET, R.I.M., Presidency Port Officer, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated Madras, 29th January 1898, No. 454-31-G.:—

As a question has arisen as to whether the duty of accompanying a high official afloat should not fall on the Executive officer of the port instead of on the Presidency Port officer, I have the honour to beg that the views of Government may be obtained on the matter. At a coast port the duty would, of course, fall on the Port officer of the port, but at Madras the custom, which was followed in the days before the position of the Deputy Port Conservator as the Executive officer of the port was defined, still obtains, and the duty of accompanying a high official when proceeding afloat is carried out by the Presidency Port officer. The only objection I can see to the continuance of this practice is, that it virtually ignores the position of the Executive officer of the port. Should Government, however, consider it necessary to lay down any rules on the point, I would recommend that the Presidency Port officer should be required to meet a high official at the pier on landing or embarking, and that the duty of conducting him afloat should fall on the Executive officer of the port. On the arrival in the port of the Naval Commander-in-Chief the Presidency Port officer, as at present, should proceed on board to ascertain the wishes of His Excellency as to landing, &c.

Order—No. 1352, Public, dated 11th October 1897.

The Government is of opinion that no grounds have been shown to justify departure from the present practice. The difficulty put forward, namely that the position of the Deputy Port Conservator is under existing arrangements virtually ignored, may be met by permitting that officer to accompany the Presidency Port officer when he conducts high officials to and from their ships.

2. The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Marine Department.

Letter—from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated 11th October 1897, No. 1353.

I am directed to request the instructions of the Government of India on the following matter.

In connection with the visit of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the Naval forces in India to Madras early this year, a question arose as to the firing of the salute prescribed in article 55 of the Army Regulations, India, Volume II. While in previous years it has been customary to salute the Admiral as soon as he reached the landing stage, on that occasion the guns in the battery in Fort St. George were fired as soon as the flagship entered the port. The military authorities explain

that this procedure was adopted only because intimation had been received that Admiral Drummond intended his landing to be private, otherwise the salute would have been deferred until the landing place was reached.

2. There is however this difficulty in accepting the view of the military authorities as to the correct procedure, that it is not always possible for a Naval Commander-in-Chief to intimate in advance his intentions with regard to landing. If, therefore, his ship enters the harbour before any such intimation has been received, it is not plain whether the salute should be at once fired or postponed. If the latter procedure has been adopted and the Admiral lands privately or not at all, the salute might, owing to misunderstanding, not improbably be omitted altogether. From article 55, Army Regulations, India, Volume II, it appears that the flag of an Admiral, as well as the officer himself, is entitled to be saluted. This distinction has given rise to the suggestion that two salutes are necessary, one for the flag of the Naval Commander-in-Chief when his ship enters the port and one for the Commander-in-Chief himself when he lands. It is understood however to be contrary to the practice in Her Majesty's colonies and elsewhere for a shore battery to fire the first salute under any circumstances. The matter is not one in which this Government is in a position to come to a definite decision and I am therefore to request the instructions of the Government of India as to the procedure to be adopted in future.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

READ—also the following paper:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel E. DeBRATH, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, 1st March 1898, No. 718-B.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1353, dated 11th October 1897, on the subject of the procedure to be followed in saluting the Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, when he arrives at Madras. The points submitted for the orders of the Government of India are—

- Is the salute by a Military battery to be fired on the Admiral's ship entering the port, or on the Admiral reaching the landing stage, and
- Incidentally, is the Admiral's flag also entitled to a salute, and should two salutes thus be accorded.

2. In reply, I am to say that, as regards (a), the salute should only be fired on the Admiral landing, *vide* foot-note to paragraph 45, section III, Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army, and the instructions opposite classes XIV to XVIII, Article 18 (page 18), of the Queen's Admiralty Regulations, and that in respect of (b), ships salute on an Admiral's ship arriving in the port, and forts or saluting batteries only when the Admiral lands, *vide* Article 22, Queen's Admiralty Regulations.

3. I am to add that it has been ascertained that the procedure indicated as regards (a) is not generally followed at ports in Indian waters and that the Lieutenant-Generals Commanding the Forces are being requested to issue the necessary instructions in the matter, in view to a uniform practice being observed in future.

ORDER—No. 459, Public, dated 19th March 1898.

Communicated to the Marine Department.

(True Extract.)

To the Marine Department.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.