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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 29-4-38

G.O. No.

714

Press
Mis.

Dated

7-3-38

1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 29th April 1859.

No. 30. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 12th April 1859, No. 1419.

Referring to the Commander-in-Chief for report correspondence relating to the conveyance to India of the families of the Soldiers of Her Majesty's Regiments now serving in this Presidency and communicating to this Department in view to the issue of orders for any alterations or repairs required to the existing buildings or for the provision of new ones where necessary, being effected on emergency, for the accommodation of the families of the said Soldiers.

(Vide Military Consultation 12th April 1859, No. 192.)

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, No. 944; dated 20th April 1859.

Referred to the Chief Engineer for early attention.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

No. 1419.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 12th April 1859.

Read Military despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, dated London 9th March 1859, No. 29.

**Letter from the Deputy Quarter Master General, dated 10th January 1859.*
Letter from J. C. Melvill Esq., dated 3rd February 1859.
Letter from the Quarter Master General, dated 14th February 1859.
Letter from J. C. Melvill Esq., dated 23rd February 1859.

I forward herewith, copies of a correspondence with the Horse Guards as noted in the margin,* relating to the conveyance to India, of the wives and children of Officers and Soldiers of Regiments of Her Majesty's British Army, now serving in your Presidency.

2. From this correspondence you will learn, that it is proposed, that the regulated proportion of women and children belonging to Regiments at your Presidency, should be allowed to join their Husbands and Fathers, but that their embarkation is not to take place before the middle of June next, that date has been fixed, not only because it will insure the arrival of the women in India, at a suitable and healthy season, but because it will enable you to ascertain, whether proper arrangements can be made for their reception and suitable Barrack accommodation provided for them, and whether any difficulty will be experienced in providing such escort for them, as will secure their safe arrival at the Head Quarters of the Corps to which their Husbands and Fathers belong.

3. I desire your immediate attention to this important subject, and shall be glad to receive your report upon these several points at a sufficiently early date, to prevent the engagement of Tonnage for them, should the state of affairs in India, or any other cause render it necessary in your opinion, to delay the transmission to India of so large a number of women and children.

From the Deputy Quarter Master General, for Quarter Master General, Horse Guards 10th January 1859; to the Secretary East India House.

FOR THE PUNJAB.	
7th Dragoon Guards.	72nd Foot.
7th Foot.	86th "
94th "	89th "
98th "	92nd "
FOR BOMBAY.	
3rd Dragoon Guards.	Royal Engrs. 11 Cos.
8th Hussars.	FOR MADRAS.
17th Lancers.	1st Dragoon Guards.
4th Foot.	1st Foot 1st Battalion.
18th "	44th "
33rd "	60th " 3rd "
51st "	66th "
56th "	68th "
57th "	69th "
71st "	

In reply to a communication addressed to him, on the subject by order of His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief, General Lord Clyde has recommended, that the wives of the Officers and men of the Regiments specified in the margin, being those stationed in the Punjab, and in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, should be sent out to join their husbands without delay.

His Royal Highness concurs in this recommendation, and has directed me to enquire whether or not the Secretary of State for India, is of opinion, that it should be carried into effect as opportunities offer.

The following is an approximation of the

numbers who will probably require conveyance.

Officers' Wives... 25—Children... 40.
 Soldiers' " 1,500—Children... 2,200.

Those for the Bengal Presidency to be hereafter sent out, may amount to

Officers' Wives... 21—Children... 22.
 Soldiers' " 1,700—Children... 2,500.

The former viz., the Officers Wives, can be disposed of without difficulty.

The arrangements for the latter, the Soldiers' Wives, will require much consideration and care, both as regards the passage out, and their disposal on arriving at the port of disembarkation in India.

The following are some of the points to which, as regards the Soldiers' Wives, His Royal Highness would request the attention of the Secretary of State.

The embarkation for such a voyage, of so large a number of women and children, without the assistance of any men who are interested either directly or indirectly in their welfare.

Shall they be sent out by detachments with Drafts of Regiments going to India, or in vessels by themselves?

Shall a few married men be selected to go out in each vessel with them?

Would it be desirable to put the whole of the arrangements into the hands of the Government Emigration Commissioners, who probably are more accustomed to deal with this class of persons under such circumstances, than the Military authorities.

(His Royal Highness is inclined to this proposition.)

The necessity for arranging beforehand, that a sufficient number of men from the Regiments they belong to, should be at the Ports of disembarkation in India on their arrival, to accompany them up the country to their destination, or at any rate, some arrangement by which they might be sure of protection and assistance on the journey.

The probable necessity for giving them an advance of money on arrival, to enable them to procure what may be actually required for the journey: This will of course depend upon the arrangements which may be made for forwarding them to their Regiments.

The order in which they are to be sent, as regards the Regiments they belong to, will require consideration.

His Royal Highness feels, that some precautions of this nature will be required before these poor women are sent upon so long a journey, but wishes to be favored with the general views of Lord Stanley upon the subject, and on receipt of which, I shall again have the honor of addressing you more in detail.

From J. C. Melvill Esqr., Secretary East India Office, 3rd February 1859; to the Deputy Quarter Master General, Horse Guards.

I am instructed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, respecting the conveyance to India of the Wives and Children of Soldiers belonging to Regiments serving in the Punjab, and in the Madras, and Bombay, as well as in the Bengal Presidencies.

It appears from your letter, that Lord Clyde has recommended, and H. R. H. the General Commanding-in-Chief agrees in the recommendation, that this measure should at present be confined to the Punjab and the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, and that the number for which passages will have to be found, amounts to 1,500 Women, and 2,200 Children, exclusive of Officers' Wives, who it is presumed will not require the aid of Government.

Lord Stanley is of opinion, that it would not be desirable to send any portion of these Women with drafts, but that Ships should be taken up purposely for them at the proper season.

There will be no difficulty in obtaining freight for this purpose, and Lord Stanley does not consider that it would be desirable to put the arrangements in the hands of the Government Emigration Commissioners.

His Lordship considers, that it would be desirable that a few married Officers and men, who may be proceeding on duty to India accompanied by their Wives, should be selected to go out in each Vessel.

The other arrangements alluded to in your letter, Lord Stanley is of opinion can only be provided for by the local Governments of India.

Lord Stanley is of opinion, that the most suitable season of the year should be selected for the arrival of the Women and Children in India, and that, to ensure this important object, they ought not to be embarked via the Cape, before the middle of June next. This will admit of a reference to the Governor General of India, and to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, to ascertain whether proper arrangements can be made and sufficient accommodation provided for the families on their arrival, for it must be borne in mind, that many of the Regiments of those Presidencies are still on Field Service in Central India, and His Lordship doubts, whether without previous warning, those Governments will be able to provide suitable barrack accommodation for the families of so many Regiments; and further, that it may be found difficult to detach details to escort them to the Head Quarters of their respective Regiments.

It is presumed, that in making the calculation of the number of Soldiers wives to be sent out, due regard will be had to the regulated proportion* for every 100 men borne on the Indian Establishment, and that advertence will also be made to the probable relief or return of some of the Regiments mentioned in your letter.

*12 Per cent.

From Quarter Master General, Horse Guards 14th February 1859; to the Secretary East India House.

Having laid before the General Commanding-in-Chief, your letter of the 3rd instant, being a reply to mine of the 10th ultimo, relative to the conveyance to India, of the Wives and children of the Officers and Soldiers of Regiments serving in that country, who were not permitted to embark on account of their Regiments being required for active service in the field, I am directed by His Royal Highness to observe, that by the 1st and 2nd paragraphs it would appear, that the Secretary of State for India contemplates sending out at the public expense, only the Wives and children of the Soldiers of the Regiments in question, whereas it was decided in 1857, that the Wives and families of Officers, as well as of Soldiers, should eventually be sent out under arrangements made by the East India Company.

This decision was conveyed in a letter from Sir James Melvill, to the Under Secretary of State for War dated 18th August 1857.

His Royal Highness therefore begs, that this misunderstanding may be rectified.

With regard to the 5th paragraph, relative to the selection of a few married Officers and men to go out in each vessel with the women and children, His Royal Highness fears, that it may be found difficult to find a sufficient number of married Officers for this duty, as it is frequently difficult to obtain a sufficient number of Officers of any description, to take care of the Drafts which proceed monthly to India.

This however, may perhaps be arranged, if due notice be given of the manner in which, and the time when, the services of such married Officers would be required.

His Royal Highness quite concurs with Lord Stanley, in the necessity of communicating with the local Governments in India, upon the subject, before any further steps are taken, and understands by the 7th paragraph, that His Lordship will cause this to be done accordingly.

His Royal Highness proposes to allow the regulated proportion of 12 per cent to embark, and advertence will be made to the probable relief or return of some of the Regiments.

From the Secretary East India Office, 23rd February 1859; to the Quarter Master General of Her Majesty's Forces; Horse Guards.

I have laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, your letter dated the 14th instant, relative to the conveyance to India, of the wives and children of the Officers and Soldiers of Regiments serving in that country, who were not permitted to embark thither, on account of their regiments being required for active service in the field:—

The letter from Sir James Melvill, of the 18th August 1857, to which you have referred, promised in compliance with the desire of the Secretary of State for War, that the necessary arrangements should eventually be made for the provision of passages to India, for the wives and families of the Officers, "in the same manner as Her Majesty's Government have undertaken to provide passages to China, for the wives and families of the Officers and men of the Expeditionary Force to that Country." It had not been usual to provide free passages for the wives and families of the Officers proceeding on service in India; the late Court of Directors of the East India Company therefore, viewed the instance before them, as altogether peculiar and exceptional; there is no misunderstanding on the subject as you suppose; the Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to fulfil the promise given by the late Court; and Lord Stanley will cause suitable measures to be adopted in due course.

As however, the correspondence which took place in 1857, does not state what were the arrangements with respect to the wives and families of Officers of the China Expeditionary Force, I am directed to request, that you will move His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief to cause the Secretary of State for India to be furnished with full information as to the course which was pursued by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the passages of the Officers wives on that occasion; and whether any, and what portion of the expense of those arrangements was borne by the Officers themselves.

Lord Stanley will communicate immediately with the local Governments in India, upon the points referred to in the 7th paragraph of my letter, under date the 3rd February, as requested in the 6th paragraph of your letter now under notice.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief (Quarter Master General, and Adjutant General's Department,) for early report.

2. Communicated to the Public Works Department, with a view to the issue of orders from that Department, for any alterations or repairs that are required to existing buildings, or for the provision of new buildings where necessary, for the accommodation of the families of the Soldiers of H. M.'s Regiments to be sent from England, being effected on emergency, an early report being furnished, of the extent of work to be performed under such orders at each station, with estimates of the cost.

(True Extract and Copies.)

S. P. Marshall
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

„ Adjutant General.

„ Department Public Works, *With 20 Hand Copies.*

„ Deputy Adjutant General H. M.'s Forces, for information.

78965-

Edward James Bond

in the Building Department

Dear Miss: of Jan^y 27
 April 59 & 1032
 From the Elderly Eng^l 5
 May 59 & 1113

Dated 12th } April
 Decemr 19th } 1859

Sept. 14. 1859.
Aug. 14. 20th August 1859.

[illegible]

Sent to Henry
 20.2.1879 -
 Copy to the Library of the Anti-
 arch. Soc.
 Dec 1879

Page 44

Referred to the Chief
Engineer for early attention.