

15TH MAY 1885, No 205, MARINE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers —

Endorsement of the Public Works department, dated 16th March 1885, No 546 C, forwarding note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works department, dated 14th March 1885

From Colonel J SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 17th March 1885, No 560-C

With advertence to G O, Marine department, dated 13th March 1885, M14 No 103, I have the honor to observe that there is a difference of opinion between the officer commanding the *May Frere* and the passengers on board that vessel as to the sums payable by them under the rules for messing charges

2 During the period referred to by the officer commanding, I made four journeys in the *May Frere*, as follows —

Journey	Date of embarkation	Date of disembarkation	Number of times dined on board
(1) From Madras to Cocanada	15th February, morning	17th February, morning	2
(2) From Cocanada to Gopálpur	21st February, evening ..	23rd February, morning	2
(3) From Gopálpur to Bimlipatam	27th February, morning	28th February, morning	1
(4) From Vizagapatam to Madras ..	2nd March, evening	5th March, evening	3

3 During the whole of the four journeys I dined eight times on board the *May Frere*, but the officer commanding wishes me to pay for eighteen days' messing

4. The case is governed by section 64, rule 3, of the Travelling Allowance Code, which lays down that the rates payable are those given in table III in appendix D of the code. That table will be found at page 107 of the code (2nd edition), and the rate payable by myself is there laid down to be "*Rs 4 per diem*"

5 The officer commanding the *May Frere* drew my attention to rules 16 and 17 in appendix D, which he maintained justified him in claiming messing charges at the rate of Rs 4 for every day between the 15th February and the 5th March, but I submit, first, that those rules refer to table II, not to table III, and, second, that I made four journeys on board his vessel, not one continuous journey lasting eighteen days

6 The sum claimed by the officer commanding the *May Frere* amounts to a rate of Rs 9 per diem for each of the eight days on which I was messed on board, whereas the sum fixed by the Government of India as sufficient to cover all expenses (*vide*

table III quoted above, also section 63 (a) (2) Travelling Allowance Code) is Rs 4 per diem I object strongly to be called on to pay more than double the rate fixed by the Government of India

7 Under orders of the Government, I shall have to make frequent journeys by sea such as those made recently in the *May Frere*, and, as this question of the rates payable for messing charges is certain to recur on every such occasion, I beg that it may be referred, if necessary, to the Government of India for decision

From J HEXT, Esq, Director of the Indian Marine, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bombay, 24th March 1885, No 1144

I have the honor to forward, for the consideration of the Government of Madras, the accompanying correspondence regarding the messing of officers on board Her Majesty's Indian Marine steamer *May Frere*, No 39, dated 20th March 1885, and enclosures To be returned *May Frere* during the tour from Madras round the northern ports and back

2 I would observe that it is stated in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Mis No 102, dated 13th March 1885, that certain passengers whose conveyance in the *May Frere* was sanctioned by Government, were on board during the trip which extended over a period of nineteen days, and in the face of this it is not understood how the gentlemen referred to can refuse to sign their messing certificates accordingly

3 Provision had to be made by the officer commanding before his vessel left Madras for supplies for the whole party and the necessary outlay was incurred The fact of officers having occasionally dined on shore at the ports at which the vessel called cannot be viewed as disembarkation or that the officers left the ship permanently Paragraph 9 of Marine circular, No 2, dated 9th February 1884, could only be applied when the officers left the ship for good, but in the present case where an officer returned to the ship, took breakfast next day and, perhaps, a second meal, but proceeded on shore to dinner, it is obvious the rule would not apply

4 I beg that Government may be moved to pass early orders on this case so that the claim of the officer commanding *May Frere* may be settled without further delay.

From H F. CLOGSTOUN, Esq, Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St George, 28th April 1885, No 1078

Gazetted Audit department

With reference to Proceedings of Government, No 710, dated the 25th ultimo, forwarding for report letter from Colonel Shaw-Stewart, No 560-C, dated 17th ultimo, as to the sums payable by himself and certain other officers as messing charges to the commander of the I G S *May Frere*, on the occasion of a recent tour of inspection in that vessel from Madras to Gopálpur and back, I have the honor to state that the question at issue is, whether, assuming Colonel Shaw-Stewart and the other officers to be ordinary passengers in the sense of rule 3, under section 64 of the Civil Travelling Allowance Code, they are to be considered to have engaged one passage from Madras to the different ports and back, and to have imposed a liability on the commander to provide board for them during the whole period of the tour, or whether they should be considered as having taken distinct passages from each port touched at to the next, thereby limiting the commander's liability to the providing of board to the days actually spent in making the different journeys

2 The rules in connection with table III of appendix D of the Travelling Allowance Code do not furnish any guide towards determining the point in issue They merely prescribe that Rs 4 a-day shall be paid for messing I observe, however, that it is stated by the commander of the *May Frere* that "he was verbally informed by the Master Attendant (to whom apparently were left all arrangements)

that Rs 4 per diem would be paid irrespectively of officers landing, and that money was expended accordingly "

3 If Captain Taylor's right to make this promise on their behalf is not disputed by Colonel Shaw-Stewart and the other officers, it would seem that the claim made by the commander of the *May Frere* must be admitted

From the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works department, dated Dowlaishweram, 28th March 1885, No 478 G C

With reference to the G O in the Marine department, No 103, dated 13th March 1885, forwarded to me with your No 670, dated 17th March 1885, I have the honor to request you will be so good as to inform me under what rules I am obliged to pay for messing on the *May Frere* for the six days I was not on board that vessel

2 I neither embarked on nor disembarked from the *May Frere* at intermediate places for my own pleasure.

No 79 E

Referred to the Marine department, with advertence to order in that department, dated 13th March 1885, Mis No 103

OOTACAMUND,
6th May 1885

(Signed) J SHAW-STEWART, Col, R E,
Secretary to Govt, P W D

From the Director of the Indian Marine, dated Bombay, 7th May 1885, No 1144-1

ORDFR—dated 15th May 1885, No 205, Marine

The use of the I G steamers in this presidency being a novelty, there has in this case been a general misapprehension

2 The commander was apparently led to believe that the officers who embarked at Madras would mess on board during the whole cruise and provisioned his ship accordingly Clearly he should not be put to any loss It is equally clear that the officers whose duties took them ashore for several days together and who had to provide for themselves should not have to pay for a mess which they were not able to attend In these circumstances the commander's account will be discharged by Government, messing rates being recovered from the passengers for the days they were actually on board and the deficit debited to Port fund

3 The Master Attendant will make the necessary arrangements in communication with the Accountant-General

4 In future a distinct agreement in regard to messing arrangements should be made before embarkation

(True Extract)

E F WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary

To the Public Works department
" Master Attendant, Madras
" Accountant-General
" Director of the Indian Marine, with enclosures returned

Exd J Wright

P. W. D.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

MARINE.

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N^o 1436 Mad 19 June 85

Comd^d to S. E. I

Circle and the 4th
of P. W. Acts.

(Signed) J. J.

Issued

Recd

Encl

G.O., 15th May 1885, No. 205.

N^o 1436 Mad 19 June 85.

MAY.

S. E. I C

Sy L. P. W. A.

"May Frere."

Passing orders on certain correspondence respecting a claim preferred by the commander in connection with messing of the Chief Engineer, Public Works department, and certain other officers who proceeded on a tour of inspection of lighthouses

With order