

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 8
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 28/7/89
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 19/8

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

(54)

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P. W. D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	2009	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	25-7-1889	198

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

25-7

4. Sheets

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Promotions—Engineers.

Read the following:—

No. *Military Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India; dated India Office, London, 16th May 1889, No. 95.*

*Establishment of Lieutenant-Colonels of Royal Engineers.
Promotion to that rank.*

* From War Office,	26th June 1888.	
To	27th July "	M 6247.
From "	16th Aug. "	
To	28th " "	M 7891.
From "	21st Sept. "	
To	14th Nov. "	M 9267.
From "	14th Feb. 1889.	
To	15th Mar. "	
From "	19th " "	M 2537.
To	25th " "	
From "	3rd Apr. "	M 2836.
To	26th " "	
From "	1st May "	M 3735.
To	4th " "	
From "		

I forward herewith, for the information of your Government, copy of a correspondence * with the War Office on the subject of the establishment of Lieutenant-Colonels of Royal Engineers, and the promotion to that rank of the officers on the Imperial and Indian establishments respectively.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 1.

From RALPH THOMPSON, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, Pall Mall, 26th June 1888, No. 20 (Engineers—1887).

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the question of the probable effect of the system of continuous service in India on the maintenance of a sufficient number of Lieutenant-Colonels for the duties of that rank has recently been under Mr. Stanhope's consideration.

2. It appears, according to the best calculation that can be made, that the number of Lieutenant-Colonels on the Imperial establishment will vary during the next few years from 44 to 57, and on the Indian establishment from 33 to 46, if promotion be given by seniority under the rules in force prior to 1st January 1887.

3. It is evident that, with fluctuating establishments in this rank, the administration of the troops, as at present organized, as a military body for duty out of India can never be properly carried out. The effect of an excess of Lieutenant-Colonels on the Imperial establishment is that officers have to be relegated to duties inferior to those with which they ought to be entrusted, while the effect of a deficiency is, that junior officers have to be employed on duties for which neither their rank nor pay is sufficient. In the ranks below that of Lieutenant-Colonel this question does not press, as within reasonable limits the allotment for duty of officers of the Royal Engineers can be arranged without necessitating fixed and unvarying numbers in the lower ranks, but in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel it is essential, so far as service out of India is concerned, that there should be a fixed establishment.

4. Under these circumstances, Mr. Secretary Stanhope considers that the only remedy for this state of things is to apportion the number of Lieutenant-Colonels to be kept on the Imperial and Indian establishments respectively, and to promote to vacancies on the latter only officers who have elected for continuous service in India, and to vacancies on the Imperial establishment all other officers, including those serving in India not on continuous service, should there be any. The last-named officers would necessarily be ordered home on promotion. This would, in some cases, entail supersession, but not to a very great extent, and, as the two classes of officers will rarely be employed together, there can be little or no injury to either class.

5. With regard to officers at present serving below the rank of Major, it may be pointed out that by the introduction of the Royal Warrant of 31st December 1886 (Clause I, Army Circulars, January 1887), promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel is by selection, and therefore no difficulty on the question of supersession is, in future, likely to arise.

6. The number of Lieutenant-Colonels which it is intended to allot to the Imperial establishment will be the minimum number necessary to perform the duties entrusted to the corps of Royal Engineers elsewhere than in India, and it is proposed that, in accordance with the desire expressed in para. 10 of letter of the Government of India, No. 166, of 18th October 1886, the number allotted to India shall bear the same proportion to the total number on the Indian establishment as this number does to the total number on the Imperial establishment.

7. As it is essential that, if approved, there should be no delay in the introduction of the foregoing proposals, I am to request that you will be good enough to move Viscount Cross to consider the question at his early convenience and favor me with his observations thereon.

No. 2.

From Lieutenant-General ALLEN JOHNSON, Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War; dated India Office, 27th July 1888, No. M 6247-88.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 26th June 1888, No. 20 (R.E.—1887), relative to the number of Lieutenant-Colonels to be apportioned to the establishment of Royal Engineers in India.

Before taking this question into consideration, Viscount Cross will be glad to be informed whether it is the intention of the Secretary of State for War, as seems apparent from para. 6 of your letter, that the number of Lieutenant-Colonels to be allotted to India shall bear the same proportion to the total number of Royal Engineers on the Indian establishment, whether of continuous service or otherwise, as the number allotted to the Imperial establishment does to the total number on that establishment, while promotion to vacancies on the Indian establishment shall only be made from amongst those officers who have elected for continuous Indian service.

I am also desired to inquire whether, in the event of a proposal to that effect being put forward at any later period, the Secretary of State for War and His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief would have any objection to continuous Indian Service officers of Royal Engineers being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel after 26 years' service, as is the case with officers of the Staff Corps.

No. 3.

From RALPH THOMPSON, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, Pall Mall, 16th August 1888, No. 20 (Engineers—99).

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Stanhope to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, No. M 6247, and, in reply, to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, with reference to the question as to the number of Lieutenant-Colonels to be allotted to India, the proposal is correctly described in the 2nd para. of your letter, but it would appear advisable to extend the rule laid down, so that, should an officer serving in India, but not on continuous service, come to the head of the list for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, it should be open to the Government of India to name him for promotion to an Indian vacancy if his retention in India be considered desirable in the interests of the public service. He would otherwise be promoted to a vacancy on the Imperial establishment, and ordered to England.

It is, however, possible that, should it eventually prove that the majority of officers serving in India are not continuous service officers, it may be necessary to modify the rules now proposed.

As pointed out in the letter from this office of the 26th June last, No. 20 (Engineers—1887), the principle of selection can be much more freely applied to officers who had not attained the rank of Major on the 1st January 1887, and it is probable that any adjustment of ranks necessary could be made without difficulty under the Royal Warrant of 31st December 1886.

The relative number of Majors on the Imperial and Indian establishments promoted previously to the 1st January 1887 are such that no difficulty appears likely to arise before the date of the promotion of the last of them.

As regards the question of applying a time rule for promotion to the Majors of the Royal Engineers who have elected for continuous service, it appears most undesirable that there should be two systems of promotion for officers on the same list and in the same corps, and as, according to the calculated rates of promotion under the present warrant, it is not expected that Lieutenant-Colonels will attain that rank with less than 27 to 28 years' service, it is evident that the adoption of a 26 years' time rule would entail a considerable amount of supersession.

No. 4.

From Lieutenant-General ALLEN JOHNSON, Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War; dated India Office, 28th August 1888, No. M 7891-88.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th August 1888, No. 20 (Engineers—1899), and to acquaint you in reply that it seems desirable that the proposed system of promoting officers to the grade of Lieutenant-Colonel shall be further elucidated.

In your letter under reply Mr. Secretary Stanhope considers it advisable to extend the rule laid down in that of the 26th June 1888, 20 (Engineers—1887), so that should an officer serving in India, but not in continuous service, come to the head of the list for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, it should be open to the Government of India to name him for promotion to an Indian vacancy if his retention in India be considered desirable in the interests of the public service, but that otherwise he should be promoted to a vacancy on the Imperial establishment and ordered to England.

It is not quite apparent what the position of the non-continuous service officer promoted by the Government of India would be. Unless by the fact of such promotion the Lieutenant-Colonel's service were made continuous in India he would, it is apprehended, at any time after the completion of five years' Indian service be entitled to revert to England, when, although a Lieutenant-Colonel on the Indian establishment, he would come on the Home establishment either in excess of it, or as a block to the promotion of Imperial officers by absorption. On the other hand, should the Government of India not see fit to promote him to the Indian vacancy, the promotion on that list would apparently be stopped until the occurrence of a vacancy on the Home list, the Indian establishment remaining for that period incomplete.

Viscount Cross would therefore be glad to know how the Secretary of State for War would propose to meet such contingencies, either of which might easily happen, even should it not eventually prove that the majority of officers serving in India are not continuous service officers.

No. 5.

From RALPH THOMPSON, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, Pall Mall, S. W., 21st September 1888, No. 20 (Engineers—1919).

With reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, No. M 7891, on the subject of the proposed system of promoting officers of Royal Engineers to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Stanhope to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that—

1. In the event of the Government of India desiring to promote to a vacancy on the Indian establishment of Lieutenant-Colonels the senior Major on the list, although not a continuous service officer, but only performing a five years' tour in India, His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief considers that such promotion should be made conditional on the officer's accepting continuous service in India.

2. Should the Government of India not desire to promote to an Indian vacancy a Major serving in India under the conditions stated above, the promotion should go to the next senior selected officer on the list, who, if a non-continuous service officer, would be treated as in para. 1.

3. Any non-continuous service officer becoming superseded through non-selection for promotion on the continuous service list would remain in India until the completion of his five years' tour of duty, or until selected for promotion on the Home list, whichever should take place first.

No. 6.

From Lieutenant-General ALLEN JOHNSON, Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War; dated India Office, 14th November 1888, No. 9627-1888.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st September 1888, No. 20 (Engineers—1919), and to acquaint you in reply that the proposals with regard to the establishment of Lieutenant-Colonels to be fixed for the Corps of Royal Engineers made in your letter of the 26th June 1888, No. 20 (Engineers—1887), have been under His Lordship's consideration in Council.

2. Viscount Cross agrees with the Secretary of State for War that it is desirable that a fixed number of Lieutenant-Colonels should be apportioned for both the Imperial and Indian establishments of Royal Engineers, and he has no objection to offer to the suggestion that the number allotted to India shall bear the same proportion to the total number of Royal Engineers on the Indian establishment as the number allotted to the Imperial establishment does to the total number on that establishment.

3. In your letter of the 26th June you propose that only officers who have elected for continuous Indian service shall be promoted to vacancies on the Indian establishment, all other officers, including those serving in India not on continuous service, being promoted to vacancies on the Imperial establishment. You observe that this would in some cases entail supersession, but not to a very great extent.

4. In your letter of the 26th August 1888, you qualify this proposal to the extent of leaving it open to the Government of India to select for promotion to an Indian vacancy an officer serving in India, but not on continuous service, who may come to the head of the list for promotion, should his retention in India be considered desirable in the interests of the public service, and in your letter under reply you state that His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief considers that such promotion should only be made conditional on the officer accepting continuous Indian service.

5. Viscount Cross desires me to say that he considers that vacancies on the Indian establishment should, as a rule, be filled by the promotion of officers who have elected for continuous service, but he would not object to the exceptional promotion of a non-continuous service officer, provided he could, and did, elect for continuous service under the terms of the Royal Warrant of the 20th February 1886.

6. It is presumed that the selection of officers for promotion to vacancies on the Indian list of Lieutenant-Colonels will be made by the Government of India.

7. Any non-continuous service officer becoming superseded through non-selection for promotion on the continuous service list would, as you observe, remain in India until the completion of his five years' tour of duty, or until selected for promotion on the Home list, whichever should take place first.

8. Viscount Cross observes that, according to a special Army Order of the 7th May 1888, the total establishment of the Corps of Royal Engineers is as follows:—

Home and Colonies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	511
India	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Total									896

9. Upon being informed of the number of Lieutenant-Colonels which it may be decided to allot to the Imperial establishment, the necessary communication will be made to the Government of India.

No. 7.

From RALPH THOMPSON, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, S. W., to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, Pall Mall, S. W., 14th February 1889, No. 20 (Engineers—1986).

With reference to your letter of the 14th November last, No. M 9267, and previous correspondence respecting the proposed system of promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of officers of the Royal Engineers, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the establishment of Lieutenant-Colonels in the Royal Engineers for the financial year 1889-90 has now been fixed at 90.

2. The total British establishment of officers referred to in para. 8 of your letter is 511. From this should, however, be deducted 31 officers for the Coast Battalion and Quartermasters and Riding Masters, leaving 480 as the number on which to calculate for promotional purposes.

3. It is proposed to allot 50 Lieutenant-Colonels to the British establishment.

4. The remaining 40 Lieutenant-Colonels would be the proportion for India, in accordance with the principle agreed to in para. 2 of your letter above quoted.

Establishments.									
Home and Colonies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	511
Deduct Quartermasters, Coast Battalion, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	480
Indian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385

5. The number of Lieutenant-Colonels now on the Indian establishment, excluding Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham, who is temporarily lent to the British establishment, is, however, 44, or an excess of four over the number proposed to be regarded as due to India, the British establishment being correspondingly below.

6. Mr. Stanhope therefore suggests, in order to attain the proportion due to each establishment as early as possible, that the first four vacancies occurring among the Lieutenant-Colonels employed in India should be filled by officers serving on the British establishment.

7. I am to request that you will be good enough to inform me at your early convenience when Viscount Cross concurs in these proposals. It is very desirable that they should be carried into effect as early as possible.

No. 8.

From RALPH THOMPSON, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, S. W., to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, Pall Mall, S. W., 15th March 1889, No. 20 (Engineers—2068).

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to request that you will be good enough to state whether the Secretary of State for India in Council concurs in the proposals contained in the letter from this office of the 14th February 1889, No. 20 (Engineers—1986), relative to the reduction of the number of Lieutenant-Colonels on the Indian establishment, so as to bring them down to the proportion suggested for that establishment.

The question has become very pressing owing to the insufficiency of the number of Lieutenant-Colonels on the Home establishment to perform the duties of that rank.

Vacancies will occur on the 19th instant, *vice* Colonel N. G. Sturt (Imperial List), who retires, and on the 28th instant, *vice* Colonel G. L. C. Merewether (Bombay List), who will be removed to the Indian Supernumerary List. The first step would, under ordinary circumstances, fall to Lieutenant-Colonel Firebrace, half pay, a continuous Indian service officer, but as this would make the excess of Lieutenant-Colonels on the Indian establishment five instead of four, Mr. Stanhope proposes to fill the vacancy by the promotion of an officer on the Home establishment.

The second vacancy would, in accordance with the proposals submitted in the letter from this office referred to above, be regarded as the first Indian absorption, and also be given to an officer of the British establishment.

As the successions in the various ranks cannot be carried out until a reply has been received, Mr. Stanhope would be glad if Viscount Cross would favor him with an early decision on the subject.

No. 9.

From Lieutenant-General ALLEN JOHNSON, Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War; dated India Office, 19th March 1889, No. M 2537.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of 14th February and 15th March 1889, No. 20 (Royal Engineers—1986 and 2068), and to acquaint you, in reply, that Viscount Cross concurs in the proposal as to the number of Lieutenant-Colonels to be allotted to the British and Indian establishments, respectively; but with regard to the suggestion made in the 7th para. of your letter, His Lordship considers that it would be hard on the senior Majors of the Royal Engineers on continuous Indian service to stop their promotion *en bloc* till the new establishments are equalized.

He therefore desires me to submit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for War, that the fairer plan would be to follow the usual course when reductions are made, and absorb every third promotion which would otherwise go to the Indian officers till the two establishments are complete.

No. 10.

From RALPH THOMPSON, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, S. W., to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, 25th March 1889, No. 20 (Engineers—2070).

With reference to your letter of the 19th instant, No. M 1650, and previous correspondence on the subject of the promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Engineers, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, if the absorptions were carried out at the rate of one to every third promotion, the proposed establishments on each list would not be arrived at until about August 1891. In the meantime serious inconvenience would be occasioned in arranging the duties of officers of the Home establishment, for, as already pointed out in the letter from this office of the 26th June 1888, No. 20 (Engineers—1887), the number of Lieutenant-Colonels allotted to the British establishment is "the minimum number necessary to perform the duties entrusted to the Corps of Royal Engineers elsewhere than in India."

2. The difficulty of providing a sufficient number of Lieutenant-Colonels for the actual duties of that rank has been much felt latterly, and it has been necessary to appoint Majors to some commands without any increase to their emoluments.

3. I am further to state that, under Article II (b) of the Royal Warrant, the senior Majors on the continuous service list have the opportunity of accepting half pay promotion on completing seven years' service in the rank of Major, and can thus avoid supersession to any material extent without loss of employment, which is not the case with officers of the British list, who are only employed whilst on half-pay under very exceptional circumstances.

4. A somewhat similar arrangement for half-pay promotion was made in the case of Majors of the old Indian Cadres (see India Office letter of 12th June 1888, No. M 5514).

5. Under these circumstances and bearing in mind the improbability of continuous service officers and officers of the British establishment being employed together, there can be little or no injury to either class.

6. I am therefore to request that you will be good enough to submit these observations for the consideration of Viscount Cross, and favor me with his remarks thereon.

7. I am to add that the vacancy for a Lieutenant-Colonel on the 19th instant being caused by the retirement of an officer of the British list, the promotions in succession will be at once proceeded with, leaving the promotion in succession to Colonel Merewether (late Bombay) to be dealt with when the question of these absorptions has been settled.

No. 11.

From Lieutenant-General ALLEN JOHNSON, Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War; dated India Office, 3rd April 1889, No. M 8836.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 25th March, No. 20-R.E.—2070, on the subject of the promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Engineers.

In reply, I am to state that Viscount Cross will be glad to arrive at any conclusion which will remove the administrative difficulty referred to in your letter, provided that it can be done without injuriously affecting the interests of those officers who have elected under the Royal Warrant of 20th February 1886 for continuous service in India.

The acceptance of half-pay promotion (under Article II (b) of the Royal Warrant of 1887) by Majors of seven years' service promoted before the 1st January 1887, as suggested by Mr. Secretary Stanhope, would, in Viscount Cross' opinion, meet the difficulty, were it not for the doubt which exists as to whether, notwithstanding the provisions of Clauses 8 and 10 of the Royal Warrant of 1886, such leave, under Clause 1208 of the Royal Warrant of 1887, reckons towards retirement or retired pay. It is believed to be due to this uncertainty that, of the nine senior Indian continuous service Majors of Royal Engineers qualified for such promotion, only three have availed themselves of it.

If, however, the Secretary of State for War accepts the view that the service in question does, or should reckon towards retirement or retired pay under Royal Warrant of 1887, Viscount Cross will have no objection to the adoption of the course proposed in para. 7 of your letter of the 14th February 1889, No. 20 (Engineers—1486), otherwise His Lordship can see no just grounds for departing from the opinion expressed in my letter of the 19th March 1889, No. M 2537.

No. 12.

From H. G. DEEDES, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, Pall Mall, S. W., 26th April 1889, No. 20-E-2077.

With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, No. M 2836, and previous correspondence, on the subject of promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Engineers, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Stanhope to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that time spent upon half-pay by continuous Indian service officers of Royal Engineers who are permitted to hold any appointments in India under Article 8 of the India Office Royal Warrant of 20th February 1886, will reckon towards retirement.

Under these circumstances, it is presumed that Viscount Cross has no further objection to the adoption of the course proposed in para. 7 of the letter from this office of the 14th February last, No. 20 (Engineers—1986).

No. 13.

From Lieutenant-General ALLEN JOHNSON, Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War; dated India Office, 1st May 1889, No. 3735.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th April, No. 20-E-2077, and to acquaint you in reply that, under the circumstances, Viscount Cross will not further object to the adoption of the course proposed in para. 7 of your letter of the 14th February last.

No. 14.

From RALPH THOMPSON, Esq., War Office, Pall Mall, to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., 4th May 1889, No. 20 (Engineers—2090).

With reference to your letter of the 1st instant, No. M 3735, also to para. 3 of your letter of the 3rd ultimo, No. M 2836, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Stanhope to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, as it appears that the Majors of Royal Engineers named in the margin refused promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel on half-pay under some misapprehen-

sion as to the effect of their accepting such promotion, also that they were not aware that promotion to the regimental rank of Lieutenant-Colonel would, in future, run upon two separate lists, it has been decided to give these officers an opportunity of reconsidering their decision.

A letter to this effect has, therefore, been sent to the Commander-in-Chief in India.

J. R. McCullagh.
E. A. Sergeant.
L. F. Boileau.

No. 1415-A.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department.

(By Order.)

SIMLA,
15th June 1889.

(Signed) A. C. TOKER,
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. ORDER THEREON, 13 July 1889, No. 4603

Communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Public Works Department, in continuation of Proceedings of Government, No. 4265, dated 1/8 July 1889.

(True Extract.)

A. Kennedy Herbert
Brigdr.-Genl.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant-General.
" Public Works Department.



Exd. E. C. Shunker.

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Ex. Bms 1820 W 99.7-89

Govt. of {1889} Madras.
MILITARY.

To THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated July,

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., July 1889, No.

JULY.

Nos.

Promotions—Engineers.

Lieutenant-Colonels of Royal Engineers.—Correspondence from Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the establishment of —, and the promotion to that rank of the officers on the Imperial and Indian establishments, respectively, communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Public Works Department.

Communicated
to officers of the
P.W.D. concerned in
continuation of G.O.
no. 1820 W of 9th July 1889
no. 1820 W of 19th July 1889
1889

WMB
19.7.89

Queens
22.7.89

Ch. & for I
C. E. for Rep
For P.W.D.
Supp. Engrs
Subj. Engrs

(4)

19/7

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12/20/7