

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No.

2198 W

DATED 16 August 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rules for the care of graves - Prod.

Recd. Sept. communicating letter from the Govt of India forwarding copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State on the subject of the — & directing the republication in the Govt of India Notification on the subject, commd to officers of the P.W.D.

[illegible]

Communicating to officers concerned, for information and guidance, letter from the Government of India forwarding, with remarks, copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State on the subject of the —; and directing the republication in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of certain Government of India notification on the subject.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

From A. H. L. FRASER, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Ecclesiastical), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 30th June 1899, No. 276.

I am directed to forward a copy of a despatch * with enclosures from Her Majesty's Secretary of State on the subject of the rules for the care of graves.

2. His Lordship has remarked, with reference to a case that has arisen in Burma, that Rule XX of the rules † for the care and use of Government cemeteries is one that, from the nature of the case, requires to be administered with great care and tact; and that there should be no allusion, in any communication made or any advertisement published under the rule, to the action which will be taken if the graves are not repaired. If, in consequence of such communication or advertisement, any inquiry on this subject is made, it will be sufficient to reply that "the graves cannot be kept up in their original condition at Government expense, but that measures will, in any case, be taken to preserve carefully any slab or inscription which may have been placed upon them." In all cases, moreover, the longest possible space of time should be allowed to elapse before the graves are interfered with in any way, provided that their condition is not such as to be inconsistent with the keeping of the cemetery in decent order in the manner directed in Rule III.

3. I am to forward a copy of a Notification, No. 275, dated the 30th June 1899, revising Rule XX in the sense indicated by the Secretary of State, and I am also to request that instructions may be issued to all officers concerned with the charge of cemeteries, enjoining care in the administration of the rules and the observation of the instructions contained in the second paragraph of this letter.

4. A slight change has also been made in the parts of the rule dealing with monuments erected by or over the graves of British soldiers and non-commissioned officers.

ENCLOSURES.

DESPATCH from the Right Hon'ble Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 16th February 1899, No. 27-Public

I forward, for the consideration of your Excellency's Government, a copy of a letter ‡

As to repair of British soldiers' graves. which I have received from the War Office, dated 26th November last, with enclosures, on the subject of the care of the graves of four British soldiers buried at Meiktila.

2. You will observe that the Officer Commanding the 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade states, in his letter of the 15th November, that he has been told that in default of the necessary funds the graves will be levelled with the ground. This is in accordance with the directions contained in the rules which have been published by your Excellency's Government for the care and use of Government cemeteries. But I would take this opportunity of remarking that No. XX of those rules is one that, from the nature of the case, requires to be administered with great care and tact; and that there should be no allusion, in any communication made or any advertisement published under the rule, to the action which will be taken if the graves are not repaired. It will be sufficient to reply that "the graves cannot be kept up in their original condition at Government expense, but that measures will, in any case, be taken to preserve carefully any slab or inscription which may have been placed upon them." In all cases, moreover, the

longest possible space of time should be allowed to elapse before the graves are interfered with in any way, provided that their condition is not such as to be inconsistent with the keeping of the cemetery in decent order in the manner directed in Rule III.

3. I request that you will give orders to this effect for the guidance of all officers in charge of cemeteries; and further, that you will cause Rule XX to be altered as follows, viz., by omitting the words "the ruined monument shall be made level with the ground during the next repairs, and any slab which it contained will be placed . . .," and by substituting the words "the monument shall be treated at the next repairs in such manner as the officer in charge of the cemetery may decide to be necessary for the maintenance of the cemetery in decent order, provided always that any inscribed slab or tablet which formed part of it shall be placed . . .;" and by adding at the end, after the word "cemetery" the words "and shall be carefully preserved."

No. 6895-1028.

WAR OFFICE, LONDON, S.W.,
26th November 1898.

SIR,

I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to request that you will submit the enclosed correspondence, relative to the care of the graves of four British soldiers buried at Meiktila, Burma, to the Secretary of State for India in Council for such action as may be considered desirable.

I am, &c.,
R. H. KNOX.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

Enclosure in above.

DUBLIN,
15th November 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the enclosed letters from the Chaplain at Meiktila, Burma. These riflemen were buried during the time this battalion was quartered in Burma during 1888-89.

Since then the battalion has returned to England, and there has been no opportunity of seeing to the repair of the graves.

I am now told that, if I cannot forward the necessary funds to repair them, the graves will be levelled with the ground.

I have no fund at my disposal from which to obtain the necessary money.

Would not the repair of graves of soldiers who have died whilst serving under the Indian Government be a just charge against that Government?

Kindly instruct me as to what course I should pursue?

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR COLVILLE, Major,
Commanding 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade.

The Chief Staff Officer,
Dublin District.

Sub-enclosure 1.

No. 103.

MEIKTILA, UPPER BURMA,
11th May 1898.

SIR,

I have been directed by the Archdeacon of Rangoon to draw your attention to the fact that the graves of four men (formerly of the 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade) in Meiktila old cemetery have fallen very much out of repair. Rules relating to Government cemeteries in India require that those graves unless repaired should be made level with the ground. Will you kindly inform me whether your regiment is prepared to meet the small cost of repairing these graves? If so, I will ask the Executive Engineer for an estimate of the cost, which I will forward to you.

I am, &c.,

J. HORNDON PARRY,
Chaplain of Meiktila.

The Adjutant,
4th Battalion Rifle Brigade.

The names and numbers of the four graves are—

No. 31, Private S. Lloyd, 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade.	
No. 35, Private W. Bradley	do.
No. 39, Private A. Grim	do.
No. 42, Private W. Smith	do.

No. 119.

Sub-enclosure 2.

MEIKTILA, BURMA,
22nd October 1898.

DEAR SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 103, dated 11th May 1898, and as requested in your letter, I am at last able to furnish you with the Executive Engineer's estimate for the repair of graves Nos. 31 and 35, 39, 42 in Meiktila old cemetery of men formerly in your regiment.

If you decide in having them repaired, will you kindly forward the amount of the estimate and return the enclosed form. Please address your reply to "The Chaplain," as I may be transferred before your reply reaches here.

Yours truly,

J. HORNDON PAREY,
Chaplain, Meiktila.The Adjutant,
4th Battalion Rifle Brigade.

NOTIFICATION of the Government of India, Home Department—Ecclesiastical, dated Simla, 30th June 1899, No. 275.

The following rule is to be substituted for Rule XX, Part I of the rules for the care and use of Government cemeteries published in Home Department Notification No. 178, dated the 21st May 1897 :—

Rule XX.—When a monument needs repairing, the officer in charge of the cemetery should communicate with the friends of the deceased, or when such communication is not possible, advertise three times in the *Gazette of India* and the *Gazette of the Province*; and if it falls into a ruinous condition, and no person will undertake to restore it, the monument shall be treated at the next repairs in such manner as the officer in charge of the cemetery may decide to be necessary for the maintenance of the cemetery in decent order, provided always that any inscribed slab or tablet which formed part of it shall be placed over the grave in simple masonry or be inserted in the wall of the cemetery and shall be carefully preserved.

Note.—(1) This rule does not apply to monuments of historical or archaeological interest. Lists of such tombs should be obtained by Local Governments and Administrations, and as many of them as may be properly preserved at the public expense should be looked after by the local Public Works Department.

(2) The cost of the advertisements in the *Gazette* is met by the Government.

(3) A person desiring to erect a monument over a grave is required to pay into the Treasury a sufficient sum of money to be invested in Government securities, so that the interest on it will be sufficient to cover the cost of repairs annually. The foregoing rules shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to railings round graves, which shall not be constructed until the requisite sum has been paid to cover the cost of repairs.

Explanation.—It is optional with a person proposing to erect a simple cross, head-stone or slab, consisting of a single stone over an adequate foundation, to pay the endowment fee for its maintenance and repairs. The optional endowment fee may be paid at any time after the erection of the stone. The State will defray the cost of keeping in repair simple crosses, head-stones or slabs erected by or over the graves of British soldiers and non-commissioned officers.

ORDER—No. 82, Ecclesiastical, dated 13th July 1899.

Communicated, in continuation of G.O., No. 29, Ecclesiastical, dated 23rd February 1893, to officers concerned for information and guidance.

2. The Government of India notification will be republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

(True Extract.)

J. Horndon Parey
for Chief Secretary.

To the Venerable the Archdeacon.
" the Most Revd. Archbishop Colgan, D.D.
" the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.
" all Collectors and District Magistrates.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.
" the Accountant-General.
Gazette.

Erd. P. Seetharam.

Made re. monument for Govt Cemetery

EN 522/98

Indexed.