

Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 18.

DATED 5-1-98

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Acknowledging the receipt of the letter from the G.O. D 25th Nov. '97 regarding the removal of the 20th M.I. from Vizianagaram to Meerut in September last.

7-1-98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Field Operations.
Tirah.

No. 536-T-I.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 25th November 1897.

It is requested that the above heading, with number and date of this communication, may be quoted in any subsequent correspondence on this subject.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

CHIEF SECRETARY
2 DEC. 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 656, dated the 6th October 1897, in which it is stated that on the 9th September 1897 the Government of Madras was informed by the Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces that he had received orders by telegram from Army Head Quarters to send the 20th Madras Infantry from Vizianagram to Meerut for garrison duty, and that the order stated that the regiment was not to be relieved. It is observed that no previous communication was made to His Excellency the Governor in Council, nor was the opinion of the Madras Government ascertained as to whether the troops in that locality could be safely reduced with due regard to the maintenance of order. His Excellency the Governor fully recognizes that the circumstances were of an exceptional nature, and trusts the procedure adopted will not be regarded as a precedent for the future. It is added that it seems to the Governor in Council that as a matter of courtesy the Madras Government should be consulted when occasion may arise, at any time, for altering the strength of the garrisons stationed in Madras.

2. In reply I am to say that the general principle that Local Governments and Administrations should, under all ordinary circumstances, be consulted before any alteration is made in the strength of the garrisons in the territories under their administration is fully recognized by the Government of India and has always been acted on. The circumstances of the present case were, however, of an exceptional nature as stated in your letter, and I am to point out that when the obligatory garrisons to be retained at the various stations in India were laid down after consultation with Local Governments, it was in the opinion of the Government of India clearly understood that on mobilisation being ordered, all troops outside of these garrisons should be at the disposal of the Supreme Government and of the Commander-in-Chief, for operations in the field.

The principle adopted was that the obligatory garrisons were first detailed in such strength as appeared sufficient to assure the maintenance of internal order, and the field army was then organised from the remainder.

3. It is true that in the present case no formal order to mobilise was ever issued, but this arose from the nature of the events on the frontier which from small beginnings developed into a condition of things requiring the use of almost all the troops detailed for the field army. The circumstances were therefore deemed equivalent to a general mobilisation, and I am to say that while on the one hand care was taken not to interfere in any way with the obligatory garrisons laid down as necessary for the preservation of internal order, on the other it was not thought necessary to consult Local Governments or Administrations as regards the movement of troops outside those garrisons.

To do so would have created delays which might have had serious consequences. At the same time the Government of India fully acknowledge that to secure the co-operation which is required for the maintenance of order, it is essential that the Local Government should have the earliest possible information when Imperial necessities demand the withdrawal of troops, and I am to express regret if there has been any failure in this respect, or any appearance of a want of courtesy on this occasion.

4. With regard to that part of the order which directed that the battalion removed from Vizianagram was not to be relieved, I am to explain that the intention was that the regiment should start without waiting for relief. It was not intended to preclude another regiment being sent to Vizianagram if the Government of Madras considered there were special circumstances which rendered such a step necessary.

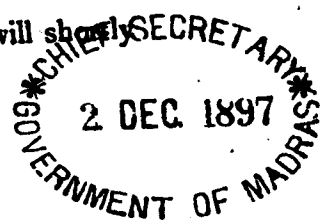
Arrangements have now been sanctioned under which a battalion will shortly be sent to Vizianagram from Burma.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Erskine
Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.



H. E. the Governor

To the Secretary to the
Government of India,
Military Department

copy this draft
C.S.

clean copy subd.

W.H.
17/12/97

and to say that
H.E. the G. in C. has
perused with satisfaction
the views of the Govt of
India expressed therein.

At 17.12.97

Sir,
I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter no. 5.
(Field Operations) dated 21st
March

Nov. 1897, on the subject of the
removal of the 20th Madras
Infantry from Vizianagaram to
Merrut in September last, a

~~in reply I am~~
writing that H.E. the Governor
in Council has noted with
satisfaction that the Government
of India shares his views
as to the expediency of
the earliest possible
information being given to the
Local Government in all
cases when the withdrawal
of troops from any
particular subject within the
limits of its jurisdiction is
contemplated by the Government

Public De,
C. N. 4626

C.S.
Letter N. 1885-1.9
To

The Secretary to the
Govt of India, Mily.
Sir,

I am directed to ack-
nowledge the receipt of
your letter N. 536 T.I
(Field Operations) dated
Tirah

25th November 1897, on the
subject of the removal of
the 20th Madras Infantry
from Vizianagram to
Meerut in September last,
and to say that His Ex-
cellency the Governor in
Council has perused with
satisfaction the views
of ~~the Govt~~ of the Govt
of India expressed therein

M.C.
18
XII

MT
18.12.97

7th Imperial Government.
M.C.
17
XII

C.S.
I do not know if this
makes an alteration
necessary. No
M.C.
18
XII

When given for copying 20/12
When copied 20/12
When examined 31/12
When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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IN ORIGINAL

H.B.-

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