

Revenue Department
minutes of consultations
16th Feb 1858.

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10th Feb 1858.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 16th February 1858.

No. 180.

No. 9. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 10th February 1858.

The Government proceed to pass orders on the letter from the Honorable Court of Directors in the Military Department dated 22d December 1857, No. 183.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

No. 183 of 1857.

OUR GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AT FORT SAINT GEORGE.

1. We forward copy of a letter from the India Board, with its enclosed correspondence respecting the continued employment of Captain Priestley, Her Majesty's 74th Regiment, on staff duties by your Government notwithstanding that his services were required with his Regiment in the field.

2. We entirely concur in the sentiments expressed by the Secretary of State for war on this subject, and we are of opinion that your Government were not justified in refusing to comply with the requisition of the Commanding Officer of the 74th Foot for the services of Captain Priestley with his Regiment in the field. You will give immediate orders for the return of this officer to his Corps.

3. The conditions prescribed, when the services of officers of Her Majesty's Regiments were made available for detached employment by the Governments in India were that care should be taken "that in no case these officers be detached on any duties out of the Presidency to which their Regiment belongs, and then only at such distances as may secure their services whenever circumstances may require their presence with their Corps at short notice."

4. To these conditions laid down by the General Commanding in Chief in 1853, we desire you will strictly adhere on all future occasions.

LONDON,

22d December 1857.

We are, &c.,

(Signed) ROSS D. MANGLES,

(") J. MURE,

(") C. MILLS,

&c., &c., &c.,

INDIA BOARD,

24th October 1857.

To Sir J. C. MELVILL, K. C. B.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners for the affairs of India to transmit to you copy of a letter received from the War Department, dated the 16th Instant, together with the enclosures (in original) respecting the employment of Captain Priestley of Her Majesty's 74th Regiment by the Madras Government in a Civil capacity to the prejudice of his military duties.

In requesting you to move the Court of Directors to call the attention of the Madras Government to the circumstances of this case, I am desired at the same time to state that they are of opinion that the Madras Government have been in error in detaching Captain Priestley from his Regimental duties.

The Colonel of his Regiment is of course responsible for its efficiency, and the juncture was extremely important to the discipline of every corps in India. The Board are of opinion that in no case should an officer in Her Majesty's service be taken from his Regimental duty, or continued in the discharge of any other, without the full consent of his Commanding officer, approved by the General Officer Commanding in the Presidency. In the present instance, the Government appear to have assumed a superior right to the services of Captain Priestley, and to have gazetted him to a permanent civil appointment at the moment they had before them an urgent requisition from Head Quarters that he should be placed at the disposal of the Commander in Chief for Regimental duty.

(Signed) GEORGE CLERK.

பாதுகாப்புப் பிரதி-2

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சென்னை கிளர்வு மையர் லெட்ஜர் - 07/08
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25/11/08
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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 16th February 1858.

WAR OFFICE,
16th October 1857.

To Sir GEO. CLERK, K. C. B.

SIR,

I am desired by Lord Panmure to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Vernon Smith, a copy of a communication from the Commander in Chief's office which has just reached him.

These papers involve two questions, first, the special case to which they more immediately refer, and secondly, the general question of the employment of Queen's officers in the Civil Service of the East India Company.

In reference to the case of Captain Priestley, Lord Panmure assumes that this officer's services were placed at the disposal of the Governor of Madras with the full consent of the Military Authorities of his Regiment in the first instance, and of the General Officer Commanding in the Presidency in the next, and he is gratified to find the civil Government extending its patronage to an officer of one of Her Majesty's Regiments.

It does however appear to Lord Panmure extraordinary that upon Captain Priestley's Regiment being called into the field, and his services required by his Commanding Officer, the desire of the General Commanding in the Madras Presidency to have this officer restored to his Regiment should not have been at once complied with.

Lord Panmure cannot conceive how the prosecution of any survey in South Arcot could for a moment justify the retention of a Queen's officer from his Regiment at such a crisis, and still less can he understand the grounds upon which Captain Priestley was actually gazetted to a permanent civil appointment, when the Government of Madras must have had before in the letter of the Deputy Adjutant General of the 7th August.

Lord Panmure feels quite sure that neither Mr. Vernon Smith, nor the Court of Directors, can approve of the course taken by the Government of Madras upon this occasion.

Lord Panmure has no desire to deprive the East India Company of the services of Captain Priestley, and he has therefore instructed the Commander in Chief to cause a communication to be made to that officer, that if he prefers civil employment to the active duties of his Regiment, he will be at once placed upon half pay and an effective officer will be appointed to his Company, and thus the individual case will be disposed of.

The general question however, is one of grave importance. It would appear from the tenor of these papers that the Government of Madras claims the right of detaining, from their regimental duties, Officers of Her Majesty's Regiments, in face of earnest applications to the contrary from the Commanding Officers of those Regiments, backed by the authority of the Commander-in-Chief.

If this right be conceded to the Government of Madras it must also be recognized in Bengal and Bombay. As in the case of Captain Priestley, so in all others Lord Panmure presumes that no Officer can be taken from service with his Regiment without the full consent of his Commanding Officer approved by the General Officer commanding in the Presidency. Were this not the case the discipline of the Queen's Army would be seriously disturbed.

But Lord Panmure trusts that Mr. Vernon Smith and the Court of Directors will go a step further, and give directions that in all cases where an Officer is so employed in a civil capacity and his Regiment takes the field, whether in the face of an enemy or under such circumstances as unhappily exist in India at this moment, that Officer be directed to join his Regiment, should his Commanding Officer require his presence. He should further be required to join his Regiment should it be removed to another Presidency under any circumstances.

Under such arrangements as above suggested, Commanding Officers will readily spare to the service of the East India Company any Officers whom they may require, as they will feel that on an emergency they can get them back, but if they have no assurance of this, they will not in the first instance consent to part with them, and the loss of valuable services may thus fall upon the Civil Government and hardship be inflicted upon the Officers of the Queen's Regiments.

Lord Panmure therefore hopes that Mr. Vernon Smith and the Court of Directors will see this matter in the same light in which it is viewed by His Royal Highness and himself.

(Signed) H. K. STORKS.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 16th February 1858.

HORSE GUARDS,
13th October 1857.

To Colonel Sir H. STORKS, M. C. B.

SIR,

I am directed by the General Commanding in Chief to request that you will bring before Lord Panmure the enclosed copy of a letter from Lieut. General Beresford Commanding at the time in the Madras Presidency, with its enclosures respecting the employment of Captain Priestley of the 74th Regiment by the Madras Government in a civil situation.

His Royal Highness would be very unwilling to cause unnecessary embarrassment to any Local Government by objecting to the employment of an officer temporarily in a civil situation where his services were deemed of importance, provided he could be spared without inconvenience from his Military duties, but His Royal Highness is convinced that Lord Panmure will agree with him that it is most improper that an officer should be retained in a civil employment by the authority of a Governor as appears to have been done in the present instance notwithstanding the pressing application of the Commanding Officer of his Regiment and the General Officer Commanding at the station, and this too, at a time when the Regiment to which the officer belonged formed part of a moveable column about to take the field; His Royal Highness therefore hopes that Lord Panmure will see fit to take some steps to prevent officers being thus taken away from Her Majesty's Regiments in India for Civil employment, notwithstanding the representations of the officers in command. In the particular instance in question, if the services of Captain Priestley are deemed of such importance to the Government of Madras that they cannot be dispensed with, without inconvenience to the Civil Service, Lord Panmure will probably not object, as he is an officer of more than 18 years full pay Service, to his being placed on half pay to enable him to retain his situation; but His Royal Highness cannot but consider that at the present moment the efficiency of Her Majesty's Regiments in India as the most important of all considerations and should not be weakened by taking from them, for Civil appointments, officers who are required for their Regimental duties.

(Signed) C. YORKE.

HEAD QUARTERS MADRAS,
29th August 1857.

No. 43.

To the Adjutant General to Her Majesty's
Forces, Horse Guards.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward for submission to H. R. H. the General Commanding in Chief the accompanying correspondence (as per margin) relative to Captain Priestley Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders, and I trust His Royal Highness may be induced to take such a view of it and issue such orders as may prevent such interference with the requirements of Her Majesty's Service.

In February 1853 when in Her Majesty's 20th Regiment this officer was appointed by Government to the Survey Department at South Arcot, and he then was placed on Half Pay; in July 1854 he was put into Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders as Captain vice Bruce from Half Pay, but has never joined his Regiment having been ever since employed in the Survey Department.

Colonel Macduff, Commanding Her Majesty's 74th, having made an urgent demand for the services of this officer consequent upon the Head Quarters of the Regiment being ordered to form a part of a moveable column, I directed the Deputy Adjutant General to Her Majesty's Forces to write to the Secretary to Government Military Department on the 7th of August, to this no reply was given until to my surprise I observed in the Government Gazette of the 18th Instant

Letter from the D. A. G. of H. M. Forces to the Secretary to Govt. Military Department dated 7th August 1857. Marked A.
Letter from the D. A. G. of H. M. Forces to the Secretary to Govt. Military Department dated 19th August 1857. Marked B.
Extract from the Fort St. George Gazette dated 18th August 1857. Marked C.
Extract from Minutes of Consultation of Government dated 22nd August 1857. Marked D.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 16th February 1858.

the appointment of Captain Priestley as Surveyor General in the Revenue Department. I then desired the Deputy Adjutant General to write again to the Military Secretary to Government and the answer received yesterday states that Captain Priestley being employed on important duty, for the performance of which Government have no other officer, they are unable to place his services at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief for Regimental duty.

His Royal Highness will I feel sure concur with me in thinking that in the present state of India this is not the time for officers of Her Majesty's service to be kept on Civil employ away from their Regiments, and that if a Commanding Officer of a Regiment makes me urgent demands for the services of one of his officers so employed which I as a Commander-in-Chief of the Presidency forward with my recommendation to the Government, those wishes should be attended to.

(Signed) M. BERESFORD, Major General,
Commanding the Forces.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Madras,
7th August 1857.

No. 32 A.

From the Deputy Adjutant General of Her Majesty's Forces; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department; Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Colonel Macleod commanding Her Majesty's Highlanders having made an urgent demand for the services of Captain Priestley, now employed on the survey at South Arcot, in order that he may join the left wing of the Regiment at Cannanore, I am directed by Major General Beresford to request you will submit to the Right Honorable the Governor his request that the services of this officer may be placed at his disposal for Regimental duty, as in consequence of the detached state of H. M.'s 74th Regiment more officers are required than if the Corps was united, and particularly on the Western coast where out of the 4 Captains 2 are at the outposts Malliapuram and Calicut.

(Signed) CHARLES DENISON, Lieut. Col.,
D. A. G. H. M.'s Forces.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Madras,
19th August 1857.

No. 35 B.

From the Deputy Adjutant General of H. M.'s Forces, to the Secretary to Government Military Department Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to state that he was much surprised to observe in last night's Gazette the appointment of Captain Priestley of H. M.'s 74th Highlanders, to the office of Surveyor General of the Revenue Department before any reply had been returned to his official application conveyed in my letter of the 7th instant for that officer's services with his Regiment.

I am further desired to request that you will at your earliest convenience favor me with such information as this case may seem to require.

(Signed) CHARLES DENISON, Lieut. Col.,
D. A. G. of H. M.'s Forces.

Extract from the Fort Saint George Gazette.

FORT SAINT GEORGE
18th August 1857.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has been pleased to make the following appointment.

Captain Frederick J. B. Priestley, of Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders, to be Surveyor General in the Revenue Department.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 16th February 1858.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 847 D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 22d August 1857.

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department.

Referring to a letter from the Deputy Adjutant General Her Majesty's Forces requesting urgently that the services of Captain Priestley now employed on Survey at South Arcot may be placed at the disposal of Major General Beresford for Regimental duty.

(Here enter 7th August 1857.)

Captain Priestley of Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders being at present employed on important duty for the performance of which the Government have not at present at their disposal any other Officer, they are unable to place that Officer's services at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief for Regimental duty.

Resolved that the above despatch be communicated to Captain Priestley for his information.
Ordered that the above despatch and resolution be forwarded to the Military Department.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

180.

Extract from the Minutes of Council
dated the 10th February 1831.

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The Government
have received a paper from
the Hon. the Secy. of the
Revenue Board of India
dated the 10th February 1831
containing a copy of the

Minutes of the
above Board, the copy
communicated to the
Hon. Secy. for his
information.

Ordered that the
above Dispatch and
enclosures be forwarded
to the Military De-

Cy 8th Dec 1831
with copy of the
to the Hon. Secy. BZ

[illegible]

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Le^o District of Columbia
Noted 10th Nov 1858 -

From Capt. C. D. Hall of 1895
to the National Academy of Sciences
November 10, 1895 and
November 10, 1895 and

Spring makes an
a better place the Florida
County Directors in the
Principals of the Court,
According to the Rules