

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 573.

The following Circular Despatch with its enclosures is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 19th October, 1899.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,
19th August, 1899.

SIR,

It is probable that your attention has been directed to two Royal Warrants dated the 18th of May, instituting a new Decoration and Medal for Colonial Forces, which were published in the *London Gazette* of the 2nd of June, and copies of which I have the honour to enclose.

2. Various representations have been made during recent years both to my predecessor and myself as to the exclusion of a large section of the Colonial Forces from the long service Decoration and Medal which had been granted to Volunteers; and it is impossible to doubt that the feeling on the subject has been very strong.

3. You are probably aware that the reason assigned by the War Department for this limitation of the Decoration and Medal has been that a large proportion of the Colonial Forces are described as "Militia;" and it has been held that a force raised on a "militia" or even a "partially-paid" organisation could not properly be regarded as coming under the designation of a Volunteer Force.

4. In view, however, of the feeling to which I have referred, and which under the circumstances it is not difficult to understand, I have for some time past been in consultation with the Secretary of State for War as to whether some modification of the existing regulations might not be arrived at that would include those Colonial Forces which have hitherto been regarded as disqualified for the Decoration and Medal; and with this object in view I suggested to the Marquess of Lansdowne the appointment of an inter-Departmental Committee to consider the question in all its bearings.

5. The appointment of this Committee was agreed to by the Marquess of Lansdowne; and their recommendations have been practically embodied in the Royal Warrants which I now have the pleasure to enclose.

6. With the exception therefore of the Permanent Forces, which are already eligible under other regulations for medals for long and meritorious service and for distinguished service, the whole of the organised Military Forces of Her Majesty's Colonies, whether designated as Militia or Volunteers, will now become eligible for a long service Decoration and Medal. I venture to think that this concession on the part of Her Majesty's Government will be appreciated throughout the Empire.

7. It will be observed that the regulations as to the issue, surrender, forfeiture, and restoration of Decorations or Medals are to correspond as far as possible with those laid down for "The Volunteer Officers' Decoration" and "The Volunteer Long Service Medal"; and I need only therefore refer you for your guidance to my predecessor's Circular despatch of the 18th June, 1894, and my own Circular despatch of the 23rd September, 1896. A copy of the latter is enclosed.

8. The question of the designs for the new Decoration and Medal is at present under consideration; and a further communication will be addressed to you on this subject. The cost of the supply of the Decoration and Medal will, as on previous similar occasions, be borne by Colonial Revenues.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

*The Officer Administering
the Government of
HONGKONG.*

CIRCULAR.

Enclosure to Circular dated 19th August, 1899.

DOWNING STREET,
23rd September, 1896.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of your Government, copies of a Royal Warrant extending to Indian, Colonial, and other Volunteer Forces raised for service in Countries under Her Majesty's Protection the grant of the "Volunteer Long Service Medal."

It is intended that the Medal for Colonial Volunteers should be of the same design as that awarded to Volunteers in this Country, except that the words "et Imperatrix" will be added to the inscription "Victoria Regina" on the obverse of the latter.

The Medal is manufactured for the War Office by Messrs. Jenkins & Sons, Unity Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham; and it is a matter for consideration whether it may not be convenient that all the Colonial Governments in which there are Volunteer Forces, should decide to obtain the Medal from that firm.

It will be observed that under the terms of the Royal Warrant, the Medal is to be issued to Colonial Volunteers under regulations recommended by the Governors of Colonies and approved by a Secretary of State. These regulations should, so far as circumstances permit, be similar to those now existing for the Volunteer Force in Great Britain, and I enclose for your information copies of the paragraphs of the current Volunteer Regulations dealing with the issue of the Medal in this Country.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

*The Officer Administering
the Government of
HONGKONG.*

THE COLONIAL AUXILIARY FORCES LONG SERVICE MEDAL WARRANT.

VICTORIA R.I.

WHEREAS it is Our desire to recognize the long and meritorious services of members of Our Colonial Auxiliary Forces, and of others who shall be eligible under the conditions herein laid down, We do hereby constitute and create, as a reward for these services, a new Medal, which shall be designated "The Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal."

IT IS OUR WILL AND PLEASURE that this Medal shall be awarded to the members of all organized Military Forces, except the Permanent Forces serving in Our Colonies and Dependencies, or raised for Our Service in countries under Our protection, whether designated as Militia or Volunteers, or otherwise, subject to the following rules:—

The period of service requisite to qualify for this Medal shall be 20 years. Service on the West Coast of Africa shall reckon double as qualifying service.

Service rendered partly in the local forces of one Colony or Protectorate, and partly in the local Forces of another Colony or Protectorate, or partly in the local Forces of one or more Colonies or Protectorates, and partly in the Volunteer Force of Great Britain, shall be reckoned as qualifying service for the Medal, provided that no Officer or man shall be eligible, unless at least half his service has been rendered in the Militia or Volunteer Forces of one or more Colonies or Protectorates, service on the West Coast of Africa counting double.

Service on the Permanent Staff shall not reckon as qualifying service for this Medal.

Service qualifying for this Medal shall also count towards the necessary qualifying service for "The Volunteer Long Service Medal," provided that no Officer or man shall be eligible for such medal, unless 10 years' service has been spent in the Volunteer Force of Great Britain.

An Officer who has served in the ranks of a Volunteer corps in Great Britain, or of the Militia or Volunteers of a Colony or Protectorate, but who is not qualified for the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers' Decoration, shall, on completing 20 years' service in all, be eligible to receive the Long Service Medal, but shall surrender it if subsequently the aforesaid Decoration shall be conferred upon him.

IT IS OUR FURTHER WILL AND PLEASURE that this Medal shall be awarded under such regulations as to issue, surrender, forfeiture, and restoration as may from time to time be submitted by the Governor-General of Our Dominion of Canada, or by the Governors of Our Colonies and Dependencies, or by Our representatives in countries under Our protection, and as may be approved by Our Principal Secretary of State for War upon the recommendation of Our Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. The regulations aforesaid shall as far as possible correspond with those laid down for "The Volunteer Long Service Medal."

Volunteer Long Service Medals already issued to Colonial Forces under the authority of Our Warrant of the 13th June 1896, shall be considered equivalent to "The Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal."

Our Warrant of the 13th June 1896, save and except so much of it as relates to Our Indian Empire, is hereby cancelled.

Given at Our Court at Windsor, this 18th day of May 1899, in the 62nd year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

LANSDOWNE.

**THE COLONIAL AUXILIARY FORCES OFFICERS' DECORATION
WARRANT.**

VICTORIA R.I.

WHEREAS it is Our desire to recognize the long and meritorious services of Commissioned Officers of Our Colonial Auxiliary Forces, and of others who shall be eligible under the conditions herein laid down. We do hereby constitute and create, as a reward for these services, a new Decoration, which shall be designated "The Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers' Decoration."

IT IS OUR WILL AND PLEASURE that this Decoration shall be conferred on the Commissioned Officers of all organized Military Forces, except the Permanent Forces, serving in Our Colonies and Dependencies, or raised for Our Service in countries under Our protection, whether designated as Militia or Volunteers, or otherwise, subject to the following rules:—

The period of service requisite to qualify for this Decoration shall be 20 years' commissioned service. Half the time served in the ranks of any such forces shall be reckoned as qualifying service. Service on the West Coast of Africa shall reckon double as qualifying service.

Service rendered partly in the Local Forces of one Colony or Protectorate, and partly in the Local Forces of another Colony or Protectorate, or partly in the Local Forces of one or more Colonies or Protectorates, and partly in the Volunteer Force of Great Britain, shall be reckoned as qualifying service for the Decoration, provided that no Officer shall be eligible unless at least half of his qualifying service has been rendered in the Militia or Volunteer Forces of one or more Colonies or Protectorates, service on the West Coast of Africa counting double.

Service on the Permanent Staff shall not reckon as qualifying service for this Decoration.

Service qualifying for this Decoration shall also count towards the qualifying service necessary for "The Volunteer Officers' Decoration," provided that no Officer shall be eligible for such decoration, unless 10 years' commissioned service, or the equivalent thereof, has been spent in the Volunteer Force of Great Britain

IT IS OUR FURTHER WILL AND PLEASURE that this Decoration shall be conferred under such regulations as to grant, forfeiture, and restoration, as may from time to time be submitted by the Governor-General of Our Dominion of Canada, or by the Governors of Our Colonies and Dependencies, or by Our representatives in countries under Our protection, and as may be approved by Our Principal Secretary of State for War upon the recommendation of Our Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. The regulations aforesaid shall as far as possible correspond with those laid down for "The Volunteer Officers' Decoration."

Our Warrant of the 24th May 1894, save and except so much of it as relates to Our Indian Empire, is hereby cancelled.

Given at Our Court at Windsor, this 18th day of May 1899, in the 62nd year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

LANSDOWNE.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.— No. 574.

With reference to Government Notification No. 529 of 30th ultimo, the following Letter with its enclosure is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 20th October, 1899.

BANGKOK, *September 29, 1899.*

SIR,—With reference to my telegram of to-day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency copies of a Quarantine Regulation issued by me to-day stating that the medical inspection against arrivals from Hongkong and Swatow has been removed from Koli Phai to Paknam.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble Servant,

GEORGE GREVILLE,
*H. M. Minister-Resident and
Consul-General.*

His Excellency

Sir HENRY ARTHUR BLAKE, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Hongkong.