

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 64.

The following Circular Despatch with its enclosure is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th January, 1901.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,
14th December, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that the Secretary of State for War has approved of five nominations to direct Commissions in the Imperial Forces being annually placed at the disposal of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for distribution among the Crown Colonies, subject to the following conditions, viz. :—

(1) The gentlemen recommended for Commissions must be *bonâ fide* Colonists.

(2) They must be unmarried, and must be within the ages of eighteen and twenty-two years on the 1st of January of the year in which they are recommended.

(3) Their acceptance will be subject to (a) the conditions laid down in the War Office Regulations of the 1st August, 1899, in regard to an educational test and (b) the requirements of these regulations (Appendix I.) as to physical fitness for candidates for Army Commissions.

2. I shall be glad to consider from time to time the claims of any deserving candidate whom you may desire to recommend to me for nomination to a direct Commission in Her Majesty's Army; but you will bear in mind that it is only a limited number of Commissions which have been placed at my disposal, that the Colonies included in this scheme, when taken together, comprise a considerable European population, and that consequently it may not be possible for me to entertain more than a small proportion of the applications which may be recommended by the Governors of such Colonies.

3. In order to ensure that the conditions laid down by the War Department are in no case lost sight of, I request that any recommendations which you may think fit to make may be accompanied by (1) a Registrar's certificate of birth or a declaration thereof made before a Magistrate; (2) satisfactory evidence as to the position and character of the candidate and as to the antecedents of his family and its connection with the Colony, unless you should be able to speak from personal knowledge on the point; and (3) the certificate of a Medical Board composed if possible of Military Medical Officers as to the physical fitness of the candidate in accordance with the Regulations enclosed.

4. I have to add that the five Commissions placed at my disposal for this year may be allotted to candidates without their being required to undergo any Literary examination; but for this reason it will be the more necessary that I should be thoroughly satisfied as to the intelligence and the educational proficiency of any candidates you may recommend, and there should therefore be produced to me any evidence within your reach as to their educational career and their success in passing examinations.

5. I may add that the names of some candidates for these five Commissions are already under my consideration, and that the names of any additional candidates must be received before the 15th March next.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of

HONGKONG.

REGULATIONS
 UNDER WHICH
COMMISSIONS IN THE BRITISH ARMY
 MAY BE OBTAINED BY
OFFICERS OF COLONIAL LOCAL MILITARY FORCES
 AND
STUDENTS FROM THE COLONIAL UNIVERSITIES.
 1899.

[N.B.—Officers appointed to Commissions in the Army may, in case of voluntary retirement from the Army, be called upon, as a condition of receiving the full rates of retired pay, to serve for a time in the Militia.]

1. Commissions in the Cavalry and Infantry of the Line will be granted to Officers To whom granted. (who are *bonâ fide* Colonists) of the Local Military Forces of certain Colonies, and to Students from Colonial Universities, under the conditions hereinafter prescribed.

OFFICERS OF COLONIAL LOCAL MILITARY FORCES.

2. Until further notice, two Army commissions will be allotted to each of the under-mentioned Colonies annually :— Allotment of commissions.

New South Wales.	Queensland.
South Australia.	New Zealand.
Victoria.	Cape of Good Hope.

Six will be allotted annually to Canada, one biennially to Natal, one annually to Tasmania, and two every three years to the Royal Malta Regiment of Militia.

In the event of the number of Candidates nominated by the Governor in a Colony at any time exceeding the allotted number of commissions, the selection will be decided by competition in the military portion of the prescribed examination.

3. An Officer of the Colonial Military Forces, who is a Candidate for a Commission in Qualification of candidates the British Army, will be required—

(a.) To be unmarried, and to be between the ages of 18 and 22 on the 1st January of the year in which he is allowed to present himself for the Examination in Military Subjects.

(b.) To have served as an Officer in the Local Military Force of the Colony from which he is nominated, and to have attended two annual trainings, each training to be in a distinct year, or have seen active service in the field.

Literary Examination *

4. Subject to the exceptions stated in paragraph 5, a Candidate will be required, before Subjects of literary examination. being permitted to present himself for examination in Military Subjects, to undergo a qualifying Literary Examination by the Civil Service Commissioners in the following subjects :—

CLASS I.		Marks.
Mathematics I.	3,000	
Latin	2,000	
French or German	2,000	
English composition.....	1,000	
Geometrical drawing	1,000	
Freehand drawing	500	
Geography:	500	
CLASS II.		
Mathematics II.	2,000	
Mathematics III.	2,000	
German or French.....	2,000	
Greek.....	2,000	
English History	2,000	
Chemistry and heat	2,000	
Physics.....	2,000	
Physiography and geology	2,000	

* See Syllabus in Appendix II.

All the subjects of Class I. may be taken up. Only two of the subjects of Class II. may be taken up, and if one of these subjects be a modern language, it must be different from the modern language selected in Class I.

Candidates must obtain such an aggregate of marks in the examination as a whole as may indicate, in the judgment of the Civil Service Commissioners, a competent amount of general proficiency.

Exemption for graduates, &c.

5. The Candidate will be exempted from the literary examination, except in geometrical drawing, if he can produce a certificate from the proper University authority that he has (a) taken his degree in Arts or Science, or (b) has passed the examination for the degree of B.A. or M.A, at one of the following Universities:—

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| Oxford. | St. Andrews. |
| Cambridge. | Glasgow. |
| Dublin. | Aberdeen. |
| Durham. | The Royal University, Ireland. |
| London. | Victoria University, Manchester. |
| Edinburgh, | or for the degree of B.Sc. at the Universities of Edinburgh, |
| | St. Andrews, Glasgow, or Aberdeen ; |

or (c) has passed the examination specified below at any of the following Universities:—

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| Oxford..... | The "First Public Examination." |
| Cambridge | One of the parts of the "General Examination," or Part I. of any "Tripos Examination." |
| Dublin | The "Final Examination of the Senior Freshman year;" or
The "Final Examination of the School of Engineering." * |
| Durham | The "first year's Examinations." |
| London | The Intermediate Examinations in Arts, Law, Science, or Medicine. |
| Scotch Universities..... | The "Examination of Candidates for the Army." |
| The Royal University, Ireland ... | "The second University Examination in Arts, or the second Professional Examination in Engineering." |
| Victoria University, Manchester . | The Intermediate Examination. |

Or if he has passed some other test which is accepted by the University as exempting from the above examinations. A certificate that the examination is accepted* by the authorities concerned must be produced.

An equivalent examination at the University of Malta, or one of the chartered Colonial Universities, will likewise be accepted as a sufficient ground for exemption.

Literary examination held twice a year.

6. The literary examination will take place in June and in November in each year.

Mode of application.

7. A Candidate who is desirous of attending one of these examinations must apply to his Commanding Officer, at such date as will allow of the Governor forwarding the application so as to reach the War Office not later than the 1st of April or 1st September, for the June and November examinations respectively. The Governor in forwarding the application will certify that the Candidate is, having regard to the maximum limit laid down in paragraph 3 (a), eligible in point of age, and that he will be prepared, when necessary, to recommend him in the manner prescribed in paragraph 8. Not more than three trials at these examinations will be allowed.

Notification by Colonial Governor.

8. The Governor of the Colony will notify to the War Office, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, each year, the names of any duly qualified Candidates he is desirous of nominating for examination in Military Subjects.

This notification must reach the War Office by the 1st July, and should be accompanied by—

- (a) An extract from the register of the candidate's birth; or, in default, a certificate of his baptism or other documentary evidence accompanied by a declaration made by one of his parents or guardians before a magistrate, giving his exact age.
- (b) A certificate of having served the required number of annual trainings (each training in a distinct year).

* This examination will also exempt from geometrical drawing.

- (c.) A certificate from the Governor that he is satisfied that the Candidate is actually a Colonist, that he is of good moral character, and, in all other respects, a fit and proper person to hold a commission in Her Majesty's Army.
- (d.) A certificate that the Candidate has passed the examination described in paragraph 4, or a University Certificate as prescribed in paragraph 5.

STUDENTS OF COLONIAL UNIVERSITIES.

9. A commission will be granted under these Regulations to one student annually of the University of Malta, and of each of the chartered Universities in Colonies not having a Military College through which commissions in the Army may be obtained. Commissions for Colonial university students.

10. The Candidate must be unmarried, and must be within the ages of 18 and 22 on the 1st January of the year in which he is allowed to present himself for the Examination in Military Subjects. Age.

11. The Literary Examination of Students of the chartered Colonial Universities will be conducted entirely by those Universities. Geometrical drawing will be an obligatory subject of such examination. Literary examination.

12. The name of the Candidate selected for nomination must be forwarded so as to reach the War Office on the 1st July, and should be accompanied by— Name of candidate to be notified to War Office, with documents prescribed.

- (a.) A certificate that the Candidate is a British born or naturalized British subject.
- (b.) An extract from the register of the candidate's birth; or, in default, a certificate of his baptism or other documentary evidence accompanied by a declaration made by one of his parents or guardians before a magistrate, giving his exact age.
- (c.) A certificate of good moral character, for the four years immediately preceding the date of application, from the heads of all schools, colleges, or other educational establishments at which the candidate has been educated during the period; or, if such a certificate cannot be produced, a statement showing the reason for the omission, together with some other satisfactory proof of good moral conduct.
- (d.) A certificate from the head of the College that the Candidate has passed the required University Examination, including geometrical drawing.

Examination in Military Subjects.*

13. An examination in Military Subjects of Candidates nominated under paragraphs 8 and 12, who have previously passed the Literary Examination, will be held in September in each year. The subjects and the maximum marks obtainable in each subject will be as follows:— Examination in military subjects.

	Marks.
1. Military Engineering	2,000
2. Military History	4,000
3. Military Topography	2,000

In order to qualify for a commission, a candidate will be required to obtain one-third of the marks in each subject, and half of the aggregate. Not more than three trials will be allowed at these examinations.

14. A candidate will be required to undergo an inspection by a Medical Board, to be convened by the Governor of the Colony, or other proper authority, and will not be allowed to proceed with his examination unless recommended by this Board to be physically fit for Her Majesty's Service. Inspection by Medical Board.

The general conditions as to height, weight, chest measurement, eyesight, &c., required, are given in Appendix I, page 9. The Board have, however, discretionary power to recommend a candidate slightly below one or other of these conditions in a case in which they are satisfied that he will fulfil them within six months. No relaxation, however, of the eyesight qualification will ever be allowed.

The recommendations of the Board, will, in all cases, be absolutely final.

15. It is suggested that a candidate before commencing his course of study should undergo a thorough medical examination. By such an examination any *serious* physical disqualification would be revealed, and the candidate probably spared expense and the mortification of rejection.

16. Candidates may undergo a preliminary examination by a military medical board, not more than two years before they compete, under the following conditions:—

- (a.) Applications must be addressed to the Governor of the Colony, accompanied by a fee of two guineas.

* See Syllabus in Appendix II.

- (b.) Instructions will be issued for the examination to take place at the military station where a medical board can be held, nearest the candidate's residence. The result will be notified to candidates by the board.
- (c.) Candidates must pay their travelling expenses.
- (d.) Candidates found unfit by the preliminary board are not bound to accept its finding, but may, *at their own risk*, continue their studies, and if successful at the competitive examination, may then submit themselves for medical examination by the *final* medical board.
- (e.) It must be distinctly understood that passing such preliminary medical board is solely for the candidate's information, and would give him no sort of claim to be accepted as physically fit when he presents himself as a candidate. His acceptance will depend entirely upon the report of the final medical board. Candidates may be fit for the service at the preliminary examination, but may become disqualified by some subsequent physical deterioration.

APPENDIX I.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

I.—A candidate for a Commission in Her Majesty's Army must be in good mental and bodily health, and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of military duty, and it should be stated whether he is of pure European descent.

II.—The examination will be conducted by a Board of Medical Officers.

III.—The attention of the Board will be directed to the following points:—

- (a.) That the correlation of age, height, weight, and chest girth is equal or superior to that which is given in the following table:—

PHYSICAL EQUIVALENTS.

Age last birthday.	Height in inches without shoes.	Weight without clothes, lbs.	Chest girth in inches.
16	64	120	33
17	64½	125	33
18	65	130	33
19	65	132	33
20	65	135	33½
21	65	138	34
22	65	140	34

(a.) Measurement of Height

The candidate will be placed against the standard with his feet together, and the weight thrown on the heels, and not on the toes or outside of the feet. He will stand erect without rigidity, and with the heels, calves, buttocks, and shoulders touching the standard; the chin will be depressed to bring the vertex of the head level under the horizontal bar, and the height will be noted in parts of an inch to eighths.

(b.) Measurement of Chest.

The candidate will be made to stand erect with his feet together, and to raise his hands above his head. The tape will be carefully adjusted round the chest, with its posterior upper edge touching the inferior angles of the shoulder blades, and its anterior lower edge the upper part of the nipples. The arms will then be lowered to hang loosely by the side, and care will be taken that the shoulders are not thrown upwards or backwards so as to displace the tape. The candidate will then be directed to empty his chest of air as much as is possible. This is best done by continuous whistling with the lips as long as sound can be produced. The tape is carefully gathered in during the process, and when the minimum measurement is reached, it is recorded.

He will then be directed to inflate his chest to its utmost capacity. This maximum measurement will likewise be recorded. The mean of the two measurements will be considered as the true chest measurement.

(d.) Eyesight.

The Regulations regarding the Examination of Eyesight are as follows :—

1. If a candidate can read $D = 6$ at 6 metres (20 English feet) and $D = 0.6$, at any distance selected by himself, with each eye without glasses, he will be considered **FIT**.

2. If a candidate can only read $D = 24$ at 6 metres (20 English feet) with each eye without glasses, his visual deficiency being due to faulty refraction which can be corrected by glasses which enable him to read $D = 6$ at 6 metres (20 English feet) with one eye, and $D = 12$ at the same distance with the other eye, and can also read $D = 0.8$ with each eye without glasses, at any distance selected by himself, he will be considered **FIT**.

3. If a candidate cannot read $D = 24$ at 6 metres (20 English feet) with each eye without glasses, notwithstanding he can read $D = 0.6$, he will be considered **UNFIT**.

(N.B.—Snellen's test types will be used for determining the acuteness of vision.)

Squint, inability to distinguish the principal colours, or any morbid conditions, subject to the risk of aggravation or recurrence in either eye, will cause the rejection of a candidate.

IV.—The following additional points will then be observed :—

(a.) That his hearing is good.

(b.) That his speech is without impediment.

(c.) That his teeth are in good order. Loss or decay of ten teeth will be considered a disqualification. Decayed teeth, if well filled, will be considered as sound.

(d.) That his chest is well formed, and that his lungs and heart are sound.

(e.) That he is not ruptured.

(f.) That he does not suffer from hydrocele, varicocele, varicose veins in a severe degree, or other disease likely to cause inefficiency. A slight defect, if successfully cured by operation, is not a disqualification.

(g.) That his limbs are well formed and developed.

(h.) That there is free and perfect motion of all the joints.

(i.) That his feet and toes are well formed.

(j.) That he does not suffer from any inveterate skin disease.

(k.) That he has no congenital malformation or defect.

(l.) That he does not bear traces of previous acute or chronic disease pointing to an impaired constitution.

APPENDIX II.

SYLLABUS OF SUBJECTS FOR THE LITERARY EXAMINATIONS.

Mathematics I.—Arithmetics; algebra, up to and including the binomial theorem; the theory and use of logarithms; Euclid, Books I. to IV., and VI.; plane trigonometry, up to and including solution of triangles; mensuration.

Mathematics II.—Further questions on the syllabus of Mathematics I.; elementary solid geometry, including Euclid, Book XI., Propositions 1 to 21, and Book XII., Propositions 1 and 2; geometrical conic sections, the elementary properties common to the ellipse, parabola and hyperbola; dynamics and statics, uniform and uniformly accelerated rectilinear motion, uniform circular motion, motion of projectiles (not requiring a knowledge of the parabola), equilibrium of forces in one plane and of parallel forces, the centre of mass, and the construction and use of the simpler machines.

Mathematics III.—Geometrical conic sections; analytical geometry, the straight line, circle, and conic sections, referred to Cartesian co-ordinates; dynamics and statics, as far as they may be studied without the aid of the differential calculus.

Latin.—Passages selected from the authors usually read in schools will be set for translation in English. Passages from English authors will be given for translation into Latin, prose and verse, but candidates will be allowed, in the place of verse composition, to answer questions of a simple character, which will test whether they possess a fundamental knowledge of the grammar of the language, and such an elementary acquaintance with Roman History as is required for the intelligent study of the books they have read.

Greek.—Passages will be set for translation into English from the authors usually read in schools, and in other respects the examination will proceed on the same lines as in Latin.

French.—Translation of unseen passages from French into English, and from English into French. The passages for translation will be taken mainly from standard authors, and a few simple questions may be asked on the passages set, as to the structure and character of the language, and allusions of obvious and general interest. The *vivâ voce* examination will include dictation. 300 marks will be allotted to colloquial knowledge of the language.

German.—The passages for translation will be taken mainly from standard authors, and in other respects the examination will proceed on the same lines as in French.

English Composition.—Candidates will be tested by précis writing as well as by an essay. The standard of positive merit will be looked for in logical arrangement of thought, and in accuracy and propriety of expression, but large deductions of marks will be made for faults of writing and spelling. (Candidates are also warned that, for similar faults in the use of the English language, similar deductions will be made from the marks obtained in other subjects.)

Geometrical Drawing.—Practical plane geometry; the construction of scales; and the elements of solid geometry, and of simple orthographic projection. Great importance will be attached to neatness and exactness of drawing.

Geography.—Simple questions in descriptive and general geography.

English History.—The general paper in this subject will be confined to events subsequent to the Norman Conquest. It will test whether the candidates are accurately acquainted with the facts of English History, and also possess an intelligent knowledge of the meaning of the facts.

The paper on the special period will be confined to distinctly modern history. It will require from the candidates more minute knowledge than the general paper.

Natural Science Subjects.—The standard of examination in these subjects will be such as may reasonably be expected from the education given at schools possessing appliances for practical instruction, such as a laboratory, &c. A considerable portion of the marks will be given for proficiency shown in the practical parts of the examination. A knowledge of the metric system will be expected.

Chemistry.—The laws of chemical combination and decomposition, and the preparation, classification, and properties of the principal metallic and non-metallic elements, and of such of their compounds as are treated of in inorganic chemistry. In the practical part of the examination only the more ordinary apparatus and the less dangerous re-agents will be supplied, and no candidate will be allowed to bring his own apparatus or re-agents.

Heat.—The elementary portion of the subject.

Physics.—The elementary properties of electricity, magnetism, light and sound.

Physiography, i.e., Physical Geography.

Geology.—Chiefly economic, including the recognition of the more familiar minerals and rocks, and their properties and uses.

SYLLABUS OF SUBJECTS FOR THE MILITARY EXAMINATION.

Military Engineering.—Chapters I. to VIII., inclusive of Philips' Text Book on Fortification.

Military History.—Parts I., II., and III. of Hamley's Operations of War.

Military Topography.—Chapters I. to XIV., inclusive of Part I., Text Book of Military Topography.

APPENDIX III.

FIRST APPOINTMENTS TO LINE REGIMENTS.

The appointment of qualified candidates to particular regiments of the line will be made on the following principles:—

1. A candidate having a special family or territorial connection with a regiment, may, when fully qualified for a commission, apply to the Military Secretary to be appointed to that regiment, and such consideration as can be afforded will be given to his application. If approved, and if the interests of the service admit of it, he will be permitted to wait six months for an opportunity of being appointed to the regiment he applies for, but must understand that by so doing he loses Army seniority.
2. If desirous of thus waiting, he must state this when making application for a regiment. After a candidate has once been gazetted on first appointment, no application for a transfer will be entertained, save under the most exceptional circumstances.
3. Candidates without special claims are at liberty to apply for particular regiments (not exceeding two in all), but will in no case be allowed to wait.
4. Where the claims of different candidates for the same regiment are evenly balanced, the first consideration will be given to those highest on the list in their final examination.
5. All candidates must clearly understand that, while their wishes will be met as far as possible, they will be posted to vacancies as demanded by the interests of the service.