

Confidential  
No. C. 2.

1915

Ag. O.C. Volunteers

(SUBJECT).

1915

Reports on Public Officers

19<sup>th</sup> April

Serving in F. 9. Volunteer Force

Previous Papers.

(Sgt. Riches.)

169/15:

(MINUTES).

Subsequent Papers.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

NO. 63.

Government House, Stanley.

26th June, 1915.

Sir,

Since writing my despatch No 49 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that Dr H. M. S. Turner has, with his wife and family, come to Port Stanley from West Falkland to proceed to England by the mail to-morrow.

2. If you approve of Dr Turner's being allowed the bonus of £50 in respect of the three months leave from the 3th April, which Governor Allardyce undertook to recommend for your consideration, I beg that the Crown Agents be informed that he has already been paid salary at the rate of £200 a year from the 9th to the 30th April inclusive. The sum of £12.4.5. should be deducted, therefore, from any payments made to him in this respect.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*Douglas James*

Governor.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Government House, Stanley.

NO. 64.

26th June, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter addressed to me by Dr. H. M. S. Turner, late Lieutenant in the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force, and of my reply thereto, with respect to his position in the Volunteer Force of this Colony.

2. On the 26th January last Governor Allardyce telegraphed to you reporting that Dr Turner's appointment as a Medical-Officer terminated on the 8th April, and that he did not wish to remain in Command of the Volunteer Force unless he was paid salary at the rate of £600 a year. Governor Allardyce at the same time asked that a retired Officer be appointed at a salary of £400 a year to take Command of the Volunteers until the end of the war.

3. Captain F. J. Newnham was accordingly selected for the appointment, as reported by your despatch No 42 of the 10th April, 1915.

4. On Dr. Turner's appointment as Officer Commanding the Falkland Islands Volunteers Governor Allardyce gave him the "Honorary" rank of Major. It appears to me that on Dr. Turner requesting to be relieved of the Command of the Force Governor Allardyce considered that he ceased to hold the Honorary rank of Major, and, if a Member of the Force at all, reverted to his rank as a Lieutenant.

5. From Dr. Turner's subsequent conduct, however,

I have always viewed him as being no longer a Member of the Force, in as much as he has been absent without leave from Headquarters, and is now leaving the Colony without any application made for leave and without permission being granted to him. Consequently, if Dr. Turner can in any way be regarded as a Member of the Force, he undoubtedly is a deserter. I am of opinion, however, that in his own interests he should, as from the 8th April last, be viewed as no longer a Member of the Force.

6. I think it right to report the matter as I understand Dr. Turner proposes to go to the Front, possibly assuming the rank of Major in the Falkland Islands Volunteers.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*Douglas Young*

Governor.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Enclosure to despatch No 6/4 of the 26th June, 1915.

Dr Turner to the Governor.

Port Stanley,

24th June, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to the interview which Your Excellency kindly granted me yesterday and the subject of my Commission which was discussed thereat,

2. I wish to draw Your Excellency's attention to the Gazetting of my promotion in the Official Gazette for, as far as my memory serves me, September, 1914, and,

3. To state formally that I have never at any time tendered the resignation of my Commission. I would further state that I have never received any communication whatever to lead me to believe that I was understood to have done so; and that I was in total ignorance of my position until it was defined by Your Excellency at the interview.

I have, &c.,

(signed) H. M. Stanley Turner.

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Colonial

Colonial Secretary to Dr. Turner.

The Office of the Colonial  
Secretary,  
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

26th June, 1915.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to inform you that, as he promised, His Excellency has referred to the papers on the subject of your appointment and services in the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force.

2. From a perusal of these papers the Governor finds :-

- (a) that you were appointed to be a Lieutenant in the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force with effect from the 5th May, 1909,
- (b) that, by a letter addressed to you on the 7th August, 1914, by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, you were appointed to be Commanding Officer of the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force, "with the Honorary rank of Major",
- (c) that the Commander-in-Chief relieved you of the Command of the Force with effect from the 8th April, on your return to the West Falkland; consequently being no longer in Command of the Force, you ceased to hold the Honorary rank of Major.

3. The Governor considers that on being relieved of the Command you might have been viewed as reverting to your original Commission of Lieutenant in the Force, but your subsequent action in being absent from military duty up to the present time without leave, and in having arranged to

leave

leave the Colony by the R.M.S. "Ortega" (due to-morrow) without leave applied for and granted, appears to His Excellency to justify the view he takes, namely, that when you ceased to be Commanding Officer of the Force you at the same time ceased to be a Member of the Force, a view in accordance with your own actions, and one which His Excellency must consequently hold as to your position.

4. I am therefore, in conclusion, to inform you that the Governor and Commander-in-Chief is unable to consider you as any longer a Member of the Force.

I have, &c.,

(signed) C. F. Condell.

Colonial Secretary.

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