

Inspector General Alexander, Light Division, concerning promotion

Publication/Creation

1856

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7 h. V. h. to rep^t that ^{the canvas of} the H. No. has become
from long use so rotten and porous to rain as to be
unserviceable. ~~Many of the upper sails were damaged by the rain~~
~~of the last few days. I do not think it capable of~~
if I therefore beg you will be pleased to app^l to the Board
to examine ^{the condition} the state of the ^{upper} sails that I may
after later steps be obtain a ^{better} ~~new~~ ^{new} ~~may~~ ^{may} instead
of the one before mentioned - T. L.

Sir J. 7 h. V. h. to rep^t that one of the hapt^s
huts in my battery. both on the roof & sides.
Several pieces of the asphalt felt covering the roof are
decayed & I submit the papers of the same so that
I have had to remove the patients from the
sides. If I could ^{be supplied with} ~~procure~~ ^{suff^t} sail cloth
to cover the hut, it ^{will} be attended wth the
benefit I believe of ~~them~~ carrying off the rain,
in wet weather, & ^{springing to} keeping the hut cool in
hot weather. T. L.

Sir J. 7 h. V. h. to call yr. attenⁿ to the fact that
in Gen^l Order - No. 6 of 7th May 1855, it is
stated that a quantity of Porten will be issued to
the troops in lieu of the rate of money. No Porten has
been ^{yet} issued to the men of this reg^t & as I consider it would
be attended with benefit ^{to the men} by the suggestion that it
should be applied for -

Sir)

2P. 38/1
19th Regimental Camp, above Sebastopol,
March 20th 1856.

The recent promotion of 2nd (Capt Staff Surgeon Matthew to have the local rank of Staff Surgeon of the 1st (Capt has led me into a train of thought which I have taken the liberty of embodying in the following letter, and which I would respectfully ask may be laid before the Director General for his consideration, if you think my remarks justified by the circumstances of the case. In what I am about to write I beg to disclaim all intention of disparaging the merits of Mr. Matthew, who is personally unknown to me, and of whom I have invariably heard most favorable reports as a Medical Officer.

Mr. Matthew, my junior in the service by nearly a twelve-month, was promoted over me and many others, after he had been 5 years 9 months in the Department. I have never heard it explained that this extra-ordinary advancement was due to any extra-ordinary services. But whatever the occasion, Mr. Matthew had the satisfaction of enjoying the increased consideration and advantages of a Surgeon's position during 5 years 4 months longer than myself, who got my promotion in rotation after 11 years 1 month's service. Regarding it from a pecuniary point of view alone, this difference in promotion involves the receipt of a considerable sum of money, upwards of six hundred pounds, in Mr. Matthew's favor.

Mr. Matthew, I understand, was on board ship during the march from Old Fort, and was employed in taking care of the wounded after the battle of Alma to Scutari, — an onerous duty certainly, but not more onerous than the duties of those who marched with the army and had the responsibility of operating in the field. Subsequent to the long and trying bivouack before the arrival of the tents, Mr. Matthew was placed in charge of one of the regiments of the 2^d Division and after a short absence on account of ill health, was at a later period put in charge of the Castle Hospital at Balaklava, at a time when every advantage was readily procurable which proximity to the Fort and abundant supplies ensured, and when every assistance was available, which an efficient Staff of Medical Officers and attendants could afford.

My own position has been continuously in front, in charge of my battalion, which from motives of duty I have never quitted for one day from its first landing in Turkey, though on several occasions tempted to do so by the state of my health, and the advice of friends. You know Sir, how the 19th Regiment suffered in Bulgaria and at Alma, and what duties devolved upon me, and you know also that in consequence of the Light Division being the only one which uninterruptedly performed the trench-duties of the Right Attack, — where, from the nature of the position, the losses & casualties principally occurred — I was never unemployed, day or night, from the period when the siege commenced till its close. I have reason to believe that my surgical practice has been approved of, not only from private communications, but I saw in the *Lancet* of Feb'y 1855 a paper, by an eminent Hospital Surgeon of London, Samuel Sothly Esq^r (to whom I am personally quite unknown, and who visited Chatham apparently by the introduction of the Director General) in which operations performed by me at Alma were especially mentioned on account of their successful issue.

I am not presumptuous enough to imagine that my services establish any claim for promotion above those of my fellow-laborers in the field, but I think that they are such as entitle me to call attention to them when I observe myself still further distanced by another Surgeon, who, while entering the service after me, has hitherto had the good fortune to enjoy a very much larger share than myself of the benefits to be obtained in the course of an Army Medical Officer's career.

Dr. Alexander, Inspector Gen^l,

P.M.O. Light Division

I am, Sir, very respectfully yours
Thomas Lonsdale

Copy of
Remarks made by Dr Alexander in forwarding foregoing letter.

L.P. 38/2

Forwarded to Sir John Hall and I beg to remark that Surgeon Longmore has proved himself throughout the whole campaign as well ^{as} in Bulgaria, a most excellent Surgeon and Operator, and no Medical Officer in this Army has performed his duties more zealously, or more satisfactorily than he has done. He has never left the field although suffering much occasionally and recommended by myself as well as others to do so. I have therefore very great pleasure in recommending him in the strongest manner for your favorable representation of his claims to promotion to the Director General — he being one of the very few who came out as a Surgeon and who have never left the field. I may add that he was named in General (Cobington's) despatches after the fall of Sebastopol.

Sir John Hall K.C.B.
Inspector General, Headquarters —

(Signed) T. Alexander
Inspector General

Sir/

19th Regt Camp, above Sebastopol,
March 20th 1856 -

The recent promotion of 2nd Class Staff Surgeon Mr. Matthew to have the local rank of Staff Surgeon of the 1st Class has led me into a train of thought which I have taken the liberty of embodying in the following letter, and which I would respectfully ask may be laid before the Director General for his consideration, if you think my remarks justified by the circumstances of the case. In what I am about to write I beg to disclaim all intention of disparaging the merits of Mr. Matthew, who is personally unknown to me, and of whom I have invariably heard most favorable reports as a Medical Officer.

Mr. Matthew, my junior in the service, by nearly a twelvemonth, was promoted over me and many others, after he had been 5 years 9 months in the department. I have never heard it explained that this extraordinary advancement was due to any extraordinary services. But whatever the occasion, Mr. Matthew had the satisfaction of enjoying the increased consideration and advantages of a Surgeon's position during 5 years 4 months longer than myself, who got my promotion in rotation after 11 years 1 month's service. Regarding it from a pecuniary point of view alone, this difference in promotion involves the receipt of a considerable sum of money, upwards of six hundred pounds, in Mr. Matthew's favor.

Mr. Matthew, I understand, was on board ship during the march from Old Fort, and was employed in taking care of the wounded after the battle of Alma to Balaclava, — an onerous duty certainly, but not more onerous than the duties of those who marched with the army and had the responsibility of operating in the field. Subsequent to the long and trying bivouac before the arrival of the tents, Mr. Matthew was placed in charge of one of the regiments of the 2nd Division, and after a short absence on account of ill health, was at a later period put in charge of the Little Hospital at Balaclava, at a time when every advantage was readily procurable which proximity to the port at Balaclava, and abundant supplies, ensured, and every assistance was available, which an efficient staff of Medical Officers and attendants could afford.

My own position has been continuously in front, in charge of my battalion, which from motives of duty I have never quitted for one day from its first landing in Turkey, though on several occasions tempted to do so by the state of my health, and the advice of friends. You know, Sir, how the 19th Regiment suffered in Bulgaria and at Alma, and what duties devolved upon me, and you know also that in consequence of the 1st Division being the only one which uninterruptedly performed the trench-duties of the Right Attack, — where, from the nature of the position, the sorties and casualties principally occurred, — I was never unemployed, day or night, from the period when the siege commenced till its close. I have reason to believe that my surgical practice has been approved of, not only from private communications, but I saw in the *Lancet* of Feb: 1855, a paper by an eminent Hospital Surgeon of London, Samuel Ddy Esq: (to whom I am personally quite unknown, and who visited Chatham apparently by the introduction of the Director General) in which operations performed by me at Alma were especially mentioned in account of their successful issue.

I am not presumptuous enough to imagine that my services establish any claim for promotion above my fellow-laborers in the field, but I think that they are such as entitle me to call attention to them when I observe myself still further distanced by another Surgeon, who, while entering the service after me, has hitherto had the good fortune to enjoy a very much larger share than myself of the benefits to be obtained in the course of an Army Medical Officer's career.

I am, Sir,
very respectfully yours
Thomas Longmore

D. Alexander C. B.
Inspector General
P. M. O. Light Division —

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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

I am not prepared enough to imagine that my services established any claim for promotion above my fellow-laborers in the field, but I think that they are such as entitle me to call attention to them when I have occasion to make such a statement. During the service of my regiment I have been successful in the course of my Medical Affairs.

James Ferguson
and wife

Dr Alexander C. B.
Trinity Church
P. M. O. 11th Division —

L.P. 38/4

19th Regimental Camp. above Sebastopol,
March 20th 1856.

Sir, the recent promotion of 2nd Class Staff Surgeon Mr. Matthew to have the local rank of Staff Surgeon of the 1st Class has led me into a train of thought which I have taken the liberty of embodying in the following letter, and which I would respectfully ask may be laid before the Director General for his consideration, if you think my remarks justified by the circumstances of the case. In what I am about to write I beg to disclaim all intention of disparaging the merits of Mr. Matthew, who is personally unknown to me, and of whom I have invariably heard most favorable reports as a Medical Officer.

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Mr. Matthew, I understand, was on board ship during the march from Old Fort, and was employed in taking care of the wounded after the battle of Alma to Tientsin, — an onerous duty certainly, but not more onerous than the duties of those who marched with the army and had the responsibility of operating in the field. Subsequent to the long and trying bivouack before the arrival of the tents, Mr. Matthew was placed in charge of one of the regiments of the 2nd Division, and after a short absence on account of ill health, was at a later period put in charge of the Castle Hospital at Balaklava, at a time when every advantage was readily procurable which proximity to the port of Balaklava and abundant supplies ensured, and every assistance was available, which an efficient staff of Medical Officers and attendants could afford.

My own position has been continuously in front, in charge of my battalion, which from motives of duty I have never quitted for one day from its first landing in Turkey, though on several occasions tempted to do so by the state of my health, and the advice of friends. You know, Sir, how the 19th Regiment suffered in Bulgaria and at Alma, and what duties devolved upon me, and you know also that in consequence of the Left Division being the only one which uninterruptedly performed the duties of the Right Attack, — where, from the nature of the position the losses and casualties principally occurred — I was never unemployed, day or night, from the period when the siege commenced till its close. I have reason to believe that my surgical practice has been approved of, not only from private communications, but I saw in the *Lancet* of Feb. 7 1855 a paper, by an eminent Hospital Surgeon of London, Samuel Solly Esq, (to whom I am personally quite unknown, and who visited Chatham apparently by the introduction of the Director General) in which operations performed by me at Alma were especially mentioned on account of their successful issue.

I am not presumptuous enough to imagine that my services establish any claim for promotion above my fellow laborers in the field, but I think that they are such as entitle me to call attention to them when I observe myself still further distanced by another Surgeon, who, while entering the service after me, has hitherto had the good fortune to enjoy a very much larger share than myself of the benefits to be obtained in the course of an Army Medical Officer's career,

Dr. Alexander C.D.

Inspector General

D. M. O. Light Division —

I am, Sir,

very respectfully yours

Thomas Longmore

Remarks made by Dr Alexander in forwarding foregoing Letter.

L.P. 38/5

Forwarded to Sir John Hall and I beg to remark that Surgeon Longmore has proved himself throughout the whole campaign as well ^{as} in Bulgaria, a most excellent Surgeon and Operator, and no Medical Officer in this Army has performed his duties more zealously, or more satisfactorily than he has done. He has never left the Field although suffering much occasionally and recommended by myself as well as others to do so. I have therefore very great pleasure in recommending him in the strongest manner for your favorable representation of his claims to promotion to the Director General — he being one of the very few who came out as a Surgeon and who have never left the Field. I may add that he was named in General Cdrington's despatches after the fall of Sebastopol.

Sir John Hall K.C.B.
Inspector General, Headquarters —

T. Alexander
Inspr^l General

59 38/2

Remains made up by Dr. Thompson in forwarding to his brother.

I mentioned to Dr. John Hall and I say to remark that Dr. Thompson has found himself throughout the whole campaign as well as in his private life, a most excellent lawyer and orator, and no medical man in the South has performed his duties more zealously, or more satisfactorily than he has done. He has never left the field without suffering much occasionally and recommending himself as well as others to do so. I have therefore very great pleasure in recommending him in the strongest manner for your favorable representation of his claims to promotion to the position of General - he being one of the very few who came out as a lawyer and who have never left the field. I may add that he was named in General Johnston's dispatch after the fall of Johnston.

Dr. John Hall K.C.B.
Adjutant General, Headquarters

T. Thompson
Major General



Sir William Codrington
requests the Pleasure of
Dr. Lingen's company
at Dinner this evening at
6.30.

Tuesday. 16th

any individual ^{were} When circumstances ^{were} used to be made respect pay
 the uply was - You must not look at your own
 pay - nor at the pay of any particular class in the D^t -
 you must take the whole into your consideration -
 you must remember that you are part of a big mass of
 various gradations, the 'end of which you will rise in
 regular series - ~~there is~~ in arranging these all
 the mutual relations have been considered - you are
 not subject to the intrusion of others in any part of the
 series but each ^{has its own rank} must follow in order from the
 steps which you & others have followed before -

& if your promotion to these higher grades
 is slow in peace time it is rapid ^{in war time} when
 circumstances call for increase in the army
 establishment - This was the usual reply
 & complaints in the prospect of a 'war coming'
 were hushed - Here this agreement has been kept -
 on the contrary has just not been broken in
 any way - Nothing can be more unfair
 than the posⁿ of head^s of the at present - some
 still 13th - others 20 -