

Pages from letterbook of Robert Sillery, Surgeon on the Staff and in the 35th Fusiliers, in Gibraltar, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Mauritius, mainly copies of letters requesting promotion, with copies of testimonials from the Emperor of Morocco, Sir James McGrigor and others

Publication/Creation

1822-1843

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November, 1966.

Miss Thoyts,
11 Grange Road,
St. Cross,
Winchester, Hants.

Dear Miss Thoyte,

Colonel Orr who is in charge of our records at Winchester has sent me copies of a most interesting series of letters etc., from Staff Surgeon Sillery and I understand we owe them to your good offices.

They are quite unique and throw a wonderful light on the administration of the Medical Services in the early nineteenth century and will be of great value to future historians and research workers. I shall be taking them up to London next week to preserve among our archives.

I am returning the portrait as you request and would be interested to know whether Dr Sillery was an ancestor of yours.

You may be interested in the following short biography which is to be found among our records:-

" Hospital Assistant	24 June 1815
Half Pay	25 Feb. 1816
Full Pay	12 June 1817
Asst. Surg. Staff	18 Apr. 1822
Surg. 35 Fusiliers	4 Jan. 1839
Staff Surg. 1st Class	1 Nov. 1842
Retired Half Pay	1 May 1849

M.D. (Glasgow) 1825

F.R.C.S. (England) 1844

Was employed when on retired list as medical officer in charge of military lunatic asylum.

Died in London 20 May 1859 ".

On behalf of our Trustees may I send you our most grateful thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Major General (Retd).

RAME 477

Colonel J.W. Orr, OBE MC MB,
Medical Services & WRAC Records,
Lower Barracks,
Winchester, Hants.

November, 1966.

Dear

Very many thanks for sending us the Sillery papers which I found exceedingly interesting.

Medical administration must have been very odd in the early 1800's when M.Os would write direct to the D.G. urging their own promotions and asking for a year's leave on full pay !

Sillery had quite a distinguished academic record. The following is his biography as contained in "Johnston's Roll".

"Hospital Assistant	24 June 1815
Half Pay	25 Feb. 1816
Full Pay	12 June 1817
Asst. Surg. Staff	18 Apr. 1822
Surg. 35 Fusiliers	4 Jan. 1839
Staff Surg. 1st Class	1 Nov. 1842
Retired Half Pay	1 May 1849
M.D. (Glasgow)	1825
F.R.C.S. (England)	1844

Was employed when on retired list as medical officer in charge of military lunatic asylum.

Died in London 20 May 1859".

I am returning the portrait direct to Miss Thoyts.
I shall be taking the papers up to Millbank next week to file in the Muniment Room.

With many thanks and all good wishes.

Yours

Gibraltar 7th July - 1822

Sir

I have the honor to report to you that I arrived here this day from a particular Service in Barbary — During this mission I have had the good fortune on several occasions to receive the approbation and thanks of His Imperial Majesty and he has been pleased to recommend me for promotion as you will perceive by the enclosed Copy of a letter with which he honored me on my departure from Barbary.

Trusting that His Imperial Majesty's kind intention towards me may be favourably considered by His Excellency the Earl of Chatham. Hope you will be pleased to forward my Application for an Assistant Surgeony — a rank which on full pay incurs no expence in addition to that of my present situation.

I have the honor to be

Sir

To

Your most Obedt. Servant

W^m Fraser Esq^rRegd^y Asst. Surg^yDy Insp^t of Hospitals &

Hospital assistant

Principal Medical Officer

Gibraltar

Translation of the Emperor of Morocco's
Letter to me -

God alone be praised.

To the English Dr Robt Sillery Esq. forth.

The frequent conversations we have had with you, the great assistance which you have rendered to us while at Tangier, you having entered to our Royal presence into the interior of our Palace to visit us, and also your having gone over by our directions to attend to our Troops before Tiltuan without fear on your part - are well known, and of course the news of these services will reach the Ears of your Sovereign, by whom we have no doubt they will be estimated and consequently you will be rewarded by being promoted in your profession, more particularly if your prime minister will see this our Royal letter directed to you - you may depend you will be promoted -

We wish you to send to us the following medicines
Prussian Bark, fresh and of the best quality
Spicaean in root of the first quality -

Rheubarb, new, superior, and not ground -

Sarcaparilla of prime Quality in roots /thin/ which
is used in acute Tertian agues -

On the 28th of Rabey the second 1237. The 23^d of Jan 1622

I do hereby declare that the above is the true
translation of the Annexed Arabic letter -

/Signed/ S. Aghaour

B. V. C.

Copy of Sir Geo. Don's letter to Sir J. McGregor -

Gibraltar 24 of Feby. 1822.

Dear Sir

About two years ago I took the liberty of recommending to your kind protection Mr Hospital Assistant Sillberg, the Skill in his profession, as well as the great care and attention Shewn by him while attending Lt. Badger my Aide de Camp at that time suffering from a severe Gun Shot wound, having brought him particularly to my notice -

At the Commencement of the troubles in Barbary in March last, Muley Abrakim the pretender to the Crown of that Empire, being in possession of the Town of Tlemcen, was attacked with a severe disease, and wrote to me in every pressing terms to send him a Medical officer - On this occasion Mr Sillberg most handsomely volunteered his services although fully aware of the dangers to which he would unavoidably be exposed from the very distracted state of the Country -

Political circumstances at that time prevented me availing myself of his offer, but a continuation of the disturbances in Barbary having brought the reigning Emperor Muley Soliman down to Tangier, I was induced to comply with his urgent request to have a Medical officer sent him, and Mr Sillberg having again come forwards, his services were accepted of -

Yours

Since August last until a few days since Mr. Sillery
has been in close attendance on the Emperor, or
employed with his Army forming the Siege of
Tetuan - The dangers and fatigues attending the
last service have been very considerable, and the
high opinion which the Emperor appears to have
entertained of Mr. Sillery's Skill and good Conduct
may be judged of by His Majesty's letters, I have
also had means of ascertaining through private
channels that his Conduct has been most exemplary
while employed in Barbary -

All these Circumstances will I trust induce
the Liberty State in again begging this highly
deserving young man to your notice, and recom-
-mending him to your kind protection -

Most truly Yours
/Signed/ Geo. Don -

Gibraltar 27th Feby 1822

Sir

I have the honor to enclose a letter which General Sir Geo Don directed me to forward to you — As I am aware that it is one of recommendation, I take the liberty to transmit at the same time a copy of a letter of which I was the bearer from His Imperial Majesty The Emperor of Morocco to His Excellency Earl Chatham, and also a copy of a letter with which His Majesty honored me on my departure from Barbary — besides — a copy of a letter which Dr Forster was good enough to hand me on my leaving Chatham —

In transmitting these testimonials I trust I may not be considered presumptuous in expressing the hope that you will confer on me the rank of Assistant Surgeon —

To
Sir J. Keirrigor M.D.
Director General
Army Medical Department
London

I have the honor to be

Sir

With great respect
Yours most obed^t Serv^t
Robt Selby
Hospital Assistant

Translation of the Emperors letter to the Earl of Chatham
Governor of Gibraltar

Thanks be given to God — There is no power or strength
but in God —

To him who professes the most perfect friendship for us,
and is always most ready to comply with our requests,
the generous and excellent Governor of Gibraltar —

We ask after your health — God bless you and
favor you: Being aware that you are anxious to
know the state of our affairs we have to inform you
that thanks be to God, we arrived at Tangier in
good health, God has destroyed our perfidious Enemies,
and the Country and its people are free from them.

The Doctor /Selling/ will be the bearer of this, we
desire that you will make application to the Prime
Minister of England that he may be promoted in his
professional rank, he having come to our presence and
afforded us great assistance.

We therefore beg that you will use your influence
for him to succeed in this our wish —

The 8th of Safar 1237- 5th Nov 1821

I do hereby declare that the above is the true translation
of the Annexed Arabic letter —

I Aboensar

B. V. C.

I do hereby Certify that Mr Isaac Aboensar is the
Arabic interpreter attached to this Consular office

I Douglas

Consul General

(employment in Barbary)

Gibraltar 27.th July - 1822.

My Lord

An application having been made in August last to General Sir Geo Don for a medical officer, Mr Hospital Assistant Sillery was sent on that duty, and was accordingly employed inconsequence more than six months in Barbary. Mr Sillery on his return brought with him the accompanying letter from the Emperor recommending him for promotion —

As it appears by the enclosed communication from the Principal Medical Officer on this Station, that Mr Sillery's Professional talents and zeal merit his warmest commendation, and as the object he has in view is to obtain a Staff or Regimental Assistant Surgeoncy, his conduct on the occasion of the above service will I trust afford him a claim to your Lordships support to that end.

To

The Right Honble
Earl Bathurst R.S.

per per

Shew the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordships most Obedt

Chatham

General & Governor

477 Sillery
Johnston's Hall
3929.

15 Duke Street St James
19 Sep: 1822.

My Lord

In pursuance of the direction I
received from the Earl of Chatham on leaving
Gibraltar I do myself the honor of acquainting
Your Lordship with my arrival in England and
of stating that I shall feel myself highly honored
by having an opportunity of affording any information
that Your Lordship may be desirous of possessing
regarding my Report on Barbary which the Earl
of Chatham transmitted in June last to Your
Lordships Department.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

with Great respect

Your Lordships obedient servant

Robt. Henry

Asst Surgeon to the Forces

To

The Right Hon^{ble}

The Earl Bathurst

K. G.

Le - - -

Private

Copy of Mr Fraser's letter to Sir James MacGibbon M.D.

Gibraltar 27th Feb'y 1824

My Dear Sir

Having had the honor to report in the most satisfactory manner of Asst Surgeon Sillery on several occasions, I trust you will permit me to solicit your favorable consideration of his present request — Mr Sillery believing it to be your wish that, the Medical Officers of the Army should occasionally renew their studies, and if possible obtain the highest honors of the profession, is particularly desirous of being stationed for a lesson in Edinburgh either on duty, or on leave of Absence — Now Sir, if either of these plans is compatible with your arrangements I might send Mr Sillery to England on charge of Invalids or I might apply for leave of Absence for him at the close of the Autumn, or possibly some affair may arise to detain him —

Whether Mr Sillery has so matriculated as to be eligible for Examination — They however to enclose a list of the lectures he has attended &c. — Whether he is also desirous of going home to publish his short but interesting Account of his trip to Morocco —

I must however state that I shall not take any steps until I am favored with your instructions on this point, and I make the present application thus early in the year, trusting that one or other of the plans proposed will meet your approval —

Have the honor to be My^d Sir

Most resp^tly - Yours

W^m Fraser

To

Sir James MacGibbon M.D.

— + —

Private

Colombo June 16th 1827

My Dear Sir James

In Consideration of the motion you will I am persuaded pardon this digression on your time - it is purely to do justice to the zeal and indefatigable attentions of Dr Sillery, who introduced himself to my notice by his humane care and devotion to the Sick of my Regiment of which & the Regimental Hospital all of others gave him when Surgeon Armstrong was sent home last February and which he has retained till within a few days past when Dr Macquinn joined from the 83rd Reg^t

His professional talents & abilities I leave to the better judgment of his immediate Superiors, but I have seen enough of him to warrant the belief that they keep pace fully with his kind & assiduous treatment of the Sick, & which I have not soon surpassed in the course of my 32 years service; as such permit me to recommend him to your philanthropy and protection for promotion

I condole most truly with you and the whole Army in the irreparable loss we have all sustained in our late beloved Commander in Chief, & beg leave to subscribe myself

My Dear Sir James

Yours most faithfully

H F Hallen

Col: Ceylon Rifle Reg^t

From Col. McGregor to

Cy

London 31st October 1827-

My Dear Colonel

I have just had the pleasure to receive your letter in favor of Dr. Sillery, & I beg to assure you that I have always much gratification in receiving testimonials favorable to Medical officers from such respectability as yourself.

I know Dr. Sillery to be a very meritorious officer and he may be assured that he will not be forgotten by me: but at present he has so many senior in the Service & several of them with the strongest claims that I dare not hold out the prospect of immediate promotion; he may however, be assured that your favorable testimony as well as that of such an excellent officer as Mr. Collins will be kept in remembrance whenever I have an opportunity of seeing him. I was much disappointed not to be able to effect Mr. Collins's promotion to succeed Dr. Farrel, but the Secretary at War has declared as long as there are half pay officers not to allow new appointments - An old Walcheren friend of yours Dr. James Forbes is on his way from Lubeck to Ceylon, and I shall see him from Half pay at Lubeck.

After having been four years at Eton, I have just placed my eldest son, who has a turn for business, in that of Army Agent. I have placed him in the house of Laurie of the Adelphi, which is at once one of the oldest most respectable, & most valuable Agency houses in London - On this occasion as an old friend I request your exertions for that house with officers of the King's Company's Service on full or half pay.

I must draw my letter to a conclusion & I remain

Colonel Muller

Capt. Rifle Regiment

Ceylon

My Dear Colonel

most truly Yours

J. McGregor

London 29th Decr. 1828.

My Dear Colonel

I had the pleasure a few days ago to receive your letter of the 2nd August & rejoiced much to learn that you continued in the enjoyment of health & of your usual good spirits. I may now I presume calculate upon your seeing your old & excellent friend Dr. James Forbes, & of his bringing to your recollection our old scenes at Middleburgh - He is an able and excellent man, & undoubtedly one of the best Medical officers in the British Army - I consider him a great acquisition to Ceylon, & I trust Sir Edward Barnes when he knows Dr. Forbes will see him in the same light.

I much fear that the objections to your son on account of lameness, in the Army, will operate against his admission into the Companies Service, but I am not very well informed as to their regulations.

Be assured that on your account I will readily do every thing in my power for Dr. Sillery, who is a very excellent Medical officer: but the times are most unfavorable to his promotion, when such immense reductions are taking place.

Believe me ever

P.S.

If you can do any thing for my son who has, for the last year & half been connected with the house of Laurie Army Agent I am sure you will do it - Adieu.

My Dear Colonel

Most truly Yours

J. K. Frigor -

(Duplicate)

Print de Salle Cayton 10 May 1829.

Gentlemen

I was duly favored with your letter dated 27th August 1828 a few days back, apprising me that you were instructed by the assignees of James Windon a Bankrupt to apply to me for the sum of £23:14:0 stated to be due by me, and directing me to transmit to you that amount, together with 10 for your application for the same: in reply thereto I beg to enclose to you the 2nd & 3rd of a bill of exchange, 1st despatched in the original on the Paymaster to the Civil branch of the Ordnance Dep^t Store, London for £23:10:0 stuff being the amount, if not exceeding it, due by me to the said Bankrupt.

In order to explain this circumstance, I enclose you the acc^t presented to me by the assignees, wherein I am charged £2:12:6 as my Subscription to the Widow's fund for the year 1827, which I am now never paid to the Secretary of that Fund, as will be seen by his letter to me, herein enclosed, and which amount I was in consequence compelled to transmit to him without delay. If reference be made to Mr Pratt, Clerk to James Windon he will be able to state that a sum of £1:0:0 was paid to him to be placed to my credit, by ap^t Staff Surgeon Dix, who took a receipt for the same - now this £1:0:0 does not appear to my credit in the enclosed acc^t - if then these two sums viz £2:12:6 & £1:0:0 be deducted it will be evident that the amount £23:14:0 demanded by you in the said Bankrupt acc^t is bona fide incorrect, I therefore presume that the amount now transmitted will discharge my debt to the estate of James Windon and also the charge of £5:10:0 for your letter & at the same time cover the postage of this letter. I shall therefore feel obliged by your transmitting to me an acquittance or receipt, accordingly - I remain Gentlemen Y^r obed^t Serv^t

Albert Sillings

Staffs^{rs} Try on

£23:10:0 Gentlemen. Salle 10 May 1829.

at thirty days sight of this my third of exchange / 1st & 2nd of same tenor & date not being paid / pay to Dr Sillings Esq or his order, the sum of £23:10:0 stuff being pay due to me from the Asst Sec^y the Board of Ordnance, & place the same to the acc^t of Sillings your obed^t Serv^t. W^m Dawson - Dep^t Store Keeper

To the Assignees of Windon's Estate

London.

To W^m & Thos. S. Foxman Esq
Office of Ordnance
Tower London.

Return of Ser
of Staff Assistant
to a Medical Officer

Detail of Services	Regiment		
<u>Brussels</u>			
24 th June 1815 to 24 th March 1816 including going and returning —————	"	9	
Half Pay			
25 th March 1816 to 11 th June 1817 —————	1	2	18
England viz			
Chatham - York Hospital and Winchester } 12 June 1817 to 24 December 1818 —————	1	6	13
Gibraltar			
25 th December 1818 to 24 June 1825 including going and returning —————	6	6	"
<u>Ceylon</u>			
25 June 1825 to 24 th June 1831 including passage out and detention in England } for the sailing of the ship —————	6		
which may be thus divided			
Foreign Service —————	13	3	"
Home Service —————	1	6	13
Half Pay —————	1	2	18
Total Years	16	"	"

I beg to notice that whilst serving on the Gibraltar Station
I was ordered by His Excellency the Governor on a particular
mission to His Imperial Majesty The Emperor of Morocco &
was professionally employed about his person nearly 8 months,

vice

Surgeon Robert Sillerg M.D.
in the Regular Army-

	Full Pay			Half Pay		
	Years	months	days	Years	months	days
Hospital assistant 24 June 1815 to 17 th April 1822	5	7	6	1	2	18
Assistant Surgeon 18 th April 1822 to 24 June 1831	9	2	7			
Total	14	9	13	1	2	18
By whom paid						
Commissariat Department 2 months						
Widdow 7 months	"	9	"			
Widdow	1	2	18			
Widdow	1	6	"			
Widdow	"	2	"			
Commissariat Dept & Paymaster Gen. Bullock & Co.	5	8	"			
Mr. Krickland	"	8	"			
Mr. Krickland 10 months paymaster						
General Cydon 5-2-0	6	"	"			
Total Years	16	"	"			

on my return to Gibraltar I was charged with a letter to the Earl of Chatham for Earl Bathurst, recommending me for promotion, in consequence I was appointed Staff Assistant Surgeon, dated 18th of April 1822-

Return of the Services and Professional Education
of
Robert Sillery M.D. - Staff Assistant Surgeon
From the 24th of June 1815 to the 14th of Oct: 1827-

I commenced the Study of my Profession with Mr Martin Apothecary to Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital in the City of Dublin, in the County of Dublin, to whom I served an apprenticeship of one Year, during which period I resided at the Hospital - Mr Martin's death taking place at this period, my indentures were transferred to Mr Atkinson, Surgeon and Apothecary of the City of Dublin, to whom I served an apprenticeship of four Years.

The following are the Classes I attended before and since my entry into the Service.

				Years
Mr Kirby	of Dublin	Anatomy & Surgery	18 Months	1813-14-15
Idem	do	Practical Anatomy	12	1813-14
D ^r Macartney	J. College D.	Anatomy & Surgery	6	1816-17
Mr Gathree	London	Surgery	4	1818
- Abernethy	do	do	3	"
D ^r Jeffray	Glasgow	Anatomy	6	1825
Mr Mc Burne	do	Surgery	6	"
D ^r Leaky	Dublin	Prac: of Med:	12	1813-14
- Larrey	J. College do:	Idem	6	1816-17
- Freer	Glasgow	Idem	6	1825
- Idem	Idem	Institutes of Med:	6	"
- Leaky	Dublin	Chemistry	6	1813-14
- Barker	J. C. do	Idem	6	1816-17
Mr Brande	R. C. Inst: London	Idem	5	1818
D ^r Thomson	Glasgow	Idem	6	1825

To Sir James McEwen Bart. M.D.
Director General Medical Dep^t.

de de de

The Memorial of Robert Sillery M.D. Staff ap^t Surgeon.

Respectfully Sheweth.

That Memorialist entered the Medical Department of the Army in June 1815 by commission as Hospital assistant, and was ordered immediately afterwards to join the Army in Flanders: Memorialist was attached to the Hospital Establishments in Brussels until the Spring of 1816 when he was ordered to England on the reduction of the Department in that Country consequent on the formation of the Army of occupation. Memorialist was placed on half pay in March 1816 but returned to full pay on the 12 June 1817. He was stationed in Chelsea - York Hospital London, and Winchester Depot Hospital from June 1817 until the end of the year following when he embarked for Portsmouth for Cork for the purpose of accompanying the 27th Reg^t to Gibraltar. Memorialist was on the Establishment of Gibraltar from the end of the year 1818 until June 1825 when he was transferred to the Establishment of Ceylon where he has continued to serve uninterruptedly to the present time.

Whilst Memorialist was on the Gibraltar Establishment he was sent by order of Government to attend Professionally on the Emperor of Morocco: he was employed on this Mission for upwards of Seven months. This was "an arduous, laborious and dangerous service" as will be shewn by the accompanying letters, if reference be had to the communication addressed by General Earl Chatham and Sir George Don to the Army Medical Department & Earl Bathurst's Dep^t and admitted by the Empress's copies of the Emperor's letters

letter addressed to Lord Chatham & Memorialist. for
this Sir Isaac Memorialist obtained the rank of Assistant
Surgeon dated in April 1822.

Memorialist most respectfully solicits the attention of
Sir James McJregor to his case: He has served upon "full
pay" between 22 and 23 years, and of this period 21 years
have been passed in the Colonies: his case is somewhat
peculiar, in as much as by the arrangement made a
few years back, whereby the rank of Hospital Assistant
was abolished, and that of Assistant Surgeon fixed as
the junior rank, he has been deprived of any advantage
resulting from his Service in Barbary, for had such been the
case when Memorialist returned from his Mission, the rank
of Surgeon would have been conferred upon him: he
however uses not the language of complaint on this occasion,
but merely to shew to His Director General the peculiar features
of his position, which he trusts will meet with favorable
consideration, and that this, and his long Colonial Service,
will afford him a claim to advancement. Memorialist
therefore humbly hopes that Sir James McJregor will
confer upon him the rank of Staff or Supernumerary Surgeon
for which Memorialist will ever pray.

Mont de Salle - Cayman

7th November 1838.

No 622

Principal Medical Officers Office
Dombé 13.th November 1838.

Sir

I have the honor to forward to you the Memorial
of Staff Assistant Surgeon D^r Sillberg.

In performing this duty it would be an injustice
did I not acknowledge the very able support I have
received from D^r Sillberg not less in the performance of
the Military than the Civil Medical duties of the Southern
Province with which he has been charged for many
years & which he has performed with the greatest credit
to himself, as well as advantage to the Public.

It will therefore afford me the greatest pleasure,
notwithstanding that I shall feel the loss of his valuable
services, should it be in your power favorably to meet
the prayer of so old and so deserving an officer.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

[Signed] Wm: Stewart M.D.

Off: Sec: Genl of Hqs:

Sir James McGrigor Bart.

Deputy General

Army Medical Dept.

London

					^{Years}
D ^r Ure	Glasgow	Chemistry	6 months	1825	
" Lecky	Dublin	Materna medica	6	1813 - 14	
" Miller	Glasgow	Idem	6	1825	
Mr. Salisbury	London	Bolton	4	1818	
D ^r Hooker	Glasgow	Idem	3	1825	
Step ^d Hopkins & Wade	London	Midwifery	4	1816	
Mr. Towers	Glasgow	Idem	6	1825	
— Lynch	Dublin	nat. Philosophy	6	1816 - 17	

likewise attended the Undermentioned Hospitals as a regular Pupils, during the period stated against each respectively viz -

Eye Infirmary - in London for 6 months in the Year 1818
 Meath Hosp^l & of Dub. Infir: in Dublin for 12 months
 in the Years 1813 - 14 - 15 as Dressing Pupils -

I am a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London since the Year 1815, when I received a Diploma dated the 2^d of June 1815, and I possess a degree in Medicine, having graduated at the University of Glasgow on the 30th of March 1825 -

Poit de La He, Caylon 5th May 1839.

Sir.

Having just seen by the *Sagette* of the 11th of January last my appointment to the Surgerney of the 35th Regiment, I have the honor, in taking the earliest opportunity to tender to you the assurance of my heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude, and I venture to express a hope that my present & my new appointment will afford me a claim to your future consideration and support.

I trust I may be pardoned in taking the freedom to ask you to have me transferred to a Regiment on the Indian Establishment when an opportunity occurs.

I am emboldened to hope that the many favorable reports you have received of me, from the several Principal Medical officers under whom I have served, will, more, merit your favorable disposition towards me.

I am at present waiting for an opportunity to embark for Mauritius.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

With great respect

Your most Obedt Servt.

Ridgely

Surgeon 35th Regt.

Sir J M Greig Bart.
Director General
Medical Dep^t

original sent by the overland mail from Calcutta 6th May.
the Duplicate by the following overland.

Port Louis Mauritius 13th

April 1840

Sir.

I have the honor to state to you that I have received several letters by the late arrivals, from my friends in England, communicating circumstances which imperatively require my presence in England. I shall therefore feel exceedingly obliged if you will do me the favor to use your interest with the Director General that I may obtain one year leave of absence from the commencement of next year.

I can assure you that nothing but affairs of the most urgent nature would cause me to seek for this indulgence.

The general healthy state of the Regiment since its arrival in this Colony, and the experience which assistant Surgeon Gordon, who may reasonably be expected back here by the end of this year, has had in the diseases usually presenting in this Command, with I am persuaded, justify your recommendation of my application to the favorable consideration of Sir James Mc Gurn.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient

Robert Sillars Esq
Surgeon 35th Regt

Charles S^r John Esq, M.D.
Asst Surgeon of H.M.
L L

(Request to return to
England after 15
years without
leave)

Port Louis Mauritius 22 April 1840

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that since my arrival
in this Island in November last, I have received several letters
from my friends in England, communicating circumstances
which imperatively require my presence in that country.

But independently of such circumstances my very long
residence in the tropics, being now uninterruptedly 15 years,
I feel the effects of climate to have already had a prejudicial
influence on my health, for one of my legs has become
considerably swollen, and an obstinate affection has
appeared on my skin, both of which have as yet been
but little influenced by such medical treatment as my
duties would permit me to employ. I am happy to say,
however, that I do not labour under any organic disease,
and on that account do not consider myself justified in
submitting to a Medical Board (my case) for consideration,
but make my appeal directly to you, trusting that you will
do me the favor to grant me the indulgence of one year's
leave of absence from the commencement of next year, for
the full purpose of arranging urgent private affairs,
and benefiting my health. My assistant (D.^r Gordon who
accompanied our late Governor Sir W.^m Nicolay to England,
having had tolerable experience in the diseases of this
climate, is qualified to undertake the duties of the Regiment
during my absence. I trust you will be pleased, therefore,
to order his immediate return, and that you will kindly grant
me the indulgence I solicit and so much require, which I can
assure you nothing but urgent necessity would induce me to apply
for, notwithstanding my claims for such a consideration, for I
have never been one day absent from my duty since I sailed
for England in 1825.

I have &c

Robert Sillany Esq
Surgeon 85th Reg^t

To Lieut. Col. Sir John Bant. Esq
Director General - Military Service Deptⁿ
London

Acknowledgment of my letter per Galle dated 5th May
1839 / see the preceding page, to be transferred to a
Regiment serving in India.

Army Medical Department

16 July 1839

11864
2.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 5 May last, and in reply to state
that your ~~name~~ request to be transferred to a
Regiment in India has been noted.

I have the honor to be

Sir.

Your most Obed^t Serv^t.

Lieut. J. Mcgrigor

Director General

Dr Albert Sillman

Surgeon.

35th Foot

Ceylon.

Mauritius 4th February 1841

Gentlemen.

I beg leave to enclose to you the fruits of
Exchange of three Bills drawn by the Commissioner
Department of Sydney N.S.W. on the London
Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury as follows
N^o 4629 - dated 16 May 1840 in favor of John Lord Esq. for £250
" 4630 - Same date - Same firm - £250
" 4631 - Same date - Same firm - £218
making in all £718 Sterling - These bills are drawn
at 30 days sight, which I shall feel obliged, if you will
cause to be presented for acceptance when due place
the amount to my credit -

I forwarded to you, a Bill on Mess^{rs} Crawford
Holier in London for £800 on the 15th December
1840 which I trust you have received

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

Robert Sillery

Surgeon 3rd Reg^t

Mess^{rs} Cox & Co
Army Agents
London -

Mauritius Decemb: 15th 1849.

Mess: Cox & Co. Army Agents - London.

Gentlemen.

I have to enclose to you the 2nd of
Exchange / first not having arrived as yet per fly on
Mess: Crawford, Colvin & Co. - London - for the sum of
£050 Sterling at 90 days sight, which I request you
will cause to be presented for acceptance - I retain the
same in your possession until then when you will
place the amount to my credit. before that time
however, I shall transmit further sums^{all} for investment
in the Funds - and shall name the particular Stock
in which you will purchase -
As I have the expectation of returning on leave to
England. in Spring I shall in all probability arrive
by the time the above bills shall fall due, when I
shall personally state my wishes touching this money
as also further sums I shall specify from and to you.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen

Your obed^t Servant

Robert Selley Esq

Surgeon 35th Regiment.

Mauritius 6th February 1841.

Gentlemen.

I beg leave to enclose to you the
first of Exchange for the Sum of "One thousand
pounds" - Sterling on Mess^{rs} Barclay Bros^{rs} & Co.
London, at 90 days sight which I request you will
cause to be presented for acceptance and when the
same shall become due, receive the amount
which please to my credit with previous remittances,
all of which are intended for investment in the Funds.

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen -

Your obedient Servant.

Robert Hillery Esq

Surgeon 35th Regt

Mess^{rs} Cox & Co

Army Agents

London -

Statement of the Home & Foreign Service of Albert

1 Rank	2 Station	3 Date		4 Period at Home	
		From	To	Years -	Months
Staff apt -	London	24 Jan 1845	24 July 1846	—	—
	England (unemployed)	25 July 1846	24 Dec 1846	"	2
H. Pay -	—	25 Dec 1846	11 June 1847	"	"
Staff apt -	England viz Chatham York Hospital Bristol -	12 Jan 1847	24 Dec 1848	1 :	6
Staff apt -	Gibraltar	25 Dec 1848	10 July 1849	"	"
	England (unemployed)	11 July 1849	20 Oct 1849	"	9
Staff apt -	Ceylon	21 Oct 1849	20 Oct 1850	"	"
Staff apt -	Mauritius	21 Oct 1850	4 Aug 1851	"	"
Staff apt -	England (absence)	5 Aug 1851	31 Dec 1851	"	4
"	Ireland with Regt	1 Jan 1852	31 Oct 1852	"	10
Staff 5:1 (apt)	Chatham	1 Nov 1852	5 Dec 1853	"	4
Half pay -		1 : 2 : 10	Full pay -	4 :	1 :

A.B. - They to observe that during the period I was on the Gibraltar with Regt to England, I am during the time at Chatham, I was on 3 weeks in London for a purpose.

o Thus marked - unemployed - was under orders for Ceylon & Mauritius

Years & Days

William McD - Staff Surgeon 1st Class Apr 1st Aug 1843 - 47: 6: 25

Period abroad					
Days	Years	Months	Days		
---		7	0		

---				* Was ordered from Gibraltar to attend on the Surgeon of Honours & Barbary during the epidemic of Plague & the Great War, Island (Gibraltar) the former, when I was	
13				induced to employ nearly	Date of Lord Chatham's letter to Earl Bathurst 27 Feb: 1822
"	6	"	25	Eight months, the same	Date of W. H. Francis Esq. letter to the Secretary to the Colonies 27 Feb: 1822.
10				was reported to Lord Bathurst Secretary to the Colonies	
"	14	"	"		
"	1	9	14		
25	"	"	"		
2	"	"	"		
20	"	"	"		
0	22	5	8		

William McD, Staff Surgeon 1st Class
 returned after 6 months remaining
 waiting for a passage

William McD
 Staff Surgeon 1st Class
 on 31st Aug: 1848. I shall have
 completed 30 years -