

NORTH AMERICA.

No. 19. (1864.)

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

ENLISTMENT

OF

BRITISH SUBJECTS

IN THE

UNITED STATES' ARMY.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

1864.

LONDON:

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Further Correspondence respecting the Enlistment of British
Subjects in the United States' Army.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received July 21.)

My Lord,

Washington, July 8, 1864.

I INCLOSE copies of the correspondence respecting Thomas Tulley and the six other Irishmen, enlisted on their arrival at Portland, in the steam-ship, "Nova Scotian," which has taken place since I had the honour to address to your Lordship my despatch of the 20th ultimo.

I have the satisfaction of being able to say that six of the men appear to be for the present in safety. The report made to Mr. Consul Murray, that Michael Moran had been killed has happily proved to be erroneous. I fear, however, that there can be little reason to doubt that the seventh man, Thomas Burke, was in fact killed in action, while serving in the United States' Army. I have requested the United States' authorities to communicate to me all the information which they can obtain respecting his fate.

I regret to say that three of the men represent that they were subjected to hardships and indignities of a most unwarrantable kind, on their way from the army of the Potomac to Portland. I have requested that an investigation may be made, and that if the allegations of the men prove to be well-founded, no time may be lost in calling to account those who are responsible for their ill-treatment.

I have also pointed out that I have received nothing more than a formal acknowledgment of my note of the 10th ultimo, repeating my demand for the discharge of the men, and I have reminded Mr. Seward that I am waiting for the answers of the United States' Government to that demand.

I have moreover addressed to Mr. Seward further inquiries respecting James Traynor, the Irish passenger by the "Nova Scotian," who was enlisted at Boston. I have the honour to inclose a copy of my note, and a copy of a note from Mr. Seward acknowledging the receipt of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, June 18, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, relative to the cases of Thomas Tulley and six other Irish passengers, of the steamer "Nova Scotian," alleged to have being improperly enlisted at Portland, and in reply to inform your Lordship, that I have inclosed a copy thereof, to the Secretary of War, who has the subject under investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Inclosure 2.

*Consul Murray to Lord Lyons.**Portland, June 23, 1864.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 11th instant, authorizing me to employ a lawyer on behalf of Thomas Tulley and the other Irishmen who were enlisted into the 20th Maine Regiment, if I deem it advisable to do so.

Thomas Tulley presented himself at this office yesterday on his arrival from Philadelphia. He did not appear in uniform, as he stated that he had been deprived of it by two men, who induced him to go and lodge with them at Boston, and who the next morning endeavoured to entice him to re-enlist and accept the bounty money over again. This he refused to do, and came on in the clothes lent him by the master of the house, who he believes was in the plot.

I went with Tulley to the Provost-Marshal, who has sent him to camp Berry, in this immediate neighbourhood, so as to be near at hand when required. Tulley knew nothing about his companions.

Michael Byrne returned from the hospital at Augusta a few days ago, and told me that he had obtained a ten days' furlough. He seemed to have recovered from the wound in the head, but told me that he was suffering from other bodily ailments.

Tulley also acquainted me that he was suffering from a heart disease, and that the sight of his right eye was quite defective.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. MURRAY.

Inclosure 3.

*Consul Murray to Lord Lyons.**Portland, June 30, 1864.*

My Lord,

I WENT over to Camp Berry yesterday afternoon to see Thomas Tulley, who had not called upon me since his first arrival, and he told me that Moran, who I understood had been killed, Hogan, and Higgins had arrived at the camp on the previous day, Tuesday. He brought them out to me, and I had some conversation with them. Moran told me that he had been separated from his regiment during action, and was thus reported killed. Both Higgins and Moran seemed in perfect health, but Hogan appeared delicate. They all complained of their treatment during part of their journey to Portland, having been placed in irons and lodged in prison. I have requested them to make a written statement of their cases, which I will forward to your Lordship. The Provost-Marshal here says he knows nothing about it, and concludes that they must have done something wrong to have received this treatment.

Cassidy has not arrived from Boston, and Byrne I have not seen here since his arrival from Cape Fry at Augusta, on a ten days' furlough, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. MURRAY.

Inclosure 4.

*Consul Murray to Lord Lyons.**Portland, July 1, 1864.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an original letter which I received yesterday from T. Tulley at Camp Berry, relating, on their behalf, the treatment alleged to have been received by the three Irishmen, Michael Moran, James Higgins, and Martin Hogan, on their journey from the army to Portland, where they were ordered to come in pursuance of a Special Order, No. 194, dated at the War Department, Washington, June 2nd.

This alleged treatment appears so strange and uncalled-for that I can only presume there must have been some misunderstanding of their cases upon the part of the military authorities who forwarded the men on, or that some unacknowledged conduct on their part led to it.

The Provost-Marshal told me to-day that the men arrived from Washington in care of a sergeant, who gave them into his charge, but not as prisoners. The sergeant has

returned, and nothing had come to his (Captain Doughty's) knowledge of their alleged ill-treatment or of their misconduct to induce it.

The sergeant's name is believed to be Crook, and he belongs to the Veteran Reserve Corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. MURRAY.

Inclosure 5.

Thomas Tulley to Consul Murray.

Sir,

Camp Berry, Portland, June 30, 1864.

I BEG most respectfully to inform you that Michael Moran (reported killed, but still alive), James Higgins, and Martin Hogan, arrived at this camp from the army on the evening of the 28th instant, and I think it right for me to make known to you the treatment they received on their journey. On the receipt of the order from the Secretary at War they were, on the 9th instant, sent from their regiment to the Provost-Marshal's headquarters, who read and kept the order, and then ordered the men to be placed in the Bull Ring, an open space in the fields, surrounded by armed men, wherein are placed prisoners of all grades. On the next day there was a number of armed men going to Washington, and the above-named sent a note to the Provost-Marshal, explaining their position, and requesting to be forwarded with them, but the captain of the guard made answer that they were not going to puff General Partrick with notes; they were consequently transferred from one Bull Ring to another, from the 9th to the 23rd instant, where they were well nigh starved, as they had at one time to march three successive days without a mouthful of food, and consequently were reduced to eating clover and green apples to support nature. They remonstrated with the authorities, stating that they were not prisoners, but the invariable answer was, they could not be assisted otherwise, as in fact there were in the Bull Ring men dying of hunger, and brought-to in hospital afterwards. On an inspection by the doctor, one of your clients being well nigh dead of hunger, was seen by him, and after making inquiries respecting him and the others, he was informed they were not prisoners but foreigners proceeding to Portland under British protection. The doctor then departed, with apparent disgust, and gave no assistance; and from the feeling of the men, and their conversation of such undeserved and destroying treatment, I firmly allege that no idea can be had of the misery they endured.

On the 23rd they were sent with convicts under guard to Washington, and then transferred to the Old Capitol; from thence they were sent in irons to Boston, where they were left handcuffed together all night, but for the purpose of getting sleep they had to break the cuffs. The consequence was that they were marched through Boston tied with ropes, and arrived in Portland, as before stated. They did their utmost to see Her Majesty's Minister in Washington, but failed, nor could they see you on their arrival, as they were sent under guard to this place.

You have in the foregoing an outline of their travels, but the men say that as long as they live they will not forget the treatment they received, after fighting bravely in all the late battles, as documents from their officers can make manifest.

I hope you will pardon this long letter, but from the kindness we have received from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister and yourself, I thought it incumbent on me to supply you such information, and therefore I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS TULLEY.

Inclosure 6.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, July 7, 1864.

ON the 10th of last month I had the honour to address to you a note, in which, by command of Her Majesty's Government, I renewed the application, which I had made in their name on the 23rd of the previous month of May, for the discharge from the United States' army of the seven Irish passengers by the steam-ship "Nova Scotian," who were enlisted immediately after their arrival at Portland on the 18th of last month. You were so good as to inform me that you had referred my note to the Secretary of War. I await the answer of the United States' Government to the application which it contained. I must in the meantime ask your serious attention to the inclosed copy of a letter addressed

to Her Majesty's Consul at Portland on behalf of three of these Irishmen; namely, Michael Moran, James Higgins, and Martin Hogan. I do not doubt that you will cause an investigation to be made of the allegations respecting the hardships and indignities suffered by Moran, Higgins, and Hogan on their way from the army of the Potomac to Portland; and I trust that if these allegations prove to be well founded, no time will be lost in calling to account those who are responsible for the ill-treatment of these unfortunate men.

These three men appear to be now at Portland. I am informed also that Thomas Tulley is at that place, and that Michael Byrne and Edward Cassidy have been removed from the seat of war. The seventh man, Thomas Burke, is reported to have been killed in action while serving in the 20th Regiment of Maine Volunteers. I beg you to be so good as to communicate to me any information respecting his fate which the United States' authorities may be able to obtain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 7.

Lord Lyons to Consul Murray.

Sir,

Washington, July 7, 1864.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 6th, 23rd, and 30th ultimo and 1st instant, relative to the case of Thomas Tulley and the six other Irish passengers by the "Nova Scotian," who were enlisted at Portland.

I have addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States a representation on the subject of the hardships and indignities which three of these men are stated to have suffered on their way from the army of the Potomac to Portland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 8.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, June 10, 1864.

IN a note which I had the honour to address to you on the 27th of April last, I submitted to you a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Boston, reporting a statement made by James Traynor, one of the Irishmen brought over to Portland by the "Nova Scotian," respecting the circumstances under which he enlisted in the United States' military service. In a note dated the 30th of April you were so good as to inform me that you had referred the matter to the War Department.

I shall be much obliged if you will let me know whether any progress has been made in the investigation of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 9.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, June 20, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, inquiring as to the progress of the investigation in the case of James Traynor, one of the Irish passengers of the Steamer "Nova Scotian," alleged to have been improperly enlisted.

In reply, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have called upon the Secretary of War for information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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