

Asst. Commr.

ORDERS

FOR THE

Guidance of the Troops
Guidance of the Troops

IN AFFORDING AID TO

THE CIVIL POWER IN IRELAND.
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DUBLIN :

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY CAHILL & CO. LTD. 40 LR. ORMOND QUAY, DUBLIN.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE KING'S
REGULATIONS (Edition 1916).

WITH

Copy of the Proclamation contained in
the Riot Act (27 George III., Chapter
15, Section 2, Irish Statutes).

MAGISTRATE'S REQUISITION IN CASE OF RIOTS
OR EXPECTED RIOTS.

956. Except in cases of great and sudden emergency, an Officer will not order out or take out troops for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of riot, the maintenance of the public peace, or the execution of the law, or of assisting the civil power in case of an expected riot,

without the requisition in writing, or by telegram of the civil authority.

The civil authority by whom the requisition should be made is—

In the Metropolitan Police District, the commissioner or an assistant commissioner of police.

In English counties, a county magistrate. The magistrate's requisition will in ordinary circumstances be forwarded by the chief constable, but in an emergency the requisition may be accepted if made by the magistrate direct or by the chief constable.

In English cities and boroughs, the mayor, or, in case of emergency, any magistrate having jurisdiction in the city or borough.

In Scotland, the sheriff having jurisdiction in the place where the services of the troops are required.

In Ireland, the chief or assistant commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan police, or a sheriff or resident magistrate, or officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary, having jurisdiction in the place where the services of the troops are required. Where a resident magistrate makes a requisition, it will be sent to the O.C. the troops through the office of the city, town, county, or district inspector of police.

In cases when a disturbance of the peace takes place in or near a station where troops are quartered, the military authority will, subject to paying due attention to the general obligations imposed by the common law, as explained in the Manual of Military Law, Chapter

XIII., Appendix I., exercise his discretion as to the necessity of complying with the requisition of the civil authorities.

When troops are requisitioned from a distance the military authority will make all arrangements for the despatch of troops, but will not send them until he has received authority from the War Office. On arrival at the place to which the troops were requisitioned, the O.C. the troops will, subject to the obligations of the common law as above stated, exercise his discretion as to the necessity for intervention by the troops. When troops are despatched, the civil officer who requisitioned them will be informed of their numbers, and of the time at which they may be expected to reach their destination.

The responsibility for deciding as to the strength and composition of the force

detailed rests with the military authorities. If the civil officer mentions them, it will only be as a guide to aid in estimating the force required.

CIVIL AUTHORITY WILL ARRANGE FOR
ACCOMMODATION, &c.

957. The chief constable of a county, or riding, or the Watch Committee in the case of a borough or city, &c., is the civil authority to whom the O.C. the troops will look to make arrangements for accommodation, food, and other immediate requirements, and for meeting the troops at the station, or conducting them to the place where their assistance is required.

MAGISTRATE TO BE PRESENT WITH TROOPS.

958. The chief constable will also arrange that a magistrate shall meet the

troops either at a station, or at some place on the way to the scene of the riot, or apprehended riot, and in the event of the troops being divided so as to act in different places, one magistrate will accompany each division of the troops; but in any case where there are more magistrates than one present, one only will act with the commander of the troops detailed for his duty.

DISPOSITION OF TROOPS.

959. The commander will consult with the magistrate and with the senior police officer present, and decide as to the disposition of the troops.

MOVEMENT OF THE TROOPS AND POSITION OF THE MAGISTRATE.

960. The commander will move the troops to the place to which he may be

directed by the magistrate in regular military order, with the usual precautions. He will not permit the troops to be scattered, detached, or posted in a situation where they would not be able to act in their own defence. The magistrate will accompany the troops, and remain as near the officer in command as he can.

PROCLAMATION UNDER THE RIOT ACT.

961. In the event of the disturbance amounting to a riot, if the magistrate and troops are both present, it will be the duty of the magistrate, if circumstances permit it, and it has not already been done, to read or cause to be read the Proclamation under the Riot Act, and to call upon everybody present to assist him in the suppression of the riot.

Before the Proclamation is read, the "alarm" should, where possible, be

sounded on a bugle, so as to call attention to what is about to be done.

IMPORTANCE OF PROCLAMATION UNDER RIOT ACT. PROCLAMATION NOT NECESSARY IN CASES OF EMERGENCY.

962. The reading of the Proclamation under the Riot Act is important, both as conveying a distinct warning to the crowd, and as involving the legal consequence that those who do not disperse within one hour are guilty of felony; but it must be understood that to justify the exercise of military force in the prevention of serious outrage and damage to persons or property, it is not necessary to wait for the Proclamation to be read, much less to wait till one hour has expired after it has been read.

MAGISTRATE WILL REQUEST O.C. TO TAKE ACTION.

963. If the magistrate concludes that the police are not able to cope with the

riot, and that the necessity of the case demands the interference of the troops by action, then, whether the Proclamation has been read or not, it is his duty at once to request the commander of the troops to take action. This request should be made distinctly, and, if possible, in writing, although if given by word of mouth it will be sufficient.

DUTIES OF O.C. WHEN REQUESTED TO TAKE ACTION. RESPONSIBILITY OF MAGISTRATE AND OFFICER.

964. When so requested to take action it will be the duty of the officer to take such military steps as in his opinion the situation demands. In doing so he will have absolute discretion as to the action to be taken, and as to the arms, including firearms, which the troops shall use, and as to the orders he shall give, including the order to fire. But the magistrate

and the officer are each responsible respectively for anything done or ordered by them which is not justified by the circumstances of the case.

OFFICER HAS FULL DISCRETIONARY POWER.

965. If the officer thinks it unnecessary to take immediate action it is not obligatory upon him to do so, nor will he continue any action longer than he thinks it absolutely necessary.

COMMANDS TO BE GIVEN BY THE OFFICER.

966. All commands to the troops will be given by the officer. The troops will not, on any account, fire except by word of command of their officer, who, if it becomes necessary to order the troops to fire, will exercise a humane discretion in deciding both the number of rounds and object to be aimed at.

WARNING THAT FIRE OF TROOPS WILL BE EFFECTIVE.

967. An O.C. troops, on every occasion, when employed in the suppression of riots, or the enforcement of the law, will take the most effectual means, in conjunction with the magistrates, for explaining beforehand to the people that, in the event of the troops being ordered to fire, their fire will be effective.

DETACHMENTS HOW TOLD OFF.

968. When the detachment does not exceed 20 files, it will be told off into four sections. If it exceeds 20 files, the detachment will be told off into more sections than four.

FIRING BY FILES OR SECTIONS.

969. If the commander is of opinion that a slight effort will attain the object,

he will give the command to one or two specified files to fire. If a greater effort be required, he will give the command to one of the sections to fire; the fire of each of the other sections, if required, will only be given on the regular word of command of the commander.

WHERE THERE ARE MORE OFFICERS THAN ONE.

970. If there are more officers than one with the detachment, and it is necessary for more sections than one to fire at a time, the commander will clearly indicate to the troops, what officer is to order any of the sections to fire. An order to any file or section to fire will not be given by any person, except the officer indicated by the commander.

SERIOUS NATURE OF THE DUTY.

971. If it becomes necessary to fire, officers and soldiers have a serious duty,

which they must perform with coolness and steadiness, and in such a manner as to be able to cease fire the instant it is no longer necessary.

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO FIRING.

972. Care will be taken not to fire upon persons separated from the crowd. To fire over the heads of a crowd has the effect of favouring the most daring and guilty, and of sacrificing the less daring and even the innocent.

MAGISTRATE AND TROOPS TO REMAIN ON SCENE OF RIOT.

973. The magistrate and the troops will both remain at the place of disturbance until it is decided by the magistrate and the commander that they can withdraw with safety.

REQUISITIONS OF GOVERNORS OF CONVICT
ESTABLISHMENTS.

975. The O.C. a station or corps, on the requisition of a governor of a convict establishment, will afford assistance in aid of the civil guard, in cases of emergency such as a disposition on the part of the convicts to mutiny. The demand of the governor and the completion of the service will be immediately notified to the G.O.C.-in-C.

“ RIOT ACT . ”

“ Proclamation . ”

“ Our Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their

lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act made in the twenty-seventh year of King George the Third, to prevent tumultuous risings and assemblies ” : (Adding)

“ GOD SAVE THE KING . ”

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