

HOME DEPARTMENT.

(Rules for admission to the Civil Division of the Order of Merit.)

NOTIFICATIONS.No. 1324PUBLIC.

Dated Simla, the 2nd May 1902.

No. 1324.- In order to provide for the suitable recognition and reward of conspicuous acts of gallantry performed by Natives of India, whether servants of Government or not, in aid or support of the public authority or safety, the Governor-General in Council, with the assent of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, has resolved to institute a Second or Civil Division of the Order of Merit. The rules for admission to this Division, which have received the approval of the Secretary of State, are hereby published for general information. The new decoration will be conferred only for acts of gallantry performed after the institution of the Order.

Rules for admission to the Civil Division of the Order of Merit.

1. The "Order of Merit" (Civil Division) consists of three classes, and is conferred on Natives of India, whether servants of Government or not, as a reward for personal bravery shown in aid or support of the public authority or safety. The insignia are, for the first class, gold; for the second, silver with a gold wreath; and for the third, silver only; to be worn on the left breast, pendant from a dark-red ribbon with blue edges.
2. Admission to the third class is obtained by any conspicuous act of individual gallantry; admission to the second class can be obtained only by members of the third class, and for a similar act of gallantry; and, in like manner, the Order of the first class is conferred only on members of the second class. In recommending persons for admission to the Order, the act of gallantry must be particularly specified, and the statements of eye-witnesses to the deed must be attached. It is of the highest importance, in view to maintaining the value and prestige of the Order, that the greatest discretion shall be used in submitting recommendations; as it is very desirable that the distinction should only be granted for conduct which can clearly be defined as an act of conspicuous gallantry.
3. Admission to each class of the Order rests with the Government of India alone; and, when the act of gallantry has taken place in India, recommendation's for the reward will be forwarded through the District Officers to the Local Department, for submission to the Government of India.

4. A record in each case of the particular act of gallantry for which the Order has been conferred is kept in the office of the Secretary to the Government in the Home Department; and a certificate signed by him, declaring the grant of the Order, will be given to each individual on his admission to or advancement in it.
5. District Officers are required to report immediately to the Local Government for communication to the Government of India in the Home Department, any casualty by death amongst individuals admitted to the Order which may occur previous to the receipt of the decoration.
6. The following are the rules for the disposal of the insignia of the Civil Division of the “Order of Merit” on the decease or promotion of members:-
In cases of advancement to a superior class of the Civil Division of the “Order of Merit,” the inferior badge is to be forwarded, through the prescribed channel, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, Calcutta. The insignia of the Order are, however, allowed to remain in the possession of the family of a deceased member.
7. Whenever a servant of the Government, being a member of the Order, is dismissed the service, and whenever any member of the Order is convicted of any such offence, or subjected by a Criminal Court to any such order as implies, in the opinion of the Local Government, a defect of character which unfits him to be a member of the Order, a full report of the circumstances shall be transmitted to the Government of India in the Home Department together with an expression of the Local Government’s opinion; and it shall, thereupon, be open to the Government of India to direct the dismissal of any such member from the Order and to require the surrender of his decoration.
8. As a rule the conferment of the Order of Merit in the Civil Division will not be accompanied by any grant of money; but the Government of India reserve the right of making such a grant, in addition to conferring the Order, in special cases.

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