GOVERNOR BRISBANE'S INSTRUCTIONS TO MILLER

The instructions issued to Lieutenant Henry Miller, the Commandant of the first settlement at Moreton Bay, are contained in two letters, reproduced below. These instructions are concerned partly with the setting-up of the settlement, and in this regard they appear to have been carried out both at Redcliffe and at Brisbane Town. The instructions are also concerned with the management of a penal settlement; they are the nucleus from which the detailed regulations of 1826 were developed.

[Governor Brisbane to Lieutenant Miller, AONSW Ref. 4/3794]

Government House, Parramatta.
27th August, 1824.

Sir,

Having received the commands of His Majesty's Government to establish a new settlement at Moreton Bay and having been pleased to appoint you Commandant at that station the troops and convicts now embarked on board the Government vessel the Amity are placed under your orders.

The principal object in view in forming this establishment is to provide a place of security and subsistence for runaways from Port Macquarie. You are to be guided by the judgment of the Surveyor-General, who accompanies you, in the selection of a location for the new settlement. Your first attention immediately on arrival is to be directed to the choice of an airy situation contiguous to fresh water for the site of your encampment. Not a moment is then to be lost in constructing huts for the soldiers and convicts. Those for the troops are to be placed in a commanding situation three hundred yards distant from the huts intended for the others. The former should be enclosed by a strong palisade and ditch to secure them from assault. As soon as this has been effected a store, a guard house and a gaol ought to be erected. These buildings complete, you are to employ all your force to clear and prepare, for the reception of maize, one hundred acres of the best soil near the settlement. It being intended that the new establishment shall within a short space of time subsist entirely on its resources. With this end in view, to afford the necessary supply of animal food, some good boars and breeding sows accompany you, and horned cattle and sheep will be sent after you. You are particularly enjoined to be as careful as possible of the supplies that accompany you, and to be as sparing as you can in their issue and expenditure. As soon as you land, you are to place a military guard over these stores, which you are to continue at all times; and you are to keep regular accounts of all receipts and disbursements of provisions, slop clothing, tools and implements. Shortly after your disembarkation you are to establish a signal station on some height seen from the offing from whence early notice is to be given to you of every sail that heaves in sight. You are to use every effort to prevent the introduction
of spirituous liquors. None but Government vessels are to be permitted to
hold intercourse with your establishment. Yet in the very improbable event
of any vessel happening to anchor in distress you are to afford her such relief
as your circumstances admit, but the moment her damages are repaired you
must order her away, taking care to search her strictly upon her departure.
All letters or parcels coming to the settlement for convicts are to be
delivered to yourself, and you are hereby required to give them over to the
person to whom they are addressed after having opened and read them in his
presence, and all letters addressed by them must before they are forwarded
be also read by yourself. The soldiers will receive their military allowance of
provisions. The ration to be issued to each convict is to consist of four
pounds of salt meat and five pounds of flour, but you will be entitled yourself
to draw a treble allowance. The hours of morning labour will be from day
light till eight, when one hour and a half will be given for cleanliness and
breakfast. Work will be resumed from half past nine until twelve. Two hours
will then be allowed for dinner, and labour will afterwards continue from
two o’clock until sunset. On Sunday mornings the convicts are to bathe, and
when perfectly clean to be mustered for Divine Service, which is to be
performed by yourself. A chronological register according to the
accompanying form of all the convicts received at the settlement, with a
number affixed to every name, and an alphabetical index at the reverse end
of this record, is to be kept with the most exact care. No other dress will be
allowed to be worn at the settlement than that which is furnished by
Government. The yearly allowance to every convict is to be two shirts, two
frocks, two pairs of shoes and two pairs of trousers, and the number affixed
in the register before mentioned to the name of every convict is to be
marked upon each article.

The overseers are prohibited from striking or pushing the convicts, but are
to report to you the offences they commit. A due attention on your part to
minute faults, and the occasional augmentation of labour with solitary
confinement upon bread and water, will be far more effectual in the
correction of offences than corporal punishment. But in the event of the
commission of any serious crime, you will take the informations that are
necessary in writing but not upon oath, will cause them to be read to the
several witnesses, and then signed with their names or marks. Upon which
evidence you will award such sentence as the case may appear to deserve,
recollecting that you have not the power to inflict a greater punishment than
fifty lashes. This punishment will always take place in the gaol yard, or at
some private spot where none are present but the necessary attendants. It
never will be inflicted except under your own superintendence, and the
numbers from one to ten will be deliberately counted between every stroke
of the cat. An early entry of these proceedings is to be made with care and
signed by yourself in a book to be called the "Register of Offences", which is to contain also an alphabetical index to the names of all the
convicts who shall have been tried.
Adhering strictly to the enclosed forms, you will transmit to Head Quarters as occasions require them, descriptions of runaways, lists of prisoners permitted to return to Sydney, and receipts for articles shipped at Moreton Bay, and as opportunities offer, monthly returns of corporal punishments,\textsuperscript{11} of live stock the property of the crown; and of convicts, received, died, discharged, or run:\textsuperscript{12} also quarterly returns of orders issued, or public labour and expenditure of materials,\textsuperscript{13} and of tools, implements and stores received or issued.\textsuperscript{14}

To enable you to make these returns with accuracy and for purposes of frequent reference, it will be necessary for you to keep: a book of receipts and issues, a book of labour performed,\textsuperscript{15} a book of punishments, a book of letters received, a book of letters written,\textsuperscript{16} an order book, a book of live stock, a journal of every occurrence.

You will take an early opportunity of establishing a friendly intercourse with the neighbouring blacks, but you will not admit them to an imprudent familiarity. Whenever they apprehend strayed cattle or runaways small presents are to be issued to them of food, tomahawks, or fish hooks, and you are to punish very severely any ill-treatment of them.

Your salary will be four hundred Spanish Dollars\textsuperscript{17} for the first year, after which you will be allowed sixteen Spanish Dollars for every convict you are able to subsist for the next year on the produce of the settlement.

I have, etc.,

Thos. Brisbane