

ACCOMMODATION FOR CIVILIANS ARRIVING IN HONG KONG.

A peculiar situation has arisen with regard to civilians arriving in Hong Kong. They appear to be unable to obtain accommodation in the Hotels if they are not attached to the Army, Navy or Air Force, or the Military Administration.

As an illustration, let me quote the case of Mr. J.G. Wilson, Accountant of Messrs. E.D. Sassoon Banking Company, who arrived in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Mr. Wilson was sent down by the British Consul from Shanghai on H.M.S. "Hind" to relieve Mr. Raymond who will shortly be proceeding on Home Leave.

I telephoned the Billetting Officer at the Peninsula Hotel, who gave him a room there for one night, saying he would have to contact Civil Affairs. This morning Mr. Wilson asked the Billetting Officer if he could remain in the Hotel and was met with the reply that the Hotel was a military establishment and that unless a person belonged to the Military, Navy or Air Force, or was instructed to stay in the Hotel by Civil Affairs, he could be given no accommodation.

Mr. Wilson's case will not be the only one. Other civilians are sure to be arriving in the Colony before long. It seems to me that you could, with advantage, take up the matter with the Military Administration of releasing certain accommodation for civilians arriving here. Perhaps one floor at the Peninsula or Hong Kong Hotel could be allocated for this purpose. What do you think?


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