

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1621

Press

~~Mis.~~

44-45

Dated

14-12-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th December 1857.

No. 44. Read the following letter from the Adjutant General of the Army ; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 9th December 1857, No. 1511.

SIR,

I have the honor, by order of the Commander-in-Chief; in forwarding for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying copies of correspondence from the Officer Commanding Northern Division, to express His Excellency's earnest recommendation that a strong Detachment of Sebundies may be employed in the Sumbulpore District, the climate being innoxious to them while to the Regular Native Troops it is pestifential. Should the employment of the requisite number of Sebundies not be practicable, Lieutenant General Sir Patrick Grant recommends that the Wing of the 5th Regiment N. I. remaining at Berhampore, be ordered on to join the other Wing at Cuttack and the whole 40th Regiment N. I. to proceed to Sumbulpore to be there *stationed* until the present disturbances are put down.

*Captain J. D. Dale, Cantonment Joint Magistrate, Kamptee.
" C. P. Taylor, Paymaster, Bangalore.
" J. B. Knocker, Acting Assistant Commissioner, 3rd Class Hyderabad assigned Districts.
Lieut. C. S. Fagan, Hyderabad Contingent.
" T. E. L. Higginson, Nagpore Irregular Infantry.
" C. B. L. Smith, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, 3rd Class, Nagpore.
" W. M. Lane, Assistant Commissioner, Punjab.

His Excellency considers should this latter measure be approved, the 40th Regiment N. I. will be then in the field; and I am directed to solicit that the services of the Officers named in the margin* may be made temporarily available for Regimental duty.

Since the Commander-in-Chief's orders were taken on the above correspondence* the accompanying copies of reports have been received from the Officer Commanding Northern Division.

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lieut. Col.,
Adjutant General of the Army.

To the Deputy Adjutant General of the Army, Fort St. George, dated Waltair, 3rd December 1857, No. 197.

SIR,

From.	To.	Date and No.
Officer Comdg. Cuttack.....	D. A. Adj. Genl. Northern Div.....	292 of 27th November.
Commissioner do	Officer Commanding Cuttack...	280 of 26th do
Officer Commanding do	Commissioner of do.....	291 of 27th do
Commissioner do	Officer Commanding do	285 of 28th do

In forwarding copies of letters as per margin, I have the honor to submit for the consideration of his Excellency

the Commander-in-Chief, whether in case it is found necessary to establish out-posts about Sumbhulpore, and send out parties to beat up the Quarters of the rebels, it would not be advisable to garrison Sumbhulpore with a complete Corps. I am of opinion that Mr. Knox will not like to send any of his Sebundies from the District at the present time.

(Signed) A. TULLOCH, Major General,
Commanding Northern Division.

To the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General Northern Division, Waltair, dated Cuttack, 27th November 1857, No. 292.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter received last evening from G. F. Cockburn, Esq., Commissioner of Cuttack and of my reply thereto.

2. I trust that the Major General will not consider that I have been backward in my endeavours to keep up the number of Officers with the Detachment, I only heard on the afternoon of the 24th, that Lieutenant Hart was about to return and on the morning of the 26th, Lieutenant Vallance started to replace him; Captain Woodbridge was very nearly as expeditious in starting, after I was aware of the return of Captain Hawkins.

3. The sudden return of the above two Officers on emergent sick certificate has unavoidably left the Detachment, for a time, in the state described by Mr. Cockburn.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th December 1857.

4. I have ordered Captain Bird to join from Calcutta with all practicable despatch and also Lieutenant Palmer from Secunderabad.

(Signed) J. BATES, Major,
Commanding Cuttack.

To Major BATES, Commanding in Cuttack, dated 26th November 1857, No. 280.

Judicial.

SIR,

I have the honor, to address you on the subject of the paucity of Officers now present with the Troops at Sumbulpore sent up from this.

2. There are six Companies there of the Regiment under your command with only two Officers attached to them, one of these being as I understand the youngest Lieutenant in the Corps and the other an Ensign, neither having been long in the country or passed in the vernacular.

3. There is also a small party of Artillery with 2 guns under a young Lieutenant of that branch of the service.

4. You are aware that there is an insurrection in the Sumbulpore District headed by Soroondar Sahee and Oodunt Sahee, two prisoners who escaped from the Hazareebagh Jail during the mutiny at that place. These men have influential relatives and friends and appear not to lack sympathizers in and around the District of Sumbulpore.

5. At present the insurgents seem to be a rabble easily dispersed, but who as easily re-assemble unless speedily put down, the insurrection is not unlikely to spread; while it is possible that rebels from more distant parts may join in causing embarrassment to the Government.

6. Until the ring-leaders and their principal followers are hunted down, there will be, I apprehend, no restoration of peace in Sumbulpore.

7. It seems to me that in order to keep the insurgents in check and prevent them from acts of oppression on unoffending individuals, to conform the wavering on the side of order and to give assurance to the loyal, it will be necessary to establish some out-posts in and around Sumbulpore.

8. To attempt to form out-posts with only 2 young Officers present is hopeless.

9. On the other hand in the event of a Detachment, moving out against the insurgents, only one Officer could accompany them I presume, as it would be advisable, I conceive for the other to remain behind for the protection of the town and station.

10. Should one of the Officers fall, or be unable to perform his duties from sickness, I fail to see how Military operations could be carried on at all.

11. This state of affairs can be good neither as respects the restoration of tranquillity in Sumbulpore nor in regard to the discipline of Troops.

12. I am aware that 2 Officers have come away sick. This circumstance leads me to apprehend that one or both of these remaining may be similarly incapacitated for duty, to the further injury of the public service.

13. I have just learned that 2 Officers of greater experience than the others, have recently proceeded to join the Detachment at Sumbulpore, and are now marching up; but even when they do arrive, the Troops cannot in my opinion be considered fit for the active service, likely to be required of them, owing to the want of Officers.

14. I know your own anxiety to provide for the efficiency of the Regiment under your command, and in which you take so great and just an interest and pride. It is my duty also to do what lays in my power towards maintaining the peace of the country, and believing the Troops at Sumbulpore to be not efficiently officered and that in consequence, the prospect of restoration of tranquillity is seriously impaired, it is right that I should state my opinion, leaving you to adopt such steps in the matter as may seem to you most suitable.

(Signed) G. F. COCKBURN,
Commissioner of Cuttack.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. BATES, Major,
Commanding Cuttack.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th December 1857.

To G. F. COCKBURN, Esq., Commissioner of Cuttack, dated 27th November 1857, No. 291.
SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 280, dated the 20th November 1857, remarking on the paucity of Officers with the Detachment of the 40th Regiment M. N. I. at Sumbulpore.

2. You are aware that the moment I heard of Captain Hawkins' return to Regimental Head Quarters on sick certificate, I ordered off Captain Woodbridge, and that immediately I heard of Lieutenant Hart's return under similar circumstances, I ordered off Lieutenant Vallance though he was Acting Quarter Master of the Regiment, I also mentioned to you on your return from Balasore the day before yesterday, that I had ordered Lieutenant Swiney of the 32nd Regiment M. N. I., to do duty with the Detachment at Sumbulpore, a measure of which you approved and which I trust will, under the circumstances, meet also with the approval of my Military superiors.

3. No effort has been wanting on my part to keep the Detachment as efficient in Officers as circumstances would permit.

4. One Company has been left there only as a temporary measure, but circumstances which have lately occurred will doubtless render its permanent stay necessary.

5. The plan which you mention of detaching parties about the District, I have only now become acquainted with, and it will of course require more Officers than if the Detachment remained in a collected form at Sumbulpore, I have therefore ordered the only available Officer I have at Head Quarters (Captain Knecker) to proceed forthwith to join the Detachment.

6. I do not know how many parties it is contemplated to detach, but there is no doubt but that each one should be sufficiently strong not only to defend its post against any force likely to be brought against it, but to act on the offensive in its own immediate neighbourhood if necessary, and if as you were mentioning in conversation yesterday, 150 or 200 Sebundies could be obtained from Captain McNeill or Mr. Knox, they would be from their habits and experience of the greatest use in this kind of warfare.

7. I have directed Captain Bird and Lieutenant Palmer, to join as quickly as possible, and have forwarded a copy of this correspondence to the Major General Commanding the Division.

(Signed) J. BATES, Major,
Commanding Cuttack.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. BATES, Major,
Commanding Cuttack.

To Major BATES, Commanding Cuttack, dated 28th November 1857, No. 285.

Judicial.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 291, dated 27th Instant, in reply to mine on the subject of the paucity of Officers present with the Troops at Sumbulpore, and to state that in my opinion you did all that lay in your power to remedy the defect by having ordered up Captain Woodbridge on learning of Captain Hawkins coming away sick and afterwards Lieutenant Vallance on Lieutenant Hart being similarly compelled to leave Sumbulpore.

2. Further I quite approved of your having directed Lieutenant Swiney, 32nd M. N. I., to join and do duty with the Detachment of your Regiment at Sumbulpore.

3. I am not aware of your having left any thing undone and I cheerfully acknowledge that on every occasion since the commencement of disturbances in Sumbulpore you have given the most ready and hearty assistance in despatching the Troops applied for and in every way and in fact no Commanding Officer could have done more.

4. You will oblige me by submitting a copy of this letter to the Major General Commanding the Division, along with or in continuation of the previous correspondence.

(Signed) G. F. COCKBURN,
Commissioner of Cuttack.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. BATES, Major,
Commanding Cuttack.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th December 1857.

To the Deputy Adjutant General of the Army, Fort St. George, dated Waltair, 5th December 1857, No. 199.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the following telegraphic message has been this day received by Mr. Reade, the Collector of Vizagapatam, from Mr. Magrath, Superintendent of "Telegraph" from Cuttack.

December 5th.

"A row at Sumbhulpore, the 40th Regiment M. N. I. marches there on Monday."

(Signed) A. TULLOCH, Major,
Commanding Northern Division.

To the Deputy Adjutant General of the Army, Fort St. George, dated Waltair, 5th December 1857, No. 200.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that at the request of the Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George at Vizagapatam, I despatched this day a party of the 43rd Regiment N. I., to Nursapatam in consequence of a similar party of Sebundies having been sent to Rajahmundry District.

(Signed) A. TULLOCH, Major Genl.
Commanding Northern Division.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lieut. Colonel,
Adjutant General of the Army.

Referred for early consideration in the Judicial Department.

Fort Saint George,)
10th December 1857. }

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Col.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 45.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1621; dated 14th December 1857.

Resolved that copy of Colonel Woods' letter be furnished to the Acting Agent in Ganjam and that he be directed to detach for service in Sumbulpore such of his Sibbundies as he may be able to spare with due regard to the protection of his own District. If he cannot safely spare any out of his present force, he will proceed at once to raise such additional levies as may be required, in communication with the Officer Commanding the Northern Division.

Mr. Knox will report immediately what steps he may take under these orders.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Memo Cons: M Dec 1857 - No. 1621

Recd. M. C. M. Dec. 10 Dec. 57 referring for early consideration letter from the Adjutant General of the Army dated 9th idem

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[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

The Northern Division -
Mr Knox will report
immediately what
steps he may take
under these orders -

Act Agent for Jan 1st
Mil 1 Sept 5

Dispt 15th J.P.
L.E.

[Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "A. J. Knox"]

[Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "H. J. Knox"]

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Day to Com. 16 Dec

Jud. 1857

17/10/21

Extract Mand. of Court.

Delivered Dec 2/1857

File 37/58