

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1625	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
50-51	
Dated	14-12-1917

Not to be folded or roughly handled

525-111

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

No. 50. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 28th November 1857, No, 59.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 17th November Instant, held on a report from the Magistrate of Rajahmundry connected with the existing disturbances in that district.

2. The Government state that application might be made to the Governor's Agent for the assistance of 50 Sebundies from the Golcondah Corps to aid the Military. On receipt of those proceedings, I at once warned Captain Owen, to hold 50 men in readiness to march at a moment's notice under Lieutenant Blomfield the Adjutant, and by the same day's post I informed the Magistrate of Rajahmundry of what I had done, requesting him to let me know if he needed the assistance. This was on the 24th. On the 26th I received from Captain Owen the original of the letter annexed, which had crossed mine to him, and almost simultaneously information reached me of a serious gang robbery in a village within 10 miles distance of Nursepatam committed in one night in the houses of 2 of the inhabitants. This gang-robbery is the 4th that has occurred in the talook of Golcondah within the present month, and it is impossible to disconnect such open and daring violation of the laws in a district, where the crime of gang-robbery has hitherto been so little known, from the recent lawless proceedings of certain of the hill-people in the Rajahmundry district. The Government will be aware that the jungles in both form a continuous part of the same hilly tract or range, and that in caste and national habits the inhabitants are much the same, consequently, the assumed connection is only reasonable and justifies the inference that partial success in the neighbouring district has led to the recent robberies in this, and that they are indicative of a spirit which it is highly important should be met with prompt and energetic repression before matters assume a more formidable and troublesome aspect.

3. From what Captain Owen writes of the numerical condition of the Sebundies, the Government will see how impossible it is for me to furnish 50 men to the Magistrate of Rajahmundry as desired. I am clearly of opinion with Captain Owen, that the presence of every available Sepoy is needed with the immediate Head Quarters of the Corps at the present juncture, for without being apprehensive of any extension of disaffection or other lawless conduct on the part of the people around, it is clear that measures of precaution are immediately called for, and that it will be highly unwise and inexpedient just now to reduce the numerical strength of the Sebundies, and thus lessen our means of action when the necessity for their services may arise at any moment.

4. I have at once adopted the suggestion of Captain Owen, to call in the Detachment at Goonipoor, and already a Moolky express has been sent by me in communication with the Military authorities to the Officer Commanding at Palcondah, to detach a Jemadar's guard from the Company there located to relieve the Sebundy men at the former place, when the latter have been instructed to rejoin their own Head Quarters without delay, an arrangement that will place at my disposal, if needed, a number of men for operations distant from Nursepatam.

5. Should crime increase or other causes arise to render the measure necessary, I shall not hesitate in anticipation of the Government sanction, to use my discretion by employing an additional force of peons for the temporary emergency.

6. I have informed the Magistrate of Rajahmundry, that events subsequent to my letter, have placed it out of my power to render him the aid I therein offered.

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Agent to the Governor.

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

From Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Golcondah Sebundies; to C. W. READE,
Esq., Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, dated Nursapatam, 25th November 1857.

SIR,

From various causes, one of which perhaps, may be attributed to the partial failure of crops, a number of men in the talook have lately been thrown out of employ, and having no ostensible means of subsistence, joined together in gangs, and attacked and plundered several villages. My letter of yesterday's date will have acquainted you of the apprehension of one party, but there are still many at large in the neighbourhood.

2. From repeated reports received from Golcondah and Kistnadavipett, I considered it desirable to increase the strength of the party of Sebundies at the latter outpost, being farthest removed from Nursapatam, and have done so to a small extent, but am unable to augment the party at Golcondah, as we have hardly enough men to carry on the duties at Head Quarters, or would strengthen Golcondah also, indeed if the number of sick should increase, and which may be looked for at this time of the year, there would not be enough for the current duties of the place, none to relieve the outposts; and not a single guard available for any emergent duty away from Nursapatam.

3. For the present, to render the Golcondah Sebundies at all efficient, I would ask that you might be pleased to relieve the party at Goonipoorum, distant 125 miles.

4. When this party was first required for Goonipcorum, Mr. Smollett gave me to understand that it was only a temporary measure, and afterwards when Government resolved to retain the management at Goonipoorum, Mr. Smollett signified his intention of applying for a further number of Sebundies to enable us to meet this extra demand: for, before furnishing this extra party, it was always considered that the number of Sebundies was insufficient for the duties, and now we are entirely crippled.

5. Even if it should be the intention of Government, eventually to increase the number of Sebundies to meet our present wants, I have the honor to suggest that a party from the nearest line Regiment might be applied for, to relieve our men at Goonipoorum, whose services may be urgently required in the talook; for although I trust, no general outbreak may occur, I have reason to believe that some of the Goodem Sirdars are in a very unsettled state, and might at any moment require attention, which could not be met, with our present reduced party.

6. Not long ago there used to be always a full Company of the line on duty at Goonipoorum, usually supplied from Vizianagram, and under the orders of the Officer Commanding at Palcondah.

7. I beg to enclose a present state of the Golcondah Sebundies.

8. Five more thieves concerned in the late robberies have just been brought in by a party of Sebundies, and made over to the Police together with portion of the spoil recovered, viz., 48 Rupees and sundry household articles.

(Signed) W. G. OWEN, Captain,
Commanding Golcondah Sebundies.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Agent to the Governor.

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

Present State of the Golcondah Sebundies, as they stood on the 25th November 1857.

Distribution.	Jenadars.	Havildars.	Naigues.	Buglers.	Privates.
For duty.....	1	2	2	1	36
On ".....	1	1	1	0	18
Present Sick.....	0	1	2	1	5
Sick Orderly.....	0	0	0	0	1
" Absent.....	0	0	0	0	1
At Drill.....	0	0	0	0	4
On Furlough.....	0	0	1	0	0
Acting men.....	0	0	0	0	2
On Command to Golcondah.....	0	1	1	0	13
" Kistnadavepett.....	0	1	1	0	13
" Goonipoorum.....	1	2	2	1	20
" Vizagapatam Treasure Guard.....	0	1	1	0	11
Total...	3	9	11	3	124

Nursapatam,
25th November 1857.

(Signed) W. G. OWEN,
Commanding Golcondah Sebundies.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Agent to the Governor.

No. 51.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1625; dated 14th December 1857.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Just before Aug 22 March
of 1858 - Para 186

John

The Agent to the
Governor of
Virginia

The Chief Secretary
to Government

The Lord George

Dated 28/10/1891

Dec 5 Dec 1851

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