M.R.O. 1—29,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1631 Press ~~Mis.~~

64-65

Dated 25-12-19~~19~~ 29

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1631

No. 64. 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 25th November 1857, No. 57.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to submit for the information of Government, the accompanying copy of a report, dated 13th October last, from Captain Owen, Commanding the Irregular Corps of Sebundies in the Golcondah talook of this district.

2. This report you will observe, has been prepared in accordance with the Minutes of Consultation, of date the 11th October 1856, and especially relates to the enlistment of the hill-people, a measure which the Government had previously declared to be desirable.

3. The detailed account of Captain Owen, showing what that officer has effected towards this object, subsequent to his last report forwarded with my predecessor's letter of the 23rd September 1856, leaves me little to add. It appears that of 9 vacancies which have occurred since Captain Owen's letter of September 1856, six have been filled up by hill-men, and the Government will no doubt, understand the difficulties that exist to enrolling persons of this class, while the efforts that have been so judiciously made by Captain Owen, to overcome these difficulties, will not be unappreciated.

4. In para. 6 of his letter, Captain Owen complains of the numerical deficiency of the Sebundies, and he dwells on the fact that in reality there are only 135 rank and file, the difference between that number and the 150 sanctioned, being made up of 3 Native officers, 9 Havildars and 3 Buglers, and he proposes to increase the force to 300 men.

5. On the 10th July 1855, the proposal of an increase to the Sebundies, met with the concurrence of the Government, in an extract from its proceedings of that date, but by subsequent Minutes of Consultation, dated the 31st of the same month, it would appear for the reasons therein recorded, that the proposal was finally negatived, consequent on the disapproval by the Government of India, of any interference with the affairs of the Jeypore Zemindary.

6. I am quite prepared to support Captain Owen's present proposal for an increase to the local Corps, in the belief that for all purposes of protecting the frontier, as well as of preserving the internal peace of the country throughout the hill tracts of this and the Ganjam districts, it would prove in reality far more effective than Regular troops. The men are more inured to the climate, the sort of life and the kind of service required of them, is more congenial to their habits and tastes, and in no way militate against either, and I believe that the out-posts in the district of Vizagapatam and those in Ganjam district, might, with great advantage, be occupied by the local Corps, while the arrangement would, I think, be found an eventual saving to the State, but it would be premature in me to discuss this question now, or in any way to enlarge on it, since, at the present time, the Government are not likely to entertain any proposition for increased establishments, involving permanent increased expenditure, without an immediate and pressing necessity, which I do not pretend to say could really be urged, but at any time when called upon, I shall be prepared to submit my views on what Captain Owen has stated, as I am of opinion, that a considerable increase to the Sebundy Corps might be advantageously made to the general relief of Regiments of the line in these parts, and at the same time without saddling the State with any actual increased expenditure of public money.

7. The Government are doubtless acquainted with the history of the old Sebundy Corps formerly in existence in this part of the Madras territories, and they will be better able than myself to appreciate its usefulness and the causes which subsequently led to its abolition, how far the altered circumstances in which India is now placed, may suggest the advisability of remodelling at some future period, the existing Corps which was organized in 1847, to meet local wants, I may not be competent to give an opinion, but the subject seems to me an important one, and I shall be ready to place on record my sentiments whenever the Government desire it. My experience in the district is not very great it is true, but the necessity for a variety of reforms has unavoidably pressed itself on my attention, even in the short period I have presided over it, more especially connected with the requirements of the hill Zemindary districts, ostensibly under our rule, but unknown almost to our Police, and where crime might exist to any extent without the possibility of bringing the offenders to justice. The great obstacles are the natural

ones of climate and country, which appear almost insurmountable, and these could only be overcome by means which it is not very likely will ever be put into operation, but intimately associated with those means is an increase to the local Corps, and therefore my reference to the matter is no real deviation from the immediate object of my present letter.

8. Adverting to the 8th para. of Captain Owen's letter on the subject of a Sirdar, it is sufficient that I should state for the information of Government, that when the Sebundy Corps was originally entertained, provision was made for such an officer at the salary now recommended, but of this Captain Owen appears to have been unaware, and the charge was and is included in the total amount sanctioned for the cost of the Corps; other arrangements however were made when the Sibundies were organized, which did not embrace the office of Sirdar, whose salary appears to have been appropriated to increasing the number of Jemadars or Havildars, which I presume were considered at the time to be of more importance. I cannot therefore support Captain Owen's recommendation, which would involve an additional outlay, but I have intimated to him the practicability, as vacancies occur, of instituting the office he so much desires, and which will only be in strict accordance with the constitution of the Corps as originally contemplated.

9. In regard to the arms noticed by Captain Owen, in para. 11, it is sufficient that I solicit the attention of Government to what has already passed on the subject.

10. New clothing was only supplied last year to the Sebundies. I quite agree that Rifle green is more suitable than the colour in use, but this change, I presume, may be carried out by Captain Owen and myself on the next occasion when the clothing of the force is renewed, and I request the sanction of the Government to that effect. Rifle green is the dress of the officers, and on all accounts it would appear more suited to the men.

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

From Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Golcondah Sebundies; to C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam, dated Nursapatam, 13th October 1857, No. 35.

SIR,

Agreeably to the orders as per margin, I have the honor to report upon the Present State of the Golcondah Sebundy Corps, and with reference to para. 6 of Minutes of Consultation, dated 2nd September 1856.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 11th October 1856.

2. During the past year, nine vacancies have occurred, and in this period have obtained six men from above or in immediate vicinity of ghauts; and that Government may perceive how difficult it is to get these hill-men to enlist, will give a succinct account of how each man was obtained,* for although I am personally acquainted with all the hill-chiefs in this neighbourhood, and who are most friendly and willing to assist (and one of whom, I may mention, did aid us on a former occasion with fifty armed men, headed by himself, and acted with the party of Sebundies, until our object was obtained) yet it is with the greatest difficulty these hill-men can be persuaded to serve below the ghauts; however now we have obtained a few, I do trust that others may be induced to come, when they see how comfortably provided for, those are, who have already taken service.

* No. 1, Appendix.

3. This may of course take time to work its effect, and in the mean while, must rely upon the personal exertions of the Adjutant, myself, and Jemadar Venketchellum, (whose village is in the vicinity of the ghauts) as, find the only chance of occasional success is, by going amongst the people ourselves. All usual recruiting parties (to the men of which, I held out advantages if they succeeded) having failed, notwithstanding they had the assistance of the Dewan of Maidigole and other men of influence.

4. At the close of the rains, the Adjutant and self will renew our efforts. During last visit to ghauts above Buckaloor (the extreme western point of this district) I saw many likely men, but although they accompanied me over the hills for some days, they were disinclined to enlist, even after the head Mocassadar (in whose service they were) said he would spare them, if they liked to go.

5. Thus, of the nine vacancies, six hill-men have been enlisted. One man has been enlisted as a special case. Vide Appendix, No. 2.

6. Two vacancies still remain, which are at present filled by acting men, until some of the hill-class can be obtained. One of these acting men, I should like to entertain, if permitted, although not a native of the hills, he is well acclimatized, having previously been in the Sebundies, for 5 years, but discharged more than a year ago, at his own request.

7. I have many times brought to notice the deficiency in the numerical strength of the Golcondah Sebundies, originally 300 men were sanctioned, but afterwards altered to 150; and of this number, we have really 135 rank and file, the remainder being 3 Native officers, 9 Havildars and 3 Buglers.

Numerical strength.

8. The last time I addressed to Mr. Smollett on this subject, (No. 3, Appendix) he concurred in my view of the case, as also in a private communication, the desirability of having a head Native officer or "Sirdar" with the Golcondah Sebundies, as they have in the Kimedy and Ganjam Sebundies; we have at present a Native officer who is particularly deserving of such honorary distinction, and whom, I could not spare to go to Ganjam or Kimedy, although applied to by the Agent in Ganjam for this Native officer, that he might be appointed a "Sirdar" in the Kimedy Sebundies; and also received a similar application from the Assistant to the Agent in Ganjam for this Native officer's employment as Sirdar in the Ganjam Sebundies. In thus refusing, I was sorry to destroy the prospects of this deserving Native officer, but hoped that he might obtain the rank of Sirdar in the Golcondah Sebundies, and do still hope with your support that he may be made a Sirdar on a salary of forty (40) Rupees per mensem; as the Kimedy Sirdar receives.

Vide Extract, No. 4 attached.

9. It will be seen by the Present State of Golcondah Sebundies (No. 5 Appendix) that when called upon for a party to act in the district, the largest available number of all ranks would be fifty (50) men, and during period of reliefs of Detachments, only twenty-five (25) men would remain for special duties away from Nursapatam, leaving 34 men (including sick in hospital) for the care of Treasury and Magazine at Head Quarters.

Present State.

10. The Golcondah and Kisnidypet Detachments are relieved monthly, the Goonepooram (distance 125 miles) once in six months.

11. The men are still armed with Fusils, by Minutes of Consultation, dated 25th August 1856; in reply to my application for Rifles, Government were pleased to say, "that the consideration of Captain Owen's report be deferred until Government are in the receipt of the patterns of arms and accoutrements for Irregular Corps, for which application has been made to Government of India and of Bombay."

Arms.

12. The cloth last issued is of the Cavalry grey color. This with black belts becomes soon soiled. Rifle green would be a much more durable color.

Clothing.

13. Should the above meet with your approval and concurrence, may I request you might be pleased to submit them, with your remarks, for the favorable consideration of Government.

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

(True Copy.)

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

No. 1.

Memorandum of hill-men, entertained during the past twelve months, in the Golcondah Sebundies.

1. No. 36. M. Atchiah, inhabitant of Sherbanapulem, at foot of Rampaloo Gatee, formerly an armed retainer of Lutchman Padal, Macassadar of the Markarum Moota.

On the management of this estate being transferred from Lutchman Padal to Beniah Padal, Atchiah was unwilling to serve the latter, and consequently thrown out of employ; I happened to encamp shortly afterwards at Atchiah's village, and induced him to take service in the Sebundies.

The Adjutant and self had frequently met this man, and remarked his being very smart and intelligent, but, could not before get him to enlist.

2. No. 66. C. Cunniah, inhabitant of Bungarumpetta, near Gungadavy Gatee, and a cultivator of hill-fields, but crops failing for several seasons, enlisted as a Sebundy, brought by Jemadar Venketachellum of the Sebundies.

3. No. 82. S. Bodaysoo, formerly inhabitant of Yeddoo Mamedi above the ghauts, afterwards came to Ramanapilly at foot of ghauts, a Shikaree by trade, but failing to get his livelihood at either village, enlisted, brought by Jemadar Venketachellum. I had known this man for some time, he is a good shot with fuzil.

4. No. 88. M. Mootalloo, inhabitant of Cocur, above the Ghauts, this man had a quarrel with the people of his village and came to complain. I settled his complaint and he enlisted, he is a capital shot with fuzil.

5. No. 129 Boradoo, inhabitant of Madium above the ghauts, formerly an armed retainer of Thuggee Veeriah Dorah, one of the Goodem Sirdars, who did not treat him well, so he left, and came to the Sebundies. I have known this man for several years, and long wished to get him as a Sebundy.

6. No. 145. T. Venkanah, inhabitant of village Golcondah and the ghauts, this man has been employed as a trader above the ghauts for years, he was enlisted for the Jeypoor levy in 1855 and last June I again met him above the ghauts, and enlisted him.

Nursapatam, 13th October 1857.

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

No. 2.

Extract from Golcondah Sebundy Order Book, dated 24th June 1857.

G. Venketsawmy, Havildar, has died on duty at Gunipooram. It is with much regret that I have to announce this loss to the Sebundy Corps of one of the oldest and most exemplary Havildars. If all our Havildars and Naigues will only endeavour to regulate their conduct by the example of the late Havildar Venketsawmy, they are sure to give satisfaction. I always had the greatest confidence in Havildar Venketsawmy, and since I first came to the Corps, in 1851, there has never been a single complaint against him by any one, nor have I ever had to find fault with him. What can I say more. In recognition of his long and faithful services (for he was in a former Sebundy Corps many years before the present Sebundies were raised, and severely wounded at Toonee during the rebellion of Paick Row, in 1835) Havildar Venketsawmy's son, G. Chittumbrum, is entertained as a Sebundy from the 18th Instant.

You are aware, that under present orders from Government, I am told only to enlist hill-men, but consider it my duty to make this deviation, in this particular instance, and shall report to Government my reason for so doing.

(True Copy.)

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

No. 3.

From Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Golcondah Sebundies; to P. B. SMOLLETT, Esq., Agent to the Governor, at Vizagapatam, dated Nursapatam, 12th June 1856.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter received from W. Knox, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor in Ganjam, and with reference thereto, beg to forward Present State of the Sebundy Local Corps, from which you will perceive, it is at present impracticable to relieve the party now employed in Purlah Kimedy, as I have barely enough men for the periodical relief of our out-posts in this neighbourhood. For the present, I would ask you might be pleased to apply for a party of the Military force, to relieve the Golcondah Sebundies employed in the Ganjam district. I wish, you might be pleased to bring to the notice of Government, the desirability of increasing the number of our Sebundies to a small extent, say fifty-six (56) men, including non-commissioned, we should then be much better able to carry on all duties required, and for the general efficiency of the Corps.

I venture to ask that Government might be pleased to sanction the appointment of a Native officer, of a grade superior to that of Jemadar, as is the custom in the Malabar and Kimedy Sebundies.

I would propose that the denomination of this Native officer should be "Sirdar," since you are aware that this distinctive title would be better appreciated and understood by the hill-people in general than "Soubadar."

The pay per month for the extra fifty-six men, would be three hundred and five Rupees, and the proposed salary of a Sirdar or chief Native officer, forty Rupees, total three hundred and forty five Rupees per mensem. A sum less than the batta alone of two Companies of Infantry.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 4.

Extract from letter by P. B. SMOLLETT, Esq., Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam; to W. KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor, Ganjam.

"I consider it unadvisable to apply at this present moment, for an increase to the force, although it is barely strong enough to carry on the duties that devolve on it in this district, and it will be altogether crippled, if Detachments are continually sent to Ganjam.

I am therefore constrained to repeat the request that the party of Sebundies now with you, may be permitted to return to Goonipooram.

If the troubles should continue in Purla Kimedy during next cold weather, I shall be happy to send you a party to co-operate with the troops employed in the hill country."

(Signed) P. B. SMOLLETT,
Agent to the Governor.

(True Copy of Extract received from Mr. Smollett.)

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

No. 5.

Present State of the Golconda Sebundies.

	Jemadars.	Havildars.	Naigues.	Buglers.	Privates.
For duty	1	3	3	1	55
On ,,	0	2	3	0	11
Sick	1	0	1	1	7
Acting men	0	0	0	0	2
Furlongh	0	0	0	0	3
At Drill	0	0	0	0	6
On Command at Goonipoorum	1	2	3	1	18
,, Golcondah	0	1	1	0	14
,, Kistnadavepett	0	1	0	0	8
Total...	3	9	11	3	124

Nursapatam, 13th October 1857.

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

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

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, No. 1631 ; dated 15th December 1857.

From the report of Captain Owen, transmitted with the above letter, it would seem that his attempts to carry out the orders of 22nd September 1856, in respect to the recruiting of Hill men for the Golcondah Sibbundi Corps have been only partially successful, nine vacancies have occurred since that date, but it has not been found practicable to enlist more than six Hill men. Every exertion has however been made by the Officer Commanding, his Adjutant and a Jemadar (Venkitchellum) whose village is in the vicinity of the ghauts. The Government trust that when the advantages of the service are better known to the people of the Hills by the report of the few who have joined the Corps, it will become more popular among them.

2. The Government authorize the entertainment of the individual alluded to in para. 6 of Captain Owen's letter.

3. It is observed that authority was given under date 14th Instant, for increasing the number of the Golcondah Sibbundies. The Agent will consider whether the arrangements to be made in consequence will admit of the office of Sirdar being constituted in it immediately. If not, it may be done on opportunity offering for its being effected in the mode indicated in para. 8 of the Agent's letter.

4. The Government are not prepared at present to sanction any changes in the Arms of the Corps, but there will be no objection to their being allowed rifle green clothing at the next issue.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 1631.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 15th December 1857.

Read the following letter from the Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George at Vizagapatam.

Forwards Captain Owen's annual report on the success which has attended his enlistment of Hill men into the Golcondah Sebundy Corps, together with other matters connected with their general efficiency. } (Here enter 25th November 1857, No. 57.)

From the report of Captain Owen, transmitted with the above letter, it would seem that his attempts to carry out the orders of 22nd September 1856, in respect to the recruiting of Hill men for the Golcondah Sibbundi Corps have been only partially successful, nine vacancies have occurred since that date, but it has not been found practicable to enlist more than six Hill men. Every exertion has however been made by the Officer Commanding, his Adjutant and a Jemadar (Venkitchellum) whose village is in the vicinity of the ghauts. The Government trust that when the advantages of the service are better known to the people of the Hills by the report of the few who have joined the Corps, it will become more popular among them.

2. The Government authorize the entertainment of the individual alluded to in para. 6 of Captain Owen's letter.

3. Pending the general arrangements now under consideration for the re-organization of the Police throughout the Madras Presidency, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council cannot entertain any proposal for the augmentation of the Golcondah Sibbundies. There will be no objection to the office of Sirdar being constituted in it according to what seems to have been the original design, when opportunities may offer for making the arrangement in the mode indicated in para. 8 of the Agent's letter.

4. The Government are not prepared at present to sanction any changes in the Arms of the Corps, but there will be no objection to their being allowed rifle green clothing at the next issue.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

3. It is observed that authority was under date 14th Inst. given for increasing the number of the Golcondah Sibbundies, the Agent will consider whether the arrangements to be made in consequence will admit of the office of Sirdar being constituted in it immediately. If not it may be done on opportunity offering for its being effected in the mode indicated in para. 8 of the Agent's letter.

To the Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George in Vizagapatam.
,, Superintendent and Agent of Army Clothing.

Exd, F. Cartledge.

Jud. Depart.

No. 1831

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 15th December 1857

Read the following
letter from the Agent to
the Governor of Fort St.
George at Vizagapatam

Store pinder 25th Nov. 1857

From the Deputy
Captain Owen transmitting
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of Sirdar being constituted in it immediately.- If not it may be done on opportunity offering for its being effected in the mode indicated in para 8 of the Agent's letter.-

the Right Honble the Governor in Council cannot entertain any proposal for the augmentation of the Golconda Silladars. There will be no objection to the office of Sirdar being constituted in it according to what seems to have been the original design when opportunities may offer for making the arrangement in the mode indicated in Para 8 of the Agent's letter.-

4- The Govt are not prepared at present to sanction any change in the ~~clothing~~ arms of the Corps - but there will be no objection to their being armed with rifles previous to their clothing at the next issue - GP

3 It is observed that authority was given under date 14th Instant for increasing the number of the Golconda Silladars. The Agent will consider whether the arrangements to be made in consequence will admit of the office of

Sent in no objection to allowing five men to each Silladar Clothing

To the Agent in Vizg
To Supt of Clothing Agent
Army Clothing
Dispatched

Geo Comm

In Cons. 15th Decr.
Judicial. 1857 Depart.

Judl. Ltr. to Govt 2 March
No. 2 of 1858 Para 33

No. 1631

Extracts Mins. of Cons

dd 15th December 1857

Recd 26/1/58

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