

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	420	Press ~~Mis.~~
	3-4	
Dated	21-4-	18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

No. 3. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 9th March 1857, No. 39.

SIR,

To Govt. 9th July 1856, No. 60.
From do. 2nd Augt. „ No. 827.
To do. 25th do. „ No. 83.
From do. 22nd Sept. „ No. 1023.

1. In forwarding the accompanying Indents for Boots for the Malabar Police Corps, with Major Haly's letter, dated 4th Instant, and with reference to the correspondence, noted marginally, I have the honor to request that sanction be granted for the necessary annual supply of ankle boots to the Malabar Police Corps.

2. By Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of 2nd August 1856, the Magistrate was called upon for an opinion on Major Haly's proposal to equip the Malabar Police Corps in ankle boots and leathern helmets, and whether they should be supplied at the expense of the State. Mr. Clarke, in his letter dated 25th August 1856, remarks on the subject of ankle boots, "adverting to the constitution of the Corps, the duties which they are called on to perform, the nature of the country, and habits of the men of the Corps, I much question whether the English ankle boot would be found as useful or agreeable to the wearer as the native sandal. The ammunition boot, is strong, hard, heavy, and cumbersome, and likely to impede and retard the movements of the men, and to gall their feet and ankle especially if, as often is the case, they do not quite fit." With regard to stoppages on account of such articles of dress, Mr. Clarke remarks, (para : 4) "a man of the standing of the Sepoys of the Corps may live comfortably in Malabar for about 4 Rupees a month."

"5th. The pay of the Sepoy is 6 Rupees, which appears to me amply sufficient to enable them to procure any requisite article of dress not furnished them by the Government." He recommends that the stoppages "should never exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ Rupee per mensem."

3. With reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 22nd September 1856, I beg to state my opinion, that as the body of the Malabar Police Corps is now constituted, it is a purely Military body, and as such is well drilled and made a very effective show in the review thereof which I witnessed. It is as Major Haly terms it, a Light Infantry body, and I believe that it is the opinion of all Military authorities that for Light Infantry duty the ankle boot is almost indispensable. The boot is of course only worn with the uniform. It has been in use for nearly two years, and could not well be dispensed with, and I beg to support Major Haly's proposal, that it become a permanently sanctioned portion of their dress. As it is purely a Military exercise article of dress, I would hope that it may be supplied without stoppage from the men.

4. The leathern helmet has not been introduced among them, and they are using a neat and sufficiently effective head-dress. Mr. Clarke, on this subject remarked, dated 25th August 1856, "the helmet may be a useful and valuable protection to the head, especially from a sabre cut, the weapon generally used by the fanatical Moplay, and would, I think, be more serviceable in a hand to hand engagement, than the cap they now wear, but as the arms of the Corps seem rather to indicate that the men are intended to act at a distance from the enemy, the lighter head-dress, the more free would the men be to act and to move about, and as the cap has been found extremely useful and approved in other Irregular Corps, it does not seem to me necessary to make any alteration in the uniform already sanctioned," and in this opinion, I fully concur. Already the Corps is in its equipment, of an entirely Military character, and to add helmets were to separate it still further from the character of a drilled Civil Police which is the intention of the Government in its establishment.

5. The most important of all subjects is obviously that of the "duties for which the men should be available." The subject has occupied much of my thought, and I am anxious to give a useful character to the Corps, but see great difficulties in carrying it out. On this subject, I propose addressing the Government shortly, as my thorough consideration of the subject has been delayed by recent Police proceedings before the Special Assistant Magistrate, in which the Mopla Soobadar and a Havildar of the Corps have been tried for torture. The case is now pending in review before the Sessions Court, and only after it is disposed of, could I submit the matter to the Government.

6. I propose making another tour to those parts as soon as the press of business consequent on the Head Assistant's absence is relieved.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

From Major G. T. HALY, Commandant Malabar Police Corps; to W. ROBINSON, Esq.,
Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 4th March 1857, No. 49.
SIR,

With reference to the enclosed copy of a letter from the Assistant Commissary General at Hoonsoor, I have the honor to forward the Indents* therein called for, for submission through Government to the Military Board.
I take this opportunity of bringing to notice that the "Boots" for which this Indent is furnished, have been in use with the Corps for nearly 2 years, and it now becomes requisite that a fresh supply should be sanctioned without delay, for in such a country as Malabar, it is impossible to have effective Light Infantry for work except with the protection that is afforded the foot by the ankle Boots, therefore I forward a set of Indents for transmission.

(Signed) G. T. HALY, Major,
Commandant Malabar Police Corps.

From Captain J. LOUDON, Assistant Commissary General; to Major G. T. HALY, Commandant Malabar Police Corps, Mallapooram, dated 9th February 1857, No. 872.
SIR,

With reference to my letter, I have the honor to forward a further extract of retrenchment from the Audit statement received from Commissariat Auditor, and request you will be good enough to furnish me with the Indent therein called for, as early as practicable.

(Signed) J. LOUDON, Captain,
Assistant Commissary General.

Extract from the Audit Statement from the Commissariat Auditor of Madras, 30th January 1857.

11.	Charged Leather Accoutrements supplied to the Malabar Police Corps, as per receipt of the Officer Commanding, dated 21st August 1856.....	70	7	4
12.	Do. do. supplied to the do., as per do., of the do., dated 3d September 1856.....	293	2	0
		363	9	4

Retrenched until Indents sanctioned by the Military Board, be forwarded in support thereof.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. LOUDON, Captain,
Assistant Commissary General.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) G. T. HALY, Major,
Commandant Malabar Police Corps.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, No. 420; dated 8th April 1857.

1. With the letter recorded above, the Acting Magistrate of Malabar forwards a communication from the Officer Commanding the Malabar Police Corps, submitting Indents for ankle boots, and expresses his sentiments on certain points on which his opinion was asked in Extract Minutes Consultation 22nd September last, No. 1023.

Fort St. George Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

2. In this Extract Minutes Consultation the Acting Magistrate was requested, when he had acquired the requisite degree of acquaintance with the Corps, to state his views in regard to their being supplied with ankle boots and leather helmets and to the stoppages to be made from their pay for undress clothing, as also in respect of the duties for which the men should be available. In his present letter this Officer confines his remarks to only two points, viz. the use of the boot and the helmet.

3. In regard to the first of these subjects, the Acting Magistrate supports Major Haly's proposal that the boots should become a permanently sanctioned portion of the dress of the Corps. It has been in use in the Corps for nearly two years, and he considers that it cannot now be well dispensed with. He states that it is only worn with the uniform, and, as a purely Military exercise article of dress, and he hopes that it may be supplied without stoppage from the pay of the men.

4. In regard to the helmet the Acting Magistrate thinks with his predecessor that it is unnecessary to make any alteration in the head dress of the Corps. Already, he observes, the Corps is, in its equipment, of an entirely Military character, and to add helmets were to separate it still further from the character of a drill Civil Police which is the intention of the Government in its establishment.

5. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council agrees with the Acting Magistrate that it is not advisable to adopt the leathern helmet for the Corps, nor does he think the Glengary caps now in use a suitable head-dress. The Kilmarnock bonnet with a white wadded cloth cover would be far preferable. The Acting Magistrate of Malabar will take measures for procuring a supply, which may be done through any Agent in Madras or Bombay, that they may be introduced on the present caps being worn out.

6. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council, also concurring in the views expressed by the Acting Magistrate respecting the continuance of the use of ankle-boots by the Corps, sanctions the two sets of Indents submitted by him for this article, one apparently for boots already supplied and the other for those now required; but he does not authorize the supply of the helmets applied for in one of them. It does not appear how often the boots are to be provided for the Corps, annually, biennially or how. The Acting Magistrate's attention is called to Extract Minutes Consultation 2nd August 1856, No. 827, para: 3, wherein his predecessor was desired to report on the proposal of Major Haly that they should be supplied annually, and he is requested to give his opinion on this point as also to fix the time when each periodical supply should be made, and what will be the number of pairs of boots to be supplied.

6. No deductions will be made from the pay of the Malabar Police Corps on account of the issue of boots or bonnets.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

he by no means to be organized

Memo.

Mr Robinson recommends that ankle boots
be supplied to the Malabar Police Corps
on the ground that "the Corps is a light
infantry body" - and "that for a light infantry
body duty the ankle boot is almost indis-
-pensable" - "The boot is of common only worn
with the uniform" - "As it is purely a
military exercise article of dress" Mr R.
hopes "that it may be supplied without
stoppage from the men".

It is submitted that it is not
inter. and that the Corps shall be a light
infantry body - They are to be only an
armed Civil Police - So skilled - instructed
- and in the use of their weapons & equip-
-ment as to enable them to act in defence
- directly - but by no means to be organized

like a Corps of Regulars - If then for
the only object of giving them the under
boots is to impart to them a military
character and appearance it may
be doubted how far it is desirable - It
will be seen that Mr. Clarke mentioned
the then for that work the native sandal
would not be so useful & more
agreeable to the men.

A further point to be decided is
the helmet, Hides, the flung
Cup.

JF

The troops is armed & disciplined -
and certainly be kept in fighting - when acting
in a body - I had seen the boots.

I am in favor of a small helmet.
I can conceive nothing more useful than the
flung helmet in a hot country.

22 Minutes

the boots have been
in use for 2 years -
The question then is shall
they be supplied by Govt or
be paid for by the men
I would advise the for-
mer course of sanction
the incidents -

The Major says the boots
already have a rubber
band on -
21/3/87

As the boots are found to answer
after a trial of two years I think
they had better be continued and
the cost defrayed by Govt. Had the
boots not been introduced however
I should have recommended looking to
the character of the force as a
Military Police Corps that the
men should have been required to
supply themselves with shoes or the
ordinary sandal as they might pre-
fer. As the Corps already have

A Suitath Head Staff would retain it.
 A helmet totally disguises a Native &
 makes him look like a Portuguese
 drummer. The Kilmassack Cap,
 with a massive white cover & emblem
 is an excellent protection against the
 Sun.

J. G.

The inference I draw from the ~~confusion~~
 is that the Malabar Police is giving the
 way of all similar bodies under the
 charge of military officers not specially
 fitted for the duty — and ^{that the result} ~~is~~ being
 made into bad soldiers instead of being
 formed into good Police-men.

A light infantry corps is composed of
 the elite of the army.

If Major Moly is encouraged to
 carry out his plans, the corps as a body
 of Police will be simply ^{spoilt} ~~ruined~~.

J. G.

No 420

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
 Dated 8th April 1857

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 from the Acting Magistrate of
 Malabar.

(Here enter 9th March 1857 No 39)

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67
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on ^{Ronnet} ~~Capes~~.

J.P.

Copy to Magistrate of Malabar
with 2 indent in
quadruplicate.

" Comd General

" Adm of Comd Accounts

Sept 10/11

Shall see to him at 120 Oak
Nov 26 of 1857.

P.O. Box 10589 P34

On Sept. One 2nd 1857
Audicial 1857 Sept 9th

No 120

Shutehall's of London

28/8: April 1957

572.1122

Feb 23/59.

My dear friend,
I have a reservation on
the letter from the Acting Vice-Chancellor
of Michigan, substituting Librarians
for Depts. and expressing the
sentiment on certain points on
which the opinion was called for
on Oct. 11. I do not understand
quite well the proposition that
it is not advisable to accept the
entire sentiment for the Depts. nor
omit the Library Dept. nor in-
use a suitable method of direction
to the acts of Librarians for Depts.
Yours truly,
J. B. Smith

books one especially for books
already acquired & the other for
those now required - & requesting
his opinion as to what such
periodical copy should be
made.