

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 873	Press ~~His.~~
U-12	
Dated 24 7-18 (85)	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th July 1857.

No. 11. Read the following letter from Captain J. G. RUSSELL, Officiating Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George at Kurnool; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 14th July 1857, No. 11.

SIR,

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that on the 9th Ultimo, the head of Police at Nundial reported the presence within the limits of his talook, of a band of Rohillas. They had been seen encamped in the jungles to the north-west of Nundial.

2. I immediately detached as many Sowars as I could spare, viz., 13, to watch their movements, and if plunder was their object, protect the villages along the foot of the hills. At the same time, I issued orders to all the Tahsildars to be on their guard, and wrote to the Collectors of Cumbum and Cuddapah to the same effect.

3. On the 16th, the head of Police of Sirwell reported that a band of some 400 Rohillas had the previous night attacked and plundered a large village "Roodrar," of the Cuddapah district, situate between Sirwell and the Nulla Mulla hills. They killed 3 people, wounded 13 others, and it was said were led by three chiefs on horseback.

4. On the 17th June, by telegraph, I applied for and received sanction to raise more armed Police peons to assist the Sowars in tracking the gang, and if necessary, defending our villages. This duty was most satisfactorily performed, the Police keeping well-informed of the Rohillas' marches through the jungles, and moving accordingly in the plain.

5. On the 18th Ultimo, Captain Nelson, whom I had warned of their presence in his vicinity, and who joined in the pursuit with some Chenchowars, was surprised, and his people running away, left his guns and poney in the hands of the Rohillas. I forward herewith a copy of Captain Nelson's letter, and would respectfully beg the Governor's kind consideration of the request therein conveyed.

6. On the 26th, one company 30th Regiment N. I. was sent to Cumbum, and another under Captain White, marched through this district.

7. On the 28th, Lieutenant Grove went out to Atcoor as Magistrate, and remained with the detachments. The company of the 30th Regiment N. I. reached Atcoor on the morning of the 1st, and proceeded into the jungles on the 2nd, after some severe marching under considerable difficulties, they ascertained that the Rohillas must have re-crossed the Kistnah on or about the 5th Instant, and as much firing was heard on the opposite bank of the Kistnah, it is supposed they were attacked on crossing, as pre-arranged in communication with the Resident at Hyderabad.

8. On the 9th Instant the detachments retired on Atcoor.

9. This is the first time Rohillas have ever been known to extend their frays so far into the Company's territory, knowing that a great many were collected in the Nizam's country on the northern bank of the Kistnah, considering the then state of affairs, I cannot help thinking that the plunder of a single village was not their object, but supposing troops could not be readily brought against them either to extend their operations, and in the event of this first attempt being successful, and any disturbance affording a favourable opportunity to be joined by reinforcements and over-run a country whose inhabitants from a series of years of peace, are quite unable to repel the dacoits of their own country, a despicable foe compared to Rohillas. I have now made the best arrangements I could devise to ensure immediate information of any band of Rohillas attempting to cross again into this district, and offered a reward for such information. The Left Wing of the 49th Regiment N. I., having joined Head Quarters, I could without losing so many days as in this instance, send some foot and horse in 24 hours to whatever part of the district, their presence might be required.

10. On the 4th Instant, I received an express from the head of Police of Chagalmurry stating, that a gang of some 100 Rohillas, under 3 chiefs on horseback, had been seen in the jungles below the Ahobulum pagoda in that talook, and requesting immediate assistance. This report however was contradicted next day, and the arrangements I made cancelled, with the exception of a fresh levy of 50 men whom I have retained, as I consider they are required to guard over our river ghauts, left unprotected since the abolition of the Sayer establishment, when some 60 people denominated Kolkars performed Custom and Police duties; on the Sayer being abolished, no substitute Police establishment was entertained, I have now employed this new levy of Police peons on this most important duty, and request the sanction of Government for their entertainment.

Captain Russell, in view to establish.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th July 1857.

11. In conclusion, I beg most respectfully to bring to the notice of Government, the inefficiency of our Police, from the absence of system and discipline and inadequate salary, men expected to be well fed, clothed and armed for service, should receive at least 6 Rupees a month, and be trained to act together under leaders: a large establishment as now in existence is worthless in emergencies like the present, to act by themselves.

(Signed) J. G. RUSSELL, Captain,
Offg. Agent to the Governor.

From Captain F. NELSON, of Siddapoor and Peddacherroo; to Captain J. G. RUSSELL,
Officiating Agent to the Governor at Kurnool, dated Viarooty, 30th June 1857, No. 17.

SIR,

As stated in a demi-official, dated 28th Instant, 9 P. M., I was on that evening surprised by a party of Rohillas, and my two guns which were in their leather cases in the hands of the Chenchowars who accompanied me, were abandoned by them to the dacoits. My poney and other articles of less value also fell into the hands of the Rohillas, the poney has been killed and eaten by them, and the saddle cut to pieces.

The loss of my guns is most serious, as I cannot re-place them, and I am deprived of my chief means of defence in the most probable event of my house being attacked.

Under these circumstances, I venture to hope that you will bring my case under the notice of Government with a view to compensation for the loss of my guns, for which I paid the makers £ 50 and £ 30 respectively.

If the claim is allowed, I shall immediately write home for two new guns or rifles, which I ought not to be without, in a country subject to a periodical raids from the other side of the river. I have the honor to solicit that this question be forwarded to Government at your earliest convenience.

Lieutenant Grove has this day assumed the command of his troopers, and I return to the ghat, but in the event of the Rohillas being again heard of (as I anticipate) I shall be happy supposing no European officer accompanies it to take command of the Company of the 30th N. I., expected from Cuddapah, if such is your wish.

(Signed) F. NELSON,

(True Copy.)
(Signed) J. G. RUSSELL, Captain,
Officiating Agent to the Governor.

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, No. 873; dated 21th July 1857.

It appears, from this letter, that the band of Rohillas, whose irruption from the Hyderabad territories through Kurnool into Cuddapah has already been reported by the Magistrate of the District last mentioned, re-crossed the Kistnah on or about the 5th July Instant. The Rohillas would appear to have remained within these territories, lurking chiefly among the hills and jungles, about a month. It is seen from para. 10 of Captain Russell's letter that a fresh band of one hundred had been reported to the Taksildar of Chagalmurry as having been seen in the jungles of that Talook, but the statement has turned out to be false.

2. The outrages committed by the marauders at the village of Roodrar (Cuddapah) to which the Acting Agent adverts, have already been brought to the notice of Government by the Magistrate of Cuddapah. The additional measures taken by Captain Russell, in view to establish Para. 10. ing a guard at the ghauts of the river, are approved. He will report on the firing heard by his people on the Hyderabad side of the river, and which is at present surmised to have proceeded from an attack made on the Rohillas on their return by the Sirkar there.

3. The Acting Agent will inform Captain Nelson that the Government duly appreciate the alacrity with which he turned out in pursuit with his party from Siddapoor and Peddacherroo. In consideration of his zealous and meritorious conduct, they are pleased to sanction in his favour the disbursement of the sum of Rupees 800, the equivalent of the price paid by him in England for his two guns, which have fallen into the hands of the Rohillas, and in the meantime the Acting Agent will supply him with such arms as he may require for his defence.

4. The Commander in Chief, the Government observe, is now engaged in the organization of a Field Force. Some portions of the troops will move on Cuddapah; others on Bellary, and they will then be reunited in case of having to act in force.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Don't think of the loss of the

compensation to the

author.

Don't be in a hurry to

send the money

to me - but

General Prescott

is to organize a field

force at once - please

*The additional measures
Captain Russell, in view to establish.*

I think the troops are
 better equipped
 than in the past -
 they are better
 equipped in every way
 to act in peace
 and war.

I think Capt. Nelson
 is entitled to have
 his arms restored - all
 he asks - He has them
 in performing a very
 jealous & meritorious
 act of public duty.

3 - Official
 record book 94

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
 Acting Chief Secretary.

The additional measures
 Captain Pinfold, in view to establish.

...ing a Guard at the Ghats
...the River, are appointed.

He will report on the firing heard
by his people on the Hyderabad
side of the river, & who is at present

...to have proceeded from
...an attack made on the Pichhalla
...by the Sikhs here.

The Ag. Agent will inform Capt
...but he got duly apprised
of the alacrity with which he
...in pursuit with his

party from Siddhapoor and
Pichhalla. In consequence
of his zealous & meritorious con-

duct, they are pleased to sanction
in his favour the disbursement
of the sum of Rs 500, the amount

of the price paid by him
in England for his two guns,
which have fallen into the hands of the

Pichhalla, and in the mean-
time the Ag. Agent will supply
such arms as he may
require for his defence.

...in Chief, he got Mr.
...is now engaged in the organiza-
tion of a Field Force. Some portions

of the troops will move on Cuddalore,
...will be the
force.
D. S. L. 22/7/54.