

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1390	Press Mis.
17-18		
Dated	6. 10	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

124/1
17/12

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 12th October 1858.

No. 17. Read the following letter from Captain G. M. BRUCE, Commandant Andaman Sebundy Corps ; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 1st October 1858, No. 5.

SIR,

I have the honor to request you will be good enough to submit for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the following statement of my exertions to carry out the instructions contained in Minutes of Consultation of the 13th September 1858, No. 1250, having reference to the formation at Madras, of a Sebundy Company for service in the Andaman Islands.

2. I have much regret in stating that up to this period, my utmost efforts to procure Recruits have been fruitless, owing apparently to the very limited pay sanctioned by the Government of India. The class of individuals from which Recruits might be procured at the Presidency, is perfectly aware that Sepoys of the Pegu Police Battalion, who have to serve in a comparatively civilized country, receive Rupees 12 per mensem, and many privileges approximating to those enjoyed by Native Soldiers of the line ; and that men of the Madras Sapper Militia who are not required to leave their homes and families, are allowed a salary of Rupees 7 per mensem.

3. Bearing in mind the implied wish of Government that the men of the new Corps should take their families with them and eventually form in the settlement the nucleus of an agricultural population, I also tried to procure Recruits accustomed to labor in the fields, such as proceed as Coolies to the Mauritius, but even to them, the promised allotment of land was not a sufficiently powerful inducement, as men of that description can at any moment secure from the Agent for Emigration, a bounty of Rupees 20, and a box before leaving Madras, with a prospective salary of Rupees 5 per mensem, in a fertile country where all their wants are easily supplied.

4. Another great obstacle in my path, has been a want of definite instructions. No General Order having been published stating the terms on which the Corps is to be formed, and specially determining the *rates of pay*, and other advantages the men might expect to receive in return for their services, I have been unable to answer any of the numerous questions put to me by candidates for enlistment with reference to batta, rations, leave, wound pensions, &c.

5. Under the circumstances which I have related, I trust that the failure to obtain Recruits for the Andaman Sebundy Corps will not be attributed to any want of zeal on my part, and I respectfully request you will be good enough to furnish me with instructions as to the future course to be pursued.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 1390 ; dated 6th October 1858.

The subject of this letter will be brought to the notice of the Government of India, and their further orders solicited on the proposed formation of the "Andamans Sebundy Corps."

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 19. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort St. George, 6th October 1858, No. 1391.

SIR,

Referring to my letter No. 1160, dated 23rd August last, I am desired to report, for the information of the Supreme Government, that on the 13th September, Captain Bruce of the Infantry Volunteer Guards, late in the Adjutant General's Office and Staff Serjeant on the list of Effective Supernumeraries, was nominated by the Commander in Chief and approved by Government as the Commandant of the "Andaman Sebundies," with instructions to enlist the necessary complement of men with the usual proportion of Jemadars, Havildars and Naicks on the salaries named in your letter, viz., those assigned to the Sebundy Corps in *Ganjam*.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 12th October 1858.

2. The Commandant has now reported in a letter, copy of which is appended, that all his endeavours to procure Recruits have proved fruitless. The first and greatest obstacle to men coming forward is the small rate of pay. According to the *Ganjam* scale a 'Peon' or Private gets 4½ Rupees only, a Naigue Rupees 7, and the next rank Rupees 10. These rates, although sufficient in the case of men enlisted for service ordinarily within the limits of their own District and that one of the cheapest in the Presidency, are not found attractive enough in the present instance, the prospect of being allowed to settle and cultivate in the Island notwithstanding. Questions are also put respecting batta, rations, leave, wound pensions, &c., and as nothing has been laid down on these points by the Supreme Government, and the practice in the Ganjam Sibbundi Corps affords little means of solving them, the Commandant has been unable to furnish enquirers with any information; and Recruits are not forthcoming.

3. The Governor in Council has done his best to meet the wishes of the Government of India and much regrets this result, but it is not surprising. The Pegu Police Battalion was enlisted from this Presidency. The pay is Rupees 12 with many privileges similar to those enjoyed by Native Soldiers of the Line. If the Government of India would see fit to allow this Government discretionary authority to organise the proposed Corps somewhat on the same footing, but with allowance for the Andamans being a less tempting locale than Pegu, the Governor in Council trusts that the ranks would be quickly filled. As it is, he sees no prospect of such a result.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Lt. 2. Anne has had all the information
which we had to give him & I do
not see how a further order would
be of the matter. The rates of pay he has been
told. - Eme 23 August last - as
for batta the Ganjam Sibbundi only
draw it when serving out of their own
District or in the Rhond tract - and
then it is I think too small as a day
ration they have now - the leave
depends upon the Council and if
- first; the question of wound pensions

No. 1390.

No.
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The subject of his letter will
be brought to the notice of the Govt of India,
& their further orders solicited on the proposed
formation of the "Andaman & Nicobar Islands."

D. V. 24/10/58.

ordered that the following
letter be despatched.

Fort St. George }
6 October 1858. }
To the Comd of the Andamans }
Sub. fords } Supd. Wt.

JP
37-8
14-9-58
End 1334
28-9-58

C.P. Sep