

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 454	Press
53-54	<u>Mis</u>
Dated 9-4-1948	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th April 1858.

No. 53. Read the following letter from R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Fort William, the 9th March 1858, No. 410.

Home Dept.

SIR,

I am directed to forward for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of correspondence forwarded by endorsement* by the Government of Bengal, relative to the successful operations against the rebels at Annajoorra and Paklikole, in the Cuttack District, subsequent to the repulse of Captain Woodbridge's Detachment in which that Officer was killed.

From G. F. COCKBURN, Esq., Commissioner of Circuit, Cuttack Division; to A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William, dated Camp Sumbulpore, the 16th February 1858, No. 190.

SIR,

Judicial. In continuation of my letter, No. 183, dated the 14th Instant, I have the honor to annex copy of one No. 31, dated the 14th Instant, from Captain Wood, Commanding Detachment Nizamut Irregular Horse, furnishing a further report of operations undertaken subsequent to the defeat of Captain Woodbridge's Detachment.

2. It is satisfactory to learn that the rebels were driven from their positions at Annajoorra and Paklikole in which latter place Captain Woodbridge had been killed.

3. Also that the corpse of the deceased Officer was recovered. It arrived here last evening, and was interred with the usual Military honors this morning, the head however was wanting, and it will be observed that he is reported to have been shot dead, so that his Detachment are so far free from blame that they did not desert their Officer when only wounded.

4. Captain Wood recommends the two men of the Ramghur Light Infantry Battalion who were wounded in endeavouring to bring away the body of Captain Woodbridge on the day of the fight for promotion, which they certainly appear to merit, and for which, application will be submitted through the Commanding Officer.

5. Captain Leigh, the Senior Assistant Commissioner who had gone out to take charge of the repulsed Detachment, accompanied Captain Wood during the attack on the rebels and led one of the flanking parties.

6. Lieutenant Warlow, 5th M. N. I. and Mr. Volunteer Dyer were successful in recovering the bodies of the late Captain Woodbridge and two men killed.

7. Captain Wood speaks highly of Mr. Dyer's energetic and valuable assistance.

8. Captain Wood himself appears to have acted in a very vigorous and successful manner in these operations.

(Copy)

From Captain G. E. Wood, Commanding Dt. Niz. Irregular Cavalry; to G. F. COCKBURN, Esq., Commissioner of Cuttack, Sumbulpore, dated Camp Pahur Sirgada, the 14th February 1858, No. 31.

SIR,

With reference to my letter, No. 30 of yesterday's date, I have the honor to inform you, that I arrived here yesterday evening about 5 o'clock. Lieutenant Warlow with his Detachment came in about an hour later. The road by Lamipali did not, as I expected, lead to the rear of the enemy, but came down to Amjer, through which place I had passed, the enemy could not, therefore, be that evening attacked, but this morning I made arrangements for a simultaneous attack on the rebels posted at Annajoorra and Paklikole, and before evening the enemy was driven from both positions.

Annajoorra is a gorge running into the hills about a mile north of Jala, distant from this five miles.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th April 1858.

Paklikole, another gorge, where Captain Woodbridge was killed, is three miles from this round a spur of the hills called after this village of Pahur Sirgada. It runs up from East to West in the direction of the hills above Annajoor, the two places are distant from each other about four miles across the hills.

2. The late Captain Woodbridge's Detachment had after its defeat at Paklikole retreated as far as Tope close to Atabeera. Immediately I heard of it, I sent orders for some of my Sowars whom I had left at Burgur to move on Atabeera, and for the panic-struck Detachment to come and join me here. It came in this morning accompanied by Captain Leigh.

In the course of the morning the disgrace which they had brought upon themselves in leaving the body of their Officer in the hands of the enemy, was pointed out to them, and finally they were told that to-day they should have an opportunity of retrieving their error. The men were very much crest-fallen, and there is now no doubt that it was entirely the fault of the late Captain Woodbridge that led to his own, and the death of a Naik and Sepoy of the 40th M. N. I. Instead of out-flanking and taking the Moorecha in reverse, Captain Woodbridge went straight up to it along a narrow road, and thus fell into an ambushade. Two Sepoys of the 40th M. N. I. were wounded, also two of the Ramghurries, the latter in endeavouring to bring off the body of Captain Woodbridge. I beg therefore to recommend them for promotion, one of them in particular, I twice noticed as always to the front when attacking the rebels.

3. I divided the late Captain Woodbridge's Detachment equally, sending half with Lieutenant Warlow and Mr. Dyer, and taking half of them myself. Lieutenant Warlow had also with him all the men of his Corps out here, and the Paiks numbers as per margin, and I sent him against Paklikole, while 20 dismounted Sowars and 18 Paiks, I proceeded against Annajoor. Both attacks were completely successful, the rebels retreating rapidly up the sides and over the hills, as soon as they found themselves out-flanked.

Captain Leigh accompanied me and led one of my flanking parties.

Lieutenant Warlow and Mr. Dyer recovered the bodies of Captain Woodbridge and the Naik and Sepoy. Mr. Dyer, a most energetic and valuable Assistant in the description of work now in hand, joined me in the course of the evening after my return there with his party of Seebundeas and Ramghurries, by crossing over the hills.

4. I have ordered Lieutenant Warlow and Mr. Dyer with a party to proceed to-morrow morning over the hills to the Barra Khud to try and beat up the enemy again, I shall myself proceed to Sirdapali, leaving a detachment of Sowars and Infantry here, and between this and Sirdapali to prevent the rebels coming for provisions into the plains. They are now much distressed for want of them.

5. It is satisfactory to find that Captain Woodbridge was shot dead through the head, the account which I sent you yesterday is therefore, I am glad to say, so far incorrect.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal; to G. F. COCKBURN, Esq., Commissioner of Cuttack, dated Fort William, the 27th February 1858, No. 808.

Judicial.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 190, dated the 16th Instant, with its enclosure, reporting that subsequent to the repulse of Captain Woodbridge's Detachment, the rebels were attacked and driven from their positions at Annajoor and Paklikole, in which latter place Captain Woodbridge had been killed, and that the body of the deceased Officer was recovered and interred with the usual Military honors.

2. The receipt of this intelligence has afforded much satisfaction to the Lieutenant Governor, and I am desired to request that you will be so good as to convey to Captain Leigh, the Senior Assistant Commissioner, Captain Wood, Commanding Detachment of the Nizamut Irregular Horse, Lieutenant Warlow and Mr. Dyer, the expression of His Honor's appreciation of the service rendered by them on the occasion.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th April 1858.

No. 632.

Forwarded for the information of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

Fort William,
The 27th February 1858. }

(Signed) A. R. YOUNG,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) R. B. CHAPMAN,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 54.

ORDER THEREON, No. 454; dated 9th April 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Govt.

2 cons: 9th April.
Judicial. 1858. Sept

From the Under Secy to
the Govt of India.

29th
2/29 March/58.

No. 534.
Kuala
2 spare
copies.

Advances for the information
of this Govt Copy of Corres-
pondence forwarded
by endorsement by the
Govt of Bengal, relation
to the successful opera-
tions against the rebels
at Annamora and Pakke
Kole, in the Jubbulpore
District.

No. 454

To be Received

9th April/58
W. H. B. R.

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128.

No. 410.

FROM

R. B. CHAPMAN, Esquire,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India,

TO

T. PYCROFT, Esquire,
Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Fort Saint George.
Dated the 9th March 1858.

SIR,
I AM directed to forward for the information of the Right Hon'ble
the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of correspondence forwarded by
* No. 632, dated the 27th February 1858.
to the successful operations against the rebels at Anna-
joora and Paklikole, in the Cuttack District, subsequent to the repulse of Captain
Woodbridge's Detachment in which that Officer was killed.

I have the honor to be,

FORT WILLIAM,
The 9th March 1858. }

SIR,
Your most obedient Servant,