

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 463

Press

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Dated

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 13th April 1858.

No. 1. Read the following letter from H. L. ANDERSON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay; to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, Madras, dated Bombay Castle, the 30th March 1858, No. 1127.

Secret Department.

SIR,

Referring to my telegraphic message to your address, dated the 13th Instant, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor of Fort Saint George in Council, copy of a letter from Captain Schneider, on special duty on the Goa frontier, dated the 13th Instant, reporting his proceedings towards the Sawunt Dessaees, together with transcript of my reply of this date.

2. I am further desired to enclose, for the same purpose, copy of a telegraphic message received from the General Officer Commanding the Southern Division of the Army, and to state that this Government concurs in the views therein expressed.

From Captain F. SCHNEIDER, 2nd in Command, S. W. L. C., on special duty, Goa Frontier; to H. L. ANDERSON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Camp Anmoora Chowkee, Tinai Ghât, North Canara, 13th March 1858.

Political Department.

SIR,

I do myself the honor, in pursuance of the instructions contained in a Resolution by Government, dated 22nd Ultimo, a copy of which has been furnished to me by the Magistrate of Belgaum, to submit a report of my proceedings since the Right Honorable the Governor in Council was pleased to appoint me to superintend the operations, having in view the suppression of the out-break headed by the sons of the late Phond Sawunt.

2. I received the telegraphic message directing me to assume charge of these operations at 8½ P. M., on the 10th Ultimo, and leaving Belgaum on the morning of the 12th, reached Sawunt Warree the same evening and having on the following morning resumed charge of the local Corps and received instructions, on all points which occurred to me, from Major Auld, I proceeded at once to the village of Aee on the frontier and made such a disposition of the men of the local Corps as were at my disposal as appeared to me would be best adapted to secure the Warree border from all incursions, should the Dessai gang attempt to move northwards. I also as soon as possible dispatched a number of emissaries into the Goa country to supply me with the earliest information of the movements of the enemy.

3. On the morning of the 16th, the Light Company of the 18th N. I., under Lieutenant Tanner, arrived at "Aee" for duty under me.

4. The following day at about 2 P. M., I received an express from Mr. Seton Karr, requesting me to join him with the least possible delay with 100 men of the local Corps to take part in the attack which it had been arranged should be made on the 25th on the position of the gang, and accordingly I left the same evening with 100 of the Warree locals and some 45 of the 18th N. I., with both the European Officers of the Company, for I was aware of the value the latter would be in such work as that before us and made a forced march to Tulleewarree where I arrived before day light on the morning of the 19th, and learnt that Mr. Seton Karr was expected in the evening, so I halted my Detachment pending his arrival.

5. I shall not recount the various occurrences between my arrival at Tulleewarree and the completion of the scouring of the Dursing hill, as I am aware that they have already been made known to Government. Indeed as Mr. Seton Karr was up to the time of the forces descending from the hill on the spot and the attack on the hill was a purely Military operation entrusted by

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the General Officer of the Division to Colonel Maclean, I cannot be said to have had any thing to do with the work in hand beyond giving my opinion whenever asked for.

6. On Mr. Seton Karr's departure my functions commenced, and the first thing I did was to request Colonel Maclean to organize a series of out-posts along that portion of the line of Ghauts which had been made by the gang the scene of their aggressions. This has since been done and the following are the positions which have been occupied, commencing from the south.

Paldeh.—This is a village in the North Canara District, situated at the foot of the Dursing hill, and from its locality a very necessary out-post, both for the prevention of the return of any of the gang to the hill and as a check on the neighbourhood and also as a link of connection with the Madras Troops by whom the post will be taken whenever they may be in sufficient strength as it belongs to them.

Doodwal.—This is a custom's station east of the Paldeh post, and is occupied from its being on the high road to the interior, and, in every way, under present circumstances, a valuable position for a post.

From this post another small one is furnished for the village of Wurkhur, which is one of the few of which the inhabitants have not made off, and it is of great importance to keep it inhabited, especially as there is reason to suppose, that some of the Villagers assisted the Bund prior to arrival of the Troops in this neighbourhood.

Hernergah.—This is another custom's station about 9 miles N. E. of Paldeh and it has been made the depôt for provisions, &c. for the Troops, it being the most central post and on the road from Belgaum to the scene of our operations.

Tulleewarree.—This is a very important post, being at the head of the Khel Ghaut. Here there is a custom's station which yields a considerable revenue, and there is a tower for the protection of the treasure which is generally garrisoned by some of the Belgaum Police.

Krishnapoor.—A small village of the foot, or nearly so, of the Khel Ghaut. This post has been established as a check on the gang should they attempt to move northwards and for the protection of the Ghaut, which has on several times, since this out-break commenced, been the scene of plunder. The last occasion being on the 24th Ultimo, when a small party of the 18th Native Infantry and Sawunt Warree local Corps coming up with some of the baggage belonging to myself and men and that of the Detachment of the 18th, both Officers and men, was attacked; the Naique of 18th killed, a Sepoy of the same Corps wounded, and all the property plundered, including, I much regret to say, two double barrelled Guns and Rifles, the property of the Officers of the 18th Detachment. This is a public as well a private misfortune.

7. With these out-posts, in recommending the establishment of which I was in a great measure guided by the advice of Mr. Souter, who is intimately acquainted with this portion of the country, I believe the Belgaum frontier to be perfectly secure from inroads and what is very important is, that the gang are now unable to obtain supplies from our neighbourhood, but the same restrictions are not yet in force on our south and west, and this is probably the principal reason for the gang having moved southward, after being obliged to evacuate the Dursing hill.

8. After the attack on the latter place, Mr. Robinson the Joint Magistrate of Canara, occupied with the Troops at his disposal, consisting of some 35 Sepoys of the 16th Madras Native Infantry under a European Officer, and 100 Dharwar disciplined Police under Lieutenant Thomas, their Superintendent, three small posts,* one at the "Mooria c'he met," the head of a path leading to the Goa country known as the Birgui road, one at a temple called Somling, two miles on the road from thence to the Anmoora Chowkee, (Tinai Ghaut), and his Head Quarters he established at the latter place.

9. For some days after the gang had left the Dursing, no information whatever could be obtained of their whereabouts, and there seemed but little chance of getting any, when, on the 1st Instant, I was informed that there had been some heavy firing in the direction of Mr. Robinson's posts, thus showing that there was some truth in the various rumours afloat, that the Dessais were in the jungle a little south of Tinai.

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10. Immediately on receiving the above report, I proceeded, accompanied by Mr. Souter, Superintendent of Police, to Tinai with our united Detachments,* with the double view of re-inforcing Mr. Robinson, whom we knew to be rather weak in Sepoys, and in the hope of obtaining such further information as would enable us to find out the position of the rebels in which latter object, however, we were disappointed.

11. On our arrival at Anmoora we found that on the two previous days the Head Quarter post and that nearest to it at the Somling Temple had been fired into, and that in the latter affair the Jemadar Commanding the Detachment of Dharwar Police had succeeded in shooting the leader of the party, since reported to be the son of one of Hunmunt Sawunt's female servants, but this is by no means certain.

12. The same difficulties exist in the Canara District as in our own in the way of obtaining information. The villages are all deserted, the ryots having descended into the Goa country and not a man can be found to go out for information for any consideration. The Joint Magistrate cannot even without strong Military escorts get his post conveyed; for two of his Peons were some days since waylaid and murdered, their bodies being brought into Tinai.

13. As another proof of the southward movement of the rebels, the village of Jugglepett, which is eighteen miles east by south of Tinai, was visited by some of them, at least it is presumed that it was portion of the same gang and after warning the Villagers to leave, burnt a small house belonging to the Joint Magistrate and the Cutcherree. A Government Sepoy was also shot on this occasion.

14. Again Mr. Robinson's post escort was yesterday and the day before fired into on the road to Jugglepett, all these are signs of the near vicinity of the Bund to that part of the country and I fully concur with Mr. Robinson in thinking that they have taken up their residence in some strong jungle between the Coessee and Diggi Ghauts, a country well known to the chiefs, for it is in the close vicinity of the village of Sonalee where with the concurrence of the Portuguese Government they have for some years past resided, and have doubtless lost no opportunity of making themselves thoroughly acquainted with the roads and passes in it.

15. The line of country above indicated being in Mr. Robinson's District, we must naturally look to him and his establishment for information, although I shall use my best endeavours, with Mr. Souter's valuable aid, to obtain it from independent sources, but I much fear that there will be great difficulties in the way, such is the terror the Bund has instilled by the murder of the Tappal Peons, of whom up to this date seven are missing.

16. On my first meeting Mr. Robinson, I pointed out to him the urgent necessity for a strong line of posts through his Districts, and that it being impossible that the Belgaum field force could supply them, he must consequently urge his own superiors to forward Troops for the purpose. On this opinion and that of other Officers Mr. Robinson telegraphed to Bellary for 180 men, in addition to the 100 he had previously applied from Hurryhur as sufficient for his purpose. But even this increase is not I am of opinion, sufficient, for after their arrival, he will still require to retain in his District a number of our Regular Sepoys, whose services we can but ill spare from our own border.

17. I conceive that 500 Sepoys is the least number that will suffice for the protection of the disturbed portion of North Canara, and I am induced to hope, that when the Madras Government see that this is a more serious affair than they had at first judged, that they will support Mr. Robinson to the extent named, as the minimum. I would here beg to remark, that these are all the men that the Joint Magistrate will have for every purpose, as he has no Irregular Troops, the Police of the District being mere Peons.

18. For some days past, the Head Quarters of the Beedee field force have been at Tulleewarree, but as the gang is without doubt much to the south of Tinai, it has been considered necessary to move here with all the available Native Troops and from hence in the course of to-morrow or the next day, it is intended to march down towards the Koessee Ghaut, where I am led to believe, we may obtain better information as the villages south of that road are still occupied, and the traffic on the Diggi Ghaut is uninterrupted.

19. The number of Native Troops now employed in the present operations, are no more than sufficient for the purpose, but I am informed, that it is the intention of the General Com-

* Sawunt Warree Local Corps, Belgaum Police, and 20 of 18th N. I., under Lieut. Jones.

* West and South of Paldeh.

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manding the Division, to recommend the withdrawal of a considerable portion of them, leaving only four Companies of a Native Regiment. This I humbly submit will not be enough even to occupy the posts which have now been established, and more of these may yet be necessary, I would therefore respectfully suggest, that the force be allowed for the present to remain unreduced by a single man, as far as the Native portion of it is concerned, while I am of opinion, that the Europeans may be withdrawn whenever the Madras Troops are able to take the posts now held for them as a temporary measure.

20. I am unable at the present moment to furnish the exact numbers of the Regular or Irregular Troops employed, but I shall endeavour to do so in my next report from Kooessee, in the course of a couple of days or so.

21. I avail myself of this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the total inadequacy of the arrangements of the Portuguese Government, in aid of our operations. This, I am able to report, after personally visiting that portion of the Goa country from the foot of the Khel Ghaut, to Timberi below Tinai.

22. Instead of finding as I had expected, considering all the promises made of zealous co-operation, a line of strong posts with a view to stopping supplies to the gang and to aid us, by obtaining and furnishing information, I found that there were only three posts, viz.; one at the foot of the Khel Ghaut, of 1 Subaltern and 30 men; a second, of a Naigue and 12 at the foot of a path leading down to Timberi; and a Subaltern and 30 at the foot of Tinai Ghaut; altogether 70 men and two Officers, for the occupation of a line certainly not less than 25 miles of the most jungly and inaccessible country I ever saw.

23. After the Portuguese Troops returned from Dursing, it appears they descended to their country, and, leaving these posts, retired to their respective Head Quarters; stations from whence if we required their services, it would take several days to recall them. In addition to the posts above named, I was informed that there were Patrols once or twice a week along the line, consisting of an Officer and from 40 to 50 men each.

24. This is certainly far short of the amount of assistance which the Portuguese should give, and I respectfully recommend that His Excellency the Governor General be strongly addressed on the subject. It will be evident, that unless we receive full and zealous co-operation from below, that all we may do above will be labor lost. The rebels on being pressed from this side would only require to descend into the country below where, in the total absence of the necessary number of posts, they would be able to hide themselves for weeks and months, in some of the dense jungles about.

25. In explanation of my visit to the low country, I have to state, that I was anxious to find out some of our most influential Villagers who have taken refuge there since this out-break, their services being required for guides, &c., and to induce them to return of their own accord, or if they would not do so, to obtain the sanction of the Portuguese local authorities, to bring them up.

26. This was my principal and ostensible object, but I had another and that was, to enable me personally to see what number of Troops the Portuguese had employed to help us, and the manner in which they were disposed. I deemed it necessary to do this, as I had from time to time, heard very disagreeable reports of the luke-warmness of the Goa authorities, but I should not have liked to mention this to Government on hearsay alone.

27. During the tour alluded to, I managed to secure some of the parties in search of whom I went, but was not permitted to bring them away without the previous sanction of superior authority. On this subject as the said Villagers belong to the Canara Zillah. Mr. Robinson has addressed His Excellency the Governor General, asking that, not only may these people be sent up for service, but that the local authorities may be directed to forward without delay any other parties that may be pointed out to them.

28. I wait the answer to this requisition, before saying more on the subject. If it is favorable, we shall be in a better position to obtain information; if the answer is a refusal, then it will be necessary to refer the matter to Government, for it is of the utmost importance that we should be able to get our principal Villagers for any special purpose, and if they see that they are not free from molestation (below) they will possibly be more inclined to return to their own homes.

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If I might suggest it, I would recommend that His Excellency the Governor General be applied to, to nominate an intelligent Officer to remain with this force, and through whom any communication might be made with the Goa authorities. This would save much delay and would perhaps tend to produce more activity below.

29. I should be glad to receive instructions, whether I am with the Irregular force at my disposal and such Regular Troops as may be available, to continue, to follow the rebels, however far south they may proceed, or, if after the arrival of Madras forces, I am to retire within the Belgaum limits; of course co-operating with the Madras authorities whenever called on, to such a distance as may be within reach by a forced march or two. Colonel Maclean, Commanding the Beedee field force has, I believe, also made a reference on this subject.

30. I have asked for these instructions in the event of the rebels taking a route far south; but the general opinion is and I concur, that they will not go further than the Diggi Ghaut, beyond which place they have no friends, and their influence ceases.

31. Although I have not hitherto communicated my proceedings direct to Government, not having been authorized to do so, until the receipt of the Resolution acknowledged in para. 1, I have been in constant correspondence with Colonel LeGrand Jacob, and Major Auld, whom I kept acquainted with all that was passing.

32. As I before mentioned I shall report further, from the neighbourhood of Kooessee.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

From H. L. ANDERSON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay; to Capt. F. SCHNEIDER,
on special duty on the Goa Frontier, dated Bombay Castle, the 30th March 1858,
No. 1125.

Secret Department.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 13th Instant, reporting the proceedings adopted by you, since the date of your appointment to conduct the operations against the Sawunt Dessaees.

2. In reply, I am desired to inform you, that His Lordship in Council approves of the proceedings which exhibit activity and judgment; and that he will await your further report on the subject.

3. Major General Lester has been furnished with a copy of your letter, and, with reference to the 19th para., has been informed that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council does not wish the force of Regular Infantry concerned in the operations to be reduced, but that the Europeans may be withdrawn immediately on the arrival of the Madras re-inforcements.

4. With reference to the inefficient co-operation on the part of the Portuguese authorities, this Government will address a letter to His Excellency the Governor General of Portuguese India, pointing out in forcible but friendly language, the necessity of their affording more efficient assistance. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is under the impression, that a body of the Sunnud Kurree Sepoys of the Pedna Division would be a very serviceable re-inforcement to the Portuguese Regulars, and he will apply to His Excellency for a Detachment of them.

5. In respect to your question as to whether, on the arrival of the Madras re-inforcements, you should continue to operate against the rebels, who have evidently concealed themselves in the southern jungles, or whether you should fall back on the Bombay frontier, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council thinks, that you should be guided by your own discretion, and the opinion of Mr. Robinson, the Joint Magistrate of Canara, who may probably find the Irregular Troops with you of such great service in this particular kind of warfare, that he may be reluctant to part with them.

6. Major General Lester has been further informed, that the Troops, both Regular and Irregular, of the two Presidencies should be considered as one body, and that no portion of the

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Force should be withdrawn, without the full consent of the authorities of Canara, before the rebellion is crushed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

From Belgaum, Saturday, 27th March, 12-30 P. M.

From Major General LESTER.

To Bombay.

To Lord ELPHINSTONE.

Madras authorities have sent European Artillery, Cavalry, to the Kanara and Soopa Districts, Troops which are unsuited to the strong country and jungle. Fight going on there. Native Infantry to occupy posts and to aid the Police, and Irregular Troops is urgently required; and if the Madras Government can send three Companies to the stations of Paldatinai and Koessee in Kanara, we may then withdraw our three Companies of the eighteenth Regiment, which are urgently required at Belgaum. After this withdrawal, we shall still have six Companies Bombay N. I., in our own Districts of Beedee, and which will be required to remain there until the end of June at least. Besides other three Companies at Diebetsee and Ramghat and the Wing at Kulludgee and two Companies at Vingorla. Even with the retention of the twentieth Regiment at this station. Our Sepoys have not three nights in bed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, No. 463; dated 10th April 1858.

Ordered, that a copy of the foregoing papers be furnished to the Military Department for communication to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

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

Jud. Lr to Engd No. 9 4
Para 30-6-58
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Pol Replied No 1
27/10/58

No 463.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing papers be furnished to the Military Department for communication to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Fort St. George,
10 April, 1858.

Copy to Military Dept. Dated 17th