

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	766	Press
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	17-18	
Dated	10-6-1958	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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766

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th June 1858.

No. 17 Read the following letter from C. PELLY, Esq., Magistrate of Bellary; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ramendroog, 3rd June 1858, No. 31.

SIR,

In my letter of 26th Ultimo, I had the honor to report the insurrection of Bheemrow of Moondarghy in the Darwar district, and since then I have frequently sent intelligence by Telegrams of the progress of the rebels, and yesterday, I reported by Telegram also their defeat at the Fort of Copul, which intelligence I received through my Police, and this morning, Major General Macleod forwarded a Telegram to the Commander-in-Chief reporting more fully the success of the Bellary force under Major Hughes, 47th N. I., against the rebels at Copul; and at my request a copy of that Telegram will have been sent also to you for the information of Government.

2. Bheemrow, it seems after killing 2 men who had given information of concealed Arms at Hummagee and committing some other acts of violence, attacked the Police station at Damul, and then proceeded with about 300 followers, I fancy, by the Bahadur Banda Fort, south of Copul, to the Comara Ramanah Coometah, a strong old Fort (I understand) in the hills about 6 miles north of the river Toombudra, opposite Hospett. There he commenced to collect provisions, and it is supposed intended to have made this his head quarters and gathered round him a larger body of men, and all discontented persons who might be willing to join him.

3. Copul is in the Assigned Districts of Raichoor, and is a strong Fort with a Citadel and guns. The Amildar had however made it secure and he succeeded in getting possession of Bheemrow's two wives and children while on their way to join him in the hills, but he himself soon after left the Copul Fort in pursuit of Bheemrow. Bheemrow finding this, on Sunday morning suddenly surprized the Copul Fort and got possession of it, aided, it is said, by treachery.

4. The Bellary Force arrived at Hospett 40 miles distant from Bellary by a forced march on Saturday morning and during the day; and part was crossed over the river on Sunday night, and Major Hughes arrived before Copul with this portion by day-light of Monday the 31st. On Tuesday, being joined by the force from Lingasoogoor, he summoned Bheemrow to surrender, and after giving him 3 hours to consider, opened fire, made a breach and was about to storm, when information was conveyed to him that the rebels were escaping to the Citadel, and the gate of the Fort was opened by the inhabitants and our Troops entered, and a hard fight ensued with the rebels, about 100 of the rebels were killed; and among them the two leaders, Bheemrow, and the Deshayee Kenchanagowd of Hammajee. The rest secured themselves for a time by closing a gate that led to the Citadel; but while powder bags were being brought up to blow in the gate, they all surrendered and were taken prisoners yesterday. The arrangements of Major Hughes to prevent the escape of the enemy were very good, and complete success has attended his operations, and I cannot but express my great satisfaction at the happy and speedy result of his well managed attack.

5. It was with considerable inconvenience the Troops could be spared from Bellary; but feeling the necessity of instant action in an outbreak of this kind, I urged on the Major General Commanding the Division the propriety of sending out with the greatest despatch what could be spared, and expressed my opinion that there could be no objection in sending them beyond the frontier to attack the rebels, in which opinion the General fully coincided, and I trust that the rebellion will have received a very serious check by the swift destruction that has come upon Bheemrow and his force. For it must not be forgotten that Bheemrow is not alone. But simultaneously with his rising the Noorgoond Zemindar in the Darwar district also rose, and I have received intelligence of a successful skirmish with the British Troops sent against that chief, and it is probable that others were on the eve of rising.

6. The Bellary district has happily been preserved against an incursion of the rebels. The river being down, no doubt, prevented Bheemrow crossing and committing depredations at Humpasagur and Hoovinhudgaly at least. He would in all probability have vented his rage on Ramrow the Tahsildar of Hoovinhudgaly, who some months ago reported to me his suspicions that Bheemrow was collecting ammunition for no good purposes. The river has since become fordable, but, providentially for us, not before the Troops from Bellary were in the field.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th June 1858.

7. The loss on our side in the assault on Copul was it appears only seven Europeans, and one native wounded.

8. I would desire to bring to the notice of Government the admirable manner in which Major Hughes has managed this business; he has been the means of saving the Bellary district from an attack which was but too imminent.

9. I have received by Telegraph this day the orders of Government conferring upon me the powers of a Commissioner under Act 14 of 1857, which I shall accordingly act upon should it be necessary.

10. The Darwar Magistrate has reported to me by Telegram the unsettled state of the southern part of his District and has expressed a desire for the Bellary force to be moved on. I have made known his wishes to Major General Macleod, and Major Hughes' force will for the present remain in this part of the country to afford aid if necessary. But it will not be unknown to the Government that the Military Force at Bellary is very small and inadequate; and it is therefore desirable that it should not be weakened further, but should be reinforced to meet emergencies that may yet arise on the frontier. The force under Major Hughes consisted of

- 1 Company 74th Highlanders.
- 2 do. 47th N. I.
- 1 Squadron 5th L. C.
- 2 Guns.

and a large body of the Mysore Irregular Horse. It was joined by the force from Lingasoooor, the strength I do not know.

11. It does not appear that any Military or Police force from the Darwar country pursued the rebels after they left Dambalum, their services seems to have been transferred to Noorgoond.

12. In consequence of the apparently quiet and settled state of the country, the extra border Police force was almost dispensed with. But it will be now put on its full complement, and I purpose of concentrating it in a body, which with the aid of about 30 of the Kurnool Horse, will be of some use to meet small bodies of rebels or marauders from Darwar. As it is in contemplation to immediately establish the new Police force, I would beg leave to suggest that the Officers intended for this purpose should be sent soon to Bellary to organize a force.

13. The Military force sent out from Bellary could not start, I understand, so soon as was wished, in consequence of a want of carriage, seeing the great importance of rapid movements in sudden and unexpected emergencies of the kind now reported, I would respectfully suggest that a force, however small, should be kept completely equipped and ready to march at a moment's notice. It was at one time reported (though it proved a mistake) that Bheemrow had crossed the river and was on his way to attack the Ramandroog. The Troops were then supposed to be half way on their march to Hospett and an express was sent to meet them and turn them towards the Droog. But it was afterwards ascertained that they had not left Bellary, having been detained for want of carriage. Had the report proved correct, the station of Ramandroog would very possibly have been disastrously lost.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 766; dated 10th June 1858.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council highly approves the prompt and energetic measures taken by the Magistrate of Bellary as reported in the above letter, for securing the peace of his district and towards the suppression of the disturbances excited by Bheema Row and his followers.

2. Ordered that his letter be communicated to the Military Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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J.P.

For Secy to Govt
 10 June 1858-3

Mag of Bellary }
 Military Dept }

Despatched 10th June

Secy
Magistrate

G. B. ...

Entered in 1858

Induced to enter to Eng^d
1st Sept 1858

Rep'd in 1859
1858

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