

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	983	Press
	1-2	~~Mis.~~
Dated	21-7	19-10-58

Not to be folded or roughly handled

msp

No. 1. Read the following letter from T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor in Ganjam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 16th June 1858, No. 188.

SIR,

1st. I venture to bring to the notice of Government the necessity of the law being declared to which the armed bodies called Sebundy Corps are amenable.

2nd. Their arms and discipline and community of interests require that the Sebundies should be deemed Military men for whom for sound and established reasons every State provides special rules unnecessary for individual Civilians, but required to maintain discipline in and secure obedience from armed bodies.

3rd. This matter came under my notice at Masulipatam when the Commanding Officer asked what was the punishment of desertion and sundry offences, to which I could give no answer, but it has lately been forced on my attention by an affair which lately occurred at Russellcondah.

4th. The circumstances are as follows. For some imaginary offence given, it is said, by some person belonging to the 43rd Regiment M. N. I., 200 Sebundies went down in a body to the lines of that Regiment, were very violent in their behaviour, and, I believe, not by any means respectful to the Adjutant of that Regiment, who went down with a guard to quell the disturbance.

5th. However, there was no doubt some enquiry made, but no one was discovered, the Serjeant Major and Native Officers of the Sebundies could name none of the offenders, and the only punishment awarded was, extra drills for a month to the whole Corps and a prohibition against entering the 43rd Regiment lines.

6th. I confess, I think, that to Civilians who in a mob had created a disturbance and treated with want of respect an European Officer on duty, a heavier punishment would have been awarded, and if the Sepoys of the 43rd Regiment had acted thus, their punishment would have been very severe.

7th. I believe, this matter has quite passed over and is forgotten by both parties concerned, but I submit for the consideration of Government the necessity and prudence of furnishing Commanding Officers with defined and positive powers and punish offences committed by members of these half-military bodies; at present, dismissal and fine and extra drill are awardable for offences, but I conceive power to imprison and flog should be given Commanding Officers.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 983; dated 21st July 1858.

In the above letter, the Acting Agent in Ganjam brings to the notice of Government, the necessity of the law being declared to which the armed bodies called Sibundi Corps are amenable.

2. The Governor in Council observes that the question apparently meant to be included in the above reference, viz., the preparation of a Code of rules for the regulation of the civil armed Police Corps of this Presidency, will properly come under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner of Police, when he has under his deliberation the manner in which these bodies are to be dealt with in connection with the General Police of the Presidency on its revised footing.

3. Meanwhile Mr. T. J. Knox will be informed that, the Sebundies in his District, both those in Purlah Kimeddy and those in Goomsoor, are like other Natives amenable to the ordinary regulations and can be punished for assault, affrays, and other offences by the Commanding Officers in the capacity of Assistant Magistrate. Why this was not done in the matter of the riot at Russelcondah, the Government do not understand?

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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Judicial Department

N^o 983

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated the 21st July 1858.

Read the following
letter from the Actg Agent to
the Governor of Fort St George
at Ganjam.

[Here enter 16th June 58 N^o 188]

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Govt. do not understand -

are they all sent
to the gaol?

Yes

explained

Copy to Agent at Gungah

Sept 7 23

PTO: L JP

Exhibit Court of July
Judicial 1833 Departs

21.9.03

Exhibit Court of 1833

21.9.03

142.