M.R. O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1265	Press ~~Mis~~
16-20	
Dated 15-9-~~1918~~ 37	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, from 17th to 23rd September 1859.

Read the following papers.

No. 16. Read Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, dated 12th September 1859, No. 3253.

Forward copies of correspondence concerning the affray at Arcot, which led to loss of life, with a view to their being communicated for the opinion of the Government Law Officers, being taken on the case, if necessary. } (Vide Proceedings, Military Department, from 10th to 16th September 1859, Nos. 17 and 18.)

No. 17. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 9th September 1859.

1. It has just been reported to me by the Police Ameen of Raneepet, that a collision took place yesterday afternoon, between some of the European Soldiers encamped in that neighbourhood and the towns-people, when 2 of these latter were killed and 2 or 3 others gravely injured.

The riot is attributed to the towns-people having refused to supply the Soldiers with liquor.

2. The Police Ameen reports that much excitement prevails, and that many had fled from the place.

3. From what I can make out from the Police Ameen's report, every exertion was made by the Local Officers, European and Native, to quell the disturbance and coerce the assailants.

4. The disturbance was reported direct to Mr. Grenfell in whose charge Raneepet is, but I have not yet heard what further steps have been taken in the matter.

5. I propose starting for Raneepet in a couple of hours, and on arrival shall make every enquiry into the matter, and report the results to Government.

No. 18. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of North Arcot; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ranipettah, 10th September 1859.

1. As reported in my letter of yesterday's date, I left Chittoor in the evening for Arcot; on arrival, I found Mr. Grenfell the Acting Joint Magistrate, had preceded me.

2. At day-break, we commenced a verbal inquiry into the particulars of the late deplorable affray at this station. The versions of the affair, as given by the several Natives examined, vary considerably in detail, but the general impression left on the mind, so far as the inquiry has gone, is, that some straggling parties of Soldiers had insulted some Mussulmen women, which was resented by their relations, and a collision ensued, which ended in the death of three Natives, and serious injury to two others.

3. Major Raikes the Commandant of the Station, as I found in communication with that Officer, under special orders from the Commander-in-Chief, had declined to detain any of the men of the Detachment, and had made arrangements for all to proceed by the special train to Madras.

4. It has been ascertained from the Officer Commanding, that 63 men were absent from Camp at the time the affray took place.

5. Major Raikes and the Officers in charge of the Detachment being doubtful of the temper of the men, and there being no local means of coercion in the event of insubordination, at our command, it appeared hazardous to attempt to detain any of the men alluded to in paragraph 4.

6. At my request, however, the Detachment was paraded at 10 A. M. this morning in Camp, when only four men were identified by the individuals who were present during the affray; their names are as follows:—

Connell...	No. 3230—No. 5 Company.
Brooks	No. 3520—No. 9 Company.
Thos. Robinson	No. 3668—No. 9 Company.
Walsh	No. 3082—No. 9 Company.

7. There is reason to believe, that further information may be obtained from Lieutenant Beddek, Adjutant of the Depôt (at present on the sick list) who on hearing of the disturbance furnished the fatigue party, which proceeded to the bazaar for the restoration of order.

8. Further details will be submitted direct by the Acting Joint Magistrate (in whose charge this station is) with as little delay as possible.

9. Finally, I beg to submit, that in future, European Detachments marching through this District should not be halted for any longer time than is *absolutely* necessary to recruit the men from the fatigues of the journey. Nor should they be encamped so near as in the present instance they have been to the town; which was in this case particularly unfortunate, inasmuch as the Regiment having been at this station formerly, were perfectly acquainted with all the localities.

No. 19. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT, dated 11th September 1859.

As the 63 men absent from Camp were paraded before "the individuals who were present during the affray," and only four were identified, there does not appear to be any reason for detaining more than those four.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief should be requested to order the four men, Connell, Brooks, Robinson and Walsh, to be delivered over to the Commissioner of Police, to be sent to Arcot for examination, and the witnesses may be sent back to Arcot.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 20. ORDER THEREON, 19th September 1859, No. 1265.

Resolved that the above letters be recorded. It is observed, that six discharged Soldiers of the Madras Fusiliers accused of the late outrage at Arcot with their witnesses have been sent to Vellore, where the enquiry into the transaction will be conducted by the Acting Joint Magistrate. The three Native witnesses, Police Ameen and Cutwall of Raneepet who came down to Madras on the 11th Instant, have also been sent back.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

The Police Ameen & Cutwall of Arcot have come down by the train with the Prisoners, who they say can identify the Soldiers concerned in the late affray — The Cutwall came to my house & I took him on to Col Boulderson 11.9-59 JP.

As the 63 men absent from Lagos were paraded before "the Individuals" "who were present during the affray", and only four were identified, there does not appear to be any reason for detaining more than those four. H. L. R. Commander in Chief should be requested to order the four men, Connell, Brooks, Robinson and Walsh to be delivered over to the Commissioner of Police to be sent to Accot for examination, and the witnesses may be sent back to Accot

Lt Mulgrave

11 Sept 1859

4

Military Department.

No. 3253.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

12th September 1859.

Read the following Paper.

No. 985.

From

The Adjutant General

of the Army

To

The Secretary to Government

Military Department.

Sir,

I have the honor, by order of the Commander in Chief, to forward for submission to the Honorable the Governor in Council, Report marked A from the Officer Commanding Arcot, as noted in the margin, relative to a serious

A Letter from Officer Commanding Arcot dated 8th September 1859, No. 5882.

serious disturbances which took place in the Bazar at Arcot on the afternoon of the 8th Instant; in which some of the discharged men from the 1st. Madras Fusiliers were concerned, and on which occasion two Natives appear to have lost their lives.

2. In reply to the above communication, the Officer Commanding Arcot was directed to immediately commence a Court of Inquiry in order to investigate the circumstances respecting Prisoners of any who might be found implicated, and detaining them, as well as the Witnesses at Arcot pending further instructions; but with these exceptions,—and they were to be restricted as much as possible,—the men under orders for embarkation on the "Atalanta" were under no circumstances to be detained unless

B. Gyll. Simmonds' Letter dated 9th September 1859. No. 5252.—

C. Letter from Officer Commanding Arcot No. 600 dated 9th September 1859.—

unless under special orders to that effect, vide letter accompanying marked B.

3. It will be seen by the accompanying letter from the Officer Commanding Arcot marked C, that on arrival at that Station on the 9th Instant, of Mr. Grenfell the Acting Assistant Collector of North Arcot, he demanded that 63 Men who had been absent from Camp when the disturbance occurred, should be made Prisoners and detained till he had investigated the case; and on finding that the instructions contained in my letter above referred to, would not permit Major Raikes to comply with his request, Mr. Grenfell stated verbally, that if possible he would summon the Men in question and require their detention.

4. It appears to Sir P. Grant, that it would be inexpedient to detain

so

so many as sixty three Discharged Men on suspicion of their being implicated in causing the death of the two Natives: and as it would be extremely inconvenient detaining the "Atalanta", which is under orders to sail tomorrow morning I am directed to solicit the early decision of Government on the subject. -

I have &c.

(Signed) H. L. Woods
Lieut.-Col.
Adjutt.-General
of the Army

Adjutt. Genl's Office
Fort St. George
10th September 1857.

To

A.

No. 588/2.

To

The Adjutant General of the Army
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that a disturbance took place in the Bazaar of this Station to day, and I deeply regret to say that two natives lost their lives. - About 3 P.M. I heard a great noise in the direction of the Bazaar, and at once sent to the European Infantry Depot for a strong fatigue party to proceed there, and immediately went there myself with Lieut. and Adjutant Biddlecke of the Depot.

I found Captain Norton 18th N.I. Staff Officer at Arcot, already there, having heard the noise previously, and he had done good service before my arrival. The men were respectful, and I soon cleared the Bazaar and sent them to their Camps.

There.

6

There is no Civil Officer at Arcot now, and the people in the town have shewn a most hostile Spirit to the Soldiers. It appears to me from enquiries I have made, that one of the men of the Fusiliers on passport from the Camp had been maltreated by the people in the Bazaar, and that a report of it had reached the men, who proceeded in some force to the Bazaar, and the disturbance took place.

I immediately sent to Capt.n Daniell, Commanding Detachment to have a check roll call, and I shall tomorrow receive a report from him of the names of the men absent.

I have taken every measure in my power to prevent a similar occurrence, and in the absence of any Civil Officer to keep the inhabitants in order, I telegraphed through the Railway authorities to the Brigadier Commanding Vellore for a Company of the 18th N.I. to protect the Bazaar.

I did this not only with a view to keeping the Natives in order, but by having guards throughout the town, if any European soldier

soldier entered, and made a disturbance, an immediate report could be made- as it is, I have no means at Arcot of posting Guards, the men of the Depôt being constantly now on fatigue, and the men of the 2.d N. V. Bn.n have no relief.

In conclusion, I trust His Excellency will approve of what I have done in sending to Vellore for a Company of the 18.th N. I.. I did not order an inquest as the men are in the civil Bazaar.

I have &c.

(Signed) Thomas Raikes Major
Commanding Arcot

Arcot 8.th Sept.r 59.

B

No 5282.

To the Officer Commanding
European Infantry Depôt

Sir,

In reply to your letter of this date, I have the honor by order of the Commander in Chief to direct that a Court of Inquiry may be immediately convened for the purpose of thoroughly investigating the serious disturbance which you have reported, and to have delay, the Proceedings forwarded direct to Army Head Quarters.

2 Any man, who consequent on the Inquiry now ordered, may be made Prisoner, are together with their Witnesses, to be detained at Arcot pending further instructions, and they must be restricted as much as possible, - the Men under orders for Embarkation on the Atalanta's &c under no Circumstances to be detained unless you receive Special orders to that effect.

3. A Report of the occurrence should be made to the nearest Civil Authority as well

well as to the Officer Commanding the Division

4 It is to be regretted, that an inquest was not held on the bodies of the two men who are reported to have lost their lives in the affray—

(A) Enclosed Nominal Return of the Camp 9th October 1857

I have the honor to be
(Sgd) W.G. Wood Lt Colo
Adjutant General of the Army

A true Copy,
(Sgd) W.G. Wood Lt Colo
Adjutant General
of the Army

No. 660½.

9

To
The Adjutant General
of the Army
Fort Saint George

Sir

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that Mr. Stanfield, the Acting Assistant Collector of South Arcot arrived here to day, and demanded that the men, 63 in number, who were ascertained to have been absent from the Camp at the Check Roll Call ordered by me, (as mentioned in my letter of yesterday) at the time of the disturbance in the Bazaar at Arcot should be detained and made Prisoners, till he had investigated the Case. In reply to his application, I stated that under Orders from His Excellency, Conveyed in your letter No 3282, I could not detain them, and that they would be forwarded with the rest of the men to Madras— The Magistrate afterwards told me verbally that

that if possible he should summon the men, and should call on me to detain them - I have ordered Captain Daniell should the wish be served, to take them with him, and forward them to you immediately on his Arrival at Madras, for the decision of His Excellency the Commander in Chief -

I am fully aware that under Ordinary Circumstances, I should incur great Responsibility in not at once attending to the Calls of the Civil Power - but in the present Case with the positive Orders of the Commander in Chief, not to detain the men under orders for Embarkation on board the "Atalanta" unless a special order be sent to me, I have thought it my duty to forward them on to Madras - The Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry ordered in your letter, will be forwarded without delay -

With Reference to para. 4 of your letter under acknowledgment, I beg to state that the Police Annan reported to me that he had had a Court of Inquest on the bodies of the deceased.

I should have proceeded to Madras to Report personally on the subject, but deem it advisable to remain here till the discharge men have left Aracot -

I have &c.

(Sgd) Thomas Raikes Major
Commanding Aracot

Aracot
9th September 1856

Order. The Governor in Council observes, that orders have been at once issued by Telegraph to the Civil Authorities at Arcot, to expedite to the utmost the local enquiry into the circumstances reported in the foregoing papers, and to forward to Madras without delay any witnesses who may be supposed capable of identifying the Parties concerned in the affray, which led to the loss of life reported.

2. Pending the result of these Proceedings, the "Atalanta" cannot be permitted to sail, and must accordingly be detained until further orders.

3. Meanwhile, copies of these papers will be communicated to the Judicial Department, with a view to the opinion of the Government Law Officers being taken on the case, if necessary.

True Extract.

N. Maclean Lt Col
Acting Secretary to Government.

To

The Judicial Department.
Adjutant General.
Quarter Master General.
Superintt of Marine.
Military Auditor General
Accountant General.

to Revd

Judicial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following papers

Proceedings of Govt. Military Dept.
(Secretary 12th September 59. No. 3253)

From the Agt Magistrate of North Arcot
(Secretary 9th 10th September 59)

Remarks by the Honble the President — 11th — do —
Order thereon 19th September 1859. No. 1265

Resolved that the above letters be recorded. It is observed that six discharged Soldiers of the Madras Sepoys accused of the late outrages with their witnesses have been sent to Vellore where the inquiry into the transactions will be conducted by the Joint Magistrate. The three native witnesses Police Ameen and Cutwall of Ranneput who came down to Madras on the 11th Instant have also been sent back.

JP