M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1383	Press Mis-
47-48	
Dated 11—10—1985	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, from 5th to 21st October 1859.

No. 47. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor of Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd September 1859, No. 448.

Adverting to the Proceedings of Government, dated 6th Instant, No. 1195, I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government that by a letter from Captain Owen, copy of which is enclosed, it appears that when at Palcondah I gave to Lieutenant Dobree a guarantee in respect to the payment of the Line huts at that out-post, hence I have become responsible for this money, and should Government see fit not to bear the cost, I will of course defray it out of my own resources.

2. I beg further to lay before Government the request of Captain Owen for the grant of hutting money generally for the Golgondah Sebundy Corps. I know not how Government may view this application, but I have felt it my duty to record my own opinion adverse to it, and a copy of my answer to Captain Owen on the subject I beg to submit for the information of His Excellency in Council.

3. I shall only be too happy if Government should see proper to accede to Captain Owen's requisition, but in submitting it, I could not well avoid the expression of my own views.

From Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Golgondah Sebundy Corps; to C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor in Vizagapatam, dated Nursipatam, 19th September 1859, No. 136.

1. With reference to your letter No. 431, dated 14th September 1859, accompanied by the Orders of the Madras Government under date 6th September 1859, I have the honor to bring to your notice a circumstance that may have escaped your recollection, by which you will perceive, that it might be somewhat embarrassing to ask the Sebundies at Palcondah to pay for the Quarters they now occupy, viz., that by your order, Lieutenant and Adjutant Dobree acquainted the men at Palcondah on "public parade" that they were to be allowed to occupy the huts about to be vacated by the Line Regiment free of expense, but that no further aid on account of repairs would be granted them.

2. I have the honor to request you may be pleased to bring to the notice of Government the following circumstances regarding the hutting of the Golgondah Sebundy Corps. When I first joined the Sebundies, they were, (to the great detriment of the public service) living in huts scattered all over the town of Nursipatam, and as they had been permitted to provide themselves with accommodation in the town, and considering their small pay, I did not think it would be well to order them to live in Lines; indeed, at this time, there was no space allowed for such, and I was unwilling to propose any expense to Government on account of their hutting.

3. After some time, an estensive fire took place in the town, and amongst the houses destroyed, were a number belonging to Sebundies, and I took advantage of this occurrence to obtain a site for Lines and to cause all Sebundies, who had lost their houses, to build new ones on the spot appointed for them. It was not then anticipated, that the strength of the Sebundies would be increased and the space allotted for Lines was small.

4. In the latter end of 1857, however, the strength of the Sebundies was considerably increased and space for Lines was applied for, and obtained, but ground was not available, in proximity of the 1st Line selected, consequently although Lines have been laid out in regular order for the 6 Companies, many of the old Sebundies still reside in the town and in the old Lines, although it would be desirable to have all together. I of course, on enlisting the new levy, stipulated that each man on his enlistment was to reside in the new Lines, and thatched huts have been erected for four Companies and space left for the 2 Companies to build on when they return from Palcondah.

5. You are, however, aware of the very inflammable material these leaf thatched houses are composed of, and if Government would be pleased to grant an allowance towards building huts with mud walls and tiled roof, I would get the men to add their share towards the expense and set about this desirable work at once. It would be a great safeguard against the men losing all their kit and clothing, for you are aware of what frequent occurrence fires are, and what risk the men at present incur of losing all their little property.

that they will have to Reap

6. I have ascertained that Government have been pleased to grant 5 Rs. per man to the Rajahmundry Sebundies, and if they are inclined favorably to receive my request, I would ask that 7 Rupees per man might be sanctioned for the Golgondah Sebundies,* as labor and some materials are dearer than in Rajahmundry. At a rough calculation, I think that each tiled hut would cost fully twelve Rupees, trusting the above will meet with your favorable recommendation.

Vide Order 7th Oct 1859 No. 1577.

* Total strength of Sebundies 354 including 2 Districts. Attested

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From C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam; to Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Sebundy Corps, Nursapatam, dated 22nd September 1859, No. 447.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th Instant, No. 136.

2. In the 1st paragraph you bring to my remembrance, a circumstance which you observe may have escaped me, and you properly note the embarrassment that may arise from any attempt now to require payment from the men for the huts in their occupation, I am of course quite prepared to abide by any promise given by me on the occasion, and though the occurrence certainly had escaped me, I quite agree that it would be injudicious and unfair again to raise the question, and accordingly should Government decline to bear the cost, I shall most willingly do so on the faith of my promise, and thus there is an end to the matter which I will definitely arrange.

3. The subject of hutting money generally for the Corps, I will also lay before Government as you request, but I really am doubtful how far your application will meet with success. The grant forms no part of the conditions of enlistment and I am not disposed to the opinion that under the existing financial pressure, Government will be willing to meet your wishes, nor do I feel myself at liberty to give any particular support to your recommendation, not being clear as to the reasonableness of the demand.

4. I may remark, that special causes of which I am ignorant, may have suggested the donation to the Sebundies recently raised at Rajahmundry, but those causes possibly have no applicability here, and thus an exceptional case can hardly be appealed to in support of your present requisition. Local circumstances, I presume, must govern the conditions under which a local Corps is raised, and any disparity of pay or privileges cannot, I think, be justly made the subject of grievance, since each man in each locality is beforehand fully acquainted with the terms under which he enlists in the local service.

5. The fact is, one thing invariably leads to another, and as each point is yielded some other will spring up, until at length our local Corps will become identical in their cost and wants with the Regular Native Army, and instead of preserving their distinctive character by performing duties and filling the position for which they were originally intended, our Sebundies throughout the country will become as troublesome and cumbersome to the State as the Regular Native Troops, for it seems to me that the more their wants and comforts are yielded the more they will increase, and thus ultimately the line of demarcation between them and the standing army will be only nominal.

6. I am reluctant to differ with you, or in any way seemingly to oppose your views, but I am sure you will appreciate my reasons, and as it rests with the Government to decide the question, I feel less hesitation in stating them.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) CHAS. W. READE,
Agent to the Governor.

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1859, No. 1383.

As it would appear that the Sibbundies at Palcondah were informed by the Agent, that they would be allowed to occupy the huts, about to be vacated by the Line Regiments free of expense, the promise made to them must be kept. The Government therefore sanction the payment on account of these huts of (Rupees 82) eighty-two Rupees applied for by Mr. Reade in his previous* letter. The Sibbundies should however be informed, that the case is an exceptional one, and not to be drawn into a precedent, and that they will have to keep the huts in repair at their own cost. The Commanding Officer will see that they are so kept.

* 10th August 1859, No. 411.

2. The Government are not prepared to grant an allowance to the Golcondah Sibbundi Corps generally towards tiling their huts.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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Judicial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following letter from the Agent to the Govr. of Fort St. George at Vizagapatam /Recd 22d Sept. 1859 No. 4481

Order thereon 11 October 1859 No. 1382.

As it would appear that the Sibbundies at Palconda were informed by the Agent that they would be allowed to occupy the huts, about to be vacated by the Line Regiments free of expence, the promise made to them must be kept. The Government therefore sanction the payment on account of these huts of (Rupees 82 ——) Eighty two Rupees applied for by Mr. Reade in his previous letter. The Sibbundies should however be informed that the case is an exceptional one, and not to be drawn into a precedent, and that they will have to keep the huts

*19th August 1859 No. 411.

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