

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Provincial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 927	Press ~~Mis~~
18-22	
Dated 23-7-1857	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
from 23rd to 29th July 1859.*

Read the following papers.

No. 18. From C. H. AMES, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Sircee, 9th July 1859, No. 336.

1. I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a detailed account from Lieut. Drever, of a very dashing and successful attack made by him upon the "Bund" on the 5th Instant.

2. With reference to para. 20, I think that either recommendation should be most certainly complied with as soon as the fate of Lance Naigue Sheik Ally is known.

3. With reference to para. 22, I have the honor to request instructions from Government as to the distribution of the offered rewards. 1,000 Rs. each, was offered for Chintobah Phudnees and his two brothers and it seems probable, though not ascertained, that the prisoner Santopah who died was "Shanta Phudnees" one of these three: Bapoo Dessai is down in our list but not as a Sirdar, and his identity is at present uncertain.

4. In the suggestions put forward in para. 23, both myself and Mr. Robinson entirely concur, and I hope that if the rewards are ruled not to go to the individuals who actually killed the men, the money may be ordered to be distributed in fair proportion among the Natives actually engaged.

5. With reference to the suggestion in para. 24, of renewing the Proclamation, I found on my arrival that Mr. Robinson had already urged the propriety of the step on Mr. Fisher and the matter had been referred back again, for further information as to the nationality of the men composing the Bund; Mr. Fisher at the same time gave his opinion in favor of the step, in case the number of British subjects who could come in under the Amnesty should be at all considerable. I understand from Mr. Robinson that it certainly is so; eleven Soopa men being known to be with the Bund besides many from the Bombay territories. The immediate adoption of the measure appears both to Mr. Robinson and myself so doubly desirable, now that the Bund has just been routed, and disorganised, and Government placed in a position to make the offer with a good grace, that we have determined on our joint responsibility at once to renew the Proclamation of Immunity to all who do not come within the three proscribed classes mentioned in the Proclamation of December 1858.

6. The Amnesty not being yet closed, I trust that the reasons I have adduced above, will be considered sufficient to warrant our proceeding to act without previous reference to Government.

7. As to raising the rewards now offered for the capture of Nana Saib and Seedi Bustian, it is the opinion of Mr. Robinson founded on former experience that the present offer is sufficient and that if 1,000 Rupees is not a sufficient incentive, that 2,000 and 3,000 would be equally ineffectual.

From Lieutenant W. S. DREVER, On Special Duty; to the Joint Magistrate of Canara.

You are aware that I took the field against the rebels on the 20th June, with a force marginally noted.* On the 26th, we were re-inforced by a party of 1 Native Officer and 27 men of the 51st Regiment N. I., under Ensign Wood. I divided the force into 3 parties, and from the 27th Ultimo to the 4th Instant, these Detachments have been constantly in movement, exposed day and night in the jungles often without food and seldom sheltered from the never ceasing rains.

2. The rebels on several occasions have had the most marvellous escapes from one or other of these parties, but on the 4th Instant, I became convinced that our efforts to run them down were not soon likely to succeed and that some other plan must be adopted.

3. I, therefore, acting in conjunction with Lieut. Giertsen, sent all the Warree Locals save five men to Punsoli, the Detachment of the 51st Regiment being at the same time sub-divided into 3 Sections and sent to Hoodsay, Awoorli and Sampoli.

4. These parties had secret instructions which I do not consider it necessary to state.

5. Lieut. Giertsen and I, intended manœuvring with a small moveable column in various directions from the northward and eastward, with a view to drive the Bund down on some one of the above posts, whilst Ensign Wood was to have returned to Jugglebett, thence started with a small force, and manœuvred in a similar way from the northward and eastward.

Force in attacking

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† 51st Regiment N. I.

1 Private.
Warree Locals.
1 Lance Naigue.
4 Privates.
Belgaum Police.
1 Naigue.
5 Privates.
Canara Police.
3 Privates.

6. These plans being matured and the different Detachments having started for their respective positions, Lieut. Giertsen and Lance Naigue, accompanied by Ensign Wood en route to Jugglebett left Bomually on the morning of the 5th, with a column as per margin,† for the purpose of out-flanking from the eastward, the Bund then reported near Dandelly.

7. We had reached Seeragoor by 7 A. M., when a villager from Hoornoday came in and reported that that village had been looted 2 hours previously by the Bund, 120 strong.

8. We at once determined to give chase, and immediately swam the Kala Nadi, keeping our guns and ammunition as dry as we could.

9. We arrived at Hoornoday about 8-30, but were delayed at least 2 hours in hitting off the track the rebels had taken; this was, however, at last most cleverly discovered by the Warree Lance Naigue Sheik Ally, and once found, was quickly followed, till we came upon the still warm fires at which our friends had cooked their morning meal. From this point we had again some difficulty in picking up the track, but the same man shortly laid us on it, and away we went, having first thrown out a couple of flankers, and a file of men in advance as feelers, thus reducing our column of attack to 3 European Officers and 7 men.

10. We had not far proceeded in this way when our right flankers gave the alarm, and at the same instant, I had a good view of the main body of the rebels lying down under some bamboos, 40 yards ahead of us. We then went in at them with a will. In 2 minutes I cut down with my sword one of the leaders Chintobah, (who deliberately fired his musket in my face from behind a tree 2 yards off, but missing me, wounded the Warree Lance Naigue) and another man, said to be Bapoo Dessai, a Portuguese subject.

11. Lieuts. Giertsen and Wood in like manner singling out each his man, wounded two individuals who unfortunately, however, managed to escape in the jungle.

12. The Belgaum Police Naigue assisted by 2 Privates made a brother of Chintobah's, prisoner, after a fierce resistance in which the Bund man received a mortal wound, from which he died the same evening.

13. The rebels were completely panic struck, and fled in the wildest confusion, abandoning every thing not in their hands or on their persons when first seen by us; some 8 or 10 men alone attempted to cover their retreat, and fortunately for us, their bullets all went over our heads.

14. We kept up the pursuit as long as possible and several of the gang followed by Lieut. Giertsen alone saved themselves by throwing away their arms and swimming the Kala Nadi.

15. The jungle was so dense that once lost sight of, further efforts to pursue would have been fruitless, and accordingly about 5 o'clock P. M., we all managed to rendezvous at the spot where we had first found them.

16. Doolies were now constructed for the wounded, and the captured arms and ammunition having been collected, we made the best of our way to Dandelly where we arrived at midnight thoroughly exhausted, having been without food for 30 hours.

17. The arms taken, were 11 muskets, 8 swords, besides a quantity of clothes, cumbies, powder, bullets, money, and provisions, together with several copper cooking pots, all which I propose disposing of, for the benefit of the captors.

18. The rout, was so complete that I may safely say for the present at least, that no "Bund" now exists in Canara, and should they again form a fraternity, we shall again have the pleasure of walking into them.

19. In this little affair, I beg especially to bring to notice the dash and gallantry evinced by the whole party. The Bund were certainly from 50 to 60 strong and all armed. Yet our small force following the examples of their European Officers, never hesitated and were amongst the gang as soon as we were, and I can only regret that owing to the dense jungle, the firing was not so effective as it otherwise would have been.

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20. Lance Naigue Sheik Ally of the Warree Locals, particularly distinguished himself, and earnestly solicit that some special mark of favor be conferred upon him or that a liberal pension be granted to his relatives in the event of his decease, which I fear is but too certain, he being desperately wounded by 2 bullets in his left thigh and groin.

21. I would also propose that a silver bangle, value Rupees 50, be presented to Naigue Mongal of the Belgaum Police, and similar ornaments of the value of Rupees 25 be given to each man of the party, 13 in number.

22. The Bund man who died told me he was a brother of Chintobah's, and that the men I myself killed were "Chintobah" and "Bapoo Dessai," the man Chintobah has been fully identified, but of the names of the others I am not so certain, I am not aware if there is any reward on the parties "Bapoo Dessai" and "Santopah" and leave it to you to decide whether or not a grant for their capture should be given, whatever their names; they were all evidently leaders, and offered a determined resistance.

23. I should myself strongly advocate a general system of liberal gratuities to all subordinates who may come into actual conflict with the "Bund," the work is most fatiguing and harassing for the men, the prospect of "loot" is next to nothing, the exposure is great, and sickness a certainty, and any recognition on the part of Government, of the men's past services, would be a greater incentive to further exertions, than any thing I can recommend.

24. In conclusion I would beg to suggest the propriety of issuing at once a Proclamation offering a free pardon to all not personally concerned in the murder of British subjects, who may surrender within 3 weeks, such a Proclamation now issued would, I should hope, be productive of the happiest results. I would also at the same time recommend that the reward for "Nanah Saheb," the leader of this gang be raised to 3,000 Rupees, and that for Seedi Bastian raised to 2,000 Rupees.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) C. H. AMES, Acting Joint Magistrate.

No. 19. From C. H. AMES, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Sircee, 11th July 1859, No. 338.

1. In continuation of my letter of the 9th Instant, I have the honor to report that a small party of the Warree Local Police again overtook the rebels about 20 in number on the evening of the 6th Instant, wounded one of them, and captured 2 muskets and some baggage. This gang is reported to be utterly disheartened and without clothing of any kind.

2. Cholera is reported by Lieutenant Drever to have broken out with virulence amongst his men.

No. 20. From W. FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Mangalore, 13th July 1859, No. 38.

In continuation of my letter of the 4th Instant, I have the honor to state for the information of Government, that the Bund did not, as Mr. Pochin supposed, recross the Goa frontier on leaving the Ankola Talook. They went up the Ghauts into Soopah, followed by Mr. Pochin, subsequently (on the 5th Instant), Lieutenant Drever surprised these brigands in the neighbourhood of Dandelly, and succeeded in killing and wounding several of them and dispersing the rest. Twelve muskets, and every thing the gang possessed fell, I believe, into Lieutenant Drever's hands, but I have not yet heard full particulars, which, however, will reach Government direct.

2. At the end of June, Mr. Robinson suggested to me the propriety of obtaining the sanction of Government for the republication of the Act of Amnesty. As it is still in force in Bengal, this course did not appear objectionable; but before addressing Government on the subject, I thought the utility of the measure should be distinctly apparent.

3. As Mr. Robinson had just asserted that the majority of the Bund now in arms were unknown in, and unconnected with Soopah, and the British subjects who are recognised as leaders have passed the limit to which mercy can be extended, I doubted the utility of offering pardon to Portuguese and others who were not likely to appear before the Soopah authorities to claim

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it. I asked, therefore, for further information regarding British subjects, *supposed* to be members of the Bund, on the ground that the efficacy of the proposed measure depended on the *number* of such individuals who could claim pardon.

4. I now find that Mr. Robinson misunderstood my views, and that the late success having in his and Lieutenant Drever's opinion offered a most fitting opportunity for again proclaiming mercy, the proposition is likely to have been submitted direct to Government, or to have been carried into effect.

5. No further information as to the constitution of the Bund having reached me, I retain the opinion I have already expressed, but feel that those on the spot are probably better judges of what ought to be done, than I can be, at this distance, and in possession of comparatively imperfect information. I regret, therefore, that time has been lost, when the question might have been at once submitted to Government by the Commissioner, though I cannot but think, that it will be time enough to think of weakening the Bund by offers of mercy, when the active pursuit now going on has effected all that it is likely to do, in dispiriting those who escape the Villagers and Police, who will be anxious to seize disarmed fugitives, for whose capture rewards have been offered.

No. 21. MINUTE by the HONORABLE the PRESIDENT, dated 19th July 1859.

As a Civilian, I can only venture an *unprofessional* opinion upon these military operations, but I should not be surprised, if His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief were to pronounce that, if Count Gyulai had handled *his* Troops with equal ability, the result of the recent operations in Italy, might have been very different.

Lieutenant Drever and the two European Officers and the Native Officers and men acting under him have entitled themselves to the thanks of the Government for their courage and devotion, and to this should be added, in Lieutenant Drever's case, if the Commander-in-Chief should take the view anticipated by me, our approbation of the skill and ability with which he made the dispositions which led to the rout of the Bund.

As the campaign is likely, with a continuance of this able management on our side, to be soon over, I suggest, that we defer the rewards till then. It will clearly be a case for a "Donation of Batta," the prize property being quite inadequate to the service performed, and Lance Naik Shekh Ali or his family should be specially considered.

All Lieutenant Drever's recommendations, including the re-issue of the Amnesty, *so far as they have been supported by Mr. Ames*, should be approved.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1859, No. 997.

1. The Government have perused with much interest and satisfaction, the narrative of operations detailed in the above letters.

2. The skill with which Lieutenant Drever made his dispositions and the spirit and gallantry of his little force in attacking and putting to flight a body so much its superior in numbers, under circumstances, too, of more than ordinary difficulty, have won for all concerned the warm acknowledgments of the Government.

3. The 'Bund' has been dispersed and it is hoped that this movement so boldly planned and so successfully carried out will go far to put a stop to those periodical forays which have so long disquieted the frontier. A later communication, it is observed, reports that a body of insurgents about 20 in number was overtaken on the 6th and routed, and that they are "utterly disheartened and without clothing of any kind." The Government regret, however, to learn that Cholera had broken out in Lieut. Drever's Camp.

4. The Joint Magistrate will state what special mark of distinction he would propose as most acceptable to Lance Naigue Sheik Ally. This man appears to have greatly distinguished himself in the fight, and they desire that, in the event of his wounds proving fatal, report may be made to them of the number and circumstances of his family, together with recommendation for such pension as may seem appropriate.

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5. The rewards suggested in para. 21 of Lieut. Drever's letter, for the rest of the party are sanctioned—and should be given at once.

6. The general question relating to the grant of gratuities will be favorably considered when the operations have been brought to a close.

7. Chintobah, the Sirdar who has taken so prominent a part in these disturbances, has been killed, and although it is not altogether certain that the man named 'Santapa' who died of wounds received in the fight is identical with 'Shanta,' brother of the above and one of the Phud-nees family, there is every reason to believe he is. He said as much to

Para. 22. Lieut. Drever before he died and the determined resistance he made before his capture could be effected makes the supposition still more probable. The loss to the Insurgents of these acknowledged leaders will it is hoped be followed by submission.

8. Of the Joint Magistrate's two suggestions for regulating the grant of the sanctioned rewards, the latter appears the preferable, the sum of (2,000) two thousand Rupees will accordingly be distributed among the entire Native Force engaged.

9. The re-issue of the offer of Amnesty to all (not being of the excepted classes) who may surrender within 3 weeks, is approved. It does not appear necessary to raise the reward offered for Nana Saib and Sidi Bastian, above that already sanctioned.

10. The Government fully appreciate the energy and devotion which have carried the force through much harassing duty and exposure, and they desire that Lieut. Drever will accept for himself and convey to Lieut. Giertsen, Ensign Wood and to all concerned, their cordial thanks.

11. Copy of these Proceedings will be forwarded to the Magistrate of Canara, with reference to his letter, dated 13th Instant.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Force in attacking

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

23^d April 1861

MEMORANDUM.

Requested for reference the undermentioned papers.

Letter from Agents Genl. 21st July 1859 l. 698.
proceeds in Proc. 23^d July 1859 l. 998.

To the Registrar Public Deptt.

Registrar.

Int

Read the following
letter from the Acting
Jt. Mag^r of Canara
giving cover to a
report from Lieut.
Drew detailing his
recent operations agst.

See entry 2^o ³³⁶ ~~##~~.
dated 9th July 1857.

the Insurgents

From the Jt. Mag^r of Canara

to the Hon^{ble} the President

11 July 1857 No 338
13 - " - " 38

Orders thereon 23rd July 1857 No 997

1. The Jd^s have perused
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detailed in the above
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From Acting J. Mag^r
dated 11th Inst.

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sanctioned.

10 The Gov^t fully appreciates the energy and devotion which have carried the force through such arduous duty and exposure and they desire that Lieut Dunn will accept for himself & convey to Lieut. Giersten, Ensign Wood and to all concerned their cordial thanks.

11 Copy of these proceedings will be forwarded to the Mag^{tes} of Canara with reference to his letter dated 13th Decr.

Special Com & Cannon

Order 23rd Decr

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L. F.

} Dispt 1st Aug

Box of 29 July

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Initial 23rd July 1859.
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