New C. F. 234

19 .

Department of Judicial .

OFFICE

STATION

No. 1421 .

Dated 15.7.891

Pages in the file

SUBJECT

C.B. 12.

Back Papers.

Dis.	No.	Department. Series.	Date.	Dis.	No.	Department. Series.	Date.

Further Papers.

Dis.	No.	Department. Series.	Date.	Dis.	No.	Department. Series.	Date.

Form No. C.B. 12

HEADING Disturbances.

Fwd Confidential

CURRENT NO. 2702 /

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

No. N.A. C

Ootacamund, 9th June 1891.

It is requested that the heading, number, and date of this communication may be quoted in any subsequent correspondence on this subject.

From

Brigadier-General HUGH P. PEARSON, C. B.,
Adjutant General,

To

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT,
Military Department.

SIR,

With reference to correspondence ending with Proceedings of Government No: 2655 dated 11 ultimo, Connected with the Disturbances in the vicinity of the Lines of the 25th Regiment Madras Infantry at Madras, which occurred on the night of the 4th April last,

ENCLOSURES.

Copy of letter No: 263 dated 4th April 1891 with enclosures from G.O.C. Madras District.

Copy of letter No: 266 dated 8th May 1891 with enclosures from G.O.C. Madras District.

Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry. (To be returned).

I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to forward the papers noted in the margin and to acquaint you that having had before him the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry and the opinion of the General Officer Commanding Madras District thereon, His Excellency considers that the outbreak was primarily due to a lax State of discipline in the Regiment for which the Commanding Officer, Colonel Cotton, is responsible.

2. Sir James Dormer has caused this opinion to be intimated to the Commanding Officer with an expression of his dissatisfaction

Captain General

with the Sufficiencies of the remaining British Officers present at the time, whose example had evidently influenced the Native Officers and Non. Commissioned Officers of the Corps.

3. It was His Excellency's intention to recommend the Subadar Major for promotion to the 1st class of the order of British India to fill an existing vacancy, but this Native Officer has been informed that such recommendation will now be withheld. It is also under consideration of His Excellency to recommend the removal of this regiment from Madras.

4. Having thus disposed of the matter so far as the 25th Regiment Madras Infantry is concerned, His Excellency desires me to observe that the delay in holding a roll. call appears to have been due in great measure to the neglect of the Police to report the occurrence Sooner; also that it has been brought to the Commander-in-Chief's notice that for the last 25 years the regiments quartered at Washermanpett have had disagreements and disturbances with the Police at this very Police Station. If this is a fact — and proof should be easy — there would appear to be a deep rooted antagonism to the Military which in itself would go far towards producing disturbance.

5. Lastly I am to observe that although the Police have been afforded every possible assistance, they have failed to identify any one Sufficiently to render Conviction probable.

6. I beg to return your reference orders Nos. 2133 and 3063 of the 14th April and 1st instant respectively.

7. If it be considered necessary to print this letter, His Excellency requests that it may be marked "Confidential."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Hugh Wm Pearson

Brigadier-General.
Assistant Adjutant General.

Heading. Disturbances

Head Quarters Madras District.

Madras. No: 263. Madras 13 April 1891.

From,

Brigadier-General J. Van Straubenzee C.B., R.A.,

To,

Commanding Madras District.

The Adjutant General,

Madras Army.

Sir,

Demi-official.

In continuation of my telegram No: 10 dated 6 April 1891, I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that on the 5 April, the Commissioner of Police reported that a serious outbreak occurred about 7 P.M. on the evening of the 4 Instant, in which a large body of Sepoys believed to belong to the 25 Regiment Madras Infantry were concerned.

2. The parties are said to have destroyed the telephone in the Washermanpettah Police Station besides having broken a number of lamps, windows and plants. They are supposed to have carried off 3, Lewis's eye lanterns, and to have attacked the carriages of respectable persons met on the road and to have caused damage and injury. A respectable Native Merchant is also said to have been robbed [illegible] and have his [illegible] Adjutant General

3. The Commissioner of Police attributes the attack to ill. feeling between the Police and 25 Regiment Sw. D. and in this there is evidence to support his belief. Constable No: 423 had occasion to apprehend 3 men of the 25 Regt. ment Sw. D. for riotous behaviour in the Bazaar. These men were placed before the Commissioner and punished. Shortly after this, Rpt Comm[illegible] Some 2 or 3 men of the 25 Regiment Sw. D. went on the search for 423, and seeing his number asked what the man was like, after this 2 more men came to note what he was like, and these men warned him to look out. The Constable reported this to the Police who ignored it. The Constable was next found going on beat without his number and he explained unless transferred he could not wear it, as the Regiment was all against him and meant to do him an injury

4. In paras 1 and 2 I have described the disturbances as reported at 4.30. P.M. the next day by the Commissioner of Police, and in para 3 I have given the probable causes. [illegible] and the Steps taken. The disturbance

4 S.P.

only lasted about fifteen minutes, and was as a matter of fact over when the report was made to the Regiment.

5. Immediately the report reached the District, the places were visited and as the evidence clearly proved the complicity of the 25 Regiment Sw. D., that Regiment was confined to its lines, patrols were ordered, as well as a Court of Inquiry.

6. The large number of witnesses to be examined and the places to be seen have retarded the completion of the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, I have therefore deemed it advisable to report that since the despatch of my telegram the following steps have been taken:-

(a) I had a parade of the Regiment and expressed my regret that a Regiment which had hitherto borne such a good reputation should now be concerned in disturbances such as had occurred. The complicity of the Regiment is undoubted. A Shoulder badge of the 25 Regiment Sw. D. was found at the Police Station, and 2 more were picked up on the road just outside the lines which lead to the Khanna.

(b) The Subadar Major and Jemadar Adjutant

[illegible] Subadar Jemadar

were warned that if the Statement made by the Dy: Commissioner of Police that they had before said "The feeling is so great that I cannot restrain them" be proved against them that they would be recommended for removal from their posts. In fact irrespective of this, I consider had these Native officers been in touch with their men it would have been impossible for 50 or 100 men to leave the lines about the same time for united action - This alone in my opinion will render it advisable that both of these men should be removed from their posts and if need be placed on the pension list. I however, reserve my final recommendation regarding them - until the Court of Inquiry has finished its Sittings.

(c) All Native troops leaving their lines - whether on or off duty have been ordered to wear uniform so that they can be the more easily identified. This was rendered necessary as the 5th Regt: Dn. I. have also - been in Collision with the Police.

(d) Patrols still continue to patrol the town and the 25th Regiment Dn. I. are confined to their lines pending the Completion of the Court of Inquiry.

7. The people in the neighbourhood of Washermanpettah are certainly at present very ready to take up any cry against the Regiment as the following will show: ——.

Extract from Diary of Sub Inspector Mitchell N/1 Station for 7th April 1891.

"At 5.30 P.M. 7th April 1891 Some one passing down the Washermanpettah High Road, mentioned that a row was taking place between the Sepoys and butchers at the market, the Station House officer sent men to the Spot, who returned reporting that a jogi woman was having a quarrel with a fish monger when some one raised an alarm that the Sepoys were beating the butchers and there was a regular rush out of the market."

The 25th Regiment Dn. I.'s patrol was going round as the time and they at once went to the Police and asked "where are the Sepoys." The Police said there were none and that the people had raised a false alarm.

8. The Police do not have not been happy in their identification [illegible]

the same time, I would observe that the 25th Regiment, Madras Infantry have not come out well of a previous identification case, in which a Non-Commissioned officer of the Regiment distinctly perjured himself to save a man.

9. In conclusion I would observe that whilst I in no way defend the outrageous conduct of the 25th Regiment Madras Infantry, still I cannot but remark that it is at least strange that for the last 25 years the Regiment at Washermanpettah has had differences with this self-same Police Station. This fact induces me to believe that there is something decidedly wrong either amongst the men or the working of the Police. Shauna in question. The Police have made certain charges against the 25th Regiment Dn. I. They have been rendered every possible assistance. They have had representations to identify certain men. The men so identified I have offered to hand over to the Police to be proceeded against for the offence which is a Civil one. So far the Police have taken no further action, & I believe discredit the Constable's Statement.

I herein enclose Cover of Letter No: 225

dated 8th April 1891 from the Commandant 25 Regiment Dn. I.

I have &c

Lt. F. Van Straubenzee Brig: General
Commanding Madras Dt.

No: 225.

Madras, 8th April 1891.

From,

Colonel F. J. Cotton,

Commandant 25th Regt Dn. I.

To,

The Asst: Adjutant General,

Madras District

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following Circumstance that has been brought to my notice. About dusk last evening when the patrol of my Regiment under Command of Naique Khadir Khan was marching along the road towards the market he suddenly heard the cry and shouts of "The Sepoys have come and are beating us" this was taken up by Police Constable No: 846 who ran past the patrol with the others. The Naique at once doubled his men up to where the crowd was by the market and seeing one of the Regimental Police there and enquired if any Sepoys were in the row, and he said none. He (the Naique) then took his patrol to the Police Station and [illegible]

the disturbance and asked if any men of the Regiment had been reported as having been present or in the disturbance. and he was told it was only a row between the Bazaar men and villagers. and that no Sepoys were in it. When enquiring at the market, a European Police Inspector was there behind him and he said to him "Look Sir, they accuse men of my regiment for making a disturbance. there are none here." The Inspector looked amongst the crowd and was satisfied that there were no Sepoys and went away.

On the above being reported to the Subadar Major in the lines as soon as the Parigue could get back, he was standing with the other native officers, as Roll call had just taken place. He directed Subadar Doorgiah to go and make further enquiries personally to see if any one belonging to the Regiment were mixed up in the disturbance. Subadar Doorgiah did so and ascertained from several of the Shopkeepers at the market that the disturbance arose by a Villager trying to take away a fish and when he resisted and expelled from the place, a row at

and the Bazaar men. and a cry at once arose. "the Sepoys are beating us" and it was carried down the Street. The Subadar then went to the Station House Officer at the Police Station who made enquiries and wrote down in the Subadar's pocket book in English and Signed it that false information that Sepoys were quarrelling had been received from the citizens. The Shopkeepers he spoke to in the market have also written and Signed in his pocket book that no Sepoys were in the disturbance

I make this report with reference to the disturbance which took place on the evening of the 4th April, in which so large a number of the Regiments are supposed to have taken part, as it proves that false accusations can be made, unless detected at once against a Regiment.

I have &c

Lt. F. J. Cotton Colonel
Commandant 25th N.I.

(True Copy)
Lt. J. E. Porteous, Major,
Asst. Adjt. Genl: Mr. D.

"True Copies"
Lt. Colonel
Asst. Adjutant General

Heading. Disturbances. Madras. U. Files Confidential 8 S P

No: 26. Head Quarters, Madras Dist.
Madras 8th May 1891.

From,
Brigadier-General J. Van Straubenzee C.B., R.A.
Commanding Madras District

To,
The Adjutant General,
Madras Army,

Sir, Confidential.

1. Telegram No: 18 dated 6.4.91. from D.A.A.G. Madras Dist. to A.General.
2. Letter No: 263 dated 4th April 91 from Dist. Supdt. Police Vellore.
3. Ditto

In continuation of the marginally noted correspondence I have the honor to forward herewith for the perusal and orders of His Excell. Lovey the Commander-in-Chief the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry held to enquire into the disturbances in the vicinity of the lines of the 25th Regiment Mn. I. on the night of the 4th April together with my opinion on the case.

2. I beg to invite your attention to letter No: 1641 dated 28th April 1891 (attached to Proceedings) which was sent to the President Court of Inquiry in the hope that Lieutenants Banbury & Brown would be able to explain the serious discrepancies in their statements. This I extremely regret these officers have failed to do, as shewn on the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry and I now beg leave to invite your attention to the serious discrepancies in question as set forth in the letter under review.

3. The Station Staff Officer considered in the [illegible]
knew of the coming disturbance [illegible]

Judicial 2702/1/91

the may ow purpose, or else they knew of the
-ments intentions and were afraid to report it,
under any circumstances they ought to have been
aware of the probability of such disturbance
occurring and been able to provide against it.
Their plea of complete ignorance is upset by
the Statement of Lieut: Brown to the Dy Commissioner.
The officer Commanding and Adjutant of the
Regiment give the Subadar Major and Jemadar
-dar Adjutant the highest possible Character
and feel convinced that no blame is attachable
to them, but for this and the example afforded
them by European officers of an erroneous view
of the case being taken from the first I should
have recommended that both as also the Havildar
-dar Major should forfeit their appointments.
I attach copy of letter No: 23 dated 18th May
to the Comdt: 25th M. I. - and also letter of
25th ult from Lieut: Banbury with Colonel
Cottons remarks thereon.

I have &c.

Lol. I. Van Straubenzee Brig: Genl:
Commanding Madras Dist:

B File Confidential

Disturbances
Madras.

District Staff Office &c.
Madras 8th May 1891.

No: 23. Brown,

Major J. E. Cotton
Assistant Adjutant General
To, The Commandant, Madras District.
25th Regiment M. I.

Sir,

I am desired by the G. O. C. to forward herewith for your perusal copy of letter No: 1641 dated 28th April, addressed from this office to the President Court of Inquiry. That letter was directed to be sent by the Brigadier General Comg: in the hope that Lieut: Banbury & Brown would be able to explain the very serious discrepancy in their evidence.

2. It is much to be regretted that that hope has not been realized and that Lieut Browns further explanation is in the opinion of the Brigadier General most unsatisfactory.

3. In justice to an old tried public Servant in Mr. Simpsons position whose whole life has been spent in noting and giving evidence the Brigadier General feels bound to give that officers Statement credence, and to look upon the Statement of Lieut: Banbury as due to want of reconsideration for which in an Adjutant

is however no excuse. The cases of Lieuts: Bambury & Brown will be referred for the orders of H.E. the Commander-in-Chief.

4. The Brigadier-General Comg: is further of opinion that a large gathering of Sepoys such as that which occurred on the 4th April 1891, should not have occurred without the cognizance of the native officers & of the Subadar Major Jemadar Adjutant & Hawildar Major in particular. There is ample evidence to prove that an attack was premeditated. If the Regiment. -ab native Staff did not know of it as before said, they undoubtedly should have been aware of it & their ignorance can only be attributed to indifference. The conduct of these parties will also be represented for the orders of H.E. the Commander-in-Chief.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. E. Parkeson Major
Asst: Adjt: Genl: Dn. D.L.

(True Copy)

Lt. J. E. Parkeson Major
Asst: Adjt. Genl. Dn. D.L.

Judl. 2202/91

Madras 25th April 1891.

From,
Lieut: W. E. Bambury
Adjutant 25th Regiment Dn. D.

To,
The Commandant,
25th Regiment Dn. D.

Sir,

With reference to paras 4 and 9 of Assistant Adjutant Generals No: 14 of 8th April 1891, I have the honor to state for the information of the Brigadier-General that the report made by the Dy Commissioner of Police is without foundation - and a reference to the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry will, I think, perfectly satisfy the General Officer Commanding on this head.

2. As the Subadar Major and Native Adjutant are both held to be seriously in fault through a statement wrongly attributed to me, I beg leave to state that both these officers have been directly under me in their Staff appointments the whole time since their promotion and that I am sure they are blameless. They never made such a statement to me as that reported by the Dy Commissioner and did he ever say so to him.

I have &c

Lt. W. E. Bambury Lieutenant
Adjutant 25th Regiment Dn. D.

Confidential No: 3.

Forwarded for the information of the Brigr

General Commanding the District. I quite agree with Lieut: and Adjutant Bambury regarding the Subadar Major & Jemadar Adjutants. I have known these two native officers for nearly 20 years now. They both bear unexceptionable character, did good service in Burma, and have done their work up to the present time in a most satisfactory manner in every way. I have kept nothing hid from me of the Adjutants that I am aware of. I therefore now hope the Brigadier General will not consider it necessary to recommend their being removed from their appointments.

(Signed) F. J. Cotton Colonel
Comdt. 25th Inf. D.

Madras
25th April 1891

To,

The Asst: Adjutant General,
Madras District
Fort St George

(True Copy)
Sd/ J. E. Vertoos Major
Asst: Adjutant General
Madras District.

True Copies
Mustanterlaw
Lt. Colonel
Asst: Adjutant General

Jud. 2202/3 1891

Confidential No. 38 of 91

MILITARY (1891) DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 3743

From

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
13 JUN 91
GOVERNMENT

Dated 9th June
Received 10
Rep'd 11.

No. NF
23 C

Regarding the disturbance in the vicinity of the Lines of the 25th Regiment Madras Infantry at Madras.

Judicial (1891) Department

CURRENT No. 2702

CONFIDENTIAL No 254 12
Order - dated 13th June 1891
9 Enclosures No 3300

Transferred to the Judicial Departure

It will be observed that His Excell the Commander-in-Chief has already taken acti in regard to the conduc of the 25th Regt Madras Infantry on the occasio of the disturbance at Washermanpetty.

A Kennedy Herbert
Lt Col
Secy to Government

Ootacamund
13th June 1891

Jud. Department.

C. No. 2702 (Confs. No. 254)

From The Military Dept:

Dated 13 June 1891.

FOR ORDERS.

I think Col. Welden should have his say on this matter, that the paper in question should be communicated Confidentially to him. Indeed I see no reason why the whole of C. No 2702 & its enclosures should not be sent to him.

It seems to me that the so called ill-feeling between the police & the military is due to the laxity of discipline & disorderly conduct of the latter, and not to any fault of the police

As to the delay in reporting the matter to the Regt Col. Welden will, I think, easily refute the allegation. The outrage took place about between 6.45 & 7 p.m. & Mr Simpson went to the Adjutant of the Regt before 8 p.m. Notwithstanding this no steps were taken by the Adjutant till 9.25 p.m.

The whole outcome of the affair is most unsatisfactory. That 50 or 100 men of a regiment should create a raid into the streets, wreck police stations, & hustle respectable peaceful inoffensive and intimidate the people, & that none should be brought to justice, is disgraceful. When such proceedings are permitted, this seems not a solitary case, there is no reason to be surprised at feelings of "antagonism" to the military being

Say General Pearson's letter dated the 9th inst. No. G.A. 23.C. be communicated to the Chief Commissioner of Police with special reference to para. 4?

The "opinion" of the Court of Inquiry will be found at the places marked with red tape in the enclosures to C. No. 2702.

W
17 June.

A
20 June

Let communication be made of C. No. 2702 with enclosures confidentially to Col. Welden for his remarks -

I am disposed to agree with the view taken by the Hon'ble Colleague. The Board of Inquiry is in its opinion a very curious chamber - Would say that the evidence of the police witnesses is the more credible of the two sets of witnesses

Otherwise I agree 25/6/91.

entertained, either by police or civilians, against the military.

I am inclined to think that stronger action is called for than that reported in para 2 of the Adjutant General's letter, in respect of the officers European conduct, of the 25th Inst.

HLL
23 June

I regret that I cannot concur with my Hon'ble Colleagues in imputing all the blame of failure in bringing the ringleaders, or indeed any of the rioters, to justice. Mr. D. Simpson himself says in his evidence before the Court of Enquiry (at page 79) that the station Staff Officer might have reported the riot to the Officers at the Lines within a quarter of an hour, and that he blamed him for not having done so. In excuse it was urged that the Police were afraid to go to the Lines to report what was going on. Mr. Simpson states that the people in the Bazaar, or the Police, might have reported the riot the moment it began. I do not quote this to extenuate the Lapse in the want of alacrity on the part of the Regimental British Officers of the Regt. who have been most severely reprimanded, but to show that the Police also showed a want of Courage & energy in not proceeding earlier to the Lines to report what was going on. Every facility was afforded from the Police to identify the Offenders.

A perusal of the papers will show that the G.O.C. Madras & the Military authorities never attempted to excuse the Conduct of Officers or men

I think these papers should all go to Col. Weldon. I am glad that the Regt. has been ordered to leave Madras, and I presume the C.-in-C. will in their change of quarters make it apparent that they are very punished. A battallion of Guards was banished to Bermuda for a much smaller demonstration of "lax discipline".

W
4 July

of the 25th Madras Inf: — on the contrary the severest censure has been passed on the Commg. Officer, on the British Officers, & the Native Officers. The Regt. will be removed from Madras as early as possible. The Subadar Major has been deprived of a reward which was about to be granted him of one rupee a day for the rest of his life.

The whole incident was disgraceful and I attributed the outbreak, not to ill feeling which has existed so long between the Sepoys, & the Police at this particular station, & a lax state of discipline in this Regiment.

I see no reason why these papers or as many of them as may be deemed desirable should not be sent to Colonel Weldon for his perusal.

3-7-91 J. CD

C. 21/5
R 6/7

[5]

Ind. DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—.

Again G.O., dated 18 , No.

Again G.O., dated 18 , No.

Current No. of 18 , dated from

Current No. 2702 of 1891, dated 13 June from the Mil. Dept.

Order—G. 15. VII. 91. No 1421

The Adjutant-General's letter with its enclosures will be Comd. confidentially to the Comr. of Police, Madras, with special reference to paragraph 4 of the letter.

(From orders)

Draft sent with papers to Govt. House on 5th July returned 14/7

Dospd. 16 VII 91

* The three remaining enclosures are Police abstract of Amd. of damage done thereto & are retained.

7 July.

To Comd. C. of Police, Madras (with Secl. C. No. 2702 & Encls.* Comd. No 254)

Note for Co.

This seems enough at present. I do not think it intends to reserve comment until Col. Weldon's remarks are received.

CA

Kirtal Wash
Nelpatt

C

(Immediate)

Read Again Order of Government, dated
18 , No.

Enclosures

Current No.

Statement with Diffc.

Order, &c., of Government—A.

Papers kept out of File for despatch in original
(not paged).

Number of copies required.
- Order complete.
- Letter only.
- Order complete with Letter.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.
R = Print but not for monthly volume.

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686 9. 11. 4. 91
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817 9. 20. 6. 91

Further Paper, No. 134 Compl 1891

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Confidential No. 116
1891.

Judicial Department.
G.O., dated 16. VII. 91
No. 1421.
Series. Mis

Confidential.

First copy sent to Press

Returned for signature

Despatched 16. VII. 91

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rest at Washermanpettah

Communicating with special reference to para 4 Letter from the Adjutant General in Chief to the Commissioner of Police Madras

Printed in G.O. 2012
29.9.91