

jud 2012.
29 9 1891

No. 61.

CONFIDENTIAL.

City Police Office,

Madras, 17th August 1891.

3785

From

Colonel J. Heldon, C. I. C.
THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
With the Governor,
Stonehouse Hill

Sir,

I have the honour to return
the letter of the Adjutant-General
No. A. 23. C. dated 9th June
and Proceedings of the Military Court
of Enquiry which accompanied it
which were forwarded to me with
(Confidential) G. O. dated 14th July 1891
No. 1421 (Judicial), and with reference
to paragraph 4 of the Adjutant-General's
letter to which my attention was
specially directed. I respectfully
submit the following remarks:-

2— The Washermanpetta Police Station is situated in the bazar near two markets and on the way from the Regimental Lines to the Palmyra Toddy Tapes on the Trivettore Road. Visitors to these Tapes and the many drinking shops en route Cause frequent disturbances of the peace. Sepoys in addition to other excitant Causes seem to be imbued with the idea that they are entitled to very exceptional treatment at the hands not only of the Authorities but of the bazar men, and the most prolific Cause of squabbles is the insistence of Sepoys or their families on obtaining their Supplies at rates fixed by themselves, if refused they not uncommonly take by force what they require. When Complaints from whatever Cause arise in which the aid of the Civil power is invoked, such

Complaints have, in the ordinary course of business, to be dealt with by the Civil Authorities - be they Police or Magisterial - of the quarter in which the Cause of Complaint arose. There is, therefore, nothing remarkable if Complaints against or by Sepoys are preferred and recorded at the Police Station established for the express purpose of dealing with such matters. If the military lines were located in any other part of the City, or of the Empire, the same procedure would be followed, and, not unnaturally, the Sepoys, especially if ill-disciplined and ill-controlled, are inclined to regard the Civil power so inconveniently at their doors as their special enemies. Sepoys when a Complaint is made by or against them resent any independent Enquiry and expect the Police right or wrongly to side with them on the

principle that who is not with them is
against them.

3— The foregoing remarks will
I think explain why perhaps the
Military Authorities hear more of the
Machhermanpetta Police than of the
Police in other distant parts of the
City.

4— Having failed to learn
on what grounds the District Military
Authorities considered they were
justified in informing His Excellency
the Commander-in-Chief that there was
something decidedly wrong with the
or the working of this (Machhermanpetta)
Station which for 25 years has had
differences with the Regiment stationed
there. I caused diligent and exhaustive
Enquiries to be made not only from present
and former members of the Police Force
but also from residents there, some of
whom were Army pensioners, and

Others Connected with the Army.

5— So far as I can learn the
following Regiments have been stationed
at Machhermanpetta during the past
30 years.

4th Madras Native Infantry. 1862-64.

16th — do — do — 1865.

3rd — do — do — 1865-66.

3rd and 35th — do — do — 1868-70.

35th and 7th — do — do — 1871-72

13th — do — do — 1873-76

36th — do — do — 1879-81

26th — do — do — 1882-84.

28th } — do — do — 1885-86

7th } — do — do — 1886.

9th — do — do — 1887-1890.

25th — do — do — 1891.

6— The only instances of any
direct Conflict between the Military
and Police during this long period which
I have heard of are the following:-

In or about 1871 a European Inspector
was assailed by some Sepoys, said to
belong to the 7th Regiment, during a

disturbance at a Native performance
on Korakapett plain. No further
details can be obtained as to this case.

7— In 1881 a barber accused
of the theft of some clothes took refuge
in the lines of the 36th Regiment when
pursued by a Constable. The Constable
reported the facts to the Native Adjutant
who not only refused to surrender the
accused but made a prisoner of the
Constable for daring to come into the
lines, and confined him in the
Regimental Guard. The accused
was not surrendered for two days.
The Native Adjutant was prosecuted
for harbouring an offender, convicted,
and fined. I cannot ascertain that
any proceedings were taken against
him for assaulting and grossly
confining the Constable which shows
that the Police were not actuated by

20
any vindictive feeling against the
Military in that case.

8— Again about the same year two
men were found drunk and creating a
disturbance on Cemetery Road. They
assaulted the Constable who interfered
but were secured with assistance.
They proved to be two Sepoys of the
36th Regiment. They were in ordinary
court sent before a Magistrate
and fined. There was nothing in
this case which might not and would
have occurred whether the men were
soldiers or civilians, except that at
the time the Constable interfered there
were no means of knowing who the
delinquents were.

9— In 1889. Some Sepoys of the
9th Regiment combined to attack the
butchers of the Market at Nachermanpall
because they would not supply meat at
the Sepoys' rates. A Head Constable

who endeavoured to reason with them
was beaten, and the Sepoys having also
severely beaten the stallholders at
the Market proceeded in a body to
the Police Station, attacked it, beat
the few Constables then present and
caused much damage. Except that
they had been advised not to commit
a breach of the peace these Sepoys
had received no provocation of any
kind for their assault on the Police.
They apparently resented the failure
of the Police to side with them as
against the bazar men. Several
Sepoys were identified and prosecuted
but there was a failure of justice
in this instance for which however
neither the Police nor Regimental Authorities
were responsible.

10— Except the above instances
I cannot hear of any other collisions
between the Police of that quarter and

210
the Military previous to the recent outrage
by the Sepoys of the 25th Regiment,
and there is no doubt this was
suggested and encouraged by the
immunity enjoyed by the men of the
9th who preceded them.

11— I do not consider that any
importance can be attached to isolated
cases in which the Police are called on
to interfere with drunken and riotous
persons unless Sepoys are to be exempted
from all restraint on their conduct
when mixing with the ordinary civil
population. As a rule even in the
cases last mentioned when it becomes
known that the offenders are
military men they are handed over
to be dealt with by their own Officers.

12— The effectual manner in
which the European and Native Officers
of the 9th Regiment dealt with
the turbulent spirits in their Corps

prevented any repetition of disorder,
restored harmony generally, and
showed what a proper sense and
exercise of discipline can effect.
The 25th Regiment on the contrary
continued to wantonly insult and
endeavour to provoke the police, so
much so that the guards furnished
by this Corps at Government House,
a part of the City far fromacher.
manpetta, had to be replaced by men
of another Regiment. The Police
in Charge of Government House
and the grounds are all selected
men from the Head Quarter Reserve
and many of them have served in the
Army.

13 — In every instance which
has come to my knowledge the Sepoys
have been the aggressors and recent
events in other parts of India and in
Burmah show that there is nothing

22
peculiar to Madras to excite the animosity
of the ^{native} soldiery. Many Cases can be
specified in which the Police of this City
are alleged to have provoked a Collision
with Sepoys, or to have acted otherwise
than in the due and proper execution
of the duties imposed upon them I
will have the facts closely investigated,
but I respectfully protect against
~~any~~ intereolved assumptions
or suggestions being accepted as facts.

14 — I submit that Brigadier
General Vandenberg has has been
duped and unless his informants can
adduce some proof of their assertions
I am sure that both he and His Excellency
the Commander in Chief will acquit
the City Police of this grave charge
propounded against them.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
Gueson. Colonel
Commissioner of Police
All



CONFIDENTIAL No. 373

From
The Commissioner of Police
Madras.

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt.
with the Governor
Stonehouse Hill.

Dated 18th } August 1891
Received.

Enclosures - C. No. 2702 & six enclosures
No. 61. returned
(Sketches in No. 1421 of 15. VII. 91)

Relations of Military and
Police in Madras.

Submits remarks on
Adjutant-General's letter with
Proceedings of Military Court of
Enquiry into recent Sepoy riot
at Washermanpet.

over
15 Sep

The Honorable Mr. Justice C.S.J.
The Honorable Mr. Justice C.S.J.
H.E. the Commander-in-Chief
H.E. the Governor.

no good will result
from further reference.
I would record the
For Orders paper, without remarks.

Cl
21/8

25 Aug.

W
16 Sep

26 Aug.

I would record this paper, with
a brief expression of concurrence
with Lt. Weldon's views, & with
military help.

11/1
27 Aug.

24
30/8/91

Although I do not suppose any
good would result from further
prolonging of correspondence between
the Police & Mil. Authorities at
Madras, I think that before expressing
any concurrence with Lt. Weldon's
views by post, a copy of his remarks
should be sent for Genl. van Stranzenpach
information, if only for the purpose
of removing any wrong notion which
the latter officer has formed - or to
enable him to still further prove his
assertions against the Police at
Madras shown by the Police at
Mangalore Station, if he is not satisfied
with Lt. Weldon's statement.

If not, I would suggest a complete
acknowledgment without any expression of
concurrence.

Again G.O., dated 15th July 1891, No. 1421. — Print C. No. 2702 & 2703
Again G.O., dated 11. August 1891, No. 1588. — Print in full
Current No. of 18, dated from

Current No. 3785 of 1891, dated 17. Aug from Commr. of Police — Print in full.

238

Order of 29. 9. 91. No. 2012

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24
27/9/91

Commr. of Police (with one S.C.)
Mil. Dept (with Proc. of Court of Enquiry &
Plan returned), with 5 S.

Despatched
17. 10. 91

Wachernanpetat Riot

From Orders.

Print

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The Honorable Mr. Gardner C.
H.E. the Commissioner of
H.E. the Governor

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No. 2012

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Washermanpeltah Riot

Recording ^{letter} ~~report~~ ^{from} by
the Commr. of Police regarding
^{certain} ~~the~~ statements made in letter
from the Adjutant General.
on the Pro. of the Court of
Enquiry into the —