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ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 23-10-90
No. 797.

When given for copying 18/10

[Despatch Abstract].

Thanks of the Govt. of India
for Mr Houghton's (M.C.S.) services
in Burma.

Recd
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16/3/99 ✓

BACK PAPER, No.

of 18

FURTHER PAPER, No.

of 18

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES. *one*

CURRENT No. *2728*

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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Accnt. Genl.

24/10

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Public Department

From

The Home Department

N^o 14024

Dated

Rev 18

September 1890.

Plus 6.302

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Order 23 Oct 90 No 707

4/10/90

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*Note. Mr. B. Houghton is a Malacca
Civilian. Perhaps copy of the papers
might go to the Acc. Genl. for use
of the fact that he recd. the thanks
of the G. of S. for his energetic action
in the "History of Services"*

23/9

23/9

*2. The Acc. Genl. will be requested
to ^{note} ~~include~~ the fact of Mr. B.
Houghton's having received the
thanks of the G. of India in the
"History of Services of G. of India Officers"
(From Order).*

*Acc. Genl. 23/9
(Order of Govt. 23/9)
15/10*

Stating for the information
of the Government of Madras, that
Mr. Houghton's energetic measures
in dispersing the rebels in the Dt. of
Bandoway deserve merits and for
warding copies of correspondence
connected with the above.

No 1703

To
The Chief Commissioner of
Burma.

Sunder 1890. September 1890.

Home Department

Public } Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 100/201 P, dated 22nd ultimo, forwarding for the information of the Government of India a letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Sandoway in which he describes the measures taken to suppress the recent gathering of rebels in that district.

I am to say that the Governor General is fully considering Mr. Haughton's energetic action in the matter and I am to request that the thanks of the Government of India may be conveyed to him.

Yours faithfully

(sd) C. F. Lyall,

Offg Secy to the Govt of India.

No 1704

2728

For correspondence forwarded to the Government of India for information.

By order

J. S. W. Smith

Secy to the Govt of India

2728
23-10-90
707

23-10-90

I should also not omit to mention Maung Shwe Pan and Maung Zein, clerks from my office, who headed with some success numerous search parties from Atu.

Thugyi Maung Tha Do Pen worked very well indeed until prostrated in April by a severe attack of fever. Until the first showers at the end of April the police from Rangoon and Akyab suffered severely from fever, three-fourths of the entire force being at times unfit for duty. They worked fairly well, considering how unsuited the country was for men of their race, but their shooting was decidedly bad. Eight Gurkhas belonging to the Sandoway police proved themselves invaluable. One Rangoon policeman died from fever and another from heat apoplexy.

The punitive police now sanctioned for the Kyaungbya consists as far as possible of Gurkhas, and a strong and well-fortified post has been built for them at Atu, the place noted in my previous letter as the most suitable. It is not now expected, however, that their duties will be of a very onerous character.

All these rebels who went out a second time were, under orders of the Chief Commissioner, exempted from pardon.

On the 25th April a party of 20 rebels crossed over the Mawwônkyaw and dacoited the villages of Gônzayit and Menekwin for food. The next morning a party from Atu encountered them in the jungles without success. No better result being obtained by a party of police from Thayakwin near Gônzayit, who had followed up the tracks of the rebels who had dacoited that place. The latter were, however, immediately encountered a third time by the main body of police from Atu under Mr. Dobson, Assistant Superintendent of Police, and routed, a notable rebel (Maung Thaing) being mortally wounded and captured. Shortly after this symptoms of disaffection appeared amongst the rebels, the majority of whom were becoming sick of the hunted life they were leading, whilst there was no sign of the promised aid from the Pothuda Yaung Gale. Moreover, as soon as proof was forthcoming as to the villagers who were harbouring them, the provisions of section 14 (1) of the Village Act were brought to bear with unflinching severity on the guilty parties. Further, under section 16(1) of that Act large numbers of rebels' relations (48 in all) were deported to Taungup. The result was that the pôngyi, finding his position in Ywashé and Thandi jungles to have become untenable, made on the 5th May a hurried march still further down the river to the jungles of the Andawkyaw behind Uyingwin. Owing to the surrender of one of his men (with one gun) he narrowly escaped an encounter on the way down and in fact two stragglers from his party were actually captured. The number of the men who accompanied the pôngyi down to Uyingwin jungles was 17, the remainder breaking up into two parts. This may be said to mark the second or penultimate stage in the repression of the rebellion as was the case when the pôngyi previously made a complete change of habit, we were for some time at fault as to where he had gone. In the meantime search parties continued to hunt the jungles from Atu, and one of them under the Myoôk got into and broke up one of the remaining parties of rebels, part of whom were captured, the remainder surrendering shortly after. The fines on the villages for harbouring continued to be levied in weekly instalments, and soon effectually turned the villagers against the remaining party of rebels, who were moreover hunted closely from day to day. The result was that this party of nine men, which comprised several of the leading rebels, surrendered, with one gun, at Atu on the 22nd and 23rd May. It may be mentioned that altogether about 800 baskets of paddy had been found hidden in these lower jungles and destroyed.

It had already become evident that the pôngyi with the remaining rebels must be between Atu and Uyingwin, but although these jungles were searched by four different parties, the rebels were not for a time actually got at, though they twice saw from their hiding place the police in pursuit of them. Six of the rebels, however, detached themselves from the pôngyi, of whom four surrendered shortly after telling the usual falsehoods as to the whereabouts of the pôngyi. On 29th May Shwe Hmyin, one of the rebels, having surrendered at Sandoway to the District Superintendent of Police, took a party under myself with the Myoôk to the pôngyi's camp in the jungles of the Andawkyaw. We came on the rebels late in the afternoon, the Theingôn pôngyi being mortally wounded and captured, two other rebels killed, besides a boy with them wounded and captured. A pistol and powder were also taken. Of the five who escaped three were wounded and, in desperation, one of them (exempted by name from pardon) killed the Minbya pôngyi, and surrendered with the others (and one gun) at Atu. On the 31st May only two rebels remained out and they surrendered (with one gun) on the 8th instant.

The above is a brief sketch of the measures taken for the suppression of the rebellion thus finally stamped out. Many details might be added, but these, though interesting in themselves, would, if related, swell this report to an undue length. It remains for me now to bring to your notice and that of Government the good services rendered in these most arduous operations by Mr. Dobson, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Blake, Inspector of Police, and Maung Tha Bwin, Sandoway Myoôk. The latter especially has done excellent work and has in fact been my right-hand man throughout.

Kalaungwa, the key to these uninhabited jungles, had also, it is known, a most disheartening effect on the rebels. Under these circumstances the pōngyi accepted the invitation of *ex-Yazawutgaung Shwe Hmek* to come down to the jungles of the Mawyōnkyaw behind Ywashe. The jungles above Kalaungwa then deserted of rebels, except a small party of mixed Burmese and Chins, who commenced taungya cultivation at the Sandoway zaungdan, a cliff far up towards the source of the river. A party of police under Mr. Blake, Inspector, came however upon them and destroyed their half-finished taungya and camp. A portion of these rebels shortly after surrendered, whilst the remainder joined the pōngyi in the Mawyōnkyaw. The abandonment of the jungles above Kayaw, which took place in the beginning of April, marks the first stage towards the repression of the rebellion. This was a most important gain on our part, as in less than six weeks the rebels had been forced by dint of sheer hard work from jungles which, from their remoteness and difficulty (in these respects second to none in the whole of Burma) might well have been considered by the rebels to afford a secure stronghold for an indefinite time. It may be mentioned that in the course of the operations above Kalaungwa I myself camped out five nights in the jungle, the Sandoway Myoōk nine, and Mr. Blake six nights.

The number of rebels who still remained out against us after the evacuation of these jungles was less than three dozen all told, whilst it is estimated that quite 1,500 baskets of paddy hidden in the jungles had been found and destroyed. This paddy all belonged to rebels actually out; those who surrendered were allowed to take away from the "cashes" any paddy of theirs that remained.

Although the uninhabited jungles above Kalaungwa were cleared of rebels about the beginning of April it was not till a fortnight later that we became aware that the Theingōn pōngyi had moved down to those behind Ywashe. This was chiefly owing to deliberate falsehoods of surrendered and captured rebels (notably of *ex-Yazawutgaung Shwe Hmek*) who represented the pōngyi as still being in the former jungles. (It was subsequently ascertained that this traitor who was captured by a party of police in the Ywashe jungles, was within hearing distance of the rebels' camp at the time.)

The scattered remnants of the different gangs from the Upper Kyaungbya had all united together into one under the pōngyi, their actual number, however, being as above noted less than three dozen.

Parties of the police had from the first scoured the jungles behind Ywashe and Atu, and as soon as it was known that the remaining rebels were in the jungles additional parties were constantly out. At the same time it being apparent that the retention of the post at Kalaungwa, which had served its purpose, was no longer useful, this post was evacuated, the men in it falling back on Atu. At first these search parties were unsuccessful, the rebels taking elaborate precautions to hide their camps, so that, as was afterwards ascertained, the search parties frequently came quite close to the latter without suspecting the proximity of the rebels. This, indeed, was not to be wondered at owing to the density of the jungles in the Kyaungbya and the mountainous nature of the country; but at the same time it must be admitted the rebels had a very fair share of good fortune.

Whilst the rebels were above Kalaungwa their supplies were, as has been stated drawn from Sabagyis hidden in the jungles, but after coming down to these lower villages they obtained their rice principally from surrendered rebels, although there was also a good deal of paddy hidden in these jungles. Suspicion from the first fixed on the villages of Ywashe, Bambwegōn, and Kanyingōn.

On the 23rd April their criminality was clearly proved, whereupon all the surrendered male inhabitants of Ywashe, together with a few from Bambwegōn and Kanyingōn, absconded and joined the rebels, bringing the number of these latter to 49.

There can, I think, be little doubt that the principal reason for these persons re-absconding was the discovery of the fact of their harbouring the rebels, but at the same time, as already noted, the animus of those who surrendered was distinctly disloyal, and the majority would doubtless have gone out again had the pōngyi gained any notable advantage.

for many years, supporting himself by taungya-cultivation on the remoter mountains. It may be conceded therefore that the position of the rebels in these jungles with the ample food-supplies they possessed was a sufficiently strong one.

It soon became evident that if the rebels were to be effectively reached, the ordinary mode of jungle-hunting must be abandoned and that parties provided with several days provisions must march into this uninhabited country, camping every night in the jungle. This was accordingly done, each party being a column in miniature with advance guard, main body, baggage, and rear-guard. The Chins from Daingbaing were the first coolies employed and showed wonderful powers of endurance. As for guides the number of hunters who knew the remote country to be beaten might almost be counted on one's fingers, and some of these were with rebels. A few good men were, however, obtained and, a liberal policy being pursued as regards their payment, no difficulty was experienced in obtaining guides throughout the operations. This was the more fortunate as practically no information could be obtained as to the whereabouts of the rebels, and the success or not therefore of the different expeditions depended in no small degree on the sagacity of the guides.

Only those who have been actually engaged in the work, who have marched day after day over boulders of all sizes along the rocky beds of mountain torrents, hand over hand through the bamboo jungle on the precipitous mountain sides, all under the beams of a tropical sun, can know what the work of hunting the rebels in these jungles was. Of all streams perhaps the Kunkyaung was the most difficult, the last 1,000 feet up of this being simply a succession of precipices, but many other streams were not far behind it. In spite, however, of the exhausting nature of the work the hunting of the rebels was continued unintermittently, parties at the same time searching for and destroying the supplies of paddy hidden in the jungle.

The first camp of rebels (that of the Yenetku, &c., Chins) was got into by a party under myself with the Myoōk on the 7th March and thence onward we continued constantly in touch with the rebels. A conciliatory policy was from the first pursued towards those who were captured or who surrendered. This policy was given formal effect to in my proclamation of the 28th March, in which pardon was offered under certain conditions to all rebels excepting 11 leaders specified by name.

The points "d'appui" which I selected for the operations were Kalaungwa, Atu, and Pauktu, the latter post prevented the rebels from breaking out on the Kamyit valley, and thus kept the disturbance strictly within bounds. The accommodation at Kalaungwa was wretched, consisting merely of two or three Chin huts, so I decided to build a fortified post in the Upper Burma style, and this was done, the requisite labour being supplied by surrendered rebels. Gradually the persistent hunting of the jungles, together with the burning of the food supplies, began to tell on the rebels.

It is true that owing to the dense jungles they generally contrived to escape uninjured on the first alarm of the police, leaving of course their camp standing, but the constant harassing told upon them greatly. Some were captured (one was killed) and many more surrendered, so that their original distribution by villages became much altered, the parties becoming mixed in origin and considerably smaller. The mental attitude of the surrendered rebels was, however, rather one of sullen submission to a too powerful authority than of gratitude for the clemency extended to them, together with a desire to atone for their past crimes. As a rule but a little true information could be extracted from the surrendered rebels.

All this time it appears that the Theingōn pōngyi was keeping up the spirits of the rebels by telling them that Sandoway would shortly be attacked from the west by a certain Pothudaw Yaung Gale from Kaladan in the Arakan Hill Tracts. This arch-rebel, however, soon found his position in these jungles, vast as they were, getting untenable. His camp had once been got into by a party under myself with the Myoōk and since then he had to remove to a place very far removed from the hidden Sabagyis, which latter were, moreover, being gradually found out one after another and burnt. The building of the post at

No. 700-201-P., dated Rangoon, the 22nd August 1890.

From—H. THIRKELL WHITE, Esq., c.s., Officiating Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner
Burma, Judicial Department,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with my telegram No. 394, dated the 12th June 1890, I am directed to submit for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter (No. 1Ct., dated the 10th June 1890), from Mr. B. Houghton, Deputy Commissioner of Sandoway, describing the measures taken to disperse the recent gathering of rebels in the Sandoway District, Mr. Houghton's action was completely successful and the Chief Commissioner considers that his energy and perseverance merit recognition. The officers mentioned by Mr. Houghton also did good work, for which they have been commended by the Deputy Commissioner.

No. 1Ct., dated Camp Taungup, the 10th June 1890.

From—B. HOUGHTON, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Sandoway,

To—The Commissioner of the Arakan Division.

IN continuation of my letter No. 13-11, dated the 27th February, I have the honour to forward to you an account of the suppression of the rebellion in the Sandoway Kyaungbya.

After the repulse of the rebels from Sandoway it was at first thought that they would fortify some position up the Kyaungbya and hold it in force. It was in expectation of meeting some such resistance as this that Mr. Dobson and myself marched first up the valley. However, from visits paid to the different villages (which were in fact completely deserted) and the lands adjacent thereto up the valley, it became apparent that the rebels had retreated into the most distant jungles and that in fact their repulse at Sandoway had been much more severe than was at first supposed.

At the same time it was found that the only villages in the Upper Kyaungbya which had not actually participated in the rebellion were those of Daingbaing, Atu (a portion only), and Daingkyau.

The inhabitants of these places returned almost as soon as we marched up, but the entire remaining population had evidently plumped for the rebels and were in hiding. A proclamation was issued that only those who were actually concerned in the attack on Sandoway would be punished; but those in the Upper Kyaungbya, who were not thus concerned, were all closely related to those who were, and for the time being they made no sign of surrender.

The state of things at this time may be briefly described as follows: Except the main gang headed by the Theingôn Pôngyi, which was not more than 30 strong, the remainder of the rebels had all divided into different parties according to their villages.

The rebels of Ywashe, Bangwegôn, and Kanyingôn were in the jungles of Mawyônkyaw, south of their villages, whilst all the remainder of the rebels were in the jungles above the highest villages of the Sandoway and Kalaung rivers. The rebellion had taken place just after the harvest and the entire stocks of paddy from the different taungyas (the usual mode of cultivation in these parts) had been removed and hidden in sabagys in the neighbouring jungles. It is estimated that at this time there were 150 able-bodied men out against us exclusive of women and children. The uninhabited jungles, however, in which they had taken refuge were of so vast and difficult a character that without careful search an army of 10,000 men might have been easily hidden there.

The country consists merely of an interminable series of mountains all covered with thick jungle, the only ways of ascending which are up streams, which are simply a succession of enormous boulders. It was in similar jungles up the Thadekyau that the great rebel Maung Tha U bid defiance to Government after the annexation of Sandoway