

INQUIRY

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

REORGANIZATION

OF THE

ARMIES OF INDIA.

REPLIES

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FIFTH PARAGRAPH OF THE LETTER FROM THE

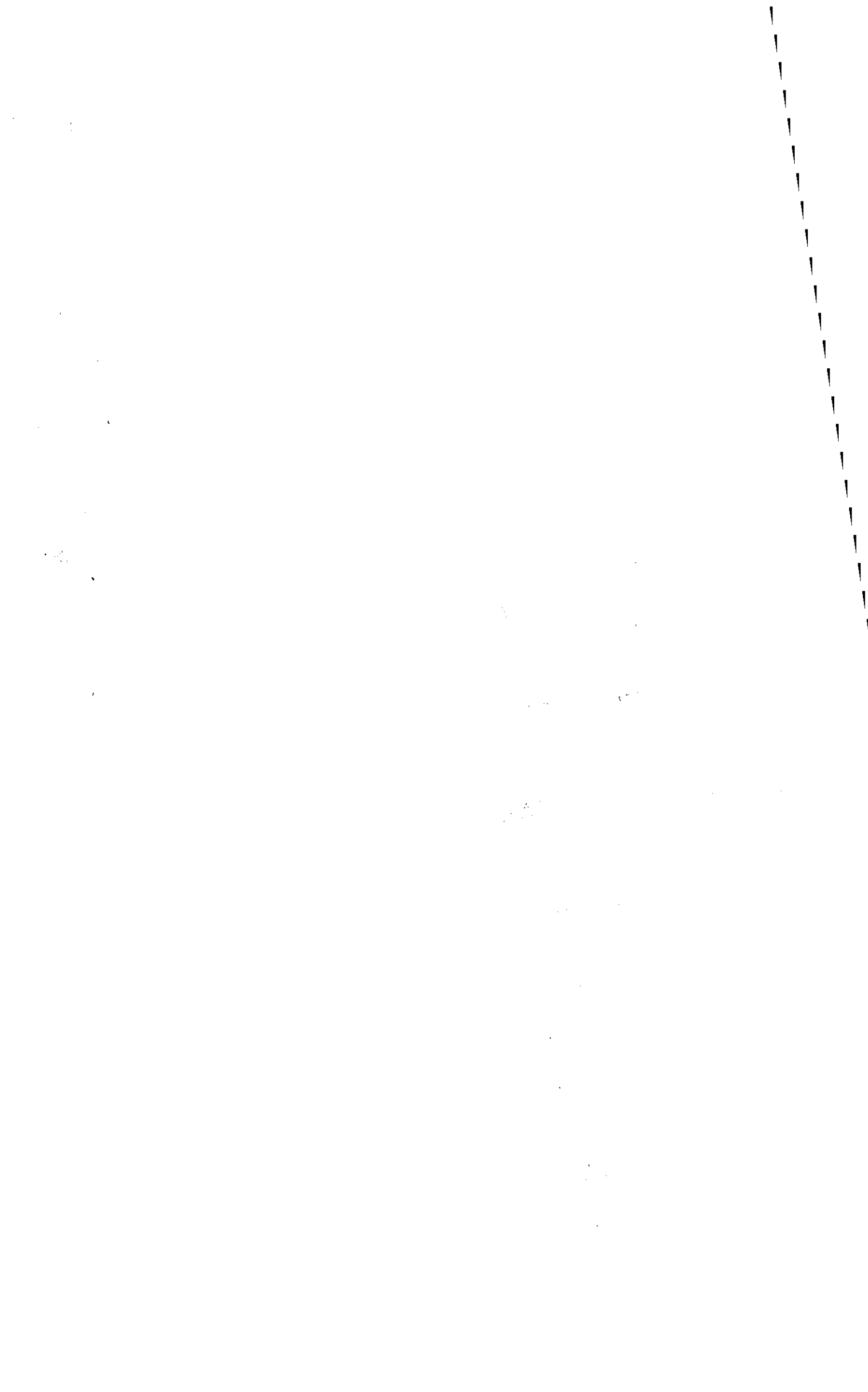
Honorable the Court of Directors to the Government of India,

No. 235—25th November 1857,

AS ALSO ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT,

WITH

PRECIS AND RETURNS ATTACHED.



INQUIRY ON THE SUBJECT
OF THE
RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY
IN
INDIA.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT,

No. 235 of 1857.

Our Governor General of India in Council.

WE trust that when success, by the blessing of Divine Providence, shall have ended your efforts to put down the mutiny of the Native Army of your Presidency, and to re-establish the authority of the Government in the disturbed districts, you will be enabled to take advantage of the services of select Officers of ability and experience to assist you, by investigation and by practical counsel founded thereon, in forming wise conclusions on the most important subject which must soon press for decision, namely, the proper organization of our Army in India.

2. To this end, we authorize you to appoint, as soon as circumstances will permit, a Commission composed of Military Officers of the Armies of the three Presidencies (to whom should be associated Officers of the Queen's Army who have had experience in Indian service), on whose knowledge, experience, and judgment you can rely, together with one or more Civil Servants, whom you may consider to be specially qualified to discharge such a duty by their knowledge of the native character and general administrative experience.

3. In framing instructions for the guidance of this Commission, we are desirous that the following heads of enquiry should be specified, in addition to any others which you may consider to deserve their attention:—

1st.—Should Corps be raised each in a prescribed district, and be recruited there, and be local only?

2nd.—Should Corps be composed of Troops or Companies, each of which shall consist of separate tribes or castes; or should the tribes or castes be mixed up together in the same Regiment?

3rd.—Should a Company or Companies of Europeans form a component part of the Regiments?

4th.—What alterations should be made in your recruiting Regulations relating to tribes and castes, with a view to determine the future composition of the Native Army?

5th.—Will it be expedient to enlist natives of other tropical countries, equally qualified for service in India with the natives of the country; and if so, should they be formed in separate Regiments, or in Companies, or otherwise?

6th.—Whether, in Native Infantry Regiments, the discontinuance of the grades of Native Commissioned Officers, and the substitution of an European Serjeant and Corporal to each Company is advisable, and if so, whether, in lieu of the prospect of distinction and emolument arising out of these grades, it would be advisable to establish graduated scales of good service pay and retiring pensions, claimable after specified periods of service?

7th.—Whether the system of promotion, generally, by seniority, to the grade of native Commissioned Officers, (if these are retained,) should not be altered and assimilated to the systems in force at Madras and Bombay?

8th.—If separate Corps are to be maintained for military and police purposes, what will be the best organization for each branch respectively?

9th.—Have the powers of Commanding Officers of Native Corps, and the powers of Officers in charge of Companies, been diminished? What consequences have been the result? Is it desirable that those powers should be increased, or what other measures should be adopted for the improvement of discipline?

10th.—Should Cadets be trained and drilled in European Regiments before they are posted to Native Regiments? or what would be the best mode of drilling and training Cadets before they are posted to Native Regiments?

11th.—Should the special rules regulating punishment in the Native Army be retained, or should they be assimilated to the rules which obtain in the British Army, or ought there to be any, and what changes in those rules, or in the system of punishment?

12th.—How can the demands for European Officers for Staff and detached employments be best provided for without injuring the efficiency of Regiments?

4. It is to be understood that the inquiries to be made by the Commission, and the opinions to be offered by them, are to have reference to the several branches of the Native Army, Infantry, regular and irregular; Cavalry, regular and irregular; Artillery, and Sappers and Miners; and with respect to the Artillery and Sappers and Miners, whether they should be composed, as heretofore, of Europeans and Natives, or be entirely European.

5. To aid your Government in forming an opinion as to the proportion which the European should bear to the Native portion of the Army in India generally, and at each Presidency separately, we would recommend that your Government should call on the Commission to give their opinions on this very important question; and we can entertain no doubt that the enlarged knowledge and experience of the Members of the Commission will enable them to furnish you with valuable information on this head.

6. Having obtained opinions on all these heads of inquiry, and on such other heads as you may deem to be essential to the thorough development of the important questions at issue, you will refer the views of the Commission for the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief, and will then furnish us with the result of your careful deliberation upon the whole of the measures, which should, in your judgment, be taken for the organization and maintenance, in the utmost practicable state of efficiency, of whatever military force you may think it desirable to form.

7. The Commission itself may be instructed to make to the Governor General in Council any suggestions or recommendations which occur to them, although not on matters comprised in the specified heads of inquiry.

We are, &c.,
 (Signed) R. D. MANGLES.
 „ F. CURRIE.
 &c. &c.

LONDON ;
 The 25th November 1857. }

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 No.

FROM

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. M. DURAND, C. B.,
On Special Duty with the Governor General.

TO

Allahabad, the 21st May 1858.

SIR,

UNDER instructions from the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, I have the honor to forward a printed copy of Letter No. 235, dated 25th November 1857, from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors.

2. Circumstances having rendered it hitherto impracticable, notwithstanding the successes which have attended our Troops in the Field, and the important advance which has been made towards the re-establishment of the authority of Government in the disturbed districts, to constitute such a Commission as the Honorable Court desired to see appointed, the Governor General has determined to adopt the alternative of obtaining in writing from eminent and experienced Public Servants, Civil and Military, their opinions on the several heads of the inquiry, the conduct of which would otherwise have been inapplicable to the Commission.

questions have

sive than in respect to the order in which these heads shall be taken up, His Lordship's will, however, that the main features of the revolt of the Native Army in Bengal, and the necessary financial considerations which the issue of this unparalleled mutiny entail, are sufficient to prescribe the point to which, practically, the attention of the Government must first be directed ; that point being the strength and the composition of the European Army which must be permanently maintained in India, as the basis of our power and security.

4. This being so, the fifth paragraph of the Honorable Court's Despatch becomes the one of primary importance, and indeed a decision on the point above noticed, as well as on the question raised in that paragraph, viz., the proportion which the European should bear to the Native portion of the Army in India generally, and at each Presidency separately, will go far to simplify enquiry into other parts of the whole subject, the financial aspect of which will then be brought clearly into view.

5. Impressed with the necessity for a speedy, though a well-considered settlement of these fundamental data, the Governor General has directed me to forward, for your attentive consideration, the appended series of questions, and to request that replies may be returned with as little delay as the weighty nature of the points referred for your opinion may render practicable.

6. This series of questions will be followed by other series upon the various heads to which the Court's Despatch calls attention; therefore, in replying to those which I am now directed to place before you, there will be no necessity for touching upon the many important particulars to which the Letter of the Hon'ble Court adverts, but which are foreign to the main question raised in the fifth paragraph.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. M. DURAND, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
On special Duty with the Governor General.

FROM

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. M. DURAND, C. B.,
On Special Duty with the Governor General, Allahabad.

TO

Dated Allahabad, the 15th June 1858

SIR,

MY Letter No. of the 21st May last, will have prepared you for the receipt of other series of questions upon the various heads to which Letter No. 235, dated 25th November 1857, from the Honorable the Court of Directors, had called attention.

2. By direction of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, be the honor to forward a series of questions connected with the re-organization of the Infantry branch of the Service.

3. The questions now forwarded, are upon the recruiting and ^{the} ~~of~~ the ^{ch} ~~of~~ Corps. The questions upon the second, third, and fourth heads of the ^{on} ~~of~~ g ^{an} ~~of~~ cation, will follow as soon as they are received from the Press, and will ^{the} ~~of~~ without any accompanying letter.

4. Such of the questions as are not applicable, will, of course, require no other reply than a statement to that effect. The questions having to be framed for wide and general circulation, entailed the necessity of their being comprehensive, and precluded their limitation, otherwise than by marginal manuscript direction, to the special circumstances of the several Civil and Military Authorities to be addressed.

5. I have only to repeat that the Governor General is desirous, that replies be furnished with as little delay as the nature and complexity of the points referred for your opinion, may render practicable.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. M. DURAND, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
On special Duty with the Governor General.

No.

FROM

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. M. DURAND, C. B.,
On Special Duty with the Governor General, Allahabad.

TO

Allahabad, the 15th June 1858.

SIR,

UNDER instructions from the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, I have the honor to forward the copy of letter No. 235, dated 25th November 1857, from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, and with reference to the various heads to which the Court's Despatch calls attention, I am directed to enclose, for your consideration, the accompanying series of questions connected with the re-organization of the Native Infantry of the

2. The questions upon the second, third and fourth heads of the general classification, will shortly be transmitted to you.

3. Upon these different series of questions, His Lordship's desire is, that replies be given with the least practicable delay.

4. You will do me the favor to bear in mind that those questions which are inapplicable to yourself require no reply other than a statement to that effect. As the questions had to be printed for wide and general circulation, they are more comprehensive than if they had been framed to suit each special reference. The marginal directions will, however, instruct you as to the general questions to which it does not seem necessary to give you the trouble of turning your attention.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. M. DURAND, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
On Special Duty with the Governor General.

QUESTIONS

Having reference to Paragraph 5 of Despatch No. 235, of 25th November 1857. Military Department, from the Court of Directors.

- 1.** What is the number of European Troops of each arm now serving and what is their distribution ?
- 2.** What is the number of European Troops of each arm you deem necessary for and what should be their ordinary distribution ?
- 3.** What is the number of Native Troops of each arm now serving in and what is their distribution ?
- 4.** What is the number of Native Troops you deem necessary for and what should be their ordinary distribution ?
- 5.** What proportion of Native Troops now serving in _____ are Regulars, Irregulars and Police Corps? Of what races are they composed, and in what proportions do the races occur ?
- 6.** What proportion of your proposed Establishment of Native Troops should be Regulars, Irregulars and Police ?
- 7.** What proportion should the European bear to the Native Troops in _____ and state the ratios both inclusive and exclusive of Police Corps ?
- 8.** What proportion should the European bear to the Native Troops in India generally, and state the ratios as affected by the inclusion or exclusion of Native Police Corps ?
- 9.** Is there adequate Barrack accommodation for the European Troops now serving in _____ and state its amount ?
- 10.** Would additional Barrack accommodation have to be provided in _____ for the strength of European Troops you deem necessary, and to what extent ?
- 11.** What proportion of the European Force should belong to Her Majesty's Regular Army, and what portion should be composed of Troops raised for service in India ?

12. Under the supposition that additional Corps of Europeans have to be raised for service in India, how would you officer them ?

13. Under the supposition that a considerable increase take place in the number of Corps raised for service in India, and that they are officered from the Officers of the mutinied Battalions of the Bengal Army, will this accession of seniority promotion Corps create any greater embarrassment in juxta-position with the purchase promotion system than what now accrues from the existence of the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Marines, and the three Indian Armies in all which Corps and Armies seniority promotion is the system ?

14. The feasibility of raising Corps of foreign mercenaries, such as Tartars, Chinese, Malays, Dyaks, Africans, Madagascarenes, &c., being assumed, would you consider that the proportion of European to Native and Foreign mercenary Troops could, with safety to our power and supremacy in India, be modified from the ratio stated in reply to questions 7 and 8, if so, to what extent ?

No. 121.

FROM

MAJOR-GENERAL W. R. MANSFIELD,
Chief of the Staff,

TO

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DURAND, C. B.

Dated 4th September 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to send you the answers to certain series of questions respecting the future organization of the Bengal Army, in obedience to the commands of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

In order more fully to explain my meaning than appeared to me to be possible by adhering solely to my answers to the questions, I have ventured to add a Minute containing my views at length on the solution of the matter proposed for consideration.

/ I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. R. MANSFIELD, *Major-General,*
Chief of the Staff.

ALLAHABAD, }
The 4th September 1858. }

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