

CHAPTER 15

The Subsidiary Troops and the District ceded for its maintenance.

Origin and Nature.

His Highness Maharaja Govindrao Gaekwad died in September 1800, and was succeeded by his eldest son Maharaja Anandrao. The latter was of weak mind and the powers of the State were usurped by his illegitimate half brother Kanoji. The usurper was however, deposed by a party headed by Raoji Appaji, the Minister of Govindrao. But his cause was espoused by Malharrao, Jagirdar of Nadi, cousin of Govindrao. Raoji Appaji, on behalf of Maharaja Anandrao, solicited the assistance of the Hon'ble East India Company against Malharrao which the Company's Government consented to give. In connection with the arrangements made at the time, the Baroda Government agreed to receive from the Company a subsidiary force of 2000 infantry and one unit of combined European and Indian Artillery - the whole then costing Rs. 65,000 a month i.e. Rs. 7,80,000 a year. This happened in 1802. The Baroda Government also agreed to assign at their convenience landed Jaidad or funds to cover the expenses in full from such part of Baroda territory as were to be fixed on in view to the greatest convenience of both parties. \* In pursuance of this convention, an arrangement was entered into and a bond executed on the 6th of June 1802, providing for the assignment of a cash Jaidad equal to Rs. 50,000 a year from the villages of Nadiad and for a cash payment of Rs. 7,30,000 within a year. %

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\*Article 2 of the Articles of Convention dated 15th March 1802 -  
Aitchison's Treaties, Vol. VIII P. 32.)  
% A.T. Vol. VIII Pp. 34 and 44.

Exchanged in 1817 for Kapad Wanj, Bhalej, Kadod etc.

In February 1803, the paraganas of Dholka, Nadiad, and Vijapur and the Tappa or Circle of villages of Kadi contiguous to Vijapur, yielding altogether a net revenue of Rs. 7,80,000 were ceded for the expenses of the above subsidiary force. (A.T.P.58). From the Sanads for these Talukas, etc, granted at the time, (A.T. 59), it appears that the cession was not of a permanent nature. In the month of June following, the subsidiary force was increased by another 1000 sepoy, and in part payment of the expenses occasioned by that increase, the paraganas of Matar and Modha were ceded and the receipts from the <sup>\*</sup>customs of the Kimkatodara circle were assigned (A.T.P. 60). The revenues of these paraganas together with the assignment of the customs amounted to Rs. 2,90,000. In addition to this a draft (warrat) of one lakh of Rupees in cash on Kathiawar Tribute was agreed to be given every year. The total cost of the augmented force thus came to Rs. 11,70,000.

In the year 1805, a Definitive Treaty of general defensive alliance was concluded between the Baroda Government and the East India Company by which all former engagements, were consolidated. By this treaty, the Maharaja Gaekwad in accordance with the former engagements agreed to receive and the East India Company to furnish a permanent subsidiary force of not less than 3,000 regular infantry and one company of European artillery and two companies of Gun-Laskars with the necessary ordnance and war like stores and ammunition which force was to be stationed in the territories of the Baroda State. (A.T.P. 62) In order "to provide the regular payment of the whole expense of the subsidiary force " His Highness Maharaja Anandrao

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\*This meant the customs and salt revenue of the Mahals of Orpad, Ankleshwar and Hansot belonging to the Peshwa (afterwards to the British Government) and of Vasrai, Galha, Variav and Tadkeshwar belonging to the Gaekwad. Tadkeshwar was ceded to the East India Company.

-----confirmed the cessions of districts and assignments of funds already made by him. The net revenues of the territories ceded together with the cash assignments amounted, as before, to Rs. 11,70,000- the sum mentioned above (Para 2). A list called "Schedule A" of the districts ceded and funds assigned was appended to the Treaty. (A.T.P. 67).

In 1808, it was found that the actual ~~realisation~~ realisations from the districts enumerated in the Schedule fell short by Rs. 1,76,168-15-0. In order to make good this deficit, further assignments in cash and lands yielding the above mentioned sum annually were made. (A.T. P. 69).

In 1812, a proposal was put forward by the Bombay Government, "to restore to the Gaekwad in consideration of the payments of ~~upwards of~~ upwards of a crore of rупees the territories ceded for the subsidy and to farm to him the districts acquired under the treaty of ~~the~~ Bassein, the engagements regarding the subsidiary force remaining otherwise in tact. " The proposal did not, however, meet with the sanction of the supreme Central Government (A.T. P.7)

In June 1817, the Peshwa as the result of circumstances, which it is needless to mention, entered into a treaty with the East India Company, by which inter alia he renounced all future claims against the Baroda State and agreed to compromise all past financial claims against Baroda for an annual sum of Rs. 4 lakhs - a payment which ceased with the overthrow of the Peshwa. He also agreed to give his territory in Gujarat subject to the city of Ahmedabad in perpetual farm to the Baroda Government for an annual rent of Rs. 4½ lakhs. The rest of his territory in Gujarat and his entire tribute in Kathiawar he ceded to the British Government in part payment of the expenses

of the contingent of 5,000 horse and 300 foot which he had agreed by the treaty of Bassein to furnish for cooperating with the Poona subsidiary force in time of war. (A.T. 5th edition, Vol VII pp.63,64 and 66).

On the conclusion of this treaty, the Marquis of Hastings, then Governor General of India, proposed to make certain arrangements which would have had the result of securing to the Baroda State and the British Government the advantage of compact territory as will appear from the following extract from his despatch, dated the 4th September 1817 to the Court of Directors:-

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"Article 5"

"8. The renunciation of the future demands of His Highness the Peshwa against the Gaekwad, was a necessary part of his disavowal of his pretensions as head of the Maratha Confederacy, in which for the most part they originated. It was an object of great importance also to exclude him from all concern in the affairs of Gujarat where infinite vexation and trouble had been occasioned by the violence and intrigues of his officers since the resumption of the farm of Ahmedabad. With the same view, we demanded the renewal, in perpetuity, of the farm of Ahmedabad, at the former rent of four lacs and a half of rupees, to the Gaekwad, an arrangement which was always desired by Your Honourable Court and for effecting which, this presented too favourable an occasion to be neglected. The tribute of Kathiawar has been transferred to the Honourable Company, as part of the fund for the maintenance of the ~~auxiliary~~ auxiliary force while parts of His Highness' territorial

possessions have been ceded to the Hon'ble Company for the same purpose. The ~~Peshwa~~ Peshwa is thus deprived of all connections and every pretence for interference with the Province of Gujarat; a circumstance which, I feel no hesitation in predicting, will very speedily be felt in the augmented prosperity and confirmed tranquility of that rich and valuable province. <sup>By</sup> ~~The~~ restricting the participation of authority in Gujarat to the British Government and the Gaekwad only will lay the foundation for many beneficial arrangements which already occupied my thoughts. One of the first of these will be such interchange of territory and well defined boundary, the want of which is particularly striking in that province. It would be premature in this place to advert to the other views I entertain, which will be communicated in due course when they are matured and put in train of execution." (East India Blue Book, H.C. No. 369 of 1818, p.46)

The sanad for the perpetual grant of the farm of Ahmedabad to the Gaekwad Government was issued and sent from Poona on the 25th June 1817. On the same day the Government of Bombay, "began to consider if the Gaekwad, whose position had been so wonderfully improved and who had obtained without an effort the lion's share of the spoil should not be called upon to maintain a larger subsidiary force." A passing thought occurs at this stage of development whether it was not a part of British tactics to press the Peshwa to pass on the Ahmedabad farm in perpetuity to the Gaekwad, one of his ~~brethren~~ <sup>contriving to snatch it away from the latter</sup> brethren/under the pretext of cession for the increase in subsidiary force. However, the Bombay Government proposed that an additional subsidy of two regiments of cavalry and a battalion of Native infantry, 1000 strong should be entertained. The Gaekwad ceding

his tribute in Kathiawar. Fatehsingrao, who was at the time Regent for Maharaja Anandrao agreed to the increase of the subsidiary force and to its payment by territorial cession, though not by his surrender of his rights in the peninsula of Kathiawar - instead of which he offered to give in Jaidad all the rights just then acquired by the State by the perpetual lease of the Ahmedabad District provided the British paid the rent fixed on it.

This arrangement was carried out by a treaty entered into between the Gaekwad and the East India Company in November 1817 as a supplement to the Definitive Treaty of 1805 between the parties. The territories comprehended in the perpetual farm of Ahmedabad which were ceded by this treaty to the East India Company were shown in a list styled "Schedule B" (A.T. Vol. VIII, p.77). In this manner after the treaty of 1817 the total strength of the Baroda Subsidiary force stood at 4,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry and one unit of European and Indian artillery with necessary ordnance and war like stores and ammunition.

The total net revenue from the district ceded and the cash assignments made in 1805, 1808 and 1817 amounted at the time of the cession to Rs. 24,31,969. A complete list of these cessions of territories is available in the Baroda archives. Their area was about 4,000 Sq. miles and their population according to the then latest census, about 1½ millions. The cessions consist of the following territories and assignments:-

1. The whole of the present Kaira district with the exception of
  - (a) The Napad Tappa in Borsad ceded by the Peshwa by the treaty of Bassein in 1802, and
  - (b) The Fort and Jagir village of Kaira granted in Inam to the

East India Company by the Gaekwar Government in 1803.

2. The whole of the present district of Ahmedabad with the exception of
  - (a) The Talukas of Dhandhuka, Chhora, Ranpur and Goga ceded by the Peshwa by the treaty of Bassein, and
  - (b) Half the city of Ahmedabad with the Haveli and the Gaekwad's Daskroi given by the Baroda Government in exchange for other territory, i.e. Dabhoi, Savli, Bahadarpur etc.
3. Rangarghat in the Surat District.
4. Kadod tappa (about 30 villages) also in the Surat District.
5. Kim Katodara Jakt Circle.

In article 4 of the Definitive treaty of 1805, it was stated that the subsidiary force would at all times be ready to execute services of importance such as the protection of the person of the Ruler, his heirs and successors, the overawing and chastisement of the rebels and excitors of disturbance in his territories and the due corrections of his subjects or dependants who may withhold the payment of the state's just dues. One battalion of these forces or such a proportion of them as the performance of the foregoing services may be required was to proceed to Kathiawar when there might be a real necessity for it. In article 12 of the same treaty, it was agreed that should war unfortunately break out with any of the powers of India, with the reserve of a battalion of native infantry to remain near the person of the ruler of such proportion as might appear necessary for the security of Gujarat, the <sup>residue</sup> ~~Resident~~ of the subsidiary force, with their ordnance and war like stores and ammunition should be immediately put in motion for the purpose of opposing the enemy. By article 15 of the same treaty it was agreed that if disturbances broke out in

East India Company's territories or districts bordering on those of the Baroda territory, the Baroda Government would consent to the employment of such a proportion of the subsidiary force as might be requisite to quell the disturbance (Pp. 63,65 and 66 of A.T.) These provisions were repeated in the treaty of 1817 (A.T. Pp.72-76) by which it was further agreed that - the Baroda Government should provide a contingent of 3,000 horse equipped according to their own custom to cooperate with the subsidiary force when it took the field, and should place the whole of the military resources of the State at the disposal of the East India Company in times of emergency and that Baroda' claim to benefit by any future partition of territory acquired in foreign expeditions would be taken into consideration by the Hon'ble Company (A.T. P. 94). The obligation to keep this contingent was, in 1881, commuted into an annual payment of 3½ lakhs .(P. 75 of A.T.). The Subsidiary troops were thus meant

- 1) for the protection of the Ruler's person,
- 2) for the security of the State,
- 3) for the security of British Indian districts bordering on those of the Baroda State,
- 4) for the purpose of opposing a common enemy in India.

On the 21st October 1830, an important change took place in the position of the subsidiary force. All the British troops in Gujarat were combined in the 'Northern Army' and the "Subsidiary" as a separate command was abolished. For a time, the control of the General Commanding the Northern Division as regards the subsidiary force was confined to receiving returns and matters concerning the efficiency and discipline of the troops. No movement of any part of this force was to be made without the permission of the Resident at Baroda, who

was to retain the same power over it wherever stationed, as before, (Wallace, p. 410). But later on, the force became completely merged in the British Indian Army, and no separate force was thereafter maintained for Baroda. Only a battalion of Indian Infantry about 800 strong was stationed in the cantonment at Baroda. Here we might note that for the location of the subsidiary force, a piece of ground about a mile ~~is~~ distant from the city northwards was assigned (not ceded) in 1802. This place was till recently known as the Baroda Cantonment. One result of the amalgamation with the Indian Army had been that the force which had taken the place of the former Baroda subsidiary brigade had become liable to be sent out of India on war service like other portions of the Army of India. The force (if it could be identified) was not in the same position as the rest of the Indian Army and helped to fulfill its share of all the purposes for which the Indian Army was maintained.

In their origin and nature, there was no distinction between payments made by the States which were included in the budget of the Government of India under the general head "Tributes" and cessions of territories such as that made by Baroda. Both were payments for defence. For example, Article 4 of the Treaty between the British Government and His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore entered into 1813 stated,

"The British Government having undertaken to defend and protect the said territories against all external enemies and to relieve the Maharaja of Mysore of the obligation to keep troops ready to serve with the British Army when required, there shall, in consideration of such undertaking continued to be paid from the revenues of the said territories to the British Government

an annual sum of Government Rupees thirty five lakhs in two half yearly instalments!\*

It was an accident that in the case of Baroda money payment originally fixed was later on changed into cession of territory. The cash subsidy instituted by the above article was for the same purposes as the cession of territory by Baroda.

On the other hand, provision for payments of this nature by cession of territory was more burdensome than a cash payment of an equal amount to be annually made. This had been especially so in the case of Baroda.\*The cessions were made purely for the expenses of a subsidiary force. The liability could have been equally well discharged by a cash payment . But the British Government asked for the territories because the possession of the districts was calculated to give "Political ascendancy" to the East Indian Company in Gujarat. For the same reason the proposal made in 1811 by the Government of Bombay to restore the territories to Baroda was disallowed by the Supreme Government of Bengal. The district ceded by Baroda ~~was~~ were some of the richest in India - about 4000 sq. miles in area forming almost the whole of the Kaira district, the greater part of the Ahmedabad and half of the city of Ahmedabad and about 30 villages in the Surat District, besides the customs and salt revenue of the Baroda and British districts in Gujarat between the Taptee and Narbada and the tribute of Bhavnagar. As the result of the cession of these districts and the consequent arrangements, the Baroda State, had been split up into scattered units situated in the midst of British Districts and presented great difficulties and inconveniences of administration

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\*From a note on the subject H.P.O. File No. 341/61

both to Baroda and British India and also frustrated the original intention of making the Baroda territories compact as stated above.\*

#### Strength of the Troops.

The cessions were meant for the support of the following troops and for the arms and ammunition required for them:-

4000 Infantry.

1000 Cavalry.

1 Battery of artillery.

1 Company of European Gunners.

2 Companies of Indian Gun laskars.

At the time of their cession the net income of the districts etc was Rs. 24,31,969 which was more than sufficient for the expenses of the above troops. They began to yield larger revenues than the above sum almost from the time of the cession. This had been the chief ground of complaint by Baroda in all the representations made to the British Government on this subject. Knowing full well that the territories already ceded will never be returned to them the Baroda Government began to represent for the recognition of two principles viz, First , the surplus resulting from the increased revenue should be restored to the Baroda Government and secondly the equitable distribution of the burden of defence on all who were contributing for the purpose.

Taking the first principle, the Baroda represented in 1918<sup>8</sup> to ensure the regular payment of the whole expense of the subsidiary force, certain districts and funds of the yearly net value of

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\* From a note on the subject H.P.O. File No. 341/61  
% H.P.O. File No. 341/61. Representation Pp. 6-7.

Rs. 11,70,000 were assigned in "Jaidad". The term "assignment in Jaidad" has a special meaning. It signifies an assignment in <sup>land</sup> for the maintenance of an establishment of troops. The formula for the assignment in Jaidad as security for the specific purpose ~~was~~ distinct from that of an absolute cession, as in the case of the Sanad for the grant of the Chikhli to the Hon'ble East India Company, dated 4th June 1802 whereby they were desired "to enjoy the benefit of it "for ever". The cession of territory of services rendered ~~was~~ always to be distinguished from an assignment of districts for the maintenance of the subsidiary troops. The treaty of 1805 no doubt mentioned an assignments of the districts with all the rights of the sovereignty thereof in perpetuity; but this perpetual assignment was only intended to meet the expenses of the subsidiary troops to be permanently (or perpetually) maintained in Baroda. The assignment was no more perpetual than the corresponding obligation to maintain permanently the troops in Baroda. Moreover the security of Jaidad only meant that the revenues of the districts - to the amount of Rs. 11,70,000 secured thereby - were assigned and not the district irrespective of their revenues. In the year 1808 when there was a deficit in the revenues of the assigned districts to the amount of Rs. 176,168-15-0 an additional assignment of revenues of other district was made. just enough to make up this deficit. If the treaties thus implied an obligation to make good a deficit in the revenues assigned on the part of Baroda they equally implied an obligation on the part of the Hon'ble East India Company to refund any excess derived from the assigned districts and funds beyond the expenses calculated at the time of treaties.

Baroda representation further cited a minute by Sir James Carnac, Governor of Bombay dated 16th January 1841 in which he admitted that

the Hon'ble Company had derived a distinct benefit from the retention of these surpluses. It runs:

"Though I fully admit that the Gaekwar State has received great and important benefits from its alliance with the British Government, I am not insensible, from the results of my own experience, that benefits have been derived by ourselves from that connection. I confine myself in this observation to financial considerations and in support of my opinion Mr. Newnham furnishes us, in his minute of the 30th January 1832, with a statement of the gross collections, charges, and net receipts derived from the Gaekwad State, compared with the military charges of the Baroda subsidiary force taken from the accounts from 1826 to 1830 inclusive, the surplus being in these five years, Rs. 38,59,195-2-15\* Independent of this, Mr. Newnham further observes, that for several years previous, the revenue of the districts ceded to us by the Gaekwar had exceeded the military charges of the Gaekwad subsidiary forces in the annual sum of between six and seven lac of rupees and that in future the annual excess might be calculated at 12 lacs, as was the case in 1830-31"<sup>2</sup>

It continued, "This we may ascribe, in part, to one own improved system of management, and it is true, as Mr. Sutherland remarks, in his minute of the 6th February 1832, that it does not take into consideration local charges; but it, at all events, in my opinion, proves that we can afford to be a little liberal to the Gaekwar, without being unjust to ourselves where his conduct may deserve it. As to Military charges, I may observe that by the

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\*I think it should be Rs. 3859,195-15-2.

~~%H.P.O. File No. 341/61. Representation Pp.7-8~~

arrangements of Sir John Malcolm, when he visited Gujarat in 1829, they were in some part provided for in these ceded districts by his having merged the subsidiary force into the Northern division of the army, employing a portion of it in our own possessions." (East India Blue Book, H.C. No. 883 of 1852-53, pp.61-62).

The method by which the figure of the revenue available for expenditure on the troops was arrived at could be seen from the Sanad of the Ahmedabad farm printed as Appendix VIII in Volume VIII of Aitchison's Treaties and the paper showing the revenue of the same districts prepared at the time of their cession in 1818, available in the Baroda Records.

The second principle that Baroda's burden was proportionately greater than any other state can best be illustrated by the following statement.

(The figures for columns 4 to 7 are taken from Aitchison's Treaties and similar publications)

| S.No. | Name of State. | Population.  | Amount of subsidy fixed. | Forces for which the subsidy was fixed.   |   | Costs of state forces and other forces. |
|-------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|
|       |                |              |                          | Subsidiary troops   | Contingent.   |   |
| 1     | 2              | 3            | 4                        | 5   | 6   | 7                                       |
| 1     | Baroda         | 2½ millions. | 28,06,929                | 4000 Infantry,<br>1000 Cavalry,<br>One unit of artillery                          | *3000 Irregular horse   | 20,00,000                               |
| 2     | Hyderabad      | 14½ "        | 62,74,000<br>%30,60,309  | 8000 Infantry<br>1000 Cavalry with the requisite complement of European Artillery | 5000 Infantry<br>2000 Cavalry<br>4 Field Batteries of Artillery | 58,73,000                               |
| 3     | Mysore         | 6½ "         | 24,50,000                | Strength not specified.   | --  | 19,36,000 = 367=                        |
| 4     | Gwalior        | 3½ "         | 16,00,000                | Costing not less than 16 lacs of rupees.  | --  | 44,08,000                               |
| 5     | Travancore     | 5 "          | 8,00,000                 | Three battalions of Sepoys,<br>One company of European Artillery                  | One regiment of Indian Infantry                                 | 4,33,000                                |
| 6     | Cochin         | 1¼ "         | 2,00,000                 | One battalion of Native Infantry  | --  | 68,000                                  |
| 7     | Cutch          | ½ "          | 1,86,949                 | Native Infantry strength not specified.   | --  | 96,000                                  |

\*Now disbanded in lieu of an annual payment of Rs. 3½ lakhs. This is included in figure in column 4.

%On account of Berar.

Baroda demanded that the accepted principle being the equitable distribution of the expenditure should be possible on uniform basis; and the States that make or have made special contributions should be given relief.

Further more the Baroda Government demanded that the treaties required that a distinct unit of the Indian Army to be called the "Baroda Regiments" should be located in Baroda, to be useful for the purposes contemplated by the treaties and to be utilised outside only on occasions of war for the purpose of opposing the common enemy.

The Baroda Government also demanded that when the revenues of the assigned districts were considerably more than the estimated expenditure on the maintenance of the troops of the strength mentioned in the treaties such cash items as "warrañ on Kathiawar Rs. 100,000" included in Schedule A to the treaty of 1805, should be reassigned to Baroda.\*