CHAPTER V

AMENITIES AND ADMINISTRATION

Nayar Brigade was maintained by Travancore Government, but its organization, training, drill, discipline, uniform, arms and accoutrements etc, were based on the pattern of British Native Infantry Regiments. Travancore Government did not implement any changes until they received orders from the Madras Government.

The Nayar Brigade consisted of an infantry with two Battalions an artillery and a band with musicians. The Nayar recruit for the Battalion had to qualify himself with respect to height, weight, chest measurement and other formalities before he found his place in the recruitment list. After declared fit in their height and size, these men waited on the Commanding Officer for approval. Later, they were taken to the Caste Committee which noted down his caste. The Caste Committee was presided by a Subadar Major. Later those men were taken to the Medical Officer for their medical examination which was important in a Battalion where the men were bound to do all duties. The Battalion Officer gave his final approval and a list was made and kept in his office. Bribery was never encouraged in the recruitment procedure. Since the infantry consisted of chiefly Nayars and the Brigade
recruited among Travancoreans with few exceptions it proved advantageous to the Travancore Government and the men of the Nayar Community.¹

There was a separate entity of artillery attached to the Nayar Brigade. Unlike the two Battalions which consisted of mainly Nayars, the artillery, which formed a part of the Nayar Brigade consisted of Muslims and Carnatic Hindu. Those men were voluntarily enlisted between 18-22 years with a standard height of 5 feet 6 inches. They attended the drill regularly because they were not given any gratuity even after their enrolment which formed essential for acquiring rank. This went on until any fresh vacancies occurred in the Brigade. Hence, recruitments were made from the vicinity of Trivandrum, the Headquarter. This was because the Brigade establishment was quite different from the British Regimental Force.²

Duties of artillery consisted of furnishing guards for the magazine and gunshed. The artillery reports were sent to Quarter Master daily who reported the same to the Commanding Officer. The artillery fired a morning gun at 5 A.M., a midday gun at noon, and an evening gun at 8 P.M. daily. The artillery

¹. Standing Orders Of The Nayar Brigade Published by His Highness Maharajah Of Travancore and the British Resident (Trivandrum, 1876), p.4.
². Ibid., pp. 15-17.
furnished escorts for the ammunition brought from Madras arsenal for the use of the Brigade. Men of the artillery also made muskets used for public service. The artillery exempted from doing fatigue duties like that of an infantry in and about the palace. To the band were eligible both Nayars and other Hindus, but in that unit also, a major proportion constituted Nayars.

The band formed an important part of the Nayar Brigade. The band drummers, fifers and bungalows were under the immediate charge of the band master. The Staff Officer assisted the band master in discharging his duties. During guard mounting days, all drummers and fifers on duty accompanied the guards to and from the fort. During the royal tours, the drummers and fifers did not escort the Rajah. The band was also guided by those rules relating to fine, pay, punishments of the infantry. The accounts of the band funds were submitted to the Commanding Officer, before application was made for a fresh order from the Government. These band

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instruments which were of no use were returned back to the stores and sold by public auction.\footnote{5}

Scope for promotion in the band was very limited. The Non-commissioned Officers like drum majors took their retirement even after 40 years. The musicians in the service of the Nayar Brigade were less paid than that of a musician in the Indian Army. Hence, every attempt was made to encourage men of the band for attending public functions such as marriages in the Royal family. From the amount secured, a major portion was taken by the band master and rest was divided equally among the Non-commissioned Officers and Sepoys. The band gave performance only at such places on such occasions ordered by His Highness and the Commandant. Private individuals could also use the band service, for which they had to get prior notice from the Brigade Commandant.\footnote{6} The pay of the band was also increased and brought on equal footing with the scale in the Indian Army.\footnote{7} The band for purposes of pay and promotion has no connection with other units of the Brigade. There were only Non-commissioned Officers like 1 band

\footnote{5} {Army Regulation India (Calcutta, 1908), Vol. II, p.82.}  \footnote{6} {Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore, Nayar Brigade Regulation VI of 1904 (Trivandrum, 1904), p.186.}  \footnote{7} {Report on the Administration of Travancore 1924-1925 (Trivandrum, 1926), p.36.}
Havildar, 1 band Naigue, 1 drum major and 1 fife major.

Comparative pay of the band and the Infantry.⁸

**BAND**

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<td>Second Battalion</td>
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From the formation of the Brigade, all Native ranks contributed 10 percent of their pay, on account of clothing. Since the clothing sanctioned were of the cheap quality, the excess amount were given back to the Native ranks until 1830. From 10th April 1831, the Travancore Government stopped the practice of returning difference amount. By this method the Government was able to save not less than Rs.32,985 during a span of five years (1831-1835). The system continued until 1838, when Government provided a free knit to the men of the Brigade. Alteration work was done in the Travancore Brigade.

Stores at Government expense. The Inspection Committee consisted of 3 Commissioned Officers with the Commanding Officer as its President. The uniforms were inspected by the Battalion Officer and later by the Commanding Officer. Once in a month the clothing and other requirements of each Battalion were subjected to inspection. Until 1856, a contractor at Madras was incharge of supplying clothing, but later at the consent of the Madras Government, Clothing was supplied on payment by the agent supplier of clothing to the army. The system continued since then.

The Military Accoutrements from Mysore were cheap and of a better quality. Belts of various types like waist belts, pouch belts, bayonet belts and musket slings, drum slings as required by the artillery men, sepoys and musicians were got from Mysore on payment. Articles like jacket, trousers, sashes, turban, carpets, knapsacks were got on payment from the Superintendent and Agent for Army clothing and Commissionary General. In 1885, Zourive jackets were introduced in the Brigade. White coat and blue serge trousers were the every day uniform. Puggies were worn in place of old

10. Ibid., Preface 15.
11. Political Department, GO.No. 31, 16 January, 1860.
pattern skull cap. In 1878, an improved variety of turbans were purchased for the men of the Brigade at the cost of Rs. 4,350.\textsuperscript{12} In 1896, Rs. 239 was spent for the purchase of sashes, and Rs. 5,372 for the purchase of serge trousers.\textsuperscript{13}

The native Officers and men of the Brigade were expected to provide themselves with the uniform, but, the British Officers in the service of the Brigade were not required to provide themselves with the uniform of a native. It was because their service in the Brigade was only for a short period. The British Officers were required simply to change their cuffs and collars of military jacket according to their new command with the consent and prior approval of the military authorities of the British Officers.\textsuperscript{14} The uniform worn by the British Officer included tunic-scarlet cloth, lace-gold, button-guilt except on the shoulder, trousers-dark blue cloth, boots-ankle, spurs-brass swan neck, sword belt, gloves-white buff and helmet. The native Officers wore white zouave jacket, trousers-khaki, boots-ankle, sword-guilt, scabbard-black leather, sword-knot brown leather, sword belt-

\textsuperscript{12} Political Department, Letter No. 37, 10 June, 1898 (D.O.A.).

\textsuperscript{13} Report on the Administration of Travancore 1896-1897 (Trivandrum, 1898), p.84.

\textsuperscript{14} Army Regulation India Op.cit., p.32.
Lieutenant VP Parameswaran Pillai in full dress - 1936

Artillery in full dress
Bandsman in full dress - infantry

Full dress Mess kit - Captain J Tharyan
Sepoy in full dress - infantry
brass, whistles-white metal. The soldiers wore trousers, and jackets. They were also provided with carpets, cloak and woolen trousers during winter seasons. Soldiers wore no boots. Uniform of the men of the Brigade were submitted to change. After reorganization of the Nayar Brigade the uniform of the first Battalion was scarlet tunic with cuffs, collar in royal blue and lace gold as their colour. For the Second Battalion scarlet tunics with facing olive green and lace gold as their colour.

The artillery men wore royal blue uniforms, with material of a scarlet colour on their Cuffs and Collars. The bodyguard also had royal blue uniform, with Cuffs and Collars in white and yellow colour. The uniform for the second Battalion underwent changes. The red serge kurta was introduced in the place of the red cloth tunic in the full dress uniform. The retained Indian Officers of the Nayar Brigade wore their

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15. Standing Orders Of The Nayar Brigade, op.cit., p.86.
18. Ibid.
19. Judicial Department, Cover No. 655, 5 May, 1921 (D.O.A.).
uniforms on purely military functions and not on any other ceremonial functions.\textsuperscript{20}

The Travancore Government had arms deal with English East India Company which continued to supply arms from their factories at Anjengo and Tellicherry. From the second half of the 18th century, Travancore had their own Arsenal established at Udayagiri, where cannon, swords, arms, muskets, gun powder, motors were manufactured.\textsuperscript{21} Even, after the organization of Nayar Brigade in 1819 arms were supplied from the British Arsenals at Trichinopoly Ordinance stores at Quilon, Weapons were also purchased from Messrs. I. Cockburn and Co. London.\textsuperscript{22} To begin with, the Brigade was provided with old flint locks, bayonets, gun powder, \textsuperscript{23} repaired muskets, and swords on payment. The conveyance charges for the military articles were procured from the Travancore Government.

From, 1862 onwards, the military accoutrements came to be procured from the Grand Arsenal at Madras which charged only

\textsuperscript{20} Judicial Department, File No. 2392, 19 September, 1931 (D.O.A.).

\textsuperscript{21} Young, \textit{The East India Company's Arsenals and Manufactories} (Oxford, 1937), p. 223.

\textsuperscript{22} Political Consultation, Vol. 204, 18 February, 1831, pp. 15-16.

\textsuperscript{23} Political Consultation, Vol. 256, 4 January, 1837, pp. 7-8.
5 percent premium compared to 15 percent levied by the store at Trichinopoly. In 1868, Travancore Government requested the Madras Government to provide with small arms used by the British Native Infantry Regiments. It was only in 1870, that the proposal put forth by the Government was implemented. There was a delay in the supply of short arms, hence the Madras council for a temporary use supplied short smooth bore muskets as used by the Madras Police. Travancore Government accepted to the new change only after they were assured that no further changes would be made in the arms nor any additional expenditure incurred upon. In 1894, a new order was passed by the Government of India according to which all requisitions for Arms and Ammunitions required the Previous consent of the Government of India. Accoutrements like the black leather waist belt with pouch and a cross-belt pouch, were replaced by buff leather accoutrements. In 1874, there were only two 12-Pounder howitzers for artillery unit. By 1898, the artillery consisted of four 12-pounder muzzle-loading howitzers and two brass muzzle-loading three pounder for saluting purpose. Following the re-organization of the Brigade men were supplied with B.L.S.B. snider arms, buckshot

24. Political Department, GO. No. 477, 29 November, 1862.
25. Political Department, GO. No. 165, 13 May, 1878.
26. Military Department, GO.No. 3072, 19 May, 1894.
cartridges, swords with scabbards. In 1908, Martini-Henry Muskets was replaced by snider carbines. From 1929, Government of India also sanctioned 500 B.L. 410 bore muskets from Kirkee Arsenal. Licenses were issued for the import of fire arms, for the manufacture of ammunition and military stores. Persons were also given licenses to possess arms and ammunition for which a fee was collected.

The drill, parade, physical exercise, the manner of saluting indicated the high standard of discipline and training in the Nayar Brigade. The drill enabled the Commander to move his command from one place to another in an evenly manner. Physical exercise and drill formed the backbone of a military life. It is because the aim of drill was to teach the troops by exercise to obey orders and to bring a spirit of unity among the troops. Every Non-commissioned Officers had to be well acquainted with drill before he was promoted to that of a commissioned rank. Hence the Officers had to be very regular in attending drill before their promotion. From 1835

27. Political Department, GO.No. 516, 5 November, 1908.
29. Report on the Administration of Travancore 1934-1935 (Trivandrum, 1936), p.120.
30. Regulation for the Army in India (Calcutta, 1930), Para, p. 146.
a drill instructor was appointed to the Brigade, he was in charge of giving drill instruction and to spot mistakes and correct them.\textsuperscript{31} The drill was held in the parade ground. For nearly 12 months from September 1866-September 1867, men received no drill instruction, because the old parade ground was utilized for the construction of Huzoor Cutcherry.\textsuperscript{32}

In due course new parade ground was laid and men resumed their parade duties. Following the re-organization of the Brigade in the beginning of the 20th century, a new drill instructor was appointed. The drill and other associated disciplinaries came to be reorganized on a purely Regimental Pattern ever since then.\textsuperscript{33}

\textbf{Discipline} in the military term meant obedience to order issued by legitimate authority. It was only out of discipline that a disorganized force was organized in a proper manner. The general discipline involved minor punishments. The Articles of War was framed in 1847, and it underwent revision during the last decade of the 19th century\textsuperscript{34}. Men were tried by court martial on rare occasions. Crimes concerning minor

\textsuperscript{31} \textit{The Nayar Brigade of Travancore}, op.cit., Preface 6.

\textsuperscript{32} \textit{Report on the Administration of Travancore 1866-1867} (Trivandrum, 1868), p.98.

\textsuperscript{33} \textit{Report on the Administration of Travancore 1900-1901}, (Trivandrum, 1902), p.4.

\textsuperscript{34} \textit{A Manual Of Military Service} (Tiruchirapalli, 1965), p.2.
cases were referred and dealt with by the civil power, for cases of serious nature Articles of War were applied.

Minor punishments were given by Battalion Officers and the Commanding Officer. Men were asked to march up and down in full marching order with or without knapsack strapped back with their necessaries. This formed the extra drill. This particular punishment was given by the Commanding Officer for 15 days and that of Battalion Officers for 10 days. Sometimes, the soldiers were also deprived by the Commanding Officer from entering the Barracks for 15 days, the same punishments were given by Battalion Officers but for only 10 days. The sepoys of the Battalion were tried for insubordination. They were sentenced to imprisonment depending upon the severity of the crimes committed. Confinement to defaulter’s room for 15 days, solitary confinement for 7 days were some of the other minor punishments given by the Brigade Officer. The Battalion Officer could also be given punishments like extra drill with confinement to Barracks for 10 days. The Prisoners were not allowed to be kept under confinement for more than two days without having referred the matter to the senior authority. Like that of the soldiers, even the Non-Commissioned Officers were given punishment at confinement for a given period. In the case of a soldier, a sentry was posted to keep guard. The Battalion officer was confined to the Barracks of his
Battalion, Usually he was not placed under any sentry. Only after instruction from the Battalion Officer, sentry was placed to guard Non-Commissioned Officer. On the other hand the Commissioned Officer were not confined to Barracks. The solitary cell was to be kept open twice a day in the presence of the Non-commissioned officer who had the key of the cell kept in the Barrack guard. Frequent lectures on training discipline and hygiene were imparted to the soldiers.

It was Colonel Munro, the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, who laid the foundation for a proper Medical Department in Travancore. From 1817, members of the royal family started to receive Western pattern of Medical treatment from Dr. Brown, who later took to the supervision of the Nayar Brigade Hospital. It was by a warrant issued on 20th January 1836, that the services of Dr. Brown to the royal family was recognized. Until 1834, men of the Brigade were treated by native doctors with native medicines but from 1835 onwards European System of Medical Treatment was practised. In the absence of the Palace dresser, the Battalion dresser rendered service in the Darbar. The Brigade Hospital was under the

36. Judicial Department, File No. 1413, 19 May, 1924 (D.O.A.)
charge of the Medical Officer, supervised by the Commanding Officer. Doctors after examining the soldiers, sent them along with their register to the inspection of the Commanding Officer. Medical Officer issued the Medical Certificate to those who went on medical leave.\textsuperscript{38} Medicines and other requirements for the hospital was provided by the public store supervised by the Darbar. Those medicines which were not available in the stores were got from London. Cleanliness of the patients and the hospital were given much care. It was also the duty of the Medical Officer to report once in a week to the Commanding Officer giving details about soldiers who were admitted and those discharged from the hospital.\textsuperscript{39}

It was due to the efforts taken by some of the Darbar Physicians like Dr. Brown, Dr. Paterson, Dr. A.M. Ross and by the Royal Proclamation of 1879, that Travancore had an elaborate vaccination programme. The programme was made compulsory to the members of the royal family, men of the Brigade and general population. In 1935, about 50 percent of the population was given protection from the small pox. Ranee and her family members were so pleased with the Western system of treatment that they made personal gifts to those

\textsuperscript{38} Political Consultation, Vol. 549, 20 March, 1855, pp. 1569-1570.

\textsuperscript{39} Political Consultation, Vol. 248, 14 June, 1836, p. 1525.
physicians. In the case of few others Ranee with the consent of the Madras Government, got their services extended. The Physicians also looked to the proper management of the Brigade Hospitals, they proposed new schemes for the education and training of Medical Subordinates. They also took efforts to conduct lectures on various subjects connected with the Medical service. In order to reduce the mortality among native women, Maharajah of Travancore sanctioned the training of Nayar women as nurses, the women of this caste could also enter the houses of the privileged group in the society.

By the second half of the 19th century, Darbar physicians were relieved of their dual duties. From 1851, a separate Medical Officer was appointed for the Brigade Hospital. Dr. Sperschnerer was the first person to hold that office. After the death of Sperschnerer, an officer of the Madras Medical Department was appointed. The practice was continued until 1885. In 1894, Dr. Innes was selected as the Medical Officer by the Secretary of State for India at the request of the Travancore Government. The subordinate Medical Staff of


the Brigade Hospital consisted of Assistant Surgeon and apothecary. In due course two assistants were appointed in place of one apothecary. These medical subordinates were relieved periodically.\textsuperscript{43} The post of Medical Officer, was generally held by European Officers. Dr. K. Raman Tampi who had taken temporary service in the Brigade was confirmed to the post of Medical Officer from the 15th October 1923. His scale of pay was fixed in British currency Rs. 600-25-750 and a conveyance allowance of Rs. 22-8-0. The designation of the Chief Medical Officer of the army Hospital was changed into Principal Medical Officer and the Officer given the rank of Brigade Surgeon. The Sub-Assistant Surgeons were given the temporary rank as Indian Officers.\textsuperscript{44}

The European Officers who served in the Nayar Brigade were well paid than that of the native Personnels. Their pay was determined by the British administration. Those Officers who received their commission from the Maharajah were entitled for command allowance, leave allowance, allowance for certain consumption of articles and house allowance. The Salary for all European Officers in the service of the Company and those transferred to the service of the Native States were

\textsuperscript{43} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{44} Judicial Department, File No. 1450, 22 May, 1924 (D.O.A.)
paid by the Company's Government. Till 1836, the Commanding Officer was from the rank of Captain of Madras Regimental Service. The two Battalion Officers were chosen from the rank of Lieutenants. In 1836, Rajah granted the local rank of Major to the Commanding Officer and that of Captain to Lieutenants. Lieutenant Daly and Lieutenant Sheridan were the two Battalion Officers with local rank of Captain. In the same year the pay of the Commanding Officer was fixed at Rs. 1000, and Battalion officer at Rs. 400. Eventhough their rank and pay were raised, the Officers had to do duties as they had been doing because the strength of the Brigade did not call for additional Officers.\(^{45}\)

The British Government was very particular that the pay and allowance of the transferred Officers did not create any ill feelings between them and the Officers of their rank in the service of the Company. The allowance from the Travancore Government was made equal to the amount received if the Officers had been in their Regiment. In addition they also drew a sum of money for commanding a Regiment, Brigade or company at the request of the Rajah. This was the case with Company Officers, in the case of the local Officers with local commission the Rajah decided their allowance. In 1840, Rajah

brought the Company Officers and local Officers on same footing with respect to their pay and allowance, which was implemented in the following year. When the reduction of the Nayar Brigade occurred in 1863, the pay of the two Battalion Officers was Rs. 445 each. After reduction their pay was increased and fixed at Rs. 500 per mensem. However, there was no reduction in the command allowance of the European Officers. In 1867, Rajah of Travancore reduced the command allowance, which was fixed at Rs. 1000 and Rs. 50 towards the house rent. Thus, from 1840 - 1867 the Officers were brought on equal terms with their counter parts in the Company's service with respect to pay and allowance. By the reduction Travancore Government saved Rs. 27,097 out of which 13,842 was utilized for the pay scale of native Officers. The salary of the Commandant of the Brigade was fixed at the pay to which he was entitled in his Regiment and an allowance of Rs. 200/- for the command of the Maharajah's Bodyguard.

British Government introduced a new change in the allowance of the Officers in the service of the Brigade. In

47. Political Department, G.O. No. 360, 3 December, 1863.
48. Political Department, G.O.No. 93, 6 April, 1867.
49. Public (Political) Department, GO. NO. 586, 27 October, 1919.
order to bring an effective control over the finance of the native state about 1/5th of the pay and acting allowance was deducted, by the British Government. Instead the Officers absentee and pensionary allowance were paid by the British Government.\textsuperscript{50} In 1874, when A. Bloom Field was the Commanding Officer of the Brigade, the Battalion Officers and the Medical Officer claimed for increased allowance. The Battalion Officers were the Commissioned Officers of the Madras army, but Medical Officer was not in the British service. The grievance of the Officers was that, the Officers of their grade in other native state contributed only Rs. 35/- towards house rent. Their salary was Rs. 500/- out of which they had to pay Rs. 50/- towards house rent. The British Government was not in favour of increasing their allowance which was increased in 1863.

Travancore Government made payment to the Officers of the Brigade from the date of joining their service and not from the date when they left their previous service under the British Government.\textsuperscript{51} From 1876, Travancore Government had to accept in future the debit of the salary of an officer transferred to the service of the Nayar Brigade with effect

\textsuperscript{50}. Financial Department, GO. No. 4359, 14 October, 1871.

\textsuperscript{51}. Military Department, GO. No. 4613, 13 September, 1876.
from the date of his relief from British Service. In 1910, the Battalion Commandants were allowed free quarters, but no increase in the Battalion Commandants allowance. The pay of the Battalion Commanders of the Nayar Brigade was revised in 1919. As per the new rule the Battalion Commandants commandants were entitled to the Regimental pay with an allowance of Rs. 100/- per mensum under it a Captain drew Rs. 650/- per mensum while a Lieutenant Rs. 530/-. 

Salary of the Nayar soldiers in the Brigade was very less. During the first quarter of the 19th century, the pay of the Nayar Brigade soldier was Rs. 5/- per month. Out of this small amount the soldier had to contribute some money for the clothing fund until 1838. When pension fund was approved and implemented in 1847, 3 percent deducted from the pay of the native Officers and soldiers towards the fund. After those reductions, a sepoy was practically left with nothing hence, his subsidiary source of income from agricultural field was very essential for his family. Even when the agricultural productivity was not up to his expectation, he had no other alternative, but to be content with his meager pay from the

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52. Financial Department, GO.No. 1408, 24 December, 1892.
53. Political Department, GO.No. 329, 9 July, 1910.
54. Public (Political) Department, GO.No. 586, 27 October, 1919.
Nayar Brigade. The soldiers of the Madras army were better placed. For instance, in 1800, a native soldier received Rs.7 as his basic pay and Rs.9 for all the allowance. He was entitled for field allowance, pension, hunting money, because he served in the Regiment of a Regular Army unlike the Nayar soldiers. The Madras soldiers had also to contribute for the Off Reckoning Fund.

The Madras Government and the Resident of Travancore were not much concerned with the increased pay scale for the Nayar soldiers. They felt that those soldiers had double income from Brigade and their agriculture. The Nayar soldiers at the outstation, when sent to suppress any lawlessness received batta allowance, which was denied to other soldiers who were not at the outstation. The Madras soldiers who lived in cantonment were entitled for their field allowance and other beneficiaries.

In 1866, an increased pay was sanctioned to the sepoys at the rate of ½ rupee and 10 annas to Naigue rank. The increased amount remained the same until 1875, in which year a reformed

55. Political Department, Letter No. 144, 18 November, 1867 (D.O.A.)


57. Political Department, GO.No. 98, 30 March, 1871.
system of pay was introduced for the first time and men received Rs.5-8-0 per month. The soldiers received the amount until they had completed their 14th year of service when they were made eligible for an increased sum of 8 Annas. After 21 years ½ a rupee was granted. In 1894 their pay was raised and an additional sum of half a rupee was sanctioned. In 1922, a revised scheme of salary was proposed when Colonel Oakes commanded the Nayar Brigade and the strength of the force stood at 1,473 men.

The pay of the Brigade of the First and Second Battalion in 1870 were as follows.

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The pay of the Artillery men

The pay of the men incharge of Band

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<td>Musicians</td>
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60. Political Department, Letter No.67, 19 April, 1871 (D.O.A.)
The Personnel of the Nayar Brigade were provided with the following leave facilities. The British Officers in the service of the Nayar Brigade were entitled for privilege leave, sick leave and leave on private affairs. They were entitled for privilege leave of 60 days in a year. The Commanding Officer received his short leave officially from the Rajah through the Resident. Battalion Officers also received short leave sanctioned by the Commanding Officer. For all other leave other than the privilege leave, the Officers were entitled only for half their allowance, and the acting officer received the other half. On sick leave or private affairs the Officers received half the difference of pay between captain in the army and a captain in the Nayar Brigade. On a permanent vacancy in the command of the Brigade, the Service Officer in charge was entitled to full pay of the Officer, until the Commanding Officer filled the post. All native Officers of the Brigade including the privates and the public servants were entitled for 30 days of privilege leave in a year. They had to take Medical certificate for the excess of leave taken, for those Officers who took excess of leave without previous notice his pay was entered in the Fine Fund and he was also liable for punishment. Men were granted leave by the strength of the company. Only one man out of every 15 men was permitted leave at a time. All disposement from the
Battalion Fine Fund required the prior approval of the Commanding Officer. The Committee consisted of three native Officers and Battalion Officer. The officers were in charge of drafting the number of days to be granted as leave to the men of the Brigade.\(^{61}\) The leave rules in the Nayar Brigade were made on the pattern of Madras Native Infantry, which unlike Bombay and Bengal army had all castemen. No caste discrimination was shown in the leave for socio-religious festivals.\(^{62}\)

Till 1871, the European Officers who were in the service of the Nayar Brigade obtained their sick leave from the Rajah on Medical certificate from the Darbar physician or Medical officer. In 1872, an order was passed by which the sick leave to Europe came to be counted against the Officer's service for the pension. Since, then the Officers who took privilege leave which exceeded 60 days were to be reported to the Adjutant General.\(^{63}\) The British Government had to pay for the pension of their Officers in the Brigade, because neither the Rajah nor the Officers contributed for their pension. Adjutant

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\(^{63}\) *Political Department, GO. No. 365, 28 September, 1872.*
General also made entries of furlough and pension of Officers who went on leave. Travancore Government was exempted from contributing towards the pensionary allowance of the European Officers and Serjeant-Major of Company’s Officers. It was also exempted from making contribution for absentee and pensionary allowance to the post of Darbar physician. Travancore Government had to pay a small amount towards furlough of Officers in the service of Nayar Brigade. The Officers who were transferred to the Nayar Brigade remained under the leave rules to which they were subjected before their transfer.

From the constitution of the Nayar Brigade, the Commanding Officer was the only Company’s Officer. From 1836, the Commanding Officer and the Battalion Officers were promoted to the Regimental rank of Major and Captain with increased allowance.

Promotions were made for the members of the Nayar Brigade from the very beginning of its formation. Even though, the appointment of the native Officers rested with the Rajah, Commanding Officers of the Brigade was responsible for the

64. Military Department, GO.No. 1200, 5 April, 1873.
65. Political Department, GO.No. 55, 5 February, 1873.
66. Political Department, GO.No. 471, 18 July, 1895.
promotion of the Non-commissioned Officers. Those men who held Non-commissioned status were not promoted to commissioned ranks if they were found unfit for promotion. At the same time when a Non-commissioned officer was unfit for promotion, his place was taken over by the direct appointment of another native Nayar and that practice went on from time to time. Thus strict measures were followed with respect to promotion of the native Officers in the Nayar Brigade. 68

A Havildar Major was to be well versed in Malayalam and English. He acquired some knowledge of the Battalion duties before his promotions to Havildar Major. In the case of Naigue, before his promotion to a Havildar he should qualify himself in the examination held by the Battalion Officer. No one could be promoted to a Lance Naigue post, if he was not able to read and write. Those men had to know a good deal of drill exercise before they took up the post of drill instructor in the Brigade. 69

Prior to 1857 there were differences in the Promotion and status of the native Officers in the three Presidency armies. In the Bengal army, the Native Officers were promoted by seniority. Most of them took promotion at an advanced age and

69. Ibid., pp. 63-65.
hence were not able to perform their duty efficiently. They were retained by the force unless certified by the Medical Committee. Hence, the method of promotion affected the Junior Officers who were not chosen until all the Senior Officers were promoted. It was one of the reason which affected the efficiency of the Madras and Bengal army. In the case of Bombay army, the promotion was made on the basis of merit, and hence the senior Officer were acquainted with the manners and discipline of the Juniors that in turn brought about an understanding between the senior and junior ranks.\textsuperscript{70}

In the earlier days most of the Nayar men found employment in the military services and spent their youth in the service for their Rajah and these soldiers were paid in kind. There was no pension scheme and no age stipulation for rendering military services to the state. Hence, they had to be in their services until they became old and were incapable of any more services. After their retired life, they faced a lot of financial problems. It was one of the reasons which lead to the misappropriation of the family property by those retired soldiers.\textsuperscript{71}

\textsuperscript{70} Army Regulation India (Calcutta, 1887), Vol. II. Part I, p.48.

\textsuperscript{71} Interview with K. Baskaran Pillai, 10 October, 1994.
Even after the formation of the Brigade, there was no provision for the pension scheme because the British Government was more concerned about the formation and recruitment of the two Battalions and the needed Officers to command the Brigade and to relieve the British subsidiary forces. The Supreme Government at Calcutta, and the Court of Directors did not consider Nayar Brigade as the main military force of a native State. The year 1847 was very memorable in the history of pension establishment of the Nayar Brigade. The Commanding Officer R.Sheriff who was informed about the difficulties faced by men under his overall command, brought into force a scheme for limited pension, with the consent of the Resident W. Cullen. A small amount of 3 percent was deducted from the pay of the native Officers and sepoys which was used in the form of pension to men who had rendered their services for more than 35 years. In the earlier days many soldiers remained in the Brigade eventhough, they were unable to render any useful service for the force due to sickness and old age. Those men could not be removed because the number of men transferred to the pension scheme in 1847 was 129 from all ranks and file out of which the Non-commissioned Officers were 25, native Officers 3 and Rank and file 101. unless vacancy arose among those men drawing pension others had to be
retained in the force. From 1847 to 1870, there was no significant changes with respect to the pension except that when vacancy arose few men were enlisted in the pension establishment. During this period an average of 17 men were transferred to the Pension list.

Pension received by men of the First and Second Battalion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Pension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subadar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemadar</td>
<td>4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Havildar</td>
<td>3-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naigue</td>
<td>2-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sepoy, drummer and fifer of the first class and above 30 years of service received 2-21 rupees where as the sepoy, drummer of second class from 20-30 years of service had only 2-14 rupees as their pension scale. Every sepoy was made eligible for pension at the rate of 2 3/4 a month, only when vacancy occurred in the pension list. Men below 20 years of service received no pension. At a time one sepoy out of 20

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were permitted to go on pension. From 1864-1870 about 40 men were pensioned off, men of 40 years of service were 25 and between 20-30 years of service were 5 men. In 1870 the expenditure of the Brigade was Rs. 1,77,587 out of which 251 3/8 a month was reserved for the Pension Fund. Men who were unfit for service above 40 years were 26 and between 25-70 years were 134. Under limited Pension Fund, even the worn out men had to be in service for one more year when they were taken in the pension list. The Resident felt that by increasing the Pension Fund from 3 percent to 6 percent more men could be enlisted in the pension list. The grievances of the wornout sepoys remained as before and the Pension Fund was abolished giving place to new pension rules and regulations. In 1871, proper rules were framed for pension and gratuities on principles similar to those in force in the British native Army. Thus for the first time in the pension scheme of the Nayar Brigade a regular system of pension was sanctioned by Maharajah of Travancore. The new scheme tried to settle most of the grievances of the men with limited Pension Fund, and lack of proper medical facilities. Men had to be

73. Political Department, Letter No. 67, 19 April, 1871 (D.O.A.)


75. Political Department, Letter No. 67, 19 April, 1871 (D.O.A.)
qualified by various agents like the Battalion Officers, Medical Committee, Judicial Tribunal and State Administrators before their names were enlisted in the pension list. Those soldiers dismissed for civil or a criminal offence received no pension or gratuity. Men who underwent imprisonment were not eligible for service, and the leave days reduced their pension scale. The pay for the pension and gratuity depended upon the last rank held by men of the Brigade for three completed years. Those soldiers whose services were below 35 years were exempted from pension, unless certified by the Medical Committee.

Pension for men between 25-30 years of service as per the Medical Certificate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Pension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subadar Major</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subadar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemadar</td>
<td>4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drill Havildar</td>
<td>3-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Contd...)
Drum Major 3-7
File Major 3-7
Havildar 3-7
Naigue 2-14
Drummer 2-14
Fifer 2-14
Private 2-14

By the new pension rule of 1871 every sepoy was made eligible for pension after he had completed his 35 years of service. 76

In 1875, the pension scale was revised and half pay pension was sanctioned to the native Officers. Accordingly 6 Officers and 14 privates were transferred to the pension list. 77 Three years later, a higher scale of pay was given and every sepoy was made eligible for pension after they had completed 35 years of age. In 1878, about 37 men were enlisted

76. Political Department, GO.No. 98, 30 March, 1871.
77. Report on the Administration of Travancore 1874-1875 (Trivandrum, 1876), p.52.
in the Invalidate Committee and 28 were included in the pension list and 9 received gratuity. In 1897, all ranks were discharged after 30 years of service, and half pay of their rank was granted as pension. In the first decade of the 20th century, Brigade was reorganized. A new pension rule was formulated which was followed by only a portion of the Brigade. Men of the first Battalion were entitled to pension after 21 years of service. All men found medically unfit not resulting of their own fault when discharged before completing 21 years of service were entitled for gratuity. Rules made applicable to second Battalion, artillery and band were as follows, soldiers with effective service of 25 years were eligible for pension. Only after 10 years of service, men of the second Battalion were recommended for gratuity. No soldier whose effective service was below 30 years were eligible for gratuity or pension unless he was declared fit by the Medical Officer of the Medical committee, but after 30 years, Medical Certificate was not required. Subsequently, the next half of the men were also entitled for similar pension scale.

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Pay of the Indian Officers were also increased from the year 1921. The former practice was that, the Indian Officers whose salary was below Rs. 50/- per month were entitled for only third class railway accommodation. In the Indian Army all Indian Officers irrespective of pay or rank were entitled to second class accommodation. From 1923, the Indian Officers of and above the rank of Jemadars were also entitled to travel by second class railway fare.

The men of the Brigade who underwent imprisonment for the crimes committed were deprived of their pay pensions and allowances but a subsistence allowance of Rs. 5/- per mensum sanctioned. Kit money was given to the reorganized Battalion and also to the drill instructor. Travelling was allowed for all movements of troops ordered by the Commandants when such movements extended to a distance of 10 miles by land or 20 miles by water.

The introduction of Western system of military training to the Nayar Brigade by the European officials made radical changes in the internal administration of the Nayar Brigade.

The modernization also raised the efficiency of the force in the new dimension. By the new changes, the European officials and men of the Brigade benefitted a lot in the scale of pay, pension, leave, gratuity and other facilities. Virtually the Nayar Brigade fell into the hands of European administration, because they had to get the prior sanction of the British administration for any major changes in the Nayar Brigade.