

[L.S.]

BICKHAM ESCOTT,
High Commissioner.



No. VI. of 1915.

KING'S REGULATION

TO MAKE PROVISION FOR A FORCE OF ARMED
CONSTABULARY WITHIN THE BRITISH SOLOMON
ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

Made by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for the
Western Pacific under the provisions of the Pacific Order in
Council, 1893.

In the name of His Majesty, George the Fifth, by the Grace of God
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the
British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the
Faith, Emperor of India.

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1. This Regulation may be cited as the Solomons Constabulary Short title.
Regulation, 1915.
 2. In this Regulation unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.
“Protectorate” means and includes the islands of the British
Solomon Islands Protectorate and the waters of the said
islands for three miles seaward from low-water mark of
any part thereof.
“High Commissioner” means His Britannic Majesty's High
Commissioner for the Western Pacific.
“Resident Commissioner” means the Resident Commissioner
in the Protectorate and any person duly authorised to act
in his place.
“Commandant” means the officer of the Armed Constabulary
for the time being in command thereof.
“The Court” means His Britannic Majesty's High Commis-
sioner's Court for the Western Pacific and includes each
member thereof exercising its jurisdiction and authority.
 3. There shall be in the Protectorate a force of Armed Constabu- Name of Force.
lary to be called “The Armed Constabulary” (hereinafter referred
to as the Force).
 4. The Force shall consist of such commissioned and non-com- Constitution of
the Force.
missioned officers and constables as the High Commissioner may
from time to time appoint.

Present officers and members of the police to be members of the Force.

5. On the coming into operation of this Regulation every officer and other member of the police force as heretofore existing in the Protectorate shall be deemed to be appointed or enrolled as an officer or member of the Force and shall hold such rank in the Force as is relative to the rank then held by him until the determination of the term for which he may have been engaged or enrolled for service in the said police force.

Every member of the Force to be a constable.

6. Every member of the Force shall so long as he continues to be such member be a constable in and for the whole Protectorate and shall have all such rights powers authorities privileges and immunities and be liable to all such duties and responsibilities as any constable duly appointed now has or is subject or liable to or may hereafter have or be subject or liable to either by the Common Law of England or by virtue of any law which now is or may hereafter be in force in the Protectorate.

Duty of Commandant.

7. The Commandant subject to the general orders and direction of the Resident Commissioner shall have the command and superintendence of the Force and shall enrol such men and appoint such non-commissioned officers as may be necessary for maintaining the full strength of the Force.

Term of engagement.

8. Every constable unless the Resident Commissioner in any special case otherwise directs shall be enrolled in the Force for the first term of his engagement for not less than two years from the date on which he is taken on the strength of the Force.

9. Every member of the force shall on his appointment or enrolment sign or make his mark to, before the Commandant and in the presence of two witnesses, this declaration following, that is to say:—

I.....do solemnly and sincerely declare that while serving in the Armed Constabulary I will without fear favour or affection faithfully execute and perform the duties of a constable and all other duties as required of me by any law which may now or hereafter be in force.

Signature or mark of declarant.....

Signature of witness.....

Declared before me this.....day of.....19.....

.....
Officer in Command.

Re-engagement.

10. Any member of the Force who has completed or is within six months of completing a term of engagement may if suitable re-engage to serve in the Force for a further period of not less than one year.

Proof of appointment.

11. If any question shall arise as to the right of any member of the Force to hold or exercise such office common reputation shall be deemed sufficient evidence of such right.

Duties of the Force.

12. It shall be the duty of the Force—
- (1) to keep watch by day and night in order to preserve the peace and prevent and detect crime ;
 - (2) to apprehend and bring before the Court persons found committing any offence or whom they may reasonably suspect of having committed any offence or who may be charged with having committed any offence rendering them liable to arrest without warrant ;
 - (3) (a) to prosecute before the Court in all cases of offences where it is in the opinion of a European officer, of the Force desirable in the public interest that the prosecution should be undertaken by a member of the Force or where an order to that effect is made by the Resident Commissioner ;

(b) the Commandant or any European commissioned officer shall have the right to appear before the Court in all cases in which a member of the Force is prosecuting as hereinbefore provided ;

to serve and execute all process which they may be directed by competent authority to serve or execute ;

(5) to repress internal disturbances ;

(6) to defend the Protectorate against external aggression ;

(7) generally to do and perform all the duties appertaining to the office of a constable.

13. No member of the Force shall during the currency of his term of engagement resign or withdraw from the duties of his office without the consent in writing of the Commandant, subject to appeal to the Resident Commissioner in the event of his being refused permission to do so, and any member who shall so resign or withdraw without such consent shall be liable to arrest and shall upon conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds or to a term of imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding six months at the discretion of the Court.

No member of the Force to resign without written consent of Commandant or Resident Commissioner.

14. Upon the withdrawal retirement or dismissal from office of any member of the Force all authority vested in him as such shall cease and any member of the Force not delivering up in such cases his arms ammunition clothing and accoutrements or other property in his possession belonging to the Crown shall on conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months with or without hard labour at the discretion of the Court and the Court by which such conviction is made shall issue its warrant to search for and seize for the use of His Britannic Majesty the said arms ammunition clothing accoutrements and other property wheresoever they may be found.

Members leaving the Force to give up arms and other Crown property.

15.—(1) Any member of the Force who—

(a) disobeys the lawful commands of his superior officer ; or

(b) absents himself from duty ; or

(c) malingers or feigns or wilfully produces in himself any disease or infirmity ;

shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months with or without hard labour at the discretion of the Court.

Penalty for disobeying lawful commands, &c.

16. The Commandant may, subject to the approval of the Resident Commissioner, for misconduct or inefficiency suspend or dismiss from the Force any member thereof not being a European commissioned officer and may for a like reason reduce any such member from a higher to a lower grade.

Suspension and dismissal by Commandant.

17. No member of the Force shall receive pay for any period during which he is in prison under a sentence unless the Commandant otherwise orders.

Pay during imprisonment.

18. Any penalty imposed upon any member of the Force under this Regulation or under any Rules made thereunder may in addition to any mode of recovery allowed by law be deducted from the pay of the offender by the Commandant who shall pay all moneys so deducted to the Treasurer of Protectorate Government for its use.

Penalties may be deducted from pay.

19. In the event of no European commissioned officer of the Force being present in any district where any members of the Force may for the time being be stationed the civil officer for the time being in charge of such district or such other officer as may be nominated by the Resident Commissioner shall in and for such district be deemed to be a European commissioned officer of the Force in charge of the members of the Force stationed in such district and shall have and exercise all powers as such.

District control where no European commissioned officer present.

Penalty for unauthorised persons possessing property supplied to members of the Force. &c.

20. Any person who not being a member of the Force—

- (1) shall have in his possession any arms ammunition clothing accoutrements or other property supplied to any member of the Force and who shall not satisfactorily account for his possession thereof; or
- (2) shall put on or assume or imitate the dress or uniform or any distinguishing mark or the designation name or description of any member of the Force;

shall on conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months with or without hard labour at the discretion of the Court.

Penalty for inducing members of the Force to neglect their duty.

21. Any person who induces or attempts to induce any member of the Force to neglect or omit to perform any duty shall on conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months with or without hard labour at the discretion of the Court.

Punishment under this Regulation alternative and not cumulative.

22. Where any punishment is provided for both by this Regulation or by any Rules made thereunder and also by any other law for the same offence the punishments shall be alternative and not cumulative.

Resident Commissioner may make Rules, &c.

23.—(1) The Resident Commissioner may, subject to the approval of the High Commissioner, from time to time make Rules, not being inconsistent with the provisions of this Regulation. for the recruiting and enrolment of members of the Force, for its discipline, government, disposal, payment, and equipment, and generally in respect of all matters which may be necessary or convenient for rendering the Force efficient. Such Rules may provide penalties for the breach thereof by way of fine not exceeding five pounds or imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding one month or fatigue duty not exceeding ten hours a day for a period of not more than fourteen days.

(2) The Commandant and in his absence the Senior European Commissioned Officer present in the district shall have power to adjudicate upon any such breach of the Rules and to award any of the penalties hereinbefore contained provided always that any member of the Force who may be dissatisfied with any decision given against him shall have the right of appeal to the Resident Commissioner.

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By Command,

A. L. AYTON,

Acting Secretary to His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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