

## INTRODUCTION

Two important events which are not mentioned in the chronicles come to light through the Royal Orders in this Part VI. Both were in connection with the King's defense duties in keeping his people safe from all kinds of enemies. In the coronation oath, a king usually has to promise to protect his people from all dangers both internal and external. King Badon, it seems, tried his best to keep that coronation promise. He carried out a thorough programme to destroy thieves and robbers in his kingdom. Then he also tried to make the northeastern frontier safe through diplomatic relations with China and southeastern frontier safe by attacking and conquering the enemy. Unfortunately he failed badly in this southeastern front. As these things are not mentioned in the chronicles, I intend to write about them here.

In order to eliminate thieves and robbers, the King started a campaign against them with a most reasonable move by declaring that those who surrendered will be given an amnesty plus a chance to join the King's service as men in his fighting forces (ROB 24 July 1806). Some would be enlisted in the service of one or the other prince though he did not allow Prince Makhaya to put some of them in Nat Shin Yway - God-like Selected Group (ROB 12 November 1806). In fact when they were received in the King's service, they had to take the oath of allegiance to the King (ROB 15 November 1807). Then the King ordered his officers to keep the main riverway (along the Irrawaddy River) safe for trade and communication. A Yay Gin Wun - Officer of Waterway Guards, was stationed at Tharrawaw (ROB 28 September 1807). He was also known as Yay Gin Ko Myo Wun - Nine Town Officer of Waterway Guards (ROB 6 May 1810) and he was responsible for the safety in the part of the Irrawaddy valley from Tayoke Maw in the north to Tharrawaw in the south (ROB 28 September 1807, ROB 16

April 1810 and ROB 6 May 1810) because below Henzada the deltaic region was under Bassein Town Officer (ROB 28 September 1807). Next the King took some measures to suppress robber gangs active in the Chindwin valley (ROB 19 February 1810); in the Mu Tain - Shallow Parts of the Mu river (Ye U - Zigon area) (ROB 3 March 1810); in Salin on the west of the Irrawaddy river (ROB 23 March 1810); in Ba Gyi and Yaw on the west of the Chindwin river (ROB 31 May 1810) and in Meitthila on the east of the Irrawaddy river (ROB 5 November 1810). Garrisons were stationed at strategic places in the above mentioned areas under Tat Yon - Office of Troops and each garrison would have

Tat Hmu	- Captain of Troop
Tat Ok	- Leader of Troop
Kya Ok	- Leader of Youths
Lu Ok	- Leader of Men and
Thay Nat Ok	- Leader of Gunmen

(ROB 16 November 1807, ROB 28 September 1808, ROB 11 October 1808, ROB 17 October 1808, ROB 19 October 1808, ROB 28 October 1808, ROB 31 October 1808, ROB 4 November and ROB 8 February 1810). Guards everywhere were supposed to do their duty round the clock (ROB 31 October 1809) and there were for instance twelve Kin Daing - Leader of Guards in Myay Lat - Cis-Salween Area, each leader having 100 men and 5 guns under him (ROB 10 October 1808, ROB 30 October 1808, ROB 31 October 1808 and ROB 10 July 1810). The Chindwin valley was put under Thaug Thut Sawbwa - Hsawngsup Chief, with 100 guns (ROB 19 February 1810). All Town Officers and Regimental Officers shall arrest bad characters in their localities and if they failed to do it effectively, they would themselves be arrested and punished (ROB 3 March 1810, ROB 9 March 1810 and ROB 28 October 1810). After having arrested a thief or robber, an officer tried to find out who were the man's accomplices so that they would also be checked or arrested (ROB 21 January 1810, ROB 22 January 1810, ROB 6 January 1810 and ROB 22 April 1810). But it was not unlikely that a thief would name

out of malice innocent people as his associates (ROB 8 March 1810) and some irresponsible officers would arrest innocent men too (ROB 9 March 1810). When robbers active in one area fled into another area, authorities of the new area were also held responsible to pursue them (ROB 16 March 1810). In fact some officers who failed to join a chase were punished (ROB 29 April 1810) and one was executed (ROB 8 June 1810). When a new officer was appointed to administer a town, he would be ordered first to suppress crime in his area (ROB 12 December 1810). When a robbery was reported, the King was prompt to dispatch a considerably big force of gunmen to that area to cope with the situation (ROB 6 March 1810, ROB 6 June 1810 and ROB 16 November 1810). When an officer was specially commissioned in pursuit of robbers in an area, local officers in the neighbourhood of that area were ordered to join in the 'mopping up' operation (ROB 5 November 1810, ROB 13 November 1810, ROB 17 November 1810, ROB 18 November 1810 and ROB 4 December 1810) or when thieves and robbers of a place were annihilated, an Order would be passed to stop sending help there (ROB 5 December 1810). The officer and his men would be given, of course, wholesome rewards (ROB 20 December 1810). As there were cases of indiscriminate arrests, there were also cases when officers would extort money from the people in the area where they were sent to suppress the gang of robbers (ROB 13 November 1810, ROB 19 November 1810 and ROB 25 December 1810). In a case of burglary, officers and men in the neighbourhood of the house burgled shall come together to get the thief captured; otherwise all of them shall be punished (ROB 1 December 1810).

Thieves and robbers of Badon, Dabayin and Mu Dain - Shallow Water Part (Ye U - Zigon area) of the Mu Valley fled across the Irrawaddy River to Singu township (ROB 16 November 1810). Officers of Yadana Theinga (Shwebo) and Dabayin were ordered to follow them across the river (ROB 17 November 1810) and officers of Singu,

Kyauk Myaung and Mong Mit were alerted to join forces against these robbers (ROB 18 November 1810). From Singu, these robbers re-crossed the river and entered the Pyinsala area (in Kanbalu township, ROB 11 December 1810). Robbers of Meitthila escaped into Toungoo area in the south and Taungdwingyi in the southwest (ROB 16 March 1810). Nevertheless they all under leaders

*Nga Aye	(ROB 20 December	1810)
Nga Kawk (Salin)	(ROB 23 March	1810)
Nga Myat (Dabayin)	(ROB 6 March	1810)
*Nga Nay Dun	(ROB 4 June	1810)
Nga Nyein (Meitthila)	(ROB 13 November	1810)
Nga Pike (alias) Kya Bo (Myin Gun)	(ROB 1 November	1810)
*Nga Pu	(ROB 20 December	1810)
Nga San Ya (Yadana Theinga)	(ROB 3 March	1810)
Nga Shwe Min (Bagyi and Yaw)	(ROB 30 October	1810)
*Nga Tha Aye	(ROB 20 December	1810)
*Nga Tha Dway	(ROB 20 December	1810)
Nga Wet (Myin Gun)	(ROB 1 November	1810) and
*Nga Wun	(ROB 4 June	1810)

\* Surrendered

were captured and punished or they surrendered and became members of the King's fighting men after having taken the oath of allegiance to the King.

The King tried several times to subdue his eastern neighbours but he failed. It is one of the reasons why the chronicles do not mention them. The Royal Orders on the other hand were passed to have the whole campaign organized and in this way we could piece them up to get a fairly complete story of these activities. To supplement the Royal Orders on war of the period, we have a Thai account about a Burmese prisoner of war (Skinner 1984 : Cyril Skinner - "The Interrogation of Zeyya Suriya (sic) Kyaw, a Burmese Account of Junk Ceylon (Phuket) Campaigns of 1809 - 1810)", JSS, LXXII, i & ii, 1984, pp. 59 - 94).

On war the following chronology would give the story as briefly as possible.

- 17 March 1807 Rebels led by Maha Khanan (Chief of Kengtung) and helped by Kovila (Chief of Chiengmai) were defeated; Maha Khanan took refuge in China (ROB 17 March 1810)
- 23 September 1807 Caravans with Ngapi - Fish Paste, were sent to troops in various stations of Shan ares (ROB 23 September 1807)
- 15 November 1807 Asked repatriation of the rebels from China (ROB 15 November 1807 and 20 November 1807)
- 21 October 1808 Get all men who were experts in horse training (ROB 21 October 1807)
- 22 September 1808 Made 40,000 containers (boxes) called Hta Gauk Hpa for army use (ROB 22 September 1808 and ROB 26 September 1801).
- 26 September 1808 Crown Prince shall take command of the Vanguard invading Thailand; he will leave the capital city on 2 December 1808; the King, leading the main army, will leave on 31 December 1808 (ROB 26 September 1808); make 300,000 bamboo tubes called Kyi Dauk for army use (26 September 1808).
- 2 October 1808 Get men who could make Htone Man - Magic Chunam, that would made a man who uses it invulnerable against any kind of weapon (ROB 2 October 1808).
- 10 October 1808 Train Lu Daw Zu - Commandos (ROB 10 October 1808).
- 2 November 1808 When an armed man has fallen ill during the march, he would be left with a local (Shan) chief who must give him a proper medical care and help him join his own unit when he gets well or give him a decent burial if he dies (ROB 2 November 1808).
- 29 March 1809 Crown Prince died.
- May 1809 Troops begin to arrive at Tavoy; boats of various sizes were built; Commander and his men made havoc of the town by forcing men to hard labour in the rice fields and in the tin mines and raping the women; this was reported to the King (Skinner 1984, 65-6).
- 6 October 1809 Thailand invaison from Tavoy launched (Skinner 1984, 59 & 66).
- 18 November 1809 Attack on Salin (Thalang) repulsed (Skinner 1984, 59 & 68).
- 13 January 1810 Salin (Thalang, Junk Ceylon) fell after twenty days' siege; weapons seized were:  
84 cannons  
20 swivel-guns and  
50 muskets;  
Burmese commander who took Salin (Thalang) sent a letter to the chief of Kedah asking him to take the Burmese side; he also sent a Frenchman called Barthel to Penang to buy gunpowder (Skinner 1984, 59 & 68).
- 26 February 1810 Maha Thiha Thuya, Wun Gyi - Minister, shall take command of the Troops in Tavoy to invade Thailand (ROB 26 February 1810).
- 27 February 1810 Royal Forties reorganized (ROB 27 February 1810).
- March 1810 Burmese were driven out of Salin (Thalang); they retreated to Ranoung (Skinner 1984, 60 & 69).
- 11 March 1810 Reports received that there was trouble again on Chiengmai side (ROB 11 March 1810).
- 12 April 1810 Collect more gunpowder (ROB 12 April 1810).
- 24 April 1810 Send the gunpowder collected to Tavoy forces (ROB 24

- April 1810).
- 28 April 1810 Nay Myo Gamani was sent with troops to Kengtung (ROB 28 April 1810).
- 20 May 1810 Men of Chiengmai came to attack Kyauk Kyi (between Toungoo and Kyauk Maw); Prince Toungoo shall send horsemen so that the invaders would not escape (ROB 20 May 1810).
- 30 May 1810 Burmese resumed the attack on Salin (Thalang, Junk Ceylon) with 6,000 men; before their boats landed on the Salin (Thalang, Junk Ceylon), most of their ships were wrecked in a storm (Skinner 1984, 60, 71 & 72).
- 13 June 1810 Yun Za Lin and Sittang asked reinforcements and Madama (Martaban) was told to send them (ROB 13 June 1810).
- 13 September 1810 Zayya Tuyin Kyaw was sent back from Salin (Salang, Junk Ceylon) to Mergui to get rice; his boat was wrecked in a storm and he and his six men were captured by a Thai petrol of thirty men when they got ashore; as a prisoner of war, he<sup>was</sup> interrogated and his statement was written in Thai; in the English translation of that statement the name of this Burmese prisoner appears as Zayya Suriya Kyaw (Skinner 1984, 60, 71 & 72). Zayya Tuyin Kyaw was appointed Tavoy Revenue Officer on 15 March 1807 (ROB 15 March 1807).
- 1 October 1810 Get recruits in Toungoo, Sittang, Shwegyin and Kyauk Maw (ROB 1 October 1810).
- 31 October 1810 Chinese envoys came to Bhamo (ROB 11 December 1810).
- 17 November 1810 When 1,000 men arrived at Hanthawaddy (Pegu) send them to Madama (Martaban) instead of Dawè (Tavoy) (ROB 17 November 1810).
- 19 November 1810 Send recruits to Dawè (Tavoy) (ROB 19 November 1810); the King reprimended Hanthawaddy (Pegu) Town Officer because he neglected to send immediately cannons, etc. seized in Salin (Thalang, Junk Ceylon) (ROB 19 November 1810).
- 22 November 1810 Hanthawaddy (Pegu) Town Officer shall take the responsibility to send the armed man as quickly as possible to Dawè (Tavoy); Maha Thiha Thuya shall send his men to welcome the new comers (ROB 22 November 1810).
- 27 November 1810 Kyaw Gaung Nawyatha and Yè Hla Nawyatha had shown valour in fighting; reward them well (ROB 27 November 1810).
- 28 November 1810 Some captains shall return from Mong Nai to the capital city (ROB 28 November 1810).
- 11 December 1810 Report from Bhamo on Chinese envoys received (ROB 11 December 1810).
- 14 December 1810 Men who brought the things sent from Hanthawaddy (Pegu) fled on the way before arriving at the capital city (ROB 14 December 1810).
- 19 December 1810 News from Dawè (Tavoy) arrived (ROB 19 December 1810); men sent to Dawè (Tavoy) deserted on the way; send recruits of Dala (now a ruined site outside Twante) to Yon Za Lin (ROB 19 December 1810).
- 25 December 1810 Instructions on Chinese affairs sent to Bhamo (ROB 25 December 1810).
- 26 December 1810 Send recruits to Madama (Martaban); do not commandeer

foreign ships to convey troops to Dawè (Tavoy) (ROB 26 December 1810).

27 December 1810 Get recruits in Pathein (Bassein); Maha Thiha Thuya's messengers came with news different from those received earlier (ROB 27 December 1810).

29 December 1810 Get recruits in Toungoo, Kyauk Maw, Shwe Gyin, Dala (now a ruined site outside Twante), Hlaing and Danubyu (ROB 29 December 1810).