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(2) Date of repair 26-8-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

GK

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 460 Press Mis.

367-368 367-368

Dated 27-2- 1875.

14/15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Postal.

No. 367. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. HEARN, Inspector-General of Police, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 23rd February 1875, No. 935 :—

I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, a report from the Superintendent of Police, Madura, of the successful detection of the Mail dacoity which occurred near Dindigul on the night of the 13th August 1874. All the persons concerned have been accounted for, save one who has as yet evaded arrest.

2. Captain Kilgour recommends certain rewards to the Police Officers concerned in the detection of this important case. Mr. Paczensky has displayed his usual ability with marked success, but I think it right to mention that, under G.O., No. 2174, of 30th November 1874, he has received an increase of pay from Rupees 200 to Rupees 300 per mensem as Special Dacoity Inspector in Madura, which increase dates from the time when he proceeded by my order to investigate the Dindigul Mail dacoity.

3. I also think that the reward of Rupees 10 recommended for Constable, No. 592, Dustagheer Khan, of the Coimbatore District, should be increased to Rupees 20. This Police Officer worked with great intelligence throughout, and first hit off the clue by which the complicity of Soka Pillai and his son Chendrasakarun (both convicted) in the dacoity was finally established.

From Captain F. KILGOUR, Superintendent of Police, Madura, to Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. HEARN, Inspector-General of Police, dated Madura, 27th January 1875, No. 31.

I have the honor to report that the prisoners concerned in the Mail dacoity near Dindigul, committed on the 13th August last, were this day sentenced as below :—

First prisoner, Rungun Chetty, 11 years' transportation.
Second ,, Chendrasakarun 9 ,, ,,
Third ,, Coopen Chetty 7 ,, ,,
Fourth ,, Ram Reddy 7 ,, ,,
Fifth ,, Soka Pillai, one month's rigorous imprisonment under Section 412, Indian Penal Code.

Cadumbalingum Pillai was used as an approver and pardoned.
Soobba Pillai is still at large. This completes the gang.

2. A narrative of this case may prove interesting :—

At midnight on the 13th August, two runners, with the Mails from the south, were attacked by five men, seven miles north of Dindigul, armed with sticks and robbed of the Mail. It was contained in five bags, of these four were carried away, and one which contained but little was left by the dacoits on the ground.

3. The ascertained contents of the Mail of pecuniary value consisted of currency notes amounting to Rupees 460, and a parcel of jewelry valued at Rupees 435.

4. It was a dark night, the runners could not give any description of the dacoits ; footsteps of five persons could be traced two miles north-east from the scene of crime.

5. No clue was got in the case till the 6th October, on which date the Deputy Postmaster of Carur wrote two anonymous letters, one addressed to himself, the other to the Police Inspector at Carur, intimating that letters lost in the Dindigul Mail case would be found if the houses of

Puttaby Chetty, Gopal Chetty, and Venketramen Chetty, were searched. I may here mention that Carur is forty-five miles from Dindigul.

6. On the same evening the Deputy Postmaster informed Constables Nos. 335 and 573 of Carur that one Rungun Chetty (first prisoner) had informed him that Venketramen Chetty had gone to the river with a basket of letters, and requested the constables to go and look. The constables were on their way to the river with the Postmaster, when Rungun Chetty came up and said "Venketramen Chetty has just returned home after going to the bed of the river," and pointed out the directions they should take. They went and found in the bed of the river a number of letters, afterwards identified as having been lost in the Mail dacoity.

7. The next morning the Police Inspector, who had been absent, arrived at Carur, and received his anonymous letter, and the report of what had taken place; he searched Puttaby Chetty's bazaar and found in a bag some more letters lost in the Mail dacoity. Puttaby Chetty on being examined said that the previous evening Rungun Chetty and a Vellalah (since ascertained to be the second prisoner) had come to his bazaar to purchase ragee, had left the bag saying they would bring money on the morning to pay for the grain. Puttaby Chetty and his partner, Govintha Chetty, were arrested and remanded.

8. On the 12th October, Rungun Chetty gave information to the Inspector that Camatchy Chetty of Carur had given him some jewels lost in the Mail dacoity. Previous to this the Assistant Superintendent of Carur had arrived; he examined Rungun Chetty, who offered to deliver up the jewels. Rungun Chetty dug up from beneath a pomegranate tree two ear ornaments, since identified as having been lost in the dacoity. Rungun Chetty was then arrested, and the Assistant Superintendent being satisfied that the finding of the letters in the bazaar of Puttaby Chetty, and the information given by Rungun Chetty, was a plot to injure his enemies, Puttaby Chetty and his partner, Govintha Chetty, were released.

9. At this stage the case came to a stand-still, and soon after you directed Inspector Paczensky to proceed from Tinnevelly and take up the case. Mr. Paczensky arrived at Carur on the 12th November, and commenced his inquiries; having acquainted himself with the ascertained facts, he left Carur on the 18th November, taking with him Rungun Chetty.

10. On the 19th, Rungun Chetty gave information that the property would be found in the well of Camatchy Chetty of Carur. Mr. Paczensky at once returned to Carur, and on search being made a pair of ear ornaments, a necklace, and some hair ornaments, all lost in the dacoity, valued Rupees 300, were found at the bottom of the well. From the appearance of the jewels it was evident they had not been there for more than two or three days; it was believed that these jewels were put in the well by relations of Rungun Chetty.

11. Rungun Chetty is an insolvent salt-dealer. Some months previous to the dacoity, Authenarayana Chetty of Carur obtained a decree in the Civil Court against Rungun Chetty who absconded; his house was attached in satisfaction of the decree. In the suit Puttaby Chetty and Venketramen Chetty gave evidence against Rungun Chetty, hence the enmity Rungun Chetty bore to his Chetty neighbours. Soon after the dacoity, Rungun Chetty repaid money he owed to Authenarayana Chetty; he also endeavoured to redeem some jewels he had mortgaged to Camatchy Chetty, but there was a dispute about the interest. It was thus shown that Rungun Chetty, who before the dacoity was a pauper, soon after had at his command a considerable sum of money. This fact, and the evidence I have already gone into regarding the jewels, made it tolerably clear that he had been the prime mover in the dacoity. The case against Rungun Chetty having been so far completed, Mr. Paczensky next directed his attention to hunt up the actual dacoits.

12. From Rungun Chetty's own statement he was shown, previous to the dacoity, to have been with one Soka Pillai of Yellaparputty, a village near the scene of crime, and in which direction the footsteps traced after the crime led. When Mr. Paczensky was on his way to Carur, a man was found lurking near his bandy. On being questioned, he was ascertained to be Cadumbalingum, a son of Soka Pillai. As soon as Mr. Paczensky returned to the neighbourhood of the dacoity from Carur, he directed his attention to the movement and antecedents of Soka Pillai and his family.

13. Information was soon brought by Constable, No. 630, Allageresawmy of Dodnumputty Station, that Chendrasakarun Pillai, the son of Soka Pillai, had, a month before the dacoity, been to the house of Poonen Thaven of Erode, and asked him to join in the dacoity. Poonen Thaven was sent for and stated that Chendrasakarun Pillai had come as alleged, that his brother, Perumal Thaven, and uncle, Thunga Thaven, were then present, Soka Pillai offered them Rupees 100 to rob the Mail; they at first refused, but afterwards Periasawmy Thaven, brother of Thunga Thaven, told them he would consent, get all the money he could from Chendrasagarun, and bolt; this was accordingly done, for Chendrasakarun gave Rupees 40 to Periasawmy Thaven, and saw him no more. Thus the first plan to rob the Mail failed.

14. Shortly after this the same Constable, Allageresawmy, got information that one Muthan, a lad who tended Soka Pillai's cattle, had lately left Soka Pillai's service. Muthan, on being examined, said that Rungun Chetty was in the habit of frequenting the house of Soka Pillai; that one night Rungun Chetty, Chendrasakarun, and Cadumbalingum, sons of, and Soobba Pillai, son-in-law of, Soka Pillai, Coopen Chetty, and a potter of Goorkalayemputty, and another man, whose name he did not know, had left Soka Pillai's house, saying they were going to Dindigul next morning. He again saw them, with the exception of Coopen Chetty and the man he did not know. He then heard of the Mail being robbed during the night. Rungun Chetty left early in the morning, on the evening Cadumbalingum Pillai and Chendrasagarun Pillai left, and were absent for ten days.

15. The case was now rapidly worked out. Coopen Chetty, on being arrested, made a partial admission implicating also one Raman Chetty, a known depredator of Naikambur, a village twelve miles from the scene of crime, who turned out to be the man Muthan saw with the others, but who he was not acquainted with. Chendrasagarun Pillai, Soka Pillai, Cadumbalingum Pillai, and Ram Reddy all, more or less, admitted their guilt. Cadumbalingum Pillai was taken in as an approver, and the case was complete against five concerned; the sixth, Soobba Pillai, has up to date evaded arrest.

16. Mr. Paczensky has performed the work for which he was detailed in a thoroughly satisfactory manner; clues were persistently searched for, and, when found, were followed up most perseveringly. He has conducted the case throughout with ability and skill.

17. It is an important conviction, and I beg to recommend that a sum of Rupees 250 be apportioned among the Police Officers who have contributed to the detection of the case. This sum, if sanctioned, might, I think, be divided as follows:—

		Rs.
1st-Class Inspector Paczensky	... ...	150
1st-Grade Head Constable Christian, No. 600	... ...	25
Constable No. 630, Allageresawmy	... ...	35
Do. ,, 592, Dustagheer Khan	... ... (10 + 10)	... 20
Do. ,, 571, Packeanathun	... ...	10
Do. ,, 869, Palavasum Pillai	... ...	10
Do. ,, 714, Seetharam Reddy	... ...	10
	Total ...	260

18. In conclusion, I feel bound to observe on the extraordinary behaviour of the Deputy Postmaster of Carur. He was on intimate terms with Rungun Chetty, who was in the habit of frequenting the Carur Post Office, and who doubtless obtained from the Postmaster what information he wished for regarding the Mails. When the Deputy Postmaster obtained from Rungun Chetty important information about the dacoity, he, to avoid his own name being mixed up in the affair, wrote the two anonymous letters. Subsequent events have shown that the Postmaster is in no way implicated, but till the case was fully worked out, I looked on his conduct with considerable suspicion.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
27th February 1875.

No. 368. ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1875, No. 460.

Rewards aggregating Rupees 260 are sanctioned, as requested.

2. The correspondence will be furnished to the Postmaster-General for his information.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
" Magistrate of Madura.
" Accountant-General.
" Postmaster-General, Madras.

Exd. T. O'Connor,

No 31

Madura Police Office
27th January 1875

From

The Superintendent of Police
Madura

To

The Inspector General of Police
Madras

Sir

I have the honor to report that the prisoners convicted in the Mail Dacoity near Dindigul committed on the 13th August last were this day sentenced as below

1st Prisoner Rungan Chetty. 11 years Transportation
2nd do - Chandra Pahanan 9 do do
3rd do Goopan Chetty 7 do do
4th do Ram Reddy 7 do do
5th do Sohu Pillay one months

Rigorous Imprisonment under Sec 412 I.P.C.

Cadumbalingam Pillai was used as an approver and pardoned.

Soobba Pillai is still at large. His complete description

I am

Sir

Your most obedient servant

[illegible]

Gobt. of {1875} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 27th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 27th February 1875, No. 460.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 367-368.

Postal.—Rewards, aggregating Rupees 260, on account of the successful detection of the Mail dacoity which took place near Dindigul on 13th August last, sanctioned, and the correspondence forwarded to the Postmaster-General.

were attacked by five men seven miles north of Dindigul armed with sticks and robbed of the mail. It was contained in five bags, of these four were carried away and one which contained but little, was left by the Dacoits on the ground.

3, The ascertained contents of the mail of pecuniary value, consisted of Currency notes, amounting to Rs 460. and a parcel of Jewelry valued at Rs 435.

4 It was a dark night, the runners could not give any description of the dacoits, footsteps of five persons could be traced two miles northeast from the Scene of crime.

5, No clue was got in the case till the 6th October on which date the Deputy Post Masters of Caroor wrote two anonymous letters, one addressed to himself the other to the Police Inspector at Carur intimating that letters lost in the Dindigul mail case would be found if the houses of Puttaby Chetty, Gopal Chetty, and Venkataram Chetty, were searched. I may here mention that Carur is 45 miles from Dindigul.

6, On the same evening the Deputy Post Master informed Constable 335, 573 of Carur that one Rungun Chetty (1st Prisoner) had informed him, that Venkataramun Chetty had gone to the river with a basket of letters, and requested the Constables to go and look. The Constables were on their way to the river with the Post Master, when Rungun Chetty came up and said Venkat. Ramen Chetty has just returned home after going to the bed of the river, and pointed out the directions they should take, they went, and found in the bed of the river a number of letters, afterwards identified as having been lost in the Mail Dacoity.

7 The next morning the Police Inspector who had been absent arrived at Carur, and received his anonymous letters, and the report of what had taken place, he searched Puttaby Chetty's bazoon and found in a bag some more letters lost in the Mail Dacoity, Puttaby Chetty on being examined said that the previous evening Rungun Chetty and a Pillalak

(since ascertained to be the 2nd Prisoner) had come to his bazaar to purchase ragee, had left the bag saying they would bring money on the morning to pay for the grain. Puttaby Chetty and his partner Gowntha Chetty were arrested and remanded.

8, On the 12th October Rungum Chetty gave information to the Inspector that Camatchy Chetty of Carur had given him some Jewels lost in the Mail Dacoity previous to this the Assistant Superintendent of Carur had arrived, he examined Rungum Chetty, who offered to deliver up the jewels, Rungum Chetty dug up from ~~from~~ beneath a Pomegranate tree two ear ornaments since identified as having been lost in the Dacoity. Rungum Chetty was then arrested and the Asst Superintendent being satisfied that the finding of the letters in the bazaar of Puttaby Chetty, and the information given by Rungum Chetty was

a plot to ensnare his enemies Puttaby Chetty and his partner Gowntha Chetty were released.

9 At this stage the case came to a standstill, and soon after you directed Inspector Poezensky to proceed from Trinevelly and take up the case. Mr Poezensky arrived at Carur on the 12th November and commenced his enquiries, having acquainted himself with the ascertained facts he left Carur on the 13th November taking with him Rungum Chetty.

10, On the 19th Rungum Chetty gave information that the property would be found in the well of Camatchy Chetty of Carur. Mr Poezensky at once returned to Carur and on search being made a pair of ear ornaments a necklace, and some hair ornaments all lost in the Dacoity valued Rs 300 were found at the bottom of the well from the appearance of the Jewels it was evident they had not been there for more than two or three days, it was believed that these Jewels were put in the well by relations of

Rungum Chetty.

11. Rungum Chetty is an insolvent Salt dealer. Some months previous to the Dacoity Sathumarayana Chetty of Carur obtained a decree in the Civil Court against Rungum Chetty who absconded, his house was attached in satisfaction of the decree. In the suit Pullaby Chetty and Venkataramma Chetty gave evidence against Rungum Chetty. Hence he enmity Rungum Chetty bore to his Chetty neighbours. Soon after the Dacoity Rungum Chetty repaid money he owed to Sathumarayana Chetty, he also endeavoured to redeem some Jewels he had mortgaged to Canachy Chetty but there was a dispute about the interest. It was thus shown that Rungum Chetty who before the Dacoity was a pauper soon after had at his command a considerable sum of money. This fact and the evidence I have already gone into regarding the Jewels made it tolerably clear that he had been the prime movers in the Dacoity. The case against Rungum Chetty having been so far completed, Mr Paczensky next directed his attention to hunting up the actual Dacoits.

12, From Rungum Chetty's own statement he was shown previous to the Dacoity to have been with one Soku Pillai of Gellaparputty a village near the Scene of Crime, and in which direction the foot steps traced after the crime led, when Mr Paczensky was on his way to Carur a man was found lurking near his bandy. On being questioned he was ascertained to be Cuddumba lingum a son of Soku Pillai, as soon as Mr Paczensky returned to the neighbourhood of the Dacoity from Carur he directed his attention to the movements and antecedents of Soku Pillai and his family.

13. Information was soon brought by Cous 630 Allageresawmy of Dodrumpully Station that Chundra Sakarum Pillai the son of Soku Pillai had a month before the Dacoity been to the house of Ponnum Thaven of Erode, and

asked him to join in the Dacoity. Poonen Thaven was sent for, and stated that Chundrasakarum Pillai had came as alleged that his brother Perumal Thaven and uncle Thunga Thaven were then present, Soku Pillai offered them Rupees 100 to rob the mail. They at first refused, but afterwards Periasawmy Thaven brother of Thunga Thaven told them he would consent, get all the money he could from Chundrasagarum, and bolt, this was accordingly done for Chundrasakarum, gave Rs 40 to Periasawmy Thaven, and saw him no more, thus the first plan to rob the mail failed.

14. Shortly after this the same Constable Allagaresawmy got information that one Muthan, a lad who tended Soku Pillai's cattle, had lately left Soku Pillai's service, Muthan on being examined said that Rungum Chetty was in the habit of frequenting the house of Soku Pillai, that one night Rungum Chetty, Chundrasakarum and Cadumbalingum sons of, and Soobbia Pillai, soninlaw of Soku Pillai, Coopum Chetty and a Podier of Goor-Kalayem putty and another man whose name he did not know, had left Soku Pillai's house saying they were going to Dindigul, next morning he again saw them with the exception of Coopan Chetty and the man he did not know. He then heard of the mail being robbed during the night. Rungum Chetty left early in the morning, on the evening Cadumbalingum Pillai and Chundrasagarum Pillai left and were absent for ten days.

15. The case was now rapidly worked out, Coopum Chetty on being arrested made a partial admission implicating also one Raman Chetty a known Depredator of Naikamtum a village 12 miles from the scene of crime, who turned out to be the man Muthan saw with the others but who he was not acquainted with. Chundrasagarum Pillai, Soku Pillai, Cadumbalingum Pillai and Ramoo Reddy all more or less admit-

-ted their guilt, Coodumbalingum Pillai was taken in as an approver and the case was complete against the five concerned, the 6th Soobba Pillai has up to date evaded arrest.

16. Mr Paczensky has performed the work for which he was detailed in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, clues were persistently searched for and when found were followed up most perseveringly, he has conducted the case throughout with ability and skill.

17. It is an important conviction, and I beg to recommend that a sum of Rs 250 be apportioned among the Police Officers who have contributed to the detection of the case, this sum if sanctioned might I think be divided as follows:-

1st Class Inspector Paczensky	Rs	150
1st 2nd & 3rd Class Constables Christian No 600	Rs	25
Cons No 630 Allagiresamy	Rs	35
Do No 592 Dustageerkhan	Rs	10 +10
Do No 571 Pachiamuthum	Rs	10
Do No 869 Palavarayan Pillai	Rs	10
Do No 714 Seetharama Reddy	Rs	10
	Rs	250

In conclusion I feel bound to observe on the extraordinary behaviour of the Deputy Post Master of Karaikal, he was on intimate terms with Rungum Chetty, who was in the habit of frequenting the Karaikal Post Office and who doubtless obtained from the Post Master what information he wished for regarding the mails. When the Deputy Post Master obtained from Rungum Chetty important information about the Dacoity, he to avoid his own name being mixed up in the affair wrote the two anonymous letters, subsequent events have shewn that the Post Master is in no way implicated, but till the case was fully worked out I looked on his conduct with considerable suspicion.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servant
H Wilson Capt
Superintendent Police

From
The Supt of Police
Wasima
To The Insp Genl
of Police
Dated 27 Jany 1875
Recd

No 31

Report on the
Successful convention
of the Mail Dacoity
Case Committed near
Dindigul on 13 Augt
1874.

1875 Department
Enclosure
In a letter from
the Inspector General
of Police dated Madras
23d February 1875
No. 935
From
The Supt of Police
Madura
To The Insp-r Genl
of Police
Reports on the
succesful Conviction
of the Mail Dacoity
Case committed near
Dindigul on 13th Augt
1874 -

21

Chief Office of the Inspector General of Police,

No. 935

Madras, 23d February 1875

From

The Inspector General of Police,

To

The Acting Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Enclosures. one

I have the honor to submit for the information of Government a report from the Superintendent of Police Madura of the succesful detection of the Mail Dacoity which occurred near Dindigul on the night of the 13th August 1874 - all the persons concerned have been accounted for save one who has as yet evaded arrest -

2. Captain Kilgour recommends certain rewards

to

to the Police Officers concerned in the detection of this important case. Mr. Paczensky has display-ed his usual ability with mark-ed success but I think it right to mention that under G. O. No. 2174 of 30th November 1874 he has received an increase of pay from Rupees 200 to Rupees 300 per mensem as special Dacoity Inspector in Madura which increase dated from the time when he proceeded by my order to investigate the Dindigul Mail Dacoity.

3. I also think that the reward of Rupees 10 recommended for Constable No. 592 Dustagheer Khan of the Coimbatore District should be

be increased to Rupees 20. This Police Officer worked with great intelligence throughout and first hit off the clue by which the complicity of Soka Pillay and his son Chenderdagarum (both convicted) in the Dacoity was finally established.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt Servt,

C. L. Ham
Inspector General
of Police

Fwd 1875 Department
(Police)

From
The Inspector General
of Police

To The Actg Chief Secy
to Government
Fort St George

Dated 23rd Feby 1875
Recd 23rd ——— read
No 446 No 935.

Submits a report
from the Supdt of Police
Madura of the Succ=
=ce[illegible]ful detection
of the Mail Dacoity
which occurred near
Dindigul on the 13th
August 1874.

Remarks & Suggestions Nos 265 are enclosed
for perusal.

The circumstances will be found detailed in
the Supdt of Police's report

Supt. Gaol & Police
Bangalore & Collectors
Coimbatore Salem
Pondicherry Cuddapah Chingleput

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

Financial

27th July

G. [illegible] 1875, No. 460

Nos. 367-8

Rewards &c for [illegible]
Rs 2160 on account
[illegible] successful dacoi-
ties [illegible] the Tamil Country
which took place
[illegible] Sanctioned on 12
August last, sanctioned
by the Government
[illegible] to the
Collector & Deputy Inspector General