

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Judicial* DEPARTMENT

|          |               |                |
|----------|---------------|----------------|
| G.O. No. | 941           | Press          |
|          | 67-68         | <del>Mis</del> |
| Dated    | 3 - 8 - 19/23 |                |

Not to be folded or roughly handled



*Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 4th August 1857.*

No. 67. Read the following letter from W. DOWDESWELL, Esq., Sessions Judge of Chingleput ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 28th July 1857, No. 216.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that in consequence of the 36 Convicts sentenced to transportation having been removed from this Jail, the extra guard, which was temporarily sent here, escorted those Convicts to Madras, on the 19th Instant, and returned to their duty at Palaveram.

I now consider it my duty to bring to the notice of Government, that the Moharum festival will commence on the 22nd August next, and I have ascertained, that in consequence of several of the Invalid Detachment stationed here having lately been pensioned, there will be only 48 Hindoo Sepoys for all the different duties here ; and possibly some of these may be absent from sickness or other causes ; and more than one-third of the Jail Peons will require leave at that time. I am of opinion therefore that as I may calculate the number of prisoners at from 240 to 260, the present guard will not be sufficient.

In arriving at this opinion, first I take into consideration that the Jail buildings have no wall round them, and have been reported by Mr. Rohde, the Inspector of Prisons, as insecure. Next that the Sepoys composing the Detachment are all old and infirm men, and that there is always at the Moharum festival, a large influx of Mohamedan strangers, and the Moharum is celebrated close outside the Fort, causing considerable noise and a large crowd within a hundred yards of the Jail. It is true the Jail is inside the Fort walls ; but they are in such a dilapidated condition that they form rather an obstacle to, than an assistance in the defence of the Jail, as there is nothing to prevent persons passing over them in almost every direction, and thus affording shelter and a means of concealment.

Taking all this into consideration, I beg, I may be allowed an extra guard of sufficient strength to ensure the safe custody of the prisoners, from a few days before, till a few days after the celebration of the Moharum festival.

(Signed) W. DOWDESWELL,  
*Sessions Judge.*

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, No. 941 ; dated 3rd August 1857.

Under the circumstances reported by Mr. Dowdeswell, Government resolve to refer this letter to the Provincial Commander-in-Chief, who will be good enough to state if the application for an extra guard for the Chingleput Jail, during the Moharum can be complied with.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,  
*Acting Chief Secretary.*



Extract from the Minutes of Consultation  
 Dated 3 August 1867.  
 Read letter from the  
 Judge of Chingleput d. 28 July 1857

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W

- Under the circumstances reported  
 by Mr. Swaleswell, Govt. resolved  
 to refer this letter to the Pro-  
 vential Council in Chief who  
 will be good enough to <sup>state</sup> report  
 if the application for an  
 Extra Guard for the Chingle-  
 put Jail during the Mo-  
 suram can be complied  
 with. - W

Copy to the Senior Judge  
 of Chingleput } Despatch 3<sup>d</sup>  
 " - to the Chief Secy of the Govt. }  
 with copy of letter - } Despatch 3<sup>d</sup>



By to Com 4<sup>th</sup> August 1857  
Judicial 1857 Department

ME 941.

Exe. Minis. Com.

dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1857.

F. No. 1277