

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2027

Press
~~Mis.~~

126-127

Dated 13.12.1862 ~~19~~

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
13th December 1862.*

No. 126. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah ; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddapah, 29th November 1862, No. 30.

I have the honor to recommend for the sanction of Government the issue of rewards of Rupees 25 to each of the first four persons in the margin,* and Rupees 50 to the last named, on account of a spirited resistance, and pursuit of a large gang of robbers at Wubacherla in Kadiri Taluq.

	Rupees.
* 1. Yakala Venkateshn	25
2. Boya Ramudu	25
3. Yeraka Nagadu	25
4. Gurigadu Venkataramudu	25
5. Musatreddi, Village Munsiff	50
Total ..	150

† To be returned.

2. A† full communication from Joint Magistrate, and Assistant Superintendent of Police, is enclosed for information.

3. It appears that though the greater part of the gang escaped, three were captured and sent for trial before the Sessions Court, copy of whose proceedings are also enclosed, and on my inquiring whether the Sessions Judge had specifically recommended rewards to be given, I was informed that this was left to the Magistrate as "being a better judge of the rewards to be given to each party" I have supported the recommendation of the Joint Magistrate in reference to the rewards to the several parties in the margin.

From F. B. MOLONY, Esq., Joint Magistrate, Cuddapah ; to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Magistrate, Cuddapah, dated Coorabalacotee, 17th November 1862, No. 169.

‡ Copy of Urzee from the 2nd class Subordinate Magistrate of Kadiri.
Copy of letter to Assistant Superintendent of Police.
Copy of letter in reply.

1. I have the honor herewith to forward copies of correspondence as per margin,‡ on the subject of a case of resistance to gang robbers at Oobijerlah a village in the Kadiri Taluq.

The robbery took place on the night of the 30th September 1862, in the house of one S. Venkata-ramiah a Comaty of the village, and property to the value of 2,337 Rupees is stated to have been lost.

Though I am of opinion that either no property whatever was stolen or that nothing like the amount stated was lost, still there can be no question that a large gang of 40 or 50 men did effect an entrance into Venkataramiah's house with the intention of committing the robbery, and there equally can be no doubt that the Reddy of the village immediately turned out all available hands and made arrangements that should have, even if they did not, secured the capture of every man of the gang. It appears from the Urzee of the Subordinate Magistrate and the letter of the Assistant Superintendent of Police that the Reddy divided his men into two parties, cutting off the exit from the village on the one side completely, and driving the robbers to attempt an escape over the walls of an old Fort on the other.

This, with the exception of three men captured, they succeeded in doing, and had the villagers acted more courageously, doubtless the number of men captured would have been far greater as they had merely to catch and pull the men down from the walls as they were in the act of getting over. The Assistant Superintendent of Police informs me that, in his opinion, not a man of the gang could have escaped had this been done, unfortunately in the excitement of cutting down two men and capturing a third unhurt, their attention was diverted from the main object, and the rest of the gang got safe over the wall. I am giving these particulars very much from information given me personally by Lieutenant Knyvett; but as you will perceive his opinions formed on the spot coincide with those I had formed from the report of the Sub-Magistrate, and although he had not the advantage of examining the parties principally concerned as they were absent at Cuddapah, I think that his conclusions scarcely admit of a question.

2. Under these circumstances I should scarcely have recommended a reward to be given as nothing at all adequate to the opportunity was done, but as a matter of policy I certainly think it advisable to recognize resistance even though bravery was not very conspicuous.

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3. The Reddy, Moosulreddy, is a young man whom I recently appointed, and in this his first chance of distinguishing himself has done really well, nor can I attribute the failure to capture the rest of the gang entirely to him. At least he has showed himself willing and prompt, and though perhaps a little more alacrity at the critical time would have effected more, it seems to me very desirable that his conduct should be marked with approbation for the encouragement of himself and the other Reddies of the Taluq whom such an example would certainly stimulate to exertion. I need scarcely remind you that the Kadiri Taluq is more exposed to the attack of robbers than any other portion of this Division, owing to the daring character of the robbers who collect on the frontier of Bellary and the nature of the country, to show that it is peculiarly desirable to encourage the spirit of resistance in that quarter. For this purpose I would beg to recommend that a reward of 50 Rupees be given to Moosulreddy, and as I understand that he is a poor man I would further recommend that before deciding on the form of the reward he be asked whether he would wish to receive the amount in money or in ornaments.

To those actually instrumental to the capture of the three robbers, viz:—

1. Yakala Vencateshu.
2. Boya Ramudu.
3. Yeraka Nagadoo.
4. Gurigadoo Vencataramudu.

I would beg to recommend that a sum of 25 Rupees to each man be given. I feel certain that this amount will be well spent and will do more to repress violent crime in that Taluq than any measure that could be taken.

From F. B. MOLONY, Esq., Joint Magistrate, Cuddapah; to Lieutenant W. L. KNYVETT, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Cuddapah, dated Madanapalli, 28th October 1862, No. 156.

As I believe you intend proceeding to the Kadiri Taluq immediately, I should esteem it a favor if you would be good enough to ascertain from personal observation and let me know the particulars of the late case of resistance to robbers at Oobijerlah in that Taluq. The Subordinate Magistrate has recommended the distribution of large rewards, but before forwarding his recommendation for sanction I should be glad to know whether you consider the Reddy and ryots deserving of them.

From a perusal of the report of the Subordinate Magistrate I have doubts whether any thing like as much was done as could and ought to have been done under the circumstances. I don't gather that the body of the gang was attacked at all, or that more bravery was displayed than was necessary to cut down and catch three stragglers.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. B. MOLONY,
Joint Magistrate.

From Lieutenant W. L. KNYVETT, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Cuddapah District; to F. B. MOLONY, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Cuddapah, No. 62.

Having been to the village of Oobijerlah in the Cadaree Taluq, for the purpose of inquiry into the circumstances connected with the late case of resistance to the gang robbers which occurred there, I shall have the honor to reply to your letter, No. 156, of the 28th ultimo.

2. The men who took the most prominent part in the resistance, were at the time of my visit absent from the village, having gone to give evidence before the Session Court at Cuddapah, and in consequence of this I have some hesitation in giving an authoritative opinion in the matter.

That I cannot help considering that the conclusion you have drawn from the report of the Subordinate Magistrate, viz., that nothing like as much was done as could and ought to have been done is perfectly correct. Taking an average from the various accounts given by the vil-

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lagers it may safely be assumed that the assemblage of villagers amounted to at least 100 men, and that the gang numbered only 30 or at most 40.

The robbers were regularly entrapped in a ruined fort from which they were obliged to make their exit by clambering over the walls, and had any very conspicuous bravery been displayed, it appears indubitable that the great majority of them would have been captured with ease.

3. At the same time it is only lately that villagers have taken heart to resist the depredations of gang robbers at all, and we perhaps should not expect too much at first.

I believe no rewards of any kind have been given in the Cadaree Taluq since the introduction of the new Police, and should you feel that you could recommend any of these villagers the effect would doubtless be most beneficial.

4. The two men who seem to have set an example of bravery to the rest are,

1. Boya Ramadoo and
1. Yerekala Nayadoo,

and the conduct of the Moonsiff Reddy especially deserves mention. It appears that he was residing in a hamlet nearly half a mile from the village attacked, and that with an alacrity which is scarcely too highly to be commended, he roused his village and came promptly to the assistance of his Cusbah, bringing with him somewhere about 50 men.

His name, as you are aware, is Moosulreddy.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. B. MOLONY,
Joint Magistrate.

Proceedings of the Session Court of Cuddapah, under date the 19th November 1862, No. 472.

- * 4. Moosulreddy, Village Moonsiff.
- 5. Y. Vencatasoo.
- 6. B. Ramodoo.
- 7. B. Potoolagadoo.
- 8. Y. Nagadoo.
- 9. P. Boodeen Saib.
- 10. G. Vencatramodoo.
- 11. Vasauthu.

The persons named in the margin* having very boldly and successfully attacked a gang of robbers who plundered the house of one T. Vencataramaya in the village of Oobeecherla in the Kadiree Talook and captured three of them who have been convicted, the Session Judge considers that they are well entitled to a reward. Their conduct deserves the greatest approbation.

The Reddy who lived about a mile off so immediately started to the rescue that the robbers were obliged to decamp, and the others, who as well as the Reddy were in no way connected with the man whose house was robbed, so immediately responded to the call that they came upon the robbers before they had time to make good their escape.

It should also be observed that they did this well knowing that the robbers were armed with guns as they had kept up firing from the roof of the house while robbing it, and also entirely without the aid of the Police. The Police do not appear to have been successful in discovering any man of the gang, though proved to have been a very large one.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. S. CHILD,
Session Judge.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Magistrate.

No. 127.

ORDER THEREON, 13th December 1862, No. 2,027.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the grant of the rewards recommended in the foregoing letter, viz., fifty (50) Rupees to Musalreddi and twenty-five (25) Rupees each to the four other ryots named by the Magistrate, in recognition of their spirited

Exd. T. McMootry.

N^o 2027. 2/13 Decr. 1862.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the grant of the rewards recommended in the foregoing letter, viz Fifty (50) Rupees to Musalreddi and Twenty five (25) Rupees each to the four other ryots named by the Magistrate, in recognition of their spirited conduct in resisting and pursuing a gang of robbers while plundering a house in the village of Wubacherla. The Magistrate will consider whether it may not be advisable to give the rewards in the shape of silver bangles.

2. A notice of the affair

And

resistance and pursuit of
a large gang of robbers
at Mulbach in Hain-
Zwickau Order.

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Ind. 4862
Magistral Department
To Mr. Secy. Secy.
From The Collector of
Cuddapah
To The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Madras

Dated 29th
Nov 30th 1862
No. 30
Enclosure 2/2

Recommending for the
sanction of Government
the issue of rewards to 5
persons within specified
on account of a spirited
resistance and pursuit of
a large gang of robbers
at Mulachala in Madras
with an Order

And the rewards granted should be pub-
lished in the District Gazette.

The Magistrate of
Cuddapah
Civil Paymaster
Deputy Auditor Genl.
Sub. General Madras Police

disp. 15th

1260727