

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 16	Press
19-20	~~Mis~~
Dated 6 - 1 - 19 1864	

6/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
6th January 1864.*

No. 19. Read the following letter: from L. BOWRING, Esq., Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Seralcope, 11th December 1863, No. 24.

The Government of Madras having offered a large reward for the apprehension of the murderer or murderers of the late Mr. R. Horsley of the Madras Civil Service, I have the honor to forward, for the consideration of His Excellency in Council, the accompanying papers* relating to the apprehension by Major Puckle, Officiating Deputy Superintendent of the Toomkoor District, of a notorious leader of Dacoits named Honoora, from which it will be seen that certain statements have been made by some approvers of the Thuggee Department implicating Honoora, who has since been sentenced to transportation for life as a professional Dacoit.

From Major J. PUCKLE, Deputy Superintendent, Toomkoor; to the Superintendent of the Nundidroog Division, dated Toomkoor, 18th November 1863, General No. ⁹⁷²/₂₂₁.

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day committed to your Court Criminal Case No. ⁵/₆ of 1863-64.

2. The proceedings will probably reach you about the 19th instant.

MEMORANDUM.

The prisoner in this case, Honoora, son of Koonta Kaderapah, who came with his gang from the Telugu country to Mysore about 1830, is a man of desperate character, and ferocious disposition, and is considered as the acknowledged head of all the Korchurs in this Province, and the neighbouring Zillahs.

2. About two years ago the Thuggee Department at Belgaum got some information from prisoners who had been in our Jail, and who had been taken by them as approvers, to the effect that Honoora was the murderer of Mr. Ralph Horsley of the Civil Service, on the night of the 4th July 1856, at Bellary, short particulars of which are as follows:—Mr. Horsley had retired to bed at 11 P. M., and was awakened about mid-night by some noise in his room, on which he got up, and apparently grappled with a man who was there, receiving a mortal stab on the back in the encounter. He called "boy" twice, about 12 30 A. M., of the 5th, and on the call being answered he was found dead. A coachman stated he had seen three men running away from the house, but he could not identify them, as they were 30 yards off, and he was afraid to follow them. Mr. Horsley's Cutcherry box was taken from under his bed, and found broken open near the hedge of the compound, but nothing seemed to have been taken except the silver official seal, which had been pulled from the handle. Rewards of 1000 Rupees for the murderer, and Rupees 500 for information, which should lead to his apprehension, were at once offered but without success.

3. Early in 1862 Mr. Hearn, the Superintendent of Thuggee, at Belgaum wrote to the Magistrate of Bellary, and enclosed statements given by four of the approvers (copies of which the latter sent to me), which contain information corroborative of the conjectures formed at the time by Mr. Pelly. Mr. Hearn also addressed the Superintendent of Bangalore, forwarding similar statements; and received in reply a letter No. 56 of 17th March 1862, from Captain Hay, containing much information, and enclosing two statements by Kapaniah and Ramah, prisoners in the Bangalore Jail.

4. The approvers taken from our Jail are as follows:—

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Chicka Venkata Naik. | } 21st May 1860. |
| 2. Hossoora. | |
| 3. Honoora. | |
| 4. Konee Bheema, alias Pichgum Rama Naik. | } 26th February 1861. |
| 5. Dodda Venkata. | |
| 6. Goojurgin, alias Mussia. | |
| 7. Muriga, alias Runga. | |
| 8. Guduktute Soonka, alias Krishna. | |
| 9. Pursia, alias Runga. | |
| 10. Yenka, alias Venkata. | |
| 11. Mooneya. | } 11th February 1861. |
| 12. Sun Naga or Pok Naga, alias Naga, son of Mooneya. | |

5. Parties of approvers have from time to time come to this and the neighbouring divisions to search for Honoora, but without success. My informant told me that they could not catch him as he was in disguise, and kept faithfully *au courant* of every move made against him, which I am inclined to believe, as during the last three months, when paying especial attention to Police matters, I have been surprised at the speed with which information is carried about from one to another, chiefly by the boys and women of the gangs.

6. The purport of the statements made by the four approvers above-mentioned, regarding the burglary and murder at Bellary, is as follows:—

I. Hossoora, son of Choudapah, stated on the 24th February 1862:—"Maree Honoora's wife told me that her husband had escaped from the Shimoga Jail, and afterwards went to Bellary accompanied by her, and that one day as Honoora was carrying off a box from the house of a Sahib, which was outside Bellary, the Sahib awoke and grappled with him when he (Honoora) stabbed him with a knife and killed him."

II. Kemp Hooliga stated on the 24th February 1862:—"Honoora joined the gang I was with at Dandena Keerihall in the Bellary Zillah, and then told me that he and Venka, and another Venka, went to commit a burglary at a Sahib's house near Bellary; that he and Venka went inside, and as he (Honoora) was carrying off a box, the Sahib awoke and seized him (Honoora) when he stabbed him with a knife he had in his hand, which caused his death. He also related this to Sunnya and Chenga, but is not related to them. Sunnya and Chenga repeated this in my presence."

III. Sunnya Naik stated on the 27th February 1862:—"About 11 years ago when Kemp Hooliga and I, with others, were at Honhulli in the Bellary Zillah, Korwar Honoora was in a Musjid near Bellary, close to our encampment; one day he told me when we were in the Camp bazaar drinking liquor, that he and Dod, and Sun Venka, went to a Sahib's house on the north side of Bellary, on the Kurgod road, and that after getting possession of a box the Sahib awoke, when a fight with sticks ensued, which ended by the Sahib being intimidated. A few days afterwards there was a report that a Sahib had been murdered." He also stated "Honoora was with me at the Yergoontee and Talmandee robberies, and also at one in the Shookrawar Pett at Bellary; and of a shepherd near Yenka-tapoor. I went with a party about five years ago, commanded by Duffadar Peer Khan, and seized Honoora in the village of Makakodi, in the Anantapoor Talook; after which he was sent to Belgaum, but before reaching it he escaped at Goonal or Goinkoke from the guard belonging to the Noulgoond Talook."

IV. Pursia stated on the 8th March 1862:—"About five or six months ago I was in Moondinulli of the Harnhulli Talook of Ashtagram, when I went to see Honoora, of my caste, who was then at Gudanhulli, quite close to me. He told me that about eight or nine years previously he and two others went to a Sahib's tents, which were pitched near Bellary, and that as he (Honoora) was quietly dragging a box out from under the bed, the Sahib awoke and grappled with him, on which he stabbed the Sahib with a knife he had in his hand, and killed him. No one was present when he told me this, and he went away shortly afterwards to Toorvakere. He is tall, not dark and not fair, neither stout nor thin, and has lost two of his front teeth, and about forty years old."

7. The statements made by Kapaniah and Ramah, Korchurs in the Bangalore Jail (enclosures of Captain Hay's letter to Mr. Hearn, No. 56 of March 1862), are to the effect that Honoora is the son of Koonta Kaderagah or Kaderapah; that the gang came to Mysore about the time of the assumption of the country, and settled first at Tyaurgoondal in the Nellamungalum Talook, and combined with other gangs in the late Bangalore, Chituldroog and Ashtagram Divisions, and neighbouring Zillahs, for the purpose of Dacoity, and other kindred crimes; that Honoora was the recognized head of the gang after the death of Koonta Kaderapah; and that the number of robberies they were engaged in was very great, of which a list is given.

8. These two men, Kapaniah and Ramah, or Raste Ramah as he is called, from being so long in the "Road Jail," were examined by me in September last at Bangalore, and their statement corroborates what had previously been stated against Honoora. They add that he entered a Sahib's house in the cantonment of Bangalore, and escaped with a box (this was Lieutenant Palmer's house, in February 1849), but that a boy was caught who was afterwards released; that Honoora, after two robberies went to Shimoga, where he was apprehended, and imprisoned in the Shimoga Jail for seven years; after the expiry of which he went to Cannanore, where he was apprehended on account of a burglary, but escaped by smashing his fetters (but this is not otherwise corroborated); that he generally wanders about Mysore and assumes the disguise of a snake charmer, or a Dasserri; that he is a ringleader, and that his brother Mooneya was transported. They gave a list of the crimes in which Honoora was present, or shared in, viz.,

	Locality.
1. Pootsetty's.....	Maharaj Droog Talook.
2. House in Cantonment.....	Bangalore.
3. Rissaldar's house, Mavanhully.....	Magadi do.
4. Attack on a grain pit.....	Hoolioor Droog do.
5. Various robberies about	Shimoga.
6. Beerasundra Boray Gowda.....	Chickanaikenhully do.
7. Robbery of Brahmin, Mookanaikenhully.....	Do. do.
8. Venkatesiah's at Hobbala.....	Magadi do.
9. Rissaldar's house in Goondelaya.....	
10. Mulla Rachiab's house.....	Hoolioor Droog do.
11. Arlay Roodriah of Milahully.....	Nagamunglum do.
12. A Jain's house at Kundaga.....	Toorvakere do.
13. A Toddy seller's house at Kulya, where the Toddy seller was murdered.....	Magadi do.

9. Honoora is stated to have been concerned in all these, and to have been accompanied by Bodiga, Muddoor Venkataga, Dasser Hanooma, Moottah, Soobbah, Sunjeeva, Doorgoo, and Mooneya (Honoora's brother) who are all noted characters and leaders. They were not all actually present, but all received shares. Beder Naga, Beder Mooneya, Chick Venkatiga, Dod Venkatiga, Tiroomalaya and Holera Rama are stated by them also to be leaders.

10. I was in Bangalore at the time Captain Hay was in correspondence with Mr. Hearn, and learned the particulars of it from the former Officer, and on the occurrence of the savage Dacoity at Ootra Droog in June 1863; it struck me that possibly Honoora, or some of his gang, might be concerned in it, on which I made inquiries in every quarter where there seemed to be

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a chance of getting information, and after some time I heard that the 6th and 7th prisoners were said to have escaped from Belgaum or Dharwar, and that they were well known in those neighbourhoods.

11. I wrote to the Magistrates of Bellary, Dharwar and Belgaum, and to the Superintendent of Thuggee, at the latter place, giving him a list of the prisoners who had been at different times taken from our Jail as approvers, and requesting any further information he might be able to give regarding the subject of his communications to the Magistrates of Bellary and Bangalore; but I did not receive any reply, the only action taken on my letter having apparently been to send to this place a party of approvers, consisting of Honoora, Hossoora, Pursia, Venkata and Timma, under charge of Duffadar Senkrapsaud, who requested permission to see the prisoners in my Jail, which was readily granted, but they would not state for what purpose they had come.

12. Towards the end of August I had got information which I considered very reliable, and on which I acted, appointing Muddoor Tammiiah, a son of Lingay Gowda, as a special detective, giving him a Warrant for the apprehension of Honoora on the charge of Jail-breaking and being an habitual Dacoit. This was on the 1st September, and after much wandering about the prisoner was finally apprehended at Taradal in the Kortighiri Talook, and brought in here on the 31st October last.

13. It was necessary to proceed with extreme caution, as it was ascertained that Honoora had people with him who scouted so admirably that he was kept apprized of any movement against him, and to have gone after him openly with a few peons would have been the surest way to defeat the object aimed at. Accordingly Tammiiah had to make careful and patient inquiries: and at one time it was thought the capture would have been effected at the Tiptoor Sunay, but this failed; and he could not be approached till near the end of October, though information had been received of the general direction he had taken, which was carefully tracked.

14. The information given by Hooliga, our approver, was, it will be seen, strictly correct, and the mode adopted by Tammiiah for the apprehension is shortly detailed as follows:—He went from here on the 5th September, and after passing through the Chikkanaikenhulli, Honvulli, Hooliar, Chenroyapatam, Toorvakere and the Nagamungul Talooks, picking up information, he returned to Toomkoor, from which place he went in the direction of Kortighiri, Gorebednore, and Chikkabulapoor Talook, when it was ascertained that Honoora had been at the markets of Goondagiri and Munchinhully; on the 20th October was near Tondabauvi; and on the 22nd at Soobramony Kanawa. Proper letters were sent by the Amildar of Kortighiri to the neighbouring Amildars for assistance, and on the 27th it was reported that "certain Booradi Dasseries" had put up in a tope on the Oojani road near Hosshully. A peon was sent out in disguise, who returned, saying, the men had just left: but they were tracked to a place two miles further on near a temple called Mullay Maleshvara, where they were watched till day-break; shortly after which they moved off to a tope near "Taradal," followed by the detective and his people in the disguise of Ryots and village servants.

15. As it was now ascertained that these were the right persons, the Sheikdar of Saggaira, disguised as a Talary, went to their encampment, saying that by a recent Isyar the things they had with them should be examined, and that the Gowda and Shanbogue had sent him to tell them to come to the village Choultry for that purpose, after which they could go. They accordingly accompanied him (though Honoora said they might make the examination on the road, which objection the Talary over-ruled by saying he could not disobey orders) and moved on to the Choultry, on reaching which Tammiiah with a party of 12 Peons and Ryots surrounded them, and completed the capture; and with the aid of the Amildar of Kortighiri conveyed them to the Cusbah, and eventually to this Cutcherry.

16. I beg to bring to your notice the able and careful way in which Tammiiah has completed the task assigned to him, for which he drew no pay whatever; and also that the capture of this notorious man, who has baffled justice for so long, has been effected by the Toomkoor Police in two months, from the date on which it was ascertained that success might result from a careful prosecution of the search made on the information received; and I would recommend that his conduct may be rewarded by the appointment of a Killadari to which, I believe, he would do justice, from

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his knowledge of the habits of the dangerous classes, and from his intelligent behaviour in this instance. I would also ask that he may receive pay for the time he has been engaged to the end of November, at the rate of 35 Rupees a month, which will not much more than cover his expenses. Hooliga, on whom every thing depended, I recommend to be paid 300 Rupees, an amount I promised should be forthcoming in case the result proved his information was true.

17. I have also to request that you will be pleased to move the Commissioner to grant a reward of Rupees 500 for this apprehension to be distributed as under:—

	RS.
1. Hooliga.....	300
2. Shaikdar of Saggaira Shamiah.....	40
3. Rungah who went to the Korchur encampment disguised to ask for fire and brought back the particulars	40
4. Chick Dodda.....	25
5. Nursimiah.....	25
6. Mammo, Peon.	10
7. Mauda, Duffadar.....	10
8. Mahomed Khan, Peon.....	10
9. Sheik Meera do.	10
10. Hanumunta do.	10
11. Kurree Timmah do.	10
12. Javarah do.	10
13. Venkatrajoo do.	10
	500

18. This affair has taken up a very large portion of my time to the exclusion, I regret to say, of much Civil work, which I was compelled to lay aside; but I felt that unless this was prosecuted with vigor, little hope of success could be entertained, and which success was in a great measure obtained by the very hearty and willing assistance of the Judicial Sheristadar, Venkata Soobiah, who spared no trouble that the end sought might be accomplished.

19. I have kept as a record a Memorandum showing the information received from time to time, and how it was acted on, which, in the event of failure, I intended to send officially to you, in order that it might be published and circulated throughout our Province, and the neighbouring Zillahs, so that the villain Honoora might be eventually hunted down.

20. The correspondence with the late Bangalore Division and the Thuggee Department, was obligingly placed at my disposal by Captain Campbell, Deputy Superintendent of Bangalore, to whom I have this day returned it.

(Signed) J. PUCKLE,
Deputy Superintendent.

18th November 1863.

Enclosures of this Record.

1. Proceedings, Government *verses* Honoora.
2. Copy of letter from Magistrate of Bellary.....A
3. Statements made by approvers. B
4. Statement made by Honoora before me....C

(Signed) J. PUCKLE,
Deputy Superintendent.

From R. S. DOBBS, Superintendent, Numdidroog Division; to the Judicial Commissioner in Mysore, dated Camp Ooscottah, 30th November 1863, No. 231.

I have the honor to submit the original correspondence noted in the margin, and to recommend for your favorable consideration Major

From Deputy Superintendent, Toomkoor, No. 972, requested to be returned. Puckle's request, that a reward of five hundred Rupees be sanctioned for distribution amongst

the Police Peons and other individuals who effected the capture of the notorious Dacoit leader Honoora. It is hardly necessary for me to remark on the praiseworthy zeal and energy displayed by the Toomkoor Police in tracking the robber under the able guidance and supervision of the Deputy Superintendent. You will have observed by Calendar No. 12, dated 24th November 1863, that Honoora has been sentenced to transportation for life, and I may add that Major

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Puckle has hopes of obtaining information which will lead to his conviction on the charge of murder referred to.

From C. B. SAUNDERS, Judicial Commissioner; to the Superintendent of the Nundidroog Division, dated Bangalore, 3rd December 1863, No. 138.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 231, dated 30th November 1863, and in reply beg to communicate my sanction to the distribution, to the Police Peons and other individuals who effected the capture of the notorious Dacoit leader, Honooora, of a reward of Rupees 500, as recommended by the Deputy Superintendent and yourself.

2. As the above Dacoit leader, who is understood to have been concerned in the perpetration of many of the most serious Dacoities which have taken place for some years past in the Mysore Territory, and in the neighbouring Districts of the Madras Presidency, has long eluded the vigilance of the Police, his capture is undoubtedly a subject of congratulation, and I have accordingly to request that you will convey to Major Puckle my warm appreciation of the service which he has rendered, in directing with so much energy and success the measures which he considered necessary to secure the above object.

3. The Deputy Superintendent will be good enough also to communicate to the members of the Police force and others at Toomkoo, who were instrumental in effecting the capture of the above noted criminal, who is also reputed to have been the party concerned in the murder of the late Ralph Horsley of the Madras Civil Service at Bellary, that their zealous, intelligent, and successful exertions in tracking up and capturing the above robber and reputed murderer have met with due recognition and approval.

4. In the event of sufficient evidence being forthcoming to warrant a probability of the above criminal being convicted on the charge of murder above referred to, the Deputy Superintendent should be directed to commit him for trial for that offence; but if the information which Major Puckle has been enabled to obtain is not of a character to ensure such a result, it will not be desirable to detain the prisoner for any lengthened period in the Bangalore Jail in order to stand his trial on the above charge, but he should be forwarded under severe custody to Madras, with the first batch of prisoners who may be despatched to the Andaman Islands to undergo his sentence of imprisonment for life in banishment, accompanied by full information as to his dangerous and daring character and criminal antecedents.

5. A copy of this correspondence with the original enclosure of your letter (to be returned) will be forwarded for the perusal and information of the Commissioner.

No. 440.

The foregoing copies with the original enclosure (to be returned) are forwarded to the Secretary for the information of the Commissioner.

MYSORE, JUDL. COMM'R.'S OFFICE,
BANGALORE,
4th December 1863.

(Signed) C. B. SAUNDERS,
Judicial Commissioner.

"Copies."

(Signed) L. BOWRING,
Commissioner.

No. 20.

ORDER THEREON, 6th January 1864, No. 16.

The Governor in Council resolves to refer the foregoing letter and its enclosures, together with the previous correspondence, regarding the murder of the late Mr. Ralph Horsley, to the Government Pleader, and to request that Mr. Dale will favor the Government with his opinion as to the sufficiency of the evidence, of which an abstract is given in the enclosure of Mr. Bowring's letter, to convict the prisoner Honooora of the murder of the late Mr. Horsley.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following
letter from the Commissioner
of Mysore*

(Here enter 11th Decr/63 No. 24)

Order thereon 6th January 1864 No. 16

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*Telegram from the Magistrate of Bellary
5th July 1863-1/2/32
Ex. Mins of Com. of 25th July/56 No. 867.
Letter from Magistrate of Bellary 25th July/56 No. 867.
To Honble the Commr of Mysore - App.
from the Magistrate of Bellary 25th July/56 No. 867.
Mins of Com. of 25th July/56 No. 867.*

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list of 25 Jan 64.

16 3

Judicial 1864. Department.

No. 16.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated - 6th January 1864.

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the Govt. Pleader } Disps. 6/1 in the
with papers }

W. H. C.