

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1566-1567	Press Mis.
Dated	6-10-19	1866

65-67

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
6th October 1866.

No. 65. Read the following letter from the Commissioner of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 27th September 1866, No. 104.

I have the honor to request the instructions of Government regarding a person named Ram Doss, *alias* Ram Singh, whom I have confined in the Penitentiary, on suspicion of having been concerned in the Mutiny of 1857, and (according to his own statement) of having killed several Europeans.

2. Ram Singh arrived in Madras, from Pondicherry, about six weeks ago, and became a patient in the General Hospital. At different times he related a part of his previous history to Syud Nizam, a Sepoy of the 15th Regiment Native Infantry, and Police Peon Mahomed Sahib (formerly a Sepoy in the 1st Madras Native Infantry), who were also patients in Hospital. Afterwards, when the three were sitting together in the Hospital compound, he repeated his story. The gist of it is this:—That he belonged to a Bengal Regiment called "Skotton ka Pultun," which mutinied at Dinapore; that he fought there and at Lucknow; that he himself killed several Europeans; that he received a sword cut on the neck, a spent bullet in the abdomen (still lodged there by his own statement), and a sword cut on the sole of his foot; that his two brothers, his child, and his wife, were hanged, or killed in the Mutinies; but that he himself escaped, and emigrated to Bourbon, whence he has just returned.

3. I append the statements of Syud Nizam and Mahomed Sahib, and that of Ram Singh himself. He has varied in some particulars of his story, as related to the two men separately. I have no doubt that he has been a Sepoy. He speaks a French jargon fluently, but though he states that he was in Bourbon for 14 years, and spoke nothing but French and Tamil, yet he understood every word I spoke to him in Hindoostanee, and even an English word or two (used in Regimental matters), which I slipped in purposely. I find, from an Army List of 1856, that the 14th B. N. I., bore the name of "Escotten-ka Pulten," but I cannot find out where this Regiment was in 1857—not, I think, at Dinapore. The man, being a Rajpoot, would not have emigrated beyond sea, without some pressing cause.

3. Ram Singh stated that the wound on his neck was caused by a cut with a whip at Pondicherry, and that it was still raw when he came into Hospital at Madras. This the Medical Officer in charge disproves. On the other hand, the Medical Officer at the Penitentiary does not consider that the scars on the neck, foot, and abdomen have been caused by sword and bullet wounds. I myself thought the scar on the abdomen was a bullet wound. No doubt the man's story contains some mis-statements.

4. I append a Descriptive Roll of Ram Singh, and enclose two Photographs, of which I have other copies. The authorities in the Bengal Presidency might be able to ascertain particulars regarding him.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
6th October 1866.*

Madras to Wit. The Information of Syud Nizam, of Madras, Inhabitant, taken on solemn affirmation at Madras aforesaid, this 22nd day of September 1866, before me, Charles Shuckburgh Hearn, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Town of Madras, and Commissioner of Police for the same, which said Syud Nizam saith as follows:—

I am a Sepoy of the 15th Regiment M. N. I. I had six months' sick leave from Mercara, which expired on the 21st June last. I then went into the General Hospital, as a patient, and have remained there ever since. About six weeks ago, the Rajpoot calling himself Ram Singh, now present, came as a patient into Hospital. We soon struck up an acquaintance, as our cots were near together. About 10 days ago, he told me as follows:—I had three brothers in the Bengal fight. The Government hanged two of them. My wife was killed, and the Government hanged my son of nine years old. A white Soldier gave me this sword cut in the neck. I have a bullet still in my stomach. It was a spent ball. I have killed seven or eight European Soldiers with a sword. I had a musket besides. The disturbance commenced at Dinapore. Afterwards, I made my way through the jungles to Bombay. Jemadar Moteeram took me in, and cured my wounds. Thence I travelled as a Byragee to Pondicherry. Thence I emigrated to Bourbon. Ram Singh did not mention whether Moteeram was a Jemadar of his Regiment or not. He merely called him a Jemadar. He did not say how many years he remained at Bourbon. He did not mention his rank in the Regiment. I understood that he was a Sepoy.

I wish to correct my statement about the three brothers. Ram Singh said there were three including himself; two were hanged, and he escaped. He did not say what Regiment his brothers were in.

I did not report this conversation, because I was alone, and had no witness. The next day Police Peon Mahomed Sahib took Ram Singh to the bazaar, and I believe Ram Singh told him the same story there. I had not mentioned the circumstance to the Police Peon. On returning from the bazaar, the peon called me and told me what had occurred. I then said that Ram Singh had told me the same story the day before. On this the Peon called Ram Singh. We all three sat down in the Hospital Garden, and Ram Singh repeated his story before us both. I suppose the Peon selected me as a witness because I was a Sepoy, and could be trusted.

Taken before me this 22nd day of September 1866.

× Mark of SYUD NIZAM.

(Signed) C. S. HEARN,
Justice of the Peace, and Comsr. of Police.

Madras to Wit. The Information of Mahomed Sahib of Madras, Inhabitant, taken on solemn affirmation at Madras aforesaid, this 22nd day of September 1866, before me, Charles Shuckburgh Hearn, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Town of Madras, and Commissioner of Police for the same, which said Mahomed Sahib saith as follows:—

I am a Police Peon, No. 396, of the Madras Police. I went into Hospital on the 6th instant. My cot was three cots off that of Ram Singh now present. On the 10th instant, I bought a pair of sandals from him for four Annas. I gave him one Anna, and had three Annas still to give. He asked me to give him a jacket, and I took him to the bazaar for that purpose. I bought a jacket for three Annas, and gave it to him. Coming from the bazaar, as Ram Singh had previously told me he came from Lucknow and Dinapore, I asked him about the fight in those parts. He said that greased cartridges had been given to the Sepoys, and that a Sepoy, called Ummeer Singh, had got the signatures of all of his own set in the Regiment that they would not stand it. On this, they mutinied at Dinapore. Ram Singh said he went from Dinapore to Lucknow, where there was a great fight; that the Bombay Troops were beaten by the Mutineers, but the Madras Troops then came, and the Mutineers, having no provisions, ran away. Ummeer Singh was made a great Bahadoor.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
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When we returned to Hospital, I spoke to Syud Nizam, as we had made acquaintance in Hospital. He told me what had passed between Ram Singh, who also calls himself Ram Doss, and himself. At eight o'clock, we all three sat in the Hospital Garden. I told Ram Singh I too had been a Sepoy in the 1st Regiment, and had gone to Bengal. This is true. We then conversed about our Regiments. He told me his Regiment was called "Scotton ka Pultun." He then spoke of the Lucknow fight—said that two brothers, a son of nine years old, and his wife had been hanged; that he himself escaped to Calcutta; that his friend, a Jemadar Moteeram, cured his wounds; and that he emigrated thence to Bourbon. I am sure that he said Calcutta, and not Bombay, and that he said he emigrated from Calcutta. He told us that a European Soldier cut him on the neck with a sword, but that it was not a clean cut as the sword slipped; that his fellow Sepoy shot the European with his musket; and that he had also received a spent ball in the stomach, and that, as he was running, he received a sword cut on the sole of his foot. I asked him how many persons he had killed in the Mutiny, and he said he might have killed seven or eight. I was first led to ask Ram Singh about these circumstances, because I had myself served in Bengal with the 1st Regiment Madras Native Infantry. Ram Singh mentioned no Officer's name.

+ Mark of Mahomed Sahib.

Taken before me this 22nd day of September 1866.

(Signed) C. S. HEARN,
Justice of the Peace, and Commissioner of Police.

Ram Sing states:—My former name was Ram Doss. They gave me the name of Ram Singh at Pondicherry. My village is Soojahghur, near Lucknow. I was a cultivator. My father's name is Ragnathpersad. He too is a cultivator at Soojahghur. I don't know if he is alive. I had two brothers and three sisters. I left Soojahghur to go on pilgrimage 23 years ago. I went to Juggernath, and thence to Rameshwarum; thence to Pondicherry, whence I emigrated to Bourbon. I remained in Bourbon 14 years; thence I came back to Pondicherry, and thence to Madras, where I arrived about 6 weeks ago. The wound in my neck was caused by a Coachman striking me with a whip at Pondicherry. The wound in my stomach is a sore. The wound on the sole of my foot was caused by the Doctor cutting it with a knife at Bourbon, owing to a disease of the bone. This Sepoy stole my clothes in the hospital. This is why he speaks against me. I did not report it to any one. The Peon bought my sandals. He has only paid me a quarter Anna, and owes me 3 Annas and 3 quarters. I suppose that is why he speaks against me.

Descriptive Roll of Ram Doss, alias Ram Singh.

Height.—6 feet, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
Very thin and emaciated.

Particular marks.—A scar over the centre of the left cheek bone. Scars of two setons on the back of his neck. Part of the second phalanx of the right index finger gone, and nail phalanx wholly gone, thereby causing deformity—this may have been caused by disease. Two wound scars upon the index finger of left hand. A circular cicatrix over the back of the left hip joint. Two circular scars, and one long one, on the outer side of left thigh; and one circular at the upper and back part of his left hand, with some contraction of thumb. Metatarsal bone of the 3rd toe of left foot gone, the result of disease.

(Signed) C. S. HEARN,
Commissioner of Police.

From the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Presidency Division, to the Commissioner of Police, Madras; dated Madras, 25th September 1866, No. 3400.

I have the honor to inform you that the scar on the neck of the prisoner "Ram Doss" is not that of a sword cut, it is very superficial, and caused by a weapon which has only injured the surface of the skin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
6th October 1866.*

2. I was unable to detect any trace of the ball stated to be lodged near the surface of the abdomen, which I could not fail to have done had one been present.

3. I am of opinion that the longitudinal cut on the sole of his foot was made to remove the Metatarsal bone of the third toe, on account of disease.

From the Acting Physician, General Hospital, to the Commissioner of Police, Madras; dated Madras, 25th September 1866, No. 446.

In reply to your letter, No. 382, of yesterday's date, I have the honor to inform you that I learn by inquiry from the Assistant Surgeon and Apothecary who admitted Ram Doss, *alias* Ram Singh, into hospital, that there was no raw or recent wound upon his neck when he was admitted, neither did he make any complaint of having recently been injured.

No. 66. ORDER THEREON, 6th October 1866, No. 1566.

Ordered that the above report be forwarded to the Government of India, for their instructions.

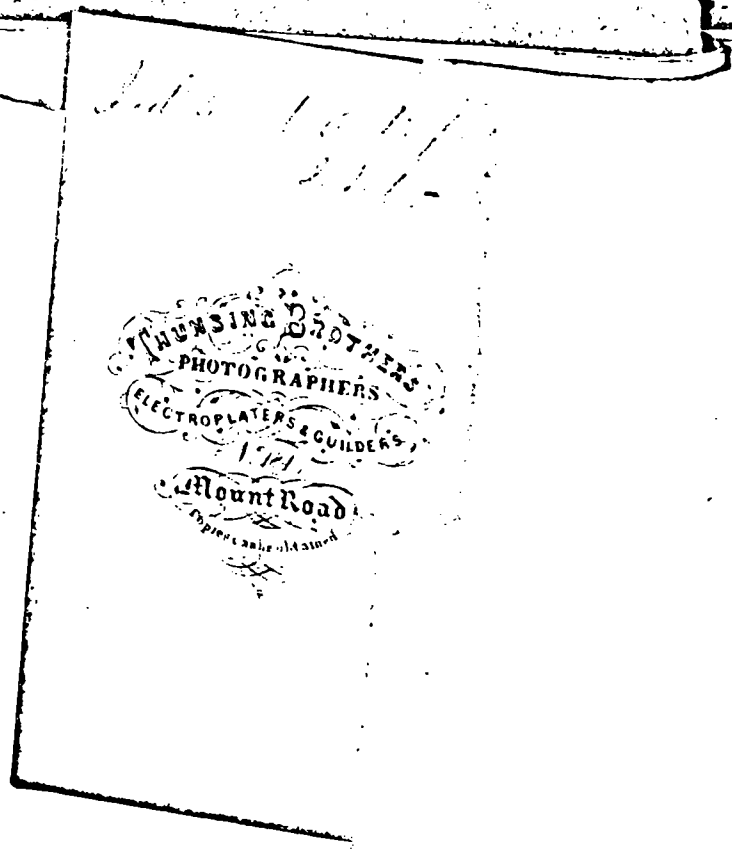
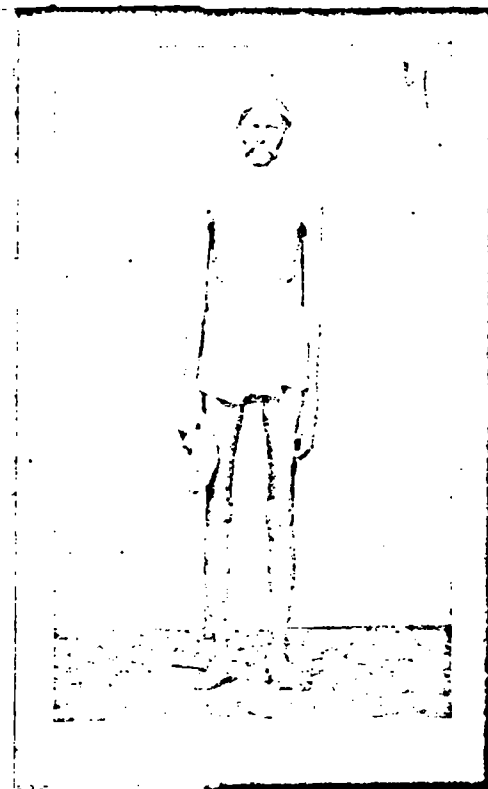
(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 67. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 6th October 1866, No. 1567.

I am directed by the Governor in Council to forward to you the annexed copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Police, soliciting instructions regarding one Ram Doss, *alias* Ram Singh, who is now confined in the Penitentiary, on suspicion of having been concerned in the Mutiny of 1857, and to request the orders of the Supreme Government respecting the man. Two copies of his Photograph, and a Descriptive Roll, are also enclosed.

Dated 27th September 1866, No. 104.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.





5
10th Oct.
My dear Sir
With reference to
your letter of 10th Oct.
about the Bengal Rev.
Census, which is not too
well for me to send
you some more copies
of the Photos. to be for-
warded to the Govt. of

Indian? They can
then be sent for
question to the different
Officers of the 14th Regt.
(who may wish to be
told over the country
for identification.)
J. M. Foster
Mum

Indt. Pres. 6. Oct. 1865

Chas. L.

Secy: L. J. Smith

Indt. Pres. 6. Oct. 1865

1566-5/6 Co. 17/66

Ordered that
the above report
be forwarded
to the Govt. of
India, for
their instructions

L. S. [Signature]

To the Govt of India 10/9/66

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2 Judicial 1866 Expans

From

The Commissioner of Police
Moors

The Secretary to Govt.
For St. George

Dated 27th Nov.

Recd 2nd Sept 1866

Request instructions

regarding one Ram Dof

alias Ram Singh sus.

pected to be a Sepoy

of one of the Regiments

that mutinied in 1857.

With an Order

With two Photographs
per No. 111. India.
4 add. copies of each of the Photos
sent to Mr. Bailey - under
ackd. dated 13. 10. 66

Judicial Department.

No. 1567.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,

Home Department.

Amila

Sir,

Dated 27 Sep '66 No. 1074

I am directed by
the Governor in Council
to forward to you
the annexed copy of
a letter from the Com-
missioner of Police
relating instructions re-
garding one Ram Ball
alias Ram Singh who
is now confined in
the Penitentiary on sus-
picion of having been
concerned in the Mur-
der of 1857. I request
the orders of the Su-
preme Government re-
specting the man. Two
copies

copies of his photograph
& a Descriptive Roll are
also enclosed

Fort Saint George
6 October 1855

W. H.

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. in relation to the application for a passport for the purpose of visiting the United States. I am sorry to hear that you are unable to visit the United States at present, but I am glad to hear that you are well. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. H.

67

Original of
the letter from
the United States
to the
British

Judicial 1866 Report.

1866-21-1867

To
the Secy. of the Court
of India.

7th 22nd

Paris 6th October 1866.

By Her