

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Judicial* DEPARTMENT.

|          |         |                             |
|----------|---------|-----------------------------|
| G.O. No. | 446     | <u>Press</u><br><u>Mis.</u> |
| Dated    | 15. 3 - | 19 '86                      |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,*  
*15th March 1867.*

No. 209. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 22nd February 1867, No. 368.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit reports by the Superintendent of Police of Trichinopoly, Major Bates, and Major Hearn, on the recent successful capture of the principal gang of Dacoits in Trichinopoly, which, for the last 20 years, has been the pest of the District.

2. The leaders of this gang, Vengangoody Kooloo Palamootoo, of Poodoocottah, and Murday of Warriore (Trichinopoly) have long been known as the most daring Dacoits of Trichinopoly District.

3. For months, Major Bates has been hunting the gang with very commendable ability, tact, and personal exertion. He has been baffled on several occasions, but at length succeeded in capturing and convicting 13 of these men (all transported for life); 5 others are under trial, and the remainder will soon fall in.

4. This gang, probably the most formidable in existence in the Tamil Districts of South India, is now annihilated.

5. Major Bates has spent Rupees 275 out of his pocket in capturing these miscreants. Rupees 200 were paid to two informers, who have been working with the Superintendent for many months; and Rupees 75 were spent incidentally by Major Bates, for which no bill has been submitted. I will repay this from the Secret Service Fund.

6. I beg that 50 Rupees may be granted to Inspector Ramasawmy, who behaved admirably; and also that Rupees 40 be awarded to Narrainasawmy, No. 51, who was posted to the gang on the part of the Police. It is scarcely necessary to add that such a post required great tact, and the strictest fidelity and integrity. The gang was rich, and much money has been spent; but the Police have resisted the temptation. I will reward the others brought to notice by Departmental promotions and rewards within the limits assigned by G. O. noted in the margin.

No. 1250, Dated 23rd August 1862.

7. The whole business reflects great credit on all connected with it, and thanks are due to Major Bates for his conduct. Major Hearn has acted as public prosecutor, and fulfilled the trust with his usual ability and success.

From Major G. HEARN, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Southern Range, to the Inspector General of Police; dated Trichinopoly, 19th February 1867.

I have the honor to forward a report from Major Bates, Superintendent of Police, Trichinopoly, regarding five Dacoities which have been committed in the Trichinopoly Taluk, in the last six months, by one gang.

2. The Inspector General is aware that 13 of the gang have been sentenced to transportation for life; five are under trial, and the Police are after the remainder.

3. By a perusal of the Superintendent's report, the Inspector General will observe that this gang has been followed from village to village for six months, and that, although the gang did, on four occasions, manage to escape the Police and commit Dacoities, yet, at last, it has been caught in a masterly manner.

4. The capture was made as follows:—

According to previous arrangement, Inspector Narrainasawmy Moodelly moved down to Terriore Village between 9 and 10 p. m. on the 4th January, where he was to have met the Super-

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intendent. Whilst there, the Inspector received information from the 2nd informer that the gang had gone to the North, instead of coming to Terriore. The Inspector immediately started for the Madras road, posting men at Nootchium, the Voykal Bridge, and Tolagoody Ford; he himself, with other Police Officers proceeding in chase, leaving word for the Superintendent of the change of the gang's plans.

When the Superintendent arrived at the Bridge at midnight, he strengthened the Inspector's Party by an East Indian Head Constable and two men, as well as sending more men to the Fords. Having done this, the Superintendent waited quietly to catch the gang returning.

Between 3 and 4 A. M., the gang appeared on the bridge; a scuffle ensued, in which six were arrested with property—others threw down their property, and bolted.

Soon after daylight, the Inspector made his appearance, and reported that, not having been able to overtake the gang, at the suggestion of the informer, he made his way to the village of the Leader Kooloo, and, having hid himself and men, waited for the return of the gang from the Dacoity.

At about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 A. M., part of the gang was seen returning, and in reaching the leader's house they seated themselves waiting for the remainder of the booty.

The Police were then unfortunately seen, and nothing could be done but make an immediate attack, which was done. A sharp scuffle ensued, which resulted in the capture of three men; the rest, including the leader, for a time escaped, but not without leaving behind them proofs of their identity.

5. The information was obtained in this way:—

A Cavilgar agreed for a certain sum, viz., Rupees 100, to place the band in the hands of the Police. During six months this man gave valuable information, but failed (evidently from no fault of his) to convey the Police to the scene of Dacoity. The Superintendent felt uneasy at this, and to prove the man's faithfulness got a Constable mixed up with the gang. The Constable's information corroborated the Cavilgar's statement. At the same time, the Inspector bought over another man for the same amount; and by keeping the three at work, success was at last obtained. Inspector Narrainasawmy Moodelly has played his part well, and to him is due, in a great measure, the capture of this gang, which has been for the last 20 years the pest of the District. The leader was once sentenced to 14 years for Dacoity, but escaped by a legal flaw. He has been many times before the Court for Dacoity, Robbery, and House-breaking, but invariably, *somehow*, managed to be acquitted. He has been twice in Jail for four years in security. His influence in the Cutcherry and Courts was as great as his power in the District.

6. I with pleasure submit, for the favorable consideration of the Inspector General, the name of Inspector Narrainasawmy Moodelly, with my recommendation that he be promoted to 2nd Class, and that a small sum be given for an ornament.

7. Head Constable Hogg, who went through great fatigue and exposure for nights, almost naked, in the *Pudoogay*, of the River, has just been promoted. This, with the Inspector General's approval of his conduct, will be sufficient reward.

8. Head Constable Brown did his duty well, and to him is due the conviction, in a great measure, of the leader. This Head Constable I propose promoting to Rupees 30.

Head Constable Ramasawmy performed his duty remarkably well, and to his share fell most of the blows on the night of the capture. He rushed at the whole gang, out of which he captured one, and was knocked over by a stone by another.

10. Constable, 51, Narrainasawmy was 30 hours with the gang; he performed good and dangerous service.

11. Constables Pitchamoottoo and Bahadoor Khan were very active at the scuffle, and each arrested a Dacoit.

12. Constable, 18, Ramasawmy caught, single-handed, one of the gang, as he was running away.

13. Constables Heerojee Row and Sunniassee were placed at a spot by themselves. They acted very well and cautiously. They allowed the gang to pass, followed it, and noted down the names.

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11. Constables Gunga Ram Singh, Comarasawmy and Narrainasawmy performed their duties satisfactorily, in guarding the men when caught, and keeping the way across the Ford.

15. I recommend Head Constable Ramasawmy and the Constables to the Inspector General for such rewards as he may deem desirable; but I would add that, not only did they behave well in the night of the capture, but throughout the proceedings.

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Dacoities committed by Kooloo's gang, during the half-year ending 31st December 1866, were the following:—

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Veeranlanellore..... | July 18th.    |
| Vengatanterriore.... | October 14th. |
| Siroogamboor.....    | November 5th. |
| Pandiapoeram.....    | „ 8th.        |

Committed a dacoity in Davomunglom, on night of 4th January 1867, and caught.

The first clue obtained in reference to this gang was on 7th June last 1866. Inspector Narrainasawmy Moodelly was directed to lay himself out for this.

The gang attempted nothing during the month of June, so nothing could be done towards their capture, with the exception of getting all the information together possible to be obtained: it was not much. It was, however, stated that there were four leaders, who invariably worked together, with one exception, their names were—

1. Vengangoody Kooloo.
2. Palamootoo of Mondiere (Poodocottah).
3. Murday of Warriore.
4. Canagasaba Pillay of Terriore.

The exception was Palamootoo, who with Poodocottah followers, sometimes indulged in the pleasant pastime of Dacoity on his own hook (account).

Early in July, information was obtained that, on 13th, a Dacoity would be committed in Chittamboor, which is situated at a distance of about 3½ miles to the N. E. of the Upper Anicut. To meet this, on 12th, I marched out a party towards Moosery, giving out that they were gone to relieve a treasure party from Salem. At night, they suddenly returned to within a mile of the Anicut. I had made arrangements to cross the Cauvery from Ellavanoor after dark; but, on arriving there, I found the river full and the boats all on the north side, and I was helpless.

The Inspector missing me, and no arrangements having been made for the plan of capture (I had reserved this), called up Mr. Austin, Assistant Magistrate, who was in the Bungalow, and they all went up to do the best they could.

It is seldom that a Dacoity is committed until the gang has met at the "Rendezvous" on three successive nights: this was the first, but they did not enter an appearance.

I was over before daylight, and a message came up to say that a desperate quarrel had taken place between Kooloo and the remaining leaders, who accused him of having cheated them in the division of booty on the last occasion, but that all had been settled, and that "to-night" it would take place.

We moved up, reaching the village at 11 P. M., and lay secreted under a large tamarind tree, on the banks of a tank. The gang took up their position in a tope about 250 yards to the right.

It was at about 1-30 A. M. when they began to move towards the house of the unsuspecting Moonsiff. As they marched round one side of the tank, we marched round the other, and lay down, in a well concealed spot, about 60 yards from the house. No gang came, and at 4 P. M., we retired. On arriving at the Anicut, we found that we had been betrayed by one of the pretended treasure party, *unintentionally*: he had been trapped by a Cavilgar at the halting place, who, seeing the party return twice from Moosery, suspected something, and regularly bamboozled the Constable. The Warriore party had double information—one from the Cavilgar, and the other from the Cantonment. The party did not come, and the gang, taking it as a warning, did not attempt anything.

We could easily have captured them, and charged them with "Assembling to commit," but the then rotten state of our Court forbade the risk. We were the laughing-stock of Trichinopoly, and more so when, on 18th, the gang committed the Dacoity, No. 1, at Veerandanellore. Head Constable Penumbra Pillay, A Division, is said also to have informed Kooloo that arms and ammunition had been taken out of the Stores.

There is reason to believe that this man and others in the Force were actually in the pay of the gang. He is dismissed.

We pressed this case so hard, that nothing occurred during August and September. The gang met occasionally and we watched them. Early in October, information was obtained that dacoity would be committed on the 11th at Siroogamboor.

We waited on the gang as usual, but, Palamootoo's Contingent failing in its attendance, nothing was done; but, on 14th, dacoity was committed in Vengatanorriore (2)! We were beaten again.

On 31st October, information was received that a Dacoity would be committed in Tiroopengaddy. We were out. But this failed, in consequence of direct disobedience of orders on the part of Inspector. I had selected 8 men altogether, including myself, and had positively prohibited any more being taken. I took Head Constable Hogg, disguised as a Hindoo, and under his upper cloth he had all the ammunition and pistols. When we arrived (about 14 miles walk), I found no less than 18 men. Of course, the business failed. In the morning the informer reported that Constable No. 613, A Division, who had been ordered out, had gone to Kooloo, as he was passing through Seringhom, and warned him. On the 5th, Dacoity was committed in Siroogamboor. I was furious at this disobedience, as I had over and over again explained that eight were sufficient for any gang. Inspector saw his mistake.

Immediately after this, the gang made arrangements for looting the house of the Zemindar of Torriore, but I upset this by making Narrainasawmy Moodelly write me an anonymous letter, purporting to be from Tanjore, giving me information of an intended Dacoity in Torriore. This letter was sent under cover to Tanjore, and then posted to my address. It was sent to Torriore, with instructions to warn the Zemindar. Everybody there was on the look out, and the gang gave up the idea.

On the 8th November, the Poodocottah leader Palamootoo joined a Pagoda party, and committed a Dacoity upon one of the members of the opposite party in Pandiaporam. It was clear to me now that we were being closely watched, and systematically betrayed.

Pagoda land dispute.

On the 12th November, I proceeded to the Anicut, and remained there a week. I sent for Informer, and, hidden in the reeds or *Pudoogay* on the Seringhom Island, held a long consultation. He told me that our own men were betraying me.

We made certain arrangements. He stipulated that the matter should be kept secret between him, Narrainasawmy Moodelly, and me; (2nd) that no Constable should be sent to communicate with him, in any consideration, with one exception, viz., Constable No. 51, of Copoo. I removed this man to Algoody, where I placed him on the *Seringhom beat*. If any information was to be given, he would meet the informer in the *Pudoogay* at a particular spot, and then he would come on to Seringhom to the Inspector. This plan answered admirably: up to 12th December, the most perfect information was obtained. On the latter date, a Dacoity in Torriore was resolved on, and, as usual, we were waiting; but Palamootoo did not come. In the morning, the informer told us that he was suspected by them and openly accused, and that he feared that he could get little or no information from any of them, but that the great difficulty we had to contend with was Kooloo's habit of, at the last moment, marching to some other house than the one fixed on.

I proposed to him that No. 51 should join the gang, and then he could get information from him,—this he jumped at. At the same time, Narrainasawmy Moodelly got hold of another Informer,

and worked them both splendidly. Towards the end of December, No. 51 worked himself into the gang through the influence of a man named Seegilly, a notorious follower. The day fixed for a smashing Dacoity in Torriore was 3rd January 1867.

The cause of the extreme confidence and boldness of the gang will be explained presently. All was in readiness on 3rd—No. 51 with them; but they did not come, because the Warriore party failed.

In order that I should not be seen leaving Trichinopoly, I took train for Tanjore, stopped at Booboor; made inquiries into pretended Kidnapping case, took return train, shut up all windows, and passed through Trichinopoly, changing all clothes in the train. On arriving at Ellavoor, I looked out to see where the Railway Cavalgar (one Masselamony) was. He was standing on the platform, but, on seeing me, he disappeared, and could not afterwards be found. He gave information to the Warriore party. Could I have got hold of him, it was my intention to have taken him with me and kept him by my side all night. However, I felt sure that we were on the eve of catching them.

Arrangements were made to catch the gang on the 4th. 1st informer warned us again to be on our guard against Kooloo's dodge.

I arranged that Narrainasawmy Moodelly should move to Torriore at 9 p. m., and that I would come out in a bandy, which must be on Seringhom Island by 8 p. m. There was no fear of our own men betraying us now. No. 51 was with the gang. Hogg, with four men, had been days and nights in the *Pudoogay*. Whilst three men in the Vytally Station-house were closely watched by Narrainasawmy Moodelly and Head Constable Ramasawmy.

I left my house at 7-45 p. m., having 14 miles to go; rode two miles to Fort Station, having previously directed my servant to keep the *Horse Cavalgar under duress*—rather illegal, but necessary. Mr. Coyle's Cavalgar, my regulator, had already left. I crossed the Canvey, but found no bandy; pushed on for Coleroon, where it became necessary to reflect a little. If the gang had gone ahead, I must pass them, and, in passing them, be inevitably discovered. I decided that Narrainasawmy Moodelly must have had some good reason for not sending the bandy, but it was certain that the Dacoity would take place, as the sign to be sent me if it did not had not reached.

I determined to go back to the Fort, bring out one or two men, and return. On leaving the bridge (I came from the bridge), I saw what I supposed to be the Warriore band coming across from Seringhom by a by-path. They came close to me, and I challenged them, keeping myself hidden; they bolted back towards Seringhom. Having gained time by this, I posted on to the Fort; sent a note to Head Constable of Warriore, warning him to look out for Murday; and took Head Constable Brown and two men, and returned to Coleroon,—crossed, and on the Ayen Voykal bridge, found Head Constable Ramasawmy and four men, who had been detached by Narrainasawmy Moodelly to hold the bridge. He sent a message to say that he wanted me, that the gang had suddenly changed plans, as prognosticated by first informer, and discovered in the nick of time by 2nd informer; hence, he was obliged to take the bandy himself, as the gang had many miles start. He had only four men with him, and was in full chase. As I have stated in a former report, my proper place would have been in the front, but from morning of the 1st to the midnight of the 4th I had been up, and had just done twelve miles on foot, and was completely done. Narrainasawmy Moodelly's arrangements were admirable; he left a man at Nootchium Ford, sent one to the Tolagoody Ford, and four to the Voykal bridge. I detached Brown and two Constables to press on and assist Narrainasawmy Moodelly; sent two men (i. e., one more) to each of the Fords, and two men at the finger post where the roads cross; remaining on the bridge with Head Constable Ramasawmy and the Informer, one Constable being kept to receive such prisoners as we should catch.

I told Informer that I had doubts of our success, as that I was afraid I had frightened away one party. He asked how many there were. I said seven, and they were coming from the direction of Seringhom. He replied "you are wrong; there were eight, and they passed over about an hour ago (i. e., about half an hour after I had challenged them)—they were Murday's and Canagasaba Pillay's men, I was lying here (on the banks), and I counted them."

Narrainasawmy Moodelly could not overtake the gang, but his information told him where the property would be divided, and he marched across the country to Vengangoody, where he posted himself and party behind Kooloo's house. Nine or ten of the gang came, spread out a sheet, and sat round it. Brown happened to have on white trousers, which were apparently discovered, for one of the gang said that he saw something behind the hedge. It would have been fatal to wait for all the property to be brought up, and Inspector gave word to capture. A sharp struggle ensued, which resulted in the capture of three men, and the recognition of several others, two of whom were captured on the bridge subsequently. Kooloo, who was seized by Brown, escaped for the time, having floored his wounded captor by a kick in the side and a rap over the head. On the bridge, six were captured altogether. The tremendous rush made by the gang, when they found themselves discovered a second time, prevented our small party from doing much. The leap from a height of 20 feet saved one leader from instant capture, and a blow from a stone on the side incapacitated the Head Constable from capturing Canagasaba Pillay.

Altogether 19 have been arrested, of whom 13 have been transported for life.

The capture of Palamootoo was very ingenious, and reflected great credit on Constable, 2nd Class, No. 661, Manicua.

Attached is a Memorandum of men to be rewarded. All of these behaved very well, and were thoroughly staunch throughout.

This affair from first to last has cost me Rupees 275.

Two informers, each Rupees 100 = 200

My own travelling, Rupees 75

I have put it under the mark, because I kept no regular memorandum at the time.

I took nothing with me in the shape of writing materials on my many trips, and I had so much to get through on my return that I omitted to note my travels.

Had I failed in my endeavours to capture this gang, I should have made no claim, of course, for any portion of the sum now named, viz., Rupees 275.

(Signed) C. E. BATES, Major,  
Staff Corps.

#### LIST OF MEN EMPLOYED IN THE CAPTURE OF KOOLOO'S GANG.

*Inspector Narrainasawmy Moodelly.*

This Officer carried on all the work pertaining to the information department from first to last, and showed great tact and ability in the measures he adopted on the night of the 4th January when he received notice of the change of the gang's plans, and which measures contributed chiefly to the success of that night. He has, greater than any Police Officer I know, the faculty of obtaining the most reliable information in any case. He has proved himself to be an able and skilful detective.

*Head Constable Hogg.*

This Officer remained for many days and nights in the *Pudooagay* on the banks of the Coleroon in an almost naked state, with Constables Bahadoor Khan and Pitchamootoo, and with them effected the arrests, under Narrainasawmy Moodelly, at Vengangoody on the night of the 4th January. Pluck, determination, and thorough honesty are the characteristics of this man.

*Head Constable Brown.*

Behaved very well under Narrainasawmy Moodelly at Vengangoody on the night of 4th January, making a desperate effort to capture the leader Kooloo, in which he was unsuccessful, having been put *hors de combat* by the latter, but struggling with him long enough to put the identity of the man beyond a doubt, and it was his evidence that clinched the case against the leader on the trial.

1st Class, No. 177, Bahadoor Khan; and 1st Class, No. 366, Pitchamootoo.

Both these men were most active during the last three months, previous to the 4th. Each captured his man under Narrainasawmy Moodelly, and continued the contest sufficiently long to identify others. Both good men and true.

*Head Constable Ramasawmy, 591.*

This man has been most useful throughout; keeping his men together, and faithfully and carefully carrying out the work allotted to him. Behaved very well on the Voykal bridge, when with me on night of 4th. He had to sustain, singlehanded, the rush of about 14 men, but captured one of the most important, recognizing two of the leaders and others at the same time. Had a personal contest with "Canagasaba Pillay," one of the leaders, who hit him very severely with a large stone. Altogether this man captured, and assisted in capturing, six men on the bridge.

2nd Class *Sunniassee*, 220; and 1st Class *Heerojee Row*, 591.

These men were posted at the finger post where the Lalgooty, Salem, Madras, and Trichinopoly roads meet, and behaved with great coolness. Finding themselves unable to do any thing against the main body of the gang. They made notes of such as they could recognize, and followed them up to the bridge to prevent their heading back. Their evidence very valuable.

2nd Class *Ramasawmy*, 18; and 2nd Class *Gunga Ram Singh*, 589.

Both posted at Tolagooty Ford. Vyttee Chetty, who had been shot at on the bridge, was captured by these as he was making for either the Ford or Lalgooty. Did well.

2nd Class *Comarasawmy*, 417; and 1st Class *Narrainasawmy*, 51.

Both on this night posted at Nootchium Ford, which leads to Seringhom. It is now ascertained that some of the gang made for that quarter, but finding the Police there headed back. No. 51 behaved with great courage in joining the gang and remaining with them for 30 hours, gaining the most valuable information, confirming the statements of the two informers. He deserves great credit.

2nd Class, No. 651, *Manicum*.

Arrested Palamootoo of Mondiore, the Poodocottah leader, with great skill and ingenuity. It would occupy too much space to detail the manoeuvres employed by him to get this pest out of the Poodocottah Jungles.

(Signed) C. E. BATES, Major,  
Staff Corps.

No. 210. ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1867, No. 446:

The Governor in Council has perused with much satisfaction the reports submitted with the foregoing letter on the successful capture of a gang of Dacoits in the Trichinopoly District. Major Bates, the late Superintendent of Police, is entitled to the thanks of Government for the energy and tact displayed by him in effecting the apprehension of the gang, the prosecution of which was efficiently conducted by Major Hearn, the Deputy Inspector General of the Range.

2. The Governor in Council is pleased, on the recommendation of the Inspector General of Police, to authorize the disbursement of a reward of 50 Rupees to Inspector Ramasawmy, and of Rupees 40 to Constable Narrainasawmy, No. 51, in recognition of their services.

3. It is observed that the other members of the Police Force who were engaged in the capture of the Dacoits will be rewarded by Departmental promotions and rewards within the authorized limits.

(True Extract).

To the Inspector General of Police.  
" Accountant General.  
" Magistrate of Trichinopoly.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Chief Secretary.

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96  
Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Recd the following  
letter from the Chief of Police.  
Dated 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1867 No 360.

Order thereon 15 March 1867 No 446.

The Governor in Council has perused with much satisfaction the reports submitted with the foregoing letter on the successful capture of a gang of dacoits in the Suckinikoty District. Major Dato the late Superintendent of Police is entitled to the thanks of Government for the energy and tact displayed by him in effecting

W.M.

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To the Inspector General of Police  
Secunderabad } despatch  
Magistrate of Nizamabad }

*Salmon* 1857. Department.

No. 446.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated *15<sup>th</sup>* *March* 18*87*.

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