

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	563	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	5-4-1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
9th April 1867.*

Read the following :—

No. 62. Letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, to the Secretary to the Government of India; dated Rangoon, 13th December 1866, No. 676C.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Howell's letters of the 6th of September and October last, numbered respectively 4274 and 5177, on the subject of the escape from Port Blair of 11 prisoners sentenced in the Madras Presidency, and calling for a special report on the circumstance.

2. Copies of those letters were forwarded for the information of the Superintendent of Port Blair, who was at the same time called upon to submit the required

Nos. 146 and 160, dated respectively the 22nd and 29th of November last, from the Superintendent of Port Blair, to Captain C. P. Hildebrand, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

report. The report has been submitted, and copies, as per margin, are now transmitted for the information of His Excel-

lency the Governor General in Council, with reference to the letters now under reply.

3. From the report, No. 146, it will be seen that, of the eleven convicts under reference, eight have been re-captured at Port Blair; and of the remaining three, two have been at large nearly a year, and the other for seven months; and Lieutenant-Colonel B. Ford, the Superintendent, Port Blair, comes to the conclusion that they must have perished in the Andaman jungles.

4. Again, with reference to Mr. Under Secretary's endorsement, No. 5177, of the 6th October, forwarding Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 221, of 24th

Report, No. 160, of 29th November 1866.

July last, Colonel Ford reports that, of the eight escaped convicts therein referred to, six have been re-captured, and

one returned of his own accord. The one still at large, No. 9205, it appears from the report, escaped on the 26th December 1865, and not on the 25th January last, as entered in the Roll forwarded with Proceedings No. 221, above referred to.

5. With reference to escapes generally, Lieutenant-Colonel Ford observes that, when they are reported in the regular monthly form, it is not to be concluded that those prisoners have effected their escape from the Andaman Islands, and he further observes that he never heard of a single instance of an escaped convict from the Penal Settlement of Port Blair, who was a Native of India, having reached the Continent of India.

From Lieutenant-Colonel B. FORD, Superintendent of Port Blair, to Captain C. P. HILDEBRAND, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah; dated 22nd November 1866, No. 146.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated 24th September 1866, forwarding copy of a letter as per margin,

No. 4274, of 6th September 1866, from Under Secretary to the Government of India, to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, submitting copies of No. 4082 of 1st August 1866, from Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, with correspondence relative to escapes from Port Blair.

with enclosures, calling for—

1st.—A report upon 11 convicts, under sentence of transportation from the Madras Presidency, who have escaped from Port Blair during the present year; and

2nd.—Desiring my attention to the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Under Secretary Howell's letter, No. 4274, in which it is stated "that, as the Police Force of the Settlement has been

strengthened, the Government hopes that the frequent escapes that have hitherto taken place may receive a check."

2. With reference to the escape of 11 prisoners under sentence of transportation from the Madras Presidency, I beg respectfully to report, for the information of the Supreme Government, that, on examining and comparing the records of this Office, in the Convict Department, with the enclosures forwarded with your letter under reply, I find that, of the 11 convicts under reference, nine escaped from this Settlement during the current year, and the remaining two in December 1865; and of whom, the following, eight in number, have been since re-captured at Port Blair, as was duly brought to notice in my monthly reports on the affairs of this Settlement for the months of March, April, May and June 1866, under head "escapes and re-captures of convicts":—

No. 9271, Carin Mulloogadoo,	re-captured 18th May 1866.
„ 9347, Fanakunty Ramoodoo,	„ 24th April „
„ 9335, Kakaravala Lingadu,	„ 11th March „
„ 9200, Guddum Chunna Chennogodur,	„ 2nd June „
„ 9698, Mala Narasigodoo,	„ 17th April „
„ 9682, Sugaly Lutchina,	„ 17th „ „
„ 9759, Moghogadoo,	„ 17th „ „
„ 9766, G. Venkatigadoo,	„ 19th May „

It will, no doubt, be observed that, amongst those who have been re-captured, the name of convict, No. 9271, Carin Mulloogadoo, appears,—this man having been considered by the Magistrate of Cuddapah as one of the very worst men that ever left that District, and for whose apprehension it was considered necessary to offer a reward of Rupees 500.

3. From the above it will, therefore, be seen that, of the 11 convicts noted in Mr. Under Secretary Howell's No. 4274, there are at present only three men remaining unaccounted for, viz:—

No. 9340, Pydecoola Byannah,
„ 9195, Basivigadoo,
„ 9697, Tanoomola Mulloogadoo;

and I may add, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, that, on the 31st ultimo, the latest date up to which monthly Returns of escaped convicts for the current year have been compiled, that, of convicts who escaped in 1866, only four under sentence of transportation from the Madras Presidency have not been re-captured or returned of their own accord. As the first two convicts, Nos. 9340 and 9195, have not been heard of for now nearly one year, and convict No. 9697 for seven months, the most probable conclusion to come to is that the men have lost their way in the dense jungles of these Islands, and died from starvation.

4. I may also here mention that, although reports of escapes from Port Blair are invariably forwarded, according to express orders, by the first opportunity available after such escape, to the several Magistrates of the Districts from whence the convicts were transported, it does not follow that these men get away from the Andaman Islands; on the contrary, in the case of Natives of India, I have never heard of a single instance in which an escaped convict (Native of India) has been known to reach any portion of the Continent of India. One man, I am informed, did, in September 1862, manage to stow himself away in the Steamer *Lady Canning*, when that vessel was about proceeding to Calcutta, but he was discovered during the passage and handed over to the Jail Authorities on arrival at that port; the only class of convicts, so far as I know to the contrary, who do manage occasionally to make good their escape from these Islands being Burmans.

5. With reference to paragraph 2 of Mr. Under Secretary Howell's letter, I have the honor to report, for the information of the Supreme Government, that the subject of escapes from this Settlement has had my earnest attention ever since I assumed charge of the superintendency of Port Blair, and that every means in my power has been adopted to prevent such. That the atten-

tion of the Free Police is especially directed to this end will appear from the following sketch of their duties, as touching the point under consideration:—

On Ross and Chatham Islands, the Police, in addition to their other duties, are engaged in furnishing sentries and patrols for the prevention of escape of convicts from those Islands.

On Viper Island and Haddo, they are engaged in preventing the escape of convicts, and in searching for, and re-capturing, escaped convicts; also in affording guards to escort working parties into the jungles, over the chain gang at Viper Island while at work, and in barracks, and in furnishing patrols.

At Aberdeen, the Police furnish guards to escort working parties of convicts into the jungles; they are also employed in searching for, and re-capturing, escaped convicts, in furnishing patrols to South Point and Navy Bay, as well as night patrols on the station, and sentries on the beach. At Navy Point they are employed in frequently patrolling along the road towards Haddo; they also furnish a detached guard in connection with the above on the Aberdeen Road, night patrols on the station, sentries on the beach, and generally in searching for, and apprehending, escaped convicts. At Mount Harriet, the Police furnish guards to escort working parties into the jungles, patrols to Hope Town, night patrols on the station, and in searching for, and apprehending, escaped convicts. At Port Mouat, the Police are engaged in guarding the convicts on board the Hulk and ashore there stationed, in escorting working parties of convicts into the jungles, in maintaining a system of patrols between Port Mouat, Progress Creek, and Police Head Quarters, where is established an out-post guard in connection with the above, and in furnishing night patrols.

6. It will thus be seen that amongst the most important duties that the Free Police have to perform may be considered the prevention of escapes by furnishing regular patrols at every station where they are located, by detailing guards for escorting working parties of convicts into the jungles, and in searching for, and apprehending, any convicts who may have effected their escape from the station to which they are attached. But I may here observe, with reference to Mr. Under Secretary Howell's remark marginally noted, that the actual strength of the Free

Police, on the 31st ultimo, stood as under—

3 Head Constables.
12 Serjeants.
261 Constables.

276; to which number

30 Constables have since been added (arrived in H. M.'s Ship *Kwantung*), making a

total of 306 only for duty at Port Blair; and from which a deduction must again be made for men sick in hospital, or otherwise under medical treatment. It will thus appear that I am still 194 men short of the 500 Free Police which I applied for in my Memorandum submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, under date 8th of February 1866, in which I brought to notice that I considered the then existing Force as "inadequate to the protection of the Settlement; and that, by being so small, it offered a temptation to outbreak, and to bold efforts at escape on the part of the convicts;" and the strengthening of which Force to a body of 500 men was sanctioned in the Proceedings of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, in the Home Department, under date 20th of February 1866, No. 1681.

7. When applying for the services of an "armed vessel" in my letter as per margin, the prevention of escapes of convicts formed one of the grounds (paragraph 7) on which I strongly urged the necessity of adopting such a measure; and as the Government have been pleased to recognise such by ordering Her Majesty's Ship *Kwantung* to this station (arrived 18th instant), I feel satisfied that the presence of such a vessel will be the means, in a great measure, of preventing Burman and Malay convicts from

No. 159, dated 29th October 1865, to the address of Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

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attempting to escape from Port Blair; or, should they succeed in securing a boat and getting out to sea, of re-capturing them before they can reach the shores of British Burmah.

8. On Viper Island, Jail buildings are now being erected for the reception of convicts of the most refractory and dangerous class. A chain gang is also organized at this station, in which the convicts most prone to escape are under the immediate eye of the Police both day and night; and, as a further preventive to either outbreak or escape, the convicts in this gang are also chained down at night. It is further proposed that all new arrivals, from whose ranks the greater portions of escapes are made, should at first be located at this station, where they will not only daily see the consequences which may surely be expected if they endeavour to escape, or their conduct should in other respects prove insubordinate, but will also hear from older hands themselves how fruitless such attempts at escape must prove, and which only terminate in a lingering death in the jungles, or in increasing the severity of the punishment they are at present undergoing.

9. In conclusion, I would again respectfully beg to assure the Supreme Government that my best endeavours are directed to checking these attempts at escape; but I must also observe, as I have already done when reporting on this subject in my letter, No. 83, of 13th October 1864, to the address of the Commissioner, Tenasserim Division, "that the Government must always be prepared to hear that, with each batch of new arrivals, escapes follow" until at least the Settlement is in a more advanced state than at present; and I would also venture to call attention to the 4th paragraph of this letter, showing that escape from Port Blair does not infer, unless in exceptional cases, a return to the Continent of India or to the Coast of British Burmah.

10. The enclosures received with your letter under reply are herewith returned as requested.

From Lieutenant-Colonel B. FORD, Superintendent of Port Blair, to Captain C. P. HILDEBRAND, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah; dated 29th November 1866, No. 160.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 567E, of 12th instant, in continuation of your Office letter, No. 476E, dated 24th September last, upon the subject of the escape of convicts from Port Blair, forwarding, in original, endorsement, in the Home Department, No. 5177, dated 6th October last, with copies of Proceedings of the Madras Government, in the Judicial Department, in connection with the above, and requesting me to submit a special report, showing what measures have been taken to prevent these escapes, and again reminding me that Government expects, now that the Police Force has been strengthened, that these escapes may be checked.

2. In reply, I beg to state that the special report called for as above was duly submitted in my letter to your address, No. 146, dated 22nd November 1866, in answer to your communication on the same subject, of which your letter under reply is in continuation.

3. With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, forwarded with endorsement, No. 5177, of 6th October 1866, I have the honor to observe that a report in full upon the 11 escaped convicts referred to in the Proceedings noted below was also submitted in my letter above quoted (paragraph 2).

Madras Government, Judicial Proceedings, No. 101, 11th April 1866.

" " 213, dated 25th April 1866.

" " 74, " 6th June "

4. Of the remaining eight escaped convicts noted in Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 221 of 24th July 1866, six have since been re-captured, and one returned of his own accord, as under—

No. 9333, Chakala Doorgodoo, re-captured, 18th May 1866.

" 9952, Korcha Hanumun, " "

" 9953, Bathat pullay Korcha Nursegadoo, re-captured, 30th March 1866.

" 9939, Chigetary Sungal, returned, 18th May 1866.

" 9938, China Venkatigadoo, re-captured, 10th March 1866.

" 9956, Geerigadoo, re-captured, 10th March 1866.

" 9746, Kondadoo, " 17th "

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5th April 1867.*

Thus, of the above eight escaped convicts, only one man, No. 9205, Hera Nulla Jaraviah, remains unaccounted for. This man, it appears, escaped on 26th December 1865, and not 25th January 1866, as entered in the roll forwarded with Proceedings, No. 221.

5. With reference to the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Secretary Sim's letter, No. 1397, stating that the monthly Returns of casualties, excluding re-captures, show 38 escapes from December 1865 to April 1866, I would beg to observe that, in reading the monthly Returns of escaped convicts forwarded from this Office, it must be borne in mind that, in cases when an escaped convict is not shown as re-captured in the same month, it does not follow that he has effected his escape from the Andaman jungles; and that, in taking Casualty Returns as data for the non-return of escaped convicts, the half-yearly, and not the monthly, Returns furnish such information in the most complete form, although, even then, a convict, shown as still unaccounted for, may, in all probability, be re-captured shortly after the submission of such half-yearly Return. I would also draw attention to the fact reported in my letter above quoted, No. 146, of 22nd instant, in which I stated that, of all convicts who escaped from Port Blair in the current year, there remained, on the 31st ultimo, only four men under sentence of transportation from the Madras Presidency unaccounted for.

6. In conclusion, I would again respectfully beg to draw the attention of the Government of India to the fact that I have never heard of a single instance of an escaped convict who was a Native of India having reached the Continent of India. These men have no aptitude for making canoes, or other contrivances necessary towards enabling them to leave these Islands; and it is most probable, therefore, as already reported, that the men, when not accounted for within a reasonable time, have perished from the effects of the privations they have endured while roaming about in the jungles.

7. The enclosures received with your letter under reply are herewith returned.

No. 2697.

Forwarded, for information, to the Government of Fort Saint George, in continuation of letter hence, No. 5178, dated the 6th October 1866.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM,
16th March 1867.

(By order).

(Signed) A. P. HOWELL,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 63. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1867, No. 563.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Jails, for his information.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

Exd J. H. Burns.

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5th April 1867 H^c 563.

Communicated to the
Inspector General of
Sails for his information.

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The Inspector General
of Sails } dep. 12/1