

(1) Number of pages 26
(2) Date of repair 3. 7. 86
(3) Initials of the Referencer CVV

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.		Press.
B.P. No:	370	Mis.
Dated	4. 3. 1868	1970

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Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th March 1863.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 43. From A. VERRON, late a prisoner in the Madras Penitentiary, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 8th February 1863.

A sentence of the High Court was passed on me for two years, which has just expired, and I now address your Lordship in order to obtain redress.

2. Early in January 1867, I informed the Keeper of the Penitentiary that he had a deserter in custody belonging to Captain Carlton's Battery of Royal Artillery at St. Thomas' Mount. Captain Carlton having been written to on the subject, and the Serjeant Major of the Battery having recognized the man, he was handed over to the Military Authorities on the day of his release from the Penitentiary.

3. A reward of Rupees 30 is offered by Government to all to inform or lead to the detection of a deserter, and I believe, my Lord, I am fully entitled to the above reward. When leaving the Penitentiary on the 5th instant, I applied to the Commissioner of Police for the money, and in answer this Officer told me, "he did not like to take up old matters." The Keeper of the Jail has drawn the reward, and pocketed it himself. Is this fair my Lord? I am ready to prove by many witnesses I was the informer in this case, and in many other cases of desertion which are not yet settled. The Keeper of the Jail himself could not deny this. My Lord, I am a poor man, and this money would help me and my family a great deal, and I trust your Lordship will excuse me for trespassing on your Lordship's valuable time; but my Lord, had the Commissioner of Police done his duty, the present step would have been quite unnecessary.

4. Having nothing more to say, I remain, &c.

Referred to the Commissioner of Police for brief report.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
13th February 1863.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under Secretary to Govt.

No. 8.

No. 44.

MEMORANDUM.

Major Drever has the honor to report, after seeing Major Hearn, on the subject of the enclosed petition. Convict Verron gave certain information to the Keeper Owen, which he (Verron) particularly requested might be considered confidential, desiring that his name should not be given up. The Keeper made further inquiries, and finally ascertaining the man suspected was a deserter, the reward was paid by Major Hearn to the Keeper, he being the person who gave him (Major Hearn) the information. Convict Verron never mentioned the matter to either Major Hearn, or myself, until his release more than a year afterwards, when he came to my office and demanded the reward as his right. He was informed that I declined to answer a question which must have been decided long ago, he having in the many frequent opportunities of making his claim sooner.

MADRAS POLICE COMM'R'S OFFICE,
15th February 1863.

(Signed) W. S. DILLON.

To the Under Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th March 1863.*

No. 77.

No. 44A. MEMORANDUM.

The Under Secretary to Government, Public, &c., Departments, is directed, with reference to Major Drever's Memorandum No. 8, of the 15th instant, to request that he will ascertain and report whether Jailer Owen, when giving the information to Major Hearn which procured him the reward in question, informed Major Hearn that his first knowledge on the subject was gained from convict Verron. Information as to the date of the grant of the reward is also requested.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
18th February 1863.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under Secretary to Govt.

To the Commissioner of Police, Madras.

No. 9.

MEMORANDUM.

Has the honor to report as follows, after communication with Major Hearn.

2. Major Hearn is of opinion that Mr. Owen in some manner hinted that he had got the information about the deserter from a person, whose name was not to be mentioned according to that person's request.

3. The reward was paid to Mr. Owen on 14th May 1867.

(Signed) W. S. DREVER,

MADRAS, 20th February.

Ag. Commr. of Police.

No. 46. From A. VERRON, late a prisoner in the Madras Penitentiary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 24th February 1863.

I beg to lay before Government the following case in order to obtain redress, and point to the Government the very unscrupulous conduct of the present Keeper of the Madras Penitentiary.

2. During the month of January 1867, I gave information to the Keeper of the Penitentiary that the man, tried at the High Court in August 1866 for house-breaking by the name of William Howard, and undergoing a sentence of six months rigorous imprisonment, was a deserter from the 23rd Brigade Royal Artillery, and that the man's real name was William Mitchell.

3. Upon my information, the then Commissioner of Police wrote to Captain Carlton, R. A., at St. Thomas' Mount, and in answer this Officer directed the Serjeant Major of the Battery to proceed to the Penitentiary, and identify the individual.

4. On the 30th of January 1867, the Serjeant Major identified the prisoner Howard as the deserter of his Battery. Mitchell and the latter was then and there handed over to the Military Authorities, being a day sooner than the expiration of his sentence of six months.

5. The Keeper of the Penitentiary after this applied for the reward of Rupees 30 granted by Government for the apprehension of deserters in this country, which he received, and has kept the same for himself.

6. Had it not been for my information, the deserter would never have been apprehended, for the Keeper of the Penitentiary never for a moment knew he had a

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th March 1863.*

7. Having failed in my representation of the case with the present Commissioner of Police, and being ready to prove by competent witnesses that I was the informer in this case, and seeing no other way of obtaining redress but by laying the matter before His Excellency the Governor in Council.

8. I must state, for the information of Government, that I was myself detained at the Penitentiary at the time, and that I was only released on the 5th of this month: hence the lapse of time which has expired, no application for the reward could be made by me at the time, being a prisoner myself.

9. Trusting to receive full redress from Government.

No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 4th March 1863, No. 370.

The above reports fully bear out the substantial accuracy of Alfred Verron's statements, viz., that when a prisoner in the Penitentiary he informed the Jailer Owen that another person, then a prisoner, was a deserter; that on his information the Jailer informed the Commissioner of Police who communicated with the Commanding Officer of the Corps to which the deserter was said to belong—a course which resulted in the identification of the deserter.

2. Verron's statement that he requested that his name might not be made public, points obviously to his fellow prisoners. There could be no reason for his name being kept from Major Hearn. The usual reward was paid to the Jailer who received and kept it.

3. Under these circumstances the Governor in Council considers that Mr. Owen, the Jailer of the Penitentiary, should have reported to the Commissioner of Police the source of his information, and that he was not entitled himself to receive any reward for the information derived from Verron, who had no means of communicating these facts to Government except through the Jailer. Having established the authenticity of his statement, he became entitled to the reward which should have been paid to him on his release at the expiration of his sentence.

4. The Commissioner of Police will disburse to Alfred Verron (who will be directed to apply to him) the reward of Rupees 30 due to him, and recover the amount from the Jailer Owen.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Police.

To A. Verron.

F. Bantleman.

James Thomas Capin Esq
Colonel of the 1st Regiment of
Artillery

A sentence of the High
Court was passed on me for ten
years which I had just expired
and I now address you in order
to obtain redress.

I was in January 1847
informed by the
President of the
District Court of the
to Capt. Carter & Barron of
Royal Artillery at St. Thomas
Mount - Capt. Carter having

been written to on the subject
of the great trials of the
last year having recognized the
fact that he was handed over to
the military authorities on the
day of his release from the
Prison.

It would appear to
be offered by Government to all
to inform or lead to the detection
of a deserter & I believe my
friend has fully intimated to the
above Government in London
the intention of the
last that it applied to the
Commission of Police for the
money and in answer the

not to be made to
take up the matter. The
keeper of the jail had shown
the reward & pointed it out
himself to the friend & had
said ready to serve by many
virtues & was the informant in
this case & in many other cases
of detection which are not yet
settled. The keeper of the jail
himself could not deny this.
My friend said & you may
this money would help me &
my family a great deal. And
and I trust your Lordship
will excuse me for this matter
in your most valuable

Referred to the Commissioner of
Ohio for brief report.

Walker
Auditor Secy

13. Kelly 1883
14. The Commissioner of Ohio
15. 1883 13/2

Journal 1868 reports
Proc. 4th March.

From
A. Verron, late a
prisoner in the Madison
Penitentiary.

By 12.5 Feb 1868

65-550

329

States that while
in the Madison Penitentiary
he gave information which
led to the apprehension
of military deserters, and
applies for the Office of

Referred

No. 8.

Memo

4 39A

Major Dwyer has the honor to
report after seeing Major Hearse,
on the subject of the enclosed
Petition. Council Verron gave
certain information to the Keeper
Owen which he (Verron) particularly
requested might be considered
confidential, desiring that his
name should not be given up.
The Keeper made further enquiries
and finally ascertaining the man
suspected, was a Deserter, the
reward was paid by Major Hearse
to the Keeper he being the person
who gave him (Major Hearse) the
information, Council Verron never
mentioned

mentioned the matter to either Major
Hearn or myself, until his release
more than a year afterwards, when
he came to my office and demanded
the reward as his right. He was
informed that I declined to open
a question which must have been
decided long ago, he having in the
interval had frequent opportunities
of making his claim known.

Masroos Police
Commissioner's Office
15th February 1868

W. D. D. D.

Ag. Commisr of Police

To

The Under Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

1877. Judicial Dept.
Pres. & March 1868
de la H. A.
Memorandum

The Undersecretary to Govt.
Public & Judicial Dept. is directed with
reference to Major Brewer's
Memorandum of the 16th
Instant to request that he will
ascertain and report whether
James Owen when giving the
information to Major Hearn
which procured him the
reward in question, informed
Major Hearn that his first
knowledge on the subject was
gained from Condit-Derron.
Information as to the date
of the grant of the reward
is also requested.

Signed of C. J. Walker
Under Secretary
Fort St. George
18th February 1868
To The Commissioner
of Police Madras.

mentioned the matter to either Major
Hearn or myself, until his release.

Feb. 29.

Judl. 1885 Dept

Frank

The esq. Commisr. of India
Class

The Under Secretary
of Government
Fort St. George

Recd 15th

Recd 17th } February 1885
No 370.

Report of the
Petition of Council
Veron claiming
reward for giving
information regarding
a Deserter.

Feb 29.

Memo to Comr 1885

From

Judicial 1885 Dept

The Commissioner of Police,

Madras,

To

The Under Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

No. 9 of 1885.

Dated 20th

February 1885.

Received

Reference.

Your No. 77

dated 15 Feb 1885.

the honor to report
as follows after communica-
tion with Major Hearn.
Major Hearn is of
opinion that Mr. Owen
in some manner hinted
that he had got the in-
formation about the
deserter from a person

Commissioner of Police

whose

376
whose name was not to
be mentioned according
to that person's request.

The reward was paid
to Mr. Owen on 14th
May 1867

R. C. Drew
Asy. Commisr. of Police

Feb 29 - 379.

45.

Black Street by John P. 250
March 24th February 68
To the Chief Secretary to Government.
Port of George.

I beg to lay before Government
the following case in order to obtain
redress and point to the Government
the very mischievous conduct of the
present Keeper of the Madras Prison.
During the month of January
1867 I gave information to the Keeper of
the Prison that the man tried at the
High Court in August 66 for house-breaking
by the name of William Hagon and
undergoing a sentence of 6 months rigorous
imprisonment, was a deserter from the
23rd Brigade Royal Artillery and that
the man I had named was William
Mitchell.

Upon my information
the Commission of Police in

Capl. Coulton Th. F. at St. Thomas's house
& in answer this officer directed the Sergeant
Major of the Battery to proceed to the
Penitentiary and identify the individual.

On the 30th of January 1867 the
Sergeant Major identified the prisoner Ho-
ward as the deserter of his Battery Mitchell
and the latter was then and there trans-
ferred to the Military Authorities being
a day sooner than the expiration of his
sentence of 6 months.

The keeper of the Penitentiary
after this, applied for the reward of \$1000
(30) thirty granted by Government for
the apprehension of Deserter in this country
which he received and has kept the same
for himself.

Had it not been for my inter-
ference the Deserter would never have
been apprehended for the keeper of the
Penitentiary knew for a moment knew
he had a Deserter in his custody.

Wm. Waring

30
13
failed in my representation of the case
with the present Commissioners of Police and
being ready to prove by competent witnesses
that I was the informer in this case and
seeing no other way of obtaining
redress but by laying the matter before
His Excellency the Governor in Council.
I must state for the information
of Government that I was myself detained
at the Penitentiary at the time & that
I was only released on the 1st of this month
hence the lapse of time which has expired.
No application for the reward could be
made by me at the time being a prisoner
myself.

Trusting to receive full redress
from Government.

I beg to subscribe myself
Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Wm. Waring

Jan 1868 received

9

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter *papers*

From A. Veron, late a prisoner in
the Madras Penitentiary. Received 8 Feb 1868.

By Comm. of Police - 15th / 20 -

A. Vernon

Order them No 34 of 4th March 1868

The above reports fully
bear out the substantial
accuracy of Mr. Vernon's state-
ments, viz, that when a
prisoner in the Penitentiary
he informed the jailor
that another person
a prisoner was a
That on his
the jailor informed

The
work
left

communicated with the
Commanding Officer of the
Corps to which the deserter
was said to belong, a
course which resulted in
the identification of the
deserter.

Verrens statement
that he requested that his
name might not be made
public points obviously to
his fellow prisoners. There could
be no reason for his name
being kept from Major Bearn.
The usual reward was paid
to the jailor who received and
kept it.

Mustee there air gunslaves

The Governor in Council decides
that when the jailor of
the Penitentiary shall have
reported to the Com. of the

the source of his information
about his wife's death
himself receive any reward

for the information derived
from Norton. — ~~and~~ ^{who had}
~~he had~~ no means of
communicating ^{the facts} to
except through the Jailer.
Having established the
authenticity of his statement
he became entitled to
the reward, which should
have been paid to him
on his release at the
expiration of his sentence

Major Mearns in returning it
himself, viz, that he passed
on information received,
and on no other grounds.
The Comr. Vernon had
clearly no means of giving
the information he proposed,
and which Govt were in-
terested in acquiring, other
than through the sailor,
a Government servant, and
having made his communica-
tion he became at once entitled
to the reward. ^{The facts were} if authentic
to the reward. The Commissioners of Police
will disburse to Alfred Vernon
(who will be directed to apply
to him) the reward of the £100
due to him, and recover the
amount from the
Crown by whom it has
been repaid.

14-480

To the Hon. Secy. of the Navy