

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY *Mis*

G.O., No. 11522

Confidential No 82A

DATED 29-5-95 95

[Despatch Abstract.]

Vizianagaram disturbances
Requesting the Dy. Adjut. Genl. to arrange for
the sepoys concerned in the — being handed
over to the civil authorities for trial.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

origl.
with enclosure
relating to the 2nd

Copy of memorandum by the Lieutenant General
Commanding the Forces, Madras

D.A.G.

When the first annoyance was caused at the
Vizianagram station by sepoys early in April, informa-
tion should ^{have} at once been sent to the C. by the Railway
authorities.

2. I consider the first disturbance on the 23rd
April would not have occurred but for the ill-advised
action of the Adjutant of the XI Regiment, who
appears to me to have taken the very steps calculated
to bring about trouble.

3. I agree generally with the conclusions arrived
at by Captain Tarrant and doubt the originators
of the later fracas ever being discovered. It is unfortun-
ate that Captain Elston moved B Company on to the
platform for which I do not see the necessity.

4. It is to be hoped that the proceedings at
the trial of the two policemen will definitely clear
up the point of who really fired the two shots. The
military evidence is strong as to the Sub Inspector
of Police having fired himself.

5. All the prisoners (except the man on Lazaar
piquet) should be handed over to the C. P. under the
170th Art. of War.

6. I do not find anything to justify the
alarmist telegrams despatched by the District Magis-
trate (who was not on the spot) nor for his action as

described in papers already sent to the C.S. to the local government, but this is not a matter within my province to deal with.

7. As the papers which are somewhat voluminous only came into my hands last evening and as no further delay should be permitted, be good enough to hand them personally to the Chief Secretary and say I shall be glad to know whether the Government concurs with my views as to the expressed in para. 5.

(Initialed) C.M.C.

D. G.

Obtained

24/5/95

300-28-5-94.

DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated

189

FOR ORDERS.

The accompanying paper were handed to me by Col Simpson D. A. G. who told me that he did so under the personal instructions of H.E. Lt. Col. Mansfield Clarke.

The evidence recorded by the Military Court of Enquiry throws no satisfactory light on the question of how the collision came about and who began the fight.

A new story is introduced by that it was the Inspector who fired both shots.

There is considerable evidence as regards quantity in support of this tale: but its credibility is a matter for question.

It is surprising that with certainly three military officers on the spot no one thought of examining the whole of the arms which the three had with them to see which had been fired and which not.

It is submitted that in justice to Capt. Elton and other officers of the Regt. Mr. H. Murray should be called upon to justify the aspersions which he has cast upon them and the action which he adopted towards them.

It is presumed that the Lt. Col. commanding will ultimately order the handing over to the Civil Power of the rifles in custody. It seems doubtful if any Court would do

So far as I can judge, the only thing to be done now is to report Lt. Col. Clarke to hand over the rifles who are said to have been identified to the Magistrate and dealt with according to law.

Personally, I have my doubts both as to the rifles really having been identified, and as to the Inspector having fired. The story as to the rifles having actually been seized by some rifles brought by them. Capt. Elton says nothing of it. Yet he can hardly have forgotten such an incident if it had occurred. It is to be noted, too, that two Constables admit that they fired. With regard to Lt. Johnston's finding that the rifles shown him had not been fired, my recollection is that in an earlier report (I cannot remember) it was stated that an officer (I think Lt. J.) had examined the arms in question and found that they had been fired.

These observations ~~by the Court~~ are, however, only by the way. It is further to be noted that in dealing with the case the matter is up.

M

25/5/95

Yes, the Court must clear matters up. The evidence is contradictory on many of the most important points, but a little cross examination will show the truth. If Capt. Elton, for instance, denies that the Inspector was

them - I certainly would not on the
 evidence that is forthcoming. There
 is clearly one case in which the identification
 is absolutely wrong.
 It was no doubt the delay of the
 Railway Authorities in bringing the
 state of affairs to the notice of the
 Commanding Officer and the error
 of judgment on the part of the
 authorities that rendered the occurrence
 of this unfortunate case possible.
 If Mr. W. Murray had, as it was
 his duty to do, gone to the spot
 at once and exercised common
 sense in his enquiries something
 more satisfactory than has been
 or ever will be obtained might
 have been worked. The delay
 has allowed of the weaving of
 a web of lies through which it
 will never be possible to get at
 the truth. The reports and the
 other appear to be one as bad
 as the other in this respect.

Letter to J. 29 May 1895, No. 1152
 The D^r Adjutant General
 Long Cross, Devon, Sir;

In returning the papers
 which were handed to me personally by
 Capt. Simpson on the 24th inst. I am
 directed to say that I concur with
 the views expressed in para. 5 of the
 memo. of the Lieut. Genl. Commanding
 the Forces which accompanied the above
 and will feel glad if effect can be
 given to them at a very early date.

Yours faithfully,
 J. B. O'Brien

Signed for J. B. O'Brien

29/5/95

Mr. Murray when as long found, that
 story will be proved to be false. We
 were certainly informed that the report
 of the policeman who was injured had
 been found to have been false.

29
 25/5

The reports must be handed over
 to the civil authorities, and tried.
 The trial should bring out all
 the facts.

We must consider what is the
 best course to pursue, as to Mr.
 Wolfe Murray's conduct, throughout
 this affair. He appears all through
 to have acted in a most extra-
 ordinary manner.

W
 29 May

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for Signature.

Despatched.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189

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