

CONFIDENTIAL.

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY *Mis*

G.O., No. 13188

Confidential No 90

DATED 20-6-1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Virgianagaram disturbance
Recording letter from the Lieut. Genl. Comd[ing]
the Forces forwarding letter from Capt. French
complaining of the conduct of Mr. Wolfe-Murray,
Col., Voyag., towards him in connection with
the —.

Mr. St. Francis

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Witness No. 5

Mass House,
7th May 1875
Kiauanagram
10.35 A.M.

Captain Farrant
Commanding Officer, 11th Regiment.

Q. What do you say of the situation now?
(When did the Alarm bugle sound? just after
8.30 O.K.)

Ans. I think it safe enough. I think the men
are in fear of the consequences of their acts
and will not break out again. I have written
today to General to say the men are in
hand & no signs of further disturbances.

Q. Do you say the original disturbances originated
with the young soldiers?

Ans. I think so, it is entirely among the
young soldiers, Jambils and Mahomedans.

Q. You lately flogged some youngsters?

Ans. Yes. I had to about a year ago.

Q. You would deal so with these men now
if you found them?

Ans. If I found out who they were I would
flog every one of them.

How many are arrested now?

Ans. Seven men. I cannot arrest many at once - I wish to dispose of them as I catch them - as I cannot deal with them if I have many.

Q. Could you not send them to the District Jail?

Ans. I could ^{if they} would ~~they~~ be treated as under trial prisoners? (The District Magistrate said "I can order them to be treated as civil prisoners and kept in Civil Jail apart from criminals.")

I will try them straight off and take up others as I identify them. I should have to get special sanction for this. I think it is the only way of meeting ^{the case} like this. Yesterday I spoke to my ^{native} officers and pointed out the serious way it would affect the Regiment's reputation, that it was not a Regimental matter, that it was confined to a few young sepoys and ^(the native officers) that unless they ^{handed them up}, it would make things look worse than they really are. They said that they thought that things are quiet now, that there is no fear of further disturbance; that the Subadar Major said, he is a ^{derumaliyai}, a trustworthy man but excitable; he is a man of this country, not a Tamil. He

has

has always asserted his authority, and backed up British officers. He will be here in a few minutes: if he has in a moment of heat done as the Sub-Magistrate suggests it will make it more difficult for me to discover things, as things may come out that will involve himself. There are 20 Tamil men in the Regiment and one Tamil Native Officer. All other men are Telugus and Kothumidans.

Q. What do you think about removing the Sepoy guard from the station and substituting Police?

Ans. I think it is now safe, even at night.

But Clogston thinks not; a day makes a difference, things are cooling down, I have not yet seen the Native Officers today, (11 a.m.). I think I would wait a day or two yet as you (District Magistrate) have suggested. There is another thing to be considered. Our men, every man good and bad, have all been confined for the

week to barracks, and I think if this goes on it might cause ill-feeling: the well conditioned men will think they have been unjustly confined on account of a few young rascals. There is so little sympathy between the large body of the Regiment and these young men that I think it quite probable that the main body do not know who the men are actually, themselves, who committed the riot or certainly know only that they are some of a certain number of young Southern men. I think if they did actually know they would hand them up provided they dared, as 200 Janissaries are as good as 300 of the others as man to man for private reprisals in the lines, though of course they would not overrun the Regiment if I wanted to use them for military purposes. Every Regiment has a certain amount of esprit de corps and men tend to back each other up.

2. Are you yourself a man inclined

to use as severe measures as you can?

Ans. Yes. The men know well what they will get from me. If any man disobeys me to my face out in a row I would not hesitate to shoot him dead. My Com-
-ing officer told me once that the Gen-
said I was rather rubberneck; this was
ages ago. I came here on Sunday morn-
-ing 5th instant. I have seen none of
the evidence of my own officers taken by
them at the Court of Enquiry; that
evidence has gone up to Head quarters.
of the report written by Captain Estlin
I have seen a copy: it has gone away.
I have had during the 5th & 6th to get a
general idea of the whole and my notes
want clearing. I had nothing to get hold
of; all our evidence had gone and I had
not seen you. I have heard this morning
the evidence and draft report to Governor
ment which you read me as taken
by yourself. I agree with you in the
main

Note
I dictated when
behind on May 4th
this portion of my
report; since then
partly owing to
Capt. Forrester's

main certainly, but I think you are
 unduly hard on Elston; he was handi-
 capped in having no idea of the situation,
 that any man he brought down would
 stop it. He had had no previous
 warning that the company he brought
 could not be perfectly in hand, he should
 have had another officer with him no doubt;
 he had no previous complaint from the
 Railway authorities as to the Sepoys
 making a row at the station. It should
 be borne in mind that he kept them
 in hand after the men were shot, a
 most critical time. I remember that
 you particularly mentioned that fact
 in your report to Government.

remark I
 have altered it
 slightly. I have
 the original.
 12-5-95
 Omm

Yes he had
 himself written
 to the R/S Co
 on the subject
 on 27th April,
 and he had the
 Station Master's
 telegram of 29th
 that his men were
 looking the station
 12-5-95
 Omm

This was
 no complaint
 from the
 Sepoys
 12-5-95
 Omm

Read over by me in English to Captain
 Farrant and acknowledged to be correct

/sd/ H. Farrant Capt.
 /sd/ A. Wolfemurray
 Ag. St Magistrate
 11.40 a.m.
 7-5-95.

/True Copy/
 W. J. Murray
 Ag. St Magistrate

Office Mess, Viceroy's Palace
 7-5-95
 12 noon.

Captain Farrant. Picquet

Under my orders a Regiment of Military
 Police used to be stationed on the platform
 to carry out general police duties. They
 appear to have been ^{red} ~~black~~ and black-
 guarded on the 24th by the station people
 & complained to that effect to Captain Elston.
 He inquired and wrote on the subject
 to the Traffic Manager, and the
 Adjutant ordered without reference to
 Captain Elston, with the idea of avoiding
 a squabble and until the Traffic Manager
 replied or better arrangements could be
 made to keep that Picquet off. They
 were taken off for the 1st time on the
 29th April. Had the Picquet been there,
 no row could have taken place

/sd/ H. Farrant
 Read over by me and acknowledged
 to be correct.

/sd/ A. Wolfemurray
 Ag. St Magistrate
 /True Copy/
 W. J. Murray
 Ag. St Magistrate

T.

~~Memorandum of~~
~~Chapman~~

Eschbacher

Through the Adjutant XIth Ind.
From Captain A. French Vizianagram
13th May 1895
XIth Ind.

22.5.95. To,

The Commandant,
Sir, XIth Ind.

I have the honor to request that, should my statement to Mr Wolfe Murray, (The Collector of the District) on the 10th inst: (about the behavior of the 11th Regt. on the night of the 29th ultimo after the disturbance at the Railway Station) not corresponds exactly with that given before you at the Court of Inquiry of the 10, 11, and 12 Instant, I may be allowed the privilege of explaining the reason as follows:—

1. On the evening of the 9th instant, the Collector wrote privately asking me for an interview the next morning without mentioning any reason. I accordingly attended next morning immediately after parade, at the house of Mr. Hogston the Dist. Supt. of Police when I met the Collector.
2. The Collector told me that he wished to take

take my statement about the behavior
of the Regt. on the night of the 29th and
ordered me to make solemn affirmation;
I did so; though I did not see any necessity
for it. He then proceeded to ask me several
questions as to what I ^{had} said, in the course of
conversation to the Dist. Supt. of Police -
(Mr. Hogsoun) and the Officer Commanding
concerning the attitude of the sepoys on the
said 29th ultimo. The Collector rushed thro'
these questions in such quick succession that
after each one, I was not allowed time to
express myself as I should have wished; and
on my trying to pause a few seconds to re-
collect events of a week past, he still more
confused me by saying that he would re-
cord every moment's delay in my answering;
& I think he did write it down. Finally
I cannot recollect exactly what the Collector
asked me; however, he put down as answer
the word "I cannot remember any more"
or something of the sort. This hastily given
and written deposition was then put before
me to read; I read it over and then said to
him "Will you allow me to give you the
whole

"whole of my statement in my own words in
"a narrative form from beginning to end
" & I will then be able to say everything
"collectedly & correctly?" he said "no; you
have already said you cannot remember any-
thing else: do you hear that Mr. Young?"
(Mr. Young the Dy. Inspector General of
Police was present at the time) I do not know
what Mr. Young thought of this procedure;
Mr. Hogsoun the District Superintendent
was present all through this inquiry.
3. Mr. Wolfe-Murray (i.e. the Collector) then
said "Sign this please." Knowing what a
solemn affirmation meant, and fearing that
these answers in a way exacted from me in
a hurried manner might be used against
me hereafter, I hesitated, pen in hand, and
appealed once more to the Collector for the
privilege of giving my own statement from
beginning to end in my own words: he
said then, "If you don't sign that, I shall
be obliged to put the Law on to you." The
Law is the Law, and I thought the Collector
could deal summarily with me for con-
tempt of Court, and I signed reluctantly,
intending to report this to you my
Commanding

Commanding Officer as early as possible,
to claim your protection against this treat-
ment, which, I do not consider ought to
have been offered to an officer in Her
Majesty's Army.

4. The Collector then apologized for "giving
me all this trouble" as he called it & said
"you know, I must support my own state-
ments" whatever that meant, I did not
understand, nor did I ask.

5. The whole of my statement is given Cor-
rectly & correctly in my evidence at the
Court of Inquiry held by you on the 10th
11th, & 12th instant, because I was given ample
time & opportunity of expressing myself
properly.

6. On the same day, I verbally reported this
circumstance to you; & according to your
suggestion, I thereby send you this formal
complaint; and I leave you now to decide
whether I have good grounds, or not, for
complaining about the treatment I have
received.

I have &c.

Sgt. A. French Captain

11th Regt. Ind.
Do: 10C. A.P.G. Ind. D. 11

In forwarding this complaint of Captain
French's

French's, I hope the Brigadier General
Commanding will be good enough to take
any steps necessary to have full enquiry
made into the manner in which Captain
French was examined by the District
Magistrate.

2. With regard to the expression quoted in
para 4 of this letter, which expression Captain
French says he did not understand, I think
it my duty to state that on more occasions
than one during the course of his enquiry, the
District Magistrate has made use of simi-
lar expressions to me. Once in particular in
the officers mess and in the hearing of Mr.
Clogston, D.I.P. The District Magistrate
said to me: —

3. "You see, I have made certain reports to
Government and now I've got to find evi-
dence to back up these reports; otherwise
Government will call me an alarmist."
This language was made use of on, I think,
Wednesday, the 8th.

4. The impression left on me by the use of
these words was that the District Magistrate
had been reversing the usual order of an
investigation, viz: reporting first and
enquiring

enquiring afterwards.

13.5.95. Sof. W. Jarrant Captain

Comdt XIth Ind.

I have not furnished a copy of this Complaint to the District Magistrate as I am not clear whether it is my duty to do so or that of higher authority.

13.5.95. Sof. W. Jarrant Captain

14.5.95. S. H. Genl.

Forwarded. In the absence of information as to regulations by which the collector was guided in the case under reference, it appears to me that his treatment of Captain French was somewhat unusual, especially as that officer's disposition must be generally known, and compliance with his (Captain French's) request would probably have resulted in his offering a more lucid explanation of facts than obtained by cross questioning.

2. I would draw special attention to paras 2, 3, & 4 of minute II.

Sof. J. Van Schaubezee Br Genl.

Commanding Madras District

Madras
17th May 1895

No. N.A.

J. 218C.

Cotacamund
22nd May 1895

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

True copy forwarded for the information of Government - I refrain from comment at present.

Ans. 11/11/95

Lieutenant General
Commanding the Forces, Madras

Commanding Officer as early as possible.

Ind. Dept.

CURRENT No. 2573A

CONFIDENTIAL

From

The Lt. Genl. Commr. the Force.

ho. NA
21PC

D 22 } May 1895
R 23 }

Mr. Wolfe-Murray's conduct
towards the military in con-
nection with the Vizianagram
dist.

[G.]
[25.]
600-7-5-95.

Ind. DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 2573A

FOR ORDERS.

I don't think it will be
anxious to take any steps on
this at present. Ultimately, I
fear, we shall have to send some
senior member of the Service to
make full enquiries as to Mr. W.
Murray's conduct during the whole
of this business.

RD
25/5/95

Seen

25

27/5

The more we
hear, the more
strange does the
conduct of the D. M.
appear.

W
28 May

Order of 20 June 1895, No. 1318

His

Recorded

Geo.

D
29-5-95

RD
29/5/95

Submitted for perusal.

Mr. W. Murray's procedure and conduct
appear to have been most extraordinary.
They can be satisfactorily accounted for
by but one hypothesis.
It is pretty evident that there will
be trouble about this business.

RD
23/5/95

FOR ORDERS.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for Signature.

Despatched.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189 ,

DATED

NUMBER OF COPIES
REQUIRED. { Order complete.
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter

Spare Copies.

Struck
Issued

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

Total ..

In hand ..

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed..
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.