

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1386

Dated 2^d July 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

SHOOTING A WILD ELEPHANT WITHOUT A LICENSE.

Condoning Mr. Windle's offence of having shot a wild elephant without a license and permitting him to retain its tusks as a trophy.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
80	509		96				
96	803		96				

1895-96.

~~Journal~~
Forest Department.

CURRENT NO. 2868.

From

The Collector
Nilgiris

To. The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department

Dated 12th }
Despatched 13th } June 1895

Received 13th
Recd 14.6.95



No. 677

Enclosures nil

Subject

Reporting about the
Shooting of a wild
Elephant by Mr. E. G. Widdle
for the information and
orders of Government

11/15/96
15/7/96

Over

Go. 862: 26.4.95 Paper
to 69. 5.2.95 sent
+ papers

For orders.

As to whether Mr. Widdle's offence
in having shot the elephant without a license
may be condoned + he may be permitted
to retain the tusks as a trophy?
Attention is solicited to the notes in G.O.
No. 69 of 5 Feb. last.

17.6.95

I submit that the question of prosecution
may be dropped & he might be allowed
to retain the tusks 21/6/95

21/6/95

C.S. min

Order of 2nd July 1895 No. 1387

Mr. Widdle's technical offence
will under the circumstances be
condoned & he will be permitted to
retain the tusks of the elephant de-
stroyed

for 25.6.95 1/7/95

Col. 4/7.
The S. N. Nilgiris 21/6/95

DESPATCHED

IN M.S.

Milgiri Collector's Office
Forest Branch
Cotacamund 12th June 1895

No 677

From

CURRENT NO. 2868

M. A. Sinn Esquire

Acting Collector of Milgiris
Cotacamund

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department

Sir

I have the honour to report for the information and orders of Government the following facts relating to the shooting of a Wild Elephant by Mr E. J. Windle.

In his diary of the 12th January 1895, the Forester of the Mudumalai Range made the following Report:-

"I take the opportunity of mentioning here that there is a rogue elephant knocking about between Bithurkulla and Tippacadu. About a week ago a Chetty was killed and another wounded. Two elephant men were also chased on the works and a gentle man who was riding along the road was knocked off his horse and injured."

This report the District Forest Officer passed on to the Collector with the following endorsement:-

"From the annexed extract from the Mudumalai Forester's Diary for the week ending 12th instant, it will be observed that a Rogue Elephant is frequenting the neighbourhood of Tippacadu and Bithurkulla. He has been there for some time, but is now becoming dangerous. With the Collector's approval, I will ask Mr. Kinderley or some other sportsman or sportsmen

if he or they will go out after him.

"Under the circumstance, I do not think the Elephant act (VI of 1879) requires a license to be given or the previous sanction of Government to be obtained. The thing is to get him killed first and report afterwards."

While matters were in this state, and rules and acts were being hunted up, Mr Winkle Superintendent of Lady Souter's Moyar Estate, came to the Collector and orally reported that he had shot the rogue Elephant in question on the 21st.

He was asked to submit a written report of his action, and the following is his report:—

"I have the honor to report as follows.
"I arrived at Kulliad Estate Gudaloo, on Sunday Jan. 20"
"Mr Harley who manages Lady Souter's Estates (Kulliad
"Chick Moyar and Dod Moyar) under me, told me that the
"Kumbla trackers, men who have lived all their lives
"in these parts, and who are put on by my orders to
"watch any large game that may be about, - reported
"that the Elephant which killed the Chetty a short
"time before, was still hanging about, that he never
"joined any of the herds which occasionally come into
"Estate land but remained solitary. The Chetty who
"lived at Thorapully (the name of Lady Souter's largest
"block of land) had been killed at a place in the
"Jungle which was variously described by the natives as
"being from one to three miles from Dod Moyar Estate.
"The Tahildar of Gudaloo and the police held an inquest
"on the body, and the police measured the foot prints of
"the Elephant, these being the head constable informed
"Mr Harley, eighteen inches in length, and therefore
"according to the usual calculation, making the elephant
"about 9 feet at the shoulder. The rogue being so close
"to Dod Moyar Estate, sometimes coming into the coffee,

"Coolies would not work there; in fact, I had some
"difficulty in getting one of the Kulliad Coolies to
"carry my Stiffin Basket across the Moyar River
"which he did only under the condition that I should
"then let him go back at once. I should mention
"that, to get to Dod Moyar Estate from Gudaloo, it
"is necessary to cross the Moyar at a point shortly
"before it turns to the right, towards Tippacadu.
"On Monday morning I left Kulliad soon after six
"o'clock thinking it likely that I might find the Rogue
"on Estate land, there being some 2000 acres of jungle
"belonging to the property. I rode to the Moyar
"river some 3 miles from Kulliad going on from there
"on foot. There were marks of Elephants in Dod
"Moyar coffee, and in the Estate land, but these were
"all old herd tracks. After some time, I came on
"the solitary track of the rogue quite fresh. This was
"the only fresh track I saw, and the foot prints, where
"the elephant had crossed a ravine, agreed with the
"measurements taken by the police. I had some difficulty
"in keeping the two Kumbla trackers straight, as
"they more than once tried to go off on herd tracks
"several days old. I was however prepared for this, as
"Mr Harley had told me that the trackers were very averse
"to going after the rogue, and had said to him that if
"it were not killed with the first shot there would be
"trouble. The tracks led off estate land into Govern-
"ment forest, and after going between a mile and a
"half or two miles on Government land I came in
"sight of the Elephant, about 100 yards ahead feeding
"on a bamboo clump. Leaving the other men behind
"I went up to him. The wind and ground both being
"favorable, and got within 9 yards. For a minute or two
"I could not fire, as the head was covered with bamboo
"on which the animal was feeding. He then partly
"turned his head towards me, giving me a clear shot

at the right temple, when he dropped dead. After
"satisfying myself that he was dead, I called up the
"Kumbas and the Harley who had followed me. The
"foot and shoulder measurements, the latter taken
"between two straight sticks between heel and
"shoulder, were eighteen inches and nine feet, respectively
"as well as I could measure without a tape. On
"examining the elephant's head, we found an open
"wound, with matter oozing out of it in the forehead
"The wound was apparently from a large sized
"bullet and of some standing, and quite accounted
"for the animal's bad temper. I could not examine
"the left side of the head, as that was undermost, but
"from the direction of the wound, when probed with
"a stick, I should say that a shot had been fired into
"the left temple at an entirely wrong angle and had
"come out at the forehead. The tusks which I had
"cut out were not large, about 3 feet in total length
"The elephant was a fine one in the prime of life
"certainly not an old one, and there was no apparent
"reason for his being vicious except the wound in
"the head. The Kumbas headman, who also was one
"of the trackers, told me that now this elephant
"was shot, all of his people were ready to work on
"Dod Moyar Estate, but whilst the beast was alive
"they would never have come. The elephant was
"shot, as far as I can judge, about half way between
"Gudalur and Tippiacadu in a straight line, possibly
"a little nearer to Tippiacadu. I was aware at the
"time of shooting the elephant, that I should have
"got permission from the collector first and I would
"have asked for this, had I known when I was in
"Ooty what I subsequently learnt about the animal
"on the spot.

"It seemed to me, however that seeing a man

"had been killed, others chased, and that the elephant
"was consequently, a constant danger to human life
"more especially to the coolies on the Moyar Estates
"that I should be right to take the very first
"opportunity of shooting him. I reported the matter
"to the collector immediately on my return to Ooty
"The next day, I may mention that he had a report
"on his table from the Forest Department about this
"very elephant, and I have since heard that a reward
"would have been offered for its destruction had I
"not shot it. Under these circumstances, I have the
"honour to request that my shooting the elephant
"without having previously obtained permission may be
"passed over, and that I may be allowed to keep the
"tusks without payment."

The verdict at the inquest held on the deceased Chetty
was as follows:—

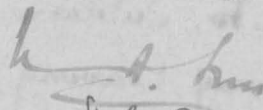
"The man was killed by a wild elephant on
"the evening of the 4th instant. The deceased Jogi and
"his brother Subban and his brother-in-law, Perumal
"Chetty went from their village to Kumbas's Pady on
"Groves' Estate. While they were going they saw wild
"elephants, Subban and Perumal being afraid of them
"ran away leaving Jogi behind. They state that the
"elephant killed Jogi which fact was reported to the
"Police next day."

The usual amount of uncertainty remains whether
the animal, that Mr Windle shot was really the rogue
but looking at the sore in the animal's head, his
solitariness and size, and the fact, that no complaint
has been made of harm done, since Mr Windle shot
him, I think it may be taken that he was the rogue,
— at any rate, it is admitted that Mr Windle con-
fided thought that he was.

Technically, Mr Windle has been guilty of an offence, in shooting the animal without a license and the tusks—small ones—now in my office are at the disposal of Government; but practically the only forestalled by a little the action which would certainly have been taken on the Forester's report and the District Forest Officer's recommendation and considering the vital importance of ridding the country of such a pest as a rogue Elephant in the shortest possible time, I think that Mr. Windle's harshness may well be pardoned. His wish also to be allowed to retain the tusks as a trophy is natural, and under the circumstances, may be granted.

I have the honour, therefore, to request that Government will be pleased to condone Mr. Windle's offence, and to permit him to keep the tusks

I have the honour to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

 Acting Collector of Nilgiris



When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.