

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1470

Dated 12th July 1895

INDEXED.

SUBC

[Despatch Abstract.]

DISTURBANCE AT VIZIANGRAM AND KALUGUMALAI RIOT.

Forwarding to Mr. J.P. Hewett of the Government of India, a brief account of the fatal disturbance at Viziangram and stating that an account of the riot at Kalugumalai will be transmitted in a few days and that a note will be made of the desire of the Government of India to receive for its information early intimation of the facts concerning occurrences of a similar description.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
G.O.	1480		13/7/95				
D.O.	432		95				
D.O.	479		95				

80.1268 of 14-6-95 in &
papers

No. 377
DEPARTMENT.
From
J. P. Hume M. Esq. for

No.
dated 19 June 1895
Received 26
Re 26
En

SUBJECT.

Requesting to submit brief
statements of the facts
of a serious riot at Kalugumalai
of a fatal disturbance at
Kalamangalam.

to Refce. 12
2/16

(For orders)

It is impossible to give any account
of the Kalugumalai affair until the
Dist. Magistrate of Tinian returns the
H. report sent to him in original
G.O. of 16 May 1895 No. 1038. It
proposed to send a deferred telegram to him
as follows.
369th Expedite reply to G.O. 1038 of 16 May
Please return F.H.'s report
forming enclosure to G.O. 1038 of 16 May
to report the telegram disturbance
draft reply is put up.
30.5.95

ure

Judicial Department no constables, who — bore marks
eating he had received and he
them to follow him he

Date.

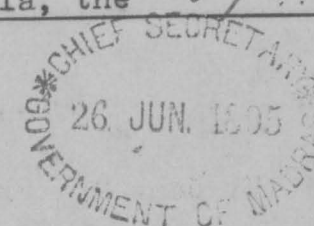
No 179

D.O. No 377



Date.

Simla, the 19th June 1895.



My dear Mr. Price,

The attention of the Government of

* Madras Mail of the 17th April, page 7. India has been drawn to the
---do---of the 21st May, page 5. accounts given in the "Madras

Mail" and other Newspapers of a serious riot* at Kalugumalai,

* Madras Mail of the 3rd May, page 5. and of a fatal disturbance at
---do---6th May, page 4. Vizianagram; but as no authentic
---do---11th May, page 7.

reports have been received of the occurrences, I am desired
to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the
Governor in Council, brief statements of the facts of each
case may be submitted for the information of the Governor
General in Council.

I am further to request that in future
early intimation of the facts concerning such riots or dis-
turbances may be sent to the Government of India, not ne-
cessarily for any orders, but for their information.

Yours sincerely,

To
The Hon'ble J. F. Price, C. S. I.,
Chief Secy. to the Govt. of
Madras. }

J. P. Swete.

and departure of trains.
the station master seems to have
hand lantern which Capt. Elston
brought and which his servant was

3177

Judicial Department

Brief account of the disturbance
at Vizianagram on the night of the 29th
April 1895, based upon the official re-
ports received by Government.

For some little time prior
to the occurrence of the disturbance, ill
feeling appears to have existed between
the railway officials at the Vizianagram
station on the East Coast Railway and
some of the sepoys of the 11th M.I. Re-
giment which is stationed in the neigh-
bouring cantonment. The origin of this
probably was the fact that the
station master had handed over to the
Police a sepoy belonging to the regiment
who had presented a stolen currency note
at the railway booking office and partly
the circumstance that there had been dis-
agreements between the station master
and certain of the sepoys, who were Tamil
recruits, regarding the practice of the
habit of lounging about the station
platform of an after-noon at the time
of the arrival and departure of trains.
The station master seems to have

train

complained to his superiors that the
sepoys were in the habit of obstruct-
ing the passengers and station offi-
cials, and refusing to leave the plat-
form when requested, while the sepoy
alleged, in a complaint made to their
officers, that the station master would
not allow them to remain on the plat-
form to see their friends off though
they were furnished with passes from
their Company officers permitting
them to do so. In consequence of the
sepoys complaints, Captain Eiston, the
officiating Commandant of the regiment,
wrote to the Traffic Superintendent
on the 27th April, asking him to en-
quire into the matter and to state
whether there was any objection to the
continuance of the grant of passes
of the nature alluded to above. This
letter, unfortunately, did not reach
the Traffic Superintendent until the
day after the disturbance took place
while a counter complaint against the
sepoys, addressed by the local
traffic inspector to the same officer,
on the 24th April, remained undisposed
of on the day on which the riot occur-
ed and the Commandant of the regiment
up to that time, received neither an

reply to his letter of the 27th April nor
any intimation from the railway authori-
ties as to complaints having been made
against his men.
3. Matters culminated on the
evening of the 29th April, when some
thirty sepoy, in civilian clothes, who
had come on to the platform, were request-
ed by the Station Master, to quit the
station and give him their names for
report to their Commanding officer. An
altercation ensued which terminated in
one of the sepoy striking the station
master with a stick. The station master
then took refuge in his office where he
was shortly afterwards followed by the
platform constables one of whom had
been assaulted rather severely by the
sepoys. The station master proceeded to
send off highly coloured reports to his
superiors, the Commandant of the Regi-
ment, the police and the District
Magistrate, and then, hearing from his
clerks that the sepoy were still hanging
about the station, concealed himself in
the dark between the waiting and refresh-
ment-rooms with the idea of being able
to effect his escape from the station
by mixing with the passengers arriving
by the next train, at 7-30 p.m. When the
train

train came in the sepoys were said to have interfered with some of the passengers and the station master, still in an object state of fear disguised and hid himself first under the refreshment room table and afterwards in the kitchen. The sepoys after looking about the station for him, proceeded to break the lamps and station furniture. By this time the station master's report had reached the Offg. Commandant of the Regiment, Capt. Elston, and the assembly being under his orders, sounded at the barracks the sepoys hastily left the station. Soon after their departure, the Inspector of Police arrived with the local Sub-Magistrate, a Head Constable and twenty constables, nine of whom were armed with breech loading carbines and provided with buckshot cartridges; six of the constables so armed were placed on guard on the platform, while the rest were sent off in other directions.

Immediately after this Capt. Elston arrived on the scene, having left instructions with the Adjutant to send a company of the regiment as quickly as possible after him. He was shown the station master and one of the

platform

They not having come in by the usual entrance but outside the buildings and he did this

platform constables, who bore marks of the beating he had received and he requested them to follow him to the barracks in order to identify their assailants. The station master flatly refused to go on the ground of being in fear of his life, and while Capt. Elston was endeavouring to persuade him to comply with his request, the company of sepoys came up to the station. Capt. Elston halted the men on the ramp ^{at the northern end of the} platform in order to enable the Inspector to move his police further down the platform. Then, under the impression that the police had in accordance with the instructions of their superior ^{which had been delivered in his presence in a loud tone, however the word} moved as directed gave ^{direction} to Subadar Major who was in charge, to order the company to advance so as to get into a more ^{convenient} position than that which they occupied. Unfortunately, the police guard of six men had piled their arms on the platform and apparently this led to delay in obeying the Inspector's instructions to leave the portion of the platform ^{which had been halted} which they were occupying. The night was dark and the only light on the platform was a hand lantern which Capt. Elston had brought and which his servant was carrying.

carrying. The company which consisted
of 52 men with their side arms only,
was moving - according to the weight
of evidence - in fours, the Subadar
Major who was commanding it being on
the right of the leading file, and it
^{into the line looking at the time in complete ignorance}
marched on to the party of policemen
who were only a few yards off; a
collision and free fight took place
but the sepoy in no case used their
side arms. ^{What actually brought this about,}
is no reliable evidence to show; either
side accuses the other. As soon the
fighting began the attention of Capt.
Eiston, who was then about the centre
of the company, was called to it by
one of the men - the head of the
sergeant who rushed back to tell him
what was going on. He then ran forward
and found men ^{well} stirring with one another
and succeeded in separating several
of his ^{sergeants} and causing them to fall
back. Just then two policemen ~~and~~
~~and~~ fired two shots, apparently at two
men who were behind Capt. Eiston, as he
faced his men with the result that one
sepoy was killed on the spot and the
other slightly wounded. On the shots
being fired the fighting entirely
ceased the sepoy fell back and remain
quiet, sitting down under orders and

facing away from the spot where their
comrade had fallen. Capt. Eiston had, at
the commencement of the disturbance,
sent ^{to} the barracks for another company
which was marched down with its arms &
under an European officer. This body was
placed between the Police and the com-
pany which had been engaged in the dis-
turbance and the police ^{having} moved off
after the men who had fired the shots
had been arrested by the Inspector the
sepoy were marched back to their
barracks and after passing their arms
in ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{halls} ~~halls~~ were dismissed to their
lines to which they were confined for
some days. No further disturbance of
any sort has occurred nor is any app-
ended.

The two constables who fired ^{the} ~~the~~ shots
have been subjected to a ^{careful} ~~careful~~ investigation by the District Magistrate
and have been discharged on the ground
that their act came within Section 100
I.P.C. Such ^{of} the sepoy as it has
been found possible to identify as
having been concerned in the rioting on
the evening of the 29th April have been
handed over by the Military authorities
for trial by the Civil power and the
enquiries into the charges against

correct
to return

are still proceeding. The conduct of
Capt. Biston has been the subject of
enquiry by the Military Authorities
with the result that he is considered
to have acted with firmness and judg-
ment in a very difficult position.
In this view the Governor in
Council concurs.

HP
8/7/95

* The Madras Mail of the
6th inst, recd. after this statement
was prepared, states that five
of the reports have been con-
victed, of whom two have
been sentenced to two years
imp. each, and three
to eighteen months
imp. each. This is presu-
mably correct. Should it
turn out not to be so a
further communication
will be made on the subject

HP

[G.]
53
1,000-50-3-35

Judicial Department.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Letter, 12 July 1895, No. 1470

Read the following paper:—

D.O. current no. 377

20th received
12th July 1895

My dear Mr. Hewitt

I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter No. 179 D of
19 June 1895 and in reply to enclose
a brief account of the fatal disturbance
at Vizianagram to which you refer.
An account of the riot at Kalayamalai
will be transmitted in a few days
time. ~~The original report~~
A note will be made of the receipt
of the report of India to receive ^{for its information} early in-
formation of the facts concerning oc-
currences of a similar description

Yours sincerely

HP

3/7/95

To

J. P. Hewitt Esq^r
with brief account of
the disturbance at Vizag

D
30.6.95

Note

The original report about the Kalayamalai
affair has been referred to the Dist. Mag.
of Immaculata; on the receipt of the correct
in a swift telegram repeating its return

Then directed to
Office to receive the
Aug. 1/7/95

Report of East
of India

H.M.

Issue

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8/12/20

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