

(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 8

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 20 மே 1995

(3) ஆதாரங் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

Judicial துறை

அரசாணை எண்.	217	அச்சகம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.		பலவகை
நாள் :	28.1.1881	199

சுயம்

மபுக்கவோ துண்டியடி கையாளவோ கூடாது.

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 4th November 1880.

Judicial.
No. 30.

To His Excellency the Most Honourable the GOVERNOR GENERAL of India in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—I forward herewith for the information of your Government, and for such attention as you may consider it deserves copy of a letter* from the Colonial Office, with 25 copies of its enclosed memorandum upon the execution of prisoners by hanging with a long drop.

2. I would suggest to Your Excellency in Council that the memorandum be communicated to the various Local Governments in India.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's mostobedient, humble Servant,

HARTINGTON.

Dated Downing Street, London, the 1th October 1880.

From—R. H. MEADE, Esq.

To—Her Majesty's UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE for India.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you a copy of a paper* which has been drawn up in this Department upon hanging.

2. The paper was compiled for the information of Colonial Governments by direction of the Secretary of State in consequence of his attention having been drawn to certain cases in the colonies where, through adherence to barbarous usages, or from carelessness and ignorance, executions had been the occasions of very revolting spectacles.

3. The memorandum was in great part taken down from the lips of William Marwood, of Horncastle, the usual public Executioner, and use was made of certain reports and memoranda supplied by the Home Office, but that Department is in no way responsible for the paper itself.

4. It has occurred to Lord Kimberley that possibly the Marquis of Hartington might think it well to communicate copies of the memoranda to the Government of India.

5. The type of the memorandum is still standing, and the India Office can obtain as many copies as it requires from the Stationery Office.

No. 31.

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
North-Western Pro-
vinces and Oudh.
Punjab.

Central Provinces.
British Burma.
Coorg.
Assam.
Hyderabad.

COPY forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations marginally noted for information and for such action as may be deemed necessary.

By Order of the Governor General of India in Council,

HOME, REV. & AGRI. DEPT.,
JUDICIAL,
FORT WILLIAM;
The 12 January 1881.

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

L. D. R.—Home, Rev. & Agri. Dept. Press—No. 21—12-1-81—210.

The Secretary to the
Govt. of Madras—
India, 11. 30, 1881.

செப்பிடுபவர் பெயர் K. 246
செப்பிடுவதற்காக எடுத்த மனு
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் 9 ஜனவரி 1881
செப்பிட்டு முடிந்த நாள்
சரிபார்க்கும் உதவி யாளர்
மு. பா. எ. கையொப்பம்
கையொப்பம்

2/27

Memorandum upon the Execution of Prisoners by Hanging with a long Drop.

The law or custom of each particular colony may to some extent define the interval between sentence and execution. In the United Kingdom the execution takes place on the first Monday after the intervention of three Sundays from the day on which sentence is passed.

As soon as the date is fixed, the sheriff or governor of the prison should inform the prisoner of the fact.

Executions in the United Kingdom take place usually at the hour of eight a.m.

The executioner should be a trustworthy and intelligent person, and on the first occasion of his employment care should be taken to ascertain that he knows fully and accurately what he has to do, and in what order he is to do the several acts which constitute his duty. He should, when practicable, be lodged in the prison or under close supervision, from the Saturday preceding the Monday of execution, so as to obviate the chance of his being tampered with by the friends of the prisoner.

Early on the morning of execution, the executioner should try the apparatus and rope to ascertain that all is in good working order. The drop, &c. should then be locked up until the return of the executioner with the convict, the key being kept by the chief warder.

No description is here given of the gallows and drop, as it is assumed that in most cases the colonial authorities understand how they should be constructed. If they have any doubt about the matter, working drawings will be supplied by the Secretary of State on application.

It should, however, be observed that the public executioner (with whose assistance this Memorandum has been compiled) attaches much importance to having a trap in two pieces dividing in the middle when the bolt is withdrawn, as by this arrangement the man falls quite straight down and his neck is more surely broken; whereas a single trap with hinges at the side or back gives the convict a direction in his fall which diminishes the jerk at the end, and is therefore less effective in breaking his neck. The public executioner considers it very important that the lever for letting down the trap-doors of the drop should be so placed that the executioner can get at it without losing sight of the convict, who otherwise might shift his position.

The rope should be strong, and should be well tested with weights much greater than those of any man who is likely to be hanged on it, and with a somewhat longer drop than the normal one of eight feet. The object of thus testing the rope is not only to prevent the possibility of those shocking accidents which sometimes occur at executions, but to take from the rope any kink or elasticity which it would have when new.

The ropes supplied for executions in this country by the authorities of Her Majesty's Gaol of Newgate have a smooth metal eye surrounded by two strands of rope—an arrangement which has many advantages.

All ropes should be kept dry and in good order, and in tropical climates they should not be used if they have been long in store without being severely tested afresh. Supplies of ropes with metal eyes can be obtained from Newgate through the Crown Agents.

Death by hanging with a long drop ought to result from dislocation of the neck, or nervous shock. A man of 10 stone and under requires a drop of 8 feet, a heavier man requires a slightly lesser drop in proportion to his weight over 10 stone. If the man's neck and shoulders are very hard and muscular he should have an extra foot or so beyond the normal drop of his weight.

Y 1834. 25.—11/80. W. P. 1137. E. & S.

Referred to in Judicial Letter to
India. No. 30, dated 4 Nov. 1880.

Personnel.

The governor of the prison, the surgeon, two or three principal warders, and the executioner should proceed to the condemned cell a few minutes before the execution, and the convict should be pinioned and his neck bared by the executioner. In this country a set of straps is used, which appears effective and can be quickly adjusted.

The chief object to be attained in pinioning the convict is to prevent his getting his hands up to his throat. Rapidity of adjustment is also an important object. The accompanying diagrams show a front and back view of the convict when pinioned, and also the pinioning apparatus itself; which will be supplied on application to the Secretary of State.

Diagram A.
Diagram B.

The procession to
the scaffold.

The chaplain.

The execution.

Diagram C.

Diagram D.

Diagram E.

The taking down
of the body.

When the convict is pinioned, and his neck bared, he should be at once conducted to the scaffold, the governor and surgeon preceding with the chief warder, two warders at the convict's side, and the executioner following with such force of warders as may be deemed requisite.

Where the convict professes the Christian religion, and the services of a chaplain of a suitable denomination are available, the chaplain should attend in the condemned cell, and his place in the procession is behind the governor and in front of the convict. In the discharge of his duties he will be guided by the rules and usages of the church to which he belongs.

On reaching the gallows the duty of the executioner is as follows:—

1. Place the convict *exactly* under the part of the beam to which the rope is attached.
2. Strap the convict's legs tightly (diagram annexed, marked C).
3. Put on the white linen cap (diagram annexed, marked D).
4. Put on the rope round the neck quite tight, the knot or metal eye being just in front of the angle of the jaw-bone on the left side, so as to run up behind the left ear when the man falls and receives the jerk. Care should be taken to adjust the rope as in the diagram annexed, marked E, the part to which the metal eye belongs being in the front of the throat. If the rope is adjusted the other way there will be less certainty of breaking the man's neck. The noose should be kept tight as adjusted by means of a stiff leather washer on the rope. The long front of the white cap should be free from the rope, hanging down in front.
5. Go *quickly* to the lever and let down the trap-doors.

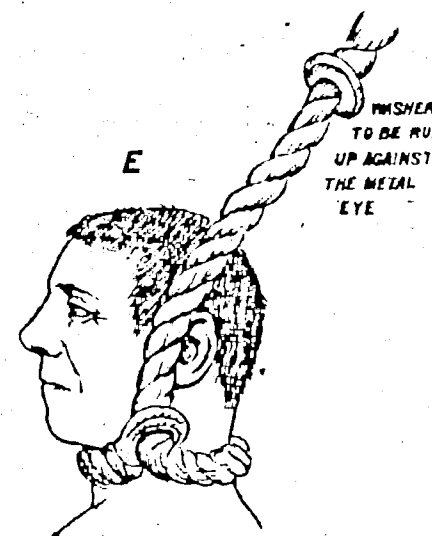
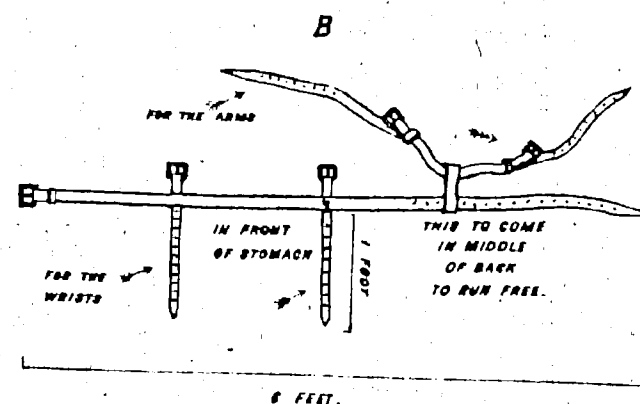
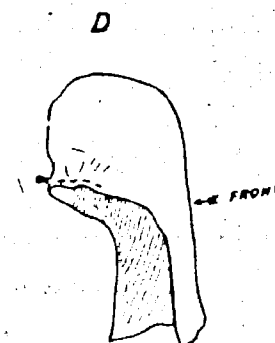
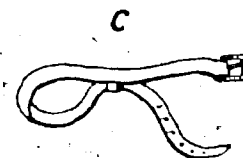
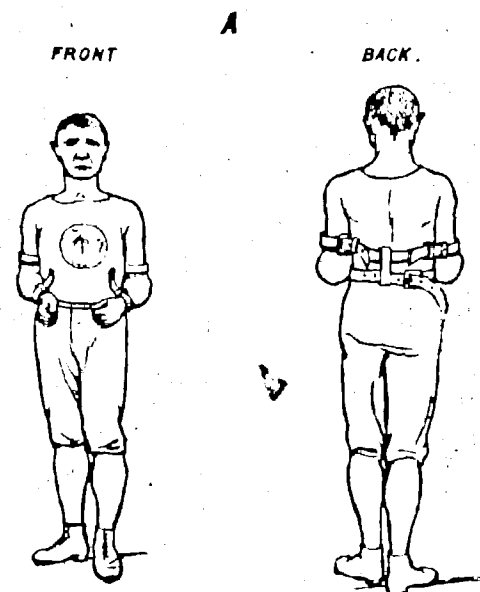
The convict should hang one hour, and before he is taken down the surgeon should, as a matter of form, satisfy himself that he is dead.

The best way of taking the body down is not to cut the rope, but to take the rope off the hook, and lift the body down; the rope should be removed from the neck, and also the straps from the body, when it is on the ground.

In laying out the body for the inquest, or other similar proceeding, the head should be raised three inches by putting a small piece of wood under it.

Downing Street,
June 1880.

DIAGRAMS.



5/217

28th Jan
Jail (1881) DEPARTMENT.
(Execution 1/21)

From

7th 16th 21st

No. $\frac{3}{71}$ (En: 1)
(75th copy of letter)

Dated 12

Recd. 18

Jan/51

No. 169

~~164~~
G.O. No. 217 dt 28.1.1881

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of
certain correspondence re-
garding the execution of
prisoners by hanging with
a long drop etc. -

Copy to the Supers: Genl:
of Jails who should
direct the adoption of
such improvements as
the memo may suggest.

24/1
28th Jan/51 No. 217
Long. (28th Jan/51 No. 217)
appears to be a copy of
execution in the letter of
25/1.

224/1
R 25/1
402-3

into order