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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Judicial* **DEPARTMENT.**G.O. No. 72Press
Mis.*Original*Dated 16th *January* 18 *94*.Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From C. J. LYALL, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Police), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, the 28th November 1893, No. 574—5-Police.

In certain recent instances the armed police employed in the suppression of riots in this country made use of blank ammunition in order to overawe the rioters. This, however, instead of producing the desired effect, stirred the mob into greater fury, the ultimate result being a considerable loss of life, as it became imperative to use ball or buckshot cartridge to a much larger extent than would have been necessary if the first volleys delivered had shown the people the real danger they incurred. A similar experience in dealing with rioters in Great Britain about 50 years ago led to the issue of imperative instructions that blank ammunition should never be used by troops

* *Vide* enclosed extract.

in aid of the Civil power; and in the Queen's Regulations, 1892, section VIII, paragraphs * 62—68, very stringent orders are given regarding firing. According to these orders the Commanding Officer is not to give the word of command to fire unless distinctly required to do so by the Magistrate, nor until, in conjunction with the Magistrate, he has explained to the people that if the troops are ordered to fire "their fire will be effective." He is further responsible that no firing takes place except by his executive word of command, that the effect of the fire of one or two files or a section of not more than five files should first be tried, and that firing should cease "the instant it is no longer necessary."

2. In inviting the attention of the Governor in Council to the matter, I am to say that the Government of India consider it desirable that the firing of blank cartridge by the police on the occasion of riots should be forbidden.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT, paragraphs 62 to 68, section VIII (Duties in aid of the Civil power), Queen's Regulations, 1892.

Paragraph 62.—When the detachment is under 20 files, it will be told off into four sections. If there should be more than 20 files, the detachment will be told off into more sections than four.

Paragraph 63.—All commands to the troops are to be given by the officer. The troops are not, on any account, to fire excepting by word of command of their officer, who is to exercise a humane discretion respecting the extent of the line of fire, and is not to give the word of command to fire, unless distinctly required to do so by the Magistrate.

Paragraph 64.—In order to guard against all misunderstanding, Officers Commanding troops or detachments are, on every occasion when employed in the suppression of riots or enforcement of the law, to take the most effectual means, in conjunction with the Magistrates under whose orders they may be placed, for explaining beforehand to the people opposed to them that, in the event of the troops being ordered to fire, their fire will be effective.

Paragraph 65.—If the Commanding Officer should be of opinion that a slight effort would suffice to attain the object, he is to give the word of command to one or two specified files to fire. If a greater effort should be required, he is to give the word of command to one of the sections, told off as above ordered, to fire; the fire of the other sections being kept in reserve till necessary, and, when required, the fire of each of them being given by the regular word of command of the Commanding Officer.

Paragraph 66.—If there should be more officers than one with the detachment, and it should be necessary for more sections than one to fire at a time, the Commanding Officer will fix, and

clearly indicate to the troops, what officer is to order any number of the sections to fire:—such officer is to receive his directions from the Commanding Officer, after the latter shall have received the requisition of the Magistrate to fire. No person, except the officer indicated by the Commanding Officer, is to give orders to any file or section to fire.

Paragraph 67.—The firing is to cease the instant it is no longer necessary, whether the Magistrate may order the cessation or not. Care is to be taken not to fire upon persons separated from the crowd. It is to be observed that to fire over the heads of a crowd engaged in an illegal pursuit would have the effect of favouring the most daring and the guilty, and might have the effect of sacrificing the less daring and even the innocent.

Paragraph 68.—If firing should unfortunately be necessary and should be ordered by the Magistrate, officers and soldiers must feel that they have a serious duty to perform; and they must perform it with coolness and steadiness and in such manner as to be able to discontinue their fire the instant it shall be found no longer necessary.

Telegram from the Government of India, Home Department, dated 16th December 1893.

From C. J. LYALL, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Police), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 20th December 1893, No. 634—6-Police.

In continuation of the telegram from this office, No. 619—27, dated the 16th instant, regarding the question of the firing of blank cartridge by the police on the occasion of riots, I am directed to say that the circular of this department, No. 5, Police—574—75 and 577—83, dated the 28th November 1893, does not preclude the Local Governments and Administrations from expressing their opinions fully on the subject, and I am accordingly to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be moved to favour the Government of India with his opinion in the matter.

2. When police are required to suppress a riot, they may be under the control of a Magistrate or of a District or Assistant District Superintendent of Police, or they may be under the command of a Subordinate Police officer. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council would be glad if His Excellency the Governor in Council would consider whether, having regard to the quality of the officers and the temper of the people, it is in all these cases desirable to fire at first with ball or buck-shot, or whether in all or any of them it would be better to fire one round of blank cartridge with a view to warning the rioters of the danger they incur; or finally, whether it would be advantageous to allow a discretion to the Officer in Command as to whether the first fire delivered should be effective or by way of warning.

ORDER—dated 16th January 1894, No. 72, Judicial.

Communicated to all District Magistrates, the Inspector-General of Police, and the Commissioner of Police, Madras, for favour of very early remarks.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To all District Magistrates.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" the Commissioner of Police, Madras.

Govt. of {1894} Madras.
JUDICIAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 16th January 1894, No. 72.

JANUARY.

Firing of blank cartridge by the
Police on the occasion of riots.

Communicating to all District Magistrates, the
Inspector-General and Commissioner of Police,
for early remarks, letter from the Government
of India regarding the question of the —.

5636

5-

57c

Monthly Local 120

Class. X S INDIAN TELEGRAPH

To Madras ~~Calcutta~~ ~~Calcutta~~

From Station

Words. Day. Hour. Minute. Original. Retraction.

101/16 17 37 West

To (Person) From (Person)

Madras Home

Number 619 Police my
Circular number 5 Police
upon 57th dated 28th
November use of blank
cartridge the intention of
the Governor General in
Council was to invite opinion
of local Governments
as to the propriety
of issue of order to
the police prohibiting
the use of blank cartridges
as the wording of paragraph

14

Recd. from L. N.

At Hrs. Mts. By

Date

Postmaster

Govt. of {1894} Madras.

T-14

Class.		INDIAN TELEGRAPH			
To		From		4	
Station		Station			
Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	OFFICIAL	INSTRUCTION.
To (Person)				From (Person)	

(2)

2 May suggest different
meaning please defer issue
of orders to police and
recall any orders to police
that may have been
given in consequence of
Circular Government of
India. Expresses views
of local Government
on question further letter
follows.

REC'D. FROM		L. N.		SENT TO		L. N.	
At	Hrs.	Mts.	By	At	Hrs.	Mts.	By
Date							

Govt. of {1894} Madras.

Judicial Department

5636

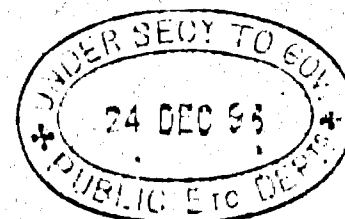
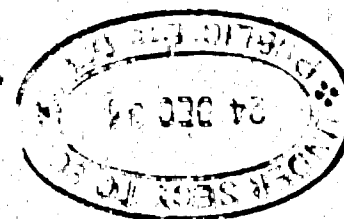
5

From the Govt. of India
Home Department

1860/1861.
634

Dated 20
Recd 24
Recd 28 } Dec/93

7



Regarding the question
of the firing of blank
cartridge by the Police
on the occasion of riots.

R 2/11
hs 28/11

The Military Dept.
All Magistrates.
The Dy. of Police, Madras.
Copy to the Dy. of Police.

Notes for Office
Distribute in accordance
with recent scheme to
Taluk officers also.

order
P.P.
19-12-93
The foregoing letter from the Govt. of India
will be comd. to the Military Dept., all
Magistrates; the Inspector General of Police, & the
Commissioner of Police, Madras, for info
& guidance
13/12/93

6' 5238
Judicial/1893/District

From the Govt of India
Home Dept

Dated 28 Nov }
Recd 3 Dec } 1893
Recd 4 Dec }

1 Enclor: Hb of
of letter of the

Considering it desirable
that the firing of blank car-
tridge by the police on the
occasion of riots should
be forbidden.

R 4/12
No 5/12

100

[G]
9
5,000-14-7-03.

6-
Current No. 5441A
Judicial DEPARTMENT.

Telegram No 5238
+ 5636/93.
From Govt of India
Home Dept

No.
Dated 18. 12. 93.
Received 18. 12. 93
Enclosures —

SUBJECT.
Re the ^{Question of the} firing of blank
Cartridge by the Police.

1272-16-1-94

[3/4]

T. 1 8

A
A
A

Rec'd C No 5238-5411.2.7
5638

Rec'd
[scribbles]

Office
Stop issue of the order.

Car - 5238/93 retained by
continuity on return from circ. 18 Dec.
to the Circ Clerk. 8/11.

Please let me have the 5238 retained
along with this.

1/12
[scribbles]
Jesse Cal. etc.
[scribbles]

[6/11]

Judicial DEPARTMENT. 8

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No. 5238 of 1893, dated 17 Nov from the Govt: of India, Home A

5441A

16 Dec

do

A

Current No 5636 of 1893, dated 20 from do A

ORDER. 16 Jan 94 A 72

PS.

I presume the endorsement on the first letter from India which I initialed on 19/12/93 has not yet issued - If not, it must be held back - If it has, order it to be held in abeyance for the present.

17/1/94

Com? to the Military Department all district magistrates, the Secy of Police & the Comd of Police. Madras for favor of early remarks.

10 Jan

I think we must ask D. W. S. their opinion also

The two officers named seem enough.

The Military Dept.

all district magistrates

all district magistrates

The Secy of Police. Madras

Comd of Police. Madras

(S.C.)

Desp

26/1/94

[^G₃₅]

Rs 27 16-12/4
Rs 72

Rs 26/4/84

The Collectors of

The District Magistrates of

Anantapur.	8
North Arcot, Chittoor.	8
South Arcot, Cuddalore.	8
Bellary.	8
South Canara, Mangalore.	8
Chingleput, Saidapet.	8
Chimbatore.	8
Cuddapah.	8
Ganjam, Chatrapur.	8
Glavari, Cocanada.	8
Kistna, Masulipatam.	8
Kurnool.	8
Madras (when necessary).	
Madura.	8
Malabar, Calicut.	12
Nilgiris, Ootacamund.	8
Nellore.	8
Salem.	8
Tanjore.	8
Tirnevelly.	8
Trichinopoly.	8
Vizagapatam.	8

1041/2 ✓
3-5-74 2494 1490 175
3899/54 1978
17-8-94

5233 12-1-12
5241 12-1-12
5255 12-1-12

230

17/10/03

28/9/11 ✓

1-10-16

7-2-2 ✓

ORDINARY, PRINTED.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 16-1-94
No. 72

INDEXED.

First copy sent to Press. 16-1-94

Returned for signature. 25/1

Despatched in print. 26/1

[Despatch Abstract.]

Form of Blank copy
bridge by the Police on
the occasion of riot.

Copy to all District
Magistrates, the Super-
intendent of
Police, & Commandant of
Police, letters from
the Govt of India
regarding the ques-
tion of the