

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 722

Dated 18/10/98

Despatched

[Despatch Abstract.]

Suppression of Plague at Guntakal Village.

Submitting to Govt. a copy of the Plague
Commr's. Inspection Notes drawn up for the pur-
pose of _____

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Note for information of Government

Left Maiderⁿ Friday Evening 1866

Gunthal Junction Salur day morning
I went at once with C^t King, W Macleod,
J^t Robertson & student Prall [Commanding Co.
1000 sappers at work in the village] to Gunthal
Village. This lies about 3 miles South
of the Junction. - We returned about one

This tour shows the advantage
of personal inspection &c
by the D. C.

(2). A. J. A.
27-11-98

(22) H.W.
21-11-58

Geo.
(No.) A.S.H.
22-11-98

I attach a sketch map of the village. The blue pencil shows the locality in the Fort where the plague first broke out & the red pencil shows the Muhammadan Quarters where plague recently attacked three houses.

The Village contains about 5000 people with excellent rice land round it. There are about 400 houses inside the Fort which is surrounded by a thick high wall. There are about 100 Muhammadan houses in the village. The village is densely populated & very dirty.

When plague first broke out in Tumman Quetta 7 weeks ago Dr. Richardson inoculated several people in Guntakhal & about 150 people. Unfortunately two inoculated persons died of plague & a third has plague now badly in the Government Hospital at the Railway Junction & tho' he has made a great fight just to Dr. do not think he will live. In view of the case, I think Dr. said that the plague attacked the patient within a few days of inoculation - but in one case certainly the inoculation failed to give immunity - the patient having

inoculation.

The return up to date for Guntakhal shows forty three attacks, 30 Hindus & 13 Muhammadans. Out of these twelve were found dead in the village, eight were taken to the Government Camp - five were taken to the Hindu & Muhammadan Camps in the village & eight were found dead in the fields round the village.

On the 7th the next attack was reported when two girls were reported to have been attacked.

On 9th October. Plague was first reported from Guntakhal village, when two girls were ill. One died in the village & one was taken to the Govt. Camp. The house & neighboring houses were disinfected. Two more cases were reported on the 14th which were removed to the Govt. Camp. On 15th Oct. the village people were given permission to build their own camp. & they put up 4 sheds, two for Muhammadans & two for Hindus - in each case one was to be a hospital & one a contact camp. On the 18th Oct. a Komati was attacked & died. On 19th the Deputy Com. recommended that a hospital and be placed permanently in the village - The Com. stated that an Mr. Samlany Esq. had been asked for & that that would be sufficient. On 21st three more persons were attacked & removed to the village plague camp. On 22nd two more persons were attacked & taken to the village camp. On 25th there was another fresh case at Guntakhal. an inoculated man who died on the 28th October in his field shed in which place had been removed by his relations. On the 3rd Nov. there were two more cases in the village, and a third suspicious case of death in a Muhammadan house.

was discovered and in this case great
objection was raised to any disinfecting
measures being taken. On 4th November
another Muhammadan family was attacked
& the two males moved into the Village Camp.
Since the 4th November several deaths have
been discovered among families who had
left the Village & were living about the fields.
Accumulated figures could not be obtained as
the few villages had scattered in all directions
& gone off some of them to the fields of the
Village at a distance.

The C.M. had visited the Village on the 26th
October, but after that date had not been
able to go to the Village owing to his having been
detained at Kundapur in connection with
the Taki murder there.

I ordered the Saffers who were working at
Chippayin in Bellary & has done excellent
work there to go to Guntakal & they came
to the Village on the 24th October. They are
a hundred strong all Hindus & work
extremely methodically & well.

From the 20th October onwards people in
broke the Fort left the Village in fear of plague
and this said now that 350 houses in
the Fort out of about 400 have been vacated.

The Saffers have cleaned out 78 houses
in the Village - that is the whole block which
was set apart for disinfection with four
Muhammadan houses outside the Fort.

They are now continuing work on the
deserted houses in the Fort. The Deputy
C.M. takes out & makes a list of all
impure food in the houses & values what is destroyed.

The Saffers have been cleared
out a dead rat was found in the tent &
a special camp has been made for the
Saffers, with the Headman of the Village who
also declines to live any longer inside
the Village.

The Hindu Camp contains about 9
inspected & three patients. They seem to
be neglected by their relatives & live there
in a bad way - one, however, Dr. Rhetra
Cruickshank would recover. They have no
medicines and have been to camp in
only a shed with 5 beds. The water
and sweeper apparently bring food to
the patients who are practically not looked
after.

The Muhammadan Camp contains two
children & one grown up man, all
suffering badly. There was also one woman
whom we could not allow to see. She
was said to be looking after a sick child
whom also we could not see.

The Muhammadans were paying
more attention to their patients than were
the Hindus & doing what they could for
them with the help of an old Hakim who
was most anxious to do all we wished
and did all he could to persuade his
Coralayomis to fall in with our views.

The result of the Establishment of the
two small Camps has been that the
Villagers here no longer look upon our
Camp as places where we poison
patients. They all admitted that it
was all the same whether they took to
the Fort Camp or their own, ^{almost} they all died.

the only moral they could draw was that
after all it was better to stay in the house
and die there. "Why all this trouble?"

On returning to the village from the
Camps, I had a long interview with
the Muhammadans & by threats &
persuasion I at last got them people to
leave the 4 houses which had been infected
& to destroy them thoroughly by
burning. The gohar woman had been
moved from house to house as the
disease was spreading, but it was all done
thoroughly.

As to the future I considered that it was
very necessary to take more energetic
measures to meet the case than had been
done up to date. Mr. Macleod & I certainly
have sent 4 ambulances etc. here. He
apparently thought the job Camp was close
enough. But this is about 2 1/2 miles away
& too far for the villagers. Dr. Robertson who
is an excellent officer & has done all he
can, has been only able to visit the village
once a day with the 4 people have
been left too much to their selves.
After thinking over the matter I left
Mr. Macleod the following order -

Encl. (see)

Out of 45 attacked only 9
remain alive now & out of these
nine probably six will die.

(Incl. 10) A. 2. 11

The village is now so empty &
apparently plague has ceased among
the villagers who have left the village
& Camps etc, there is reason to hope
that no further cases will occur. In
any case if they do occur there will
now be medical assistance always
ready to be sent. I leave it to
that Dr. Charlesworth is an excellent
medical man - who gets on well with
the people and is most attentive to his
patients. I look for good results in the
future

the morning I arrived
at Juntahal.

The village is so empty

The only further notes I need refer to
are the following -

(A) It was amusing to find the Chippagiri
villagers had arrived at Juntahal with
their god - whom they left at the confines
of the village, refusing that the god had
been much active in putting down plague
in this village - a testimony to the power of
his prayers -

(B) In Timmancherla I found the
villagers extremely happy in their camp.
& anxious to go back to their village within
a week's day. They agreed to the 26th November
as the best day for the & I wanted them
that on that day the tent would be
striken & they must clear out of the
camp. I arranged to pay them about
Rs 100 for damages done to their walls
& roofs in this village. In 80 houses
we employed there.

(C) The Juntahal job Camp was in
very good order & all the inmates were
expanding themselves a perfectly content
to be there. All the patients were doing well
except one - an inoculated man whom
he made a good fight of. I have referred
above.

(D) There were three bales of petitions
when I arrived on Sunday,
one about a house that was burnt in
Timmancherla & compensation paid was
alleged to be insufficient, one about
a house the house close to Juntahal
which was burnt & compensation
had not been paid, and one about

Certain property belongs in fundakal.
 All these petitions were referred in person
 to Mr. Macleod who was directed to
 make personal enquiries into the
 petitions & settle them as
 soon as possible.

(2.) Enay ask for information
 that received from Mr. Bakkar &
 d. o. the morning saying that owing
 apparently to one of his plays 'Inselat'
 having been preaching in vocalation
 & urging people to subscribe to help
 to put up segregation huts, Mr.
 Peth, Elliot, his family officer
 finds the villagers in Punganus on
 the frontier with ask let him into
 their villages & are opposing his
 inspections thinking him to be an
 innovator. They told him that
 the sight of him would kill
 their women & children."

H
 1st 4 90



