

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED

G.O., No. 670

Dated 17-5-88
Dep No. 3431-S-88

[Despatch Abstract.]

The late Mr H. T. Ross, D.C.S.

Commencing to the A.D. letter from
the St. Augustine, the - Valeris,
reporting the death at Gotaca-
mund on the 14th May 1888 of Mr
H. T. Ross, D.C.S., and informing the
Secy of State of the occurrence, by
telegraph

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS..

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

Government {1898} of Madras. PUBLIC.

Recd. } *Enclosures*
Regd. } 1898. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 670, 17th May 1898.

MAY. ;

The late Mr. H. T. Ross, I. C. S.

Communicating to the Account nt-General letter from the District Magistrate, the Nilgiris, reporting the death at Ootacamund on the 14th May 1898 of Mr. H. T. Ross, I.C.S., and informing the Secretary of State of the occurrence by telegraph.

No. 670, Public, 17th May 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From D. W. G. COWIE, Esq., Ag. District Magistrate and Collector of the Nilgiris, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Ootacamund, 14th May 1898.

I have the honour to report for the information of the Government the death of the Hon'ble Mr. H. T. Ross, Indian Civil Service, which took place this morning at his residence, "Westward Ho," Ootacamund.

2. Mr. Ross' death was reported to me and I held an inquest this afternoon. The verdict found is to the effect that Mr. Ross committed suicide while in a state of temporary insanity.

3. I have the honor to enclose (in original) the Inquest Report and the statements of the witnesses.

ORDER—No. 670, Public, dated 17th May 1898.

Communicated to the Accountant-General.

2. The following telegram and letter will be despatched to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India:—

We regret to report that Ross, Madras Civil Service, committed suicide, Ootacamund, 14th May. Please inform Mrs. Ross, Ferndale House, Rugby. Full information by letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General.

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

PUBLIC (1898) DEPARTMENT.

Letter to the Right Honourable the
Secretary of State for India.

Dated 31st May

No. 3 of 1898.

Reporting the death at Ootacamund on the 14th May 1898 of Mr. Henry Thomas Ross
of the Indian Civil Service.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—to

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY LORD,

In continuation of our telegram* of the 17th instant, we regret to have to

* We regret to report that Ross, Madras Civil Service, committed suicide, Ootacamund, 14th May. Please inform Mrs. Ross, Ferndale House, Rugby. Full information by letter.

report the death at Ootacamund, on the 14th instant, of Mr. Henry Thomas Ross of the Indian Civil Service.

2. The inquest report submitted by the District Magistrate of the Nilgiris shows that Mr. Ross committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver while in a state of temporary insanity.

3. We enclose for your information and for favour of communication to Mrs. Ross, who resides at Ferndale House, Rugby, copies of the papers which have reached us on the subject.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK.

(" H. W. BLISS.

(") J. GROSE.

OOTACAMUND,
31st May 1898.

APPENDIX.

DEPOSITIONS RECORDED AT THE INQUEST HELD ON THE BODY OF THE HONOURABLE
MR. H. T. ROSS, INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

Kannan.—Son of Kunhi Kutti. I am Mr. Ross' butler. I was told to get my master's tea at 6-30 this morning. He wanted 2 horses, 'Gold' and 'Trooper.' I made cocoa and knocked. I opened door and called him. I went near and found him. I found by the bed that rifle, small one. His mouth and eyes were open, his face was a little different, his hands were tight before him; there was a little red mark on his chest. His arms were like this. I called him 'Sir, Sir,' and he did not give answer. I touched him. I was frightened and found the small rifle on the bed. I went and called Jimmy, the riding boy. He came and looked and said 'Master like dead.' I went and told the hotel nurse and afterwards the hotel lady came. A quarter of an hour later Capt. Arbuthnot came. I had been more than 15 years with Mr. Ross. He got a letter last night at 7-30 p.m. from the Government Office. The revolver belonged to my master; the cartridges too. I took some cartridges out of the room yesterday. I took a box. I also took a short knife and razors, big scissors and all sharp things. Master took the cartridges before I took the others. It was 9 p.m. when I took them. Master was then in the dining room.

Taken down by me.

D. W. G. COWIE,

Acting District Magistrate.

14th May 1898.

Winthrop Benjamin Browning, Surgeon-Major, I.M.D.—At Captain Arbuthnot's suggestion last evening I went to Smith's, the Chemist, and ordered Mr. Ross two doses of sleeping draught. Captain Arbuthnot told me that Mr. Ross had written to me that evening. I wrote to Mr. Ross sending him the medicine saying I would call and see him in the morning. His letter to me merely said that he had been suffering from sleeplessness and his head, and asked me to see him the following morning. This morning I received a note from Captain Arbuthnot to say that Mr. Ross had shot himself and I came across at once. In his sitting room his papers were in order. There were some unopened letters on the table. The Government Order now on the table had been taken out of the cover. This was an order convening a Medical Board to sit on him. There were other papers on the table, one to Spencer's ordering some liquor for dinner to-day; a list of horses and things that he had for sale; some pencil queries as to when leave would commence which he had evidently sent to his office. In his bed room nothing was displaced. The body was covered with a sheet. This had, I think, been done by Captain Arbuthnot and the Police officer. The abdomen was warm, bladder empty; the chamberpot in his bathroom was full of urine. Over the apex of the heart there was a mark of entrance of a bullet wound: a little discoloration of gunpowder: some clotted blood (a small quantity) on his chest, in and about the wound. I turned him over and found the wound of exit an inch and a half from the wound. I turned him over and found the point of entrance, i.e., on the same level. There was a hole in the bedding corresponding with this latter opening, and looking underneath the bed the tape of the bed was seen to project downwards. I could not find any bullet on the floor, so we lifted up the mattress and found the bullet adhering to the cottonwool and the edge of the opening on the under surface of the mattress. The cartridge case and bullet are here. From the state of flaccidity of the body, the warmth of the abdomen, and the empty bladder, I consider it probable that death occurred about 4-30 or 5 this morning. He probably got up and passed urine and shot himself in bed lying down. I am of opinion that the wound was self-inflicted. He had not consulted me this year. He complained of restlessness being before he received the Government Order. He had, I believe, been complaining for some days. We found the bottle of medicine I had ordered on his table; he had taken one draught.

Captain G. H. Arbuthnot.—Mr. Ross has appeared to be in a very unsettled state of mind for the last two or three weeks: apparently in anxiety about the Bill that he had to introduce into Council. He continually said that he would not be able to do so: and when some days back he told me that the Government of India had refused to sanction any extra expenditure on account of his appointment, he seemed to me childishly pleased that he might be able to get out of appearing in Council. Yesterday at breakfast I said 'What time are you going to Council?' He replied in a petulant manner 'I am not going at all. I have just written Grose my ultimatum'. After breakfast I remonstrated with him alone, asking him whether he realized the whole position. He said Government would be quite prepared for the action he had taken and somebody else would bring in the Bill. I talked with him for some time and then ordered my trap with the intention of trying to catch Mr. Crole at Mr. Stuart's house before he left for Council. I met him driving on the road and stopped his carriage, apologized for troubling him and gave him particulars as to Mr. Ross' state. I told him that Mr. Ross had said to me that even if he went to the Council he would not be able to remember a single point in his Bill which he had been working at for two years. In my conversation with Mr. Ross after breakfast he had said that he was alarmed at the failure of his brain and that he was becoming in the same state that he was in two years ago and that his only chance was to get away. Last night I dined out and returned about 11-15. There was a light in Mrs. Napier's sitting room adjoining Mr. Ross' office room and a dim light in his bed room. I came in front of the windows twice to see if I could hear if any one was talking. All seemed quiet and so I did not attempt to see Ross as I had intended to do if I had found him up. As I was dressing this morning at 7 A.M., I was summoned by Mrs. Napier's servant in an excited way saying that something was the matter with Mr. Ross. I put on a coat hurriedly and met Mrs. Burnett and Mrs. Napier outside. They told me that Ross had shot himself. Mrs. Burnett told me that he was undoubtedly dead, so I sat down at once and wrote letters to Dr. Browning and Mr. David. I went and assured myself that Mr. Ross was dead before sending the letters. His body was warm all over. After Mr. David's arrival I assisted in straightening the body and we both examined the revolver which lay by his left knee. We found five loaded cartridges and one empty case in the revolver, the barrel of which was fouled. That is all I think I have to say. I last saw him alive about 4-30 P.M. yesterday. I only saw him through the window and asked him if he was going out for his ride, which he said he was. When he said he was afraid he was getting in the same state that he was in two years ago, he mentioned the Pittapur case and said that he presumed that the reason of his present mental state was that he had been working continually at the same subject for a prolonged period as in the Pittapur case when he sat from 11 to 5 every day for six months. He had every intention of having his birthday dinner party to-night. I made a point of finding Dr. Browning and telling him that Mr. Ross had written to him. I suggested that he should be sent some sedative as I felt very anxious about his state. I don't think there was anything to bother him except the Bill. He took a gloomy view of things generally. He suffered constantly from fits of depression. He told me he had applied for leave and I know that he telegraphed for a passage as here is the telegram he sent. I conveyed with him for about three-quarters of an hour between 2-30 and 3-30 P.M., when he spoke a good deal about getting rid of his horses, property, &c. He said the same time read me out a list of his life insurances from this book. He said he could not afford to pay all these premia and suggested that the purchase of a certain one would be a good speculation for myself or anybody else. I advised him not to trouble himself about these matters but to merely get rid of his horses, carriages, &c. At the moment I was called this morning I was talking to my wife. She told me that they had taken away his razors, &c.

Taken down by me.

D. W. G. COWIE,
Adj. District Magistrate.

14th May 1898.

MADRAS POLICE.
THE NILGIRI DISTRICT.
Ootacamund Division, Ootacamund Station.

INQUEST REPORT

On the body of a person found dead at Ootacamund on the 14th May 1898.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1. Deceased's name, sex, age, caste, calling; father's name and residence.	Henry Thomas Ross, 50, Indian Civil Service.
2. By whom first found dead and when.	By his servant Kannan at 6-30 A.M. on 14th May 1898.
3. By whom last seen alive, where and when, and in whose company.	By the same.
4. Height, colour and descriptive marks.	6 ft. 3 in. (height).
5. Married or single; if a female was she the only wife?	Married.
6. State of corpse: if any wounds, particulars thereof and list of all property found on the corpse.	Found lying in bed with a bullet wound through the heart.
7. Minute description of exact spot where corpse was found; if water, depth thereof.	In his bedroom at "Westward Ho."
(a) Is the well public or private property? If the latter to whom does it belong?	
(b) Is it near a public road or pathway?	
(c) Has it a parapet wall and float?	
8. By what relatives body is recognized, and their statement shortly given;—blood relatives always to be examined, if there are any.	
8½. Abstract of evidence of other persons examined.	(1).—Kannan, the deceased's butler, last saw him alive on the night of the 13th instant and was directed to call him this morning. Called him and found him dead. (2).—Surgeon-Major Browning was called in this morning and found the deceased dead in his bed with a bullet wound through his heart. The bullet was found beneath the mattress. Is of opinion that the wound was self-inflicted. (3).—Captain Arbuthnot, H. E. the Governor's Body Guard, is living at "Westward Ho", was called in this morning and found the deceased dead in his bed, found a revolver of which one chamber had been discharged lying on the bed. States that the deceased was subject to fits of depression and had for some time been very much disturbed in his mind.

(189) Department.

D. O No.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
9. Apparent cause of death.	A bullet wound through the heart.
10. If by violence apparently by what weapon?	A revolver.
11. If any persons are suspected, who, and why?	None. The wound appears to have been self-inflicted.
12. If corpse is not sent for medical examination, why?	It was examined by Surgeon-Major Browning.
13. If corpse is sent, for what purpose and by whose order, and No. of Constable who went with it?	
14. By whose orders corpse was buried.	The District Magistrate's.
15. Verdict.	Suicide while in a state of temporary insanity.
16. Names, caste, calling and residence of persons composing inquest.	1. Major F. Romilly. 2. Colin A. Mackenzie, Esq. 3. Mr. D. Stephens.
17. Signatures.	F. Romilly, Major. C. A. Mackenzie. D. Stephens.
18. District Magistrate's signature.	D. W. G. Cowie.
19. If name and residence of deceased be unknown, state what steps have been taken to ascertain the same and secure identification. To what Stations have proclamations been sent.	

D. O.

From

D. W. G. Cowie & Co.

No.

Dated 14 May 1890

Received 14 " " "

Registered 17 " " "

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Re Mr. Ross's death

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Nilgiri Collector's Office.
Ootacamund, May 12th. 1898.

M.A. 598

Dear Mr. Arundel,

I send into this
the official report of Mr.
Smith. I have written it
myself & send it in
rather an irregular form
but I have done this
as I think Government
will wish to be in
possession of all particulars

as soon as possible.

In case you do not
know Mrs. Ross' address -
it is "Fernside House,
Rugby." Arrangements have
already been made for the funeral
to take place at 10¹⁵ A.M.
tomorrow at St. Thomas'

Church. You will,
own love.

[$\frac{a.}{9}$]

1,000-10-2-97.

(1898) Department.

D. O. No.

D. O.

From
D. W. C. Conie & J. C. S.

No.

Dated 14 May 1898

Received 17

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Re Mr. Ross's death.

G. O.	No.	Department.	Date

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

Notacapsa ~~SECRET~~ 14th 1988

SECRET
17 MAY 1993
GOVERNMENT OF MACRAC

Dear Mr. Brandel.

The undertaker the
 agent told the person
 on the 1st Nov committed
 suicide while in a state
 of temporary insanity.

of Temperance
I am sending the
important report & endorse
it as an official report.

John and Mary,
Do-2 Co. i.

Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No.

From

St. Mary's
Hilgus

No.

Order

Dated 14. 5. 98

Received } 17. 5. 98
Registered }

Enclosures 2

Spare copies. -

SUBJECT.

Regarding the death of
the Hon Mr A. J. Ross
Esq.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Note This follows the
precedent in Mr.
Levy's case
Cent

Public Dept.

CS

Notification
Casualty

Mr. Henry Thomas
Ross, I.C.S. died at
Ootacamund on the
14th May 1898.

Curb.
17.5.98.

17.5.98.

[Signature]

Gazette 27/5/98

For the Editor
of the

to the Editor



O. S. S. S. S.
25th May 1898.

My dear Cousin,

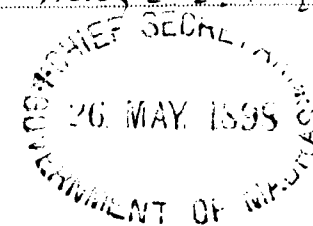
I enclose a proof of the Inquest
reports forwarded with your letter of
the 14th instant together with the
originals of the same. There is one
passage which cannot be made out.
Will you please look through the
proof ~~and~~ correct it where necessary
and return to me as early as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) J. J. Arundel

J. W. G. Cousin Esq. D.C.S.

Nilgiri Collector's Office,
Ootacamund, May 26th 1898



Dear Mr. Arnold.

I have looked through
the proof of the document referred
sent from the your letter
of yesterday's date, have
corrected it and now
return it as the original.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Smith

C. No.

SUBJECT.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.
THE HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.
THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

St. Inglis report on
the death of the Hon. Mr. Ross.

FOR ORDERS.

(at home)

I have just received
this report & enclosures
from Mr. Cowie & circulate
it at once for the informⁿ
of His Ex. & H. Mos.
I propose to telegraph
to Sec. of S. for communication
to Mrs. Ross, whose address
I have obtained from
Mr. Cowie.

At 14.5.98
6.45 pm

The address is
Mrs. Ross
Ferndale House
Kugby.

... to be ...

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No. 1678

of 1898, dated 14 May from the Om. Milgins

" 189 , " " "
" 189 , " " "

ORDER : G.O. 1898

P.S. Communicated to the Accountant General.

2. The following telegram and letter will be despatched to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

[Kacivior]

(257). [Demigras] Ross [andabata] [milluinos] oota-camund [turriem] ~~shooting~~ ~~through heart~~. [Falsitas] Mrs Ross Ferndale House Rugby. [Objurato]

Cmb 17/5/98

1. We regret to report that
2. Madras Civil Service
3. committed suicide
4. 14th May.
5. Please inform.
6. Full (further) information by letter.

To The Accountant General (A.C.)

Gazette (para 1)

S Submit Draft with precedent in Mr. Levy's case

* Here enter telegram unmodified

Letter. No 3 of 31.5.98.

To The Rt Honble the Secy of State for India

Sir, In continuation of the telegram

to report the death at Ootacamund,
on the 12th instant, of Mr. ~~the~~ Henry Thomas
Ross of the Indian Civil Service,
~~an officer who had been~~
^{employed} on special duty in con-
nection with the Tenancy
rules of the Madras Presidency,
a subject which is now
under the consideration of
our Government.

FROM ORDERS.

Unnecessary?

Cm's

C. S.

2. The inquest report sub-
mitted by the District Magistrate of the Nilgiris
shows that Mr. Ross committed
suicide by shooting himself
~~through the heart~~ with a revolver
^{while state} in a fit of temporary insanity.

3. We enclose for your in-
formation and for favour of
communication to Mrs Ross
who resides at Fernside House,
Rugby, copies of the papers
which have reached us on
the subject.

Cm's.

17.5.98

Note

For precedent, please see
Despatch No 10 Public D, 2-11-94
regarding Mr. Levy's death in 1894.

Edm
17/5/98

ent to Press

r signature.

in print.

NUMBER OF COPIES
REQUIRED.

Order complete.

Letter only.

Order complete with Letter.