

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

No 7.

Saturday September 30, 1978

Re. 1

MAN SAW AT 1-30 A.M.!!

KANDASAMY THARMA-KULASINGHAM: Affirmed. 28 Years, labourer at the Power house, Jaffna.

Mr. Shanmugalingam: You are an employee of the Municipal Council?

A: I am a labourer at the power House, Jaffna.

Q: On 19th August, 1977 when you were on duty at the Power House Station did you hear a noise of any Armoured Car approaching Hospital Road? A: Yes.

I saw jeep and armoured car

Q: Did you look out? A: Yes I saw a jeep and more than two armoured cars stopping opposite the Power House Station at about 1. 30 a.m. on the night of the 18th 20th

Q: The officers got down from the vehicle and went in which direction?

A: They went in the direction of the City Bakery.

Q: What did they do to the City Bakery? A: They did go inside but I do not know how they got in.

A: At the time these officers went in was the City Bakery closed?

A: Yes.

Q: Were there lights inside Bakery before those people went in?

A: No

Brought biscuits and chocolates

Q: After they went in were the lights put on? A: Yes.

Q: Then did you see those officers coming out? A: Yes.

Q: Did they bring any thing when they came out?

A: Yes

Q: What did they bring out? A: Packets of biscuits and chocolates,

Q: What did they do with these things? A: They put them in the armoured car. Some of them ate the biscuits and chocolates outside.

Q: After they put these things into the armoured car did they go in the direction of any other shop?

A: At that moment I heard as if glasses were being broken in the City Bakery.

Q: Did they go to any other shop? A: They went into Ambal Cafe. They pulled the shutters open and went inside the Cafe.

Q: What did they do?

A: They switched on the lights. There was a radio on top of the almirah. They took it and placed it on the table.

Q: Thereafter what did they do? A: They brought out eatables from the cafe. They loaded something into the armoured car.

They opened soda bottles. They also brought a wall clock. They put that inside the jeep.

The armoured car number

Q: The City Bakery and the Ampal Cafe are situated side by side on Hospital Road? A: Yes.

Q: Were there aerated water bottles in City Bakery and Ampal Cafe? A: Yes.

Q: Did you hear bottles being broken in the City Bakery when they went inside? A: When they went inside City Bakery I heard the noise of bottles being broken.

Q: Do you remember the number of those vehicles?

A: The number of the armoured car is in Sinhalese. It signifies "Utha hamutha" meaning army and the number was 4357.

Q: Do you know the number of the other armoured car? A: No.

Q: The jeep number?

A: 31 Sri and the other consisted of three digits. The first number is "6" followed by two other numbers.

Q: After breaking into City Bakery and Ampal Cafe and taking the goods from those places did they go away? A: Yes.

Q: About an hour later did any other vehicle come there?

A: I heard the noise of the very same vehicle coming there.

Q: Then what happened there? A: I saw a jeep and a black large van.

Q: Where did those vehicles stop? A: Opposite the City Bakery?

Q: What happened?

A: The van and the jeep carried Navy personnel and also the proprietor of the City Bakery.

Q: Then what did they do?

A: They took the things from the City Bakery and loaded them into the large van.

'They took frig and fittings

Q: That is the refrigerator, fittings and all the stock in trade and loaded them into the van?

A: Yes, most of the things from the bakery were loaded in the van.

"On that occasion, they went into Ambal Cafe also. They brought things from Ambal Cafe and loaded into the van. After loading the goods, the van went away.

Commissioner: Q: So, you saw the Police, the Navy and the Army in this operation?

A: Not the police Sir. The Jeep and the armoured car belonged to the Army. On

the second occasion, when the Navy personnel came in the van, the armoured car belonging to the army arrived within about 2 or 3 minutes.

Examination: ctd.

Q: On the following day, did the police officers come to your office to record a statement from you?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you make a statement to them? That is what you have already stated to this Commission? A: Yes.

Q: Now we come to the following day; that is on the 20th. On the 20th night did you see any other incident?

A: Yes.

Q: Close to this Power House, is there a statue of Somasundera Pulavar?

A: Yes, 15 yards from the Power House.

Q: Somasundera Pulavar is one of the well known Jaffna Tamil Poets? A: Yes.

(Continued on page 7)



Sri Kathiresan Temple, Mawanella, allegedly attacked on the 19th August 1977, (See Page 3 for report)

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to relive it"

— Santayana - American philosopher 1863-1952

Ex-Fisheries Research officer testifies:- (7th day of sittings: 15th February 1978)

'MY BOSS SAID RACIAL RIOTS ARE LIKE FLOODS, YOU MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH THEM'

Mr. Bartlett: Sir, I am calling some witnesses who are affected public servants. Firstly I will call Mr. Satchithanandam.

Kanapathipillai, Satchithanandam, Affirmed, 36 years and residing at Chavakachcheri.

Q. You are presently residing at 213 K. K. S. Road Jaffna? A: That is my postal address. I reside at Chavakachcheri.

Q. You were one of those who was affected by the communal violence of August 1977? A. Yes.

Q. You were at that time living at No. 59/1, Edmonton Road, Kirilaponne? A. Yes.

Q: You had to vacate your residence due to thuggery and violence that was unleashed on the 20th and 21st of August, 1977? A: Yes.

Kirilaponne was badly affected

Q. Your home was heavily stoned and even the other homes of the Tamils were heavily stoned on the night of the 20th? A. They pelted stones and in fact threw a bomb on one of my neighbouring houses.

Q. Kirilaponne was a badly affected area during this period? A. Yes.

"Due to this fearing that I might be attacked, I moved my family to the refugee camp at Bambalapitiya. I was in the refugee camp for several days until I was able to find my way to Jaffna.

"I was holding the post of Research Officer in the Fisheries Department, Colombo in August, 1977. I am a graduate in Biology. I also did a post graduate degree in Marine Biology at the Madras University. In August, 1977 I was drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 1,200/-.

15 publications to my credit

Q. To your credit, you have a list of scientific publications which you have done on behalf of the Department of Fisheries? A. Yes.

Q. You mark as P1, a list containing 15 publications which you have done as Research Officer of the Fisheries Department? A. Yes.

"I was in the refugee camp for one week.

Q. There you and your wife heard stories about serious damages and injuries caused to the other people who were housed in that camp?

A: Yes. There were a large number of refugees in the camp and naturally we exchanged notes of what had happened.

Q. And consequently your wife had got a nervous breakdown? A. Mental depression.

"I have four children. They were also in the refugee camp. About two years ago, I obtained a loan from the Bank of Ceylon and put up the house at Edmonton Road.

I wrote to my Head of Dept.'

Q. Now you have totally abandoned the residence in Colombo for what reason?

A. I went to the camp and from there I came to Jaffna. After coming to Jaffna, I wrote to my head of Department and informed him about the nature of services I had rendered to the Department and in view of what I had suffered during the disturbances, I requested him to transfer me to Jaffna. My Head of Department replied me that as there were no facilities for research work in Jaffna, I could not be transferred to Jaffna.

My research was done in Mannar

Q. That statement is untrue because most of your research is done in the Gulf of Mannar, Bay of Bengal and Palk Strait?

A. I would call it an inappropriate reply because it is left to the research officer to decide his place of work entrusted to him. Therefore, I could have done research in Jaffna.

Q. You could have done your research work in Jaffna and as such you say it is an inappropriate reply?

A. Yes. The research I have done so far was confined to Jaffna, Mannar, Palk Straits. I did the research work while being in Jaffna.

Q. What are the reasons you give for not being willing to go and work in Colombo?

A. After I got the reply from the department I gave them time to reconsider the matter. In the meantime a colleague of mine met me in Jaffna and made me understand that they were looking for me. So much so to say that if I returned I would be assaulted. That friend of mine was a Muslim.

A colleague of mine who came to Jaffna on his way to India met me and told

me that his sister-in-law of an officer working in the Fisheries Department had been murdered at Madhu and that this officer with a gang of other officers had gone to my office in search of me. He said that had I been there at that time I would have been dealt with. This colleague of mine told me that my presence in office would be dangerous to my personal safety.

To Commissioner:

Q. Do you wish to go back and work in Colombo?

A. I do not want to go to a Sinhalese area.)

There was a fellow worker of mine Miss Coomaraswamy who was to be assaulted by the department officers and one Dr. Kulasingham had brought her back to Jaffna and she has sent medical certificates and is keeping back from work. She lives in fear.

'A fellow officer asked me: When are you getting your Tamil Eelam?'

In Mattakkuliya office there were 15 trainees who were assaulted by Sinhalese and they also have not gone back for work.

Q. Was there hostility towards Tamil public servants in your department?

A. Yes. In my opinion Sinhalese officers do not like Tamil officers working in Sinhalese areas. I produce marked PIA letter dated 11.10.77 sent to me in Sinhalese with its translation. I was informed... (Reads PIA)

'I asked to be retired'

Q. You emphasise that on 11.10.77 you received an intimation that the situation is normal and that you should report for work immediately?

A. Yes.

Q. You state that they had no consideration for what you had gone through but wanted you to report for work immediately—you say that it is callous disregard?

A. Without any consideration for what I underwent and without holding an inquiry they have asked me to come and work.

I replied that letter stating that I cannot come to Colombo and work in view that they are not willing to give me a transfer to Jaffna. At the time of this incident I had completed 10 years and 10 months in service and asked them to retire me on compassionate grounds.

Q. You have qualified for retirement—having completed 10 years service.

A. In order to qualify for pension an officer must put in 10 years service. I came under that category.

I did not want to retire on medical grounds because if I did so it would be on false grounds. I wanted to go to Jaffna on transfer on compassionate grounds. If I retired on medical grounds I would not be saying the truth. The reply I got was that they could not accede to my request and that I could retire at the age of 55 years. I produce marked PIB the letter dated 1.11.77. Its translation is on the reverse of that letter.

(Counsel reads the translation)

Q. You thereafter went to Colombo and met the head of your department?

A. I had not received my salary for two months Oct/

Nov. 1977 and I went and represented the matter to my head of department.

Q. What did the head of your department tell you?

A. Before I went to the head of my department I went to the research office and met my other officers. One officer asked me sarcastically, "when are you getting your Tamil Eelam" I had six assistants under me and one of these asked me so.

Q. He asked you that to humiliate you?

A. It was a humiliation not meant for me alone. It was meant for all Tamils.

Q. Thereafter what happened?

A. I took up the question of my transfer thereafter with the head of my department.

Boss said: Riots are like floods.

Q. What did he say?

A. The head of my department told me that communal riots is a phenomenon similar to floods. He also said, "So you have to get used to such phenomenon and you must learn to live in those circumstances."

Q. You are not prepared to live in such a state?

A. I now realise—Of course I cannot live in a situation like that. I now realise that Sinhalese officers are also of my view. What the Sinhalese officers want is for us to come this side to Jaffna.

Q. They want you to leave your jobs and get out? A. Yes.

Q. That is the attitude that prevails in the public service?

A. Generally speaking the majority of the public servants are of that view.

Q. In distress and disgust you have now sent in your resignation from the public service?

A. Yes. I sent a letter on 1st December stating that I was leaving my job. That letter is dated 30th November

That letter is marked PID (see later proceedings for marking).

When I got my letter of appointment in 1967 an agreement was reached between me and the department that in order to terminate my services I must resign or they should dismiss me. In these circumstances when they refused to give me a transfer and they having not dismissed me, I thought I was compelled to resign.

'I resigned under compulsion'

Mr. Bartlett: Q. They did not want you to retire?

A. I was not given my salary and I was not allowed to retire, and in those circumstances I had no alternative but to send in my resignation.

Q. You ask the Commission, if it has powers, to give you permission to retire, if it is within the powers of the Commission to permit you to retire?

(Continued next page)

MAWANELLA HINDU TEMPLE WAS BURNT & DESECRATED - PRIEST

COOMARASWAMY IYER THIYAGARAJAH SARMA:

Affirmed, Priest, Hindu Temple - Sri Kathiresan Temple, Mawanella

Q: You are the chief priest of the Sri Kathiresan Temple at Mawanella? A: Yes.

Q: How long have you been there as Chief Priest?

A: From 1961.

Q: Prior to that?

A: There were several other priests before me.

Q: Were they related to you? A: Yes

About 5,000 Hindus at Mawanella

Q: How many Hindus are there in the Mawanella area?

A: Including the Estate Tamils, about 5000.

Q: This Kathiresan Temple - do people who profess other religions come to this temple?

A: Majority who come to the temple are Buddhists.

Q: Were there any repairs done to this temple during your time as Chief Priest?

A: Yes. The whole temple was renovated in 1969.

Q: What was the cost of the renovation in 1969?

A: We renovated for a long time. The building is fairly old. In 1969 it was renovated.

Renovated at a cost of Rs 1 lakh

Q: How much was spent for the renovation?

A: About a lakh of rupees.

Q: That was in 1969?

A: Yes

Q: You are married?

A: Yes.

Q: You were living with your family in this temple?

A: Yes

Q: You have your quarters near this temple? A: Yes.

Q: Are there shops close to your temple? A: Yes.

Q: You have daily poojas and festivals? A: Yes.

Q: In 1958 you know there were communal riots - during that time was this temple affected?

A: I was not there; To my knowledge it does not appear to have been damaged.

Q: Can you tell this commission what happened during the last communal disturbances?

They damaged the idols too

A: On the 19th at about 12 noon - 19th August, a large number of people whom I could not identify came armed with iron rods and clubs and threatened to assault me. At that time my wife and others were not there. They had come to Jaffna.

'These people shouted saying, "The Buddhist Priests in Jaffna are being killed and the Hindu Priests should also be killed. They should not be allowed to live. I escaped the assault by running away. They threw stones at me. They said that all Hindu temples should be converted into Buddhist temples. They had damaged the idols.

The Vel - deity in the temple

Q: What had happened to the Holy of Holies?

A: The shop boutiques belonging to the temple were burnt. Then my quarters was also set on fire. They had gone inside the temple and damaged the idols and set fire to the temple. They had got on to the temple roof and damaged the idols.

Q: What had happened to the 'Mulasthanam'

A: They had broken open the door and removed all that were there.

Q: Who is allowed to enter the Holy of Holies?

A: Only the officiating priest.

Q: Even the most devout Hindu does not get into the Holy of Holies. A: Yes.

Q: What was the deity inside the Moolasthanam?

A: There was the Vel.

How do the people of that area call the Vel?

A: Kathiragama Deiyo.

You say that 90 per cent of the Buddhists come there to worship?

A: Yes, They destroyed the Holy of Holies.

Q: They destroyed the deity which was taken round during the festival? A: Yes.

Q: They destroyed the deity at the place where they broke the coconuts and burned camphor?

A: I understand that the Mawanella M. P., had taken two of those damaged items. They cannot be brought back to the temple unless some ceremonies are performed.

A: I estimate the damage to the temple and temple property as one lakh of Rupees and damage to my personal belongings as Rs. 15,000/-.

Q: This happened on the 19th. You would have been aware that there was trouble on the 16th August. Did you ask for Police protection before that?

A: I know that this trouble had commenced by the 15th.

A: I did give the names and addresses of prominent Hindus in the Town.

Examination by Mr. R. Balasubramaniam, ctd.

Q: What happened to them? A: I gave a list to the police to whom protection should be given and they were the first people who were attacked.

Q: You said this happened at 12 during day time? A: Yes.

Q: Were there any police men at that time?

A: They were patrolling the area.

Q: Did they see these incidents taking place?

A: Not only they saw, but they told in Sinhala "gapang"

Commissioner:

Q: They were from the same police station?

'Mr. Chandrasekera was the S. P.

A: They were officers from the Mawanella police station. (Examination Cntd)

Q: What did you do when you were attacked?

A: I ran towards the west, through the temple to the estate.

Q: Who was the Police Superintendent of the area.

A: Mr. Chandrasekera.

(Commissioner: Where did he work? A: He was attached to the Kegalle town.)

Q: Where did you take refuge?

A: I went to the house of a Muslim family.

Q: Who is M. P. for the area? A: Mr C. R. Beligama.

Q: Was he aware about this incident?

A: He went to the Parliament and he came to Mawanella at 8. p. m. He would have known about this incident after his arrival.

We brought this to the notice of the M. P. Mr. Beligama. Through Mr. Beligama, we made a statement to the Mawanella Police. The police entry No. is B473/77 of 25th and 26th August, 1977.

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'THEY CALL IT THE KATHIRAGAMA DEIYO'

The external symbol of the Kataragama deity is the 'Vel' - the lance (pictured above.) The 'Vel' was the object of worship at the temple.

Q: They are idols which you do not consider as metal but you consider that as God in the metal itself? A: Yes.

Q: You do not see God in man alone but you see God in inanimate objects also?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the estimate of the damage caused to this temple?

Q: Did you ask for Police protection?

A: In fact I asked for Police protection not only for the temple but also for all the Hindus in Mawanella. In fact protection was given for two days by the Mawanella Police.

Q: Did the Police take down the addresses of the Hindus in Mawanella?

Ex-Fisheries Research Officer: 'I was compelled to resign'

(Continued from Page 2)

A: Yes. On 3-1-78 in response to a communication that I saw in the papers I wrote to the Commission requesting that with their authority to recommend compensation for me.

Q: I will mark the copy of the letter with the translation Plc dated 3-1-76?

A: Yes.

Q: You are asking permission for the Commission

to consider your claim for retirement afresh notwithstanding your resignation?

A: I humbly request Your Honour that I be allowed to retire with pension because I have put in ten years service under Government, the basic requirement for a public servant to qualify for retirement. My resignation was not my choice. I was compelled under the circumstances to send in my resignation,

Q: You ask for your salary for October and November, 1977 during which period you suffered as a regu-gee? A: Yes.

Q: Your retirement would take effect from the date you sent your resignation?

A: In that letter I indicated that I was resigning under compulsion and that I should be allowed to retire. I also indicated that in the event of any Commission recommending that I should

be retired I am prepared to withdraw my resignation and that I would submit the necessary documents which would entitle me to have my pension.

Q: You had a house in Edmonton Road? A: Yes.

Q: You had made arrangement to effect the sale of that property?

A: Yes.

Q: You have no other income now? A: Yes.

Q: You are living on the bounty of your relations?

A: I am not depending on the bounty of others. I have sold some of my belongings and out of that I am living.

Mr. G. P. S. De Silva;

No questions.

11-25 a. m. (Interval)

Sittings resumed at 11-45 a. m.

'YARL DEVI SENT DESPITE MIDNIGHT

PERIATHAMBY CHELLATHURAI, affirmed, 56 years, Presently residing at Alwai South, Alwai.

Examined by Mr. Bartlett:

"I was attached to the Railways as the Chief Train Controller, Anuradhapura. I have put 37 years service in the Railways. On the 16th of August, 1977 I was working in the Anuradhapura Control Office. On the midnight of the 16th August, 1977 I was put up by the office messenger and he gave me certain information.

Q: Can you tell us what that information was?

A: That the passengers who had come by the Colombo mail train from Jaffna were being assaulted and I was to go to the Control Office. So, I proceeded to the Control Office.

Cries of distress from the station

"My Control Office is about 150 yards from the Station. When I was at the Control Office, I heard cries of distress coming from the station. The Control Office is situated only about 150 yards away from the station.

Q: Could you tell us what were those cries?

A: The cries of distress were in Tamil. They were cries from the passengers who came by that train No. 70. That is the train that came from K. K. S. to Anuradhapura.

They said Yarl Devi had left

Q: Then, what did you do?

A: I telephoned the station inquiry and asked what happened: I asked Mr. Poulier, the District Inspector Mechanic: He told me that the passengers who came by train No. 70 were mercilessly assaulted and their belongings were being looted.

Q: Then did you give Mr. Poulier any instructions?

A: Then I directed Mr. Poulier to get the train back to the Anuradhapura platform. The train at that time was between Anuradhapura station and Sravastipura station.

Q: Was he able to carry out those instructions?

A: He said it was very difficult to get the train back as there were about 3000 passengers on the rail track. Then I told him somehow or other get the train back to the Anuradhapura station giving intermittent blasts of

the whistle as that would be done according to the regulation.

"Then I contacted the central Control Office, Colombo and gave information about the incident. I also passed this information to the District Superintendent. He is Mr. K. Gunasekera.

"The Asst. Superintendent Mr. Peris was also with me at that time. He had come to the Control Office. In the morning we contacted Colombo to find out what services we are going to have after all these incidents at Anuradhapura.

A: Yes, I gave that information.

Q: In spite of your communicating these problems and passengers being assaulted, the morning "Yarl Devi" from Colombo had proceeded?

A: Yes, that had left. That was the information I had.

Q: Can you give us the date?

A: 17th was the date.

Q: Could you give us the date? A: 17th was that date

Q: Did you give instructions to terminate the train?

ing I passed on the information to Colombo. I was watching the incidents from the Control Office.

Q: Then what did you see?

A: At that time I saw a cloud of smoke going up and on inquiry I found that the S.M.'s car had been set on fire. The S.M. was Mr. Thambirajah.

Q: Then what happened?

A: I was looking in that direction and I saw the crowd turning towards the Control Office. At that time I heard somebody saying, "Ko Selladorai. Enda Kiyanna Pahala-

tendent. They locked me up in the bath room and left me there.

Q: That was for your protection? A: Yes.

Q: Then were the other officers there?

A: They brought the other Tamil officers also and put them in safe places. They were all panting and in fear. They were also put in various rooms in the office.

"The other Sinhalese Officers kept vigil over us and came and told me what happened. They told me not to open the room until they signalled to me.

Q: District Superintendent Gunasekera was in the same building as you were? A: Yes.

Q: By what time did he come?

A: The Sinhalese officers came and signalled and I opened the door of my bath room. Mr. Gunasekera came there at about 10 a. m.

Q: After that did Mr. Withanage the District Engineer (North) come there?

A: He came there with some police officers.

Q: Then what did you do?

A: I told the District Superintendent.

Taken to the retiring rooms

Q: Before dark that day you all were taken to the retiring rooms at the station?

A: Yes. Between 4 and 5 p. m. we were brought from the office to the retiring rooms. It was before dark.

Q: Two armed police constables were posted outside the retiring rooms to look after the protection of the officers brought there? A: Yes.

Q: These public retiring rooms were used for your protection? A: Yes.

Q: When you were in these retiring rooms did anything happen?

A: There was a crowd of fellows coming outside and I saw them and I told the police constables, "Don't allow them to come in. I was closer to the police guards.

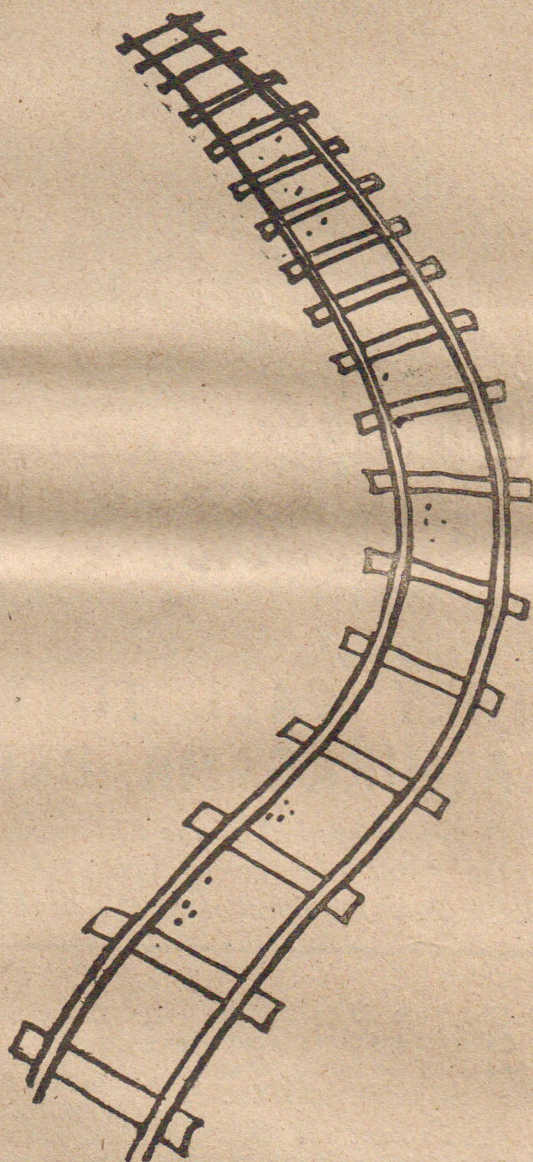
"I was more or less in the first room. I thought I would be safe near the police officers. I told the police, "Don't allow that crowd to come in". I told them in Sinhalese, "Ara Kattiyata Atulata Enta Denna Epa."

Q: Then what happened - Did Dayananda come there?

A: He came when I was in my room. He came and told me that the market crowd had organised a march to the station to attack the persons inside the retiring rooms. He asked me to tell him anything I wanted.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Chief Trains Controller testifies:



ANURADHAPURA

"They told me that they had already started the morning 'Yarl Devi' from Colombo. I told them "We have cancelled the down train "Uttara Devi". That is train No. 38 coming from Jaffna to Colombo."

Q: You contacted Colombo at what time?

A: I cannot say what time it was because we were all highly excited.

Q: An approximate time?

A: Between 7-30 a.m. and 8-30 a.m.

Q: You said you contacted Colombo at midnight and told them that this incident had happened?

A: I asked them to terminate that train at some point and take it back.

Q: By that time you had stopped K.K.S. train and the other train? A: Yes:

A: At about 9. 30 a. m. on the 17th what happened?

A: I saw a crowd of hooligans and thugs at Anuradhapura, marching towards the station.

Q: What happened then?

A: I could watch what was happening from the office. I saw a crowd marching towards the station. As and when incidents were hap-

ta" which means, "Where is Selladorai. Ask him to come down".

Q: Then what did you do?

A: I was excited. But I was clinging on to the telephone. Then Mr. Peris the Asst. District Superintendent came down.

'Fellow officers

protected us'

"Then the Sinhalese officers working down in the main office came up. They took me to the main room of the District Superin-

FROM COLOMBO CALL FROM A'PURA'

"I asked Mr. Poulier to get in touch with the District Inspector (Mechanical). I asked Mr. Poulier to ask the District Superintendent to speak to me. At about 8 p.m. the District Superintendent came and I spoke to him. I told the District Superintendent that the security measures provided are not sufficient and that the police are only looking on and are not taking any action.

Q: He listened to you and went away?

A: Yes. I do not know what he did.

Q: You got your dinner that night? A: Yes.

Q: The Asst. District Superintendent Mr. Peiris provided your dinner? A: Yes.

Lights were switched off

Q: After dinner you were resting?

A: Yes. I was resting on a settee. I was resting in the hall. A Cafeteria chap came and was switching off and on the lights. All of a sudden the lights went off. I could see the station lights on. I could see the crowd coming to the station.

"A man came and gave me a thundering slap and I fell unconscious. The employee of the cafeteria, I think, gave me this slap. I saw him in the dim lights of the station. I can identify him but I do not know his name.

Q: Was there one Kalu Appu in the crowd?

A: He was the person leading the crowd. I knew him when he was a kangany and he was also in the crowd.

Q: Did he come and make any demand of you?

A: He demanded money from me. I gave all the money I had - Rs.11/- odd.

'Blow made me unconscious'

Q: Similarly, all Tamil officers totalling about 80 in number had been looted - their wrist watches, pens and clothes etc. had been looted? A: Yes.

"From that time there were gangs of men coming in and taking money from us. This crowd was led by Kalu Appu. He came fully drunk. I gave him my money.

Q: This crowd came subsequently?

A: The crowd came subsequently. I do not know whether it was the same crowd. We were in total darkness.

Q: What happened?

A: I got a clout (a blow) on my head and I fell unconscious.

Q: Then what happened?

A: When I got up on the 8th or 9th I got up somewhere in Colombo or so. It was only after I got up that I knew where I was.

Q: When you got up you knew you were in the Neuro Surgical Unit Colombo?

A: Yes.

Q: You later knew that you were first admitted to the Anuradhapura hospital? A: Yes.

Q: You were operated on by Dr. Cabraal? A: Yes.

On 10. 9. 77 I got discharged and I was admitted to the Base hospital, Point Pdero.

Q: The head injury has caused a paralysis and your 4th and 5th fingers of the right hand cannot be used? A: Yes. (continued below)

"I received information that my husband had been murdered during the communal disturbances of August, 1977. That was a police information. There is a witness to speak to the actual murder of my husband. His name is Balaratnam. He was also employed in the Medical Department, Anuradhapura. He was a clerk attached to the Superintendent of Health Services Office, Anuradhapura.

"After the murder of my husband, I have not received any kind of pension or any payment except a sum of Rs. 3,000/- from the Social Services Department.

"I got the body of my husband from Anuradhapura, held his funeral in Jaffna and I have expended a large sum of money on his funeral. I am presently indebted in a sum of more than Rs. 4,000/-.

"I also sent a communication addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs appealing to grant me

rise of his duties. Now I am asking for compensation.

Q: What is the compensation you ask for the loss of your husband?

A: If he was alive, he would have continued in service for another 13 years. Therefore, I estimate my compensation at Rs. 100,000/-. My husband had put 23 years service at the time of his death.

"I have three children. My elder child, a daughter, is 14 years old; a son 12 years old and the third child, a daughter, 10 years old.

Not paid my widow's pension

"I have not been paid my Widows Pension although 6 or 7 months had elapsed after my husband's death. I have written several letters to the authorities in this connection but I have not received a reply. I am a destitute now.

What S. P. Walter Liyanage said: (contd.)

[Evidence by
THARMALINGAM SIVASUBRAMANIAM
S. H. S's office clerk,
continued from last issue]

"Then he asked the M.S. "What happened to you?" So the Medical Superintendent told him about the incidents and the death of Mr. Sivasambu. Then the S. P. said "Havoc is happening in Jaffna. It is a long story".

Women raped on the road S. P. said

"Then the Medical Superintendent asked "What happened in Jaffna?" Then Mr. Liyanage narrated a whole story. He said "Sinhalese people are murdered. Policemen are being shot at. Women are being raped on the road.

Buddhist priests are being attacked. When they take the casualties to hospital, the doctors are not attending. I have made arrangement to take the injured people to Hospital."

"I don't know whether he meant the Anuradhapura hospital or the Colombo hospital. Then he said "What happened at Anuradhapura is negligible when compared to what happened at Jaffna."

Commissioner: Q: Who is the Medical Superintendent?

A: Dr. K. M. K. Wijewardena; he is now the Medical Superintendent, Eye Hospital, Colombo.

Questioned by Mr. G.P.S de Silva:

Q: You also sent a letter dated 28th December, 1977 addressed to the Secretary of this Commission? A: Yes.

(The letter is marked A 10)

Questioned by Mr. Bartlett:

Q: In this letter to this Commission, you have stated that you had information that a gang of hospital employees, all of them Sinhalese, had attacked your husband and he had been brutally murdered by them?

A: Yes. About 16 persons were along with my husband at the time of this incident and they attended his funeral at Jaffna. They gave me this information.

Q: In fact you have mentioned some of the names of the witnesses who will speak to this murder?

A: They have consented to give evidence. I have mentioned their names.

A Reign of



Terror MURDERED MAN'S WIDOW TESTIFIES:

17th February, 1978. (9th day) Same appearances as before.

Mr. Bartlett calls.

Mrs. INDRANI SIVA — SAMBU, affirmed. Residing at Kandarmadam.

"I reside at the moment at Kandarmadam. My husband was a public servant. He was working in the Pathologist Department, Anuradhapura. He was a Medical Laboratory Technician attached to the Anuradhapura hospital.

compensation. My husband was on duty on the day he was murdered. I mark a s P2, the communication sent by me to the Hon'ble the Minister of Public administration.

"This communication is dated September, 1977. The date is not quite clear. I am appealing for compensation for the loss of life of my husband, K. Sivasambu, Medical Laboratory Technician, Govt. Hospital Anuradhapura. My husband died in the course

Q: It was to whom that these words were uttered?

A: Yes, and we were all watching.

Questioned by Mr. Bartlett.

"I am presently residing at Kokuvil. I am still in service. I am working at the S. H. S. Office, Jaffna. I got this transfer on 1st January, 1978. I sought this transfer because I found it difficult to continue in service in Anuradhapura.

Q: You mentioned about certain employees who attacked you? A: Yes.

Q: Are you aware whether they are in service or whether they have been interdicted?

A: After I came to Jaffna, police officers came and recorded my statement. After recording my statement, I came to know that four people were arrested. They were Sarnapala, Ukkubanda, Simon Singho and one Clerk P. H. Albert. Then they were bailed out after 2½ months.

"I understand they are still in service, but not in Anuradhapura. They have been transferred to other stations. They are still working as public servants in other areas. (EVIDENCE CONCLUDED)

'ARMED POLICEMEN BROKE INTO SHOP & ROBBED MY JEWELLERY'

Mr. Sam Kadirgamar calls:
ARUMUGAM KANAGASABAPATHY, affirmed 48 years, owner of Jewellery shop No. 89/2, Kannathitt Road, Jaffna.

'I am the owner of the business called A. K. M. Jewellers. It is situated at Kannathitt Road, Jaffna. I started this business in the year 1958. I manufacture jewellery in gold. I don't make jewellery in silver. I also set precious stones to jewellery.

Q: Your shop has furniture, instruments and utensils used for the manufacture of jewellery? A: Yes. The completed jewellery made for order is kept in the shop. I remember the 17th August, 1977. I know the Jewellery shop known as Krishna Jewellers. That is my adjoining shop.

Jewellery shops were closed

Q: Were the jewellery shops along this road open or closed on that day? A: All jewellery shops were closed.

Q: They were closed because of the disturbances caused by the police on the previous day? A: Yes.

Q: These shops were closed due to fear of police action? A: Yes.

Q: About noon that day you too had closed your shop? A: Yes.

Q: You were inside the shop with your workmen? A: Yes.

Q: (Shown X44A and X44B) These are photographs showing Sri Krishna Jewellers? A: Yes.

Q: The centre shop in these photographs is Sri Krishna Jewellers?

A: Yes. My shop is on the right hand side.

Q: When you and your men were inside the shop some police officers came in a bus and broke open your shop and Krishna Jewellers? A: Yes.

Q: Adjoining Krishna Jewellers, on the other side is whose shop?

A: That shop belongs to Kadiravel.

Q: Was that shop also broken into? A: Yes.

'Heavy implements used to break in'

Q: The police broke your shops with heavy implements and got into them? A: Yes.

A: About how many officers came?

A: About five officers.

Q: Were they in uniform? A: Yes.

Q: Did they have their numerals on? A: No.

Q: Did they have guns? A: Yes.

Q: Did they assault you and your workers? A: Yes.

Q: Did they grab your Jewellery in your shop which you had completed on orders? A: Yes.

Q: Did they also take the gold and Jewellery which you were in the process of making? A: Yes.

Q: Did they destroy and smash up the utensils and the machinery and tools with which you work?

A: Yes. They threw them on the road.

Q: They took a table fan also? A: Yes.

Q: What was the furniture you had in your shop?

A: I had show cases and pictures. They smashed them all. Krishna Jewellers was also smashed up. There was no one in Krishna Jewellers at that time. The proprietor had gone for a funeral.

After looting, they set fire

Q: Having smashed up your shop and Krishna Jewellers did the police break into Kadiravel's shop?

A: Yes. They broke open the front door but they did not take away anything.

Q: After attacking the shops in this manner—taking

away the things, did they set fire to the shops? A: Yes. They burnt some articles on the road.

Q: They set fire to the premises? A: Yes.

Q: Whose premises did they set fire to first?

A: To Krishna Jewellers.

Q: How did they set fire to it?

A: They brought something like a mattress and put it inside the shop and set fire to it.

Q: From that the fire began to spread. A: Yes.

Q: The fire spread to your and Kadiravel's shops? A: Yes.

Q: Your shop was badly burnt and gutted? A: Yes.

Q: The photographs show that? A: Yes.

Q: The inside of your shop was first damaged and gutted?

A: Yes. We attempted to put out the fire but could not.

Q: Whose were these premises—yours or you rented them?

A: They were rented out.

Q: The loss consisted of movables, gold and Jewellery?

A: Yes.

My loss was about

Rs. 30,000/-

Q: Your utensils and instruments used by you to manufacture jewellery were all destroyed? A: Yes.

A: At what sum do you estimate your loss and damage?

A: At about Rs. 30,000/-

Q: This is a serious loss to you? A: Yes.

Q: This loss was caused to you as a result of the deliberate acts of the police? A: Yes.

Q: When your premises caught fire what did you and your workers do?

A: We attempted to put out the fire.

Q: Thereafter what happened—did you stay there or run away?

A: We ran away.

'Kirilaponne house was burnt and looted'

Mr. G. P. S. de Silva, Deputy Solicitor General calls:

Mrs. P. L. GNANASAMPANTHAN: affirmed, presently residing at No: 373, Navalar Road, Jaffna.

Q: In August last year where were you residing?

A: I was residing at Dr. Pillai's residence at Bambalapitiya.

Q: What I am asking you is do you own any house in Colombo? A: Yes.

Q: Where is that house? A: No. 14, Sangoba Place, Kirilaponne.

Q: That is your own house? A: Yes.

Q: You were living in that house for some years?

A: I was there for more than 7 years.

Q: Was this house attacked sometime in August, 1977?

A: Yes, my house was burnt and looted.

Q: When was that? A: On the 24th of August, 1977.

What is the value of this house? A: Rs. 140,000/-

Commissioner:

Q: Was the whole house burnt down?

A: Three fourth of the house was burnt and the things looted.

Q: And you say the damage comes to Rs. 140,000/-?

A: The damage to the house alone comes to Rs. 140,000/-. My other things are worth about Rs. 60,000/- totalling Rs. 200,000/-.

Q: What happened to the furniture?

A: Furniture was broken and damaged. I took the damaged furniture to my daughter's school where she is teaching.

Q: Did you have any jewellery in the house?

A: Yes, a few items. I have lost my jewellery. I don't know what happened to them.

Q: What is the value of your jewellery? A: Rs. 12,000. Now I am living at No. 373, Navalar Road, Jaffna.

I have no place to stay in Colombo. I also have no house in Jaffna. I will be going to Colombo and get-

ing back to Jaffna. I have relations in Colombo, but I don't want to trouble them. I sent a communication to this Commission.

Q: Did you make any representation to this Commission? A: Yes.

Q: Do you have copy of that?

A: Yes. I have it with me (witness hands over a copy). The original of this was sent to Mr. Nithyananda. Subsequently I sent a copy of this to this Commission. There was a typed form and I have filled that form.

T.R.R.O. made Press notification

Mr. Sam Kadirgamar: Mr. Nithyananda as the President of the Tamils Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation and that organisation published through the press—asking those who have anything to say, to say, to fill up certain forms and send them.

MAWANELLA : 'INSPECTOR SAID S. P. KEPT SILENT'

(Continued from Page 3)

Q: Did the M. P. for the area ask the police why they did not take action?

A: Inspector Dharmadasa of the Mawanella police was questioned by the M. P. as to why they were unable to do anything about this matter. He said, they did not have enough men and they were short of cartridges. He also said that he did not get orders from the S. P. Mr. Dharmadasa said that when he asked the S. P. for orders, the S. P. kept silent.

There were about ten shops belonging to the temple and those shops had been rented out: Out of them, two shops

were rented out to Sinhalese; those two shops were not damaged: The other shops were damaged:

Q: Is there a Young Men Hindu Association at Mawanella? A: Yes.

Q: Do you belong to any association of priests?

A: Yes; I am a member of the Kurukulam which has its headquarters at Jaffna and I have reported about this incident to the Kurukulam. Kurukulam has taken this matter with the G. A. Jaffna.

Q: You have also set out the facts which you have stated here now and you

asked for relief from the G. A. also? A: Yes.

Q: Up till the time you were residing there for the last 15 years, there was no illfeeling between the people living around the temple area?

A: No, except there were minor clashes between the Buddhists and the Muslims of the area. As far as the Hindus were concerned, there was no illfeeling.

Questioned by Mr. G. P. S. de Silva.

Q: You said you made the statement to the police on the 25th and 26th August?

A: I made my statement on the 25th: I don't know whether it was recorded on that date.

Q: Your statement was made to a policeman? A: Yes.

Q: Did you see him writing down what you stated? A: Yes.

Q: That was on the 25th of August? A: Yes.

Questioned by Mr. R. Balasubramaniam.

Q: Who gave you this entry number?

A: It was given by the police. They said, refer to this number if anybody wants to look at the statement.

A: Are you aware of any other Hindu temples being damaged?

A: I heard that several temples all over the country were damaged. But I am sure that Muthumari Ammal temple at Warakapolla, Kathiresan Temple at Kegalle the temple at the University, Campus, Peradeniya and Kathirasani temple at Polgahawella were damaged.

Commissioner: Q: Has that temple not been rebuilt yet?

A: There is no possibility of rebuilding that temple now.

What the Power House man says, he saw :- (Contd. from page 1)

'ARMY MEN BROKE POET'S STATUE'

Q: This statue was put up by the citizens of Jaffna and the Municipal Council to commemorate the memory of this Poet? A: Yes.

Q: On the night of the 20th, can you tell us what happened? A: Army came at about 10-50 p. m. and broke that statue. They came in an armoured car and jeep.

Q: Both on the 19th and 20th you were on night duty?

A: Yes.

"I observed all these things when I was on night duty. On the 19th and 20th in the

night there was curfew in Jaffna. I did not see any ordinary citizens in the road except the service personnel. After damaging the statue within about ten minutes they went away. Before they went another vehicle was stopped in the bus stand and they flashed a search light all over the place; that was fitted on to that vehicle.

Q: That was a search light fitted on to an armoured car? A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember the number of the vehicles that came on the 20th?

A: There were two armoured cars. Their numbers are 4360 and 4367. The vehicles had Sinhala letters in front of these numbers.

"On the 20th night, nearly four vehicles came. Three armoured cars and one jeep. Out of that, I can remember the number of two vehicles.

Q: From the Power House, were you able to see these things?

A: Yes, I used to lie down on a table which was

placed there to keep the telephone. There is a window adjoining that table. Through the window I was able to see the incidents. The table was placed at a higher level than the road.

Q: Did you make a statement to the co-ordinating officer Mr. Rudra Rajasingham about those incidents?

A: I made a statement to A. S. P. Mr. Jayasuriya who had been nominated by the co-ordinating officer for this purpose.

Q: When did you make your statement?

A: On 23rd August.

Q: Were you at any time in the Police Reserve?

A: Up to 1972, I was in the Reserve Police.

Q: From when to when?

A: From 1967 to 1972.

PHOTOGRAPHER SAYS:

SANGARAN KADIRAVELU: Affirmed: 45 years: Photographer: Kannathitti.

Q: Have you a place of business at Kannathitti Road? A: Yes.

Q: What is the business you carry on there?

A: I run a photographic studio. I take photographs and send them to the press.

Q: Inside your shop you had your cameras and photographic material etc? A: Yes.

Q: You remember the 19th of August 1977? A: Yes.

Q: Was your shop opened that day or was it closed?

A: It was closed. I had to attend a funeral and I closed it.

Q: As a result of these incidents your shop was also attacked?

A: Not attacked. It had been hit with the butt of a gun.

Q: Were you present when it was broken into? A: No.

Q: Where were you? A: I was at home.

'I was warned not to proceed'

Q: you received information that your shop had been broken into?

A: At about 1.30 or 2 I got that information.

Q: On receipt of that information did you go to your place of business?

A: I was away from home. Near Seetha Soda Factory I was asked not to proceed as shooting was going on.

Q: How far is your shop from your home? A: A little less than 1/4 mile.

Q: Were you told who was responsible for the shooting?

A: The information was that the police were there and they were assaulting the people and shooting them.

Q: What was the earliest information you got? A: That was the information.

Q: When you went there you found your shop broken into? A: The back door of the shop was broken.

Q: You saw it for yourself and you got photographs taken and you noticed Krish-

na jewellers burnt and A.K.M. Jewellers also burnt?

A: Krishna Stores had been badly set on fire. My shop also suffered fire damage.

Q: Were you the owner or tenant of those premises?

A: I had rented them out.

Q: Did you suffer loss and damage? A: Yes.

Q: What is the extent of the loss and damage you suffered? A: I lost Rs. 500/- in cash and I lost goods to the value of Rs. 7000/-.

Q: How was the damage to the goods caused? A: The damage was caused by fire.



The Mawanella Kathiresan Temple priest's living quarters that was set on fire. (Report on page 3)

'SHOT AT BY POLICE, I HAVE NOW LOST MY LIVELIHOOD'

KUMARAKULASINGAM - EDIRVEERASINGAM:

Sworn, 21 Years, Diesel Mechanic, residing at Navanthurai.

"I live at Navanthurai, I am employed as a Diesel Mechanic at Rajeswary Motors, K. K. S. Road, Jaffna. I go to work everyday by walking. I remember the 16th of August, 1977.

On that day I set out in the morning to go to work. When I reached Ottumadam junction, I was informed that the police were assaulting the members of the public in Jaffna town and I was warned not to proceed. So, I returned home.

When I went home, I told my mother the reason why I did not go to work. I have a brother, He works at the shop called New Victors at Stanley Road. They do electric welding. My brother had already gone to work on that

day. So my mother asked me to go and bring home my brother.

"Therefore, I set out from home for the second time, I came to Victors by a round about way through Manipay. When I reached New Victors, my brother had already left the shop. My brother's name is Bahawat Sing. Then I went in search of him.

"I proceeded towards Hospital Road in search of my brother. I saw a crowd of people running in the opposite direction and they were chased after by the police. The police were using their fire arms. Then I too started to run. I ran in the direction where the crowd was running.

Q: When you started running, did you receive any gun shot injuries? A: Yes.

Q: Where did you receive the injuries?

(witness shows his left upper thigh)

Q: Did the shots pierce your left thigh and go through your right thigh? A: Yes.

After receiving the injuries, I fell down; Then some young people carried me up to Rajah Cream House; They dropped me there and ran away because the Police were chasing them.

Then the police came, lifted me by my limbs, by my hands and legs and threw me into the jeep. Then I was taken to the hospital. I was wounded in hospital for five months. One Varatharajah was occupying my adjoining bed. His leg had been amputated as a result of police shooting.

Q: Are you able to use your left leg now?

A: I have no feeling in my left leg.

Q: Do you wear any surgical appliances?

A: Yes, I have put a steel brace.

"Below the site of the gun shot injuries, I have no feeling I don't go for work. I have to do heavy manual work as a mechanic; now I cannot do. With this permanent impairment in my leg, I cannot do any work; I am still unemployed.

Q: You request that this Commission be pleased to recommend that you be paid compensation for the loss of employment and the sufferings you had gone through during this period?

A: Yes.

Q: How much did you earn per month?

A: Rs. 200/- I am 21 years old.

Q: Do you say that right through your life, you cannot be employed? A: Yes.

Q: How much do you claim as compensation?

A: Rs. 50,000/-

"Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right"

— Rudyard Kipling.

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

After the Police looting came the Police shooting, says jeweller:-

ARMY MAN SAID: WE'RE

NOT LIKE POLICE

... and they helped us to put out the fire'

KANAGASUNDERAM-MURUGAMOORTHY: Affirmed. 41 Years, Managing Director, Diamond House Ltd., Kannathiddy, Jaffna.

Q: "Diamond House Ltd., is the name of the jewellery business that you run? A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember 17th August, 1977? A: Yes.

Q: On that day your shop and the shops of the other jewellers on that road open or closed? A: All jewellery shops were closed.

'Shops closed due to fear'

Q: Why were they closed? A: As a result of the Police atrocity the previous day those shops were closed. All the shops including mine were closed due to fear.

Q: When you were standing in the balcony of the building you saw a C. T. B. bus stopping at the junction of Kankesanthurai Road and Kannathiddy Road? A: Yes.

Q: You saw several Police Officers getting down from that bus? A: Yes.

Q: And walking on to Kannathiddy Road? A: Yes.

They came on the road firing

Q: Were they in uniform? A: Yes.

Q: Were they armed with rifles? A: Yes.

Q: Did they start shooting at the buildings on the road?

A: They came on the road firing.

Q: People who were watching ran for shelter?

A: They ran inside.

Q: You saw the Policemen breaking into Krishna Jewellery Shop? A: Yes.

Q: You saw them breaking the furniture into pieces and throwing them out? A: Yes.

Q: You saw them setting fire to them on the road? A: Yes.

Q: You saw them re-entering the shop? A: Yes.

Q: And coming out with a suit case? A: Yes.

Q: Then you saw the Krishna Jewellery business premises on fire? A: Yes.

Q: This fire on Krishna Jewellery business premises spread on to the neighbouring shop? A: Yes.

Q: On one side was AMK Jewellers? A: Yes.

Q: On the other side is the shop of the photographer Kathiravelu? A: Yes.

Q: The fire spread to these shops? A: Yes.

Q: Did you see them entering a third shop? A: Yes.

Q: Where was that shop in relation to Krishna Jewellers?

A: Directly opposite to Krishna Jewellers.

Q: What is the name?

A: Vel Jewellers. Rasamaniccam is the proprietor of that shop.

'Army men took away dead body

Q: Is Rasamaniccam in Ceylon or in India? A: He has gone to India.

Q: Did you see these policemen break open that shop too?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you see those policemen going to the bus carrying a suit case? A: Yes.

Q: Can you identify any of those police officers?

A: I can identify one of them.

Q: What is his name?

A: His name is Gunaratne. He was at one time in the Traffic Branch of the Jaffna Police.

Q: In all about how many Policemen did you see?

A: More than ten.

Q: After the Policemen left did you with the other people attempt to put out the fire?

A: In fact we were putting out the fire with the assistance of the people round about.

Q: When you were trying to put out this fire did another truck load of Policemen come there? A: Yes.

Q: Did they start firing?

A: They came shooting.

Q: The people ran into their buildings? A: Yes.

Q: You were hiding in the building and you were peeping to see what those policemen were doing? A: Yes.

Q: Did you see any person fall for the shot? A: Yes.

Q: That was near Krishna Jewellers? A: Behind Krishna Jewellers.

Q: Did you see a policeman dip some cloth in petrol and thereafter throwing it on Krishna Jewellers which was still burning? A: Yes.

Q: It aggravated the already burning fire? A: Yes.

Q: Then those policemen left the place? A: Yes.

Q: Once the policemen had gone you and the others went out and did your best to put out the fire? A: Yes.

Q: What happened to the dead body that had fallen behind Krishna Jewellers?

A: Later Army personnel came there and helped us to put out the fire and they took the body away.

Q: Roughly about what time was it that the army personnel came there and helped you to put out the fire? A: Roughly about one hour after the Police left. They came there between 2 and 3 p. m.

Q: In what did the Army personnel come there? A: In a truck. There was a truck full of army personnel. They brought a bowser also.

Q: Was there an officer in command of the soldiers?

A: Yes. In inviting us to put out the fire they said that they were not like the Police and that they were there to help us.

Q: Was it said by more than one army personnel?

A: A person who appeared to be the leader of the Army said that.

Q: In what language did he say that? A: He said that in English.

Q: Do you understand English? A: Yes.

Q: Yours is the largest jewellery business? A: The biggest in Jaffna.

Q: In fact you will describe yourself as the leading jeweller in Jaffna.

Q: I take it that you make jewellery, you have a stock in jewellery and diamonds?

A: We do import and export of gems.

Q: Your jewellery is very much in demand because of the workmanship? A: Yes.

CORRECT DOCUMENTS NOT FURNISHED, SAYS COUNSEL

Mr. G. P. S. De Silva:

I want to mention that my friend wanted a list of vehicles attached to the Jaffna Police Station on certain dates. I have a certified copy giving the numbers of the vehicles attached to the Jaffna Police Headquarters from 12-8-77 to 31-8-77. I can now hand that over to my friend.

My friends wanted a list of the Police personnel transferred between 1-9-77 and 15-9-77. I have a certified copy giving those names. These are the documents which my friends wanted at the beginning.

Vehicles movement

Register

Mr. Shanmugalingam:

With regard to the vehicles in the Jaffna Police Station we wanted not the list alone of the vehicles. We want the vehicle movement register. It would indicate when a particular vehicle left the Station and

when it reached the Station during the period 10th to 25th August, 1977.

Mr. G. P. S. De Silva: The vehicle returns have been sent to Colombo. These books are forwarded to the Transport Division, Police Headquarters. They are kept there.

Commissioner: Can you get that particular book, the Vehicle Movement Register for the month of August, 1977?

Mr. G. P. S. De Silva: These information are in the Information Book and that can be made available.

Mr. Shanmugalingam: With regard to the documents furnished yesterday; with regard to Mr. Rudra Rajasingham's Report, we want to see the report made by Mr. Rudra Rajasingham, when he was in Jaffna, to the Head Office and to the Security Council. The document shown to us was something where certain information was furnished to Mr. Rajasingham by the Jaffna Police.

Mr. G. P. S. De Silva: The reports are available and I will get them.

next week

- * Edmund Samarakkody man testifies
- * Jaffna Police happenings as seen by veteran Policeman Sattanathapillai