

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

No 16.

Saturday December 2, 1978

Re. 1;

Mr. Jimmy Rajaratnam calls.

MANUEL RAJAH JOSEPH: (Sworn) 38 years. Company Director, Ceylon Merchants, Jaffna.

Q: You are the Secretary of the Lions Club at Jaffna?
A: Yes.

Q: Your business is right opposite the General Hospital, Jaffna?
A: Yes.

Q: Your living quarters or residence is in the upstairs of your business premises?
A: Yes.

Q: How far is your place of residence from the Power House?
A: About 60 yards away.

Q: How far is your residence from the Central Bus Depot, Jaffna?
A: About 80 yards.

Large crowd at the bus stand

Q: You remember 16-8-77?
A: Yes.

Q: At about 8-30 a. m. on that day you were in your residence?
A: Yes.

Q: Did you come to the balcony at that time?
A: Yes.

Q: Did you receive any information?
A: I saw a large crowd at the bus stand?

Q: You inquired from a passer-by?
A: Yes.

'M. P. was being shown round'

Q: What did you come to know?

A: He said that the M.P. for Jaffna was there - being taken round to show the damage caused by the police that morning.

Q: What else did he say?

A: He said that the name board of the Hatton National Bank opposite the bus stand

had been damaged. The name board of Subhas Cafe had been damaged and the petrol pump of Autos was also damaged. He said the old market had been set on fire by the police.

Q: Then did you get any other information?

A: After a few minutes I asked another passer-by. He asked me not to open our establishment, stating that we should go to the G. A. and inform him of what had happened.

Q: You did not open up your business?
A: I did not.

Q: At about 9 a. m. what happened?



'Mr. V. YOGESWARAN M.P. was taken round to show the damage'

'Policemen danced like savages & called me 'UNP pandan karaya'

A: At about 9 a. m. I saw A. S. P. Mr. Noordeen driving along his jeep very fast. He drove through the crowd and went to the West of the bus stand. About 15 to 20 minutes after he drove, I saw several jeep loads of policemen - about 30 or 40 of them. They were in uniform and plain clothes. Some had stenguns and some had rifles and others had sticks. They got down at the bus stand. They went in all directions assaulting the people.

Q: And then did you see A. S. P. Mr. Noordeen?

A: I saw him there. I saw him kicking an old man by the diesel pump of the C.T.B. He kicked him and that man fell.

To Commissioner: Q: What was the crowd doing?

A: The crowd was there with the M.P. The M.P. was going round seeing the damage caused.

Q: Did you see the crowd armed?
A: No.

Q: Was the crowd aggressive?

A: No. They were showing the M.P. for Jaffna the damage caused by the police of Jaffna.

Q: It was at that time that you saw police assaulting and chasing the people?
A: Yes.

Q: Were they going along the road?

A: They were going to and fro, towards the Jaffna Co-operative Stores, assaulting men, chasing them etc.

Q: Did you hear anything?

A: I heard A. S. P. Mr. Noordeen shouting out 'Shoot them like dogs. It is either they or we'.

Q: Thereafter, the police went away?

A: They were there for 15 minutes and went away.

Q: When the police went from the bus stands towards the Co-op. Stores they had to pass your place of business?
A: Yes.

Tyres and stones on the road

Q: Did you see people going about their normal business?

A: Yes. A few came to the road and went on their normal business.

Q: In about 15 minutes did anything happen?

Q: Was any damage caused to your residence?
A: Three window panes were damaged.

Q: Anything else?

Q: We did not open the business premises. If we had opened it the window and the showcase glasses would have been damaged. They were covered with zinc sheets.

Q: Were the showcases and windows covered with zinc sheets?
A: Yes.

Q: That prevented further damage?
A: Yes.

Q: What do you assess the damage at?
A: At about Rs. 200/-.

Q: No damage was caused for the shop?

A: As the windows were closed no damage was caused to the business premises. About 2 or 3 stones came into the house also. H.Q.I. and Mr. Samson did not prevent the throwing of stones into my house. They were watching. They said U.N.P. Pandan Karaya Gihin Kiyapan" which means, "U.N.P. Pandan Holder. Go and inform."

Q: Why did they say so?

A: They knew that I was a supporter of the U.N.P. It may have been the reason that made them cast that remark on me.

A: I saw some people placing tyres and stones on the road. They were members of the public.

(To Commissioner:

Q: What was that for?

A: To stop the traffic. Probably to stop police vehicles going on the road and causing further damage.)

Q: In 15 minutes time did you see any policemen coming to the town?

A: I saw three jeeps and a truck load of men and they came and stopped opposite my residence. I saw H.Q.I. Mr. Godfrey Gunasekera in the first jeep. Mr. Samson was in the second jeep. The police constables were in the other jeep.

The H.Q.I. and Mr. Samson kept watching and the others threw stones at my residence

'Shouting and dancing'

Q: How long did they remain there?

A: For about 15 minutes. They were shouting and dancing.

(To Commissioner:

Q: They were not doing anything useful?

A: No. They were behaving like savages dancing and shouting)

(Continued overleaf)

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to re-live it"

- Santayana - American philosopher 1863-1952

NARAYANAPILLAI MYLVAGANAM: Affirmed: 44 years: Nursing Officer in Charge of ward No. 17 General Hospital.

Q: You were in charge of Ward No. 17 in August 1977 as well? A: Yes.

Q: You remember the patient P. C. Bandara - P. C. 7674, who was admitted to your ward on 15. 8. 77? A: Yes.

Q: On the 15th did you get information that police officers had come and was removing P. C. Bandara from hospital? A: Yes.

Q: Did you rush to the ward and go out to see what was happening? A: Yes.

Q: When you went out did you see P. C. Bandara - what did you see?

A: I saw P. C. Bandara seated in the front seat of the van.

Q: Did you see other police officers?

A: There were 5 or 6 police officers. Of them one or two were without their numerals.

Q: Were you aware that this patient had not been discharged by the doctor? A: Yes.

Q: Did you protest that he was going without the authority of the doctor? A: Yes.

Q: What did he say?

A: One police officer said there was not enough staff in the ward. He said they were taking the patient on their own.

'I asked him to sign the ticket'

(To Commissioner :

Q: Then what did you say?

A: I asked them to sign the ticket and go. I asked the patient to sign the ticket and go.)

Q: By "ticket" you mean the bed head ticket? A: Yes.

Q: Did you go to find the Bed Head Ticket? A: Yes.

Q: Did you find it on the bed? A: No.

Q: Where did you find it? A: One police officer told me that it was with the patient.

Q: When they took the patient the bed head ticket was also taken away? A: Yes.

'P.C. BANDARA WAS SEATED IN THE POLICE VAN'

Q: Did they ask the permission of anyone to take the Bed Head ticket away? A: No.

Q: You called for the ticket?

A: I went to the patient in the van and the ticket was there.

Q: You asked for the ticket? A: Yes.

Q: (Shown X.58) At the bottom of X.58A appears the endorsement, "I am leaving on my own today - 16. 8. 77" and it has been signed? A: Yes.

Q: Were the words and date written by the patient? A: Yes.

Q: Was the signature his? A: Yes.

Q: Did you see any other police jeep?

A: There was a blue van near the car shed.

Q: Did you see any other police officer?

A: I saw Inspector Gurusamy there (Shown Insp. Gurusamy) I saw this gentleman in the 2nd van.

Q: Thereafter both vehicles took off? A: Yes.

Q: You took the ticket with you A: Yes.

Q: You informed the doctor and nurse about this? A: Yes.

Q: On the 16th you saw P.C. Bandara seated in the police van? A: Yes.

lice officer. They said they wanted to remove him.

Q: You did not ask P. C. Bandara nor did he tell you? A: Yes.

Q: At what time did P. C. Bandara leave the hospital A: At about 9. 30 a. m.

Q: Were you present at the ward at the time P. C. Bandara was admitted? A: No.

Q: Do you know the name of the House Officer who was in charge of this ward on the 15th night?

A: I cannot remember the name.

(To Commissioner :

Q: Is he still there?

A: Their duties change from ward to ward. I have not seen him for some time.)

Q: While you were in the ward, at no stage did you speak to P. C. Bandara - on the 15th or 16th?

A: I spoke to him.

Q: Did he make any complaint?

A: He did not make any complaint.

There were 2 Police vehicles

(To Mr. Bartlett :

Q: You stated in evidence that you rushed up and obtained the bed head ticket from P.C. Bandara A: Yes.

Q: Where was it? A: It was in his file.

Q: What did he do?

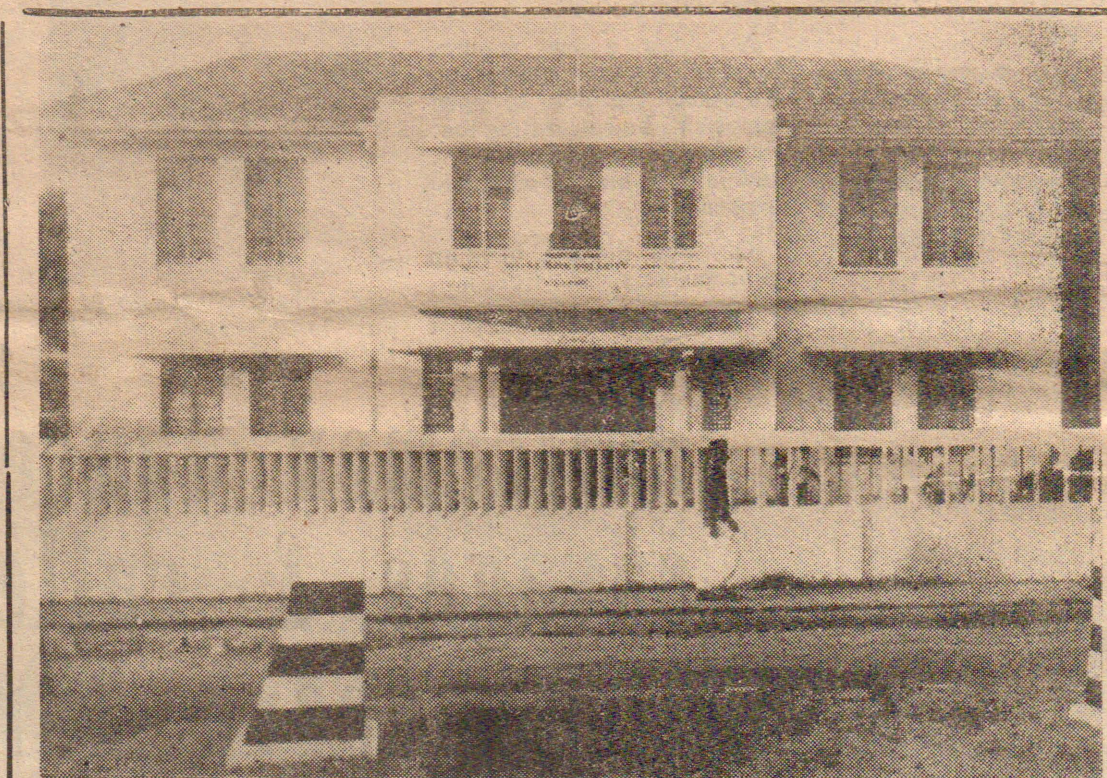
A: I asked him to write on it and give it. He wrote and signed it and gave it to me.

Q: How many vehicles did you see?

A: Two vehicles. The van had 4 or 5 officers. P. C. Bandara got into that. There was another blue coloured van near the car shed.

Q: Both left together?

A: I did not see.



"P. C. Bandara left the Jaffna Hospital on August 16"

'BOY WAS KICKED FROM OFF A POLICE TRUCK'

(Continued from page 1)

Q: They were singing and dancing A: Yes.

Q: They appeared to be jubilant? A: Yes.

Q: After some time did you see A. S. P. Noordeen?

A: After the vehicles went away they put up a barricade.

I saw a burning tyre being rolled into the new market premises. The policeman were rolling the tyre into the new market with a stick or iron: Gowrie Forage Works was on fire. There were a number of members of the public in the new market. They were standing near the power station. They were prevented from extinguishing

the fire. The Police prevented. H. Q. I. and Noordeen were there.

'Uncivilised manner'

Q: Did you see during the day, police jeeps and policemen going? A: Yes, I saw.

Q: what were they doing?

A: They were firing at people and singing and dancing and behaving in a very uncivilised manner.

(To Commissioner:

Q: Where were the public?

A: They were hiding in the hospital in shops. About 50 people came into our compound.)

Q: Did you also see a young boy who was badly injured and profusely bleeding?

A: I saw a boy in trousers with both legs bleeding and his trouser soaked in blood. He was kicked and he fell and he tried to get up but collapsed. He was kicked from off the truck. The member of the public came from the hospital and carried him to the hospital. He was kicked from off the police truck.

Q: At about 11 a. m. did you see the Member of Parliament?

A: I telephoned the M.P., A. G. A. and tried to telephone the police but they were not answering. I tried to contact the A. G. A. Mr.

Joseph. He was trying to contact the police. There was a reign of terror. I saw the Members of Parliament - 3 or 4 in number, in a car. When they tried to enter the bus stand they were prevented by the police. They had to stop there and go up to the police on foot. They spoke to the police. I saw the A. G. A. walk up.

Q: You referred to a reign of terror?

A: It was a reign of police terror. I have a wife and two children who are 2 years and 1 year old respectively, and they were in a shock. I had to take them to a friend's and come back with another friend and

occupy my residence. My wife and children had to be there for two weeks. I took them to a safer area and I came back.

Q: During the curfew hours did you see a single member of the public moving in the streets? A: No.

Q: So, you suggest that the police had a field day?

A: Yes. Even at that time I contacted the A. G. A. Mr. Joseph who too contacted the army. I asked him to contact the army and appeal to them to put out the fire.

'MOB SHOUTED THAT SINHALESE IN MEDAWACHCHIYA WERE BEING MURDERED'

ELIVATHAMBY THANGAVEL: Affirmed: 40 years. Railway Guard, Anuradhapura.

To Mr. Niles: Q: In August last year you were working as railway guard at Anuradhapura? A: Yes.

Q: On the night of the 16th August you were on duty?

A: I was working on orders. I was awaiting for orders to work. When a turn falls vacant I had to work.

Q: At midnight what happened?

A: I was awakened at midnight.

To Commissioner:

I was in the rest room. I was sleeping in the guard's rest room. I was informed that trouble had started. They said that looting was going on. I had experienced such things earlier. I did not take it seriously. These things had happened sometime back also.

'The situation was bad'

Q: Thereafter what did you do?

A: I waited for sometime. The situation was bad and without informing I went home.

Q: On the 17th what happened?

A: I had to come for duty. It was about 6-45. Mr. Subramaniam was the head guard. We were to go to Madhu Road and pick up passengers and come to Anuradhapura and then go to Colombo.

Q: Before the train left Anuradhapura how was the situation? A: It was calm.

The Potuhera news came

Q: You went to Medawachchiya?

A: Yes. There we were told that some Tamil passengers in the oil train were attacked. The station master's office was guarded. He wanted relief. He was Mr. Thevarajah. In the meantime I was in the office. We got information over the railway radio that the down Jaffna mail train bound to Colombo was attacked at Potuhera station by a mob and things had been looted.

To Commissioner:

Over the railway radio we heard that the train bound to Jaffna - the Yarl Devi was attacked at the signal. Over the radio we heard that there was trouble.

There were some passengers bound to Madhu and we wanted to take them. Mr. Subramaniam said it was not safe to take them. We went to Madhu and brought

passengers. We came to Medawachchiya. There was a gang and they threw stones at the passengers. They shouted that the Sinhalese people at Medawachchiya were being murdered.

'My wife is a Sinhalese'

Q: Did you see any police officers on the platform?

A: Yes. I saw three of them.

"The train was there for some time. I did not want to get on to the platform. I did not get down. We went to Anuradhapura. There the station was well guarded by Army and Police personnel. They were armed. When I went there the tension was high and I heard that the Chief Station Master's car had been burnt.

"There was a passenger who wanted to go to Polonnaruwa but he was not allowed. He was assaulted. He was dragged by the passengers into the compartment and was assaulted. Some people dragged him along the compartment and assaulted him. The police were still watching. No one came for my help.

A Reverend Father

"There was a reverend father. He wanted to take some passengers by bus. I spoke to him and he wanted me to come with him to go by bus. I agreed. My wife is a Sinhalese. I had taken two nephews of my wife and my two children for a holiday.

Q: What happened thereafter?

A: When I went home on the 17th August my wife and children were worried.

My house was looted

"They were trying to pack up some things to keep in safe custody. I stopped it. I thought things would subside. I had seen things like this earlier. On the 17th night curfew was declared. I consoled my wife. I could not go with her to Jaffna. I was highly worried. I decided to stay at any place. Some people wanted us to stay at their place. I took my wife and children to a neighbour's. In the night I heard dogs barking and I came to my house to see what it was.

"On the 17th night I could not sleep. On the 18th morning we were preparing string hoppers. An Army truck came and wanted us to come to the Kachcheri. They said that people were being kill-

ed at Anuradhapura station. By 8-30 we were taken to the Kachcheri.

Q: From there what did you do? A: When we were in the Kachcheri I was informed that my house had been looted.

"I had a friend of mine an Army Sergeant and I came with him home. When I came home my neighbours told me that all my things - cattle and other things were looted. I did not want to see them. While we were going Dr. John Pulle's house was being guarded. We went to the Kachcheri.

"On the 18th evening we were sent to Vavuniya. My

wife and children went there. The two nephews were at my friend's place. One nephew is present here to give evidence. A few of my lost articles were recovered. I recovered certain things. I recovered my dining table.

'Piyadasa said they were his'

"We recovered those goods from P.L.D. Piyadasa's house. I claimed the articles from the police. They (police) said that Piyadasa also claimed those articles. They said they would produce the articles in Court and wanted me to

file a motion. I told the officer concerned. "When you produce these articles in Court please let me know". They did not do that.

"In the meantime the articles were produced in Court as lost articles - found articles. Mr. Piyadasa had identified them as his. I do not have any trouble now. I sought assistance from Government but I was not given any assistance. I have not got any help from any one. The Social Service Dept. wanted to give me Rs. 50/- but I declined to accept it."

'I SAW GOVT. VEHICLE LOADING GUNNY, BAGS'

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

I want to mention one matter, Sir. My learned friends asked for the translations of the I. B. extracts which I marked A 17 (a), (b) and (c). The translations are now ready. They can be handed over to them, Sir.

I have a short witness. I will call him.

KANAPATHIPILLAI AMBIKIPAKAN, affirmed, 56 years, Electrical Engineer, Vavuniya.

I was the executive Engineer, Vavuniya in August 1977. In pursuance of a notice published by this Commission, I sent a written communication dated 20th February, 1978. (Marked A31 and read)

Q: What do you mean by 'mopping up operation'?

A: I saw the looters carrying out the goods from the shops. I saw the driver of the Kachcheri vehicle loading empty gunny bags into the vehicle.

Q: That is the vehicle of the G. A. Anuradhapura?

A: Yes.

Commissioner: Q: Did anything happen to you? A: No.

Q: Anyway, you saw how active or inactive people can be? A: Yes, Sir.

No questions by Counsel.



GUARD'S NEPHEW GIVES EVIDENCE

HEMANTHA DESHA- PRIYA WALISINGHE: 16 Years, Student, No. 52 Opposite Railway Station, Anuradhapura.

Mr. Niles: Q: You are a nephew of the last witness?

A: Yes.

Q: In August 77 your family was living in Puttalam? A: Yes.

Q: You went to Anuradhapura to stay for your holidays with your uncle and aunt? A: Yes.

Q: On 17th August you were there? A: Yes.

Q: On the 17th night what happened?

A: There was some trouble in the night of the 17th August.

Q: Your uncle took you to a friend's house? A: Yes.

Q: You spent the night there? A: Yes.

Q: The next morning your uncle and your aunt and their children decided to go to the Kachcheri? A: Yes.

Q: They left you and your brother with their friends? A: Yes.

Q: Thereafter what happened?

A: After 11 o'clock about 80 people came and broke open the gate to our compound. They tried to force open the front door and failing that they came to the rear door and broke open that.

Q: You could see all this?

A: I was in the front portion of my neighbour's house. They came from behind and forced open the door.

Q: You were watching this from the next house? A: Yes.

Q: Then what happened? (Continued next page)

That false Police radio message:

WHO WAS THE CULPRIT?

(Continued from last issue)

Q: How is it that in five minutes without proceeding to the various place to ascertain, seated at that table at the police Station, you were able to ascertain that it was false? A: It was possible by going through the registers

Q: What were the registers that you went through?

A: The telephone register of the station.

Q: By going through those registers you could say that the communication X54B was false? A: There is nothing here to show.

I do not know, says witness

Q: You want us to believe that the messages 1071 in the Register was false? A: There is nothing here.

Q: The message is sent by the S. P., to the I. G. P.? A: Yes.

Q: Did Godfrey Guna-sekera give this message?

A: I do not know.

'No follow up message'

Q: Did you not check it?

A: I did not check it.

Q: By looking at this register you knew that the message sent earlier was false and so you sent X54C to cancel it? A: Yes.

Q: Are you telling the truth?

A: The whole truth.

Q: In whose handwriting is X53B? A: Jacob's.

Q: It was taken at 11-05, in whose handwriting is it?

A: I cannot say.

Q: You are very certain that in the Out Register the message X54C went at 11-15 to Colombo? A: Yes.

Q: There was no follow-up message sent from Jaffna in relation to X54B or X54C?

A: No.

Q: You will appreciate that such a message could have been picked up by the wireless in 15 minutes by stations in all parts of the

island and it would have created serious problems and communal disturbance?

A: Yes.

Q: I put it to you that whoever gave that message - you are unable to help the Commission with that man's name - a man who had a very dishonest objective, a sinister objective? A: Yes

Q: Because that was an invention? A: Yes.

Q: That was a creation of his own mind? A: Yes

Commissioner: Q: Did you realise how serious a matter it was?

A: On my own I did that because I thought it was a very serious matter.

Q: Did you ask him to wait for your next message, it is a false message. He must be waiting there?

A: After he received the message the duty officer at the other end in Colombo spoke to me. He spoke to me after he got the first message.

Q: Is that recorded?

A: It is not recorded. As soon as he received this message I was asked to come to the radio. It was a verbal message.

'I asked him to cancel it'

Q: Why did you not record that message?

A: He asked me about this message through the radio. I said that it was false and asked him to cancel that message.

Q: That also went from the S. P.?

A: I said that I was the duty officer and that I gave that message.

Q: You have to get at the culprit who served this message?

Mr. Bartlett: I submit that it is not difficult if we have the assistance of Mr. Gurusamy who was there on duty. He wants to cover up people who will be responsible for that message.

Commissioner: Q: Could anybody in this station send any message in the name of the S. P., whenever he likes?

A: No.

Q: What is the procedure?

A: You have to get his consent and then send the message.

Q: Did you take his consent? A: On the 17th August I was appointed as Duty Officer.

Q: Why did you not ask the S. P., permission to send this message? A: If I was to contact the S. P., there would be delay. Because I knew that it was a serious matter I took the responsibility to despatch that message.

Inspector Gurusamy trying to cover up, says counsel

Mr. Bartlett: Q: You also mentioned that you were summoned by the Communication Centre?

A: By the Communication Centre from Colombo.

Q: Were you called by the Com. Centre by name Gurusamy?

A: The Com. Centre contacted Daniel the operator of the wireless. There was an operator in the wireless room and he received the message. I am sorry his name is Jacob and not Daniel.

'They asked for Duty Officer'

Q: The Com. Centre contacted Jacob? A: Yes.

Q: Jacob came and asked you to come there as the Com. Centre wanted you?

A: They wanted the Duty Officer. I went there. He asked me about the message. I said that it was a false message and asked him to cancel that message.

Q: The Com. Centre is the I. G. P.'s Communication Centre?

A: It is the I.G.P.'s Communication Centre.

Q: You followed it up with X54C?

A: He asked me to give a written message to cancel.

Q: The Com. Centre at Colombo asked you to send this message? A: Yes.

Mr. Bartlett: Where is the In Register?

Q: When the Com. Centre establishes contact with you that would have gone into the In Register?

A: It is not in the In Register.

Q: Why did you look at the Telephone Message Register a moment ago?

A: I looked at the Telephone Register.

Q: You now say that it is not there?

A: It is not there. It cannot be in the In Register because it was a communication with me.

Commissioner: It was an official communication, why did you not take it down?

A: The Duty Officer asked me what this message was about. I told him that it was a false message. I did not write down what he said. That was a personal talk.

'Not in the 'In Register'

Q: When the Communication Centre established contact with you, that incoming message should have gone into the 'in register'?

A: No.

Q: You told the Commission that message will be in the 'in register'? A: Yes.

Q: Now you say that is not in the 'in register'?

A: Yes.

Q: How did you come to negative the earlier answer that it will be in the 'in register'? You said it will be in the register and then you referred to the register and said 'no'?

A: It cannot be in the register.

Q: Did the officer ask you what this message was?

A: I said this is a false message and cancel that. Then he asked me to put in writing and send a message.

Q: You were having a little chat? A: Yes.

Q: What was the duration of the chat?

A: About one or two minutes.

Q: Who spoke to you?

A: The duty officer. I don't know his name.

Commissioner.

Q: What is the procedure before a message from the S. P. Jaffna is sent?

A: The S. P. has to authorise himself.

Q: How does he authorise?

A: By sending written messages. He writes it down. Otherwise, he will call an officer and ask him to take it down.



Mr. Leslie Bartlett

The only one who can authorise

Q: Is he the only one who can write it out or call an officer to take it down before it goes out? A: Yes.

Q: Nobody can do that? A: The acting officer can do that.

Q: On this occasion, who was the officer appointed?

A: The Superintendent of police was present.

Q: On that particular day? A: Yes.

Q: When the first message went?

A: He was there. I cannot say whether he was in the station or in the office. Office is upstairs and station is downstairs.

Q: The message that you transmitted from S. P. Jaffna, where is that message?

A: It was not written by him. It was written by somebody else, Sir.

(Continued next page)

GUARD'S NEPHEW GIVES EVIDENCE.....

(Continued from page 3)

A: I saw things being taken through the front door.

Q: You saw people coming and taking things the next day also? A: Yes.

Q: Did you recognise any of those people? A: Yes.

Q: Who are they?

A: There is a neighbour and that neighbour removed the table.

Q: You do not know the name of that neighbour?

A: I do not know his name.

Q: Did you recognise anybody else?

A: Some other people whom I did not know came from the adjoining house and removed newspapers, books and other things.

Q: Those were people temporarily staying there?

A: Yes.

Q: The next morning you decided to go to Puttalam?

A: Yes.

Q: You went to Puttalam by bus? A: Yes.

(Continued from page 4)

Q: The first message?

A: That was a false message and somebody had given that. It was not given by the S. P.

Q: Somebody had been masquerading as the S. P.?

A: Yes.

Questioning by Mr. Bartlett ctd.

Q: You were the one who sent the first message?

A: No.

Q: You are seeking to protect the superior officers of this station who have helped you along to rise up to the rank of Inspector? A: No.

Q: You are seeking to protect very senior officers who are aware of this subversive message sent from Jaffna to Colombo? A: No.

'Did the D.I.G. try to find out?'

Q: Did the D.I.G., Northern Range come and ask how this message go out?

A: An inquiry was held. Special people came from Colombo. My statement had been recorded. A full inquiry was held.

Q: Did the D.I.G. concern himself about this false message? Did he ask how did this false message go unless some subversive elements were responsible in the station?

A: I don't know.

Q: The D.I.G. himself was in Jaffna on the 17th. He arrived on the 16th by helicopter? A: Yes.

Q: And the D.I.G. was here till the 18th?

A: I don't know.

Q: You take it from me that he was here till the 18th?

A: Yes.

P. C. level or**S. P. level?**

Q: Now he did not concern himself with this false message at any stage, at range level, how did this message go - whether it was at P. C. level, A S. P. level or S. P. or Mr. Gurusamy, Inspector's level?

A: I don't know.

Q: You are not aware whether he concerned himself about this? A: No.

Q: Has anyone in the station been interdicted on the basis of the false message and sent on compulsory interdiction awaiting full inquiry? A: No.

Q: This is serious for the police to be not able to investigate subversive activities in the police station? Do you admit that was a very serious thing? A: Yes, a very serious matter?

Commissioner: By now they must have been probed minutely?

'DID THE D. I. G. CONCERN HIMSELF AS TO WHO SENT THIS FALSE MESSAGE?'



Mr. Ana Seneviratne, the D. I. G. (Northern Range) in August 1977. He is today the Inspector General of Police.

Mr. Bartlett: It has been probed. No officer in the station at that time has been interdicted or dealt with departmentally for sending this false message, Sir.

The message was subversive

Questioning: ctd.

Q: The entire police force at Jaffna at that time was moving in subversive activities? A: No.

Q: This message, at least was subversive, according to you? A: Yes.

Q: Who are you trying to protect by coming out with this evidence? A: No one.

Q: Not even yourself? A: No.

Q: Mr. Liyanage had travelled down with the D.I.G. Ana Seneviratne and he came along with Major General Sepala Attygalle, and Mr. Jayasinghe, Secretary of Defence to Jaffna on the 16th?

A: Except for Mr. Ana Seneviratne, the others came.

Q: The I.G.P., D.I.G. Mr. Ana Seneviratne and others also came to Jaffna on the 16th?

A: I don't know whether Mr. Seneviratne came with them.

Q: I understand at about the same time the Army Commander, Major General Sepala Attygalle, Mr. Jayasinghe and the I.G.P. came together?

A: Yes.

Q: The D. I. G. Mr. Ana Seneviratne and the S. P. Mr. Liyanage from Anuradhapura came separately by a separate flight on the 16th? A: No.

Q: You say that Mr. Ana Seneviratne was never in Jaffna?

A: He was in Jaffna on that day. When the I. G. P. came, he spoke to me. He asked me to point out the way to go to the trouble spots.

Q: Mr. Joseph who is the present G. A. stated that when he went to the airport, there was Mr. Sepala Attygalle, Mr. Jayasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, I.G.P., D.I.G. Mr. Ana Seneviratne and Mr. Liyanage?

'S. P. Liyanage did not tell me'

Commissioner: I think, he said he was not there. He also said that he did not know Mr. Liyanage.

Questioning, ctd.

Q: You are certain that S. P. Liyanage was in Jaffna on the 16th? A: He came to Jaffna but I am not sure of the date.

Q: He came to Jaffna on the 16th? A: It is possible.

Questioning by Mr. Bartlett ctd.

Q: It is not possible because S. P. Liyanage asked you to go to hospital and get P.C. Bandara?

Q: He asked several constables to go in two vehicles to bring Bandara?

A: Two vehicles went together because there was tension in the country and I

'I don't know' -

I. P. Gurusamy

Q: S. P. Liyanage was at the station and he wanted to remove P.C. Bandara to Anuradhapura on the basis that he could not take proper treatment in Jaffna?

was asked to go to the hospital.

A: Some officer took Bandara by plane to Anuradhapura. I know P. C. Ramupillai. P.C. Bandara went by plane to Anuradhapura.

Q: What, the police officers of Jaffna were afraid of the public of Jaffna?

A: Yes.

Commissioner:

Q: The mob was supposed to be at the bus stand?

Q: You took him to the airport?

Q: Yes, I was not stopped by the mob. We took a different route to go to the hospital.

A: No, some officer took him.

Q: In that plane Mr. Liyanage went, he is supposed to have said to the people at Anuradhapura, "I have brought some police personnel because they refused to treat them in Jaffna"?

Questioning by Mr. Bartlett, ctd.

Q: What did the public of Jaffna do? A: Nothing.

Q: You were in the station reading? A: Yes.

A: Maybe, but I don't know.

Commissioner: You went and brought Bandara from hospital to station? A: Yes.

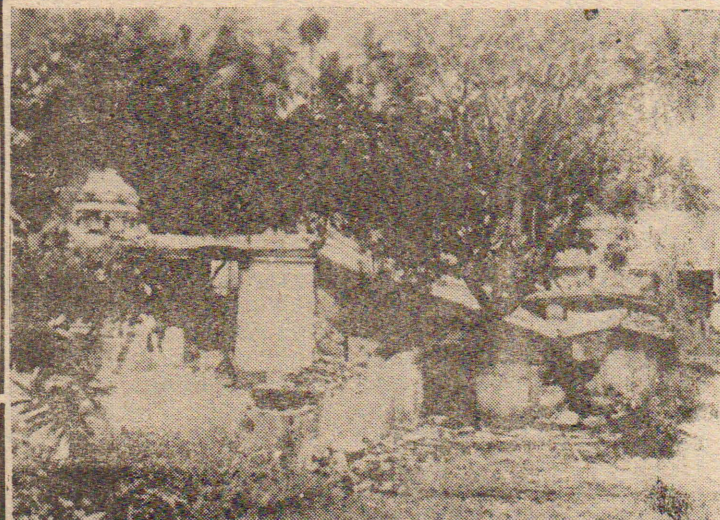
Mr. Bartlett: Sir, I want to ask for an adjournment till tomorrow morning. We have so much material and we want to question this witness in detail.

Q: Who asked you to do that?

Commissioner: Yes. (to witness) Come tomorrow with the registers.

A: H.Q.I. Mr. Godfrey-Gunasekera.

Murugan Temple, Matara; Another view.



'FALSE RUMOURS IN COLOMBO ABOUT JAFFNA DOCTORS'

(8th March 1978)

(17th day)

Same appearances as before

Mr. Shanmugalingam calls:
DR. SUBRAMANIAM — PONNAMPALAM, affirmed 49 years, General Hospital, Jaffna.

"I have been serving in the General Hospital, Jaffna as a Surgeon in August, 1977. Police Constable Bandara was admitted to Ward No. 17 in August, 1977.

Q: Who was your House Officer?

A: If I see the bed-head ticket, I can say. (Shown the bed-head ticket X58) This is the bed-head ticket of the patient H.M.K. Bandara, PC 7674. He was admitted on 15-8-77 at 2-45 a.m.

Q: Can you tell us who was the House Officer?

A: This is the writing of Dr. Pathmajayam. All surgical cases are admitted to Ward No. 17. On the 14th morning at 8 a.m. I saw the patient.

'Temperature was normal'

Q: Already he had been given certain treatment?

A: Yes. He had been given Tetenus Toxide, Anti-tetenus Serum, Anti-gangrene Serum, and Penicillin. An X-ray had been ordered.

Q: Can you tell us what you saw? Was there any urgent need for surgical treatment immediately?

A: There was no necessity for surgical treatment.

Q: What was his temperature?

A: On admission, he did not have any temperature. His temperature was normal when I saw him. He was able to move on his toes. He did not have bleeding.

Q: Had the X-ray of the patient come by that time?

A: X-ray was taken on the 15th morning sometime after I saw the patient.

'No operation necessary'

Q: In the course of the day, on the 15th, did you see the X-ray?

A: Subsequently I saw the X-ray and I remember having seen a bullet in the thigh.

Q: Did you and your staff in the hospital give this patient, Bandara, all the necessary treatment on the 15th?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: Had you, anyway, authorised this patient to leave the hospital?

A: No, I did not. The bed-head ticket shows the entry "I am leaving of my own today - 16-8-77". Thereafter, I did not see the patient. About his leaving the ward, someone came and informed me that the patient had left

the ward on his own. At that time, I was performing an operation.

Commissioner: Q: Was any operation necessary for this patient?

A: At that time, no operation was necessary, Sir.

"I remember, sometime thereafter the refugees came by ships from Colombo. The Thoracic Surgeon, Dr. Natkunam, who was attached to the Colombo General Hospital, also came with the refugees in the ship on duty. He came to the Jaffna General Hospital.

That rumour in Colombo

Q: Did he give you information that it was talked about in Colombo, General Hospital, that there was a rumour to the effect that in the Jaffna hospital Doctors were refusing to treat Sinhalese patients?

A: Yes, he told us.

you dated 1st September, 1977?

A: Yes.

(Read by Counsel)

'A P. C. who was asthma patient'

Q: In your second paragraph you state that you were aware that there was a Police Constable suffering from asthma in a ward of the hospital? A: Yes.

Q: At the same time, an attempt was made to remove that patient? A: I heard so.

Commissioner: Q: Did you hear that Bandara was also removed by the police?

A: Yes, I was told, sir.

Q: So that in the second paragraph when you referred to the unsuccessful attempts made to remove another patient you were referring to this particular patient? A: Yes.

Q: Is it the practice for medical officers, for example you, to be called to the

give him the necessary treatment? A: Yes.

Questioned by Mr. G. P. S. de Silva, Deputy Solicitor General.

Q: (Shown X58) This bed-head ticket shows that the various injections have been ordered or given to the patient? A: It has been ordered and given to the patient.

Q: You said that there was a bullet?

A: I saw that in the X-ray

Q: Normally when there is a bullet, is a surgical treatment necessary to remove the bullet?

A: In certain cases, we remove the bullet immediately. In certain cases, we should not interfere with it. If we interfere we will be causing more harm and damage. In this particular case, if I interfered, I would have done more damage.

Attempt to remove asthmatic P.C. too

Q: As far as this patient was concerned, no further treatment was necessary?

A: At that stage, surgical intervention was unnecessary and harmful.

Q: You saw him last, according to X58, on the 15th morning? A: Yes.

Q: At what time?

A: At about 8 or 8-15 a.m.

Q: Thereafter, could you recall whether you saw him?

A: I don't remember having seen him.

Q: According to what is stated in X58A, it would appear the patient had left on the 16th? A: Yes. The House Officer would have seen him.

Q: There is a time 2.45 p.m. on X.58?

A: It is a mistake.

Q: There is a time 2.15 a.m. there?

'All the medical attention given'

A: That must be the time put by the admitting officer. In X.58 there is an entry made by the ward nurse stating, "admitted at 2.15 a.m." The other entry had been made by the O.P.D. doctor or the clerk. The first entry 2.45 p.m. could be a mistake (Shown X.58)

Q: There is an entry "X-rayed right, thigh upper part of right thigh"?

A: That part had to be X-rayed.

Q: Is there anything to show that the X-ray was taken?

A: Yes. The ticking off shows the X-ray was taken.

Q: Your position is that the patient received all the

medical attention that was needed at that time? A: Yes.

(To Mr. Bartlett:

Q: The X-ray should be available to the hospital?

A: Yes. It should be available.

Q: There was a rumour or mischievous talk around that police patients from the Jaffna Police did not receive treatment from the doctors at the Jaffna hospital?

A: I heard that from Dr. Natkunam.

Q: A highly placed officer had gone and spoken at Anuradhapura about the medical ethics of the Jaffna doctors (Jaffna hospital doctors)? A: I heard so.

Q: This patient, P. C. Bandara was never refused any kind of treatment or deprived of any treatment?

A: He was not.



Matara Murugan Temple destruction — another view

Q: The reputation of the medical staff of the Jaffna hospital was at stake because of that rumour? A: Yes.

Q: To your knowledge that rumour was a false rumour? A: Yes.

Q: As a result, the Secretary of the GMOA in Jaffna together with you sat down and drafted a small statement to be issued? A: Yes.

Q: There is a GMOA branch in Jaffna? A: Yes.

Q: You gave the facts in regard to PC Bandara and you also made other inquiries? A: Yes.

Q: In consequence, a statement was prepared and sent to the President of the GMOA Colombo and copies of that statement were sent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Minister of Health, the President of the A.M.S., S.H.S. Jaffna and other branches? A: Yes.

Q: You produce marked X65 the statement issued by

police station to treat patients? A: No, we are not allowed to go out?

"It is correct that on the 16th of August, a number of civil patients had been admitted to Ward No. 17 with assault and gun shot injuries.

Q: In fact, to your ward alone on that day, roughly 30 patients would have been admitted with gun shot or assault injuries?

A: I am not quite sure of the figure.

X-ray showed a bullet

Q: But a large number? A: Yes.

Q: You say that this patient Bandara had been given all the necessary treatment? A: Yes.

Q: And the doctors and the rest of the medical staff had not failed or refused to

Q: On 16.8.77 there is an endorsement in X.58A "I am leaving on my own 16.8.77" and it is purported to have been signed by someone? A: Yes.

(To Mr. Shanmugalingam:

Q: This time 2.45 p.m. would show that he was admitted late in the afternoon. Actually, he was admitted in the early hours of the morning? A: Yes.

Q: (Shown X.65) This is not signed by you?

A: I have not signed it. It was signed by the person who prepared it.

'THE KING COCONUT SELLER...'

Mr. Niles calls:

SEENIVASAGAM JEGANATHAN, affirmed, 27 years, Photographer, residing at Anaicottai.

"On the 16th August, 1977 I took the night mail train from Colombo to Jaffna. I was travelling in a third class compartment. The train drew in at the Anuradhapura railway station shortly after mid-night. Then I got down at the platform and was drinking a king coconut. At the time I did not notice anything unusual in the railway station.

"Then the train from Jaffna drew in after about 15 minutes. When the Jaffna train

(Continued next page)

'MAN, WHO SOLD ME THE KING COCONUT SNATCHED MY SUITCASE'

(continued from page 6)

drew in, there was lot of shouting from inside the compartments of that train.

'Sinhalese asked to get down'

Q: You would have noticed that in the compartment next to yours, there were policemen in civils with weapons?

A: Yes, they had rifles. They were not in their uniform. I did not speak to any of those policemen in that compartment. When the train from Jaffna came and stopped, bottles from the compartments of that train were thrown into the compartments of our train. Then we put up the shutters. Then all those glasses shattered. Then the Sinhalese people came and asked the Sinhalese passengers of my compartment to get down. When they started to question the passengers in Sinhalese, those who did not understand the language did not get down.

Commissioner: Q: Who asked the Sinhalese passengers to get down?

A: The people who came to attack.

Q: Who were those people?

A: They were Sinhalese, Sir.

'Then they blocked the doorway of the compartment. Then the passengers who were inside the train climbed out through the windows. I assisted a woman to climb out through the window.

Man who sold the king coconut

To Mr. Niles:

Q: You also climbed out?
A: Yes.

Q: Did you recognise any of the people who assaulted you? A: The person who sold me the king coconut was the person who removed my suitcase.

(To Commissioner:

Q: Where was the suitcase?

A: When I jumped out I carried the suitcase and at that time he wrenched it off from me.)

Q: What were the policemen doing at that time?

A: They continued to be in the compartment. They did not get down.

Q: They did not help you?

A: They did not.

Q: Did you ask them to help you? A: I asked them.

Q: What did they say?

A: They were not prepared to help.

Q: Did you go near the station master's room close by? A: I tried to get out of the station.

Q: In the process did you get close to the rooms of the station master?

A: I did not go into any room. I passed the rooms on my way.

'Heard women raising cries'

Q: Did you see anything happening in the rooms?

A: I heard women in those rooms raising cries when being assaulted. They were taken there under the pretext of giving them shelter.

Q: Who took them there?

A: I do not know.

Q: Who assaulted them?

A: I do not know.

Q: They were Sinhalese?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you get back to the same train at any stage?

A: Yes.

Q: Then what happened?

A: On two occasions the train was started. But as stones were pelted the train did not move.

Q: What happened finally?

A: Then the Army personnel arrived and they got into the compartment. Then the train started.

Q: When the Army personnel arrived the situation was under control?

A: When they arrived the trouble was on.

'Army controlled the situation'

Q: How was the situation brought under control?

A: When the Army personnel came they drove the trouble makers and the situation was brought under control.

Q: You then travelled to Jaffna? A: Yes.

Q: What happened to the policemen in the compartment? A: They got down at Mankulam.

Q: Why did they get down?

A: Somebody asked them to get down.

Q: During the assault did you suffer any injury?

A: I had a contusion on my left thigh.

Q: Did you undergo any operation as a result of that?

A: Yes. My thigh is not yet healed.

Q: You have to undergo another operation? A: Yes.

Kilinochchi 'Policemen set fire to our house'

Mr. Shanmugalingam call Sinnammah wife of Muthu.

SINNAMMAH WIFE OF MUTHU: Affirmed. Residing at Kilinochchi:

Q: Your house is on the Kandy Road at Kilinochchi?

A: Yes.

Q: It is behind the building known as Laxapana? A: Yes.

Q: Your husband, you and your daughter were living in that house? A: Yes.

Q: On 21st August, 1977 your husband was not in the house?

A: That is correct.

Q: At about 9 p. m., in the night on that day did anything happen? A: Yes.

Q: Can you state in short what happened?

A: Police personnel came inside the house and asked us as to who was residing in that house.

They pulled us into the jeep

Q: How did the Police personnel come there?

A: They were in uniform and armed with rifles. They came walking.

Q: From the main road they came walking to your place? A: Yes.

Q: Then what happened?

A: At that time my 17 year old daughter and I were there. There were no

males. They asked us to go out of the house. They pulled out the two bicycles which were inside the house and took them. While the bicycles and we were in their custody they set fire to the house.

"I appealed to them as to why they were setting fire to the house. They said "If the house is burning, let it burn. You come with us". They took us along the lane to the place where the jeep was parked. All along the lane they pulled us and forced me and my daughter into the jeep. They took us close to a Sinhalese man's house which is about half a mile away and there the jeep was halted for about half an hour. Thereafter they took us to the Kilinochchi Police Station

The bicycles not returned

Q: Thereafter were you kept in the Police Station?

A: Yes. The next day also we were in the Police Station. At about 5 p. m., the following day we were asked to go away.

Q: You and your daughter went back?

A: Yes. When we went to our house they were completely burnt.

Q: Where were the two bicycles?

A: We do not know what happened to the bicycles. They were not returned.

Commissioner: Did they take the bicycles also in the jeep? A: Yes.

Mr. Shanmugalingam:

Q: You have suffered damages? A: Yes.

Q: What is the value that you place on the house alone?

A: We did not take anything. Clothes and the water pump also were taken away and burnt. The loss of the house amounts to Rs. 15,000/- One cycle was worth Rs. 1,200/- and the other bicycle was worth Rs. 700/-.

His name was Seevaratnam

Q: Thereafter you made inquiries at the Police Station but they were not returned?

A: We made inquiries and they said that they would not return the bicycles.

Q: Can you tell any reason why they should have come to your house and did all these things?

Constable called Seevaratnam

A: I do not know. I was living by myself. I cannot say why the policemen did this.

Mr. de Silva: Q: Do you know the number or name of any of the Police Officers who came there?

A: I did not take down the number of the constables. I know all the officers who came there. I know the name of one man and that is Seevaratnam.

Q: Is he a sergeant or, a Police constable?

A: He was an ordinary constable. I know only that person by name. The other persons I know by sight. I can identify them.

Q: What did Seevaratnam do? A: It was Seevaratnam who took me and my daughter from the house and who accompanied me to the jeep.

Q: Did Seevaratnam assault you?

A: It was Seevaratnam who asked me to get down from the jeep and he took us to the Police Station.

Commissioner: Did you not ask him why he was doing all this?

A: I was in fear. I thought of that but I thought that they would do more harm if I asked for the reason. Therefore I did not ask him

Compensation not paid

Mr. Kodeeswaran: Q: Did you make any complaints to any authorities after this incident? A: Yes.

Q: Were you paid any compensation for the loss sustained?

A: On the 21st I was arrested and on the 22nd I was released. I went and complained on the 23rd to the D.R.O., and the Grama-Sevaka.

Q: Did anybody pay any compensation?

A: No compensation has been paid.

"Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right"

— Rudyard Kipling.

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

Arsonist was brought to the hospital with burns'

MURUGESU SUBRAMANIAM: Affirmed. 54 Years, Head Guard, Anuradhapura and presently temporarily attached to the Kankesanthurai Railway Station.

Mr. Niles: Q: You heard the evidence of the last witness Thangavel? A: Yes.

Q: You worked the same train? A: Yes.

Q: You confirm what he said? A: Yes.

Q: After coming from Madawachchi Station what did you do?

A: I got down to the platform after handing over to the other Guard. When I got down, a clerk who was known to me told me that there was lot of trouble and asked me not to stand on the platform, and to run to the office immediately. I left the Station. Then I was told that officers of the Station were trying to make arrangements and I was asked to wait there.

Station was guarded

The Divisional Superintendent of Railways told me that he was making arrangements and he asked me not to go out of the Station. He asked me to remain in the office. Later on I was asked to occupy one of the retiring rooms up-stairs. Later the other Tamil Officers joined me in the Rest Room up-stairs.

Q: Was the Station guarded? A: Yes.

Q: Was the staircase guarded? A: Yes.

Q: By whom? A: By the Police and off and on by Army personnel.

Q: All were armed with guns? A: Yes.

Q: You noticed that people were coming and going?

A: Certain people were coming and going.

Q: Unknown people?

A: Some people who were working in the railway and a few outsiders came up-stairs and the others in the area were coming and going. There was an incident at about 7 o'clock in the office. Some people from outside walked up in the lobby and at that time I was in the room. They looted some wristlets and personal belongings.

'A gang came upstairs'

Q: After that incident, what happened?

A: After that incident we complained to the Police. The D. S., and the Police said that this will not happen again. So we went to the room.

Q: What happened at 11 p. m.?

A: A gang came upstairs. I was in the room. I placed a chair against the door. They pushed the door open and threw the chair on me. Then they started assaulting and cutting me.

Q: Did they cut you across your stomach with a knife?

A: Yes.

Q: You had a cut on the stomach and forehead and they assaulted you on your arm? A: Yes.

'I pretended to be unconscious'

Q: Then you became dazed?

A: Yes. I collapsed. At certain times I pretended that I was unconscious thinking that they will not assault me. In the meantime the Police and Army came. They had gone and attacked the other rooms also. The Police and Army arrived and asked all the injured to come out. With great difficulty I found a bed-sheet to replace the one sarong which was blood stained. I with the help of another person slowly walked down the staircase. Then there was a military jeep in front of the station and I was asked to get in. In my room there was Vigneswaran and Ratnasingham and those people were injured. Thomas also received injuries.

The Inspector came twice

Q: You were taken to the General Hospital?

A: I was taken to the Anuradhapura Hospital.

Q: Between those two incidents did the Police come and examine the place?

A: Yes. They examined the room and they wanted to know whether any outsiders

were there other than railway employees. The Inspector came twice and the constable on duty came there at that time.

The constable warned me

Q: Did anybody tell you that there was to be an attack? A: The constable warned me that there might be an attack and that he would try to stop it.

Q: At the hospital were you treated? A: The head wound and the wound on the stomach were stitched. I was given a dirty mat and I was lying there. I had no clothes. A friend of mine brought a sarong and I was wearing that. I was there till the 18th night. On the 19th morning a patient was brought from Kekirawa with burns on his body. I came to know that he was pouring petrol to burn a house and somebody had thrown a burning torch and he himself caught fire and had burns.

'There was no attention in the hospital. There were rumours to say that the hospital also would be burnt if

the Tamil patients were kept there. From the time I was taken to the hospital till I was taken away the military guarded the room. On Friday morning at about 7 o'clock I was taken out. I was in the verandah for about two or two and a half hours. Then a lorry was brought and I was asked to get in. Still I was bleeding.

At about 11.30 or 12 noon a lorry took me to the kachcheri. All the Tamil patients I knew were taken to the Kachcheri for security reasons. At the Kachcheri I was lying under a tree on a piece of cadjan till the following Saturday noon when buses arrived to take the refugees. I had to go and speak to the military commander that I could not stand in the queue. Balaratnam also spoke and I was given preference and a seat. We had to wait in the bus for another two and a half hours. Military drivers drove the buses and they left in a convoy.

Q: While you were in the kachcheri you were not given any medical treatment, not even first aid?

A: Mr. Johnpillai gave me plain tea. I did not get any food. I did not have water.

Q: Why did you not have water?

A: Because of the injuries I did not want to have water. Food was not available at the kachcheri.

'I found 2 old

Post Cards'

Q: Subsequently did you have any difficulty in regard to your job? A: Later I went to Vavuniya and I was brought to Jaffna by lorry. I did not get any financial assistance. They had looted my quarters. When I went to my quarters I found only two old postcards. After three months, I got a temporary transfer to K. K. S. I have been transferred to K. K. S., in place of an officer who is under interdiction. After he is reinstated, I will be transferred back to Anuradhapura. I want a permanent transfer to K. K. S., until I am retired in February, 1979. I have not received any compensation.

'MOB ATTACKED A'PURA TEMPLE PRIEST'

DR. DURAI SAMY GANANANTHAN, affirmed 31 years, Rural Hospital, Pandaittheripu.

Examined by Mr. A. P. Niles.

I am a Doctor. In August 1977, I was stationed at Anuradhapura as a Doctor attached to the Anuradhapura hospital. I was living in Anuradhapura with my wife.

On the 17th of August, 1977 at 7 a. m. I went to work. While I was working, injured patients were brought in and they were admitted and I heard that Tamil shops had been looted and there was tension in the area. The injured persons were Tamils. Then I left the hospital and went home at 11.45 a. m. I left the hospital because I was working at the O. P. D. I reached home at about 1.45 p. m.

Then, one of my friends, Mr. Felix de Silva came to me and said that there is tension in the town and asked me to shift my family to his house for safety. At that time, I was staying with my wife my father-in-law and sister-in-law. They had come to Anuradhapura for a holiday. The Kathirasan temple is in front of my house. A lane separates the temple and my house.

While we were so discussing with Mr. Felix de Silva,

a crowd of about 45 people came to the temple. At that time there was a dana going on at the temple and the crowd started to attack the people who were there and the Priest of the temple started to run through the southern entrance to his house which is about 50 yards away from the temple. The house is within the temple premises behind the temple. Then the crowd chased after the priest and attacked him. He was attacked with hands as well as with a stick. I was able to see that.

(To be continued in the next issue)

next week

- * A.S.P. Chandra Mendis - he helped many Tamils in distress
- * Thunukai incidents
- * Rajangane Engineer testifies