

196 76 Vol 388 file 536999  
(Copy for the information of W.D.Scott Esq.,  
Supt. of Immigration,  
Ottawa.)

6142731  
Kindly do not write of more than  
one subject in any one letter.

In your reply  
refer to No. **File 114.**

Immigration Branch

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COPY

WCH/DMCH.

Vancouver, B.C. 17th Sept. 1914.

Anita  
This is to be typed as two separate items - one  
starts on page 3 and the second on page 4

Sir,

On the 15th inst, before leaving Vancouver, I sent you  
the following wire:-

"Am in receipt of letter from Gwyther in Victoria outlining  
"a serious situation in regard to the mission I sent him on,  
"and will try and leave for Victoria to-day. See my wire  
"of eleventh August re Munsha Singh of Village Jundiala  
"District Jullunder. It is suspected that this man is in  
"possession of at least one or two infernal machines. Will  
"advise you from Victoria further developments."

I arrived in Victoria at 7 p.m., where Mr. Gwyther my  
assistant met me and gave me a verbal account of what he had  
been able to ascertain. He also made over to me a copy of  
the depositions of witnesses who testified at the preliminary  
hearing given Gurdit Singh and Dalip Singh.

These two East Indians were charged with unlawfully and  
knowingly having in their possession an iron apparatus in the  
form of a bombshell for an unlawful purpose.

I enclose herewith the copy of the depositions marked "A".

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I then visited the City Police Office, and from the  
Inspector of Detectives, Mr. Perdue, secured a copy of a photo-  
graph of the material seized by the Police in the boat-house of  
Gurdit Singh on Monday the 7th inst. This photograph I enclose  
herewith marked "B".

From enquiries made by me on this evening, I was able  
to learn that two detectives of the City of Victoria on the 5th  
instant, saw Gurdit Singh and Dalip Singh enter a Chinese Grocery  
store at the corner of Government & Herald Street - Gurdit Singh  
was carrying something in his hands at the time - They followed  
the Hindus into the store, where Gurdit Singh put on the floor  
what he had in his hand - Just as the detectives entered the  
store, Dalip started walking out, and he was detained. In Dalip



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Singh's possession was found one iron cap, and on the floor of the store was found an iron pipe 3" in diameter and 20" long capped at one end, which Gurdit Singh had put there when he went to the back of the store to wash his hands.

One of the detectives picked up the pipe in the presence of Gurdit, who claimed it and said it was for running off water in his house. This man subsequently took the detectives to a machine shop, where the proprietor, Mr. Walker, identified Gurdit Singh and the pipe - Mr. Walker's statement is in the depositions enclosed. The detectives did not appear satisfied with the statement of Gurdit Singh, and decided to search his house - Gurdit Singh, instead of taking the detectives to his own house, took them to the house of Dalip Singh on purpose, and tried to show how he intended to use the pipe for running off water - This story did not fit with the surroundings - Nothing was found in this house.

Gurdit Singh would not disclose the location of his house. Eventually on the 9th inst, 4 days after Gurdit and Dalip Singh were arrested, the detectives decided to make some enquiries as to where Gurdit worked - At the James Leigh Lumber Co., it was found that Gurdit had worked there for sometime, and lived by himself in a boat house close to the mill. This boat-house was searched, and the following material was found therein:-

- Eight glass test tubes - assorted sizes.
- 1 Doz. Revolver Cartridges.
- 1 Bundle containing 8 dynamite caps.
- 9 Crucibles or evaporating dishes.
- 9 ft. of Fuse.
- 1 Small bomb (unfilled), marked X in picture "B".
- 1 Package Powder.
- 1 Iron retort stand (adjustable).
- 1 Iron trestle.
- 2 Bottles wood alcohol.
- 1 Tin Funnel.
- 1 Measuring glass.
- 1 Tin tube.

All the above material can be seen in photograph marked "B".



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The remains in the test tubes and evaporating dishes were analysed by the Government Analyst, who found traces of Picric Acid and other explosives therein.

These things were taken charge of by the Police.

From other sources, mostly East Indian, I was able to gather that Gurdit Singh was a close friend of Harnam Singh son of Labh Singh of Village Sahri, Dist. Hoshiarpore, at present in custody of the U.S. Immigration Authorities. With Gurdit Singh were a number of other Hindus who used to frequent the house of Harnam Singh - Among these were Munsha Singh Takhan of the Village of Jundiala, Dist. Jullunder - Puran Singh, Meher Singh and Tara Singh alias Dalip Singh, all of the Village of Furhira in the District of Hoshiarpore - These four men left Victoria within the past month on Japanese boats without registering out. Having ascertained these particulars and it being about 11-30 o'clock at night, I decided to defer further enquiries till the next day,

and sent you the following night-lettergram:-

179 w.c. Hopkinson to W.W. Coffey  
NIGHT LETTERGRAM  
"On Saturday fifth instant two Hindus arrested here by City Police. One named Gurdit Singh Village Furhira District Hoshiarpore and the other Dalip Singh son of Shere Singh of same Village and District as Gurdit Singh. In boat house occupied by former were found paraphernalia for manufacture of bombs as also complete bomb description as follows. Iron pipe one inch and three quarter diameter, six inches long screwed both ends and fitted with cap at each end. One cap has hole drilled for fuse. Another bomb description Iron pipe three inches diameter twenty inches long fitted with caps slightly different to smaller one. Explosive found is described by analyst as Picric Acid this in very small quantity but retorts, test tubes etc show traces of manufacture of other explosives. It is believed that undernoted Indians who left Victoria within the past month for India have taken three completed bombs with them. Description of bombs taken not known but believed to be either one of the two described above. The smaller one to be used for throwing purposes while the larger one for planting. Suspects who left are Munsha Singh Takhan Village Jundiala District Jullunder, one bomb. Puran Singh and Meher Singh Village Furhira District Hoshiarpore, Punjab, one bomb, and Dalip Singh alias Tara Singh village Furhira District Hoshiarpore, one bomb.

Manufacture of explosive appears to me to be work of educated Indians receptacles for same is of crude manufacture and made by un-educated men. Those under arrest make no statement and have been committed for trial to next assize.

Victoria, 8 September, 1914



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Am arranging to have house search made for documentary evidence of suspects here. Have also had photograph taken of material found and mailing to-morrow. Please advise India to be on look out for suspects named and give them description of material found as enumerated herein".

180 Extract from W. C. Hopkins to W. W. Cory [September 8]

Vancouver, 17 September 1914

The following morning at 9-30, I called on Inspector Perdue and requested the assistance of some of his officers to conduct house searches - I also called on Mr. Colin Campbell, Superintendent Provincial Police, and asked his co-operation in the search - Mr. Campbell deputed two Provincial officers to assist.

I took two city detectives with me to search the grocery store and house of Harnam Singh, and sent Mr. Gwyther with the Provincial officers to search the house of another Hindu named Harnam Singh, Village Mogaji, District Jullunder, a close friend of Harnam Singh of Sahri -

Before detailing the result of the search and enquiries made, I wish to give a few particulars regarding Harnam Singh of Sahri, and his doings in Victoria before his arrest in Sumas, Wash.

Harnam Singh, on his return from the United States in 1913, started a grocery store at 2615 Douglas Street - He engaged the services of a Hindu named Baboo, Jat, son of Miha Singh of the Village of Fuddisurasing, Dist. Hoshiarpore, and paid him \$40.00 a month - Baboo has married a white woman, and now lives with her on the outskirts of Victoria. Harnam Singh is very well acquainted with Baboo's wife.

Sometime early this year, Harnam Singh decided to give up the grocery store on Douglas Street. He leased a plot of land on Graham Street, together with a house situated thereon. On this land he erected a store, and removed all his merchandise to this place. He used the store exclusively for commercial



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purposes, and took up his residence in the house which is just behind the store. Munsha Singh, Takhan and several other East Indians, lived with Harnam in this house. His servant, Baboo, did not live here - This gives an idea of the connection between Baboo & Harnam Singh -

Before going to Harnam Singh's store, I managed to find Baboo in the City Police Court, where he was attending the trial of a friend on some minor offence.

I took Baboo and two City detectives with me to Graham Street. Baboo pointed out Harnam Singh's store, and with a key in his possession, he opened the store - The store contained a very small stock of groceries, and appeared to be abandoned probably due to Harnam's detention in the United States.

We started searching the store, and soon found a large quantity of the "Ghadar" (Mutiny) newspaper, lying about all over the store - In one of the drawers of a counter, I found the first clue to the Bomb case in Victoria - I enclose herewith this paper marked "C". As you will notice, it contains a list of practically all the material found in the house of Gurdit Singh - I could find no private correspondence or any other effects belonging to Harnam - Baboo did not appear to have any knowledge of the whereabouts of Harnam's things.

I then decided to search the house occupied by Harnam. This house is a bungalow situated a few feet behind the store. It has several rooms and many beds. Baboo could not say which was Harnam's bed, as the latter had not been there for nearly two months - We searched the whole house; but found nothing except a large number of "Ghadars" in every room.

In the basement of this bungalow, I found a small grocery stock - In searching the basement I found a small measuring glass, and about 10 inches of fuse secreted in the roof of the



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basement on a beam - We found nothing else of importance and were unable to locate the personal effects of Harnam which had apparently been removed sometime between the date of his arrest and this day.

From Harnam Singh's store, we proceeded to the house of Baboo, located on the city limits - On arrival, we found that Baboo's wife had been going through the business and personal papers of Harnam Singh. Before making a search, I questioned this woman with regard to Harnam Singh's effects, and she stated that Harnam Singh had sent her a general power of attorney by virtue of which she had taken charge of all his effects except the bedding.

On entering the living room of this house, I found the floor of this room littered with business and private papers belonging to Harnam Singh. On questioning Baboo's wife, she said she was engaged in sorting out the papers with a view to straighten out the accounts of Harnam Singh's Grocery business.

She permitted me to go through all the papers, and I seized all the private letters, both in English and vernacular, addressed to Harnam Singh. Among the letters in English seized by me, the following are of paramount importance in the present bomb enquiry:- Registered letter and envelope marked " D " from S.N.Karr, P.O. Box 130, University Station, Seattle, Wash., and dated 4th Jany. 1914, Paris, France, C/o Thos. Cook & Sons, Place de L Opera, and unsigned- This letter, as will be seen by others enclosed herewith, is written by Suren M. Bose - I believe that letter "D" was sent by Bose from Paris to S.N.Karr in Seattle under separate cover, with a request to forward to Harnam Singh in Victoria - The envelope was addressed by Bose - In this letter when read carefully, it can be seen that Suren Bose sent to Harnam Singh "a copy of the process used by the



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Russian Revolutionaries". The process referred to, is nothing less than the formula for the preparation of explosives to be used in bombs.

I would also draw your attention to a post-card marked "E" from Paris, France, addressed to Harnam Singh. This P.C. is dated 7th Jan. 1914, and signed "Suren"- in it reference is made to the letter marked "D" and the contents.

I enclose herewith another letter marked "F". This letter is dated Paris, France, Jan. 20th, 1914, and signed "Suren". It is addressed to Harnam Singh, and has reference to letters marked "B" and "E", and the same subject.

I am enclosing herewith a bundle of letters marked "G". This bundle contains correspondence from G.D.Kumar, Barakatulla and Bhagwan Singh to Harnam Singh. Some of it is in Hindustani, which I do not wish to have translated here.

I enclose another batch of letters contained in four envelopes from Taraknath Dass to Harnam Singh marked "H".

Also enclose a batch of letters in Hindustani from various sources- not translated, marked "J".

With exception of some shirts and suits, no other effects of Harnam Singh's were found here. I returned to the City at 2-30 p.m., having taken possession of these letters.

At about 2-40, I met Mr. Gwyther who had returned from the house search of Harnam Singh Machi of Village Mogaji - Mr. Gwyther seized a large number of letters all in the vernacular, and I enclose the same herewith in a bundle marked "K". Mr. Gwyther also found a 38 calibre revolver with 6 cartridges. Both revolver and cartridges were wrapped up in a piece of paper and hidden in the basement of Harnam Singh Machi's house on Shakespear St.

I have left the revolver and cartridges together with the



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measuring glass and fuse I found, with the City Police.

stop here  
Having searched these houses, I started with Mr. Gwyther and Detective Edens of the City Force, to try and locate the store from which all the material found in Gurdit Singh's house had been purchased - I visited the store of the National Drug Co., on Yates Street, and from Mr. Clarke of this store, learnt that an assistant named Kirkby, had sold some material of the description noted in enclosure "C". Mr. Kirkby was out at the time, and I decided to visit the house-boat of Gurdit Singh - Detective Edens, who knew the place, took us there, and I made a careful search of the place and recovered some letters in Hindustani which I enclose here and marked "L".

I made a very close search of this house; but could find nothing else. This may be accounted for, by the fact that I searched it a week after the City Police. The Police themselves could have located the house the same day as they arrested Gurdit Singh, if they had only sent for me, or obtained a local interpreter. It was nearly five days after the arrest that they searched the house, and they were lucky in finding what they did.

From Gurdit's house, I returned to the National Drug Co's store, and found Mr. Kirby in - From this gentleman, I ascertained that on the 10th May 1914, a Hindu dressed in American (fashion) clothes, clean shaven, wearing glasses, who gave his name as Harnam Singh, called at the store to purchase Laboratory supplies. This Hindu made a selection of his wants, and they supplied him with the material enumerated in the copy of invoice enclosed herewith and marked "M". They sent the material at his request to Messrs Dean & Hiscocks, Druggists, on Yates St, Victoria, with whom he would settle the payment. They did not supply him with any of the acids referred to in



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enclosure "C"; but he might have purchased same in Vancouver.

I next called on Mr. Hiscocks of Dean & Hiscocks, and this gentleman informed me that the National Drug Co., sent up the material referred to in enclosure "M" to his store where a Hindu paid him for them and took delivery. The payment was made by a cheque on the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and signed Harnam Singh.

Having ascertained all these particulars, I communicated the same to Chief of Police, Mr. Langley of Victoria, and sent you the undernoted telegram:-

"In house searches conducted by me with assistance of City Police to-day, I have seized valuable correspondence between Harnam Singh son of Labh Singh Village Sahri and Taraknath Dass, Suren Bose and other revolutionaries resident in Paris and United States. Have also secured evidence which conclusively proves that Harnam Singh personally purchased material for manufacture of bombs. This purchase was made on formulas received from Suren Bose in Paris. Harnam is now detained by U.S. Immigration at Syms. Will you kindly ask U.S. Immigration not to make any disposition of Harnam Singh till you receive my report which will be mailed in a day or so together with all correspondence received seized - Advise India to keep surveillance on Suren Bose pending particulars from me."

The above are all the facts I have so far been able to ascertain. It is believed that Harnam Singh purchased some of his laboratory supplies in Vancouver. I intend to make enquiries here, to find out if any of the acids mentioned in enclosure "C" were purchased here in quantities.

I have made copies, and enclose <sup>same, of exhibits "C. D. E. F."</sup> ~~some of the enclosures.~~ Please send all original letters etc., connected with this report, direct to Mr. J.A. Wallinger.

In asking you to request the U.S. Immigration Authorities to withhold disposition of the Harnam Singh case, my idea is to draw the attention of that Government to the activities of this man and Suren Bose and Dr. Chakravartie of New York.



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The United States Immigration Authorities have already made some enquiries regarding these two men. In Suren H. Bose's case, vide Mr. Clark's letter #10875/480 dated July 26, 1913. This man is now believed to be in India.

In Dr. Chakravartis's case, Mr. Clark caused some enquiries to be made in New York in July of 1913.

In enclosure "D" letter from Suren Bose to Harnam Singh, you will notice that he asks Harnam to send the "Russian Revolutionary Process" to Dr. Chakravartie in New York.

Surendra Nath Karr, the man in Seattle, also mentioned in enclosure "D", is a student in the University of Washington at Seattle. I am trying to ascertain particulars regarding this man

I regret that the Victoria Police did not inform me of this case, and it was only through the newspapers that I noticed that bombs had been discovered in Victoria in the possession of Hindus.

I shall feel obliged if you will kindly ask Col: Sherwood, Chief Commissioner Dominion Police, to write to the Chief of Police, and request him to notify me of any case in which Hindus are alleged to be mixed up in the manufacture of bombs, or any matter of a revolutionary nature. If I had received information the same day as Gurdit Singh was arrested, I believe I would have found sufficient evidence to bring Harnam Singh to trial. In the present instance, although I am absolutely sure of Harnam Singh's guilt, there is not sufficient evidence to put him up for trial and obtain a conviction.

The Victoria Police do not seem to realize the gravity of the situation, and it was only after my visit and interview, that the officers realized how serious is the matter.

Yours obediently,  
W. C. HOPKINSON

W. W. Cory Esq., C.M.G.  
Deputy Minister of the  
Interior,  
Ottawa.