

215 W. D Scott to Malcolm R. J. Reid

-copy-10.

PARAPHRASE OF CIPHER TELEGRAM

Ottawa, 29 February, 1916

Vancouver, B.C., March 6th, 1916.

HARNAM SINGH CONNECTED WITH BOMB MANUFACTURE AT
VICTORIA, 1914.

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your
code message dated February 29th, reading as follows:-

"Regimen transaction Hopkinson conjugate
likelihood transaction Cory shears shading notoriety figgler
onertness grazed assume veered settling impinge transaction
Vancouver ordinance Ottoman mulct pharisacial woe furtive
pharisee lammas capsized goal excretory constitutional Harnam
Sing leaper despair furtive San Francisco wrestling bounding
masticating augmentor Victoria shading notoriety frizzler
improbable writ beginning abusus immense (ment for immemorial)
Harnam asservate wakening transaction hymeneal wintering
owned fringe amount goal excretory aspire Ghadr peace ante-
cede promotive oppressiveness selah logical antecede assented
fringe wintering jeweller Babu Sing thunder Harnam shared
capsized desertion glimmering target coruscant opportune
apprentice (evidently ment for appreciable) verify exertory
telegraph augmentor turnip bounding men capsized carmelite
writ beginning grave worried tier grains Hyssop materialize
antecede woe illegibility rescuing."

which we translated to read as follows:-

" Reeking to Hopkinson's confidential
letter to Cory Seventeenth September Nineteen Fourteen,
Indian Government ask us send immediately to India one or
more person who from personal knowledge can give evidence
connecting Harnam Sing later deported from San Francisco
with bomb manufacture at Victoria September Nineteen Fourteen.
Imperative witness be able identify Harnam as visitor to
house where outfit found. Also give evidence arrest Ghadr
Party and produce official search lists and arsenal found.
Where is Babu Miha Sing then Harnam's servant? Can Depart-
ment get sworn copy of any valuable evidence taken at trial
bomb men? Can capable witness be got? Will they go?
How many and who? Hurry reply."

W. D. Scott

In explaining the preliminary delay
in handling this matter beg to state your message arrived
in the afternoon and unfortunately was repeated and
delivered through a sub office here resulting in several
mistakes. Then again the confidential communication
of the late Inspector Hopkinson to the Deputy Minister
was on file in Mr. Jolliffe's office and it was not until
noon of the next day that Mr. Jolliffe located same. In
the meantime owing to the several discrepancies in the

message

This is
broken into
two parts.
One on page
one starting
on page 2

216. Extract From Maledun R. L. Reed to W. D
Scott

Vancouver, 6 March 1914

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message I had same repeated, and also asked you to repeat several words in English and on my departure on the night boat for Victoria I received Mr. Blair's wire reading as follows:

" First code message read "Registrar" fiftieth "Immemorial" eighty seventh "Appreciable" sixty fifth to fifty ninth in English " and party Ghadr arrest evidence give also."

Immediately on receipt of your code message I at once got in touch over the long distance telephone with Superintendent of Provincial Police Colin Campbell, asking him to secure as much evidence as possible in regard to this matter. On my arrival at Victoria on the morning of March 2nd, I at once got in touch with that Officer but found, as a matter of fact, he knew very little about the case, as several Departments had been interested in same. However, after interviewing Provincial Constable Cox and Armstrong who had some knowledge of the case I then got in touch with Mr. Bullock Webster who prosecuted on behalf of the crown and as a matter of fact had assisted in the search of Gurdit's house. He was not very sanguine over the matter, but I deemed it advisable to secure his opinion as it would be useless to send witnesses to India unless they could stand cross examination there.

I found that the preliminary hearing conducted at the police court has been recorded by a stenographer but there were new developments at the trial and it was found there had been no stenographer in attendance and we could only secure the Judge's notes, which, of course, would be at any time excellent evidence.

I next called up Mr. Clogston on the long distance telephone to ascertain if the law covering the prosecution of East Indians was similar to that in

Canada.

Canada as this was an important factor in dealing with the matter, and his opinion was that the evidence must be the same as that required to convict a white man in Canada on a similar charge.

In looking over the list of witnesses the most important seemed to be W. E. Elves but a careful search of Esquimalt and Victoria by the Provincial Police failed to disclose his address and it is stated he had gone to Seattle.

I next interviewed Chief Langley of the Victoria Police and found that several of the detectives had been connected with the bomb incident. Detective Edens is now Chief of Police at Kamloops and could not be interviewed. Another detective taking a prominent part in the matter recently left for Australia and is now dead.

I find that some of the arsenal referred to is in Superintendent Campbell's office, the most important article being the ~~px~~ picric acid and dynamite caps. The remainder as given in Mr. Hopkinson's report I find are in the possession of Detective Ezra Carlow practically intact with the exception of the crucibles and measuring glasses, but the bombs and the most important part of the outfit can be obtained. That afternoon I went to the home of Sergeant of Detectives O'Leary and sought his assistance in again trying to find Elves. I also found Harnam's grocery store and further ascertained with regard to Babu Singh that he was supposed to have gone to Golden, B.C., and that his white wife had left for the home of her parents. On receipt of this information the Superintendent of the Provincial Police despatched the following telegram;

Victoria, B.C.

Chief Constable Sutherland,
Golden, B.C.

Endeavour to locate quietly Babu Sing who had
white

white wife Victoria, said to have been in fight Golden recently. Rush answer.

The answer came next day as follows;

" Babu Singh inquired for has never been in Golden."

Signed R. J. Sutherland.

I next called in the Hindu interpreter H. G. Burton who had worked on the original case before the arrival of Mr. Hopkinson in Victoria, and he together with Gunga Ram had assisted in searching the house and in obtaining further information in connection with the case. I find that Babu Singh had been married at the Spring Ridge Baptist Church and we went to the office of the Registrar of Births in order to ascertain if possible the address of Mrs. Babu Singh's parents, and found the following facts given on the marriage certificate application form.

Name - Babu Singh.

Age. - 25.

Profession - writer (was known as a Hindu scribe)

Wife - Maude Alice Crowley.

Age - 24.

White.

Roman Catholic by religion.

Born - Union City, Ind. U.S.A.

Father Thomas A. Pheny.

Occupation - Real Estate Agent.

Union City, Ind.

Mother - Mary Agnes Reid.

Married July 21, 1913.

his
Signed Babu x Singh.
mark

Married by Rev. Mr. Stephenson.

Witnesses Agnes and Anna Stephenson.

This gives very little information of interest but I have sent a wire to the Chief of Police at Union City, Ind., asking him to try and locate these people the Pheny's and if successful will then try and locate Babu through them. I was later informed through another white woman who is also married to a Hindu names, Mrs. Snowden that Babu and his wife both tried to enter the United States in the regular manner. The wife succeeded in passing but Babu was rejected but afterwards surreptitiously entered by an underground route and is now said to be living with his white wife in Seattle. Mrs. Snowden also gave the interesting information which is very important that Gurdit and Dalip the two bomb men have a large quantity of explosives concealed in the vicinity of Uplands, Victoria, B.C. It may be necessary therefore to shadow these men when released, but Gurdit has a long sentence before him, although Dalip I believe has only $2\frac{1}{2}$ years to serve and an application for a ticket-of-leave is pending on his behalf. I also received a report that Mrs. Babu Singh was living somewhere in Montana where her parents had moved, so I have sent a wire to the Sheriff at Butte, Montana, asking him to inquire as to their whereabouts.

On Saturday I received a long distance telephone call from Vancouver stating that the following telegram had been received from your office dated March 3rd:-

" Do your utmost hurry matter contained by code
" message twenty-ninth."

I then redoubled my efforts and tried to ascertain the whereabouts of Kirby the drug clerk who was reputed to have sold Harnam the chemicals, and found he had left for San Francisco and that his address was unknown.

Detective Ezra Carlow gives the best evidence which was in part as follows:-

" I was one of those who arrested Gurdit and Dalip when carrying the tubes or bombs. I also searched Harnam's house with Hopkinson, Sergeant D'Leary and Gunga Ram and found papers there but no explosives or anything dealing with same. I remember later that Hopkinson found a letter which appeared to deal with explosives which apparently had gone all around the world to reach Seattle. The personal effects and the letter referred to were found in the house of a man on the Cloverdale Road. He was a Hindu married to a white woman and that is where the letter I refer to was found. I remember the man Harnam who kept the grocery store who stood about six feet, was slim, clean shaven and wore glasses, and he always put me in mind of a Hindu here named Massa Singh."

Carlow and the Chief then produced the bomb outfit and photographs, of same.

Finally, the house of William Edward Elves was located (who in the opinion of Mr. William Bullock Webster was the principal witness) it being a small house on the water front and a short distance from Gurdit and Dalip's house. This man stated as follows:-

" Gurdit Singh at least I don't know him by that name but the men who got five years was known by me as Jack the Hindu. Jack seemed to be a well educated man and came to my house frequently giving the children candy. On at least one occasion I visited his house and found other Hindus present and we all drank beer together. Jack continually spoke of his teacher and at that visit I am pretty sure, the teacher was there but I did not pay much attention and left them. Jack said he was going to India in a short time and expected to get a good position there and he was trying to sell his shack and get away. Dalip was pretty harmless and I do not think knew much of the case."

When asked for a description of the teacher after a long time he said he looked as follows:-

" Of fine appearance, could not remember his name but had a beard, full face, wore white turban and was a fine looking type of Hindu."

This

This identification was useless as I am inclined to think he referred to the deported Priest Bhagwan Singh as the description fits perfectly and he passed as a teacher in Victoria. Mr. Elves regretted he could not help us and stated he had a poor memory for faces so our most important witness was practically useless as he admitted he could not pick out Harnam from a crowd.

It is common knowledge amongst those who know the Hindus and their habits, that it is not likely that Harnam Singh a high caste and a well educated man would visit the house of Gurdit and Dalip. Hindu Interpreter Burton states that the actual teaching of how to make the bombs was done in Harnam's grocery store, the store only being a Blind and that Gurdit, Dalip and others attended these lectures. It is further alleged that similar lectures were delivered in the basement of the Hindu Temple and Gunga Ram is stated to have attended these meetings when Harnam addressed them on bomb making. I must confess candidly that I do not believe these statements as Harnam was too cute to ever have Gunga Ram at his meetings as Gunga Ram for some years had been known to have been furnishing information to Hopkinson and the Department. This is also the view of Superintendent of Provincial Police, Colin Campbell.

[Malcolm R. J. Reid]

There is no doubt Harnam Singh was a strong worker in the Ghaddar Party but your code message is a little vague as to what information you require in that respect hence my request to have the 59th and the 65th words repeated in English, which, however, threw no

additional

additional light on the matter. Harnam was closely associated with the Komagata Maru incident, and I ordered him away from that vessel at Williams Head quarantine station when he attempted to board her. He was later connected with the purchase of arms and ammunition at Sumas and was detained in jail there. A full report of this will be found in your file No. 818294, and especially your letter of the 21st August, 1914. Harnam also returned to Canada after once being deported for ten days on a special permit from the Deputy Minister and on a cash bond of G. D. Kumarh Is companion. The cash bond was returned by myself and he was placed aboard a Seattle vessel, but later again entered Canada.

With this information before me I wired as follows:-

" James Colloquialism incand. escent sensibly writ
 "immemorial Harnam asseverate wakening hymeneal wintering
 owned fringe. Dictorial Ezra Carlow aspirer Gurdit
 antecede Dalip catoptrice bounding amount seldom Harnam's
 hymeneal wresting Hopkinson fringe participator immemorial
 Harnam asseverate guzzler marmalade ordnance. Portent
 hellish bounding owned prediction intersected. Pertent
 Baboo Miha Singh antecede wittily working oblique
 angle singed. Capsized sensibly target coruscant
 desperate presupposition heresy portent created amount
 kept obedience augmentor turnip calf car gallicism
 referring turnip thwarting besides nowadays stenographer.
 Nowadays superstructure excretory constitutional Harnam
 Ghadr peace overt throe pharisee lammas Harnam metallic
 Komagata Maru incommoded lecturer augmentor quinsy
 antecede constitutionalist Bhag Singh Tiraknath Das
 (oblique Malines) antecede overts sojourned askance
 Sumas revenging hoot besides despair amount profile
 symbolical erring septennial james flake emanation
 ordinance emanation unconscionable noting frivolous
 antecece nearness likelihood antecede wrathful kicks
 emancipate antecede unchaste fixing Komagata flake.
 Hardware investiture bounding men permeate Gurdit
 zenith lithographed grains Vancouver calk stocking
 nonplussed lading Harnam Dalip rejection tells. Carlow
 zenith grains Vancouver immorality repsonible."

which should read when translated as follows;

Your code. Impossible secure witness identify Harnam
 as visitor house where outfit found. Detective Ezra

Carlow

Carlow arrested Gurdit and Dalip carrying bombs also searched Hannam's house with Hopkinson found papers. Identifies Harnam as grocery man only. Police have bomb outfit practically intact. Babu Miha Singh and white wife now American side. Can secure sworn copy depositions preliminary hearing Police Court also Judge's notes at trial but not full record trial there being no stenographer. No substantial evidence connecting Harnam Ghaddar Party other than personal knowledge Harnam meeting Komagata Maru in launch at quarantine and connection Bhag Singh Tiraknath Das (now Berlin) and others smuggling arms Sumas resulting his being deported. Also prior surreptitious entry see your file eight one eight two nine four and my letter and wires July eighteenth and twenty-fifth Komagata Maru file. Had interview bomb men penitentiary Gurdit would like go India but states never knew Harnam. Dalip refuses talk. Carlow would go India if required."

The idea of interviewing Gurdit and Dalip was used as a last resort in an endeavour to have these man give evidence for the crown, they being interviewed by Officer McColl with the Warden of the Penitentiary at New Westminster and with the result as above outlined.

The suggestion has been made that the evidence that can be secured be taken by a Commissioner and if this was done my evidence as to Harnam's actions would be important.

Your obedient servant,

(signed) Malcolm R. J. Reid.

Dom. Immigration Inspector for

B.C.

W. D. Scott, Esq.,
Supt. of Immigration,
Ottawa.