

C.S.

POLICE AND PRISONS

DEF/POL/1#35

(Gaol)

1924.

No. 567/24

Col. Secretary

SUBJECT.

1924

W. H. VAUDIN

27th August

Respecting breach of Gaol Regulations
by:

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

Minute by Hon Col Secretary of
27th Aug 1924 — Encl ①
Letter by W. H. Vaudin of (undated) — " ①A
Minute by Gaoler of 1st Sept 1924 — " ②

Y.B. Submitted that the Magistrate
be requested to hold an enquiry into
the action of Mr. Thompson acting
as a man of work in conveying the letter
from the prison to Mr. Hallows, and to
give power to summon witnesses. As
this will be a service enquiry no special
provisions necessary and nothing is to be
gained by taking evidence on oath. I cannot
find that there has been any actual breach
of the local law and the offence will have
to be dealt with under the disciplinary rules
of the service?
3 Sept. 24

Subsequent Paper.

H.P.S.

Will you please request Inspector to hold
enquiry as per memo. *LR*

4 Sept 24

aj: Lapidate

Accordingly. The ^{only} witnesses as far as
I know will be Dr. Hallows, the Chief Constable
Mr. Thompson and Mr. Cooper the ^{Sw.} blacksmith
unless you propose to interrogate the prisoner
also. He will certainly lie I should think.
Ullt 4 Sept. 24

Hon. Col. Sec.

Attached result of enquiry.

G.B. Binning

8/9/24

(3)

Y.B.

Submitted

There is no reasonable doubt that
Mr. Thompson is liable to disciplinary action.
He admits having held a conversation with the
prisoner and his further statements were
compromised and untrue thereby.

Ullt 9 Sept 24

H.P.S.

This is a very serious matter: Although Malta has
never no breach of local law, the laws of other Colonies
provide heavy penalties. e.g. Mauritius Prison (amendment)
Ordinance 1903-04. Any person (not being prison officer or guard)
who shall hold a attempt to hold any communication with
any prisoner inside the prison or with any person

employed or a gang a returning to outdoor
~~that~~ labour shall be liable to imprisonment
 not exceeding 3 months - to a fine not exceeding
 Rs 200:- also any person who shall convey
 attempt to convey any letter or document
 into a cell of any prison (except in conformity with
 additional) x x x x shall be liable to
 imprisonment not exceeding 2 months and
 to a fine not exceeding Rs 100. Section

2 I write about only to show how severely such
 offences against prison discipline are dealt with
 in other colonies. Ordinance No 5 of 1898 does
 not contain the provisions.

3. Will you please let me see papers showing
 conditions of employment of Mr Thompson &
 also papers giving conditions on which he occupies
 his house.

Yours

9 Sept 1924.

Y.P.
 Submitted with ref 309/24
 and ref 510/22

2. Y.P. will see (1) that Mr.
 Thompson's employment is terminable
 at any time (2) that the tenancy of
 the house at College was for 6 months certain from
 August 1922. Thereafter he is I think entitled
 to a month's notice. Vides sheet 2 of ref 510/22.

11 Sept 24

H.E.S.

Before a decision is taken on this can call
you please let Colonial Secretary see this
paper.

Sh.

16 Sept 1924

C.S. Referred accordingly
18 Sept. 24

The Hon. Col. Secy.,

From the statements herein it appears that there is an error in date. On the 26th of August neither Thompson nor Cooper were working in the Gaol. On the 26th of August Cooper fitted taps at different quarters, repaired a cowl and attended to valves and water at reservoir. On the 27th of August Cooper was at Government House before breakfast and commenced work at the gaol shortly after 9 a.m. On the 27th of August Thompson had to arrange exchange of carters owing to C. Gleadell being ill, and visited the School prior to 9 a.m. As far as I am able to ascertain Thompson was not seen in the gaol before the afternoon on the 27th of August. He had no reason to be there before the afternoon, when S. Goss was sent over to help fill the boiler. With the alteration of date (26th to 27th) this agrees with the Chief Constable's statement. On the 27th of August the letter was handed to Dr Hallows at about 11 a.m. On the 28th of August the letter was handed to the Colonial Secretary. I have set down the above as there appears to me to be an error in both Thompson's and Cooper's statements and it would now seem to be Thompson's word against Cooper's.

From what/

From what I can gather both men were friendly with Vaudin prior to his imprisonment.

2. There is no doubt that Thompson had a letter which he thought was from Vaudin and delivered this letter to Dr Hallows: How he came by the letter is not clear.

3. Should it be decided to punish Thompson for this unwise and foolish action I would respectfully suggest that it be, if possible, by way of a fine. On the other hand, should it be considered that there is sufficient evidence to prove that Thompson received the letter from Vaudin and deliberately smuggled it out of the gaol, then I fear Thompson should no longer remain in the Service; at all events in a responsible position.

4. At the present time Thompson occupied a Government³/₄Cottage and, in the event of him being dismissed I am of the opinion that it would be most difficult to force him to vacate the cottage, as he would probably be unable to obtain another house, lodgings, or employment in Stanley.

5. Whatever course it is decided to take, I would suggest that Thompson be instructed to seek work in the Camp, as it is most unsatisfactory to have a man of his character in the employment of the Government. In the course of a month or so Thompson might be able to secure employment and a house in the Camp.

6. Thompson has kept himself steady and has devoted himself to his duties since being appointed Acting Outdoor Foreman. From the 1st of September he is to receive extra remuneration for the services rendered (Half of the Foreman Carpenter's salary and half of the Outdoor Foreman's salary).

Mr Bound should return to the Colony by the mail arriving early in November.

W. J. B. B. B.
Col. Engineer.

25/9/24.

Y.S.
submitted

Mr. Thompson might be informed
that Y.S. is satisfied that he knowingly
encouraged ^{the} letter secretly from ^{the} prisoner
that such an offence is ordinarily un-
punishable by fine and imprisonment
that in view of the ^{responsible} position he holds
the offence is particularly grave and
that he has rendered himself liable
to instant dismissal from the em-
ployment of the Government. In
view however of the favorable report
made by the Head of his Department
on the manner in which he has carried
out the duties of Foreman of Works
Y.S. might be pleased to allow
him reasonable time to find other
work and accommodation either in Stanley
or in the Camp, say three or four
months provided that he gives satisfaction
in the interval?

~~Y.S.~~ 26 Sept 24

H.P.S.

I approve of this and may draw with
a proposed order.

29 Sept 24

C.S.O. No. 567/24

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 4

Minute to Colonel Engineer 1 Oct 1924

(4)

Inside Minute Paper.

The Doctor

The attached letter was handed to me by the Assistant Colonial Surgeon this morning.

He informs me that it was given to him by Mr. C. Thompson, Branch of Works P.W.D. in the road yesterday.

A serious breach of the Gas Regulations has been committed and connived at by a Government employee. You will observe that an attempt is also made by the prisoner to bring about a breach of section 19 of the Gas Ordinance 1898.

Please report action in respect of the breach of gas Regulation 19 and what steps are taken to prevent a recurrence.

27 August
1944

Dear Dr Hallows.

(1A)

Will you draw up a letter stating that the Jury was composed of men who I had trouble with respecting their children. And also state the uprice fight-I have had with them. and the Condition of the School on my arrival. Also the manner in which Mr Hoare treated me. You can find out for yourself that the children were made to wash their shirts when they used them instead of Laving paper. I intend to appeal. when I get home. A letter from you properly put-

Together will keep me.
I hope you will not
mind doing it. I will
pack it away in my
trunk. Dr Deane can bring
it along. Or even yourself
~~can~~ can make a Medicine
Exam. I am under
treatment.

LETTER FORM.

Departmental Number.

From... *The Gaoler*Date... *21 Sept /24*To... *The Hon Col Secretary*

SUBJECT.

Reference
Numbers. {

Sir with reference to your letter of Aug 27/24 re Charles Thompson, taking a letter from the Prisoner, w H Vandin, and handing same to V. Hallows.

Thompson on the afternoon of the 26 inst was in the Prison with the Blacksmith, repairing hot water system. The letter was dropped by the prisoner through the door from upper corridor.

I reported the prisoner to for breach of prison regulations, he was sentenced to three days close confinement on bread & water.

I also removed Prisoner from fast cell to a single cell in centre of Prison, to prevent any further breach of Prison regulations, if the Warder is not present the Const on duty or myself will be, when any work is being done by P.M.D. in the Prison.

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant

*W. Sullivan
Gaoler.*

INQUIRY INTO THE ACTION OF MR CHARLES THOMPSON ACTING FOREMAN
OF WORKS IN CONVEYING A LETTER FROM THE PRISONER W.H.VAUDIN
TO DR HALLOWES ON THE 26th AUGUST 1924.

.....

Chief Constable D.J.O'Sullivan.

Charles Thompson was in the prison with the Blacksmith
on the afternoon of the 26th .The Blacksmith was working
in the lower corridor at the hot water system. The Prisoner
was working in the upper corridor upstairs;on examination
of the prisoner he admitted dropping a letter through the
trap hatch. I knew nothing about this until the morning
after when the letter marked 1A was handed to me by the
Colonial Secretary,who informed me that it was handed to
him by Doctor Hallows who had received it from Charles
Thompson Ag.Foreman of Works. I reported the prisoner for
a breach of the Gaol regulations and he was sentenced by
the Visiting Justices to three days bread and water.
I spoke with Mr Thompson some time afterwards and he said
that the letter was given him by the Blacksmith.

INQUIRY INTO THE ACTION OF MR CHARLES THOMPSON ACTING FREEMAN
OF WORKS IN CONVEYING A LETTER FROM THE PRISONER W.H. VAUDIN
TO DR HALLOWES ON THE 26th AUGUST 1924.

.....

...Cooper Blacksmith.

I was working at the Gaol at the Hot water system on the
25th August and during that time Mr Thompson came over
once before dinner and once again in the afternoon. I don't
know what he had to do as I had not sent for him, he was
on the premises about 3 hours altogether, he was upstairs
and in different parts of the Gaol. I would not like to
swear that he was in actual conversation with the prisoner
, the prisoner was working upstairs. I did not see any letter
during the time I was there nor did I see any letter passed
between the prisoner and Mr Thompson.

Clifford Jennings. Assistant to the Blacksmith.

I was working with the Blacksmith Mr Copper over at the Gaol on the 25th August and during the time we were there Mr Thompson came over. I dont know what he was doing there because he had nothing to do with us. I saw the prisoner Vaudin in a room upstairs and I saw Mr Thompson talking with him from the lower corrdior at the other end of where we were working. He spoke with him for about 5 minutes and went upstairs. I cannot say if he was actually in the room with Vaudin, but he was on the premises for about 3 hours. I saw no letter pass between them or did I see any letter dropped from above.

Dr B.J.Hallowes.M.R.C.S.

On the 26th August shortly after 11 am I was walking along the front road with my daughter. I saw Sullivan and Thompson standing at the Gaol gate talking. I had got along as far as Malvina House when Thompson overtook me and handed me a letter addressed to me in pencil on an O.H.M.S. envelope. I said where did this come from? and he replied from the camp. I opened it and read it as I walked along and Thompson walked with me and opposite the Colonial Secretary's office he asked me whether there would be any reply? I said I will send a reply later perhaps by Dr Deane, whose name was mentioned in the letter. I had no intention of replying, but I thought to ask Dr Deane's advice, however I did not see Dr Deane at the Hospital and upon reconsideration I determined that the proper person to hand the letter to was the Colonial

Dr Hallows. (continued)

Colonial Secretary.

Charles F. Thompson.

Sic On the day I received the letter in question I was sent for by the Blacksmith to go to the Gaol as something was wrong with the pipe fittings. I got the letter from Cooper I had an idea who it was from. I gave it to Dr Hallows and as the letter was dirty and cramped I construed that it came from the camp. I said to Dr Hallows that I thought it came from Vaudin. I did speak to the prisoner in Gaol through the trap hatch but did not carry on any conversation with him. I was only in the Gaol about 10 mins.

Mr Cooper appeared and was asked in the presence of Mr T. whether he gave this letter to me Thompson?

Mr Cooper stated that he did not and had not seen the letter Mr Thompson made no reply.

Mr Thompson further stated that on the 26th Cooper did not work in the Gaol but was employed at the Quarters of Mr Hoare and others fixing taps. (according to diary)

Mr Cooper stated that he finished that work before breakfast and worked in the Gaol from 9 am to 5.30pm. and during that time Mr Thompson was several times in the Gaol.

Mr Thompson later stated that he received the letter from Cooper on the road while he was supervising the rolling of the side walk outside the Gaol.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

I have made examinations of the witnesses Chief Constable D.J.O'Sullivan, Mr Cooper Blacksmith, Jennings assistant Dr Hallows and Charles Thompson.

Each one gave their evidence clearly with the exception of Charles Thompson who seemed not sure of anything that had taken place. I asked him if he had nonpersonal interest in the letter, why did he follow Dr Hallows and ask him if there was a reply?

To which he could give no satisfactory answer.

I further asked him why he told Dr Hallows that the letter came from the camp and almost in the same breath said it came from Vaudin ? He could neither answer satisfactorily

to this question. I called in Mr Cooper and in the presence of Thompson asked Cooper if he gave the letter to Thompson. Cooper stated No emphatically, I turned to Thompson and asked how he could explain his statement of having received the letter from Cooper and he made no reply.

Mr Thompson on one occasion states he received the letter from Cooper at the time Cooper sent for him to the Paol and again states Cooper handed it to him on the road.

I do not think any good can come of having Vaudin over as he has already stated he dropped the letter through the hatchway to the ground on the hope of someone picking it up. If he knew that Thompson was implicated he would certainly lie. In my opinion Thompson seems clearly the guilty one.

Eow. B. Bain
8/9/44

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No. 567/24.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this letter, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

MINUTE.

1st October, 19 24.

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Colonial Engineer,

Stanley.

I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency has had under consideration the charges against Mr. C. F. Thompson, Acting Foreman of Works into which the Police Magistrate has recently enquired. There is unfortunately no doubt that Mr. Thompson knowingly conveyed a letter from the Prisoner Vaudin to Dr. Hallows without the knowledge of the gaol authorities.

2. The Governor directs me to state that the offence is one which is ordinarily punishable by imprisonment, and the fact that an employee of the Government holding a position of authority and trust should have been guilty of actively conniving at a breach of the law renders it impossible to retain him in the Service.

3. I am to state that as you have reported that Mr. Thompson has worked well and steadily since his appointment of Acting Outdoor Foreman, the Governor is prepared to give him reasonable time to find other employment and accommodation. Provided that he continues to give satisfaction and only in so long as he does so, he may remain in his post and continue to occupy the stone cottage for a period not exceeding four months. It is understood that he will meanwhile take active steps to find employment outside the Government Service.

(Sigs) H. Kennerley-Houston

Colonial Secretary.