CHAPTER VI

BRANCHES OF POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police force was not sufficient enough to meet the needs of the people. So several departments were created within the police department to prevent crimes, maintain law and order and to dispense justice impartially. To obtain these objectives the policemen need efficiency and the help of some auxiliary departments. For the department to be intelligent, efficient and well-administered each police officer should be strong in endurance as well as action. He should have the capacity and the drive to meet a crisis\textsuperscript{1}. When reorganization was effected in the police in Trivandrum they created various departments to fulfil these aims.

General Police

The general police force was created in 1881 on modern line. From the general police force only other departments were created according to the requirements. The entire administration of the police force was vested in the hands of the Inspector General of Police, assisted by a Deputy Inspector General and Assistant Inspector General in the state level\textsuperscript{2} and the District Superintendent of Police in every district. The District Superintendent of Police concentrated on the maintenance of law and order in the district, and was intimately concerned with the efficiency of the police force of his district. Besides, he was interested in their training, their espirit de corps and their success in dealing with the various problems arising out of the many-sided aspects of their work\textsuperscript{3}.

\textsuperscript{3} Curry, J.G., The Indian Police, New Delhi, 1977, p.312.
The Inspectors and the Station House Officers conducted all investigations personally. They were personally responsible for all investigations. The Head Constables discharged general duties in the police stations including the station writer's work. They were placed in charge and were responsible for the prosecution of criminals. The registration of cases was also done at the police station.

In 1928 efficiency measures were taken in the general police department. The police stations were found unsuitable to the modern practice of distinguishing between the casual offender and the habitual criminal. Moreover there was a growing tendency to attach undue importance to percentages of detection and conviction in offences relating to property. In 1929 the system of tabulation of data regarding crimes and criminals followed in Madras was newly adopted. For training in this system in 1929 the District Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Police were deputed to attend the seminars and special lectures in connection with the detection of crime at Ambasamudram. After attending such lectures they instructed other Station House Officers to equip with modern techniques.

Reserve Force (Armed Reserve)

The crimes which prevailed in Travancore and also the agitations that took place in Travancore led to the creation of Armed Reserve in 1919. The Armed Reserve, stationed at Trivandrum, was under the direct control of the Inspector General of Police. The Armed Reserve had two branches, namely, the District Armed Reserve and the State

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General Reserve. The administration and disciplinary control of the District Armed Reserve was vested in the hands of the respective District Superintendent of Police. Each District Armed Reserve was classified into Headquarters and Platoons. The number of platoons in each District Reserve was regulated by the total strength sanctioned by government from time to time. The Jemadar commanded each platoon. A platoon was divided into three sections, each consisting of one Head Constable, one Naick and ten Constables. Detachments of the District Armed Reserve were posted and duties were allotted within the district at the discretion of the District Superintendent of Police. The training of the District Armed Reserve was given in the hands of Circle Inspector, Armed Reserve. Each District Superintendent of Police actively involved in the training of his District Armed Reserve. He also co-ordinated the organization, training and internal administrative routine of District Reserve on uniform lines.

The State General Reserve was under the control of the Inspector General of Police, though directly controlled by the District Superintendent of Police Armed Reserve. As far as possible the State General Reserve was kept free from routine guard and other duties. Usually this force possessed the facilities of regular and collective training so as to take effective action during emergencies. The Armed Reserve included Police Band, Vacancy Reserve and Wireless Unit.

The Reserve Police displayed stronger and higher order of discipline so as to make their services more valuable to the public. Their words and deeds were refined and

12 Velupillai, T.K., op.cit, p.115.
heroic rather than rude and barbaric. Generally they handled a situation calmly, studied the situation correctly and plunged into action courageously. The officer in charge of the force and his men moved freely and orderly to get a full study before taking action on difficult, delicate and dangerous situations. Men from all District Reserve units were given instructor's training in various subjects such as rifle and bayonet drill and guard duties, field craft and battle drill, use of light machinegun, sten and thompsons machine, revolver shooting and map reading. The training was given by a Circle Inspector, one Sub-Inspector, one Jamadar and eight Head Constables. Thanks to the gradual introduction of more modern and scientific methods of regular, intensive training, there was considerable improvement in the efficiency of the Reserve after 1938. Two men were sent to Bombay for a period of three months and were trained in night signalling and wireless operation in 1938.

The pay of the Armed Reserve was to be drawn and disbursed by the District Superintendent of Police. He also countersigned the T.A.Bill of the Constabulary. But the staff of Police Band and Vacancy Reserve were under the direct control of Inspector General. In 1940, the State General Reserve and the District Reserve were amalgamated with the Permanent Armed Reserve under the designation of the State Armed Reserve with a permanent cadre and a temporary cadre, placed under the grade of an Inspector of Police. The men were given good physical training and all facilities for

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18 T.A.R., 1940-1941, p.87.
games and sports. In the police sports held in 1942, the Reserve men scored the highest point in the several contests held. They even won the League Football Shield\(^{19}\).

In 1946, the District Armed Reserve was formed in the three districts of Kottayam, Quilon and Trivandrum and the General Reserve at Trivandrum. A boys platoon of thirty boys was also formed. The special police, rice escort was transferred to the control of the District Superintendent of Police, Armed Reserve in 1946\(^{20}\).

**Functions**

The Armed Reserve was a specially constituted force. The Armed Reserve Force was usually kept as a Reserve Police which was utilised when the unarmed police was unable to tackle any situation\(^{21}\). The District Superintendent of Police normally was the authority to order the employment of Armed Reserve for any duty. It was ready at all time. It dealt promptly with all disturbances in any part of the state. The Vacancy Reserve composed of recruits under training, who at the end of the course, were sent out to Districts to fill vacancies caused by permanent causalities\(^{22}\). The District Armed Reserve served as guards and escorts at Headquarters, preserved order at festivals and large public assemblies and maintained peace in the district\(^{23}\). When disturbances were anticipated the Armed Reserve was deputed for bandobust duty. Generally they were kept apart as a reserve force and used in times of emergency and were not to be used on

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20 Judicial and Home File No: 2429, 1948 Proceedings of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.


isolated duties. A member of the Armed Reserve should be liable to serve in any part of the State of Travancore. In 1922, on two occasions, the Armed Reserve Force employed to guard the Northern boundary during the Mopila rebellion in Malabar and to put down the election disorders that prevailed at Tiruvalla. In 1924-1925 the Armed Reserve was deputed to meet challenges of Vaikom Satyagraha and the visit of M.K. Gandhiji, the Legislative Council elections at Shencottah and Tiruvalla, and the tour of Her Highness the MahaRani Regent. The Reserve Police were posted in the Northern frontiers in 1937 to work in co-operation with the executive staff of the department for the prevention of smuggling of tobacco and other durable articles. In 1938 Mr.J.H. Gray took charge as the Reserve Assistant Superintendent of Police. He was a sergeant of the Madras Police. During his time, two hundred muskets were brought from the State forces at Pangode and added to the Armed Reserve. The stock of arms and ammunitions was periodically checked by the Reserve Inspectors, the Assistant Superintendent of Armed Reserve and the District Superintendent of Police. Their jurisdiction was concurrent in the matter of maintaining peace and order. Thus the Reserve was often mobilised to meet emergency situations and the officers and men of the unit were always kept in readiness at various important centres in the different parts of the state.

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26 T.A.R., 1924-1925, p.35.
Railway Police

The Travancore Railway Police was a branch of the General Police Force. It was subject to all police rules of general application. This Railway Police was under the direct control of the Assistant Superintendent of Police and it was subject to the control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police. The primary duty of the Railway Police was to watch and ward and to maintain law and order within the railway jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the Railway Police was extended over the area included within the boundary of the railway line and good sheds, usually called railway limits. The Railway Police district was divided into Circles under the Circle Inspector and Police Station areas under Sub-Inspector with Head Constables and Constables to assist them. The Circle Inspector visited the railway areas frequently and controlled the railway officials. They also secured the co-operation of the District Police Inspectors and attended the half-yearly meeting of the District Police Inspectors. They visited the areas of any serious crime or accident and took the necessary steps.

The Railway Police staff were classified into travelling and detective staff and the platform staff. The Head Constable controlled the platform staff and looked after the passenger traffic inside the station premises more particularly on the platforms, in the booking office, waiting hall, at the entrance and exit gates and whenever specially required on emergency by the station officials and control of vehicular and other traffic in the station premises. They also examined the empty carriages on arrival at terminal

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31 Statement Exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1911-1912, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed in 22nd July 1913, London, p.90.
34 Ibid.
station and safeguarded the property left behind by passengers\textsuperscript{35}. The Head Constable was not allowed to leave the neighbourhood of the railway station without permission. His duty was arranged in such a way so as to enable him to serve three nights in a week. In his absence another Head Constable or Constable must be present for telegraphing any important occurrence to the Sub Inspector and must be physically present at arrival and departure of all important trains\textsuperscript{36}.

Railway Beat Constables were directed to wear uniform. At every station they met the Station Master and enquired him whether he had any complaint. Every day the railway Beat Constable used to travel from his station to a prescribed length of line and returned to his station by train. All cognizable cases, serious losses of property, all railway offences and other important occurrences reported outside railway station were to be telegraphed at once to the Station House Officer or Assistant Superintendent of Police. The lock-up prisoners at the Railway Police Stations were to be sent for custody\textsuperscript{37}. The watch and ward system of the railway varied among the various units as they adopted their own administrative procedures\textsuperscript{38}.

The Railway Police were primarily responsible for the maintenance of law and order during strike and they sought the help of the Armed Force when required. On such occasions, the senior officer in charge of the anti-strike sent reports to the Inspector General of Police. For instance, during the railway strike of 1927, the railway department sought the help of British Indian Railway Police to guard the running trains

\textsuperscript{35} Judicial File No: 2874, 1942, Cost of ‘Order’ Police Railway.


\textsuperscript{38} Triloknath, The Indian Police, New Delhi, 1978, p.51.
between Trivandrum and Shencottah. Since 1939 the Railway Police were put as a separate unit under a Sub-Inspector with three Head Constables and twenty Constables and it was attached to the headquarters at Trivandrum. In the same year an outpost at Quilon railway station was also created to protect the properties of the passengers.

**Criminal Investigation Department**

The effectiveness of the police in dealing with crime was inextricably intertwined with the operation of the other agencies in the police force. One among them was the Criminal Investigation Department organized in 1919 A.D. The Criminal Investigation Department was put under the control of an Inspector till 1932. Section twenty one of the Police Regulation IV of 1919 A.D says that the Inspector of Police attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D) has the power of officers in charge of police stations for purposes of investigation throughout the Travancore state.

The C.I.D was engaged to trace known depredators who had gone out of view and to trace those whom the uniformed police had found it impossible to detect and to investigate cases of thefts and burglaries declared undetectable by the uniformed police. Besides, they paid special attention to trace out counterfeiters of sirkar coins.

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and forgers of currency notes\textsuperscript{46}. In addition, they investigated the note forgery cases, cases of counterfeit coining, cases of professional poisoning, theft of government arms and ammunition and illicit trade in any important case in which foreigners were involved, fraud by means of advertisement, bogus funds and companies, impersonating public servants, swindling cases of theft in which the value of property exceeded Rs.1000, house breaking and theft in which the value of property exceeded Rs.500, cases of sensational character, cases involving investigation in several local areas and outside the state, murder cases in which the accused was not known, kidnapping of children for purposes of begging and the cases of technical nature which in the opinion of the Commissioner or District Superintendents called for investigation\textsuperscript{47}. In short, they were expected to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the movements of criminals in the state and to take up for investigation\textsuperscript{48}. In 1929 they spent much energy and strength on watching political and social movements because of Suchindrum Satyagraha and Congress Propaganda work carried on in some parts of the state for enrolling and sending volunteers in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement started in British India\textsuperscript{49}. The C.I.D had branches like the Commissioners C.I.D, the Government C.I.D, the Political C.I.D and the Non-official C.I.D. Even though their designation differed, all the officials of these branches did the same kind of duty\textsuperscript{50}.

There was a large number of known depredators who had gone out of view. Several cases of thefts and burglaries remained undetected. Counterfeit coins and forged

\textsuperscript{47} Velupillai, T.K., op. cit, p.113.
\textsuperscript{50} Proceedings of the Travancore SriMulam Assembly, Vol.XII, Trivandrum, 1939, p.1277.
currency were in wide circulation. There were political agitations, labour movements, meetings and conferences, and special observations had to be kept unobtrusively on the movements of those engaged in those troublesome activities. All these required the service of a strong body of C.I.D officers. So in 1932 the Commissioner of Police introduced a scheme for the reorganization of the C.I.D officers. The work of the C.I.D was systematised and put on a more organized basis. Consequently, a special branch was opened during that year for dealing with confidential matters of political and semipolitical nature. After the reorganization, five separate sections were formed, such as the Criminal Intelligence Bureau, the Fingerprint Bureau, the Investigation Branch of the three districts of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam, the Special Branch Enquiry and the Special Branch Records. Each section was expected to attend to their duties normally allotted to them. However, all the sections helped each other whenever occasions arose. The C.I.D was put under the control of the Assistant Superintendent of Police. He directly supervised his department. Moreover he personally verified the reports prepared by his subordinates on political and quasi political activities.

Mr. T.R. Raman Pillai was made the Assistant Superintendent of Police in the C.I.D branch of Travancore.

Officers of the C.I.D should not wear uniform except when ordered. Each Sub-Inspector should maintain a separate note book for each subordinate officer working.

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51 Proceedings of the Travancore Sri Mulam Assembly, Vol IX, Trivandrum, 1938, p.3.
52 Letter No : ROC No : 1105/GI/37, dated 22-9-1937, Letter from the Commissioner to the Chief Secretary.
under them. He was required to note down the work for which his subordinate was deputed and to inform the result of the work done by him. The Sub-Inspector also should submit monthly confidential reports to the Deputy Inspector General of Police. It also fixed the work of the Assistant Superintendent of Police. His work was generally of a directing and supervising nature. He personally verified the correctness of the reports sent by his subordinates regarding important matters especially those of political and quasi political nature. He also made personal enquiries in matters which were of special importance and of a very confidential nature. He also personally supervised the work of the Inspectors under him and gave instruction to them in connection with crimes and investigations. He also made enquiries regarding political and quasi political, labour, agrarian and other kindred agitations and the movements and activities of those engaged in such agitations.

Special Branch Enquiry

This branch had a responsible and arduous nature of work. It needed good deal of tact and intelligence. Generally this section enquired into the political, quasi political, labour, social, agrarian, religious and allied movements in which the state was interested. They reported the proceedings of the meetings connected with the above matters and watched the movements and activities of foreigners, political suspects and agitators. They conducted meeting and discussed various political and quasi political problems.

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In 1936, about 1900 non-Travancorians including foreigners and 450 political suspects and agitators were watched and their movements were reported. About three hundred meetings of political and quasi political nature were attended to and the proceedings were reported. Confidential enquiries regarding the character and antecedents of about two hundred and fifty persons were also made. This section was also responsible for the arrest of the accused with the stolen property in six of the theft cases\(^61\).

**Special Branch Records**

It was one of the important branches of the Criminal Investigation Department. Usually this branch maintained the history sheets of political suspects and agitators and gave particulars about political associations, printing press, prescribed literatures, cinema films, gramophone records, pamphlets, periodicals and other political and quasi political literature. They also prepared the weekly secret bulletin and the daily secret bulletin\(^62\). The Special Branch Enquiry section and the Special Branch Records section worked hand in hand and supplemented the work of the other. All confidential correspondence pertaining to the Criminal Investigation Department was also attended to in this section. Above all they gave timely information about the breaches of peace\(^63\).

From 1938, both the Congress and the Communist Party conducted several meetings and also they issued several pamphlets against the Government by spreading socialistic and revolutionary ideas. Therefore, the Special Branch of the C.I.D conducted secret investigations and took action against the leaders. The objectionable literature and

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pamphlets were all confiscated and action was taken against them. In 1938 alone 3640 newspapers and magazines and one hundred and fifty leaflets and pamphlets were perused and examined, 1200 newspaper cuttings of political interest were taken and enquiries were made through local police and the Special Branch of the C.I.D. The Special Branch Records was under the control of an Inspector and under him one Sub-Inspector, six Head Constables and eighteen Constables functioned. They were all put under the direct control of the Assistant Inspector General of Police. This branch formed the most important section of the Inspector General's office. The executive men were not quite suited for office work and that clerks were preferable for the prompt disposal of papers and for proper maintenance of records and collection of statistics. Further, the executive men were often transferred to the other units on promotion and this caused considerable dislocation of work in the office. So in 1945 a Head Clerk was appointed in the Special Branch Record section of the Headquarters.

The Criminal Intelligence Bureau

In order to give effective support to the C.I.D, a branch known as the Criminal Intelligence Bureau was created in 1932. Mr.C.N.Ramaswamy Aiyar who got training in Madras and Bangalore in this branch was appointed the first Sub Inspector. In the same year eight Head Constables, twelve Constables, one clerk, one typist, one

64 The Travancore Police Abstract of Intelligence (Secret) Vol.VII, 1939, Central Archives, Trivandrum.


68 Judicial File No: 2807/45 dated 22.6.1945, Reorganization of the Special Branch Headquarters C.I.D.

photographer and a photographer attender were also appointed under him.\textsuperscript{70} Again in 1935 C.N. Ramaswamy Aiyar underwent training in coin and currency at Bombay and Nasik and after the training he began to function as coin and currency expert from 19\textsuperscript{th} Medam III M.E. (1935-1936) onwards. He examined the counterfeit coins and the currency notes concerned in several cases and gave expert evidences. Several counterfeit coins and notes were received from the various courts and were added to the exhibits in the 'Black Museum' of Criminal Intelligence Bureau.\textsuperscript{71} This bureau was placed under the disciplinary control of the Assistant Superintendent of Police C.I.D.\textsuperscript{72}

The Criminal Intelligence Bureau served as the crime branch records bureau for the entire state. It controlled records and distributed information pertaining to crime and habitual criminals.\textsuperscript{73} In co-operation with the Intelligence Bureau of the neighbouring districts and states, it collected and disseminated information on crime and criminals. This bureau dealt with all matters related to crime, scrutinized First Information Records and case diaries of important cases and made timely suggestions to the investigating officers. The application of crime was insisted on and steps were taken to avoid delay in the disposal of cases. The history list of several interdistrict criminals was maintained by the bureau for information and reference.\textsuperscript{74} The bureau also helped in the apprehension of several deserters from Indian Army, Navy and Air force. The photographer attached

\textsuperscript{70} Judicial File No: R.Dis. 2824, 1939, Reorganization of the Police Department.

\textsuperscript{71} D.A.R., 1111 M.E. / 1935-1936, p.29.

\textsuperscript{72} G.O.R. Dis No. 553/34/Judl, dated 28.2.1934.


\textsuperscript{74} Judicial File No: 2899, 1932, Opening of a Criminal Intelligence Bureau in the Headquarters Office of the Commissioner of Police.
to the bureau took several photographs of suspected persons, unidentified dead bodies, and confidential documents\textsuperscript{75}.

They also made enquiries for the issue of licenses under the Explosives Act and the Arms Act. The Criminal Intelligence Bureau compiled and published the police gazette and the weekly crime and occurrence sheets\textsuperscript{76}. By the reorganization of the Police Department in 1938, the Criminal Intelligence Bureau was attached to the Inspector General's office and was placed under the direct charge of the Deputy Inspector General of Police\textsuperscript{77}. In 1941 in order to facilitate the apprehensions of criminals who were likely to operate in any particular area, an index according to the sphere of operation of the criminals was also newly introduced\textsuperscript{78}.

As a result of the emergency created by the Second World War the work of the Bureau increased considerably in connection with the apprehension and arrest of deserters from the military\textsuperscript{79}. The Criminal Intelligence Bureau should send a copy of the monthly crime review to the Inspector General of Police C.I.D and the District Collector. The monthly review of the crime was the main source of information relating to crime of the district and it helped the Inspector General to appreciate the position in the district and the interest taken by the Superintendent of Police in crime\textsuperscript{80}. The police gazette, monthly and quarterly reviews of crime and list of proclaimed offenders were

\textsuperscript{75} Letter No : GO.ROC No: 1735/44/Legis, dated 4.1.1945, Letter from the Inspector General to the Chief Secretary.

\textsuperscript{76} Judicial and Home File No: 2429, Administration Report of the Police Department for 1122 M.E/1946.

\textsuperscript{77} Letter No: 98448, 1938, Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Inspector General of Police.

\textsuperscript{78} G.O.No: 1941/Judl, 4\textsuperscript{th} April 1941.

\textsuperscript{79} D.A.R., 1117 M.E / 1941-1942, p.2.

regularly compiled and published by this Bureau. In 1946, with a view to relieve the congestion one more Inspector was appointed in this branch.

A small chemical laboratory was also attached to the Criminal Intelligence Bureau. It helped to detect the crime. But no full time chemical examiner was appointed to look after it. The laboratory examined the coins and detected the counterfeit coins. A booklet was also issued by the Bureau to the police on the identification of weapons used in shooting cases.

Fingerprint Bureau

With the growth of urbanisation, changes in economic and social conditions and developments in science and technology, the nature of crimes too underwent a radical change. So the police department also introduced new techniques to find out the real culprits and to award punishments. The first Fingerprint Bureau in India was officially declared open at Calcutta in 1897. In Travancore the system of taking finger impression was introduced in 1898. The officials in charge took the finger impressions of convicts. In 1899 three hundred and seventy four convicts' finger impressions were taken to identify the individual by verifying the antecedents of the arrested person. The experts from the Fingerprint Bureau visited scenes of crime and examined fingerprints and footprints available if any. The fingerprints affixed on registered and other documents were also compared with the fingerprints from known sources.

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81 T.A.R., 1941-1942, p.82.
84 T.A.R., 1898-1899, p.23.
85 Eswaran Potti, op.cit., p.84.
In the beginning the Fingerprint Bureau was put under the control of Hackney Carriage Sub Inspector. However in 1920 the Fingerprint Bureau was separated from Hackney Carriage Sub Inspector because the work of the latter increased due to the increasing of carriages and the opening of new railway lines. In 1905 a Head Constable was sent to Madras to receive training and to update in the latest method of working of the fingerprint system and introduce the same in Travancore. In 1929 expert evidence was given regarding the fingerprints on the money order coupons concerned in the Kazhakuttam branch post office defalcation cases and also in a case of forged fingerprints received from the Trivandrum chief Anchal Office. In the Chalai Bazaar burglary case in which the finger impressions found on a hurricane lamp chimney were photographed for comparison with the fingerprints of the suspected known depredators of the Fort Police Station.

After 1938 the Fingerprint Bureau was put under the control of Deputy Inspector General of Police. But it was under the direct charge of an Inspector, whose duty was to receive and deal with all fingerprint slips and to carry out all correspondence. Moreover, the Sub Inspector appeared before the court and gave expert evidence in civil and criminal cases and gave opinions on all impressions received by the Bureau. The Fingerprint Head Constable took the impressions of those persons whom fingerprints

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90 Letter No: 9844, 1938, dt. 18.3.1938, Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Inspector General of Police.
were ordered to be taken. In the beginning of 1943 there were 26695 fingerprints on the records. They gave expert evidence to find out the culprits.

Political Records and Special Branch

The Political Records and Special Branch work were strictly confidential. They communicated with the C.I.D and it was a unit of Criminal Investigation Department. Leaflets, pamphlets, booklets and other literature received from the Inspector Generals' office were scrutinized by this section. In 1939 they cancelled the licenses of newspapers 'Koumudi' and "Aryakeralam". This section attended to all the confidential correspondence pertaining to the Criminal Investigation Department. They watched suspicious characters visiting Travancore from outside. The speeches and writings of a few editors and leaders in Travancore made them suspect these men. So their associations, their movements and their activities were checked. In 1938 the Registration of Foreigners Act was passed and they registered the foreigners in the register. They also created the weekly secret bulletin and distributed it to the Chief Secretary to Government, all District Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police. The documents were kept in the personal custody of the officers and must not be handled by the subordinate and kept preserved in a separate almyrah. Whenever the officer

93 Letter No: 6903, 1937, dt. 25.4.1938, Letter from the Commissioner to the Chief Secretary.
95 Judicial file No: R.Dis 88, 1938, Proposals for the Reorganization and re allocation of the police force.
97 Judicial File No: 1568, 1943, Proceedings of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore Special branch records.
98 Confidential section file No : 942/34, Confidential bulletines of the police department.
concerned was transferred, the outgoing officer obtained the receipts of the officer taking over. They must not transfer the key to the officers posted in stop gap arrangements. All the correspondence to this department was in double covers and the inner one marked confidential and the outer cover not so marked. The inner cover was sealed to show that the documents were secret.

Photography

The science of photography also attracted the police as a tool of criminal identification. A separate wing was started in 1934. A photographer was appointed under the crime branch C.I.D with headquarters at Trivandrum. The photographer accompanied the investigating officer to the scene of crime.

Village Vigilance Committee

With the object of developing a sense of responsibility among the people with regard to crime and criminals and to ensure co-operation between people and the police, small committees were created to control organized crime and criminals. In January 1937, the Village Vigilance Committee was started in Travancore as a voluntary and non official body. It was regarded as an auxiliary to the regular police. There were eight hundred and thirty nine committees in Travancore. Each committee consisted of a president and normally from four to seven members. Persons selected were residents of the village itself or its outskirts. The committee served as a bridge between the police

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100 G.O. : 67/c.s. dated 12th March 1934.
101 Eswaran Potti, op.cit., p.88.
104 Judicial File No : R.dis 628, 1938 proceedings of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.
and the public. The names of the members were suggested by the Police Inspector. So they were the nominees of the police officer\textsuperscript{105}. The station house officers were directed to furnish the Criminal Intelligence Bureau, Trivandrum the addresses of all the members of the Village Vigilance Committees thus formed. The Criminal Intelligence Bureau also maintained a Village Register containing the addresses and particulars of the members of the Village Vigilance Committee. Any member was added or removed only under the orders of District Superintendent of Police. Persons selected as Village Vigilance Committee member should be a resident in the village itself\textsuperscript{106}.

The function of the committee was to aid the local police in detecting crime and criminals. They reported the suspicious strangers, night prowlers, gangs and members of the criminal tribes to the local police. They helped the police in the investigation, prevention and detection of crime and to prevent rowdyism, gambling and street offences\textsuperscript{107}. They even communicated with the members of the neighbouring Village Vigilance Committee regarding crime and criminals\textsuperscript{108}. When circumstances required, they patrolled the village or part of it. They also took care of the property belonging to the villages. They also reported to the local police any information regarding stolen property. Their good services were recognized and brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Police by the local police\textsuperscript{109}. In the police gazette also necessary information for Village Vigilance Committee was published. Each Inspector should maintain close communication with the presidents of the Village Vigilance Committees.

\textsuperscript{105} Proceeding of the Travancore Sri Mulam Assembly, Vol. XIV, Trivandrum, 1940, p.730.
\textsuperscript{106} G.O.No: 2, dated 27.8.1937.
\textsuperscript{107} G.O.No: 71, 1937, Village Vigilance Committee instruction for the constitution and working.
\textsuperscript{108} G.O.No: 1206 of 1939, D.A.R of 1113 M.E/ 1939, p.22.
\textsuperscript{109} Judicial File No : R.Dis 628, 1938, op.cit.
in his jurisdiction. The successful working of the committee was taken care of by the local Inspectors. When superior officers visited the village, they met the committee members and encouraged them. Moreover, the Inspectors arranged occasional meetings with the committee members and gave them necessary instructions. It is inferred from the records that the committee members investigated a number of cases. If the members of the committee misused their powers, the committee was dissolved at once. The committee members served as a bridge between the police and the public.

The Traffic Section

In order to regulate the vehicular transport a new section known as Traffic section was created in Travancore police. This section played a vital role in reducing traffic congestion and vehicle accidents. In Travancore, the first motor vehicle was registered in 1911 and a few months later the first motor driving licence was issued. The task of direction and control was put in the hands of the Police Department. The first Regulation for motor traffic was also enacted in 1911 and was called the Regulation VII of 1911. According to this act, the registering officer should have the rank of a Superintendent of Police. He was empowered to grant licence to drive a motor vehicle over the age of twenty one on payment of a fee of Rs.2. He was also given the power to cancel and to renew the licence. The driver of the motor vehicle was required to produce

his licence on demand by any Magistrate or any police officer above the rank of a Constable who was in police uniform or wore other sufficient indications of his office\textsuperscript{116}. But the Regulation V granted the same right to the Commissioner of Police. Every applicant to drive a motor vehicle other than a motor cycle must appear before the Commissioner of Police and he must show his skill to drive a motor vehicle\textsuperscript{117}. The Regulation VI of 1919 says that no motor vehicle shall be driven in any public place within the limits of the police town at a speed exceeding twenty miles per hour. Any police officer not below the rank of an Inspector or a stipendiary Magistrate was authorized to inspect the vehicle. The driver was to keep the licence of permit whenever the vehicle was in motion. The owner of the vehicle should arrange for its examination once in every six months by a person approved by the Commissioner of Police\textsuperscript{118}. But in case of a motor vehicle plying for hire on any of the Ghat roads, the owner should show the vehicle for examination once in three months to a person approved by the Commissioner of Police\textsuperscript{119}.

With the increase in the volume of work, the need for an officer to examine the fitness of motor vehicles plying for hire and to regulate motor traffic was felt. So a Motor Bus Inspector was appointed in 1916\textsuperscript{120}. Later on, the post of Traffic Superintendent was created in 1918. He was given the power to see the transfer of ownership, change of address of registered owners, manufacturers and dealers of motor


\textsuperscript{119} The Travancore Motor Vehicles Regulation VI of 1094 M.E/1919, p.6.

\textsuperscript{120} Proceedings of the Twenty Third Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1927, p.44 (and also) T.A.R., 1916-1917, p.29.
vehicles, display of distinguishing numbers, conditions of registration of motor vehicles, issuing notification, prohibiting use of lights and asking the professional drivers to undergo medical examination\textsuperscript{121}. But his powers were subjected to the control of the Commissioner of Police. However, from time to time, rules were passed and revised to suit the changing condition of traffic\textsuperscript{122}. The post of Motor Bus Inspector was abolished temporarily in 1927\textsuperscript{123} because the duty of examining buses was entrusted with the approved examiners who were the officers of Public Works Department\textsuperscript{124}. But the regulation of traffic was placed under the control of Traffic Inspector\textsuperscript{125}, whose duty was to take control over traffic irregularities such as overloading and overspeeding\textsuperscript{126}. In 1930, the Motor Vehicles Regulation VI was amended and it fixed the minimum number of public passengers that plied in the state or any particular road\textsuperscript{127}.

In 1931, again, changes were made, the control of traffic was placed under the charge of a separate District Superintendent of Police. In 1932, the number of Traffic Inspectors was increased to seven. Consequently, the powers of the Public Works Department to examine the buses were transferred to the Traffic Inspectors. The office of the Traffic Superintendent of Police attended to the work of issuing timing sheets, driving licenses, driver badges, conductor passes, vehicle registration certificate and

\textsuperscript{121} T.G.G; Vol. LXX, No:15, 1932, p.34.
\textsuperscript{122} The Travancore Directory for 1939, Part I, p.361.
\textsuperscript{123} Proceedings of the Twenty Third Session of the Sri Mulam Assembly of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1927, p.44.
\textsuperscript{124} T.A.R., 1929-1930, p.97.
\textsuperscript{125} G.O.No: R.Dis 553 of 1934, Proceedings His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.
\textsuperscript{126} Proceedings of the Twenty Third Session of the Sri Mulam Assembly of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1927, p.44.
\textsuperscript{127} Judicial file No: 2603, 1930, Motor Vehicle Amendment Rule 16(c).
permits to ply. The registering authority was given the power to issue a duplicate licence, if the licence was lost by paying Rs.2. Applications for special timing permits to carry the public during festival season were sent to the District Superintendent of Police of the area concerned. The applications must be sent before a week of the commencement of the festival.

When the police department was reorganized in 1938, the traffic branch as a separate unit was abolished. The executive work connected with the operation of the Motor Vehicles Act was entrusted to the local police and the respective District Superintendent of Police. They exercised administrative and disciplinary control over them. The Traffic Inspectors were made to function as the Traffic Assistants of the District Superintendent of Police. The staff under each Traffic Inspector was transferred to the District force and distributed among the various stations to attend to the work performed by the traffic staff in the various checking stations. The registration of motor vehicle, the issue of permits and licences and allied matters relating to the general administration of the motor vehicle were carried out in the Inspector General's Office. A new traffic section under the direct charge of the Deputy Inspector General of Police was also created. In 1945, the formation of Trivandrum city into a separate sub-division under a city Assistant Superintendent of Police with jurisdiction over the four

128 Judicial File No: 9, 1932, Police Sanctioning proposals for the formation of a Traffic branch in the police department (and also) the T.G.G., Vol. LXX, 15th November 1932, p.48.
131 T.A.R., 1938, p.3.
132 Judicial File No: R.Dis 2824, 1939 Reorganization of the Police Department.
133 T.A.R., 1940-1941, p.92.
police stations in the city and control over the city traffic was formed under District Superintendent of Police, Trivandrum\(^{135}\).

**Direction in Regulation of Traffic**

The government enacted various Regulations to control the plying of motor vehicles. The person in charge of a motor vehicle was to obey the directions of the police officer on duty\(^{136}\). Every passenger vehicle plying for hire should at the time of registration, obtain a certificate from the Commissioner of Police about its carrying capacity. They should not exceed the number authorised in the certificate\(^{137}\). When the Traffic Inspector asked to stop a vehicle the owner must obey his order. When an accident occurred to any person or vehicle and if there was no police officer, the driver of the vehicle must render every possible assistance to the injured. He must report the matter to the nearest police station\(^{138}\). The Traffic Inspector should conduct examination within twenty four hours of the accident, and the vehicle concerned should not be removed from the place of accident till then\(^{139}\).

**Powers of the Commissioner Regarding Traffic**

The police rendered useful service to the people, and their service was appreciated in the Traffic branch too. They acted promptly and with determination. In Travancore, the Police Commissioner was the registering and licensing authority. The Commissioner was empowered to suspend or to cancel any licence for any period. In the

\(^{135}\) Letter No: GO: ROC No: 1735, 1944, dt. 4.1.1945, Letter from the Inspector General to the Chief Secretary.

\(^{136}\) Letter No: 556, 1896, dt. 21.7.1896, Letter from the President, Town Improvement Committee, to the Dewan of Travancore.


\(^{138}\) *The Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore from 1079 to 1090 M.E/1903-1915*, 1915, p.566.

case of such orders, he was required to report the fact to the government. The government could revise any order passed by the Commissioner. He could also declare any person disqualified either permanently or for a stated period from obtaining any licence. He could grant a learner’s licence for three months and renew it if necessary for a further period of three months. He also issued drivers badges and duplicate badges.

After the reorganization of 1938, the designation ‘Commissioner’ was changed into Inspector General of Police, and the powers of the Commissioners were also transferred to him.

**Traffic Superintendent of Police**

The Traffic Superintendent of Police was responsible for traffic administration. He also controlled the traffic staff. The Assistant Superintendent of Police and Station House Officers who were subordinate to him controlled the matters connected with traffic. All communication to the Commissioner should pass through the office of the Traffic Superintendent of Police. First Information Records related to traffic crime were also passed through Traffic Superintendent of Police to the District Superintendent of Police. He also controlled his office establishment. The Trivandrum Traffic Constabulary and eight Constables from Hackney Carriage section were placed under the Traffic Superintendent of Police for traffic duty in the town. The traffic police head clerk looked after money remittances relating to the motor section. The Traffic Superintendent of Police received all applications for licence. Traffic Superintendent of Police also countersigned the refund bill forwarded by the official examiners in respect

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141 Judicial File No: R.Dis. 2824, 1939 op.cit.

142 The Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore, Supplement, 1934, p.292.

of the periodical examination of motor buses\textsuperscript{144}. But the right to issue special permits to carry the public during festival was given to the District Superintendent of Police of the area concerned\textsuperscript{145}.

**Traffic Circle Inspector and Sub Inspector**

The Traffic Circle Inspectors and Sub Inspectors functioned as Traffic assistant to the respective Traffic Superintendent of Police. They were responsible for the half yearly examination of motor vehicles in each district\textsuperscript{146}. The Sub Inspector checked buses and took action in case of irregularities\textsuperscript{147}. They were directed to send their daily diaries to the Traffic Assistant Superintendent of Police\textsuperscript{148}. In 1932, they were also given the power to examine the buses but the fees was remitted into the treasury and the chalan receipt should be produced before the Traffic Inspector at the time of examination of the bus\textsuperscript{149}.

**Duty of the Traffic Police**

The duty of the Traffic Police was to control the traffic and to enforce the Motor Vehicles Act and its rule. They checked the enforcement of all police orders besides checking overloading, over speeding and controlled the traffic signals\textsuperscript{150}. They also did

\textsuperscript{144} The Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore, Supplement, 1934, p.292.


\textsuperscript{148} The Travancore Cochin Police Manual, Trivandrum, 1951, p.388.

\textsuperscript{149} T.G.G., Vol.LXX, No.14, 15\textsuperscript{th} November, 1932, p.48.

\textsuperscript{150} The Travancore Cochin Police Manual, Trivandrum, 1951, p.390.
the prosecution work. But after the reorganization of 1938, the prosecution work carried on by the Traffic Constables was stopped\textsuperscript{151}.

**Traffic offences**

With the creation of Traffic Department, a number of traffic offences were noticed and recorded. The number of motor vehicle registered rose to 1528. In the same year 3841 licences were renewed, 537 licences were reissued and 3052 driver’s badges were issued. The total number of badge holders at the end of the year was recorded as 9581 and of conductors pass was 1405\textsuperscript{152}. Owing to the increase in vehicles, traffic offences also increased considerably. Overloading, exceeding the speed limit, failure to adhere to the prescribed routes, rules regarding lights, driving without licence and badge and failure of the conductor to retain letters of authority were some of the offences noticed during the period of study\textsuperscript{153}. Constables deputed for traffic control were properly instructed to discharge their duties with diligence and care. The total number of offences in the year 1927-1928 was 3876 of which 3871 were produced before the court and five dealt with departmentally. Majority of the offences were violation of traffic rules, overloading and driving without licence. Licences were cancelled or suspended in two cases\textsuperscript{154}. In order to avoid accidents, the Inspector General of Police took steps to publish the traffic rules through the Journals “Powra Prabha” and “Guardian”\textsuperscript{155}.

\textsuperscript{151} Letter No: 9844, 1938, dt. 18.3.1938, Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Inspector General of Police.

\textsuperscript{152} T.A.R., 1946-1947, p.72.


\textsuperscript{154} T.A.R., 1927-1928, p.92.

\textsuperscript{155} Judicial File No : 989, 1945, Police daily report.
In 1943 the ‘Flying squad’ was created for the prevention and detection of offences under Motor Vehicles Act. It reduced the number of offences committed by persons engaged in motor vehicular traffic. Later on, in 1945, their services were utilised for laying speed traps and surprise check of motor vehicles all over the state. As a result, many delinquents were brought to book. Special Precautions were taken for the control of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the city of Trivandrum and in all important towns. Above all, one way traffic was introduced in places where there was congestion. The Sub Inspectors and Traffic Inspectors under the control of respective Traffic Superintendent of Police carried on the executive work connected with traffic. As they did their work sincerely they were appreciated by the Dewan in a police parade at Trivandrum.

Hackney Carriage

This department was created in order to see the registration of carriages and the issue of licence. The Hackney Carriage was put under the control of the Fingerprint Bureau Sub Inspector. The Commissioner of Police was the registering officer who granted licence to the applicant, valid for one year on a specified fee. If the licence holder intended to change his residence within one week he must forward his licence and send a notice in writing to the registering officer, specifying the address of the new residence or place, failing which a fine of Rs.20 was imposed on him.

156 Letter No: G.O.ROC No: 1735 1944, dt. 4.1.1945, Letter from the Inspector General of Police to the Chief Secretary.
158 Confidential Section File No: 1550, 1949, Motor Vehicles Act and Traffic on roads.
159 Ibid
With the opening of railway stations the Hackney Carriage work was also increased. The Fingerprint Sub Inspector who looked after Hackney Carriage work in addition to his duty had no sufficient time to look after both departments. So in 1920 the Hackney Carriage supervision was transferred to the District Superintendent of Police, Trivandrum and placed the staff directly under the Town Inspector of Police. The Town Inspector was given an extra allowance of Rs.25\textsuperscript{162}. But in 1927 again changes were made. Accordingly the respective Superintendent of Police was authorized to look after the registration of Hackney Carriage and issue of licence to the drivers in Trivandrum and Quilon division\textsuperscript{163}. But in Alleppey the president of the Alleppey municipality exercised the above privileges\textsuperscript{164}. In 1942 it was extended to the Municipal town of Nagercoil which was densely populated with considerable vehicular traffic. So on 1\textsuperscript{st} May 1942 the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Nagercoil was appointed the registering officer\textsuperscript{165}. But since 1929 due to town motor service, the number of Hackney Carriage registration and drivers licence decreased\textsuperscript{166}.

**Fire Service Unit**

The police department was modernised according to the needs of the people. Several branches were created and worked properly. Now the police department realised the need to help the people when sudden fire broke out. A section of Fire Brigade unit

\textsuperscript{162} General and Revenue Secretariat File No: 46, 1914, Letter from the Dewan of Travancore to the Chief Secretary.


\textsuperscript{165} Judicial File No: 2805, 1942, Hackney Carriage Act – Extension of provision to Municipal Town of Nagercoil.

was started at Trivandrum under the Inspector of Police Cantonment in 1936\textsuperscript{167}. The fire unit consisted of eighteen firemen, six drivers, one driver mechanic, five leading firemen and one telephone operator with two vehicles\textsuperscript{168}. On receiving information of a fire the Inspector and Head Constable of the locality proceeded to the spot as quick as possible to help the fire unit\textsuperscript{169}. In 1936, on twelve occasions, the recruits attended fire extinguishing duty. In 1945, the Inspector of Police, who was in charge of the fire unit had been trained in fire fighting at Madras Fire Service Provisional Training School\textsuperscript{170}. The fire service unit in Travancore worked properly and it rendered valuable service to the people whenever needed.

**Women Police**

From the beginning of 20\textsuperscript{th} century onwards women played an important role in various fields. Eventhough women played vital role in the world war, they were not admitted in the police force. In 1910 Los Angeles appointed its first police women\textsuperscript{171}. Realising the need and service of the women, the women police wing was started in Travancore through the reorganization of 1938. The women police force consisted of one Head Constable and twelve Constables. The state's pioneer experiment in the enlistment of women police was successful in dealing with the problem of the women delinquent and in the performance of the wider duties of citizenship\textsuperscript{172}.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{167} T.A.R., 1936-1937, p.110.
\item \textsuperscript{168} Sreedhara Menon, A., *Gazetteer of India*, Quilon, 1964, p.532.
\item \textsuperscript{169} The Acts and Proclamation of Travancore, Vol. XII, Trivandrum, 1940, p.866.
\item \textsuperscript{170} Judicial File No: 1785, 1945, Police fire unit.
\item \textsuperscript{171} Ruthshonle Cavan, *Criminology*, New York, 1960, p.308.
\item \textsuperscript{172} Judicial and Home File No: 2429, 1948 Proceedings of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.
\end{itemize}
The women police were very useful in searching, guarding and escorting women prisoners. There had been demands from different quarters for the deputation of women constables. The women police were often called from headquarter stations in districts and mofussil stations. They were kept busy doing these duties in different parts of the State. In the year 1943 they performed six hundred and forty nine escort duties, two confidential enquiries and made three arrests. They were also employed for surveilling women suspects and in preventing picketing of institutions by women. During festivals, the women police were employed in protecting women and children in the crowds. Moreover, they guarded the state capital whenever distinguished personages visited from outside the state or country. When they were deputed for bandobust duties, during such visits they did useful work. Their smart appearance invariably elicited the spontaneous appreciation of the distinguished visitors. Even though the women police rendered useful service their position was insecure.

The women police were given hard training as men. Physical exercise, squad drill, arms drill, firing and lathi exercise and shooting formed part of the course. They were also taught police catechism. This unit formed a part of the Armed Reserve and was drilled and disciplined on the lines of the Reserve Police. In appreciation of their service, the Maharani announced a special reward in 1938 known as Kendall Humanity.


174 The Travancore Information and Listener, Vol. 1, May 1941, p.34.

175 Confidential Section File No: 1550, 1949, Women Police.

176 Reason was on the night of 23-2-1939 one woman police constable named Gourikutty Amma was taken by Mr.Govindan, Manager of Police head quarters office in a motor car to Sankumukhom sea shore and committed rape on her. She made a complaint to this to Mr.Grey, the Assistant Superintendent of Police Reserve force. In this case the Inspector General conducted enquiries. But in the meantime the matter was compromised by the interested parties [Confidential section file No : 186, 1939, Mr.Govindan, Manager of Police Headquarters Office, allegation of rape of a woman constable].
Medal\textsuperscript{177}. In 1947, the Government put forward a proposal to appoint a Women Sub Inspector in charge of the women police and also to increase the number of women Constables to twenty two\textsuperscript{178}. The Dewan Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar in his speech held at the Cantonment parade ground on 10\textsuperscript{th} September 1941 said that a bright future was expected for the women force and there was a proposal to increase their number and to revise their salary. When the proposal came into force, the women police realised their wider role in the maintenance of law and order\textsuperscript{179}. They regarded their work and duties as a type of social work.

**Srichitra Guards**

During the time of the Second World War, a volunteer force was raised in every state under its own Act and Rules\textsuperscript{180}. Accordingly, on 25\textsuperscript{th} June 1940, His Highness the Maharaja organized civil guards known as “Srichitra Guards” to aid the police and military for self defence in the state. The men recruited to the Srichitra Guards was paid a monthly bonus of Rs.12 during the period of their training. While being employed on active duty this payment was exclusive of expenses incurred on account of board and lodging. Attached to the Police Headquarters, they assisted the police in the discharge of their function in relation to the protection of persons, the security of property or public safety\textsuperscript{181}.

\textsuperscript{177} T.A.R., 1938, p.4.

\textsuperscript{178} T.A.R. 1946-1947, p.73.

\textsuperscript{179} The Travancore Information and Listener, Vol.1, May 1941, p.34.

\textsuperscript{180} Ghosh, S.K., Police Administration, Calcutta, 1973, p. 174.

\textsuperscript{181} C.S.File No: 989, 1945, Police daily report for the month of June 1940.
The members of the Srichitra Guards were selected under the personal supervision of the Dewan from the age group between eighteen and forty\textsuperscript{182}. The advertisement for the recruitment was made by the District Magistrate. The Tahsildars distributed the forms for the selection. The final enrolment was subject to the verification of competent authority. After selection, every recruit must undergo medical examination. If medically fit they were deputed for training. After training, the recruits were called up for active duty whenever required. Candidates who had passed E.S.L.C examination were given preference in the matter of recruitment\textsuperscript{183}. A branch of Srichitra Guards worked as Armed Reserve Police Wardens. A training centre was established at Oolampara to train the recruits for a month. The first batch composed of 1000 men. The recruits were given distinctive uniform with badges\textsuperscript{184}.

The Inspector General of Police allocated a member of Srichitra Guards to discharge any function assigned to them. No prosecution was instituted against a member of the Srichitra Guard in respect of anything done by him in the discharge of his function except with the previous sanction of government. When they were called to aid the police, they were under the control of the officer of that force. If anyone refused to perform his duty without proper reason he was punished with a fine of hundred rupees\textsuperscript{185}.

**The Travancore Police Training School**

Training has been defined as the process of developing skills, habits, knowledge and attitudes in employees for the purpose of increasing their effectiveness in present

\textsuperscript{182} The Travancore Information and Listener, Vol: II, January 1942, p.17.

\textsuperscript{183} Ibid., March, 1942, p.38.

\textsuperscript{184} C.S.File No: 989, 1945, Police daily report for the month of June 1940.

\textsuperscript{185} The Travancore Information and Listener, Vol.I, February 1941, p.47.
positions as well as for future positions. The massive man power employed by the police department at different levels needs its training. The varying jobs a police officer has to perform in the span of his career demand on his part diverse skills. Special training helps him to acquire such skills\textsuperscript{186}.

The Police Training School functioned adjunct to the police Headquarters office at Trivandrum till 1932. After that it was shifted to Tykadu, in the present place\textsuperscript{187}. The administration of Police Training School was vested in the hands of a Principal who was of the rank of a District Superintendent of Police. The Vice Principal was in the cadre of Assistant Superintendent of Police\textsuperscript{188}. Instructors were posted according to the number of categories of trainees present. In 1943 the government wanted to modernise the Police Training School. So Mr.E.Subra Mania Pillai, the retired Deputy Inspector General of Police was deputed to Vellore to study and to prepare a scheme to modernise the Police Training School\textsuperscript{189}. In 1946 the scheme was implemented and the name was also changed to Central Recruits School. All officers were given training in the Training School. Later on in May 1959, it was raised to the status of a Police Training College\textsuperscript{190}. Refresher courses above the cadre of Sub Inspectors and training for Sub Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables were given in the Police Training School\textsuperscript{191}.

Training for Sub Inspector was given great importance because the Sub Inspectors occupied a pivotal position in the police organization. As the officer in charge

\textsuperscript{186} Alexander, P.J "Police training in Kerala an evaluation after the Gore Committee", Aspects of Kerala Administration, Trivandrum, 1980, pp.99-100.

\textsuperscript{187} The Travancore Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol.XX, Trivandrum, 1933, p.523.

\textsuperscript{188} Sreedhara Menon, A., Gazetteer of India, Kerala, Trivandrum, 1962, p.589.

\textsuperscript{189} D.A.R., 1117 M.E / 1941-1942, p.4.


\textsuperscript{191} Sankarsen and Saxena, A.K., Police Training Problems and Perspectives, Jaipur, 1994, p.3.
of the police station, he was the kingpin of all police action, preventive; detective and regulatory in his own jurisdiction. The work of the Sub Inspector was difficult and needed physical courage and stamina as well as high degree of mental alertness. Very often he had to take quick and spot decisions. During training they were taught the techniques of thorough and systematic investigation aids, so that they developed a genuine faith in the application of scientific aids and abhorrence for extra legal methods. The training for prosecuting Sub Inspector was of six months. The Traffic Sub Inspectors were also given training for six months, of which three months in the Police Training School and three months in a government workshop and in a city traffic police. They were given allowances for their extra work.

The Probationary I head Constables who were directly recruited were given training for 1½ years, of which nine months was in the police training school and three months in the districts for gaining practical experience in station work. To the Constables, the school taught about discipline, alertness, punctuality, quick and cheerful obedience to orders. Their training was conducted for thirty weeks. Their syllabus for training included physical training, bayonet training, drill with and without arms, weapon training, lathi drill, guard and sentry duties, route marches, first aid and catechism. After training they were put in the Armed Reserve and then transferred to fill vacancies in other units. They were put for six months on probation.

In order to get additional training, Travancore Police Officers were even sent to British Indian territories to get necessary training in various fields. In 1942 in order to

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organize civil defence in all important provinces and towns, the Safety First Association of India conducted intensive course in civil defence. The Travancore Inspector General of Police sent two officers to receive training at Bombay. Refresher courses were conducted for Acting Inspectors for station work. The Inspector General selected them in batches of twenty and they were given training in the Police Training School for two months. They were also given training in scientific methods of investigation and handling fire arms.

Eventhough training was given to the police officers, it was never found adequate in Travancore and defective training was held responsible for almost all police ills. Generally, critics held that police training received only a low priority in the scheme of police administration, leaves large sensitive areas untouched, with inadequate infrastructure and facilities. The training imparted was insufficient to equip trainees for their job responsibilities. However, the police, with different branches, rendered meritorious service to preserve the peace and tranquillity of the states and actively engaged themselves in judiciary and in prison too.

196 Judicial File No: 1773, 1946, Refresher Course to acting Inspectors.
CHAPTER VII
POLICE IN JUDICIARY AND PRISON

The Police as an organized force play a vital role not only in their own department but also in the Judicial Department and the Prison. As the Police department is the custodian of peace and order, their involvement in the Judiciary and the Prison is unavoidable. The early legal system was simple. The mode of administration too was primitive. Its origin has to be sought in the customs and traditions known as ‘maryada, margam’ and ‘acharam’. But the most perceptible feature of the early administration of justice was the privileged status guaranteed to Brahmins and their ethnocentric activities to establish their superiority.1

Travancore was a well administered State, where the administration of criminal justice was clearly defined. While the legislators enacted the laws, the police collected evidences of violation by examination of witnesses. The prosecution presented evidence to the court. The judiciary interpreted the law as it applied to specific circumstances and persons. In simple terms, the police, the witness, the prosecutors and the judiciary worked together as a team. It is known that the attention of the police was drawn to operational situations.2

Police Involvement in Judiciary

To carry out the work of the judiciary systematically, the need of the police was inevitable. Judicial administration is not complete without a description of the organisation of the police. Before 1800 A.D, there was no proper court for the-

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2 Gosh, S.K., Indian Police at Cross Roads, Calcutta, 1975, p. 32.
administration of justice. All crimes were tried by a court of enquiry constituted by the
elders under the presidency of Naduvazhi. There was no written code to guide the
court and punishment too was determined by traditions.³

Knowing the defect of the judicial system in 1811 Munro created the Zillah Court
for the first time. Five such courts were created during his time at Padmanaphapuram,
Trivandrum, Mavelikara, Vaikam and Alwaye. These courts simply inquired into all the
cases brought before them whether civil, criminal or police and reported it to the Dewan
who in turn passed orders on each case.⁴ The Zillah Courts were each manned by two
judges assisted by a Pandit. Apart from it, the Huzur Court was also established for the
trial and punishment of Sirkar servants. In all these courts, Judicial Officers were
selected from among Nairs, Brahmins, and Syrian Christians. The courts had given
security of person and property and confidence to the mass of the people.⁵ In 1814, an
Appellate Court at Trivandrum was formed for hearing appeals from the decisions of the
Zillah Courts. It was presided over by the Dewan assisted by three Judges. In the same
year for the guidance of Court, Chattavariola consisting of 34 sections were also issued
by him.⁶

In the early part of 1835, Cunden Menon, the Dewan Peishkar, compiled a code
which came into force in 1836.⁷ It described the constitution, powers and procedures of
the Civil and Criminal Courts. According to it, the Dewan was the Supreme head of all

⁴ T.G.G., Supplement, Tuesday 18th Nov-1881; p.3.
⁵ Ulloor Parameswara Aiyar, S., “Colonel Munro” Some Travancore Dynastic Records, third series, paper
read before the Kerala Society on 31.3.1928, Trivandram, p. 438.
⁶ Ibid., pp. 483-484.
⁷ Shungunny Menon, P., History of Travancore From the Earliest times, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 412-413.
the departments and exercised revenue, police and magisterial functions. The Dewan continued to be the Chief Magistrate of the State till 1871.\textsuperscript{8} In 1857, Maharaja Martandavarma introduced a new enactment, by which Sessions Judge in each of the Zillahs in Travancore were appointed on the basis of the system which existed in British territories.\textsuperscript{9} It also made it clear that in any criminal case, if the evidence of a Police Officer, Thana Naick or Proverticar was required, the Criminal Court had to issue a summon to him directly and send it through a court peon requiring his attendance before the court within a specified period.\textsuperscript{10} The Appeal and the Zillah Courts were entrusted with criminal authority and could award a fine of Rs.100/- and an imprisonment for one year.\textsuperscript{11} The Appeal Court could award fine at their discretion for severe cases and also imprisonment for more than fourteen years. When there was any case severer than the Appeal Court could deal with, the case was submitted through the Fowzdar Commissioner for the consideration of His Highness the Raja and the British Resident.\textsuperscript{12} In 1863, the Sudr Court was formed and rules were passed by the Sudr Court regarding the submission of petitions.\textsuperscript{13}

In 1881, Ramiengar became the Dewan of Travancore. At that time, the judicial and police functions were enjoyed by the Magistrates. It assumed a double channel of supervision from the top down and a dual set of loyalties from the bottom up. Realising this, the Travancore Government enacted the Regulation of 1881 on the model of the Act

\textsuperscript{8} Ramanath Aiyar, S., Brief Sketch of Travancore the Model State of India, Trivandrum, 1903, p. 180.

\textsuperscript{9} Shungunny Menon, P., \textit{op.cit}, p. 423.

\textsuperscript{10} The Travancore Calendar for 1857, p.48.

\textsuperscript{11} T.A.R., 1854-1855, p.1.

\textsuperscript{12} Major Hebar Drury (ed) \textit{Selections From the Records of Travancore}, Trivandrum 1860, p. 25.

\textsuperscript{13} T.G.G., Vol.II, No:11, Nov. 29, 1864, p. 204.
of 1861 by the British Indian territory. By this Regulation, the separation of the functions of police from those of the magistracy was enacted. The British Indian Penal and the Criminal Procedure Code were also enacted. The Superintendent of Police was made the head of the police department, yet he worked under the administrative control and supervision of the District Magistrate, who served as the chief executive authority in the district.\textsuperscript{14} On 8\textsuperscript{th} August 1881 a notification was issued. It empowered the third class Magistrates to entertain complaints of offences in cases over which they had jurisdiction to try or to commit for trial.\textsuperscript{15} In the same year, the Munsiff Courts were vested with jurisdiction of trying petty police cases and civil suits upto Rs.100.\textsuperscript{16}

The success of the police to a great extent depended on the prompt disposal of cases by the courts of law. But in general practice, there was a great deal of delay in the disposal of criminal and civil cases. Therefore the District Superintendent of Police was very often requested to bring to the notice of the Durbar in the case of undue delay.\textsuperscript{17} In the year 1943 there were 116 police charged cases pending in the court, of which ten cases related to the year 1942 and the remaining hundred cases related to the year 1943.\textsuperscript{18} The aim of the police department was the effective security of person and property. The policeman was simply an auxillary in performing that function, and the magistracy was the proper medium for the speedy disposal of cases. The policeman was no final


\textsuperscript{15} T.G.G., Vol.XX, No: 13, March 28, 1882, p.249.

\textsuperscript{16} Proceedings of the Travancore Government, T.G.G., Supplement, 1\textsuperscript{st} Nov. 1881, p.3.

\textsuperscript{17} T.A.R., 1910-1911, p. 24.

\textsuperscript{18} Judicial file No: 963/46, Letter from the District Magistrate to the Chief Secretary to Government.
authority and it was well and truly postulated that the policeman was only an arm of the magistrate. 19

Police to report apprehensions

The police officers on apprehending or securing charge of criminals reported to the court without delay. 20 Based on this the court in turn reported the offence and the name of the culprit, ascertained the names of the witnesses and appointed a suitable day for his hearing and trial. Besides, the court issued summons to such witnesses who were required to appear before it. Such summons were transmitted to the police officers of the districts, where the witnesses resided and these officers communicated the summons to the witnesses. The police officers took proper security for making their due appearance. 21 In case the person was not residing within the jurisdiction of the court, the court would transmit the summons to the stations where the party lived. There the police officer took step for his attendance in the court, where his evidence was needed. 22 When a person against whom a warrant had been issued was absconding and there was no immediate prospect of his arrest, the station house officer should send a descriptive roll of the individual in the vernacular to the Inspector General’s office for publication in the weekly crime occurrence sheet 23. If the police were unable to arrest a culprit within a fixed time, they could ask the court to extend the period. In crime no:43/119 of Muvattupuzha Station four months and 15 days were given to arrest the culprit but the

20 Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore, 1010 M.E to 1070 M.E/ 1834 to 1894 A.D., 1927, p. 123.
22 Yesudhas, R.N., Colonel John Munro in Travancore, Trivandrum, 1977, p. 32.
23 Standing Circular No:39, 1930, dated 27.5.1930.
Inspector General applied for five months and 15 days and the same was sanctioned by the Order No: 9060/45/Judl\(^{24}\). A policeman was not to search a person’s home unless he had a warrant or had good reason to believe that criminal evidence would be found. The police officials were not authorised to inflict punishment upon a person who was arrested. Legally they had no right to force a person to testify against himself in the form of a forced confession.\(^{25}\)

The cases of all people arrested without warrant within the limits of their respective stations had to be reported by the officers incharge of police stations, without delay to the District Magistrate. The magistrate was the competent authority to decide whether such persons could be sent on bail or otherwise. Whenever an arrested person was discharged by a Police Officer, at once the officer should make a report of the fact to the District Magistrate.\(^{26}\) After the trial, when the final order was passed by a Magistrate in a case charged or referred to by the police, the Magistrate was to communicate the order to the District Superintendent of Police. When a case was referred to by the police on the ground that it was a non-cognizable\(^{27}\) case, the magistrate, if he agreed, had to treat it as non-cognizable.\(^{28}\)

The District Magistrate became the head of the criminal administration. The District Superintendent of Police and other officers met the District Magistrate frequently and he consulted them on all subjects connected with the police work of their district.

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\(^{24}\) Judicial File No: 1574, 1945, Special duty for Inspectors in a murder case.


\(^{26}\) The Code of Criminal Procedure 1117 M.E/1941 A.D, Trivandrum, p. 15.

\(^{27}\) Non-Cognizable case – Means a case in which a police officer may not arrest without warrant.

The District Superintendent of Police was to obtain from the District Magistrate certificates about their opinions of the conduct, capabilities, character, merits or demerits of the police officers serving in that division. The Magistrate of a district required the District Superintendent of Police of that district to submit from time to time the reports either particular or general on any matter connected with crimes. The District Superintendent of Police was to inform the District Magistrate of his absence before leaving his district on duty or on leave. The District Magistrate was to remember that the subordination of the District Superintendent of Police to himself extended only to the investigation into crimes and the maintenance of order. But all matters concerning the internal management and discipline of the force were outside the province of the District Magistrate.

If a person was arrested, no police officer was to detain him in custody without warrant and without a special order of a Magistrate for a longer period. Within twenty-four hours the arrested person was to be brought before the Magistrate. If the Judicial Magistrate was not available, the officer got the right to forward the accused to the nearest Executive Magistrate. Such Executive Magistrate had the power to authorise the detention of the accused for a period not exceeding seven days. Before the expiry of the said period, the Executive Magistrate should forward the accused to the nearest Judicial Magistrate. When the police brought a case to the court they had to enter it in their file. Only after the receipt of the charge sheet from the police could the complaints be brought

30 Judicial file No: 247/143, 1907, Reorganization of the Police Department.
on to the file of the Magistrate. After entering in the file only, the number of the case be issued. Complaints in serious cases such as murder, robbery were not infrequently taken to the Magistrates in the first instance because a preliminary investigation by the police in such cases was essential. The Magistrate also needed the help of the police for the successful prosecution of such cases.

While referring to the records, it was understood that several cases charged by the police were pending before the magistracy for several years. So in order to reduce the delay, Mr. Pitt, the Commissioner of Police, recommended to the District Magistrate to set apart certain days of a week for the trial of police cases. The District and Sub Divisional Magistrates during the course of their tours were to inspect the police stations and their records regularly. Through these measures the head of the Magistracy in the district directed and controlled the police. The District Magistrate alone was allowed to keep a link with the police.

In the case of the arrest of the palace servants in civil cases, the police officer concerned had to obtain the permission from the palace authority. Similarly if they wanted to arrest the palace servants, in a criminal case, the police had to inform the matter to the Sarvadhikariyakar.

When the police got intimation of a death under suspicious circumstances, the police officer was empowered to make investigation. The police officer inspected the


34 Judicial File No: 2755, 1931, Investigation of cases referred to the Police by the Magistracy under the direction of the Criminal Procedure Code.

35 Judicial File No: 963, 1946. List of Police Charge Cases Pending on the file of the Division I class Magistrate Court.


38 Judicial File No: 2255, 1945, Taking Palace Servants to Police Station.
body, noted down the wounds, fracture, bruises and other marks of injury found on the body. He also noted the manner in which or the weapon or instrument with which such marks had been inflicted. If there was any doubt regarding the cause of death, he was to send the body immediately for postmortem. A report of the preliminary investigation made by the police was to be sent without delay to the nearest Magistrate.39

First Information Report

When the police officer received a complaint from the public on any cases, he had to register it in the First Information Report and proceed with the investigation.40 The original of the First Information Report had to be forwarded without delay to the Magistrate of the jurisdiction. One carbon copy would be retained in the station and one copy in the station house general diary, and another copy with the head office through the District Superintendent of Police. If the case belonged to the Opium Act, a copy of the First Information Report was sent to the Exercise Inspector of the Taluk concerned. All cognisable and non-cognisable cases and cases under criminal procedure code and offences under Opium Regulation had to be entered in the First Information Report.41

According to the High Court Criminal Circular of 1911 the Magistrate had to communicate to the police the final orders passed by the cases charged by the police. But in 1928 the Commissioner reported that out of 2441 findings only 218 were communicated to the police department. The information regarding other findings were obtained informally by the police officers attending courts and through magisterial clerks. So the Commissioner urged the Magistrate to follow the rules issued by the High

Court and the District Magistrates should see that the subordinate courts carry out the instructions of the High Court\textsuperscript{42}. In the year 1925, the Magistrates took an average of 74.5 days for the disposal of cases brought before them by the police. The Commission complained that the steady rise in the average duration was a serious handicap involving great inconvenience to the public and caused reluctance on the part of the public.\textsuperscript{43}

On 15\textsuperscript{th} August 1914, the Maharaja of Travancore issued a proclamation dealing with the powers of the police and magistracy. According to that, any police officer could seize any newspaper, magazine, book, pamphlet or other document in which any information, comment or suggestion was published in contravention to the proclamation. Anything seized was to be forwarded to the first class Magistrate or to the District Magistrate in the place where such things were seized. A Magistrate making an order was to issue a warrant to any Police Officer to seize and retain anything confiscated under the subsection and to search for such things in any place, where such things were known or reasonably expected. A Police Officer to whom a warrant was directed could search in any place and seize and retain anything in accordance with the provisions of the warrant and could forward anything seized to the magistrate by whom the warrant was issued.\textsuperscript{44}

**Cases against the police officers**

Nowadays, crime is common in every stratum of the society. Like the common people, the policeman may also involve in some sorts of crime either civil or criminal. Any charge against a policeman needed a preliminary or departmental investigation by a

\textsuperscript{42} GO. No. R. Dis. No.361/Judi, dated 11\textsuperscript{th} February 1928.


\textsuperscript{44} The Travancore Almanac and Directory for 1916, p. 185.
superior officer of police. An officer exercising the power of a Magistrate could enquire into the charges against a police officer above the rank of a Constable.\textsuperscript{45} The order of the government dated 9\textsuperscript{th} July 1911 directed that the District Magistrates should enquire into or try all cases against police officers of whatever rank.\textsuperscript{46} The District Magistrates complained that this ruling threw on them a large volume of original work, sometimes of a petty nature and they could not find time to deal with them satisfactorily. The reorganization in 1912 modified the order and then it stated that all the First Class Magistrates were empowered to deal with cases against police officers.\textsuperscript{47} The proceedings of 1921 made changes again. Accordingly, if any police officer, not removable from his office without the sanction of government, was accused of any offence when discharging his duties, the court could take the case only with the previous sanction of the government.\textsuperscript{48} If any mistake or irregularities on the part of a police officer came to the Magistrate's notice during the course of an inquiry, he had to reserve remarks thereon for separate official correspondence and should not incorporate them in his judgement. It afforded much protection to the police officers.\textsuperscript{49} In the year 1930, only one policeman was criminally prosecuted, and no compensation was awarded by the court to any of the police officers. But through the department, three men were prosecuted.\textsuperscript{50} Before 1926, police Constables were allotted the duty of calling the numbers in the court. But in 1926, the police orderlies in the court were cancelled. The

\textsuperscript{45} Krishna Murthi, S., \textit{A Handbook of Criminal Law}, Madras, 1993, p. 800.

\textsuperscript{46} G.O. No: 1402 / Judicial / of 15\textsuperscript{th} March 1909.

\textsuperscript{47} Judicial File No: 247/143, 1907, Reorganization of the Police Department, Vol. I.

\textsuperscript{48} Judicial File No: 1649, 1923, High Court Circular Proceedings No: 235 of 1097 M.E / 1921 A.D regarding section 70 of Police Regulation.

\textsuperscript{49} Judicial File No: 2679, 1935, Complaints against the practice of Judges passing remarks against the police and incorporating them in their judgement.

peons were allotted the duty of calling the numbers. It relieved the police of the burden.

**Duties of the Magistrates**

The Magistrates were the chief conservators of peace and order within their respective jurisdiction. The police force was placed at their disposal for the performance of their paramount duty. In case of the occurrence of a crime, the magistracy, no less than the police was bound by law to detect and bring the offenders to justice. In fact the Magistrates were the directors and law officers of the police force which was placed at their disposal. The Magistrate had to watch every step of the investigation, point out defects and shortcomings and give hints to the police. The police were bound to pay prompt attention to all such instruction. In olden days, if the police themselves considered cases to be false, they struck off the whole cases and showed the property as 'not lost'. And so they excluded it from their figures. But now they had to await the order of the Magistrate to know whether a case was true or false and no case was struck off without a Magistrate's order. When any investigation was protracted, the police were asked to report from time to time for the information of the magistracy, the reason for not completing the investigation and sending up the final reports or charge sheet earlier. The Magistrates should satisfy themselves of the soundness of such reasons and record their opinion in the register of occurrence report in the diary of cases as the case may be. A special Magistrate was appointed in order to conduct the trial of British

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51 Judicial File No: 1025, 1926, Police orderlies with the magistrates fixing the duties.


European subjects. All cases of police torture were also enquired into by the District Magistrate.

**Police duty on the part of a case**

When the police case was on trial, the Inspector had to attend the court to help the Prosecuting Inspector. In exceptional cases, where the Inspector was prevented from attending courts, on account of other unavoidable duties, a Head Constable who was conversant with facts of the case was deputed to help the Prosecuting Inspector. But no police officer could investigate a non-cognisable case without the order of a Magistrate. Generally, the Commissioner of Police was expected to maintain cordial relations with the magistracy. He could keep the District Magistrate confidentially informed of any suspicious conduct or delays in the disposal of cases on the part of the subordinate magistracy. He could meet the requisition of the Magistrate for aid, escorts and guards.

**Powers of the Police Officer and the Magistrate to Maintain Law and Order**

The police regulation controlled the District Magistrate and the police in the maintenance of law and order. The District Magistrate could make rules to control traffic, labourers, epidemics, cemeteries and places of public amusements. The Commissioner of Police controlled processions, prevented lawlessness and kept order in all public places. The District Magistrate was empowered by the police regulation to

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58 *Statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during 1911 to 1912*, Ordered by the House of Common to be Printed, London, 22nd July 1913, p. 90.

prohibit any processions or public assembly and delivery of public harangues. The Police Commissioner could temporarily reserve any street for public purposes.60

The police acted as an instrument at the disposal of the magistracy for the prevention and detection of crime. The vague statement created confusion and often the Magistrates treated the police as a subservient body and created confusion and a complex in the minds of the police officials as it seemed that they were no longer independent in exercising their powers.61 Therefore, the High Court had to point out to the police department the duties that they were really called upon to perform and the necessity for the co-operation of the police department in the matter of the disposal of cases in criminal courts.62 Likewise, if a Magistrate of a district observed any incompetence or unfitness on the part of any police officer below the rank of an Inspector subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police of that district, he could call that District Superintendent of Police, substitute another officer in the place of such incompetent or unfit officer and the District Superintendent should be bound to comply with such requisition. In the case of an Inspector or Officer of higher grade, the Magistrate of the district should communicate with the Inspector General of Police who should thereupon determine the measures to be taken in the light of the views of the Magistrate and inform him of the orders he issued.63 When the Magistrate received a complaint he had to refer that for police investigation. Similarly, when an application for a warrant was found defective, it had to be returned to the Magistrate for correction.64 In order to maintain

60 Sreedhar, K.P., Travancore Today, Trivandrum, n-d, pp. 51-52.
64 Cover File No: 4302, 1884, Correspondence between the Magistracy and the Police.
law and order and to prevent crime in the State, good relationship between police and magistracy was effected.

**Police and Prison**

Prison means any jail or place used permanently or temporarily under the general or special orders of a provincial government for the detention of prisoners. It is a place properly arranged and equipped for the confinement of persons who by legal process, are committed to it for safe custody while awaiting trial or punishment. After the establishment of courts there arose the need for the establishment of prisons for confinement. The culprits who were punished with imprisonment were put into the prison for a specific period as pronounced by the Court of law. But imprisonment was not a common form of punishment in olden days and the creation of jails was the British innovation. Before 1862, there were three principal jails at Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey. Small jails were attached to Zillah Criminal Courts chiefly for the confinement of prisoners under trial. The jails were placed under the direct control of the Dewan. Usually a native physician was in charge of the jail. The native physicians pay was mere six or seven rupees per mensem which resulted in uncleanness and excessive mortality. So in 1860 the jail was brought under the control of the Durbar physician. He was the principal medical officer of the government. Subsequently in 1872 another jail was opened at Trivandrum to supplement the Central Jail. The Central and Additional Jails were placed under the control of two separate Superintendents of varying status. The Central jail was situated in a building which had once served as the barracks for the Nair.

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67 T.A.R., 1862-1863, p. 49.
Brigade. Due to lack of facilities in 1886-87 the Central Jail was transferred to Poojapura.\textsuperscript{69} The Central Jail at the capital and the two district jails at Quilon and Alleppey were guarded by the police. The number of guards in each jail was eighty one in Trivandrum, twenty seven in Quilon and twenty in Alleppey.\textsuperscript{70} However, in 1873, the jail was placed under the control of a jailor, who was responsible to the Superintendent of Police.\textsuperscript{71} Upto 1896 the convicts were guarded by the police in the jail and the tower and the main gate were guarded by the military.\textsuperscript{72} In 1877, the jail establishment was reorganized and the police guard attached to the jail was disbanded. But the military however continued to guard the tower and the main gate.\textsuperscript{73} Upto 1894 the juveniles were also put in the same prison. Later on, the government wanted to separate the juveniles from the adult convicts. So in 1894 a Reformatory School was started at Poojapura. Through this, moral training was given to them and they were also separately put in the prison.\textsuperscript{74} The Juvenile delinquents mostly came from poor families. They were circumstantially induced to commit such offences. Juvenile offenders were the products of poverty, wicked associates, idleness, criminal attitudes, hypersensitivity and other socio economic and psychopathological reasons.\textsuperscript{75} After 1919 the District Superintendent of Police was given the power to inspect the jail periodically.\textsuperscript{76} Subsequently, the

\textsuperscript{69} Sreedhara Menon, A., \textit{op.cit.}, p. 592.


\textsuperscript{71} Sreedhara Menon, A., \textit{Gazetteer of India (Quilon)}, Trivandrum, 1964, p. 533.

\textsuperscript{72} \textit{T.A.R.}, 1896-1897, p. 36.

\textsuperscript{73} \textit{T.A.R.}, 1897-1898, p. 46.

\textsuperscript{74} Ramalinga Aiyar, R., \textit{The Criminal Digests}, Trivandrum, 1923, p.111.

\textsuperscript{75} Report of the Chenglepet Reformatory School in the Madras Presidency for the year 1902, Government Press, Madras, p.35.

\textsuperscript{76} Sreedhara Menon, A., \textit{Gazetteer of India}, Quilon, 1964, p. 533.
prisoners who were locked up were guarded by jail wardens and the Brigade sepoys. For the prisoners, a separate hospital was also attached to the jail in a separate building. A sub assistant surgeon was the head of the jail medical wing. In 1895, Prison Regulation I was enacted. Based on it, the police were given the opportunity for recognising habitual convicts. They were permitted to visit the jail both at the weekly inspection parade or at the time desired. The Superintendent of Jail had to arrange the hours of these visits and grant a written pass to a fixed number of police to enter the jail at the hours stated. This pass was given at the gate and was retained by the police. The police could ask questions directly bearing on his identity or previous history in the presence of the Superintendent of Jail or Jailor. No prisoner was liable to punishment for refusing to answer. The police officer could enquire with the written permission of the District Magistrate.

**Police station lock-up**

The police station had a lock-up for the temporary custody of persons arrested as suspects or otherwise. They were detained by the police as a preliminary to their production before a judicial officer, duly authorised by law. The period of detention could not extend for a longer period than twenty four hours. During the period of detention the responsibility for the arrested persons was the Constable in charge of the lock up at the police post concerned.

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Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for a period of one month or for a lesser period by the Criminal Courts in the mofussil area were confined in the station lock-ups. Those sentenced to longer terms by such courts and those sentenced to imprisonment for any term by the Criminal Court at Trivandrum, were sent to the central prison. In the year 1930, the number of prisoners in the station lock-up was 11087 including the convicts and under-trial prisoners.\textsuperscript{81} If there was no sub jail, prisoners were confined in the police lock-up and then transferred to the nearest sub-jail within the district.\textsuperscript{82} The local Magistrate was responsible for the well being of the remanded and short-term convicted prisoners confined in the prisons of the police station. The local Magistrate inspected the prisoners once in a month and verified whether the prisoners were properly treated with the prescribed food, bedding and clothing. He also inspected the sanitary arrangements carried out for the criminals and such arrangements were recorded in a special book maintained in every police station.\textsuperscript{83} The Surgeon of the station or the native Doctor examined all prisoners sentenced to corporal punishment by the Criminal Court Judge\textsuperscript{84}. When the prisoners were taken out of lock-ups they had to be properly secured against escape and not allowed to go out of sight or to communicate with any one.\textsuperscript{85}

**Sub - Jails**

Before the establishment of sub jails, the under-trial prisoners in Travancore were detained in the police station lock-up for several years. A perusal of the records reveals

\textsuperscript{81} T.A.R., 1930-1931, p. 104.

\textsuperscript{82} T.G.G. Vol.LXXV, No.32, March 1938, p.2.

\textsuperscript{83} Judicial File No: 2589, 1925, Rules regarding the short term prisoners in the police station lock-up.


the fact that some culprits were kept in the lock-up up to four years, until the cases against them were decided by competent courts. Therefore the police harassed them unnecessarily. So the government planned to open sub-jails. Under-trial prisoners who were either denied bail by courts of law or who were unable to fulfil the conditions laid down by courts of law for the purpose of procuring their attendance in the court were put in the sub-jails. Normally the police would not have any contact with prisoners under trial. Therefore, it was decided to establish sub-jails as far away as possible from the police station itself. The armed trained wardens guarded the “A” class sub-jail and the police guarded the “B” class sub-jail.

The well-being of the prisoners in the sub-jail was under the control of the Surgeon General, the Director of Public Health and the Commissioner of Police. They were also the ex officio visitors of all sub-jails within Travancore. They inspected any sub-jail, hospital, cooking shed, latrine and other places connected with any sub-jail. All the remarks of the Magistrates and all the recommendations made by Medical Officers were recorded in an Inspection Register.

**Duty of Police in sub-jails**

Usually, the police guarded the sub-jails. The police were responsible for the safe custody of the prisoners. Before confinement, all property found on a person, except necessary wearing apparel were sent to the Magistrate with Form 95. The removal of the sacred thread, thali, wedding ring or the lingam worn by Lingayats from

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87 Ibid., p.33.

88 Judicial File No: 1903, 1923, Ordering Medical Inspection of Police lock-ups to be done by the local Medical Officer.

the prisoner was prohibited. A list of the property omitting the wearing apparel retained by the prisoner was to be entered in the Search Register which was duly signed by the senior police officer, the station writer and the prisoner. 90

A special guard consisting of three police Constables was allotted to guard a long term convict or notorious criminals who were in the sub-jail. They were locked up day and night in a separate cell. The ward in which the prisoner was confined was to be regularly searched at short intervals. The special guard never allowed anybody to come near the cell except the jail officials, the person deputed to give food, the scavenger and the person authorised by the Superintendent in writing. 91 The Superintendent of the sub-jail and the senior police officer in charge were responsible for the safety of the prisoner. The police did not interfere in matters of jail economy. Their duty was only guarding the prisoners and giving assistance in case of refractory behaviour. 92 But in order to give the police the opportunity for recognising habitual convicts, they were permitted to visit the jail both at the weekly inspection parade and at other time if desired, but such visit was avoided at the time of labour 93. Female prisoners were kept separately from male prisoners in the lock-up intended for them. The male under-trial prisoners were kept separately from the male sentenced prisoners. 94

Bringing the prisoners to the court was the main duty of the police. After getting the order of the Magistrate, the jailor could hand over the prisoner to the police to be

taken to the court.\textsuperscript{95} Constables deputed for court orderlies duty attended court at the prescribed time. Besides, the court orderlies were to preserve order in the Court House and to keep communication between the Magistrate and the nearest police station. Moreover, they were to check the entry of unauthorised persons in the Court House and guard the under-trial prisoners in the dock.\textsuperscript{96} In addition, they did not allow prisoners to keep any weapons, stores, shoes or umbrellas, when they were placed in the dock. Whenever a prisoner, sent for examination, had to halt a night he had to be confined in the police station lock-up. In the police station lock-up he was under the custody of the police in-charge of the lock-up.\textsuperscript{97} No police officer was permitted except under the authority and the presence of a Magistrate to enter a sub-jail for the purpose of interviewing or communicating with any prisoner under remand.\textsuperscript{98}

The duty of escorting the under trial prisoner to and from the court rested on the police. The police were responsible for the safer custody of any prisoner under their charge till he was returned to the jail. Prisoners were conveyed from jail to court and back by the police van. In places where there were no police vans but only motor buses were available, under-trial prisoners were conveyed by motor bus. But their presence in the bus was not to cause inconvenience to the public. In other cases, the prisoners were compelled to march on foot for more than fifteen miles. If under-trial prisoners were persons of good social position or persons who were certified by the Medical Officer to be physically unfit to walk, they were allowed a means of conveyance.\textsuperscript{99} When prisoners


were taken by train, a separate railway warrant was issued for the prisoners and the policemen who escorted them. When the number of civil prisoners and policeman forming escort exceeded five, a third class compartment was reserved exclusively for them. When the party did not exceed five they could be accommodated with ordinary passengers. If the person was violent or dangerous, such a person was to travel in a reserved compartment.\textsuperscript{100} When the court and the jail were in the same station, the prisoner was taken to the jail and back daily until his attendance was dispensed.\textsuperscript{101}

The minimum strength of the police guard was for not more than four prisoners, two Constables, for five to six prisoners three Constables and for seven to ten prisoners one Head Constable and four Constables and a female warden was instituted for a female prisoner instead of one of the male Constables. If prisoners were of desperate character or likely to attempt to escape, the strength of the guard could be increased. Two prisoners were not to be sent out of the station together under the charge of one Constable unless they were handcuffed together.\textsuperscript{102} No state prisoner or prisoner under sentence of death was removed from the jail without the special sanction of the government, except in the case of a prisoner under sentence of death whose presence was required by a Sessions Court or a High Court for the purpose of taking additional evidence in the case.\textsuperscript{103}

When the prisoner was brought to the lock-up from the court, if no other prisoner was kept in the lock-up, the police in-charge of the lock-up permitted the prisoner to occupy a ward in the lock-up. The key of the lock-up was handed over to the escort and


\textsuperscript{101} Notification No: 45. 16253/50/C.S dated 11th July 1951.

\textsuperscript{102} Cochin Police Manual, Trichur, 1931, p.59.

\textsuperscript{103} Section 22 of Trivancore Cochin Prisoners Act XVII of 1950, p.4.
the prisoner was entirely under the charge of the escort not only for his safe custody but for supply of food. On the departure of the escort, the key of the ward was returned to the police in charge of the lock-up. In the event of any prisoner committing damage to a ward occupied by him, it was reported to the officer in-charge of the jail. In the event of a police lock-up being occupied by other prisoners, the prisoner was confined with them. The police in-charge of the lock-up was responsible for his safe custody. The duty of supplying food to the prisoner rested with the police escorting him.104

Custody of women in the police lock-up during the night time was to be avoided as far as possible. Where the custody of women in the police lock-up during night became inevitable, a reliable elderly female warden was to be engaged for the full duration of the woman’s custody in the police lock-up.105 The cost of maintenance of the prisoner handed over to the police for production before a court till he reached the court was met by the jail from where he was sent. The cost of maintenance of the prisoner when returning from court was advanced from the court.106 Prisoners in police custody were not allowed to leave the lock-up after night fall except in special cases and in emergency circumstances and these had to be recorded in the General Diary.107 The prisoners in police lock-ups were supplied with a mat, a pillow and a Jamkal.108 They were also provided with a tumbler and a big pot. During the night time the prisoners were obliged to use the pot for stools as well as passing urine. The inconvenience to which the prisoners subjected to while answering the calls of nature during the night in

105 Sambanadham, S., op.cit., p. 386.
their cells could only be experienced rather than described. The allowance of feeding charge to the under trial prisoner in police lock-ups in the State was 15 chuckrams per head. It was inadequate on account of the increase in the prices of food stuffs. So the amount was enhanced to twenty one chuckrams per day from 1945 onwards.

Escape from the prison and the lock-up also took place in Travancore several times. In 1945, eight prisoners escaped from the police custody. Among them four were recaptured immediately. The police officers responsible for the escape were punished departmentally. So when the prisoners were taken out of lock-ups and sub jails, they were properly secured against escape and on no account were they allowed to go out of sight or to communicate with anyone. Previous convictions and other particulars of the prisoners were recorded in the prison record. It helped the police authorities in getting the appropriate particulars about the criminals. It also helped the police to find out the criminals who had escaped.

If anyone died or was grievously hurt in the police lock-up it was to be reported to the First Class Magistrate at once. If the information of such offence was received by a police officer below the rank of an Assistant Superintendent of Police, he was not to make regular investigation himself but was at once to report to the District

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110 Judicial File No: 3147, 11-09-1945, Rate of allowance to under trial prisoners in police lock-ups
111 T.A.R., 1945-1946, p. 73.
Superintendent of Police and the First Class Magistrate. On receiving such a report the First Class Magistrate at once entered upon the investigation.\textsuperscript{115}

Prisoners sent to hospital for treatment were guarded by the Constables of the station in whose jurisdiction the hospital was situated. Constables of distant stations were not utilised for the above duty. Officers in-charge of stations were responsible for safeguarding the prisoners' property.\textsuperscript{116} Before the 15\textsuperscript{th} of each month, the Superintendent of Jail was to send to the Commissioner of Police a list of the prisoners convicted for offences and released during the month from the prison. The Superintendent of jail should give prompt notice of the escape accompanied by a descriptive role of the escaped prisoner to the nearest police station and to the District Magistrate. He would also send immediate intimation to the police near the prisoners' home.\textsuperscript{117}

**Work of the Prisoners**

In 1880, the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Trivandrum was sent to the British Jail at Cannanore to study the jail discipline and the system of jail administration in vogue there. As a result, intramural labour was slowly introduced in the jails.\textsuperscript{118} In the beginning the convicts were provided with light labour which was practically confined to the jail precincts such as cleaning, picking stones from the roads, gardening, and cleaning of forests. The work was found insufficient for the convicts and hence the Superintendent of Central Jail decided to increase the labour and make it much harder.

\textsuperscript{115} Judicial File No. 1339, 1922, Police adoption in Travancore of the Madras police order No:112A.

\textsuperscript{116} Cochin Police Manual, Trichur, 1931, p.60.

\textsuperscript{117} Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore, 1071-1080 M.E/1895-1905 A.D, Trivandrum, 1928, p.143.

\textsuperscript{118} Gopala Krishnan, M., op.cit., p. 648.
He wanted to enable the prisoners to spend their leisure time for constructive purposes. The Superintendent, therefore, in a memorandum to the Dewan of Travancore tried to convince him of the prison labour and suggested certain immediate measures for improvement. Their labour was to work in the workshop, jail garden, jail roads, printing and book-binding industry. They were also utilised to raise the boundary wall, in brick-making and in stone-breaking. Later on, the labour of the prison population was utilised for industrial and agricultural operations so as to make the jail a self sufficient institution. The industrial activities were mainly weaving, making of cotton ropes, tapes, twine, coir yarn, coir rugs, cow ropes, paddy pounding, oil pressing and book-binding. All these industries were carried on a profitable basis. Most of the articles required for the jail use were taken from the jail products. This enabled the convicts to obtain payment when they reached home after release from the prison, instead of begging in the streets or committing fresh offences to take care of themselves.

In the Jail, convicts were provided with religious and moral instruction by honorary workers and philanthropic bodies. Teachers from the education department imparted education to young offenders and classes were held in the morning and evening every day. The prisoners were asked to cart their own daily provisions, to cook their own meals, to wash their own clothes, to shave, to draw water for cooking and cleaning the jail and urinals to make their own fetters and to remove poudrette. It gave them a

119 Cover file No: 10810, 1885, Memorandum submitted by the Superintendent of Central Jail to the Dewan of Travancore
121 Uloor Parameswaran Aiyar, S., Sri Mulam Thirunal and His Times, Trivandrum, n-d, p. 454.
123 T.A.R., 1941-1942, p.88.
training which could obliterate the evil influence of their early life and enable them to earn their bread honestly in the future and impart discipline and good behaviour.\textsuperscript{125} 

Eventhough the police department took measures to prevent crime, it increased day by day. Due to liberal conditions of bail for the accused and inadequacy of the law, the offenders had no fear of going to jail again.

Prison life was a veritable hell, for there waited for the prisoners all the miseries in the world. Severity of treatment was the order of the day. The sufferings endured by women in police lock-ups were more serious. Female wardens attended on women convicts in the central prison but in police lock-ups women were under the custody of men Constables.\textsuperscript{126} Though the government had taken steps to improve the conditions in the jails, the prisoners suffered from diseases like anklastomiasis, dysentery, pneumonia, pulmonary enteritis and tuberculosis\textsuperscript{127}. The prison system was an integral part of criminal justice. It gave training to the convicted offenders and encouraged them to lead a good and useful life.

\textsuperscript{125} Ulloor Parameswaran Aiyar, S., \textit{op.cit.}, p. 440.

\textsuperscript{126} \textit{Proceedings of the Twenty Seventh Session of the Srimulam Popular Assembly of Travancore}, Trivandrum, 1931, p. 41.

\textsuperscript{127} The Annual Report on the Administration of Madras Presidency, 1922-23, p.32.