

H.D.

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16

**Confidential.**

**191**

**File No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT.**

*Sourendra Kumar Chakrabarti*

**Government of Bengal.**

**DEPARTMENT.**

**BRANCH.**

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

1/13

Number of Proceedings.	SUBJECT.	File No.	Date of order.	Previous Proceedings.
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Part-9



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Ans

17.2.16

(date 10)

HARI DAS CHAKRABARTI alias Sailendra Kumar Chakrabarti son of Mohini Chakrabarti, of Bharenga, Pabna, and 31 Siteram Ghosh's Street, Calcutta. He belongs to the notorious Chakrabarti family of Pabna, one of the most important members of which is his uncle Abinash Chakrabarti, ex-munsiff, of Alipore Bomb case fame. Now interned in jail.

2. Hari Das came into prominence in connection with the Howrah gang case in which he was sent up for trial but was discharged by the trying Magistrate who refused to accept the statements of the two approvers in the case that he was a member of the conspiracy. The approver, Lalit Mohan Chakrabarti, stated that he initiated Hari Das into the Secret Society at Kidderpore and that he, Hari Das, was present at the Netra decoity. He pointed out his house at 31, Siteram Ghosh's Street, to Mr. N. Sen, Deputy Magistrate, and identified him at an identification parade held in the Howrah Jail.

3. Jotin Hazra, the other approver, also identified him at a similar parade and said that he had seen him at Howrah visiting certain conspirators. Sailendra Kumar Das, in his confession which he withdrew in court, said that he knew that Hari Das was a member and that through the influence of Mani Gopal Sen Gupta, the leader of the Sibpur gang, Hari Das secured a post in the Hindustan Life Insurance Company. He corroborated Lalit regarding Hari Das's share in the conspiracy and in the Netra decoity, though he did not identify him. He gave Hari Das' correct address in Calcutta.

x. He was sentenced to 5 years' R.I. on 24-4-10 in connection with the Haludbari decoity case and to 2 years' R.I. in the Howrah Gang case.

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Mani



Hari Gopal who is still active, has recently been reported to Government for internment under the Defence of India Act.

4. The house of pleader Mohini Chakrabarti Hari Das' father, at 31 Siteram Ghosh's Street, was searched but no correspondence of any importance beyond a letter showing that Mohini was in communication with one Annada Ray, an acquitted accused in the Howrah Gang case, was found. Hari Das was not found and his father stated that he had gone to Pusa to obtain admission into the Agricultural School there. He asked for time to produce Hari Das which he did after a day or two.

5. During the enquiries into the Howrah Gang case it was ascertained that Hari Das was an agent of the Hindusthan Insurance Company and that he had been introduced by a well-known suspect Sukha Gobinda Mukharji, and had insured one Sridhar Ray, another suspect, a former member of the Jubak-Mendali Gang who was arrested in connection with the murder of Head-Constable Srish Chakrabarti (21-3-1911).

6. Lalit Chakrabarti in a statement before a Deputy Magistrate in December 1909, stated that on one occasion when there was a discussion over the courage of the different members, Bidhu

x Sent up in the Haludbari dacoity and Howrah Gang case but acquitted.

Bhasan Biswas began to talk about the Maharejapore dacoity, Nadia (27-7-09) and the Natore Mail

xx Sentenced on 26-4-10 to 7 years' R.I. in the Halud Robbery and mentioned the names of Sushil Biswas, bari dacoity case and 2 years' R.I. in the Howrah Gang case. Sailendra Das, Hari Das Chakrabarti and some

others as having shown great courage in both these crimes from which he concluded that these persons had taken part in them.



3.

7. After the disposal of the Howrah Gang Case,

Souren Chakrabarti dropped out of the view of the police as owing to the numerous arrests and lengthy detention of the accused of the Howrah Gang case it was found that this extensive and powerful organization was crippled, although with a few exceptions most of the accused were eventually acquitted. Recently unfortunately this organization has shown signs of activity. They have as a whole resumed their attempts to tamper with the Indian Army, have taken an extensive part in connection with the scheme financed by the German Consul to foment a revolution in India and have taken part in revolutionary crime in and around Calcutta. One of the old leaders of the gang, <sup>San Gupta</sup> ~~Hari Gopal Chakrabarti~~ who has been mentioned above, is still exceedingly active, and orders are shortly expected for dealing with him under the Defence of India Act.

8. In connection with the German plot, referred to above, it was ascertained that considerable sums of money have been remitted from Batavia to the revolutionary party in Bengal. Our enquiries in this connection traced a sum of Rs. 33,000/- as having been actually remitted to India, while in addition to these a very large sum of money was captured in the Far East on its way to the Indian revolutionaries. Enquiries were taken up with a view to trace back some of the notes of this consignment. Two of these notes were traced to Abinash Chakrabarti, a relation of <sup>Hari Das</sup> ~~Souren~~ Chakrabarti, who has, as noted above, since been interned as a dangerous revolutionary, while another note was traced to Mohini Chakrabarti, the father of Hari Das Chakrabarti. These enquiries were being made by the Calcutta Police. Quite independent of them the



the Intelligence Branch Department received information from a reliable source on the 27th. September 1915 to the effect that Souren Chakrabartti had told this source on the previous day that the Government currency note which Inspector B.N. Mukharji was enquiring about was put by him into his father's pocket. Souren said something might happen to him for passing this note. This note formed part of the consignment of German money. It was unknown to this Department that Inspector Baidya Nath Mukharji was actually making an enquiry about this particular note, but a reference on receipt of this confidential information showed that such was actually the case.

9. The information in this matter as well as regarding the movements of the revolutionary party in Calcutta generally during the last 8 months has been received from 6 different sources. Certain details regarding this information have already been given in the history sheet of Atindra Bose, one of the leaders of the movement in Calcutta, a reference to whose history sheet is invited in connection with the present case. Certain reasons have been set out for showing that the information supplied by these sources is worthy of credence in as much as it has led step by step to the capture of several members of the revolutionary party in Calcutta in circumstances which proved conclusively the truth of the information which we have been receiving from these sources regarding these persons. In addition to these arrests, certain other concrete facts referred to by the sources have been amply verified as a result of our subsequent enquiries, while the information regarding the active revolutionaries in Calcutta as a whole has been strikingly supported by



member at Baranagore, Souren keeping the other side the disclosures made by certain members of the revolutionary party recently captured in the Bar East where they were actively engaged in revolutionary work. This information brings us in close touch with Souren Chakrabartti, and endeavoured to

10. We learnt in May 1915 that Souren was in touch with the notorious anarchist Baidya Nath Biswas, a member of Rodda's gang, who was acquitted in trial in Rodda's case but has since been interned under the orders of the Government of Bengal. Baranagore

11. In the beginning of June we learnt that Souren was associating with Tulsi Ghosh, an active criminal belonging to the Baranagore party. in the vicinity of

12. On the 28th. of June we learnt that Souren came to see Baidyanath Biswas and had a long conversation with him at night.

13. Again, on the 30th. of June we received information that Barada Rai, a member of the Dacca revolutionary party, now active in Calcutta, had returned to Calcutta on the previous day and was staying with Bipin Ganguli, a leader of a section of the revolutionary party, who was sentenced to 5 years (rigorous imprisonment in connection with the Agarpara dacoity which occurred on the 2nd. August 1915.

Further, that both Barada and Souren Chakrabartti went to Baidyanath's place on the previous night. Bipin Ganguli, our source informed us, was at that time living at Baranagore.

14. On the 10th. July we again got information that Souren Chakrabartti had met Baidyanath on that day. In Bengal Lal Chellangi, a student.

15. On the 15th. of July it was reported that on the previous night Souren Chakrabartti obtained two revolvers from Baidyanath Biswas. Under Baidyanath's orders one of these weapons was made over to a



doing so-

member at Baranagore, Souren keeping the other one.

16. On the 22nd. of July it was reported that Souren went to one Prem Chand Marwari, a friend of Baidyanath's, who had a Mauser pistol and 9000 cartridges in his possession, and endeavoured to get the weapon from him, but Prem Chand refused to part.

17. On the 28th. of July Anukul Mukharji, one of the leaders of Rodda's gang, since interned, and Souren Chakrabartti went to Baranagore and saw Bipin Ganguli, where they had a discussion about the commission of dacoities. It is significant that the Agarpara dacoity occurred in the vicinity of Baranagore within 6 days of this meeting, in which Bipin Ganguli was captured and convicted, as noted above.

18. On the 29th. of July we were informed that Bipin Ganguli and Laxhan Ghosh, a brother of Tulsi Ghosh, mentioned above, went off in the morning to see certain Marwari in order to get financial assistance from him.

19. It might be noted here that the connection of certain Marwaris with the Bengal anarchists, strange as it may seem, has been indisputably shown to exist, during our enquiries into Rodda's case. Prabhu Dayal Marwari, formerly a resident of Dunke, now a student of Calcutta, was one of the actual conspirators in connection with Rodda's theft case in which he was arrested and placed on his trial but eventually acquitted. One of these Marwaris is Kanai Lal Chetlangi, a student.

On the 21st. of August we learnt that Baidyanath Biswas and Souren Chakrabartti went to see this man Kanai Chaklangi on the previous evening but as he was absent they returned without



doing so.

20. Again, in the August we learnt that Sailen Sing, a member of Rodda's gang, who was convicted and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment under section 109 C.P.C. in 1914, was shortly after his release staying with Souren Chakrabarti, while Umapada Sarkar, another member of the revolutionary party, was having his meals with Souren. We learnt through Souren Chakrabarti that this man Sailen Sing participated in the Agarpura murder, an outrage which occurred on the 25th. August 1915. In this case Murari Ghosh was deliberately assassinated by the members of Bipin Ganguli's party in order to take revenge for the assistance which he had given to the police during the investigation of that case. Our enquiries regarding Sailen Sing's movements at this time go to corroborate the truth of the information that he was concerned in this murder, as he suddenly disappeared from Calcutta immediately after the murder, i.e. on the night of the 28th of August.

21. On the 21st. August we learnt that Souren Chakrabarti visited Girin Banarji, one of the leaders of Rodda's gang, since interned, at his house in Kalanga Lane. On this occasion the Agarpura murder was discussed and Girin Banarji admitted his knowledge of the outrage.

Integral part of the same plot, referred to above.

22. In the end of September Souren Chakrabarti handed over to a certain source a book belonging to Bipin Ganguli on the subject of the use of fire-arms, entitled "Instructions for the revolutionary study". This book was provided by the source but had to be returned to him.

23. Again, in November 1915, a source procured a



Agarpara murder was discussed and Girin Banarji admitted his knowledge of the outrage.

22. Again, early in September, Souren Chakrabarti the note was not signed. It was handed over by was present at a meeting held at No.3 Hastings Street, the office of the Calcutta Weekly Notes and for delivery to the addressee. Fearat on the 30th Calcutta Budget in which office Baidya Nath Biswas of October from another source that Souren Chakrabarti was employed, at which Anukul Mukharji, one of the bartti had removed to this address in Bosepara leaders of Rodda's party, since interned, was present, as also Girin Banarji, Baidya Nath Biswas, Prabhu Dayal Marwari, a member of Rodda's gang, and Kanai Lal Chaklangi, a student of the Scottish Churches College and an active member of the present revolutionary party in Calcutta, as well as the subject of this history sheet. The object of this meeting was to discuss the question as to whether Baidya Nath Biswas, for whose internment orders had just been passed by the Government of Bengal, should abscond or obey the order. The members present could not agree. Anukul Mukharji at the instance of Baidya Nath Biswas undertook to arrange the assassination of certain police officers whose names were mentioned by Baidya Nath at this meeting. Baidya Nath also said that arms were shortly expected from Germany. It may be mentioned that importation of arms on a large scale from the Far East was an integral part of the German plot, referred to above.
23. In the end of September Souren Chakrabarti handed over to a certain source a book belonging to Bepin Ganguli on the subject of the care of fire-arms, entitled "Instructions for armourer's study". This book was produced by the source but had to be returned to him.

24. Again, in November 1915, a source produced a letter written by Souren Chakrabarti to Barada Rai, referred to above, requesting Barada to come to his



5.9.

same person, which contained two letters, one in Bengali and one in English. These two were at house at 47, Bosepara Lane for the Purulia affair. follows :-

The note was not signed. It was handed over by Souren to Sailen Sing who gave it to the source for delivery to the addressee. <sup>We</sup> learnt on the 30th. of October from another source that Souren Chakrabarti had removed to this address in Bosepara Lane, Bagbazar. 29.12.15.

Guru Charan Babu,

25. Convincing proof of the information given before-hand showing that Souren was in touch with Barada Rai was furnished by our source on the 2nd. of January 1916. On this date the source produced in Bengali a post-card addressed to Guru Charan Das of 50, Mechuebazar Street, Calcutta, the contents of which are as follows :-

"I am suffering from erysipelas here. It is for this that I have come here. I shall probably start for Calcutta within 27.12.15.

or 9 days. However, don't forget to write your good news in a card. I am simply physical well."

Please write good news of Barada Babu.

Tell him to write to me giving his address. I have come here on account of my elder sister having got erysipelas. It is not settled when I shall go. I am writing this letter having been very anxious on your account. I am writing in card simply because telegram costs much. Please reply with all news. I could not see you on my way as it was impossible to come and see you from Bagbazar. In short Barada Babu's news is urgently necessary. Please write other good news as well. Please accept my love. The end.

Yours affectionately,

Sourindra Mohan Chakrabarti

(Haridas)

There was an envelop addressed to the

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same person, which contained two letters, one in Bengali and one in English. These two run as follows :-

" One of my cousins ( 1141 ) is lying c/o Narendra Narain Choudhuri B.L., seriously ill of Erysipelas of mild type. She was Pleader, Judge's Court.

operated once but had to undergo a serum injection twice and Morphine inject on No. 2 Junrail, Dacca. here a week or more - I presume. 29.12.15.

Guru Charan Babu,

Please allay my anxiety by writing your good news in your next letter. I am very anxious not to receive any reply to my previous card up till now. Please communicate Barada Babu's good news. You may meet him in the evening. Please tell him that I have come here in a hurry on receipt of a telegram. One of my sisters is suffering from erysipelas here. It is for this that I have come here. I shall probably start for Calcutta within 8 or 9 days. However, don't forget to write your good news in a card even. I want simply physical welfare. Please inform me when I am urgently wanted in Calcutta. All well here. Don't forget by any means to write your good news in your next letter. Please make over the annexed letter to Barada Babu. The end.

Yours affectionately,

Sourin (Haridas).

2 Junrail, Dacca,

29.12.15.

My dear brother,

I am extremely anxious for you. Take this note as telegram and just drop a card stating your health etc.

I had to come here, receiving a wire

stating that my presence



stating that my presence with a cousin's (didi  
 At the search of Saurin Chakrabarti's house, a diary  
 (elder sister)) presence being urgently required. I  
 was found containing several names of persons. In order to  
 received the Tel. at 8.30 P.M. so I could not see  
 ascertain the identity of these persons, an officer was sent  
 you all. One of my cousins (didi) is lying  
 to interview the detainee Saurin at Kalaikhat where he is  
 seriously ill of Erysiphus of mild type. She was  
 interned. The detainee at first refused to give any information  
 operated once but had to undergo a Serum injection  
 tion regarding the persons whose names appeared in this  
 twice and morphiaic inject once. I will have to wait  
 diary. He eventually furnished some details about persons  
 here a week or more - I presume. Please do let me  
 know about you and others' health etc. I am alright  
 from his behaviour the officer notes it is doubtful whether  
 Affly

Saurin Chakrabarti. "

attempted had been made to obtain this information from him in  
 -----  
 Scientific witness's testimony. what was the use of trying to  
 These originals are in our possession.  
 question him further there?

26. This man Guru Charan Das is well known to  
 this Department. His shop at 50, Mechuabazar  
 Street has been one of the centres of the gang for  
 some time past. Here the members of Rodda's gang  
 used to meet. Again, during our enquiries in the  
 Pragpur case, a daring dacoity which occurred in  
 April 1915, we came across this shop as a meeting  
 place for the members of the revolutionary party.  
 Finally, we find a shop, the description of which  
 identifies it with that of Guru Charan, mentioned  
 by a Bengal revolutionary who has recently <sup>been</sup> captured  
 in the Far East where he was engaged in revolu-  
 tionary work.

Chakrabarti  
 S. I. B.  
 15.2.16

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*add to  
History Sheet  
JSC  
8/5/16*

At the search of Souren Chakrabarti's house a diary was found containing several names of persons. In order to ascertain the identity of these persons, an officer was sent to interview the detenu Souren at Kaliakair where he is interned. The detenu at first refused to give any information regarding the persons whose names appeared in this diary. He eventually furnished some details about certain names but refused point blank to give any further details. From his demeanour the officer notes it is doubtful whether Souren has spoken the truth or not. He said that as attempts had been made to obtain this information from him in Calcutta without success, what was the use of trying to question him further there?

Calcutta;  
The 8<sup>th</sup> May 1916.

*J. N. Warden*  
Deputy Inspector-General of Police,  
Intelligence Branch, C.I.D.

Saurindra alias Haridas Chakrabarti was domiciled in Kaliakair, District Dacca, under an order issued by Government under Rule 3 of the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules on the 15th. March 1916.

*J. N. Warden*

*S.D., D.B.,  
8/7/16*