

HEDLAND ADVOCATE, Saturday, April 10, 1909, page 5, column 1.

## **Dost Mahomet Killed**

### **TWO GRIGOS IN CUSTODY**

On Wednesday evening a well-known Indian camel owner and carrier, Dost Mahomet, received injuries in a row with two of his wife's brothers (W. and H. Grigo) from the effects of which he succumbed a few hours afterwards. We understand that the deceased's skull showed two large fractures.

Mr. Barker, J.P., acting coroner, and a jury of three, on Thursday morning, viewed the body, which during the day was buried according to the rites of deceased's religion. The inquest was adjourned till Saturday, April 17.

Various tales are told regarding the tragedy, but, as the Editor of the ADVOCATE has to conduct the inquiry, we deem it advisable to refrain from publishing any statement. However, if one witness makes a statement at the inquest similar to what he made in town on the 8th, sensational evidence is forthcoming.

Deceased leaves a wife and six of a family.

W. and H. Grigo were arrested at the police station at 3 o'clock on on [sic] Thursday morning.

"HEDLAND ADVOCATE", Saturday, August 13, 1910, page 1.

## **Mrs Dost Murdered**

Interest has again been aroused in the killing of Dost Mahomet, which took place in Hedland a little over 12 months ago, by the receipt, in Perth, of a cable from the authorities in Karchi [sic], India, stating that Mrs Dost Mahomet had been murdered at that place, and that a man in Hedland was suspected of connivance in her murder.

Prior to her departure for India, Mrs Dost stated that she was satisfied she was going to be murdered in India. A document was shown us before her embarkation, which she signed, practically handing the control of her children to Jurack (Dost's brother). She declared, with tears in her eyes, that unless she signed the document, supplies for herself and children would be stopped—she was forced to sign the document and go to India.

Knowing what we do (and the authorities should know,) about the killing of two Indians at Hedland, and the subsequent happenings in connection with Mrs Dost's departure k for India, we feel confident a conspiracy to murder the woman was formulated before her departure from Hedland.

The Karachi authorities evidently have grounds for suspicion, and before the C.I.D. in this State let the matter drop they should go into the history of the death by strangulation [the late Mrs Dost said murder] of an Indian in Hedland seven years ago, the subsequent feud it caused in India, the result to a certain individual in this State, the whole of the dealings with Mrs Dost in connection with her late husband's estate, the reasons for her going to India, etc. The administrator of Dost's estate (his brother Jurack) is at present somewhere near Broome, on the way to Hall's Creek from this port.

The deceased leaves six children, all of whom are now in India.

Is not the unpleasant history of the deceased and her late husband a brilliant testimony against mixed marriages and for a White Australia?



KILLED AT KURRACHI  
Warning to Westralian Womanhood.  
Miss Grigo Marries a 'Ghan  
And is Devilishly Done to Death.

"TRUTH", Saturday, 13 August 1910, page 2

A brief cable message from India this week conveys the news that a Western Australian woman has been murdered at Karachi. This town is on the north-western border of India, and is so far removed from the ordinary confines of civilisation that any news percolates through but slowly.

In view of the interest aroused in Perth recently, over the obstinate infatuation of a young woman for an Afghan suitor the news of this murder is a gruesome corroboration of the arguments used to induce that young woman to break off all connection with Afghans. The murdered woman was the wife of Dost Mahomet who, strange to state, also came to a violent end in the Nor'-West of this State during a quarrel with the murdered woman's brothers. The woman's maiden name was Grigo, and some years ago her father was conducting a bakery business at Bulong. While the family were there, Dost Mahomet paid his attentions to one of the daughters who was at that time about 17 or 18 years of age. The Grigos were not of an obstinate nature, so far as color alliances were concerned, and Dost Mahomet was successful in making the young Westralian girl his bride. To give him credit Dost Mahomet appears to have treated his wife in a proper manner during their stay on the goldfields. The family appears to have become very friendly with the Afghan residents generally, for Mrs. Grigo also had dealings with them. At one time Mrs. Grigo held a lot of property in Wellington-street, where she also ran a lodging house of an indifferent nature. This property she eventually exchanged with Mahomet Bux for other property in Newcastle-street. Later she also built a fine residence near the East Perth Cemetery.

The Grigo family appears, however, to have allied itself closely to Dost Mahomet. When their Afghan Relative, who was largely interested in the camel business, found that the Eastern fields did not provide sufficient work, for his teams he removed to Port Hedland. Thither the Grigos, or most of them at all events, also removed, and Mrs. Grigo is almost certainly there at the present day, where she resides in the residence of her late daughter and son-in-law.

Dost Mahomet was essentially a business man of enterprising instincts, and he travelled over a good part of the Nor'-West, leaving his wife and family of four or five at Port Hedland. The Grigos did not get on too well with Dost Mahomet while at Port Hedland, and on April 7th of last year a violent quarrel took place between Harry and William Grigo and their Afghan brother-in-law. The quarrel was stated to have arisen over a row between Dost Mahomet and his wife. William Grigo interfered and a scuffle ensued, but the men were separated. Later they quarrelled again and George Grigo took a hand by striking Dost on the head with a heavy piece of jarrah. Mahomet died during the night and the Grigo brothers were placed on their trial at Broome in the latter part of last June.

It was stated at the trial that Mahomet was ill-using his wife and afterwards nearly choked George Grigo for interfering. Harry Grigo admitted striking the Afghan with a piece of wood but stated that, it was done to save his brother's life. The jurymen were quite satisfied with the explanation and acquitted both brothers without leaving the box.

After the untimely ending of her husband, Mrs. Mahomet was necessarily thrown into close contact with another Afghan named Zarik, who had been appointed executor of her husband's estate. In addition to his large colonial interests Dost Mahomet also had property in his native land. In order to effectively settle up the estate Zarik represented to the widow that it was

absolutely necessary that she should journey to her late husband's home. Although allied, to an Afghan, and brought into frequent contact with others of the same, nationality, Mrs. Mahomet feared them to some extent. Doubtless she had heard of the manner in which women were regarded in her husband's country and, removed from the protecting influence of modern civilisation, she was aware that they were merely chattels, not of as much value as a horse, or any other domestic animal. She felt that she was placing' herself in a condition of extreme peril, and it was only after a deal of persuasion by Zarik that she consented to take the Journey which has terminated so fatally.

In addition to her own dread, Mrs, Mahomet was strongly urged by a number of her friends to remain in W.A. and allow her husband's distant interests to look after themselves.

Unfortunately for her, she allowed her natural promptings to be overcome, and sailed for the land which held such a terrible fate in, store for her. The very slight information received in Perth does not give any idea of the actual events of the tragedy or what led up to it.

There is this much to be said, however, that no matter what may be the actual facts, of the murder they furnish another vivid set of circumstances which should impress upon the people of the Commonwealth the awful danger of Afghan alliances. More particularly so when the unfortunate white wife enters the confines of those Asiatic countries where turbulent men are a law unto themselves when women are concerned.



"Evening Journal" (Adelaide), Monday, 15 August 1910, p.4

#### VICTIM OF ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

PERTH, August 14.

Further particulars have been gathered with regard to Mrs. Dost Mahomet, who; was recently murdered at Karachi. After her 'husband had met with a tragic death at the hands of-her brother in a domestic quarrel, Mrs. Dost Mahomet left Port Hedland for Karachi with her five children, accompanied by Lai Mahomet and Karde Bux. The latter was the executor, of Dost's estate.

Before leaving. Western Australia, she signed an agreement in which she undertook to. give the-control of her property to-her husband's brother (named Jourank [sic]) and to hand the children to Karde Bux to be educated. Jourank in return to pay all fares and £60 in cash.

It is asserted-that Mrs. Dost Mahomet told Mr. Barker, who witnessed the signing of the agreement, that the parties to it had threatened her, as Jourank had been doing all' along, and she added, "If they are going to-murder me they may as well do it in India as Australia." It is also asserted that she told other Port Hedland people 'that she suspected the Indians would kill her, and that Jourank had paid his' son £700 out of Dost Mahomet's assets, and reduced the estate to insolvency.

It is also stated that -the murdered woman's daughter, aged 11, was to marry, a son of Karde Bux next year, and many residents of Port Hedland believe that a Conspiracy to murder Mrs. Dost Mahomet was entered into before she left for India.

Relatives of the murdered woman, desire that her children shall be brought back from India, and the Premier Sir-Newton Moore) has communicated with the Federal Prime Minister, asking him to cable the Indian Government with a request-that the children should be secured and protected, with a view to the consideration of their future care.

When notifying the Criminal Investigation Department of the murder the Indian authorities stated that they suspected Jourank was an accessory to the crime.

Jourank is now on his way overland to Broome

"The Sun" (Kalgoorlie), 21 August, 1910, page 5.

## **THE MURDER OF MRS. DOST**

### **SIDELIGHTS on THE LIFE of THE GRIGO FAMILY**

**Dost Mahomet— A Native of Baluchistan— Subject to Paroxysms of Brutal Ferocity— Some Reminiscences of Coolgardie — A Courtship, a Family Feud and an Abduction.**

Mrs. Dost Mahomet, nee Annie Charlotte; Grigo, who was done to death in the Indian city of Kurrachee less than a fortnight ago, was a native of Parramatta, and came West with her parents in 1893. At the moment of her murder, she was about 30 years of age, -in the prime of her life, and possessed of a singularly charming, manner, which won her the admiration and esteem of every one with whom she came into contact. She was intensely popular at Port Hedland, and universally respected, despite the intimacy of her relations with Dost Mahomet and his coffee-colored clan, all natives of Baluchistan, a great desert plateau lying between Persia and India, and Afghanistan and the Arabian Sea. The Beluchis affect the Mahometan religion, and are generally classified as robber nomads of Aryan stock. The Khan, of Herat, the ruler of the country, is a vassal of the British Crown.

The elder Grigo, the parental head of the family, dead several years, was widely known in Coolgardie in what are genetically described as 'the "roarin' drunk days of the Old Camp." when the bars of the pubs ran rivers of sparkling champagne and beer and whisky cost only a fraction more to purchase than an. equal quantity of Water, J Grigo's first job was with Mr. John de Baun as baker and confectioner - the "confectionery" largely consisting in those days of. damper and sodden scones. drenched with soda and baking powder.

During Grigo's engagement with De Baun, Annie Charlotte Grigo, then a blushing and vivacious girl, of barely 16 summers, became in some way acquainted with Dost Mahomet, who was partners in a camel team with his compatriot Jourack, whom the Indian authorities " suspect of being accessory -to Mrs. Dost's death. Jourack is an old man of 80 a member of the elite of Baluchistan, and styled, because of his great age, and other reasons, "The Father of his Country."

When Mr. Grigo was informed his daughter had formed a close acquaintance-with Dost Mahomet, he flew into a violent rage, upbraided his erring daughter in dreadful language, and threatened her with his vengeance if she did not summarily cease her association with the white-turbaned follower of the prophet Mahomet. These threats, as is frequently the case, had an effect opposite to that contemplated by the irate parent. She left the parental, tent at the first convenient opportunity, flew to the camp of Dost, and Jourack on the flat at the- lower end of Bayley-street, [and complained of the treatment to which she had been subjected by her father. With her tacit consent or otherwise. Dost decided to abduct the girl, and placed her on the -back of a swift camel he flew with her that same night through the desert, to be followed later by a troop of horsemen, who continued the pursuit until their horses succumbed from exhaustion and thirst. Then the exasperated parent turned a revolver on himself, and attempted to take his life. Afterwards, Grigo went further afield, and. Became a. member of the Hope Syndicate, which was heavily interested in the Great Oversight Mine, Bulong. He made about 12,000 out of his interest, but squandered the whole amount in three or four years by a judicious investment in wild cats and other hazardous ventures, which, devoured his competency with greater rapidity than he had accumulated it.



For ten long and miserable years Mrs. Dost was ostracised and denounced by her father as - an outcast, and refused admission to the family, circle. The mother, Mrs. Grigo, who afterwards migrated to Port Hedland [with the] the rest of the family, clung to her erring child, however, with characteristic maternal affection. Dost Mahomet was a fairly wealthy man, and. Was at the time of his death, worth several thousand pounds in cash, besides a quantity of landed property at Port Hedland, valued at between £2000 and £3000. Dost Mahomet was a man of somewhat moody disposition, of a fleeting imagination, early aroused to anger on the slightest provocation, cruel and implacable in his dislikes, a good friend and a bitter and vengeful enemy.

There were periods when Dost saw clots of blood and "ran amok" seeking victims to be sacrificed on the altar of his paroxysms of madness. He ran amok seven or eight times at Port Hedland, the last occasion being accompanied by his death. On one occasion he shot a valuable camel ...tal[?] malignity because he objected to its gait. On another occasion he seized his youngest child by the throat and nearly throttled it to death, simply because it omitted to respond with alacrity to a demand to throw itself into his arms. In -another instance he threatened to cleave a neighbour through the skull with a tomahawk, and was only induced to desist by his projected victim dropping to his knees and crawling away before Dost could give effect to his murderous intentions. Even Mrs. Dost was subject to his uncontrollable ebullitions of temper. When they were in India together, he treated her with hideous malevolence, and on one occasion locked her up in a room, ordered her to strip, and without the slightest provocation, brutally thrashed her with a leather whip.

Dost met his Waterloo at the hands of two of Mrs. Dost's brothers in the first week of April last year. On the day in question Dost struck Mrs. Dost violently over the head while he was at dinner. An elder brother intervened, and a fierce fight ensued between the combatants. The Mahometan, inspired by; frenzied rage, was getting the better of the struggle, when a younger brother picked up "a small block of jarrah, and furiously hit Dost on the head. That blow led up to Dost's death, an inquest, and a trial at the Criminal Sessions at Broome.

Considerable feeling was aroused in the locality by the' tragic occurrence, and was reflected in the attitude of the jury empanelled to try the charge. Without hearing the evidence for the defence - without even leaving the court - the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty," the foreman remarking that there was no evidence of murderous intent under the circumstances detailed by the prosecution. The verdict was widely acclaimed with popular enthusiasm.

Dost's death was resented .by his compatriots. They showed their smouldering indignation in various ways. And. when Mrs. Dost, visited Kurrachee last May a. procession of the dead man's relatives, numbering between 300 and 400 souls, wailing and sobbing bitterly, called on Mrs. Dost, and asked to be informed of the manner in which he had met his death.

Mrs. Dost entered into elaborate explanations, and had considerable difficulty in explaining away the suspicion that she had been accessory to his death "I found on arriving here," Mrs.' Dost wrote to her mother On May 24; "that someone had spread the tale that I had secretly - admitted my brother to my room, with the object of- doing Dost to death. I eventually convinced Dost's relatives that this was absolutely untrue, and they now treat me with remarkable civility and generosity. They have provided me with a milk-white palfrey to gallop about the fields and paddocks, and show me every consideration. In a week or two I am to shift to a big house about 10 miles distant from the town, lying amidst groves of shrubs



and fruit-trees, where I trust I shall be as happy as ever, until I can prepare to return to the West, for which I have saved up my fare."

There is very little doubt now in the minds of her sorrowing relatives, that preparations were then being secretly made for her murder, for which purpose there is no doubt she was decoyed out of the State. The Beluchis think nothing of a life, more or less. They regard battle, murder and sudden death as a ready means to a most desirable end and consummate their vengeance with less concern than they slaughter a sheep or slay a bullock for a tribal orgie. The head of the clan orders and justifies the murder on the ground of expediency. The man and the weapon are found without any trouble in the ordinary course of events.

The residents of Port Hedland resorted to the most remarkable expedients to prevent Mrs. Dost from proceeding to India with her five children, accompanied by Lai Mahomet and Karde Bux. The latter is a son of Jourack, who made, all the arrangements for the journey, and vetoed, in the presence of the shipping clerk, Mrs. Dost's suggestion that tickets should be taken for the return journey. The police, though cognisant of Mrs. Dost's apprehension that she was being taken to India to be strangled, out of revenge for the disclosures she had made about Jourack's dishonest administration of Dost Mahomet's estate, were unable to offer the slightest effective resistance to the arrangement, simply because Mrs. Dost refused to countenance any proceedings.

Almost at the last moment, Corporal Brodie struck the brilliant idea of arresting Mrs. Dost on account of a bogus unpaid debt for £20. This dodge might have worked successfully and Mrs. Dost might have been alive today, but for the haste with which the warrant was executed. Jourack early learned of the development, and hustled round with such alacrity that he had raised the amount somehow, and paid it over to the police, 15 or 20 minutes before the order was given for the steamer to continue her voyage to the north.

Mrs. Dost's relatives repeatedly warned her to take every conceivable step to secure her safety. She was urged to carry a loaded revolver, and to place herself under the care of the British plenipotentiary residing at Kurrachee. It is difficult to say whether she acted on this advice. Her letter of May 24 establishes the impression that either she was absolutely reckless as to her fate, or that she had been lulled into a sense, of false security by the cringing representations made to her by her dead husband's relatives.

Of the six Dost children now domiciled in India, the eldest is a youth of 14, thoroughly steeped in the prejudices of the Beluchis, and to all practical intents and purposes a native of the country. Brought up in the Mohametam religion, he displays an inconceivable repugnance against European customs and observances, and has the most incurable objection against dressing himself in the sombre garb of Christian civilisation. This youngster, if brought back to Australia, will prove a difficult nut to crack. His avuncular relatives are of the opinion his redemption can only be brought about by a life at sea, on board an Australian man-of-war. The youngest child is only two years of age.

"Baby" Mrs. Dost remarks in her letter to her mother on May 24, "is always calling for 'Granma! Granma!' So you see she has not forgotten you, mother dear. I shall find it difficult to tear myself away from the children (they were taken to India to be educated in the faith of their father), but I suppose it must be done, so I must face the parting with what fortitude I may command."

A member of the Grigo family, came from the Nor' West to Perth, last week, to consult the police as to the best course to pursue in respect of the murder of his sister, and the return of the children to their native country. It is believed Mrs. Dost affixed her signature to a will before leaving for Kurrachee, and left, it in the custody, of the Hedland branch of the Union Bank. In any event, whatever the position may be, young Grigo's mission to Perth includes a proposal to the Government to secure the return of the Dost family to Port Hedland, and the forcible administration by the State of the property of the murdered woman in the interests of the surviving family of children.

Meantime, Jourack and his compatriots, who escaped from Hedland about a week before it was known Mrs. Dost had been murdered, are fleeing across the desert, with the ultimate intention of massing on Tanami, and probably escaping out of Australia by way of Port Darwin. This lawless vagabond should unquestionably be arrested, and forced to account for his connection with Mrs. Dost's murder. Until the Indian authorities make closer representations on the subject, the evidence of Jourack's complicity is merely a matter of suspicion, which may fade away into the distance by the time the whole of the circumstances have been investigated.



Sunday Times (Perth), 4 September 1910, page 9.

## **DOST MAHOMET CASE**

### **MURDERED WHILE ASLEEP**

A Cutting from Calcutta

"Reader and Admirer" in India writes from Calcutta :-

"Last Tuesday morning I read (with many a pang) an article in your valued paper, just in, on 'An English Girls Fate,' and your high-minded attempt at her rescue. The same evening the enclosed appeared in the local paper.

"My feelings-or those of any other sane white man-on a subject like this can scarcely be put into words, but you'll do a noble service to humanity if you battle hard and long in your present principles, and earn the gratitude of us all."

The cutting referred to reads as follows :-

"A VILLAGE OUTRAGE. MUSSULMAN'S AUSTRALIAN WIDOW MURDERED.  
KARACHI, Monday.

"Mrs, Dost Mahomet, an Australian woman, was murdered at Malir, 16 miles from Karachi, on Saturday night. She was married to Dost Mahomet, a camel owner, some 16 years ago. There were six children of the marriage, the eldest boy being born in India, and another boy of five, and four girls in Australia.

"Some 16 months ago Dost Mahomet was killed in Australia, and under his will his property was left to his wife and family. Mrs. Dost Mahomet, with the object of getting all the arrangements in connection with her property finally settled, came over to India and had been living with her husband's people in a village in the direction of Cape Monza, and latterly in a house lent her by a friend of the family at Malir.

"It is stated there were some quarrels regarding the property and the proposed marriage of the eldest daughter, and on Saturday night Mrs. Dost Mahomet was fatally stabbed while asleep. The funeral of the murdered woman took place this morning, when the service was conducted by Rev. A. L. Selwyn. Several Europeans who had been advised of the sad occurrence attended, among them being the Collector, and Mrs. Lawrence. A beautiful cross of white flowers was sent by Mrs. Younghusband."

The, poor woman was fatally stabbed while asleep. And yet with this terrible case in point the Federal Labor Government hesitates to bring in a law to prohibit miscegenation.



Sunday Times 2 October 1910, p. 10

### THE MURDER of MRS. DOST

Graphic Tale Told by a Karachi Resident

Three of the Jourack Clan-Arrested as Accessories to the Crime -

Mrs. Dost's Eldest Son Under Surveillance -

The Police Seize a Number of Incriminating Letters from Australia.

This is a curious world! Referring to the foul and brutal murder of Mrs. Dost Mahomet (nee Miss Annie Grigo), in Karachi, India, a few weeks ago, "The Sunday Times" is astounded to learn, on indisputable authority, that not only are the Afghans held in fulsome veneration by a section of the residents of Port Hedland, but that also considerable "mean white" influence is being exercised on behalf of the Jouracks in connection with their claim on the estate of the children of the murdered woman. "The Sunday Times" therefore urges the Premier to take a hand in the secret schemes being engineered up North in the interests of the Jourack tribe. It urges him to instruct the police and the magistracy that no lenity or consideration whatever must be shown or extended to any Afghan or Baluchis in any way associated with the deceased Dost. And it strenuously urges the Cabinet to arrange for the return of the Dost children to their native country so soon as the preliminaries can be arranged with the Indian, authorities - not to Port Hedland, where they might be in daily danger of their life and liberty, but to an Eastern State (S.A. for choice), and reared. and educated at the expense of the Government.

7 WOMEN, BRIDEPRICE AND MARRIAGE



Annie Dost, murdered wife of the wealthy camel owner Dost Mohammed of Port Hedland.  
(COLLECTION OF AMBER DOST (SON OF DOST MOHAMMED))

Pictured Above: The Murdered Mrs. Dost [Stevens (1989:235)]

A couple of letters received recently from Karachi throw a fearful light on the circumstances antecedent to the stabbing and mutilation of the unfortunate woman. Writing to her mother two or three days before her assassination, Mrs. Dost makes the following comments about the children :-

I am sure Jourack's relatives are purposely deceiving me in agreeing to the children being educated in English. When I leave here I feel sure they will remove them entirely into the control of someone who will rear them as natives of the country. SO SHALL REFUSE TO RETURN TO W.A.! One has to be very cunning in dealing with these people. Anyhow, I must be very careful ABOUT MYSELF! I do hope to get back home again! I am sending Musarpar [sic] to Adelaide about August 7 to be reared as an Australian. (This lad, as already stated, had been educated as a Buddhist priest, and was very impatient of parental discipline.)

Shortly after this letter was penned and posted Mrs. Dost met her long before-premeditated doom. Let Mr. H. W.-. Cox, one of the European guardians of the family tell the story in his own way. He writes from Karachi on August 10:

I ask you to prepare for the worst! Your beloved sister, Mrs Dost, is no more! After landing here, Mrs. Dost lived for a couple of months at Lal Bakker, with her husband's people. Changing her mind, she shifted to Malvi, with her children, residing at a garden owned by a Mekrani named Subro. On Sunday, July 31, I visited her at Malvi. The children walked back about a mile toward the station, and arranged to call on me in Karachi on Monday, August 8.

On the evening of Tuesday (2nd) I received a letter from Mrs. Dost, in which she complained of being very miserable. "I am expecting," she concluded, "£30 from Subro on Sunday (7th), and shall be in town the next day (8th). IF I DO NOT SEE YOU THAT DAY THERE WILL BE NEED FOR ANXIETY!" On Sunday (7th) I had occasion to go to the station, where I heard the awful news of the death of Mrs. Dost. I hurried at once to Malvi, where, on reaching the garden, I found the poor girl lying on the floor in a big pool of blood. On examining the body, I saw she had been fatally stabbed IN the left side. I counted no less than ELEVEN KNIFE WOUNDS! The dead woman was buried in the English cemetery, and the children committed to the care of the lady doctor in charge of the Lady Dufferin Hospital.

Two Karachi police subsequently arrested three of Jourack's sons (Goal Mahomet, Kadir Bakesh, and Rozi). Mr Cox observes:

Curious to relate, Mrs. Dost's eldest son (Musarpar) is under police surveillance. This boy was sleeping on the verandah when the deed was perpetrated, nevertheless he denies all knowledge of the awful crime, and professes to know nothing of the identity of the malefactors who stabbed and hacked his mother to death with frenzied fanaticism. For my part I think Musarpar knows more than he cares to admit. However, the links are being joined up, and I am inclined to believe the police will piece all the evidence together in a week or two. The police took possession of a number of letters found in the houses occupied by the three accused. Some of these are in the handwriting of Jourack, written from Port Hedland."



Jourack is the scheming scoundrel who made his escape from Hedland within a few hours of the death of Mrs. Dost, and headed for Tanami, with the ostensible purpose of escaping out of Australia via Port Darwin. It will probably be difficult to sheet home to him his alleged connection with the assassination of his dead brother's murdered wife, and it is also possible there may be obstacles in the way of his arrest by the State authorities. But it is simply unthinkable that any right-minded citizen could be found to actively sympathise with the Jouracks in their contemplated raid on the property willed to the family. However, "The Sunday Times" proposes to keep a vigilant eye on the actions of the Jouracks, and their professional barrackers and supporters.

Apropos of the removal of Mrs. Dost and her children out of Australia, Mr. J. M. Fowler, H.P. for Perth, has, as stated in the last issue of "The Sunday Times," introduced a Bill into the Federal Legislature, purposely designed, to prevent a repetition of the Dost and Nawab Khan scandals. The clause in question reads thus:

Whoever, not being of any European race, takes any child under the age of 16 years, whose parents are or were of any European race, out of Australia, without the written consent of the Minister or of an authorised officer, shall be guilty of an indictable offence. Penalty: Two years' imprisonment. The object of the reference to this section is to point out that it will utterly fail to accomplish the end in view. The punitive provisions can only be applied AFTER the child shall have been removed "out of Australia" and domiciled thousands of miles beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court. The clause should be recast and amended, so as to provide that "any person . . . who attempts to remove from Australia, or is directly or indirectly concerned in conspiring or attempting to remove, or in any way attempts or conspires to hamper or restrict or confine the movements of any child born of European parents, shall be guilty of an indictable offence."

The Act should confer the most copious powers on the police and the magistracy. The mere detention of a native-born child for an illicit purpose should be constituted an indictable offence. Mr. Fowler will doubtless recognise the necessity of re-modelling the section so as to set every imaginable doubt at rest as to the scope of its owners and provisions. It is very desirable this Act should be passed during the present Federal session. Another Nadab Khan or Dost Mahomet scandal may crop up at any moment. At present there is absolutely no power on earth, except physical force, to prevent other children of Australian parentage from being removed beyond the jurisdiction of the State and Federal Courts of Justice-under precisely similar circumstances.



Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 30 January 1911, page 9

**ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.  
BLACKBOY TAKEN TO INDIA.  
HELD AS WORKING SLAVE.**

PERTH. Sunday.

Astounding allegations have been made regarding the kidnapping of an aboriginal boy from Port Headland four years ago.

The district magistrate of Karachi, India, has forwarded statements from several people alleging that an Indian had taken a blackboy named Pidgy then 6 years old to his home near Karachi where the lad is now held as a working slave. The statements allege that the Indian's brother beat the boy's mother and hunted her away while another Afghan led the son to the ship.

It is alleged that this same man, with the assistance of his brother, seven years ago engineered and successfully carried out the landing at Port Headland of his two sons from the Saladin on which they were working as lascars. One returned to India and the other is now in Wyndham.

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Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 January 1911, page 7

**An Aboriginal Kidnapped  
NOW IN INDIA.**

**Laxity of the Authorities**

PORT HEDLAND, Saturday.

Astounding revelations have been made regarding the kidnapping of an aboriginal boy from Port Hedland four years ago. The District Magistrate of Karachi, India, has forwarded statements from several people, alleging that Jourack, a brother of Dost Mahomet, who was killed here 18 months ago, had taken a black boy named Pidgy, then six years old, to his (Jourack's) home, near Karachi, where the lad is now held as a working slave, being grossly ill-used.

The statements allege that Dost beat the boy's mother, and hunted her away, while another Afghan led the son to the ship. The Indian authorities want supporting testimony from Hedland, plenty of which is said to be forthcoming.

It is alleged this same Jourack, with the assistance of his brother Dost, seven years ago engineered and successfully carried out the landing here of Jourack's two sons from the old Saladin, on which ship the sons were working as Lascars. Both successfully evaded the Customs officials for years. One returned to India with the late Mrs. Dost, and the other is now with Jourack at Wyndham.

The Geraldton Express, 30 January 1911, page 3

**THE UNSPEAKABLE ALIEN AGAIN.**

PORT HEDLAND, Monday.

Astounding revelations have been made regarding live kidnapping of an aboriginal boy four years ago from this district. The magistrate at Karachi, India, forwarded statements from several people alleging that Jourack, the brother of Dost Mahomet, who was killed 18 months ago, had taken a black boy, then six years old, to Karachi. The lad was now working as a slave, and was cruelly ill-used. The Indian authorities want supporting testimony from Port Hedland. Plenty is said to be forthcoming.

"The Sunday Times", 12 February 1911, page 3.

## THE KARACHI MURDER

### A Pathetic Little Letter

#### FROM THE MURDERED WOMAN'S DAUGHTER

We have received a farther communication from Mr. W. E. Grigo at Port Hedland, relative to Mrs. Dost Mahomet, who was murdered at Karachi (India) in August last, allegedly by relatives of her deceased husband. The writer gives further details of what is being done to bring the unfortunate children of the murdered woman back to Australia. In his preface he says I would like to thank you once more for so strenuously backing up the cause of these poor children, and you can imagine how I and all the other members of our unfortunate family would have rejoiced could your paper have been the means of paving them from disaster as you so successfully did in the case of the immigrant girl. As you say, very often it is the person who lends the guiding or helping hand who gets the most severely criticised and maligned."

The writer is referring to our article of January 15, in which the cases of Elizabeth Wolseley and Mrs. Dost Mahomet were both dealt with.

\* \* \* \*

The terror inspired by the power of these Asiatics in their own country is evidenced by the next item in the letter. The writer says:

"Since writing last the Bombay Government has evidently thought fit to request my presence in Bombay in connection with the murder of my poor sister. Well, I must say I'll have to keep myself well-armed, as there are some hundreds of Indians around there who would be only too glad to give me a helping hand over the border. So I must be very careful if I ever intend to come back. I want to assure you that, in case I have to go via Singapore, I won't fail to remember to mention over there to the Indian authorities the active interest you have all bestowed on us in our most horrible affliction."

Our correspondent encloses a letter from the murdered woman's eldest child, Lillian Dost, aged 10, and Mr. Grigo adds-"Even an outsider, and a fairly callous one at that, would be somewhat moved by the pathetic little appeal."

With one or two slight corrections of orthography, the letter is as follows:-

Karachi, Dec. 13, 1910.

My Dear Uncle Otto,

We received your kind letter yesterday, and, oh, how glad we were! Dear uncle, you want to know how our darling mother was killed, don't you? It will be too long to say everything that happened in this letter, so I will just tell you a little about it.

In short, on the 23rd of August we went to a place called Muliah, where there are no proper houses to live in. So we had to stay in the first house we could get, and after a few days the wretches killed our dear mother. They came at about 10 o'clock at night, broke the bathroom windows open, and taking the knives off the table stabbed our dear mother. Oh, dear uncle, it was really pitiful to see her bleeding on the floor. Quite dead in the morning, she was removed to the Karachi Hospital, and after some time she was buried in the evening.

Our case in Court is not settled yet, but we hope it will be soon.

Dear Grannie, send for us soon. We are very lonely here, and want to come home to you all.

If you haven't enough money the matron says she will give us more money to pay our tickets.



Give them all my love, and reply back quickly and let me know at once.

Your loving,

LILL.

Haju sends her love, dear uncle, and wishes you all a happy Christmas. Kisses from the little ones and myself and Haju.

Truly, a most pathetic epistle from the unfortunate little orphan! Mr. Grigo concludes his letter as follows:

"I can only hope the Government will see fit to bring these poor unfortunates back to their native country as soon as possible after the trial, and settle them in a good institution in Perth, or some such safe place, where they could be weaned from all the degrading influences of Mohammedanism,

Of course, this only applies to the elder boy, and I am sure he would be only too glad to get as far from the murderers of his mother as possible."

» \* \* \* \*

In view of the above correspondence, and the evident desire of Mr. Grigo that his deceased sister's children shall be brought back to Western Australia, we submitted the matter to Mr. Frank Wilson, the Premier, with the view of finding out what action was being taken by the Government. We are authorised to state to Mr. Frank Wilson, the Premier, was in communication with, the Prime Minister, who was asked by Mr. Wilson to cable to the Indian Government to send the children to Fremantle, to be care of the Government of Western Australia. The Collector or District Magistrate at Karachi was also advised by the State Government to the same effect.

The Indian Government was further authorised to advance any funds necessary for their maintenance and journey, for which the Government of Western Australia would be responsible. Mr. Wilson was then advised that the children might be required to be detained pending the trial of the alleged murderer or murderers of their mother.

Since then the Premier has been communicated with, asking if Mr. William Grigo, the brother of Mrs. Dost Mahomed, would proceed to Karachi in order to give evidence, and he has agreed to do so for the purpose stated, provided his expenses are paid, and the State Government is now awaiting word from the Indian authorities as to whether he is to proceed. In any event, as soon as the trial is over, the children will be shipped to Fremantle, to the care of the Western Australian Government, when they will be taken in band and properly looked after. Any expense incurred will, of course, be a charge against the estate of the deceased woman, of which, we understand. Mr. Grigo is the executor.



The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide), Wed 27 Sep 1911

## **BROUGHT BACK FROM INDIA**

### **MBS. MAHOMET'S CHILDREN.**

Perth. September 28.

The five -children of Mrs. Dost Mahomet, who was murdered at Kurachi several months ago, have been brought back to Western Australia at the request of the Government, and they will be placed under the care of the State Children's Department. The unfortunate woman was married at Kalgoorlie to an Afghan camel owner, Dost Mahomet, and afterwards went to Port Hedland, on the North-West Coast. Three years ago Mahomet was killed, at Port Hedland • during a quarrel with Mrs. Mahomet's two brothers, one of whom struck him on the head "with a piece of wood. The quarrel arose because Mahomet had been ill-treating. Mrs. Mahomet. The two men were charged with murder, and acquitted, Mahomet left property valued between £2,000 and £3,000, with instructions that the children, were to be educated in India. Mrs. Mahomet subsequently took her five children to Karachi, where the eldest son was living, in order to make enquiries about her husband's property in that place. A few days before she was about to return to Australia with her children she was murdered late at night while sleeping with her two youngest daughters. She was stabbed several times in the back and once in the heart. Both children were injured, but not seriously. Subsequently four Afghans, three of whom were related to her husband, were arrested on a charge of murder, hut were discharged on August 11 last, on the ground that there was insufficient evidence. The murdered woman's eldest son, aged 17, has since been arrested, at Kurachi on a charge of perjury in connection with the case. The murder of Mrs. Mahomet is attributed to a blood feud arising out of her husband's tragic death at Port Hedland.

"The Kalgoorlie Miner"

Wednesday, 27 November, 1907, page 2.

The adjourned inquest concerning the death of the late Carl Grigo was continued to-day before the acting coroner (Mr. R. C. Jones). Evidence was given by Messrs. W. Nelson, E. Partridge, and Constable Kuhlken. The analysis of the stomach showed that it contained cyanide, and the jury returned a verdict that- death was caused by cyanide poisoning, but that there was no evidence to show whether the deceased took it by accident or otherwise.

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"The Sun", Sunday, 8 December, 1907, page 11.

**BULONG BITS.**

(By " Moonraker.")

**Death of Carl Grigo**

Profound regret was caused by the recent tragic death of our late and highly-respected townsman, C. Grigo whose remains were found in his engine house at the Golden West mine - a property that for some time past had absorbed his attention. The finding of a pannikin containing a few grains of cyanide lent color to the theory that it was a case of suicide.

It has since transpired, however, that several pannikins were kept in the engine-room, some containing cyanide and some not, and- this has influenced many. to the opinion that the deceased made a fatal error by using the wrong vessel to obtain a drink. The suicide theory is discounted to some extent by the fact that Grigo was quite jovial while discussing, a few hours prior to the finding of Iris remains, his intention- m. connection with the future working of the mine. Anyway, the post mortem, revealed that his death was the result of cyanide poisoning, while the jury at the inquest returned an open verdict. The deceased, who was the owner of considerable house property in, the district, had, a few years ago, a very rich claim on the Oversight, which yielded him some 4,000oz. of gold, the stone averaging over 20oz. per ton.



## STATEMENT BY MR. GRIGO

The Northern Standard (Darwin, NT), Tuesday 8 January 1929, page 1

The following statement by Mr. William Ernest Grigo will be read with interest. We regret that for the present we are unable to comment upon the matter, we hope that by the time space is available, a number of facts connected with the whole happening will be properly marshalled, so placed at our disposal in one that a candid review can be published.

Mr. Grigo writes;

"I certainly gave permission to Messrs. Cosso and Saru to experiment with my mangoes. I was informed by Mr. Saru, acting as interpreter for the Italian Cos, that if, by experiment, they could extract syrups, cordials, chutney, etc., there may be a lot more money in it than by continuing to feed the surplus mangoes to pigs, a custom I had hitherto followed.

They made out a list of requirements, copper, piping, etc. and paid for these things, amounting to about 30/- each, and all were to share equally in the profits, if any, also in the expenses, naturally I desired them to build their hut within a Couple of hundred yards of my house. The Italian was especially strong against this, and walked down the creek until he was about three-quarters of a mile away from- the house, but was directly opposite the mango trees, on the other side of the creek.

I did not worry, as I looked upon it as an all-to-win and very little to lose in the event of failure.

When the pitiful conglomeration of odds and ends was rigged. I went down to it twice in three weeks, and the Italian Cosso was trying to clarify the dregs of the rum barrel (which I had bought at a Darwin hotel by running it through this peculiar looking affair.

I said, "What for". Mr. Saru interpreted for«-the man Cosso, and said he wanted to clarify the stuff as a preserving essence, to prevent fermentation in the mango juice or syrups. But the poor outfit leaked like a Collanda! and, after vainly trying' to stop these leaks with paper and flour and water paste, Cosso dances around in a fine rage and screamed

"Bastar, fabrica no good." I went home and laughingly told my wife that I didn't expect this affair to square our overdraft

When Saru and Cosso came home at dinner time, I asked Saru how they got on. He replied that Cosso was very dejected over the failure of the "fabrica." He further informed me that it was no good continuing until the mangoes ripened, as they did not at that time happen to have a high enough sugar content. Further, he told me that until he got the Baume thermometer, costing six or seven shillings from Jollys, who had ordered it from south, he could not go on with his syrup and essences making, as he was in the dark as to the sugar content.

Well Cosso and Saru then dismantled the affair, and brought up three or four bottles of stuff to the house to be used as a preservative for the syrups. Right, the Italian seemed 'very' depressed as to his failure. I never worried an ounce as I did not expect much before; I merely looked upon it as another chance gone wrong.

My wife and I were enjoying a swim, and it was agreed that I should go into Darwin to pick up a consignment of zoo chickens arriving ex "Koolinda." My wife had nearly arrived home when a scream from our little 13-year-old half-caste girl, Molly, caused her to run in and I



could hear her scornfully call out to the Italian, "You low down cur." I came on at a run, my wife was busily pitching the last of the Italian's possessions out of the door.

I said, "Steady, old lady, what is the trouble?" My wife cried, "That unspeakable cur attempted to assault poor little Molly." I walked over to the Italian, caught him by the ear, and said, "Now, Italy, this country no good for you, see. What do you mean, you mongrel?" The Italian broke from me, and stood about two yards off, and blew himself up, for all the world like a blow-fish, and hissed out, "I maka da vendetta with you."

He had me perplexed for a minute, then remembering some Italian books, I said, "Let me understand you; you mean you kill me or I kill you, eh?" He screamed out, "Yes! Yes! I kill you - suppose you not kill me!" I said, "Right-we start right here." I then gave him a couple of smacks. He fell down and screamed for mercy. In fact, in my 42 years in this sinful world, I have never seen a quicker change artist (and I have had three years theatrical dictatorship). I had never in my life hit a man who was down before, but I would certainly have kicked this highly-disgusting mongrel on to his feet just to have the pleasure of knocking him down again; had not poor old Saru caught my arm and implored me not to "defile myself by further striking this pig." I was going to make the dago walk the 90 miles to Darwin, but as my wife pointed out he may come back in the night, after I had gone to town, and then just as the mood took him, he may kill Lorna or young Billy-boy. I was inclined at first to rope him and bring him into Darwin trussed like a fowl. Then I thought, "Oh, hang it! He can't beat you, young Bill, I'll take him over in the "Katinka." Still, whilst I was steering and tending my engines I was pretty alert, I can tell you, as these gentlemen prefer to fight when their opponent is asleep.

We ran out of benzine half-way between Talc Head and Darwin, and had to anchor. I intercepted a small fishing launch, and, on their return trip they picked us up. On the way over the Italian told the two men in the launch that if the joke he was putting over me with the police didn't come off, he would finish me with his knife. So I went to the police station and told them that if the Italian missed me next time, I wouldn't miss him: mostly to save expense, as it was the second time a man had tried to kill me.

I went about town, got my chickens, and was going over next morning on the tide. Someone told me that, if I had anything to hide, I had better watch-as in a couple of hours the Customs and Police were going to search my house. "I said, "Right oh! Let 'em all come. I've nothing to hide, or I could have done it thousands of times! Thanks!"

If any technical breach is committed, well, the Italian will be found solely responsible. The rest is known by the public. The "still" was dismantled because the dago was gone, and nobody else was interested in it. The rum dregs diluted with water were seized. The casks used for water butts were drained out, and all the salt water carefully taken over. The "Hero" Cosso, was to get half or some goodly portion of my fine. As this heroic action was taken against my poor astonished self, I confess I thought the stage manager was rehearsing a new and original farce and I have not really woke up yet.

Summed up, the Italian, disappointed in his attempt to assault that poor kid, and getting a few smacks 'on the nose, had no trouble in inducing the intelligent head of our respected Customs Department, to combine with half the police of Darwin to effect the capture of a desperate "Illicit Stiller," who has never seen a still in his life, and to bring before the modern Solomon,



Mr. E. C. Playford, S.M., who gave out this veritable pearl of wisdom, "Even if the Italian did bear extreme malice to the accused; I don't see how that would affect this case!"

Well, I was imprisoned for three months, and my wife and family had to do without their lawful protector on account of Green's misdirected zeal on the one hand, and a sad lack of the sense\* of proportion on the other. Perhaps it would have suited their ideas better if I had fought a schlenter, and allowed the dago to experiment on my ribs with his knife. I leave those who have known me for years to judge me.

### **Northern Territory**

#### **Illicit Whisky Still**

##### **Discovery At Darwin**

Murchison Times, Saturday 6 October 1928, page 1  
October 1.

William Ernest Grigo, electrician, of Delissaville station, an old-time sugar plantation situated on the opposite side of the harbour in Darwin, was arrested on Saturday, and brought to Darwin as a result of the capture on Friday by Customs Officers Katterns and Freeman.

It is alleged that this still was the source of supply of whisky to indentured Japanese and Kopangers in the pearling luggers, aborigines in the outback districts, and half-caste population.

### **ROUND ABOUT**

Northern Standard, Friday 5 August 1927, page 2

Mr W. E. Grigo of Delissaville Station, had the good fortune, on Friday last, the 29th. July, to be just in time to rescue his little daughter, Lorna, from death by drowning in about six feet of water in a creek on that property.