

Oct. 15 '90

I am sorry to report the escape of convicts Cork & McGuire, orderlies of the Hospital about three o'clock this morning. The alarm bell was rung a few minutes past three. I was down at once, & officers that responded to the alarm bell were sent in pursuit.

Guard Doyle was on duty in the Hospital, Convict McGuire was attending to the sick, one of the patients was very low requiring constant attention from the Orderly. Convict Cork was locked in his cell in the Hospital when he sleeps ready for call in emergencies. Mr. Gunn (?) the Hospital Overseer was in his room & in bed. Gd. Doyle reports that Keeper Mooney who was on night duty came his rounds to the Hospital, at 2 o'clock AM when all was reported right. Shortly after this Convict McGuire came to Gd. Doyle stating that the patient named (Rogers) an Italian, was to all appearance dying & ordered him to unlock Cork's Cell & give him assistance, Gd. Doyle did so, & went with both cons, he says to the sick man's cell, he remained a short time, & went away leaving both orderlies with the patient. He remained away a short time, & going again to the cell, missed both Cork & McGuire, he called Mr. Gunn (?), search was made, without finding them. Examining the windows, they found one of the bars at the top of the window near the arch removed this was on the NE end, in the second floor.

Gd. Doyle at once reported the matter to Keeper Mooney who called the Deputy Warden & gave the alarm. The yard and along the walls were searched, near the SE tower behind the stables a piece of rope was found attached to the gallery walk of the Tower, where it was supposed they got over. A further discovery was made later. A long piece of rope, knotted for climbing, with a triangular hook attached, was found hooked on to the galley of the NE tower, about the same place where Josey & Webb effected their escape some years ago. It is a singular coincidence that the same window was used (only the upper bar instead of the lower one removed). The same appliances rope & hooks [*illegible 2 sentences*] Hospital give further proof that escape from this point. How the rope became attached to the South wall I am not able yet to determine.

Examination of the windows, shows that a portion had been cut for some time, about 1/8th of an inch was cut out, a portion was left [*illegible*] nearly one half then by leverage pried out. The socket where the upright bar was inserted into the top arched cross bar, did not admit with much more than a mere touch, shewing (sic) defectiveness in the work when first put in. This defect would not be noticed until after its removal. It made it more easily (sic) to be pried out not having any hold on the top opening in (sic) upright bar. The iron of which the barrier is made is quite soft, [*illegible*]

The work of preparation has evidently been going on for some time, Cork gave patients in the upper floor cells each a powder, they say he gave it by the Overseer's order, to give them sleep. The prison clothing was left in Cork's Cell and other clothing, probably the Hospital uniform, taken instead. We have had quite a number of very sick convicts in Hospital rendering it necessary for one of the Orderlies to be up all night. Last night McGuire was on this duty, and made it convenient to serve the purpose of escape. One unfortunate circumstance occurred, Guard Doyle's revolver was taken. The outer case of it was found under Cork's bed. A satisfactory explanation of this has not been made, [*illegible*].

Every effort is being put forth to recapture, so far, 4 P.M., without avail. I have telegraphed various [illegible] and offering the usual reward which I hope will be approved. I did not want to lose time, so telegraphed very hastily.

How far Guard Doyle may be held responsible remains to be determined.

He certainly was at least [thoughtless] in the first place, calling and [illegible] cell, instead of calling Mr. Gunn and secondly for leaving there two convicts alone for any time instead of remaining with them. Then one could suppose that proper vigilance would detect the presence of preparation of material as was found. It was only ago [sic] when visiting the Hospital, in view of the number confined in it, that I enjoined special vigilance, I confess I did this not that I was in any way suspicious of any of the orderlies, but as a matter of precaution.

I am not insensible of the circumstances and place, for [illegible] the greatest vigilance, the peculiarities of our Hospital are such, that occasionally relaxation may occur, and unless the most rigid precautions are taken confidence will be betrayed. I feel very much this occurrence, and after a review of all the circumstance cannot see [illegible] I could have prevented it. "Cork" has been in the Hospital since his imprisonment, has been very useful, and [illegible] was most attentive and considerate to the sick. Cork proved a valuable assistant in the Hospital Department. His conduct was praised so rightly and he had the confidence of his Officer.

Certainly, no suspicion was aroused concerning him in any way.

"McGuire" was assigned to Hospital Duty, being in poor health, having in addition to other ailments, disease of the skin, shewing [sic] itself specially in the face, the result [illegible] of Syphilis. He was attentive and kind to the patients and conduct good. "Cork" was sent here from Toronto, Feb. 1886, Crime attempted Burglary, sentenced 10 years.

"McGuire" was sent from East Essex, a resident of Windsor, Ont. April 1890, crime Indecent Assault. Sentence 5 years.

I have just had Mr. Doyle before me, I asked for explanations as to the points I have stated, he had none to give, only pleading leniency.

I am of opinion he should be retired. I would go further but for his years of service and his age.

I have occasion to [illegible] up as to his activity in performing his duties. The position engenders [illegible] and I must at all events place a more vigilant man in his place. I have now enjoined upon Mr. Gunn, less dependence upon his orderlies, and more stringent exercise of his functions.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Obedt. Servant
M. Lavell, Warden

J.G. Moylan, Esq.
Inspector *do*
Ottawa

Warden's Letter Book, p. 591

Dec. 4, '90

Sir,

I have the honour to forward Resignation of Guard James Doyle, with Surgeon's Certificate of physical inability.

Guard Doyle has been in failing health some time, and has become so feeble in the discharge of his duty as to render him unfit for his duty here. He was appointed Aug. 8, 1868 and is in receipt of \$500 per annum. I question if he will ever be fit for doing much for himself. His resignation to take effect January 1st, 1891, until which time he will so far as his health permits remain on duty.

I recommend him for the usual gratuity.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Obedt. Servant
M. Lavell, Warden

J.G. Moylan, Esq.
Inspector, Ottawa

Warden's Letter Book, p.593

Nov. 22, '90

Sir,

I consider that James Doyle, who has been a guard in this institution since 1868, as owing to his infirmities, unfit, satisfactorily, to discharge his duties.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
[illegible] M.D. Surgeon, KP

M. Lavell, M.D.
Warden, K.P.

Transcription by:

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