**THE BURDON ARCHIVES**

The following are all the official mention of the Maya revolting in northern Belize as highlighted by Sr John Bourdon in his publication of archival records. Chronology of all events of importance recorded in the Archives, 1841-1884": v. 3

Major Sir John Alder Burdon, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.A.

Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Colony of British Honduras

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Archives of British Honduras

**(research by Carlos Quiroz, history teacher, St. John’s College, Belize City, Belize for the educational project The Caste War, May 2017)**

**1847:** “Dec. Reports of an **Indian insurrection in Yucatan** (Probably the beginning of the sanguinary “Guerra de Castas” or War of Races).”

**1848:** “Feb. Statement of regret by Superintendent to Governor, Merida, that he is unable to supply arms to the Mexicans or to **prohibit export of gunpowder**, the latter presumably to the Indians.

“Reports from Bacalar that the murderous Indian Revolt aimed at extermination of the whites. Request that the latter be allowed to take refuge at Consejo. Protection of refugees assured by Superintendent. Troops sent to the Hondo in March to protect the cutters against attack by the insurgent Indians. Reports of repulse by the woodcutters at **Hill Bank of an Indian Raid** from Yucatan (March).”

“April. Report of taking and **occupation of Bacalar** by great numbers of Indians. Troops withdrawn from River Hondo as inadequate to deal with such numbers. Letters in May from Superintendent to “Principal Civil Magistrate in Bacalar,” evidently the Chief of the Indians. War Ships with troops sent from Jamaica with instructions to avoid conflict and to proclaim friendship with the Indians, provided they abstain from hostile action. Two Spaniards, resident in the Colony, carried off by Indians from across the Hondo in June.”

“July. A commercial Agent at Bacalar suggested by the Superintendent.”

“Aug. Bill for compulsory service in the Militia thrown out.”

“Statement by Superintendent, with reference to the proposed withdrawal of a Company of the troops, as to **frontier danger** and inability of the Indian Chief to maintain order.”

“Charges by the President of Yucatan as to aid, encouragement and arms given by the Settlement to the Indians. Denied by the Superintendent in October.”

“The Public Meeting advised by the Secretary of State to exercise the large power possessed by it, rather than resort to fundamental changes. The Superintendent warned by Secretary of State against differences with the Public Meeting, which held the power of granting or stopping supplies.”

“Dec. Report by Commandant of Bacalar, presumably an Indian Chief, that the **refugees from Bacalar to the Settlement** had returned to attack the new Regime.”

“Threat of pursuit into British Territory in the event of occurrence. Reply by Superintendent, in January 1849, that every effort would be made to prevent anyone from crossing the Hondo to take part in Military operations; but that prompt punishment would be meted out should say aggression be committed by Yucatecans on British Territory.”

**1849**: “Jan. Report of an **attack by Indians on Payo Obispo**.”

“Feb. Proposal for a truce and arbitration in Yucatan accepted by **Jacinto Pat**. Commander in Chief of the Indians. Mediation by British Government suggested.”

“Mar. Statement by a Baptist Minister of the **intention of the Indians to re-conquer Yucatan**, it being their own land. Report of their unbounded confidence in the English. Acceptance by the Indian Chiefs of the Superintendent’s recommendation for division of Yucatan with the Spaniards.”

“June. Seizure and search of British Vessels on the Hondo by the Mexican Government. Request by Superintendent in July for a sloop of war.”

“July. Magistrate and Police withdrawn from Consejo owing to refusal of Public Meeting to provide even for their rations.”

“Aug. Colonel Fancourt accepted by the Mexican Government as mediator between Mexican authorities and Indians. The Indian Chief invited to come to Belize for discussion in September. Jacinto Pat, on his way to confer with Superintendent in October, murdered by his own people owing to his desire for peace. Offer by Chiefs to meet Superintendent at Ascension, with warning that they will accept nothing less than independence from Mexico. Meeting accepted by Superintendent. **Independence of Indians refused by Mexico** in November. Result of meeting reported to Governor of Yucatan in December.”

“Instruction to Superintendent to acknowledge no Mexican claim founded on the Treaty of 1886.”

“Sept. Complaints from Mexico as to **supply of arms to the insurgent Indians**. Measure for prevention taken in October. Support of Indians by persons of standing admitted by Superintendent in November.”

“Nov. Complaints of hostile action by Governor of Yucatan against refugees at Consejo.”

**1850**: “Jan. Report of a useful **settlement of Yucatan refugees on the Hondo**.”

“Feb. Proposal by British Government to mediate in Yucatan, accepted. Delays on the part of the Mexican Government stated by Superintendent in May to have inflamed public opinion in Belize and to have weakened his influence with the Indians.”

“April. Report of the weakening of the Indians and of reverses inflicted on them by the Spaniards.”

“May. **Invasion of Albion Island by Mexican Troops**. Demand by Superintendent for restitution of property.”

“July. Statement by Superintendent as to the practical impossibility of prosecuting gun-runners.”

**1851**: “Jan. Bill for Constabulary Force for Northern District and for Police Magistrates for Southern Districts.”

“April. Petition that the Settlement be declared a Colony. Resolutions proposing an Elected Assembly and partly elected Legislative Council.”

“May. Regret by the Secretary of State that the Public Meeting had failed to provide revenue sufficient to meet expenses. Mention of importance of Northern Districts and suggestion for Municipal village organizations.”

“Sept. Sally by Garrison of Bacalar, driving the Indians from the neighborhood.”

“Report of claim by Mexican Government to sovereignty over Ambergris Cay. Rebutted by Governor, Jamaica, to British Minister, Mexico, in December, on ground that the Cay was in effective British possession prior to recognition of the Mexican Republic. Naval protection promised if required. British claim upheld by Home Government April, and May 1852, and Mexican claims withdrawn.”

**1852:** “Feb. Recommendation by Superintendent for **re-establishment of Militia** owing to disturbances in neighboring States. Modified in dispatch to Governor in May, as only advisable if regular troops were to be withdrawn. This view repeated in January 1853, with additional proviso as to necessity for sufficient arms. Vote for this purpose refused, January 1853.”

**1853.** “Oct. Warning by Superintendent to Indian Commissioners that it was doubted whether Mexico would accept the treaty agreed on between themselves and the Spanish Commissioners at Belize; and advice that they should remain on their guard, but abstain from hostile acts, pending settlement.”

**1856:** “March. Act to make certain Aliens liable to certain public duties.”

“Extradition Act with Mexico.”

“April. Mention of the **manufacture of sugar and spirits in the Northern Districts**.”

“Sept. **Aggression by an Indian Chief, Luciano Quc on Rio Hondo** mahogany works, and demand for toll on wood felled. Deputation, including Mexican Vice Consul, to Commandant at Bacalar.”

**1857:** “March. Report of imposition, during 1856, of duty on sugar and spirits manufactured in the Northern Districts, in which 800 acres were reported under cultivation.”

“June. Report of intrusion of **armed Indians at Blue Creek**.”

“July. Rumors of conspiracy for destruction of Corozal by raiders of Yucatan. Abortive trial of alleged conspirators. (August.)

“Sept. Accounts of injury done by Indian raids and description of the condition of Yucatan. Report of threatened invasion and further account of Yucatan in November. **Fear for Corozal, where Yucatecan Immigrants are bartering powder with the Indians.** Fears modified in January 1858 owing to energetic action of Yucatan Government, assisted against the Santa Cruz Indians by the Chichanha tribe.

“Statement that the Mexican Government regarded Booth’s River as the real Rio Hondo.”

“Proposed efforts by Her Majesty’s Government to **obtain a demarcation of the Frontier**.”

“Mention of nomadic Indians in the Northern forests.”

“Dec. **Volunteer Defence Force suggested for Corozal**.”

**1858:** “ Jan. Steady advance of Settlement reported by Superintendent and repeated in detail in May. **Rapid progress of Corozal District and town, with population of 8,000 and 4,500 respectively, industrious and self-reliant**.”

“Fresh outbreak of the War of Races in Yucatan. **Capture of Bacalar by the Indians, atrocious massacres of prisoners and failure of attempted British mediation. Panic at Corozal**. Dangerous position of Belize. Request for Naval and Military reinforcements, promptly complied with. Mention of evil effect of the Mutiny in East India on the attitude of the Indian Chiefs towards Great Britain. (March and April.) **Report of 5,000 refugees in Corozal in May**.”

“Feb. Reported occupation of Pute, on Mexican side of Hondo, by **1,500 well armed Indians**. Seizure of British Subjects. British force sent to Hondo, and steps taken to stop traffic in gunpowder, in April.”

“June. Report of friendly relations with the Indians, partially confirmed by Superintendent in July and again in September; but contradicted in October.”

**1859:** “Jan. Failure to organize Militia in Northern Districts. Explained in June as due to fear by Yucatecan immigrants of being called on to defend themselves against the Indians.”

“Feb. Need for Goal, Court House and Mortuary in Corozal.”

“March. Recommendations for improvement and development of the Northern Districts.”

**1860**: “Jan. **Bad report as to the character of the Yucatan immigrants and the cruelty of their bull fights**.”

“Decision that the troops sent in 1858 should remain and should be quartered by Great Britain of Consejo, to prevent the possibility of a war against the Indians by Great Britain., which would result from a massacre by them of the Mexican refugees at Corozal.”

“July. Report of the seizure of an Indian in British territory by troops from Bacalar. Enquiry whether this was done with the consent of the Indian authorities. Acknowledgement of error by the Santa Cruz Chief, and request for continuance of good will. (undated).”

“Destruction by the Indians of a Mexican Force, which had captured the Indians stronghold at Santa Cruz; and **massacre of Chichanha Indians, allies of the Yucatan Government**.”

**1861**: “Jan. Deficiency of educational institutions in the comparatively populous Northern Districts.”

“Urgent need for immigration to develop agricultural resources.”

“March. Petition to the Queen for change of status from ‘Settlement’ to ‘Colony’. …”

“Mission of two British Officers to Santa Cruz, conveying forcible demands to the Patron, Santa Cruz, for explanation of his infringement of British Territorial rights. The Mission reported in April to have been most shamefully treated. Panic in Corozal. **Mention of the Indian Oracle, a wooden cross (Santa Cruz).** Proclamation of **Martial Law in Northern Districts**. Report on May 1st, of **invasion of Corozal by Indians**. Recision on May 18th of Proclamation of Martial Law. Advice by Council that threats and remonstrances to the Northern Districts Indians should cease unless they were to be followed by vigorous actions if disregarded. Complete submission and apology for the insulting treatment of the Mission demanded from the Santa Cruz Chief in August, with promise of safe conduct to himself and suite for the purpose of making such apology.”

“April. **Population by Census, 25,635, of which number more than half were located in the northern Districts**.”

**1862**: “Feb. Act for raising a Volunteer Force.”

“No present apprehension of Indian attack on the Northern District. Permanent Barracks there not recommended.”

“Oct. Anxiety as to possibility of raids in neighbourhood of Yalbac by Chichuya (?Chinchanha) Indians from Guatemala. Appointment of friendly Indians as Alcaldes to make friendly overtures to the chichuyas.

“**Act to encourage the immigration of Agricultural Labourers**.”

**1863**: “Mention of determination of **Roman Catholic of Corozal** to adhere to the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Bishop of Yucatan.”

“Mention of the compilation by Mr. Henderson of a **Maya Dictionary**.”

“April. Mention by the Assembly of the “approaching extinction of the primal trade of the Old Settlement,” presumably export of wood, and of acts passed to encourage immigration and manufacturing machinery.”

“**Defeat of Chichnja Indians by Santa Cruz Indians**.”

“Threats against the Colony by the Chichenjas in July.”

“Tax on aliens abolished to attract foreign labourers.”

“**Intrusion of 800 Indians from Yucatan, with the object of extracting payment for lands rented on the Spanish side.** Repetition and apology therefor in July.”

“June. An interesting letter from an Indian headman.”

**1864**: “Feb. Reported assassination of Puc, Chief of the Santa Cruz Indians, and their desire for peace.”

“June. Demands by Governor, Jamaica, to Governor of Yucatan for restitution of prisoners and property taken in a **raid on San Roman**, and for cancellation of the Commision of Zuc, the Officer who led the raid. Reply from Yucatan in July that the Indians of the South governed themselves independently of the Government of Mexico, but that efforts would be made to obtain redress. Visit of Lieutenant Governor and escort to San Roman and return of prisoners reported, July. Raid explained in September to have been due to a quarrel over non payment of rent.”

“Nov. **Mexican decree claiming British Honduras for the Empire of Mexico**. Decree stated to have excited the Yucatan Indians and instructions given by the Foreign Office in July 1865 that Mexico be requested to abstain from violation of British Territory. Declaration by British Minister, Mexico, to Meixcan Government that Mexico had no claim to any part of British Honduras and reply by Foreign Minister, Mexico, that there must be some error as Mexico had never enunciated such pretentions (August 1865). Mexican Government informed that Great Britain did not admit any rights to Mexico from the Treaties of 1783 and 1786 with Spain and that the decree must be cancelled, September 1865.

“Dec. Death of Zuc and **succession of Marcos Canul as Chief Chichanha Indians**.”

**1865**: “Jan. **Santa Cruz Indians reported close to the border**, and imminence of clash between them and the Mexicans, owing to determination of the latter to exterminate them.”

“Offer by Imperial Government to pay half the cost of maintenance of an **armed steamer for the Rio Hondo.** Act for providing steamer in July.”

“Feb. **Demand by Marcus Canul for rent on Blue Creek lands** claimed as Mexican Territory. Refusal to pay rejection of claim, March. **Invasions by Indians stated by British Minister**, Mexico. In August to be due to the claim by Mexico to the Colony. Statement by British Minister to Mexico in October that the Indian Chiefs in the South of Yucatan though de jure Mexican subjects, are not so de facto. Decision conveyed to Mexican Government in January 1866, that, as Canul and his tribe were not de facto Mexican subjects and not under effective Mexican control, the British Government would **deal with him as an Indian unconnected with the Government of Mexico**. Objection taken to this course by the Emperor of Mexico in February 1866 with statement of intended **campaign against Canul**.”

“April. Reduction of Corozal detachment and probable reduction of the Garrison of the Colony. Withrdawal of Corozal detachment in June owing to movement of Mexican troops towards Merida. Post re-establishment for protection of refugees in December.”

“May. **Formation of Belize Volunteers into a Rifle Corps and Artillery Company**.”

“Oct. Protest against the boundary of the Colony as shewn in a new Mexican Map.”

**1866**: “Favourable reference to the **Sugar Industry and its having supplied all the needs of the Colony and reached the export stage**.”

“May. **Raid by Chichanha Indians under Canul on Qualm Hill**, R. Bravo: casualties, two killed, 79 taken prisoners, including an Englishman and a Canadian. Head quarters of Canul said to be at Ycaiche, 90miles form the frontier. Envoys sent to negotiate with Canul for return of the prisoners. $12,000 ransom demanded.”

“June. Release effected for $3,000, exclusive of bribes in July. Damage by raid assessed at $42,510.”

“**Statement by Canul that his mission to Qualm Hill was intended as amicable and that hostilities only commenced after he had been fired on by the African Store keeper**. Deportation of certain treacherous Yucatecan refugees and restriction of sale of arms and ammunition (August).”

“**Detachment 80 strong sent to Orange Walk, New River, for operations against Canul** (September). A column under Captain Delamere moved thence via Hill bank to San Pedro to intercept Canul who was expect there. Ascension Ek having played false. (October.). On arrival, San Pedro was found deserted but the hills round it were held by 200 men, and Canul, who had been warned by Ek of the approaching column, was one march distance. The Column extricated itself and returned to Orange Walk, New River. Report by Lieutenant Governor that Canul was going to attack Mahogany works, in support of the discontented San Pedro Indians (November.) Columns sent out from Orange Walk, New River, and from Blue Creek in December to protect the country to the South West and to intercept invading Indians.”

“**San Pedro reported in December as held by Canul and 300 Indians**. Mr, Rhys, Commissioner, instructed by Lieutenant Goernor in December to proceed from Orange Walk on the Belize River to San Pedro, there to meet Ascension Ek, Chief of the Icaiche Indians. Escort provided by the 4th West India Regiment, 42 all ranks, under the command of Major A. W. MacKay. Mr. Rhys and escort left Orange Walk on the evening of the 30th. On approaching San Pedro after fourteen hours march by truck passes rendered almost impassable by heavy truck and continuous rain, the column, which appears to have been in no sort of fighting formation and was marching without advance or flank guards, was suddenly and heavily attacked from the bush by Indians estimated at between 300 and 400 strong, from all sides. Major MacKay, it appears, attempted to lead his men into bush in a counter attack, but failed to make way. After an action lasting half an hour, having lost five men killed and sixteen wounded, Major MacKay gave the order to retire. The retirement was somewhat disorderly and Mr. Rhys was found, on arrival at Orange Walk, to be missing and was not seen again. (see January 1867.)”

“Finding of Court of Enquiry into Major MacKay’s conduct, June 1867. He was by his orders deprived of initiative, and was not supplied with sufficient ammunition. He would have been justified, by the state of road, in refusing to proceed beyond Orange Walk. He shewed no lack of presence of mind or courage but he was to blame for not providing an advance guard and shewed lamentable lack of firmness and judgment in sounding the retire.”

“Assembly urged to make annual provision for defense. Resolutions of Assembly that attacks on the Colony were a matter for Her Majesty’s Government, to whom an appeal should be made for protection; and that Ascension Ek and the Indians of San Pedro be armed for defense against invaders. Arms given in August. Report by Lieutenant Governor in June that the Assembly had refused to contribute towards the armed steamer or towards defense and had rejected the Militia Bill: and that the merchants were selling powder to the enemy, while expecting the British Government to bear all costs of defense against that enemy. The Assembly informed in November that the garrison would be withdrawn by order of the Secretary of State unless the Bill making provisions for contribution to an armed steamer were passed within a month. Bill passed, with resolution that the armed steamer was inadequate for defense.”

**“Militia Law passed (see August 10th. 1867).”**

**1867**: “Armed steam Barges suggested for patrolloing the Hondo. Supported by General Harley in May. Authorized in February. 1868.”

“Arrival of reinforcements, brought by Governor, Jamaica. (See June.)

“Start from Belize of Field Force, strength 12 Officers and 100 Rank and File, West India Regiment and Royal Artillery armed with 6 pounder rocket equipment, under Lieutenant Colonel Harley: objective, San Pedro. Arrival at Orange walk, Belize River, via Nancy Porter, after four days difficult march over swollen rivers and bad roads in continuous rain. Hardships due to failure of transport. **San Pedro occupied, without opposition, and burnt with the exception of the chapel**. Letter from Ascension Ek found claiming all the country from Yucatan to the Belize river. Letter left by Colonel Harley denouncing Ek for the murder of Mr. Rhys. Indian Church and Mount Hope attacked by Indians on February 3rd., the day before Colonel Harley’s Column reached Orange Walk. **San Jose taken and burnt with three casualties. Indians completely routed.** Some equipment of Mr. Rhys’ escort and the loot from Indian Church found there. This Column marched 32 miles through very difficult country in 11 hours (Feb.). Narajal (shewn on old maps as North West of San Jose) and Chorro destroyed by a Column including Militia from Corozal, under Captain Delamere (March). Tribute by Lieutenant-Governor in April to endurance and gallantry of Corozal Militia; and, in June 1868, to the complete success of General Harley’s operations.”

“Mention of visit by Governor, Jamaica, and the study by him of conditions existing.”

“Jamaica recommended as route for mail service, for military reasons. (Not adopted. See August.)”

“Feb. Report by Roman Catholic priests that the union between Canul and Ek was caused by Captain Delamere’s march and the stoppage of Major Wray’s boundary survey, which misled the Indians as to the Government’s territorial claims.”

“Memorandum by Lieutenant Governor setting forth British Territorial rights and declaring enemies any who should dispute them; but offering residence to Ek and his Indians provided they would submit, acknowledge those rights and observe the regulations attached to the Memorandum.”

“April. Report of friendly relations with the Santa Cruz and Lochha Indians, directed against Canul (later reported captured by them). Policy reported in May as hotly opposed but successful. The friendly relations reported in August as not in the nature of an alliance but confined to trade.”

“Lightening of Martial Law owing to settled conditions.”

“Militia Division paid off. Return to Jamaica of reinforcements reported feasible in June.”

**“Cutting of boundary line from Blue Creek to Garbutt’s Falls completed hopes expressed for completion of the Southern portion.”**

“Chief Justice’s report on a murder trial arising out of the raid on Indian Church. Mentions statement of demands for rents for sugar estates and mahogany works and for Orange Walk, Corozal and Belize.”

“May. Mention of desertion of **Chinese immigrants to Yucatan**. Prospocts of their return through the good offices of the Santa Cruz Indians. (See October 1868.)”

“Hopes for success of Militia Law. Efficiency of Militia reported in October.”

“Loan of $200,000 recommended by Lieutenant Governor for agricultural immigration, defense and postal service.”

“Favourable report by Captain Carmichael on Santa Cruz Indians. Their fighting strength estimated at 5,000 men. Enquiry by their Chiefs whether Great Britain would take over the Santa Cruz Territory in Yucatan, Warning by them as to possible raids by Icaiche Indians: promise of efforts to prevent such raids: request to be allowed to pursue the Icaiches into and fight them on British Territory; and promise to give up Canul if caught.”

“Dec. Question of defence and of reduction of garrison brought up by direction of the Secretary of State. Creation of Frontier Police, 24 strong, partly mounted, recommended by Lieutenant Governor at a cost of £ 2,400 per annum. This force was organized in February 1868, Four Stations reported established on the River Hondo in February 1869.”

**1868:** “Capture of a band of Indians raiders. The Indians explanation of this incursion accepted by the Lieutenant Governor as satisfied.”

“Mention of Indian raids in 1867 as directed towards taking back to Yucatan refuges enrolled in the Santa Cruz forces.”

“Feb. Statement that the cost of Defence amounted to one third of the whole of the Colony’s expenditure.”

“Making of a bridle path from Belize to Orange Walk, New River, suggested by Lieutenant Governor.”

“Prospect of peace on the Frontier. Expression of friendship by Canul.”

“May. Panic in Orange Walk, New River, owing to renewal of raids by Canul on withdrawals of troops. This withdrawal was apparently due to refusal by the inhabitants to supply the troops with water at a reasonable rate. (See April.) Indian objections to the frontier as surveyed.”

“June. Debt to the War Office for defense of the Colony for past two years, £8,048. The amount expended by Great Britain during those two years stated to have been £42,071.”

“Militia strength, 1050, on paper: Belize Volunteers, 171.”

“July. Report of visit by a representative of the British Honduras Company to Campeche and interview with the Governor. Charge by the latter as to improper occupation of territory by the English and their responsibility for **the destruction of 100,000 people by permitting sale and barter of gunpowder and arms to the Indians**. **The Colony mentioned by the Legislative Assembly of Yucatan in July 1869, on this count, as an ally of the Indians.”**

“Report on july 21st as to freedom from Indians aggression and success of the Santa Cruz war against the Mexicans. But also report in the same dispatch of intrusions by Ycaiche Indians and demands for rents; and on July 30th of raids by both Santa Cruz and Ycaiches.”

“An undated report of a march by Canul with a military force from Achiote viw Orange Walk to Corozal creating great consternation. A similar raid, probably the same, mentioned in April and May 1870. The latter year appears the more likely date.”

“Aug. **Report of visit of 200 armed Santa Cruz Indians to Corozal for the purpose of obtaining permission to buy gun powder and goods.”**

“Oct. Report on condition of Chinese immigrants, favorable except or diminution by more than 25 per cent through death (March 1869), and 25 per cent through desertion caused by injudicious treatment and bad food. The deserters captured and enslaved by the Santa Cruz Indians. (September 1869.)”

**1869:** “Jan. Proposed visit by Lieutenant Governor to Indians on Western Frontier.”

“Feb. Forthcoming reduction of troops to one Company unless the Colony would pay £40 per man per annum in excess of that strength. Inability to do so, owing to state of finances, reported in March, with contention by Assembly that the need for troops was an Imperial matter, defense against external aggression.”

“Nov. Withdrawal of Frontier Police from River Hondo to Corozal, owing to threat of an Indian rais on the latter. Report of raid on Consejo. Detachment sent to Corozal in December.”

**1870:** “Jan. Report that all was quiet on the Frontier. Withdrawal of Troops recommended in February and carried out in March. Report that, owing to an understanding with Canul, the Frontier Police outposts were unnecessary and that the Force should be abolished and replaced by a Frontier Guard concentrated at Corozal. **Occupation of Corozal by Indians under Canul in April and demand for $3,000.** (This is probably the raid mentioned as undated in 1868). Proclamation of Martial Law and dispatch of a Detachment of Troops. Permanent addition to existing Garrison, to be stationed at Corozal and Orange Walk, recommended by Assembly. National, i.e., Mexican, character of invasion, and complicity of respectable Yucatan residents reported by Lieutenant Governor. Precautions at the Haulover recommended. (April). Retirement of the Indians reported in May. Naval assistance given. **Compensation for damage by the raid, $177,0331 asked for by Corozal. (May)** **Statement by Canul in June that his role object was to satisfy himself that there were no Santa Cruz troops in Corozal and that he did no damage.**”

“Feb. Petition from Corozal for representation in the Assembly.”

“May. Complaint from Campeche as to alliance of Belize Merchants with the Santa Cruz Indians operating against Campeche.”

“Sept. Disbandment of Frontier Police Force.”

**1871: “**Dec. Annual subsidy for a second Company of Infantry, £5,000.”

**1872: “Aug. Raid by party of Icaiche Indians, estimated at 150 strong, led by Marcus Canul, crossing the River Hondo at Panting’s Landing near Corosalito.** They advanced by August Pine Ridge to Water Bank where they murdered a man. **At 8 a.m., September 1st, they attacked Orange Walk**. The Garrison, one Officer and 37 other ranks of the 1st West India regiment, took refuge in the Barrack Room. Here they were hotly attacked by the Indians, who established themselves in the buildings near, some within 25 yards, and in the logwood piles stacked to await shipment near the river. The troops returned their fire, and **a brisk engagement ensued lasting nearly six hours, during which time the troops lost 2 men killed and 1 officer and 14 men wounded.** After an unsuccessful attempt to fire the barracks, the Indians, at about 2.30 pm., began to give ground, and, pursued by the troops as far as the outskirts of the town, retired leaving several dead behind.

**The Indians re-crossed the Hondo at Panting’s on September 2nd after looting Crosolito. It was reported that they had lost 15 killed and many wounded, among the latter Marcus Canul himself, later reported dead.**

Mr. Oswald, J.P., was, in January 1873, appointed C.M.G., for conspicuous bravery in this affair.”

“Sept. request for forgiveness by Rafael Chan, Canul’s successor as Chief of the Ycaiches.”

“Dec. Request that the road from Corozal to Orange Walk be made fit for transport of troops and light guns.”

**1873:** “Feb. Mention of “the new Police” at Orange Walk and Corozal.”

“The Colony reported to be £29,142 in debt.”

“March. Report of representations by Her Majesty’s Government to Mexico, calculated to put an end to Indian raids.”

“July. Relations with the border Indians reported still uncertain.”

“Sept. Headquarters of the troops changed from Belize to Corozal.”

**1874:** “Report by Lieutenant Governor of absence of definite hostilities on the part of the Indians; and of approaching completion of defense at Orange Walk.”

“March. Report from Mexico as to peaceful conditions in Ycaiche. Promise of security, for all not implicated in the Orange Walk outrage, given by Administrator in April.”

“July. Instructions that the Indian General Arana was to be received with respect and courtesy on his visit to Orange Walk. Report in October of his presence on British Territory with 450 followers, unarmed and in want of food. Regret expressed by Lieutenant Governor in October that he had not been able to see Arana at Government House, but that he would be pleased to see him at Orange Walk on his forthcoming visit to that town.”

**1875:** “March. Report from Labouring Creek that the Ycaiche had joined the San Pedro Indians at Holotonitch and were claiming the left bank of the Belize River to Black Creek, on the authority of a Spanish pamphlet circulated in Belize, in which the Mexicans claimed the land under the Treaties of 1773 and 1786. Statement by the Lieutenant Governor in May that the Governor of Yucatan had claimed rights near the New River Lagoon. Increase of Police and opening of roads in that district for the repression of such disorder. Apprehension as to uncertainty of Imperial protection against external aggression expressed by Council with mistrust of the peaceable attitude of the Indians.”

**1876:** “Aug. Threat by the “Commandante” of Holotonitch to seize mules and send them to Arana, Commandante of Ycaihce. Matter dealt with by Administrator by means of report to Arana and action for banishment of the self-styled Commandante.”

**1877: “Report from New Orleans of an intended attack on Belize by Ycaiche and Santa Cruz Indians,** led by a Guatemaltecan and instigated and armed by a Honduranian. H.M.S. Simoon and troops sent from Jamaica. Reports from Orange Walk and Corozal in April that there was no sign of Indian hostility. (No such attack is recorded)

“June. Approval by Secretary of State of the Alcalde system for Indian and Carib villages. (see January 1858)

“Ordinance establishing a Volunteer Force assented to. Raising of such in Corozal authorized in December. Some hostility to the movement in Belize recorded in June 1878.”

**1878:** “May. Importation of a large stock of gunpowder questioned by Governor as possibly connected with some contemplated Indian raids. Assurance by the Indian General Arana in June that it was required for fiestas.”

“June. Matters on the frontier reported quiet. Hope expressed that the defensive measures taken would prevent recurrence of alarms.”

**1879:** “Aug. Bill empowering the raising of a Militia Force in case of need. Protested against by Unofficial Members, as likely to drive away members of the laboring population.”

“Report of almost complete absence of anxiety as to Indian raids.”

“Dec. Report of Indian trouble on the frontier. This reported in February 1880 not to have arisen from hostile intentions towards the Government or inhabitants of the Colony. Explained in July 1880 as a raid by the Ycaiche Indians to take prisoners on the score of a crime said to have been committed by an Indian, resident in the Colony. General Pech, Ycaiche Commandant in Chief, was secured as a hostage. (July 1880).

**1880:** “July. Benque Viejo and Succoth laid out in allotments, purchased by the Indian residents.”