

The Jarawa:

When the second penal settlement was established on Ross Island in 1858, the adjoining area was populated by the Aka-bea tribes. The Jarawas were not directly affected by the establishments at the initial stage. Due to some unknown reasons the Great Andamanese had become far stronger by the time of the second penal settlement and had occupied almost the entire land around the harbour, having driven the Jarawas into the hinterland. There was constant fighting between the two groups. In July 1863, as is already known, Carbyn led a party to find a passage through the interior from Port Blair to the other side on the western coast. They did not come across any Jarawa as such, but two of the Andamanese, Topby and Jacko gave Carbyn to understand that there was a possibility of their encountering "an unfriendly tribe of aborigines of whom they themselves seemed to be in great dread". Ford, in a report written on 3 January 1865 stated that the aborigines inland on the south side were the most troublesome. "It is obvious that he was referring to the Jarawas.

After the Great Andamanese were befriended by the Britishers now it was the turn of the Jarawas to fight against the foreigners. There were several skirmishes between the Britishers and the Jarawas and side by side the Britishers conducted expeditions, made captures and releases of Jarawas.

In his annual report for the year 1882 - 83, Godwin-Austin (who had temporarily taken over from Portman during the latter's absence on leave) wrote:

"The Jarawas have given much more trouble during the past year than hitherto. "And perhaps, he surmised, this was due to the fact that "much had been done in the way of opening out tracks through their country". The Jarawas distrusted the Great Andamanese too because the Britishers used them (the Great Andamanese) as their fighters against the Jarawa.

Most of the Jarawa captures have failed to gain the goal in favour of the Britishers. Portman writes in 1894 -95: "I am of the opinion that the only way to catch the Jarawas will be by sending out armed parties of police and convicts, as was done on former occasion when they were caught and using our Andamanese merely as trackers as they are too afraid of the Jarawas to make any real effort to catch them when alone and unsupported by fire arms".