

Para 16. Only one window was found open (not the one stated) and my contention is that the Askaris were either the natives or were in collusion. The window was left open in my opinion as a "blind". It is practically right on the beat of the guard. The following incident would almost confirm this:-

A bicycle was stolen from the store on the 3rd of January (reported to Police) and on the 27th of January the same was found in the office in a damaged condition. The bicycle was not in the Office when same was closed, the keys were handed to the askari and he stated that from 4.30 p.m. on the 26th to 7.00 a.m. on the 27th, when Mr. Correa opened the Office, he had not opened the office to anyone.

Para 19. A letter officially reporting the theft was sent to the Chairman of the House Committee of Supplies by me and this is mentioned in para 5.

Para 20. I beg to attach for your information a copy of instructions which were given to Mr. Simson by me upon his arrival in August sometime after the depot opened. This I beg to suggest entirely refutes the statement that there was a great want of care and responsibility shown by the staff, and the conditions under which we were working were not normal.

Further during the 8 years I have been in this Office no theft has occurred previously whilst Chief Storekeeper, of the P. V. R.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. GREGORY,

CHIEF STOREKEEPER P. V. R.

unreliable fence not the one stated in paragraph 9. Paragraph 10. Mr. Scordouis who is now with the Committee still states that the cashier at the Treasury informed him that the cash could not be paid in after 2.50 p.m., he further states that cash was handed in from the selling clerks to Mr. Simson, twice daily at about 11.30 a.m. and 2.50 p.m. The cash received in the morning was mostly paid in the same day, and also if possible the cash received in the afternoon.

Further, Mr. Scordouis states he had no knowledge that cash could be left for safe keeping at the Treasury until after the theft had occurred. The investigation showed the money had only been received at Treasury on one Sunday previous to the date of the theft.

Para 11. I have now ascertained that the dates mentioned in this paragraph were the dates the cash was omitted to be paid in with the exception that out of Rs. 44.27 received on the 13rd September, Rs. 15.97 the morning takings were paid in.

Para 12. Regarding the Rs. 120.00 for the Kolar-men at Likoni, at the time of their disposal for crossing to the new-land to receive pay was very limited, it was necessary to keep their wages somewhere.

Para 13. It was the duty of the Office Boys to see that the windows etc. were properly closed and the keys handed to the Asahira, and this is the usual procedure in the Police and other offices here.

During this period I was frequently the last one to leave the office and there was always a clerk here waiting who was told to see the office properly locked. That is, all office windows not one office only.

Para 14.

6. It should be remembered that I was running both Military and Civil Supplies, Motor Transport etc with a totally inexperienced staff, as far as supply work and rationing of troops was concerned. I was out of the Office for considerable periods of the day purchasing stores, arranging shipments, forwarding of rations, stores, and cattle. All Ordnance Accounts passed through this Office, and the cost of same was mostly referred to me.

7. In the ordinary course of work in a Supply Office, this would not be the duties of a Director of Supplies, whereas I had no staff qualified to carry out this work, and consequently had to do it myself assisted most ably by Mr. J. V. Parkinson.

8. I would submit that under these circumstances it was impossible for me to personally superintend the carrying out of all my instructions, and accepted Mr. Simson's statement as being true.

9. Regarding paragraph 5 Mr. Scott's still confirms that payments could not be made into Treasury after 1:30 p.m. and I request that the matter be referred to Mr. Simson.

10. At this time the Office was working extremely hard clearing, pricing, selling, and forwarding the "Virwa" stocks, and it must have been on account of this rush of work that these payments were neglected. Referring to the report by Messrs. Hobley and Eastwood, I beg to submit the following remarks. Para 8. The plan attached to the report is incorrect and I have attached a correct one. Mr. Simson worked in the clerks office marked "1 of 8" clerks and accountants, and the window that was found open is the one marked with a red cross nearest the unlimb-

In (S. No.) No. 5/3 of June 25th 1915

Chief Storekeeper's Office,

P. W. I. Mombasa.

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June 4th, 1915.

Theft of Cash Box.
 Ref. your DESD/15 dated 20/5/15.

Sir,

With reference to the apparent inaccuracy in my statement of 5th October in the light of the enquiry, I have the honour to point out that the statement in Para 2, 6, 7, & 8 were made by Mr. Simson to me and I had no reason to doubt his statement.

2. He had been instructed to pay the cash in daily and I was under the impression that this was being done, and further believe that with the exception of the dates mentioned in Para 11 the money was paid in daily.

3. Frequently, when passing through his office I inquired after the cash, and he informed me it was correct and being paid in.

4. Mr. Simson was sent down as Accountant to assist me, and as such had sole charge of the cash. As he was a Government Accountant with a full knowledge of the regulations regarding cash, the same was left entirely in his hands.

5. It can readily be understood that my duties as Director of Supplies were numerous, I had so many calls upon my time that it was impossible for me to devote much part of my time to office superintendence.

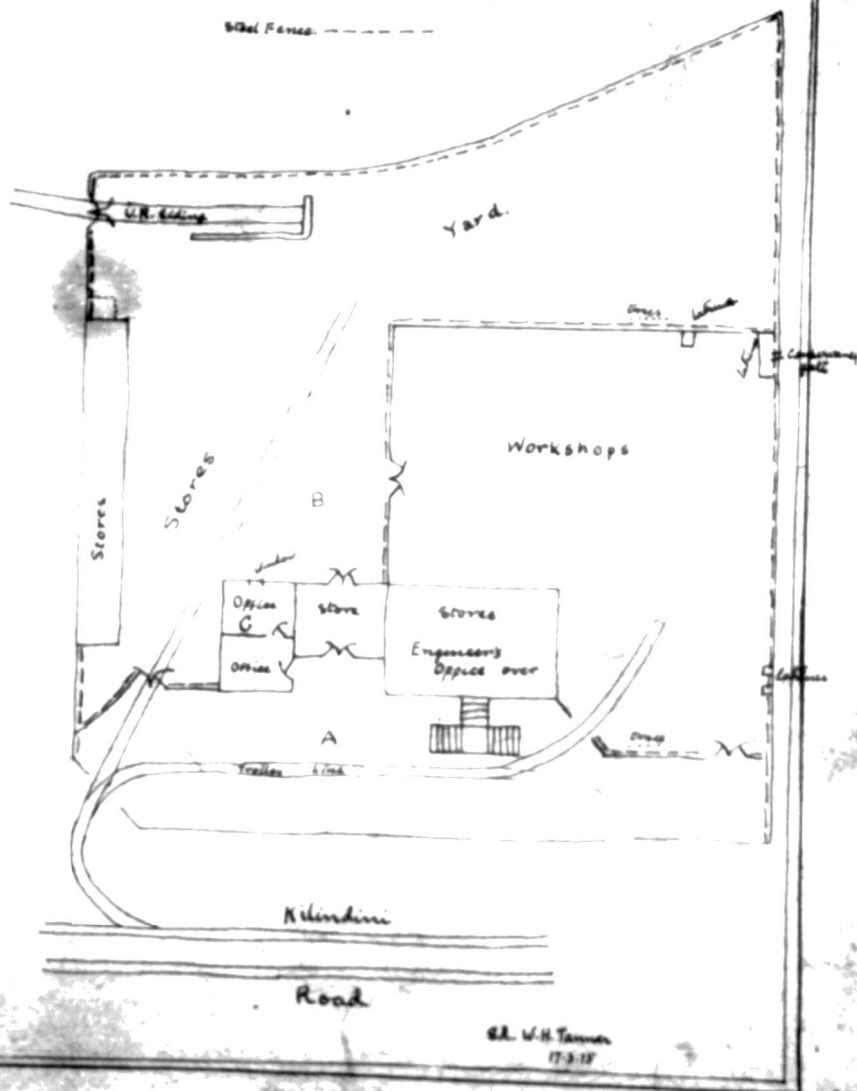
S.

Hon. Chief Secretary
 to the Government,
 Nairobi.

cc. The Director of Public Works,
 Nairobi.

P. W. D. YARD, MOMBASA

Steel Fence - - - - -



Sd. W. H. Tanner

17-3-17

er at any subsequent time.

(19) Although the Mombasa Committee of Supplies reported the theft to the Central Committee of Supplies Nairobi and the report is signed by two members of the Committee there is no record of the occurrence in the Minutes of these proceedings it was not officially reported to the Committee and beyond reporting the case to the Police and leaving it in their hands there was not any local enquiry held on the matter.

(20) It is difficult to say who was the thief although conclusions appear to point in one direction but there was undoubtedly a very great want of care and responsibility shown by the staff employed on this work. It seems incomprehensible that a box with a large sum of money in it should have been left lying on a table in a room to which access could easily be obtained from the window without taking any steps or precautions to see that the window was properly protected either by iron bars or by a guard.

I have etc.

Sd/- C.W.Hobly

Provincial Commissioner

Seyidie Province

Sd/- B.Eastwood

General Manager

Uganda Railway:

This can not be accepted in the light of the evidence we obtained.

The windows of the room "C" were open when the Offices were opened on the following morning and had been open all night.

They had been opened from the inside as the bolts and fastenings were not broken. The Office boy was very sure of his facts and stated that what made him so positive was the fact that when he opened the Office the floor was covered with water. A reference to the rainfall records showed that 2.14 inches of rain fell on the Sunday night.

(17) In addition to the main gates which close the fence of the P.W.D. premises and so make it an unbroken enclosure there is a service gate for the latrines which is usually open opening on to the waste ground between the P.W.D. Yard and the Railway. The Police Inspector stated:

"Search was made throughout P.W.D. and adjoining grounds with no results".

He informed us that he made the search on the adjoining grounds because he was aware of this gate and the ease with which it made it possible for a person to get on to the piece of waste ground and there break open the box.

(18) From the foregoing statement can be adduced the following explanation of what took place. The Office was guarded in the front but not at the back. The back had a window opening on to the Storeyard which was accessible from the waste ground outside the yard by the latrine service gate. The window had been left unfastened when the Offices were locked up for the night and the removal of the cash box was a matter that rested entirely upon the convenience of the thief.

There was little if any possibility or probability of detection either at the time of the theft

There was therefore no-one on whom the responsibility of the charge of the office was definitely placed and no-one who had the responsibility of seeing that the building was securely fastened with respect to both doors and windows. If a man working in the outer office should be the last to leave he took no notice of anything as regards the inner office where the loss occurred.

- (14) On the Sunday in question the Accountant who had charge of the cash left the Office about 11.0 o'clock and the box was then on the table. Other clerks left at different times the last one being a Hindu clerk named 'Pundit'. Mr. Pundit at first failed to remember what had taken place on the day but afterwards admitted that he might have locked the door on that occasion.

Mr. Pundit returned to the Office about 2.0 o'clock took the keys from the Askari and left about 4.30 locking up the Office and returning the keys to the man in charge. There was another clerk in the Office during part of the afternoon. Mr. Pundit worked in the outer office and stated that he did not enter and had no knowledge of the inner room.

- (15) Mr. Webb Morris was not in the Office on the Sunday. He was under the impression that it was the Sunday that Mr. Gregory spoke to him concerning the theft but this was not the case it was on the Monday. His original statement therefore is not of any value.

- (16) It is stated that all the doors and windows had been securely fastened and I quote an extract from the Police investigation:-

'From the fact that no windows or doors were forced it seems probable that the box was removed through the open door and the box being so close to same this could easily be done'.

commencement of operations.

(11) The statement that money was not paid in owing to the Treasury not receiving it loses all its importance from the fact that money was not promptly paid in or when it should have been paid in on occasions other than the one when the theft occurred. Money taken on Wednesday and Thursday September 23rd and 24th was not paid in until Friday the 26th money taken on Saturday Monday and Tuesday September 26th and 28th and 29th was not paid in until Wednesday the 30th. Money taken on Thursday October 1st. was not taken in until Friday October 2nd. and money received on Friday the 2nd. was not paid in on the following day and was stolen on Sunday the 4th October.

(12) In addition to this the box also contained from October 1st. the wages of the Motor transport men.

The amount received on that date was Rs.1893.00 of which Rs. 440.00 remained unpaid at the time of the theft. The box was therefore being used for keeping money in that there was no intention of paying into the Treasury and this fact still further decreases the importance of the complaint put forward that the Treasury would not take the money at certain time and in consequence it had to be kept the best possible way.

(13) The procedure then employed with regard to the care and custody of the Offices is open to severe criticism. The keys were in the charge of the P.W.D. Askaris the Office boys usually got them first to open the offices in the morning. When the staff went to lunch the last man out locked the outer door and gave the keys to the Askari on duty. The first man back from lunch got the keys to re-open the office. The last man away at night locked up the building and the keys were again placed in the charge of the Askari on duty.

care and foresight employed that it was the duty of those concerned to exercise and employ.

(7) A plan of the M.W.D. Yard at Mombasa is appended and will be referred to in the details that follows:-

(8) The Office of the Mombasa Committee of Supplies was in the building marked 'C'. This room opens out of the entrance room of the Office and has a window in it opening out on to the Stores Yard marked 'B'. The window has glass and wooden louvre doors both of which open down their length in the centre. The space marked 'A' is the front courtyard of the M.W.D. Offices and is enclosed by either a steel unclimbable fence or the office buildings and cut off from the remainder of the yard.

(9) The courtyard 'A' was guarded by two M.W.D. Askaris in the daytime and by a guard of the Civil Hospital Askaris during the night. These men patrolled and guarded only the front of the buildings and the Courtyard 'A' the Stores yard 'B' had no guard in it. This is a matter of importance as the window of the Office 'C' opens into the Stores yard.

(10) It was stated that money could not be placed in the Treasury either on Saturday afternoons or during Sundays. In a way this statement is correct but it is misleading. Money could not be taken to the Treasury and paid in and taken into account during these times but it could be taken and left at the Treasury for safe custody the accounting being made on the following Monday. The Treasury was open on both Saturday afternoons and Sundays to afford means for the prompt payment of natives employed in connection with 'Defence' money had been paid in on one Sunday previous to the date of the theft it has been paid in since that date and there was no reason why it should not have been so paid in from the

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Askaris doing duty at the P.W.D. were searched with no result.

Search was made throughout P.W.D. and adjoining grounds with no result.

The clerks employed in the P.W.D. Office are of long standing in various Government Department and there is no reason to suspect them. It would appear that there was considerable carelessness on part of whoever was responsible in leaving the cash box in the tables so near the outer doors- from the fact that no windows or doors were forced it seems probable that the box was removed through the open door and the box being so close to same this could easily be done- the thief evidently knew the Office and the contents of the box.

(b.) This report did not satisfy the Central Committee of Supplies Nairobi who forwarded it to the Chief Secretary and an enquiry was ordered the result of which is herewith given.

(c.) The information gained at the enquiry does not agree with the account presented to the Central Committee of Supplies there is no reason to think the cash box was stolen on the Sunday morning there is reason to think the theft was deliberately planned by a person with a knowledge of what was taking place in and what was the usual procedure in the Office there is no reason why the cash should not have been placed in the Treasury for safe custody, and there does not appear to have been the

at 11.0am on 4/10/14 leaving on desk an ordinary cash box containing cash and notes estimated at Rs.2248.18 of which Rs.665.00 were in cheques on visiting the Office at 8.0am 5/10/14 he found the cash box missing.

Worbut E. Pereira Chief Clerk P.W.D. states he left Office at 10.30 am on 4/10/14 does not remember seeing the box at all that day.

Victerien S. DeMello Typist P.W.D. states he left the Office at 12.30 when the Office was being closed did not notice the cash box Mr. Hewitt came to the Office at 11.30.

Michael De Sousa Clerk P.W.D. left Office about noon and returned at 2.30pm leaving again at 4.30pm ^{pm} no other clerk named Punitt was also there and left with him handing keys to P.W.D. Askari.

John Hewitt left the Office at noon and did not return.

Abdulla bin Mawani P.W.D. Watchman states he locked the Office at mid-day on 4th October and at 1.30 Hassanani came for the keys. No-one went to the Office between 12.0 and 1.30 office closed again about 5.30 and keys handed to him by a clerk. Saw no-one carrying a box.

Yussuf bin Hassan P.W.D. Watchman took over keys from Abdulla at 5.30pm. Saw no-one carrying anything from the Office

The houses of several Hospital

Mombasa Committee to the Chief Secretary-Nairobi in a letter No. 297/14/E/14, dated the 7th October 1914.

I have the honour to forward letter from the Director of Supplies reporting the theft on Sunday the 4th October of Rs. 2248.18 from a cash box on his Office. The circumstances are fully detailed in the Director of Supplies' letter.

I attach a copy of my letter of the 9th August to the Treasury Officer Mombasa instructing that some one should be on duty in the Treasury Sundays and Weekdays. This letter was sent on account of the great inconvenience caused by the early closing of the Treasury at a time when other Government Offices were working long hours overtime both Sundays and weekdays and though the opening from 8.0am to 6.0pm might have been somewhat modified during the last ten days I consider it most unreasonable that a well staffed office such as the Treasury should have had no-one on duty to receive cash from noon on Saturday till Monday morning.

I have the honour to be,
etc. etc.

Sd/ F. S. Major
Official Member

Sd/- C. S. Monsted.
Chairman
Committee of Supplies.*

(*) The case was handed to the Police on the morning of the 5th October and the Police report is given herewith:

* PRECIS OF POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO THEFT OF CASH BOX FROM F. S. D. OFFICE MOMBASA.

Theft report at 9.0am 5/10/14 by Mr. Henry Sison who stated he left the Office

7. On Sunday the 4th inst. the office was opened as usual. Mr. Simson left about 11.0am and the box was then in its customary position on his table. The box was observed to be in its place by one of the clerks at noon but Mr. Morris states there was no cash box visible when he used the table at about 12.30PM consequently it appears to have been removed during the first half-hour of lunch time.

8. The box contained the takings of Friday afternoon and Saturday together with the wages of the Gazi motor-men amounting to rupees 440. The reason the cash was not paid in on Saturday morning was that Saturday's takings were not received until nearly noon and there was no time to make up the cash, the necessary forms and pay in before noon. The box contained the following:

Cheques.....	Rs. 555.
Notes and cash.	<u>1588.18</u>
Total	2348.18

The Bank has been given the numbers of the cheques and asked to stop payments.

Everything in the Office was found in its normal condition and papers were undisturbed when the box was missed.

No trace of the box has been found and the Police are now conducting investigation.

Cash was always paid in at the earliest possible moment.*

(8) This was forwarded by the Chairman of the

3. No safe was available and although I realised that considerable risk was entailed by leaving a cash box with cash in it there was no other alternative.

4. After the arrival of Mr. Simson from Nairobi who came to act as Accountant Mr. Parkinson handed over the box to him and he took sole charge of the cash.

5. Of late larger sales have taken place.

6. A few days ago Mr. Simson enquired of the cashier at the Mombasa Treasury if he could obtain a safe and was informed none were available. He also mentioned to Mr. James, the Treasury Assistant, how risky it was leaving large sums of money in an ordinary cash box; that payments could only be made to the Treasury before 3.0 P.M. on week-days and noon on Saturdays and that cash was received here in the afternoons after the Treasury closing time. Mr. James agreed that the only thing to be done was to await the re-opening of the Treasury.

Previous to this Mr. Simson endeavoured to obtain accommodation in the safe of the Executive Engineer of the P.W.D. but was unable to do so.

INCLOSURE ⁷⁹ No. 2

In P.O. No. 5/3 of June 25th 1915

UGANDA RAILWAY

General Manager's Office

Nairobi April 1916.

Confidential.

No. _____

Sir,



We have the honour to forward you herewith our report upon the theft of the cash box containing Rs. 2248-18 from the Office of the Committee of Supplies, Mombasa.

(2) The report of the theft was made by Mr. C. Gregory, Director of Supplies-Mombasa to the Chairman of the Committee of Supplies in a letter dated the 6th October 1914:

1. On the 6th of August as Director of Supplies I opened a store in the P.W.D. Yard and sold to all persons wishing to purchase stores. The cash was handed to Mr. Parkinson who obtained a cash box from the Treasury.

2. The cash etc. received was paid to the Mombasa Branch of the Treasury daily but it was impossible to deal with the cash taken on Saturdays and Sundays till the following Monday as the Treasury was closed at 12.0 o'clock on Saturdays.

To
The Hon'ble
The Chief Secretary
to the Government
Nairobi

7. On Sunday the 4th instant the Office was opened as usual. Mr. Simson left about 11 a.m. and the box was then in its customary position on his table. The box was observed to be in its place by one of the clerks at noon but Mr. Morris states there was no cash box visible when he used the table at about 12.30p.m. consequently it appears to have been removed during the first half hour of lunch time.

8. The box contained the taking of Friday afternoon and Saturday together with the wages of the Gas Meter men amounting to Rs. 440/- The reason the cash was not paid in on Saturday morning was that Saturday's taking were not received until nearly noon and there was no time to make up the cash the necessary forms and pay in before noon. The box contained the following:

Cheques Rs. 686.00.

Notes & Cash 1683.18

Rs. 2348.18

The Bank has been given the numbers of the Cheques and asked to stop payment.

Everything in the Office was found in its normal condition and papers were undisturbed when the box was missed.

No trace of the box has been found and the Police are now conducting investigations.

Cash was always paid in at the earliest possible moment.

34/- C. Gregory

Director of Supplies

Mumbai.

IN EXERCISE No. 5/3d June 25th 1915

DIRECTOR OF SUPPLIES OFFICE

M O M B A S A

5th. October 1914.

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1. On the 6th. of August as Director of Supplies I opened a store in the R.W.D. Yard and sold to all persons wishing to purchase stores. The cash was handed to Mr. Parkinson who obtained a Cash Box from the Treasury.

2. The cash etc. received was paid to the Mombasa Branch of the Treasury daily but it was impossible to deal with the cash taken on Saturdays and Sundays till the following Monday as the Treasury was closed at 12 o'clock on Saturdays.

3. No safe was available and although I realised that considerable risk was entailed by leaving a Cash Box with cash in it there was no other alternative.

4. After the arrival of Mr. Sison from Nairobi who came to act as accountant Mr. Parkinson handed over the box to him and he took sole charge of the Cash.

5. Of late larger sales have taken place.

6. A few days ago Mr. Sison enquired of the Cashier at the Mombasa Treasury if he could obtain a safe and was informed none were available. He also mentioned to Mr. James the Treasury Assistant how risky it was leaving large sums of money in an ordinary Cash Box; that payments could only be made to the Treasury before 5p.m. on week-days and noon on Saturdays and that cash was received here in the afternoons after the Treasury closing time. Mr. James agreed that the only thing to be done was to wait the re-opening of the Treasury. Previous to this Mr. Sison endeavoured to obtain accommodation in the safe of the Executive Engineer of the R.W.D. but was unable to do so.

and the conclusion reached was that it was impossible to fix the responsibility for the loss upon any of the officers concerned.

3. I have therefore the honour to request sanction to write off the sum lost.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

A. C. B. B. B.

GOVERNOR.

37144
REC.
SER. 12 AUG 15

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA 75

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 513.

June 25th, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Director of Supplies, Mombasa, reporting the circumstances of a theft from his office of a cash box containing Rs. 2,248.10.

Director
Supplies
6-10-14
Report

The theft was investigated by the Police without result and subsequently I instructed the Acting General Manager of the Railway and the Provincial Commissioner, Seyidie, to hold an enquiry.

Director
Supplies
4-8-15

3. I enclose a copy of their report together with the remarks of the Director of Supplies to whom the same was forwarded.

4. The circumstances of the case have been carefully considered by me in Council

and

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

In the Agricultural Dept. who is doing
£200 a year. A fine of £75 would
press very hardy on him, and in view of
the inconclusive character of the findings
and the fact that he was working in unaccustomed
surroundings & probably at high pressure I
shall be inclined ^{not} to enforce it.

W.C.S. 27.9.15

Write off

alone P.M. 27.9.15

Done