

EAST AFR. PROT.  
4156 15/16

1154  
16 JAN 16

Copy  
Bowring Conf.  
1915

Reportation of L.W. Ritch

1915

22 Dec.

Seeds report from various officers dealing with points raised in the Steel-Maitland's memorandum. Considers that his removal was justified as a measure of necessary precaution.

next previous Paper.

30 Dec 15/16

~~Mr. G. Fisher~~  
Mr. G. Fisher

See also  $\frac{4150}{53786} / 15 + \frac{for}{4157} / 15-16$

As to disaffected Indians, compare what is stated in para: in for<sup>2</sup>: Secret semi-official despatch of 2 Dec/15 (44507/15 for). This despatch is a pretty complete reply to Mr. Ritch. Some of his statement is obviously false & there is no corroboration of others. The only favourable testimony is that of Mr. Ewart & this is open to question as para: 5 & 6 of his l<sup>2</sup> are not borne out by Mr. Major & Mr. Sanderson, two officers of higher

To Ritch.  
Copy of above (to Mr. Ewart) 4 Feb 16  
10 G.P.O. (H.M.S. Conf. 12) 4 7.6.16

Next subsequent Paper.

for  
4157 15/16

higher standing + with better  
official records than Mr E:  
In the connection, see the Conf.  
Reports - Mr E's File herewith.

head west was  
Official on who  
used the Article  
which in the  
of the Town

Now Inf. Mr Ritch, in continuation  
of our ltr of the 24<sup>th</sup> of Jan:  
on R 15.16, that Mr Brown  
3064  
has now received a report  
from the pres<sup>nt</sup> of the S.A.P.  
regarding certain points which  
were raised by Mr R. during  
his interview at the CO on  
the 10<sup>th</sup> of Aug: 15, + that this  
has only strengthened him in  
the view that the local  
authorities were amply justified  
in the action which they  
took in his case -

Mr. Tinnant  
Send a copy of desps: some, something  
the report for pres<sup>nt</sup> Mallett +  
saying that a copy of this was  
submitted in the L.O. ltr of  
the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov/15 ( L.O. 53786/15 ),  
+ enclose copy of our reply  
to Mr Ritch -

higher standing + with better  
official records than Mr E:  
In this connection, see the Conf.  
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the 10<sup>th</sup> of Aug: 15, + that this  
has only strengthened him in  
the view that the local  
authorities were amply justified  
in the action which they  
took in his case -

Mr. Tinsant  
Send copy of deep: some, omitting  
the report from Mr. Malleon +  
saying that a copy of this was  
submitted in the L.O. l<sup>r</sup> of  
the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov/15 ( W.O.  
53786/15 ),  
+ enclose copy of our reply  
to Mr Ritch -

Send the J.O. in continuation  
of our l<sup>r</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 1915?  
on  $\frac{R}{44450}$  115, copy of  $\frac{R}{3084}$  115-16  
+ Spt., copy of the deep: same,  
+ copy of  $\frac{Lor}{4157}$  115-16, together with  
copy of our l<sup>r</sup> to Mr. Ritch  
in conf.  $\frac{L}{117}$  -  
+ send the for<sup>t</sup> file of S. Spruce  
in continuation of our conf. deep:  
of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Oct. on  $\frac{R}{44450}$  115,  
copies of  $\frac{R}{3084}$  115-16 + Spt., the deep:  
+  $\frac{Lor}{4157}$  + our l<sup>r</sup> to Mr. R. ?

H. J. R.

27/2/16

I agree generally.

I do not find that Mr. Ritch's change  
of answers on the part of Mr. Cox + Mr.  
Sanderson is especially dealt with.  
Mr. Cox (not being an official) was not  
referred to + Mr. Sanderson passes it  
over in silence.

This however is a small matter. Mr.  
Ritch only "threw it in" at the end of  
his interview with Mr. Steel + wanted  
to lead additional colour to his

allegations of unfair treatment

his conduct is apparently a somewhat  
discontented and inert official, and just  
the sort of man to come under the  
influence of an agitator like Mr  
Nitch, but even if some account  
be allowed to his account of his Nitch's  
good intentions & actions in the matter  
of the Town Council the general effect  
of this story & its other influences  
on my mind is to establish that  
Mr Nitch was a dangerous man  
to have at large in the Prob  
with the early stages of the war  
that he was roughly  
deported.

[ His conduct in re the goods of  
Crockett is evidence of "character"  
which perhaps he did not think  
was particularly good ]

As proposed

Dr. S. L. Maitland

AS 20/1

28/1/16

28/1/16

As proposed

AS 20/1

AS 20/1

allegations of unfair treatment

Mr. West is apparently a somewhat  
discontented and inert official, and just  
the sort of man to come under the  
influence of an agitator like Mr.  
Natch. Let now if some weight  
be allowed to his account of his hidden  
good intentions & actions in the matter  
of the Town Council the general effect  
of his story & its other influences  
on my mind is to establish that  
Mr. Natch was a dangerous man  
to have at large in the Prob  
with the early stages of the war  
& that he was ~~roughly~~  
deposed.

[ His conduct in re the goods of  
Coyote is evidence of "character"  
which perhaps he did not think  
it to be forthcoming ]

As proposed

28/1/16

Mr. S. L. Maitland

AS 28/1

As proposed

at once

AS. N. 28

---

*Act of Labour*

Colonial Office,  
Downing Street, S.W.

28.1.1916.

Dear Bull,

Deportation of L.W. Ritch.

I promised to let you know about this matter when we heard from East Africa. We did so on Thursday. It is quite clear that Ritch fully deserved what he got and that he has no just grounds of complaint.

Yours etc.,

(sd) ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND.

*William Bull to P.*

Recd  
To S. J. ...  
Hammersmith  
PHONE 21, HAMMERSMITH

attach to top  
AMS  
2.2.16

VENCOURT,  
KING STREET,  
HAMMERSMITH.

1st February 1916.

My dear Steele-Maitland,

Many thanks for your letter re Ritch. All I can say is that I am very much surprised. Next time I see you I will have a word with you on the subject. I shall of course treat your letter as confidential.

Yours very sincerely,

*William S. ...*

Arthur Steele-Maitland Esq., M.P.  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street, S.W.



Colonial Office,

Downing Street, S.W.

28. 1. 16.

Dear Robertson,

Deportation of L.W.Ritch.

I promised to let you know when we heard from East Africa and we did so on Thursday last.

It is quite clear that Ritch fully deserved deportation and that he has no just grounds for complaint.

Yours etc.

(Sd) Arthur Steel-Maitland.

Mr R. H. H. H.

J. H. Robertson M.P.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 132.

CONFIDENTIAL.

REC'D  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

22nd December, 1915.

*Set*

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 2nd of September, on the subject of the deportation of Mr L. W. Ritch from this Protectorate in November of last year.

*Co  
39000  
10*

2. I referred the points raised in Mr Steel-Haitland's memorandum to the following officers:- the Commissioner of Police, the General Manager of the Uganda Railway, the Provincial Commissioner, Mombasa, the Chief of Customs, Mr R. M. Ewart, Superintendent of Police, Mr S. Sanderson, Superintendent of Inland Revenue and Conservancy at Mombasa, Mr J. F. St. A. Fawcett, Brigadier-General Malletsen, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hawthorne. I now transmit for your information copies of the replies which have been received from all these officers, with the exception of Lieutenant-Colonel Hawthorne's report which I will forward immediately on arrival.

Reports.

*24  
4157  
115-16*

3. My personal knowledge of the circumstances

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, F.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

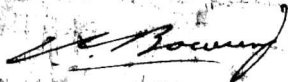
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

circumstances connected with Mr. Ritch's deportation is limited to the information contained in the various reports which have been furnished. I never met him, nor had I any communication with him, official or otherwise. I am however convinced that the Protectorate has long been a hotbed of Indian sedition, and it has now been proved that some of the principal and most dangerous agitators were among those who ranked as Mr. Ritch's personal friends. I am therefore compelled to believe that his continued presence in the country would have been attended with grave risk, and that his removal was justified as a measure of necessary precaution at an unusually critical period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,



Done at  
by GOVERNOR.

INCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 62 of 22 April 1915  
Ambr

SECRETARIAT

No. S. 10848

Date 10 15

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. C. 9/5/15.

4154

26 JAN 16

Office of the Commissioner of Police,

P.O. Box No. 135, Nairobi,

5th October, 1915.

Re. Mr. L. W. Ritch.

Sir,

With reference to your Confidential letter No. S 10848/71 dated 3-10-15 I have the honour to inform you that I can only refer you to the affidavit forwarded you under cover of my O. 9/3/14 of 20-1-15 to which I have nothing to add.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(S.) W. A. J.

Commissioner,

K. A. Police.

The Honourable,

The Chief Secretary,

NAIROBI.

ENCLOSURE

SECRETARIAT  
S. (S.M.)  
11-11-15

12 Dec 1915/32 of 22/11/15



GRAPHIC ADDRESS.  
AGER. M. R. B  
Box No. 57.

# Uganda Railway

50

HEREFOR  
REPLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

General Manager's Office.

C. 21/16/435.

Nairobi November 9th 1915.

M. E. A.

To  
The Honourable  
The Chief Secretary  
to the Government,  
NAIROBI.

Sir,

Mr L. W. Ritch.

Your No. S. 10648/72 dated 2nd October.

I have the honour to offer the following remarks on

Mr Ritch's statements:-

- (1) The Railway Strike. Mr Ritch said he had been briefed to defend at Nairobi, Dufta Batta charged with having killed Mr Higgins, A.D.C. When he arrived there he found the strike in progress. It had already been going on over a week.

Mr Ritch arrived in Nairobi on the 21st July - the strike commenced on the 20th July. It had therefore not been going on for a week, but only a day, and it lasted only a week altogether. The trouble arose first at the Coast, when Mr Ritch was there, and he followed it up. He was also in Nairobi a fortnight to three weeks before the strike commenced.

- (2) The Indians on strike came and placed before him a catalogue of complaints for him to submit to the Hon. Mr. Taylor.

Why should the Indians follow any such course when according to Mr Ritch's own statement he did not arrive until the strike had been on for a week. If true it means

*Supra*  
*Noted*  
*...*

that the men struck work without giving any reason for their action. The facts point to the contrary. At the interview the men had with Mr Taylor on Sunday the 19th July they most definitely and decidedly stated that the only cause of complaint they had was the Poll Tax. Any other and later cause of complaint was influenced by Agitators, and if Mr Ritch was not in Nairobi, his principal satellite, Mr Mohr Chand Puri was. As a matter of fact Mr Ritch was in Nairobi before these claims were put forward.

Acting on advice from outside sources, Mr Taylor on Wednesday evening, July 22nd, held a meeting of representatives of the men (at which none of his staff were allowed to be present) to invite from them statements of any grounds of complaint whatsoever they had against the Railway Service. At this meeting, Mohr Chand Puri (to whom I have previously referred) was one of the principal speakers on behalf of the men. He had been in the country only six weeks, had no employment, and had never had any connection with the Railway.

These complaints were not actually formulated and presented until Sunday July the 26th, when Mr Ritch and Mr Davis, (of the "Standard") first called on Mr Taylor and presented them, persuaded him to meet a deputation of the men that same afternoon, which he agreed to, and the whole of the proposals were then granted. This decision was arrived at without any consultation with or reference to the different heads of departments.

- (3) He thinks that Mr Blake Taylor would give him a good character. He said that the Public Works Department man had also gone out on strike and had been out for a week or two weeks but he persuaded them to go back.

The Public Works Department man went out after the Railway men, and went back with them, so that they had not been out on strike for a week or two. They went back on Mr Taylor's promise that he would arrange the remission of the Poll Tax for them.

- (4) (1) The flour was bad, (2) that their

(2 Contd) lands or housing accommodation were not sufficient. (3) they objected to the Poll tax which they had not allowed for when entering into contracts to come (in passing he said that these contracts should be revised). (4) they complained about the arrangements for bringing their wives and children over which had not been properly carried out.

As before stated, with the exception of No.3, not any of these matters were in any way/originally connected with the cause of the strike.

(5) Mr Blake Taylor asked "Ritch" to see him. "Taylor" would say that he, "Ritch" persuaded the Indians to give as well as to take and "Taylor" was so pleased at "Ritch's" settlement that he paid the funds their wages for the whole time they had been out on strike. Those at Nairobi who knew best realized that his "Ritch" help in the strike was considerable.

There was no "give and take" as far as the Railway was concerned, it was all "give". Mr Taylor certainly gave the men pay during the time they were on strike but he so fully recognised how wrong he had been that he was personally going to pay the amount involved, as he felt he could not ask the Government to do it. The promise to agree to the men's claims was made, as before stated, by Mr Taylor on the Sunday afternoon, when it was generally known that at least two-thirds of the men were going back to work the following morning regardless of any conditions or concessions.

(6) A strike of the Running Staff (Station Masters &c.) also threatened but he "Ritch" insisted on their not coming out or else it would have occurred.

Every effort was made to induce the Running Staff to come out, also the clerical staff, but it was not Mr Ritch that stopped it. The factor that governed the decision was that the Seans could not be induced to join the strikers.

(7) Mr Ritch said that in the absence of specific charges to rebut the best that he could do was to give evidence of his character. He went to South Africa 26 years ago. For 15 to 16 years he had been connected with Mr Ghandi, Lord Amthill, and Sir Charles Bruce who could speak for his character.

I believe Mr Ritch was induced to leave South Africa for the country's good.

- (8) His only motive throughout has been to draw the Indians and the British together. He would defy anyone to put his finger on any utterance or writing of his which was not thoroughly loyal in character. As a matter of fact he never met disaffected Indians in East Africa, and there were none in the sense that disaffection was known in India i.e. persons hostile to the Crown and the Imperial connection.

This statement is and must be wilfully untrue, as East Africa is and has been full of sedition. This has been known to many who have come into direct contact with the Indians, and for Mr Ritch, who was received with honour by the Indians on his arrival at both Mombasa and Nairobi as their accredited representative to profess ignorance of such a condition of affairs, and to expect the belief of such a statement is to imply a want of intelligence on our part that would be lamentable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.,

Sd/ E. Eastwood.

General Manager.,

Uganda Railway.



INCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL.

In Reply, please to 132 of 132 Section 19/3  
Provincial Commissioner's Office,

Mombasa,

November 8th, 1925.

Mr. L. W. Ritch.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your No. 10848/74 of the 4th ult.

I have little to add to what I previously wrote with regard to this matter but would state that it is worthy of note that several of the Indians with whom Mr. Ritch was known to be intimate have been since arrested and are being tried for sedition.

Mr. Ritch, in his statement, suggests that references as to character be obtained from Mr. Ewart. In this connection I beg to attach certain papers with regard to the removal of property belonging to an enemy subject named Goetze and its disposal to his friend Mr. Gabriel, the latter shortly after the purchase became bankrupt and the unused balance of the property of the interned alien enemy was sold at Mr. Gabriel's sale.

Mr. Ritch entered the premises and removed the property under a power of attorney from Mr. Goetze; he gave no receipt to the caretaker for the property and has, as far as I know, made no attempt to pay for the goods, in fact he could only do so through Government as Goetze was interned in India and has, it is said, since died there.

Mr. Gabriel returned to the country a few months ago and proceeded to Nairobi. I am informed that he had the bearer of a number of confidential letters to

The Honourable

various

The Chief Secretary,

NAIROBI.

various Indians in the town and was supposed to be begging for funds but of this I have no confirmation.

Considering the amount of sedition which we are now assured is to be found among the Asiatics in Mombasa and the intimate relations which existed between Mr. Ritch and these people, the role in which he came to this country viz: Agitation on behalf of the Asiatic community, I am more convinced than ever that his removal by the military authorities was wise.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) C. W. Hobley,

Provincial Commissioner,

Seyidie Province.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,

BOMBAY,

6th August, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 177/X/15/14 of the 4th March last I have the honour to state that Mr. Ritch's action does not in my opinion call for any action on our part.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) J. W. Barth,

Attorney General.

The Honourable

The Provincial Commissioner,

Bombay.

Mombasa,

P.C.No.421/X/15/a/14.

June 8th, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your No. 26 of 1915 dated 27/5/15 re property of a prisoner of war named Goetze formerly proprietor of the Africa Hotel Mombasa.

Mr. R. W. Ritch held a Power of Attorney from Mr. Goetze and it is stated that under that document he removed from the Africa Hotel a quantity of furniture and wines and handed them over to Mr. Gabriel of the Cabins Restaurant in payment of a debt.

Mr. Ritch was deported to Europe by the military authorities here in November last and Mr. Gabriel has since left the country. All Mr. Gabriel's effects were sold before he left.

I attach a list of the property which was made out by Peter the Goan Steward at the hotel.

I have, &c.,

(Sd) C. W. Hobley,

Provincial Commissioner.

Col. W. A. Hilliard,

Superintendent,

Civil Camp,

Belgaum,

I N D I A .

Belgaum Civil Camp,

Dated 27th May, 1915.

From Col. W. E. Hilliard,  
Superintendent Civil Camp,  
Belgaum.

To  
The District Commissioner,  
Mombasa.

Sir,

Mrs. Goetze, one of the German ladies under my charge, reports to me that when she and her husband were removed from Mombasa for internment in India they left their Agent, Mr. Ritch, in charge of their hotel (the Africa Hotel in Mombasa) with authority to receive all payments and remit them to India. Mrs. Goetze says that in spite of numerous applications for money and information regarding their property they can get no reply from Mr. Ritch and now they hear from other sources that this gentleman has left Mombasa and the proprietors of the hotel fear he has taken with him all the money which should have been remitted to India. May I ask if you will be so kind as to cause enquiries to be made as to the truth or otherwise of the reports Mrs. Goetze has received and if it should turn out that Mr. Ritch has left would you make such arrangements for the safeguarding of the property until the proprietors are able to return to it.

I have, Sir,

(Sd) W. E. Hilliard,  
Colonel.  
Supdt., Civil Camp, Belgaum.

517  
Provincial Commissioner's Office,

Mombasa,

No.177/X/15/14.

March 4th, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a report from Mr. Sanderson re some property taken away by Mr. Ritch from the premises of Mr. Goetze, an alien enemy, now interned in India and would enquire if this calls for any action on our part.

I have, &c.,

(Sd) C. W. Hobley,

Provincial Commissioner.

Hon'ble Judge Advocate General,

NAIROBI.

Mombasa,

4th March, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a list of provisions and furniture which was taken from the Africa Hotel premises by Mr. R. W. Ritch.

The list was made out by Peter the Goanese Steward of the hotel. Mr. Ritch held a Power of Attorney for Mr. Georg Goetze, formerly proprietor of the Africa Hotel. Mr. Ritch handed these provisions and furniture over to Mr. Gabriel, of the Cabins Restaurant, in payment of a debt. Mr. Gabriel has since disposed of these things by auction.

I have, &c.,

(Sd) S. Sanderson.

The Honourable

The Provincial Commissioner,

Mombasa.

515

List of Furniture.

**From Bar Room.**

- 1 Piano
- 1 Music glass case.

**From Mr. Goetze's Room.**

- 1 Big Cupboard with mirror
- 1 Dressing table cupboard with cloth
- 1 Writing table with book
- 2 Fancy china tables
- 1 small table
- 1 Double spring bed with mattress and curtain
- 1 Fancy carpet
- 2 Jugs
- 2 Basins and soap dish

**From Room No. 1.**

- 1 Dressing table
- 2 Jugs
- 1 Mirror
- 1 Basin and soap dish

**From Room No. 2.**

- 1 Dressing table
- 2 Jugs
- 1 Mirror
- 1 Basin
- 2 Chamber pots
- 1 Bucket
- 2 cane chairs

**From Room No. 6.**

- 1 Dressing table
- 2 Jugs
- 1 Basin
- 1 Mirror
- 1 Hat Rack.



E. 15A

List of Provisions.

40	bottles	mineral	Nocera Umbra
6	"	Brandy	X X X X
10	"	"	X X X
3	"	Champagne	qts.
1	"	"	pts.
3	"	"	+
7	"	Margour	
3	"	Fronsac	
7	"	St. Jul	
11	"	Medoc	
6	"	Whisky	
2	"	Vermouth	
2	"	Stone Gin	
53	"	Gratzler	
18	"	Scrog	
20	"	Beer	qts.
6	"	Pilsiner	qts.
22	"	Beer	pts.
14	c/s	Summer Beer	qts.
3	"	Gratzler Beer	
2	"	Red Wine	
1	"	Rum.	

ENCLOSURE

11-10-13

SECRETARIAT
No. S. 10848
1943
Recd. 11-10-13

8.

513

~~Confidential~~

8th October 1943.

The Honourable

The Chief Secretary,

Mumbai.

Mr. J. S. Bitch

Your No. 12848/78 of the 10th October  
1943.

+++++

Soon after I came back from leave on August 10 of last year I was asked by the Officer Commanding Troops Mombasa, Capt. Saunders, to take over the Indian contingent of the Mombasa Town Guard then under Mr. Bitch, as he (Capt. Saunders) was not at all satisfied about organisation of the Force - Lieut. Maul, late Dorsetshire and Light Infantry, and Lieut. Christie, late 10thancers, both I believe in the Special Reserve of Officers, who were then in Mombasa were appointed by the O.C. Troops Mombasa to be two of my section commanders, Mr. Bitch being the third.

2. I proceeded immediately to the recognised

Orderly

Orderly Room of the Force viz. one of the Police Officers, Mr. Mitch handed over the Muster Roll and Ration list

for the car I recollect being sent for by me. He then left saying that he had a good deal of other business to attend to. After that he was conspicuous in his absence.

3. I found that certain patrols had been arranged for and in the evening at about 5.30 I held a parade of the men and sent out a first lot of the night patrols. Lts. Maul and Guthrie were present, ~~Mr. Mitch~~ <sup>Mr. Mitch</sup> not attend. No objection was then raised by the men who attended to the arrangements made. There was by the way a full attendance.

4. At 10 p.m. Lts. Maul and Guthrie attended at the Police Office to see to the inspection of the <sup>relieving</sup> ~~receiving~~ Guards and practically none of the men turned up.

5. The next day the matter was investigated by me with the assistance of Lts. Maul and Guthrie in the Orderly Room and the result is shown in the attached copy of a memorandum addressed by me to the C.O. Troop.

6. The influential and educated Indians to whom Mr. Mitch referred in his interference at the Colonial Office flatly refused to submit to any sort of discipline - one

of then Sergeant Savala in orderly room stating to me that he was not addressing me as Sergeant Savala but as the secretary of the Indian Association. He has since I understand been arrested for I believe sedition or suspected sedition. It became evident that the so called loyalty and patriotism of these Indians consisted of getting hold of rifles in some cartridges and confining their operations to guarding their personal property in the Bazaar.

7. I then knew nothing of Mr. Pitcher of his former history but from the attitude taken by him I soon formed the opinion that he was a dangerous person to have in the Protectorate, under the conditions then existing and I wrote strongly on a subject of the C. Troops and was. What action, if any, was taken on my letter I do not know but soon after the arrival of the Indian Expeditionary Force from China I received instructions as Censor to stop all telegrams from or to Mr. Pitcher and I subsequently heard that he had been deported.

8. I may mention that on Xmas Day I received an anonymous and threatening letter accusing me amongst other things of being responsible for the deportation of Mr. Pitcher and in which the writer expressed the hope that

that I might have "an unhappy infatuation and prosperous  
 Xmas and that I might see my Grandfather in Hell before  
 Xmas".

9. I still hold the opinion <sup>very</sup> strongly that  
 Mr. Riden was the most dangerous element in the Protectorate  
 and I was not consulted about his deportation and had  
 nothing to do with it.

*Thomas*  
 Chief of Customs.

501

The C.O. Troops,

Mombasa.

Having taken over the Indian Contingent from Mr. Hitch and endeavoured with <sup>the</sup> valuable assistance of Lt. Maul & Arthurie to effect some organization I have at the outset been met with the flat refusal of the majority of the members of the contingents to attend drill or to carry duty.

It appeared to me that the force would be far more useful as Auxiliaries to the Police for patrol duties, especially if they were drilled as far as possible and taught how to use firearms which many of them are absolutely ignorant about.

The men represent that they were enrolled on the distinct understanding that they would not be required to perform any duties except guarding property in the Bazaar.

Under the circumstances as they are volunteers I fear it would be useless to try to compel them to perform duties which they say they distinctly stipulated would not be required of them and I have had to proceed with organization of a different kind.

I report the matter to you as it would appear that so far from the better class of Indians having practically volunteered to join in the general protection of property in Mombasa they are almost wholly actuated by a desire to protect their own property in the Bazaar.

sd. P. V. Major,

Officer Commanding

Indian Contingent - Town Guard.

Mombasa

1 August 1914.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ENCLOSURE

In Reply to *LR 20/22 Accy 11/15*  
Office of the Supdt. of Police,  
P.O.Box No.135, Nairobi,

October 5th, 1915.

Sir,

In compliance with your Confidential letter No.S.10848 dated the 4th October 1915, I have the honour to remark as follows:--

In August 1914 when war was declared and while I was in Mombasa proceeding on vacation leave, waiting for a steamer, I volunteered to do what I could to assist in the preparations for war. I was appointed to organize and command an Indian Contingent of the Town Guard of one company strong.

Mr. Ritch, who I understand, had also volunteered his services was detailed to assist me. He placed his offices, his clerks and stationery at my disposal and they were all used by me continuously in the enrolling and general organization of the contingent. Part of the offices being used as an Armoury and Magazine.

Mr. Ritch gave me, as far as I could judge, his undivided services from early morning until late evening and again during the night, as we frequently patrolled the men on duty. I found him loyal, untiring and keen.

Mr. Ritch's statement regarding the Indians is true. The sons of the most influential and educated Indians did join the contingent and willingly went on duty with the others asking for no favours. The keenness to assist in the operations was such that in four days the force was up to

HON'BLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

Establishment

NAIROBI.

Establishment, armed and on duty and I think that without any difficulty I could have raised it to a double company in a few days longer.

The contingent patrolled the town and took over the duties then being performed by the European Town Guard including the Guard over the interned Germans and Austrians.

The constable referred to by Mr. Ritch was an ex-Assistant Inspector of Police named Smeaton. The actual nominal head was however to have been Superintendent Tyssen who formally took over from me.

I had only met Mr. Ritch once before war was declared and that was as my opponent in a Police case in Kismayu some months previously.

When I left Mombasa I had a very high opinion of Mr. Ritch.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) R. M. Ewart,

Superintendent of Police.



ENCLOSURE

SECRETARIAT
No. S. 10848
Recd. 12-10-15

RECEIVED 12/10/15

Confidential.

Inland Revenue & Conservancy Office,

Memhara,

15th October 1915.

Sir,

Mr. L.W. Ritch

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 10848/VV of the 4th relating to an interview held at the Colonial Office on the 10th of August.

When Mr Ritch first offered the services of a Local Indian Contingent it was not thought advisable to accept.

Afterwards their services were accepted for patrolling the native bazaar. The majority only guarded their own premises. They were very inefficient and in the event of any disturbance would not have been of any material assistance.

They assisted the Town Guard (European) to guard the interned Germans and Austrians for a few days, but eventually were replaced by the European Town Guard.

The European Constable referred to was Inspector H.B. Smeeten, who has since left the Service.

I knew nothing regarding the incident of clothes and boots except that Major (then Captain) Marshall R.F.A. and Captain Wavell 1st Arab Corps, were in charge

Rep.

The Chief Secretary,

MAIRONI.

NUMBER 248.

501

All the drivers could understand English and the majority of them speak it.

They may not have understood Martial Law, but they were certainly obstructive and disobedient.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*H. J. Anderson*

Superintendent,

Inland Revenue & Conservancy.

22nd October, 1915.

Mr. L. W. Ritch.

Reference your No. 10848/78 dated 4th instant.

The incident of clothes and boots.

In the latter part of August 1914 Mr. Ritch stated to Capt. Saunders that the tailors, who were working at the lighthouse, wished to carry out the work in their respective homes and that if they were allowed to do so he (Ritch) would guarantee that the work would be carried out as expeditiously as possible. Capt. Saunders consented to this course and nothing further occurred. I have never heard that the tailors were marched to their work at the point of the bayonet. For verification or otherwise of Ritch's statement I would refer you to Major Marshall R.F.A. who has now left the Protectorate, or possibly Capt. Wavell of the Arab Rifles, who was camped at the lighthouse at the time, may know something about the matter.

Incident of Motor Cars.

The motor car drivers were giving a great deal of trouble and one was arrested by Provost Marshal Cox for refusing to carry out his orders. They could all understand English and the majority of them could speak it. On the morning following the arrest of the driver all the drivers were summoned to Major Hawthorn's Office; I was not present at the interview but I believe Ritch was.

To the Honourable

The Chief Secretary,

(Sd) J. F. St. A. Fawcett,

Deputy Registrar,

High Court.

NAIROBI.

INCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 122 of 22 Decr. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

CONFIDENTIAL.

<b>SECRETARIAT</b>	
No. <u>10848</u>	HEAD OFFICE,
Recd. <u>6-10-15</u>	<b>NAIROBI.</b>
In Reply please quote No. <u>572/8</u>	

and Date **October 6th 1915.**

Mr. W. H. Tanner.

Reference No. 10848/73 of Oct. 2nd 1915.

THE HON. CHIEF SECRETARY,

NAIROBI.

Copies of the only communications between this Office and Mr. W. H. Tanner were forwarded to you under cover of my No. 458/8 of July 27th 1914.

2. I am not of the opinion that Mr. W. H. Tanner was directly concerned in the P. W. D. Artisans going on strike or that he was responsible for their return to work.

3. P. W. D. Artisans were not concerned with the grievances put forward by the Railway employees but merely struck in sympathy with their compatriots when approached by them. They eventually recognised that they were in the wrong and were losing money.

(sd) W. H. Tanner,

Acting Director of Public Works.

Urgent and Confidential.

INCLOSURE

In Dispatch No. 120122 A/c, 19/5

No. 579/4.

507

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.

Nairobi, 11th December, 1915.

From

The A.A. & Q.M. General,  
Command Headquarters.

To

The Hon. the Chief Secretary  
to the Govt. of B. E. Africa.

MEMORANDUM.

The attached copy of Brigadier General Malleon's "Confidential" letter, dated the 9th October, 1915, with enclosure, is forwarded with reference to your No. S. 10848/92, dated the 10th December, 1915.

(Sd) R. G. Macpherson,

Lt. Col.

A.A. & Q.M.G.

W. C. 15  
53/86  
CONFIDENTIAL.

Copy of letter from G.O.C. Mombasa Area, to  
General Staff, I.E.F. "B" dated 9th October 1915.

herewith  
returned.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of War Office letter No. 0165/6949 (M.O.I.A.) dated 7th Sept., 1915, and connected Colonial Office papers which you handed to me in Mombasa a few days ago.

2. As I am the officer more immediately concerned with the deportation of MR. L.W. Ritch, I propose to give in detail all that I know of the circumstances.

3. On the arrival of Expeditionary Force "B" in Mombasa, last November, after the affair at Tanga, I was asked by Major General Aitken to look into questions of martial law, censorship and espionage; presumably because I had had considerable experience of such matters in India.

4. It was soon apparent that espionage was rampant in British East Africa, and suspicion pointed to many Indians being involved. In addition there was a great deal of sedition of a very advanced kind amongst local Indians, and there were many indications that Mr. Ritch, though possibly not fully understanding the gravity of what he was doing, was on very close terms with some of these Indians, especially the less reputable classes, who looked to him to protect and advise them as to how far they could safely go.

5. I made further enquiries about Mr. Ritch and the results were singularly unfavourable to him; the practically unanimous opinion of all those consulted being that his presence was a serious danger. Eventually I was given a paper signed by four prominent residents, headed by the Provincial Commissioner, in which it was stated that the deportation of Mr. Ritch was desirable.

6. On the result of my enquiries being placed before Major General Aitken that officer ordered the deportation of Mr. Ritch, which was duly carried out with all possible consideration and courtesy, as Mr. Ritch will doubtless admit.

7. I have no hesitation in saying that this deportation had for a time a very welcome, quieting effect on the disloyal Indian community of Mombasa, then greatly exhilarated by our rebuff at Tanga. Circumstances which have since come to light tend to confirm Mr. Ritch's close association with Indian extremists of the worse type. In this connection I attach a copy of a letter recently found in the house of a prominent Indian in Mombasa, in which Mr. Ritch's name is mentioned. In that letter it will be seen, reference is made to seducing the loyalty of Indian soldiers, and recent events have shown that this was no idle boast. There have been other similar letters discovered in the possession of, or written by Mr. Ritch's friends. This, I think, should

marked x

should dispose of Mr. Ritch's statement, marked A on Colonial Office papers, that "he never met disaffected Indians" etc.

S. I pass over the strike and all other matters with which I have nothing to do, and comment merely on such points regarding which I have personal knowledge.

- B. The Indian Town guard was inefficient and useless. There was no discipline and Mr. Ritch's influence was all to the bad. I have been informed that he even gave professional advice to Indian members that there was no obligation on them to turn out for parades or guards or to obey orders.
- C. By Mr. Ritch's own statement he had from Thursday afternoon to Monday morning to make representations. By General "Lukin" is presumably meant myself. I informed Mr. Ritch that he was being deported because, on military grounds, his presence in the country was undesirable.
- D. I was informed that Mr. Ritch was not on good terms with the European community, and that the news of his deportation was received with great favour.
- E. Mr. Ritch was afforded every facility to do what he liked. I was approached by Mr. Morrison, the writer of the letters on this file. I explained the case to him, and asked if he would like to make any representation on behalf of Mr. Ritch. He was entirely lukewarm and undesirable of doing anything, and explained he had merely come to me to satisfy Mrs. Ritch.
- F. The suggestion that Mr. Ritch was deported by the military authorities at the instigation of hostile civil elements is entirely false. Mr. Ritch's close association with Indian extremists was the main military motive for deportation; the times being critical and the attitude of the Indians most unsatisfactory. The subsequent local enquiries, which gave results so unfavourable to Mr. Ritch, only tended to confirm the military authorities in the opinion that the continued presence of that person in East Africa during the period of the war was most undesirable.
- G. Mr. Bonham Carter is wrong here. I investigated the case and reported to General Wapshare, who obtained General Aitken's assent to the deportation.

In conclusion I should like to say, after being several months in command of the Mombasa Area, that the further insight gained into the machinations of Mr. Ritch's Indian extremist friends only shows against what a formidable conspiracy we have had to work, and how fortunate it was that the deportation of Mr.

of Mr. Ritch served for some months to check and modify the activities of those conspirators. In fact, with much more information of the type we have recently obtained, there might possibly be good grounds for less favourable treatment for Mr. Ritch, had he remained here, than that of which he now complains.

---



Dear Brother,

It was perhaps fate and our bad luck that in spite of all your services and the efforts of the barrister engaged for the defence of our beloved Brother he should fall a martyr to our holy cause. Fate destined it so but we are prepared to have more sacrifices ready for it only if our cause is upheld and the end gained as we desire. The so-called justice of the English is nothing but injustice apparent; ZULAM seemingly called Martial Law. This so-called Martial Law is exercised only to ruin our nation and to trample on our freedom and hopes for the SAWARAI. Can you not take the necessary steps to move our Congress in this country to protect us against such treatment. Waiting is vain in such emergencies and such opportunities seldom offer themselves so well. We can always with the ever ready help of our Brethren work the Courts of Justice. This Martial Law is only a trap for us as I have already said above and unfortunately there is no appeal against its convictions. In fact it is an unlawful bar against the lawful rights and cause of humanity.

To suffer in silence is foolishness, for which we shall repent if remained inactive, so brethren stir yourselves for once, and you shall be amply repaid. The opportunity is at hand without half the exertion necessary under ordinary circumstances, and it is for us to take the advantage. Once we make up our mind and plunge into the cause heart and soul, success only awaits us. Do your best and tell other

Brothers

Brothers to first of all create friendly feelings between the other races especially Mussulmans, and as soon as the help and sympathies of the other castes are gained, we shall crush the vermin who have crept into our country, and hearts, and deprived us of all our freedom and hopes for SAWAHAJ. It would not be difficult to unite as the late Railway strike has proved to us that if we wish we can make all Indians forget their caste creed and prejudices in necessity, and when the interests of all are concerned to their benefit, and there should be no difficulty for this now.

The so-called Mighty and Independent Power(?) should be made to feel once again, that though we are only a handful out here if we become resolute and are headed by men like the Hon'ble Mr. Jiwaji and yourself, and ably assisted by our dear patron Mr. Ritch and other Brothers, can make them give in to our demands, which they shall be only too glad to yield at this tight hour. To get this, we need only courage organisation, so Brothers move, organize yourselves and let the elders devise means while we prepare to act, and strike for our Country's cause. Our beloved Mother INDIA needs its sadly lost freedom and safety. Let us die or strike them hard to remember again for years to come our deeds as they remember the deeds of glorious men who, lost their lives for their Mother Country in the last mutiny. God helps those who help themselves, is a saying, and let us act, and God will grant our cause without which we are miserable. Let us and other Brothers in Fowj unite and throw off the yoke, and get their freedom to serve and unite our own

INDIA,

INDIA? - the Mother of Rajputs and Kings whose sons are now made to labour and die like dogs and slaves. Unluckily I am bound to my seat in servitude, while you are free and able to act more freely, so Brothers make haste to explain to and express upon all the merchants and businessmen you meet in the course of your business, the truth of our cause, its needs and aims. Also explain to them in touching terms that thousands of our Brothers are needlessly dying for those who have crushed us down, and have trampled down our land of flowers, - INDIA, - and her holy temples. Let us move ourselves to get these brothers out of the slavery when they will work for their own races and country, and die nobly. Is it not better for the soldiers of our so-called Rulers to die for their own country, and Brothers than being made to suffer death from wounds and sickness, and from refusing to run before the enemy (GERMANS) to be shot to death. The ENGLISH braves (?) only keep in front while the shots are not firing, but they run back and let our Indians to get shot when the bullets from the Germans start flying. Is it fair to die for these treacherous and heartless whites called the English, and our protectors? It is a hard fate, and we must check it or die like beasts to save the lives of those who are intentionally throwing our nation into fire.

It is very necessary that you should get together our Brothers Patel, Sharma, Bansilal, Gokall Dass, and other trusted members of the community, and depute men to go and quietly preach the cause, means and aims to our Forji Brothers in the Indian Army, and tell them that they shall get all they want if

only act on our advice which is to refuse to fight the Germans, and so act as to let the English who put them forward to die get crushed under foot. Who is keeping the Germans out of this country? Only our Fowji Bahadurs, but as it is only labour lost and they will gain nothing for themselves by it. So let those who push them to die at the hands of the Germans get the fire on themselves, and thus save their own lives to save their own country INDIA which may some day be a Kingdom as before if Parmatma Please.

I would have taken this duty upon myself in Nairobi, but the work spares me so little time for outdoor work, I am ready to die and give my life for the cause as I once suffered in China, and would not mind a similar fate for our Cause again if necessary, but here it is hard to lose even one active Brother as we are very limited as it is, so I keep my place and shall help as much as I can without causing any suspicion now as it is our losses have already been great.

Warn the Brothers to take care of Mr Ward of the Customs Department. He has been visiting the General too frequently of late, and his conversations have looked suspicious. He it appears intends helping his own coloured Micobes to look out whenever the Brothers meet or move about.

Let Brother Patel return Zanzibar to work hard and organise fast there. Providence has given us sufficient money and aid to carry out our work and aims for the cause all over. He can bring us news and progress whenever he travels about to attend the Court cases at Mombasa. I have nearly managed to receive another signaller at Mombasa, and the engagement will be completed very shortly. We

will call on you as soon as possible to talk <sup>507</sup>  
over our plans and progress. Can you try to  
secure the <sup>code</sup> words of the military telegrams?  
The code words would enable us to read out their  
messages and movements, which would be of great  
help to us. This I think you can easily do  
through some Brother at Mombasa in the Military  
service. You must be meeting them frequently  
and thus you can find your chance to get the  
code words as many as possible. I would have  
tried myself at Voi but the Brothers <sup>in</sup> the  
Military are very closely watched, and we are not  
trusted.

I have written to Kesholall for his views.  
Keep notes and news ready and carefully for  
discussion soon as we meet shortly.

I am praying to Ishwar Parmatma for the  
life help and success which our Brethren need.

Yours fraternally,

SITA RAM. July 1915.

Certified true copy.

Sd. J.C. Wemyss. Captain.  
Staff Captain (Intelligence).

Voi.  
9th Oct: 1915.

Gov. 4154 / 1915  
1916

GP

573

16 February 1916

Sir

DRAFT.

W.

H. Ritch Esq

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper, 1/2/1916

Mr. Bottomley, 12/8/16

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sr J. Anderson.

Mr. Steel-Maitland.

Mr. Bonar Law.

14835

(Recd 3064/15/16)

For file in Section 474 Feb 16

Noted to be copied

In continuation of the letter from this Department of the 26<sup>th</sup> of January I am to inform you that he has now received a report from the Governor of the GP regarding certain points which were raised by you during your interview at this Office on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August last.

3 drafts  
8/1/16

(PTD)

2. The Governor's report  
only has strengthened Mr  
Bonar Law in his opinion  
that the Protectorate  
authorities were amply  
justified in the action  
which they took in  
your case.

RECEIVED HEAD  
FOR THE UNITED STATES

you 4/15/1915  
1916

Earl

C. D.  
R. 2 FEB.  
U. 3.

537

Ind

14 Feb 1916

Quarto  
Mr Steel-Maitland's  
signature

My dear Tennant

In continuation

of my letter of the

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. I enclose

for your info a

copy of further correspondence

relating to the  
deportation of Mr

Mr. Petel from

East Africa.

A copy of Mr

Maitland's report

sent by the post was

enclosed with the

DRAFT

Mr Tennant, M.P.

(Co  
1909/15)

MINUTE.

Mr. Baerger 1/2/16

Mr. DeWally 1.2.16

Mr. Battelle 1/3.

Sir G. Frith.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Mr. Steel-Maitland.

Mr. Bonar Law.

152-22 Dec  
All enclos. except  
last 3 sheets

to Maitland  
(Companion off)  
Feb 1916

46-149

100

Gov. 4154/1915  
1916

EAR

533

(Dra)

4 February 1916

My Lord

DRAFT

of So. Africa  
Confidential (L)  
Buxton

(R 44250/15)

MINUTE.

Mr. Hoyer

Mr. Bottomley 1.2.16

Mr. Lambton

Mr. Brand

Mr. Piddles

Mr. H. Justice

Mr. J. Anderson

Mr. Steel Maitland

Mr. Bonar Law

with reference to my  
confidential despatch of  
the 2nd of October last  
I have the honour to  
transmit to your Ex<sup>ty</sup>  
for the info of your  
Ministers, the acc  
copy of corres. relating

to the case of Mr  
L.W. Ritch, who  
was deported from  
the E.A.P. in November  
1914.

Ritch 30 Dec '15 (R 3064/15/16)  
24 Jan '16 (R 4154/16)  
Gov. Conf 132-22 Dec '15 (4157/16)  
137-31 Dec '15  
L. Ritch