

EAST SEAMOUNT

3517

20 AUG 15

385

Year 1915

1915

FIRM OF MAX KILIN

The copy of letter from the Home Office  
respecting relation of firm with that of Messrs  
Roussier, Mortimore & Coy.

*Mr. [unclear]  
[unclear]  
S. G. [unclear]*

In [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
Gov / 20187 & f. p. is bundle below

From the absence of reference to  
Compendium I inquire P.O. have  
me to see without looking up their  
papers

? [unclear] & [unclear] to be furnished with  
a copy of their reply to H.O. [unclear] H.O.  
suggestion that the [unclear] [unclear]  
should be closed, refer to previous  
compend

[But the H.O. letter is so old that we  
might reply partly].

Handy can - 25 Aug 15

Next subsequent Paper

70/44517

*See [unclear]  
[unclear]*

*W. [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]*

*Verd.  
21/8/15*

*GV 2/1/15*

*MA 2/8/15*

*de [unclear] [unclear]*

For further communication on this subject, please quote

103908/1915

Under Secretary of State  
Foreign Office  
London

3517  
20 AUG 15

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents  
his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies  
and, by direction of the Secretary  
of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned  
paper

Foreign Office

19 Aug 1915

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to from Foreign Office:

Description of Inclosure

Name and Date.	Subject
Home Office July 27	Max Klein

Similar letter sent to India Office

316/4.  
201

402

HOME OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL.

C. O.  
73517  
REC'D  
20 AUG 15

27th July, 1915.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter 72040 of June 14th, regarding the firm of Max Klein, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to forward, herewith, for the information of Secretary Sir Edward Grey, a copy of a report by the Head Constable, Liverpool, from which it appears that the firm of Boucher, Mortimore and Company have been acting for Klein.

In an interview with an officer of this Department, Mr. Shaw, a member of the firm mentioned stated that their firm have been agents for Messrs. Klein for eight years and that he had personal knowledge of Klein and a high opinion of him. Finding, however, that Klein was experiencing difficulties with regard to his cables, Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company, offered to act on his behalf and cables in Klein's interests and signed by Boucher, Mortimore & Company, have been despatched. As Boucher, Mortimore & Company, had made no enquiries into the reason for the stoppage of Klein's cables and

Under Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office.

the

The substituting of their name may have caused evasion of the censorship, their action may be regarded as reprehensible and they have been so informed.

Mr. Shaw stated that the sequestration of Klein's establishment at Marseilles has been removed since the 15th July and Sir John Simon will be glad to know whether this statement is correct, and at the same time he would suggest that if it is desired to stop Klein's trade, this could not effectively be done by closing the African houses, a course which might be suggested to the Colonial Office if Sir Edward Grey thinks it desirable.

I am, Ac.,

(Signed), E. Blackwell.

Special Section, C.I.D.

The Inspector.

6 7 15.

The Supt.

38517  
REC'D  
20 AUG 15

KLEIN - BARCELONA - Late  
of MARSEILLES.

I beg to report having interviewed the Managing Director of Messrs John C. Gale & Company Limited, respecting the letter addressed to the Foreign Office, but he was unable to furnish me with any further details than those contained therein.

I thereupon made enquiries and ascertained that the Steamships "Telmo", "Maria", and "Florinda" were owned by the Serra & Tintore S.S. Company Limited, and that the Liverpool agents were Messrs W.L. Nickels, Sons & Company, of Old Castle Buildings, Pressons Row.

Mr. W.L. Nickels informed me that the whole of the hides shipped on the S.S. "Telmo" were sent by Messrs. Langstaff, Ehrenberg & Pollak, Steamship & Forwarding Agents, Royal Liver Buildings, Liverpool, who informed me that they received instructions to ship them from Gustav Wihl, 68, Major Street, Manchester, a naturalised British Subject of German origin, who had purchased them from John Ockleston & Son, Limited, Runcorn, and was shipping them to Mr. Jaime Rafols, Calle Dormitorio Francisco (5), Barcelona, under License No. 63340.

regarding

Regarding the shipment per the S.S. "Maria" the first four lots were shipped by Messrs Thompson, Anderson & Company, on a through Bill of Lading, having arrived from Rangoon on the 23rd February, 1915, per the S.S. "Tenasserin", the first two lots marked J.D.F.C. being for Messrs T.J. & I. Powell, 24, Market Street, London, and the remaining two, marked P.N.S. for the South Pacific Insurance Company of London, both of which firms could doubtless give further information on the subject if required.

The next four lots marked M.K.H., M.R.M., M.K.T., and M.K.C, were shipped by Messrs Boucher, Mortimore & Company, Liverpool, whose relations with Mr. Max Klein will be dealt with later on, and the remaining lots in that vessel, P.L.A., R.C.M., C.R.D., and L.A.N. were shipped by Messrs Langstaff, Ehrenberg & Pollak under exactly similar circumstances, to the same people, and by the same people, as the shipment per S.S. "Telma" per licence No. 63338.

All the hides shipped in the S.S. "Florinda" were shipped by Messrs Boucher, Mortimore & Company, of Tower Buildings, Liverpool, and 19, Leather Market, London, consigned to the purchaser, Mr. Juan Perpina,

Barcelona

Barcelona, the documents, against the receipt of which Perpina pays, being sent to Klein, the same procedure being adopted with the hides referred to above per S.S. "María".

406

The firm of Bouché, Mortimore & Company, consists of three partners, viz:- Mr. H.W. Mortimore and Mr. E.A. Mortimore, resident in London, and Mr. W.S. Shaw, resident at 8, Rose Mount, Oxton, the latter being in charge of the Liverpool Office.

They are all British born subjects.

The firm of Max Klein consists of Mr. Max Klein, a naturalized American of German origin, and his brother-in-law Mr. Julius Auerbacher, a naturalized British Subject in Cape Colony in 1898, also of German origin.

The Head Office was in Marseilles, and they also had establishments at Aden, Abyssinia, Mombasa and Nigeria, but soon after the outbreak of war, (according to Mr. W.S. Shaw, who at once volunteered all information in his power, and handed me all his correspondence with Klein), on the advice of friends they left Marseilles on account of their German origin, and settled in Barcelona. Having acted as Klein's agent for

sale

sale of hides for some 8 years, Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company, offered their services to Klein in regard to any part of their (Klein's) business; and as their cables to their agencies were either being delayed or miscarried, Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company, were now receiving and forwarding them on Klein's behalf. 40

All the hides and skins from Klein's branch in Nigeria come to Liverpool consigned to Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company and they deal with them here and tranship them &c., and in order to facilitate matters, and at a time when Mr. Klein felt inclined to discontinue operations in Nigeria in view of all his difficulties, they offered to undertake to arrange all the credits with the British Bank of West Africa through whom the financing is done, and for these services Klein offered Boucher, Mortimore & Company, quite voluntarily and without any profit on the business, instead of their working, as they had done heretofore, simply as agents on commission.

I attach herewith a file of letters that have been selected from the huge quantity of correspondence passed between Boucher, Mortimore & Company and Klein since



since the commencement of the war, and which seems to deal with the situation and the difficulties that Klein has undergone during that period, but there does not seem to be anything contained therein which would

4080

indicate anything in the nature of doubtful trading.

Messrs. Boucher, Mortimore & Company is an old established and well respected firm in the City.

(Signed). J. McCoy.

Inspector.

Submitted to the A.H.C. C.I.D.

(Signed). B. Dinkworth.

Supt.

FO 3857/1915.

E.A.P.



111

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25 August, 1915

Draft.

Recd 4/15/12

The U.S. of A

F.O.

24/8/1915 -

Bottomley, 24.8.15

Aug., \_\_\_\_\_

No. 103908/1915, and

to request <sup>to info.</sup> that ~~the~~

if Secy Sir Edward

Grey has no objection  
that he would be glad to  
be ~~may~~ be furnished

with a copy of

the reply returned

to the Home Office

letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> of

P.T.O.