

DESPATCH

EAST AFR. PROT.

N<sup>o</sup>. 10916C. 4  
10916Rec'd  
26 MAR 08T<sub>2</sub>  
112

1908

6 M.L.

previous Paper

10004

(Subject.)

Death of Supt Rogers

Tr. Report

(Minutes.)

Mr. Rev

7 Octy Est. 3 to 1000 hours

B.C.S.

20/3

M 30/3  
done

previous Paper

C.O.

Governor's Office 2815

Mombasa REC'D  
Ref 28 MAR 08

March 6th 1908.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 112

(1908.8)

My Lord,

In confirmation of my telegram No. 42 of  
 the 10th ultime notifying the death of Sergeant  
Ringers of the European Police, I have the honour  
 to transmit herewith reports on the sad event from  
 the Inspector General of Police and the Principal  
 Medical Officer together with a brief account  
 suitable for communication to the relatives of the  
 deceased.

I have the honour to be,  
 with the highest respect,

My Lord,  
 Your Lordship's most obedient,  
 humble servant,



S.S. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

GEORGE STEWART,

LONDON, S.W.

Machakos.

Yereth 5/26

10PM C.O.

## INCLUSION ACT

Report - In Despatch No 10 dated 6/1908

10916

REF

REF 26 MAR 08

On the 16th February 1908 a telegram was received  
in Nairobi from Athi River camp station to the effect  
that the Native Constable, John Morgan, had been  
killed by natives at his camp. The telegram advised that  
the Native Constable had been shot in the head & had  
died at 10 a.m. on the 15th February 1908. The Native  
Constable had been shot in the head while lying in his  
camp bed, in his tent, with a bullet wound passing through  
his left eye and out at the back of his head in a diagonal  
direction, the brain protruding. He was dressed in a  
flannel shirt, sleeves rolled up, & khaki trousers &  
brown boots. His shirt, the bed & the ground sheet were  
saturated with blood. The remainder of the furniture had  
been moved out of the tent. There was a ~~missed~~<sup>missed</sup> hole in  
the canvas of the tent about 3' from the ridge pole evidently  
caused by a bullet. On enquiry it was ascertained  
that the boy that he had been sleeping in the camp was

up at 6 a.m. on the 15th February 1908 & went to bring him water to wash with, the boy did so & then told him to leave his water pot which had remained on the table in the tent overnight, after doing this the boy returned & saw a native sitting in the camp chair holding the camp bed with a revolver in his hand & pointing it at his face looking into the native who was dropped on the bed. Before the boy could do anything the native pulled the trigger & fell back in the chair. The boy ran & told the native police who are stationed in the camp and the Lance Corporal sent forward to Mr Morgan, an European who lives some distance off, and to Police Constable Williams at the adjacent camp 2 miles

miles from Athi River. Mr Morgan arrived soon after 10 a. m. & found Sergeant Rogers still alive but unconscious he removed him from the chair & placed him on the bed & propped his head with pillows. Police Constable Williams arrived shortly afterwards. Sergeant Rogers revolver was lying on the ground sheet. It contained 2 cartridges. Sergeant Rogers died at 10 a. m. Mr. Lieutenant Colonel ~~Wright~~ Captain Hester, M.D. being requested him to telegraph for Dr Wiggins as ~~Wright~~ a doctor. On examining the furniture Captain Smith found blood stains on the left arm & on the seat of the chair, also some blood stains on the edge of the camp table. Dr Wiggins did not consider a post mortem necessary & stated that death had taken place 6 hours previously. (I attach Dr Wiggins report hereto)

Captain Smith removed the body to Nairobi & took possession of Sergeant Rogers private papers, & of the revolver.

On going through his papers, there could be found no reason for Sergeant Rogers committing such an act, except that he was worried about his sister's engagement to a man he did not approve of. He left no letter stating his intention to commit suicide.

  
J. B. Scoble  
Inspector General of Police.

THE SECRETARY

TO THE ADMINISTRATION.

Inquiry as to death of Sergeant Rogers

A. A. P. Police.

Witnesses sworn

I am Hospital Officer A. A. P. at Nairobi. In consequence of a report received yesterday I went to Long River at No. 2 Camp on quarantine outpost. In camp there I saw the body of Sergeant Rogers of the Marigana Police. Sergeant Rogers was dead he was lying on his back on his Camp bed. There was no one present but not fully.

There was wound on left eye and at back of the head evidently due to a bullet wound there was brain matter protruding from the wound behind. He had evidently been bleeding from eye nose & mouth all dried when I saw him. His death was due to the wound. The wound corresponded with a 450 bullet. There may have been marks of shooting but I did not see them owing to the blood all over the face and to extravasation of blood under skin. Direction & everything else corresponded to a self inflicted wound. Exhibit 1 is about size of bullet.

It was impossible to say one way or another if he had been suffering from gun or not.

(Signed) A. Margison.

17-2-08.

## INCLOSURE NO.

83

In Despatch No. // of Dec 6 1908.

DRAFT REPORT.

Name. Sergt. J. A. Rogers.

Nationality. European.

Age. 35.

Sex. Male.

Date of death. 16 February 1908.

Cause of death. Gunshot wound of head.

Place of death. Police Camp, Athi River.

## History.

An urgent message received by Dr. Wiggins from P.M.O. accompanied by a telegram, at about 1.30, stating that the deceased had shot himself, and was still living.

Dr. Wiggins left Nairobi by special train just after 2 o'clock and arrived at the Camp just before 5 o'clock and found that the patient had died at about 11 a.m.

was reported by telephone as negotiable.

On examination a bullet wound in the left eye was found, the bullet having passed through the brain, and gone out of the back of the head, in the right of the occipital bone, and from thence to the roof of the tent. The body was brought to Nairobi at about 5.30 p.m. and placed in the mortuary.

No post mortem made.

An inquest was held on the 18th and the verdict given was "suicide & the King cannot be made."

Dr. J. A. Wiggins

Counter-signed

Principal medical officer.

## INCLOSURE No. 3

In Despatch No. 117 of Dec. 6 1908.

COPY.

Death of Sergeant Rogers of the European  
Police Force, Nairobi, on the 15th February 1908.

On the 15th I received a telegram from the Athi River Station, informing me that Sergeant Rogers, who was engaged on the plains some six miles from that station, had been found dead in his tent. I at once notified the Police and Dr. Wiggins, and in a very short time they left in a special train for Athi River Station.

From the evidence at the inquest it would appear that in a moment of temporary mental aberration, Sergeant Rogers had shot himself with his revolver, and that death had been practically instantaneous. No medical aid could have been of any assistance. It was impossible to say whether Rogers's condition leading up to the act had been caused by sunstroke, the sun at the time having been very powerful and the heat on the Athi Plains greater than usual.

S.S./- J. WILL

Principal Medical Officer,