

EAST AFR. PROT

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<p>Wa. Office</p>	<p>Baron on May 21 & H. P. Magee</p>
<p>1915</p>	<p></p>
<p>21 Oct Last previous Paper No. C 2223 (Mayer)</p>	<p>Sends for exam. stamp from Soc. Sec. Admin. Bureau and recommending that for military reasons the case be closed, as soon as it appears how resistant to Soc. Sec. the case is. (Mayer)</p>
<p>Ans'd 30 Oct 15 Mayer Next at long past Paper 8/10/15 H</p>	<p>Re: <u>Baron</u> Re: <u>H. P. Magee</u> And the 21 of a copy of same of the 21st of May 1915 saying that it will be seen that <u>Baron</u> is not qualified for naturalization either. <u>Baron</u> & <u>Magee</u> are the same person? to be in the same position? etc. He had better give the application back at the end of Jan. 1916</p>

that some special arrangement
shd. be passed, as the matter is
rather one for the U.O. than the
A.O. & would have to be taken up
as part of a general resolution
independently with the A.O.?

H. J. R.

22/2/15

The only new point here is that both
have now said to be "replenished" in
"our secret service" (last and last one)

I doubt whether such secret service
could be allowed to count as being
"in the Service of the Crown" but even if
it could, 5 years in the Service
of the Crown would be the necessary
qualification which, it seems
clear, neither possesses

Perhaps in order to complete the
position here of - as letter to
Lionel Sturges, we may not
add that above resident in
a particular case, if they are
in the Service of the Crown, then
- certificate of work under the
1914 Act, not from the Crown
but from the Sops, but
that 5 years within the last
5 years before application is
necessary, and that neither
of them seem to possess
that qualification XH 2/15

The Secretary
to act with
and (2) it is
usual to require
such to be over

I agree. It makes no difference
really, I think, as to the
I'd about time as of hand if they complete
then to be justified in so doing
Not to be entirely true of the

1/11/15

As to 2/15

1/11/15

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to

The Secretary
War Office
London, S.W.

and the following number quoted

0165/8988 M.O.S.

C.O
49617 450

War Office,
London, S.W.

21st October 1918.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to transmit, for the information and observations of Mr Secretary Bonar Law, copies of correspondence received from the General Officer Commanding the Troops, British East Africa and Uganda, recommending that for military reasons two German subjects Baron von Maydell and R.F. Mayer, now resident in British East Africa, may be granted certificates of naturalisation.

I am to state that enquiries made unofficially at the Russian Embassy and Consulate in London show that Baron von Maydell is unknown at either institution and the military authorities at Petrograd report that they are unable to trace any Baron Maydell whose father was Governor of Noval, but that there are several persons of this name known by Russian authorities and that fuller details of the person will be necessary to enable them to trace his identity.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Copy

SECRET C.O.
 48817
 1915

No. 941/B

Command Head Quarters, B.E.F. & U.

Nairobi. 18th August 1915.

FROM: The General Officer Commanding Troops,
 British East Africa and Uganda
 (I.K.F. "B")

TO: The Secretary,
 War Office,
 LONDON

SIR,

In regarding the attached correspondence, I have the honour to request that special steps may be taken to assist the two individuals mentioned to obtain papers of naturalisation.

I am fully aware that there are considerable difficulties as both the persons named are not in the position to comply with conditions in force as regards naturalisation but in view of their peculiar position at the present moment, which is not only dangerous but impossible, and of the special services which they are now performing on our behalf, I am strongly of the opinion that some steps should be taken to grant them the necessary safeguard.

They can only be termed traitors to their country and whilst materially assisting British military interests out here to a greater degree than a large number of British subjects, they have not the elementary rights of British citizenship.

In this connection I venture to invite your attention to the following extract from "The Times" of 25th June 1915 with special regard to the concluding lines:-

Sir John Sison in the House of Commons states -

"that 1886 applications for exemption had been granted and 1886 refused. Naturalisation was

now

"now refused to all enemies except in the case
 "of women who, being British by birth, became
 "German by marriage to Germans and now, being
 "widows, wished to escape the stigma of their
 "German names; and also in the very rare cases
 "of persons whose services were specially need-
 "ed for work which they could not do as enemies".

In my opinion this is a rare case and the services of both these individuals are especially needed.

Mr Mayer's case is fully known to the Colonial Office. As regards Baron Von Maydel, all his papers are now in German East Africa where he had to leave them when he came over to us. He has been living in German East Africa and is a German subject. I am legally advised that the requests made cannot be granted unless some special arrangement is made to meet such cases as these. But for the reasons given, I hope His Majesty will give special consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

(sd) H. G. G. G.

Major General

Commanding in British East Africa & Uganda
 (I.K.F. "B")

may I beg for a great favour

I am Russian born my father was Russian Governor in Revel my mother was Russian. As my mother wished if I became naturalised so that as a boy of course had to join the German navy and as soon as I came out of age I left it. My sympathies were never with the Germans as they knew quite well and as I simply couldn't fight for them and I wasn't allowed to become prisoner of war but was ordered to go to the front. Unless I could be sent, I went over.

I believe that I have given ample proof that I am as loyal to the British Government of any true Englishman might be and I think it would be better to be a British subject as soon as ever possible. I quite well understand that according to the law it can't be done now, and yet I hope that the Government may grant me this favour now, as my case is an exceptional one. As in addition a further proof of my loyalty that, as I heard now, the German Government never thought that I simply deserted but that they knew that I would ask to be allowed to join the British forces and that owing only to the distrust of the Government I've been sent to India as prisoner of war. The reason why I don't ask the Government at once to join was that I had to consider the natural distrust of a deserter, but chiefly because I knew my wife and my three children to be in the hands of an unscrupulous foe.

I know that the naturalisation would not alter my fate in case I should get caught by the enemy but the knowledge

knowledge of being bound not only by sympathy but
by law too to the British nation, whom I always
liked best and whom I am so happy to be able to help
now, would be a great comfort to me.

Yours
Sarah Maydell

March 31st-1915

Dear Mr Simmons,

I am most anxious that you should try again to obtain for me naturalisation papers, and from the local authorities I understand that it would be possible for the home Government to pass some sort of an "emergency act" for here or even for England as I am told that there are similar cases to mine at present before the home authorities. To help you I am sending you enclosed three letters in support of my application, one from the Chief secretary to the local administration, the Hon. Mr G.S. Bowring, another from H.H. Judge Hamilton our Chief Justice the first two have known me since I came to this country 15 years ago, the last one since he is here himself, some 5 or 6 years, I could have obtained many other letters but as these represent the chief heads of the local administration I thought it was sufficient.

From my point of view the matter is very serious and I think I have a right to ask the British Government's protection in view of my present and past actions.

To refresh your memory and also to give you the necessary details you may require, I am giving you again the reasons for which I expect my application to be allowed.

I was born in Frankfort am Main on February 3rd 1874

In 1898 I went to South Africa to join a relation in Kimberley and near the end of that year I joined the artillery section of the Diamond Field's Horse to help in the suppression of the Pkwani rebellion, I took then the oath of allegiance to the late Queen Victoria and understood that by this action I was recognised as a British subject

subject as there was no other colonial naturalisation law.

In 1900 owing to business depression in South Africa I came to this country and have resided here ever since. In 1897 I became a member of the Church of England (see copy of Affidavit from our local Chaplain) The original is with the authorities here.

Some years ago my local solicitor tried to obtain naturalisation papers for me but was informed that this was impossible as there was no naturalisation act here. In May 1916 you also tried in London and advised me that a colonial naturalisation act would be in force in this protectorate probably in July of last year, therefore as soon as I returned to this country before the declaration of war I went to the Crown Advocate to enquire whether the law was already in force and was told that it had not yet arrived from home. To day I am the only German subject allowed to reside in this country.

The home authorities who receive our paper "The East African Standard" regularly must be aware of the fact that we are the strongest supporters of the local military authorities and we have been several times thanked for our help, further I have been asked to help them in translating confidential documents for them.

My position is very serious, I have always acted as a British subject as I consider myself to be since taking the oath of allegiance in 1896 yet should the British Government not give me the support which I consider I have the right to expect seeing that I took up arms in their defence, and have helped them loyally for years, then, as the local military authorities have warned me, I am running the risk of being considered a traitor to Germany and should I fall into German hands my fate is not a brilliant one as my paper has been very strongly anti-German.

My firm, Anderson and Mayer is a British firm and all my interests are British.

My friend in London, Brig.-General Owen Thomas who has joined and is in command of the 1st Brigade of the Welsh army corps will also speak in my favour and our agent Mr. J. J. B. Saffery of 35 Queen Victoria Street has known me and my paper will speak of my strong British feelings.

My ambiguous position is naturally doing harm to my business and thereby to my partner who has as you know 6 English children (of which one son is now serving at the front) entirely dependent on her.

Please do your best for me and if you should be successful I would be grateful if you would send me a cable so that I may publish the fact at once in our paper

Thanking you in anticipation

etc.

The Secretariat
East Africa Protectorate
Nairobi
March 30th 1915

Dear Mr Mayer,

You have asked me to record in writing that I have known you since your arrival in East Africa fifteen years ago, and I understood that you have reason to believe that such a certificate from me will assist you in obtaining your naturalisation papers as a British subject.

I have pleasure in certifying that I have known you since the year 1900 and that I am aware that you have been associated with the publication of the "East African Standard" first at Mombassa and latterly in Nairobi for about 12 or 13 years.

I am also aware that you have been endeavouring to become a naturalised British subject for some time past but you have been unable to do so owing to the fact that the Naturalisation Act of 1870 is deemed not to apply to a British Protectorate.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

(sgd) C.O. Bowring

(Chief Secretary to the Government)

The Secretariat
East Africa Protectorate
Nairobi

March 30th 1915

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Believe me,

Yours very truly,

(sgd) G.O. BOWRING

(Chief Secretary to the Government)

High Court of East Africa

Mombasa

22/1/15

Dear Mr. Maysr.

Your position as regards naturalisation as set out in your letter of the 20th inst seems to be most unfortunate. If it will be of any assistance to you I am happy to state that you have been known to me ever since your arrival in East Africa and that to the best of my knowledge you have always been a quiet and law-abiding citizen.

I am,

Yours truly,

(sgd) R.W.Hamilton

re Rudolf Franz Mayer

This is to certify that I have known Rudolf Franz Mayer for the past 6 years - he is the joint proprietor of the Standard Printing and Publishing Works, Nairobi and of the East African Standard, a daily and weekly newspaper circulating in East Africa and Uganda.

His firm is one of good standing in Nairobi and nothing is known against his character.

(sgd) W.K. Notley
Commissioner of Police

Nairobi

12th December 1914

re Rudolf Franz Mayer

This is to certify that I have known Rudolf Franz Mayer for the past 6 years - he is the joint proprietor of the Standard Printing and Publishing Works, Nairobi and of the East African Standard, a daily and weekly newspaper circulating in East Africa and Uganda.

His firm is one of good standing in Nairobi and nothing is known against his character.

(Sgd) F.A. Hottel
Commissioner of Police

Nairobi

18th December 1914

B.G.Allen
Solicitor.

Nairobi,
East Africa.
7th July 1915

Sir,

At the request of Mr. R.W. Mayer, of this town, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Mayer consulted me, as his lawyer, some four or five years ago with a view to procuring him to be naturalised as a British subject in this Protectorate. After making every enquiry I had to advise him that it was impossible owing to the state of the law for him to be naturalised and that his only course would be to go to England and live for a lengthened period there to qualify himself for naturalisation in England. This the exigencies of his business prevented him from doing.

Mr. Mayer has frequently renewed the subject with me during the last four or five years but I have continually had to give him the same advice.

I am personally aware that he has made every endeavour to procure naturalisation in this Protectorate without success owing only to the state of the law.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) B.G.Allen

The General Staff Officer (S)

Command Headquarters

SECRET

Copy of a letter from the D.A.A. and Q.M.G. Command
Head Quarters, E.E.A. & Uganda, No.941/1 dated 8th
July 1915

You are no doubt aware that there are two German subjects
Mr R.F.Mayer of NAIROBI and Baron Von Maydell, late of
German East Africa and both now resident in British East
Africa. Both these gentlemen are most anxious to become
naturalised British subjects and ask that they receive
special treatment. This is recommended.

Mr R.F.Mayer was born in Germany and has resided since
childhood in South Africa and British East Africa. He
fought for us in 1906 and has taken the oath of allegiance.
As there is no Naturalisation Act in the Colony he is
unable to obtain naturalisation papers. He is now em-
ployed in our secret service and has done excellent work
in justice to him and as a protection for the future,
it is most desirable that he be made a British subject
without delay.

Baron Von Maydell was born a Russian subject of Russian
parents, being naturalised a German at 18 years old. Soon
after the outbreak of war he came over to us from German
East Africa and has since been most useful to our secret
service.

As a German subject this man's position is now an
extremely dangerous one and in fairness to him I strongly
urge his being given his English naturalisation papers.

The General Officer Commanding wishes to apply for
special facilities to be given to the above two gentlemen
as, in the interests of the Public service their natura-
lisation is most desirable.

As there is no naturalisation law in this Colony

application

application must, it is presumed, be made to the Home 63
authorities. Could this be done by the Protectorate
Government ?

Certified true Copy.

(sgd) J.L.Kenny S.Candy

Superintendent

Command Head quarters B.S.A . U.

SECRET

464

12183/Vol.11/4

The Secretariat, Nairobi

East Africa Protectorate

13th July 1918

To the D.A.A. & Q.M.G.

Command Head Quarters, Nairobi

Your No.941/1 of the 8th inst respecting Mr R.F. Mayer and Baron Von Maydell.

As regards the former, please see our file S.12183 which is attached for the G.O.C.'s inspection and return. His Excellency fears that nothing can be done in this case.

As to Baron Von Maydell, if the necessary particulars are furnished in full together with his application and affidavits in support thereof, and these papers are covered by a letter from the G.O.C. recommending and explaining his reasons His Excellency will forward the documents to the Secretary of State for consideration. The Judge Advocate General will be able to advise as to the nature of the necessary papers.

(sgd) W.J. Monson

for Chief Secretary to Government

48617 2 H. 1
15

C. D.
R. 290GT
19

465

8c

30 Oct 1915

Sir

DRAFT

The Secretary
War Office

MINUTE

- Mr. Farrell 28/10/15
- Mr. Bottomley 28/10/15 f
- Mr. _____
- Mr. _____
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

I am to ask the rest of your
letter of the 21st of Oct (0165/698x M.A.S)

enclosing copies of ~~copy~~ received from
the G.O.C. the Troops, British East Africa

and (I guess, regarding the suggested)
grant of certificates of actualisation

to two German subjects Baron von
Meydell and R. F. Mayer

2 I am to enclose for the

information of the A.C. a copy of a
letter addressed ^{from the Office} by ~~my~~ ~~direction~~ with

21 May 1915 (in 22230)