



PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

This organisation pays no heed to district boundaries. Its agents are active wherever Lumbwa live or work outside their own country, e.g., the Kisumu-Londiani district is reported to be divided up and controlled by 5 Laibons; the Nakuru district by 3 Laibons, and the Mumuruti and Manyuki districts by 2 Laibons.

The lesser Laibon make a living by employing a few agents and thieves, but they are only allowed to practise by the goodwill of their more influential relations.

The organisation of the Laibons is efficient, and it is extraordinary how they have dovetailed it in with our Administration. At several large meetings held by the District Commissioner in the Reserve recently, the Lumbwa have made it clear that unless Government removes all these people, in the very near future, more serious trouble will follow. The Local Native Council have expressed very strongly the same sentiments.

The organisation fears and resists all progress such as schools, the improvement of stock management, dairying and agriculture, for these witchdoctors know that the progress of education will destroy their power over the people.

All Officers who have had connection with the Lumbwa tribe have considered the possibility of using the Laibon organisation on the side of Government, but I am satisfied that this is now impossible.

6. Since last December, the matter has received active investigation, and the immediate outcome has been:-

The conviction of a Laibon and the Lumbwa connected with a burglary on the farm of Mr. Duir; the convictions of 2 Laibons and 2 Lumbwa for being in possession of stolen firearms and ammunition; the conviction of a Lumbwa for the theft of a shot-gun; the conviction of the thieves and the recovery of 8 head of cattle in 2 stock theft cases; the recovery of 7 head of stolen cattle;

the arrest of a Laibon for being in possession of a stolen firearm; the arrest of 3 Lumowa on a charge of robbery; the conviction of 2 important Laibons for witchcraft; the arrest of another important Laibon for inciting a number of Lumowa to steal cattle; and the discoveries of many thieves and cattle in old cases. Thefts from Europeans in the district have ceased and trouble on the Kisii and Central Kavirondo borders has practically come to an end and it is necessary to guard against a recrudescence.

7. I shall address you further, in the near future, as to the methods to be used in combating the criminal activities for which the Laibons are responsible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

BRIGADIER-GENERAL.

G O V E R N O R.

1. Reported in March 1931 - investigated - undetected.
2. Investigated - undetected.
3. Investigated - undetected.
4. Believed stolen 1931 - reported August 1932 - too late for investigations.
5. Believed all same case - investigated - conviction obtained
6. Not reported.
7. Reported - unidentifiable property - not taken up.
8. Not reported.
9. Unidentifiable property - not taken up.
10. Investigated - unidentifiable property - undetected.
11. Unidentifiable property - not taken up.
12. Investigated - undetected.
13. Investigated - undetected.
14. One case - conviction obtained.
15. Collective punishment & enquiry held - no recommendation owing to complainants failure to follow tracks.
16. Investigated - conviction obtained.
17. Investigated - undetected.
18. Investigated under Fire Enquiries Ordinance - accused known - awaiting trial.
19. One blanket only - investigated - undetected - theft reported on 7th June.
20. Investigated - undetected - complainant compensated.
21. Investigated - undetected.
22. Investigated - occurred in November - conviction obtained.
23. Investigated - accused acquitted for lack of evidence.
24. Accused convicted - Shs. 240/- worth of property recovered.
25. Offense occurred on 11/12/32 - small part of property recovered and one accused had his bail estreated.
26. Investigated - undetected.
27. Attempted robbery - investigated - undetected.
28. Offense occurred 3 years earlier in 1929 - rifle recovered - Laibon convicted.
29. Nothing known about this.
30. Investigated - case occurred in April not October. Amount Shs. 800/- cash of small denominations - undetected.
31. Date wrong - 15th October 1932 - indecent assault not attempted rape.
32. Investigated - undetected - value exaggerated.
33. Investigation not proceeded with - no clues and property unidentifiable.
34. Investigated - undetected.
35. Investigation not proceeded with.
36. Not reported.
37. Investigated - heifers not recovered - undetected.
38. Investigated - heifers recovered on another farm - collective punishment & enquiry held.
39. Value of Damages recovered by Administration, Kericho.
40. Case disposed of by Council of Elders Court.
41. Not taken up - property all cash - loss discovered at van house but no knowledge of where or when theft occurred.
42. Investigated - 4 accused convicted - 2nd died before arrest.
43. There is only Mrs. Rowe in this district and she knows nothing of this.
44. Not taken up - unidentifiable native property.
45. No report of theft of Angora rabbits - complainant reported theft of fowls but said that he had dealt with the matter summarily himself.
46. Not true.
47. Investigated - undetected.
48. Investigated - accused 2 convicted.

Abducted girl an official's daughter.

A native was convicted of indecent assault and net rape. It occurred on 15th October 1952, in a room off the verandah, whilst the parents were in another room.

23026/m Kenya

Air mail 17 Jan

376

C. O.

Mr. Fruton 1st. p.

Mr. Tomlinson  
Sir C. Bottomley  
Sir J. Shuckburgh  
Sir G. Grindle  
Perm. U.S. of S  
Parly. U.S. of S  
Secretary of State

O.D.  
R 15 JAN  
B 15-

Sir

I have rec'd

inform you that my  
attention has been drawn  
to an article, of which  
a copy is enclosed, in  
the current issue of "East  
Africa" alleging numerous  
cases of lawlessness among  
the Luo. (2) In view  
of the possibility that enquiry  
may be addressed to me

DRAFT.

Kenya  
Conf. (2)  
Lyon

~~1 (in file)~~

Request to obtain second  
copy of article to replace N.P.  
NE in file.



on the subject. I shall be glad to receive a report upon the general accuracy of the statements in the article, and the steps taken or in contemplation by you to in connection with the alleged disorder.

3. In this connection I have the honor to refer to the corresp. terminating with my dep. Confidential (2) of the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1933

(2 on 3056/33)

(Signed) PLYMOUTH  
(for the Secretary of State)



# Lawlessness in Kenya.

## Astonishing Facts from Nyanza.

Exclusive to "East Africa."

Under Matters of Moment we deal with complaints received by us during recent months of lawlessness in the Nyanza Province of Kenya. The most carefully compiled list of crimes within the personal knowledge of any of our correspondents is that sent by Captain H. B. Dooner, of Sotik, who has furnished the following particulars:—

*Cases of burglary, theft, etc., on Captain Dooner's Estate during 1932 and 1933. All cases were reported to the Police officer at Chemagel (Sotik), who has records on his files.*

*Cases in 1932*

Description	Loss in Shillings	Action taken by Police
1. All blankets, sheets, etc., stolen from my bed at 7 p.m.	130	Nothing further heard.
2. All ditto from my wife's bed	130	Nil.
3. 1 fully branded trained ox stolen	80	Nil.
4. 1 fully branded trained ox stolen	80	Nil.
5. Burglars stole <i>posho</i> , etc.	35	Burglar convicted.
6. do do	35	Nil.
7. Theft of new rope	25	Nil.
8. Kitchen burgled	50	Nil.
9. do do	45	Nil.
10. Orchard raided	50	Nil.
11. Burglary of concrete store and harness stolen	60	Nil.
12. Burglary of labour lines: blankets, cooking pots, etc.	40	Nil.
13. Burglary of Nubian headman's house goods stolen	30	Nil.
14. Cutting of plantation timber to build huts in Lumbwa Reserve	150	Nil.

**Total value of loss in 1932, Shillings 940 = £47 0 0.**

*Cases in 1933*

Brought forward	940	Nil.
Feb. 20. Burglary of kitchen	40	Nil.
Mar. 7. Burglary of garage	265	Nil.
" 12. Theft of doors	25	Nil.
" 12. Theft of doors	50	Two convictions.
" 12. Theft of beehives, honey, wax, etc.	2,871	Nil.
" 14. Burglary of house	657	One conviction.
" 16. Theft of beehives	107	Nil.
" 18. Fire and theft of hives	600	Nil.
May 6. Theft of blankets	20	Nil.
Aug. 22. Burglary of garage	205	Collective fine
Nov. 8. Burglary of factory	65	Nil.

Total, Shillings 5,845

Less recovered:—  
shs. 35 + shs. 205 = 240

**Net loss to Capt. Dooner, Shillings 5,605 = £280 5 0.**

NOTE.—In the two cases in which shs. 35 and shs. 205 were recovered, investigations were made by Captain Dooner personally, the Police having failed.

In the case of the one conviction, after burglary causing a loss of shs. 657, investigation was also undertaken by Captain Dooner, but nothing was recovered.

In the case of conviction for the theft of doors, this was also investigated by Captain Dooner, but nothing recovered.

In no case were the Police or District Administration successful.

(Signed) H. B. DOONER.

That, even if an isolated cases were to be damning enough. But any settler in the district can testify that it is not a strange exception. Captain Dooner has also supplied us with the following list of other Sotik cases known to him and recorded on the Police files:—

Date	Description	Loss in Shillings	Action taken by Police
1932. Mar.	Police Station at Kericho burgled	?	Burglars not caught.
Aug.	Nye: Office burgled	?	One burglar shot.
"	Sharp: burgled	2,500	Some goods recovered.
Sept.	Shaw: robbed	1,000	Some goods recovered.
"	Marshall burgled: typewriter and watch stolen	450	Nil.
"	Motor-car with cash for Buret Tea Company held up	?	Robbers escaped.
"	Motor-car, Kipsoni, held up and robbed	?	Robbers escaped.
Oct.	Pakenham-Walsh: rifle stolen	?	Nil.
"	Currie: cash stolen	1,000	Nil.
1933. Feb.	Attempted rape on small daughter of official at Kericho		Ten years for Native.
Mar. 17	Daly: heifer stolen	80	Nil.
Mar. 25	Kennedy: blankets and sheets stolen	?	Nil.
<b>Murder.</b>			
Mar. 25	Webb: headman's wife murdered	?	Nil.
Apr.	Marshall: Labour camp robbed	?	Nil.
"	Marshall: Beehives destroyed	?	Nil.
May	Paterson: four heifers stolen		Recovered by his trackers: no arrests.
"	George: six heifers stolen		Heifers returned at night one month later: no arrests.
July	District Commissioner at Kisi: robbed of type	?	D.C. collected a fine.
"	House burgled at Chief of Luo, in Lumbwa Reserve	?	Chief imposed a collective fine.
"	Count Dornhoff: at (Evan's house), cash	100	Nil.
Aug. 7	Dair's: held up at night in his home by four Lumbwa	10	Nil.
" 8	Mrs. Row's bedding	?	Recovered by a settler.
Aug. 17	Daly: Labour camp raided by Lumbwa	?	Nil.
"	George: Angora rabbits and fowls stolen	?	Nil.
"	Inspector Walker's blankets stolen	?	He (Police) recovered same.
"	Haslehurst: safe burgled	500	Nil.
Aug. 27	Hopley: night watchmen attacked		Nil.
Nov.	Paterson: four burglaries from his employees		Two arrests made by Paterson.
"	Paterson: stock stolen from his headman		Nil.
Nov. 1	Post office at Sotik burgled	2,000	Two Lumbwa arrested and most of the loot recovered.
" 2	Beaton: house burgled		Beaton caught the three Lumbwa burglars.

In explanatory notes Captain Dooner writes:—

"Of the foregoing thirty cases known to me:—

"(1) One was a murder—of Webb's headman's wife. Someone knocked at the door of his house at night time, and when his wife opened it she was immediately disembowelled.

"(2) In Nye's case at Jamji, a gang of Lumbwa burgled his office. He heard them and went out with his revolver. Two Lumbwa attacked him with spears.—He shot one dead and wounded another.

(Concluded on page 356.)

" (3) In the Duir's case (an old man of seventy), whilst he was reading in bed at night four armed Lumbwa burst into the room, threatened him with their spears, hauled him out of bed, stripped him naked, and ransacked the room, but finding only ten shillings. If Duir's had resisted it would have been a case of murder.

" (4) In the Sotik post office case, the postal contractor (Mrs. Collett, aged sixty) was asleep in her bed, with the tin box (as supplied by the P.M.G.) containing shs. 2,000 worth of cash, stamps and postal orders, in the room. This tin box she had deposited in another wooden box. The burglars entered and took both boxes without disturbing her. If she had awakened and screamed it is to be presumed that she would have been murdered. The post office is situated in the Police lines and close to Police Inspector Walker's house. The outer wooden box was found in the Lumbwa Reserve, but no trace of the tin box and contents.

" (5) The attempted rape on the small daughter of an official at Kericho occurred on the veranda of his house in daytime. The Native got ten years. This case shows what little respect Natives have for these Administrative Officers.

**OFFICIALS OBTAIN COMPENSATION.**

" (6) As regards the theft of a tyre from the District Commissioner at Kisii, I gather that this official was camped on the Kisii-Lumbwa border. When his tyre was stolen, he tracked the thieves into the Lumbwa country and thereupon collected a herd of Lumbwa cattle (I saw them). The Lumbwa then either compensated him in cash or he auctioned the cattle, I do not know which, but I do know that the weak Administrative Officers at Kericho were very upset that the other A.O. should have entered their territory, over which he has no jurisdiction. If he had not done so he would not have received compensation through the D.C. at Kericho, and, to judge from settlers' experience, the Lumbwa District authorities would have taken no action.

" (7) In the case of the Lumbwa burgling their own chief's house (Chief of Loco, 10), this chief acted in a manner similar to that of the Kisii official. Incidentally, it is worth noting how officials, white and black, can get compensation where settlers cannot.

" (8) Mr. Anderson, in charge of the African Inland Mission at Lentini, in the Lumbwa Reserve, informs me that he laid information before the District Commissioner at Kericho (Mr. Tomkinson) that certain Lumbwa had guns, cartridges, etc., buried. Mr. Tomkinson would not listen to him. This information was laid about three weeks ago (say November 1). Just after this the Government Native School at Kabianga (in the Lumbwa Reserve) was burgled. The stolen goods were traced to a hut, and when searching this hut nine rifles, cartridges and a revolver were found. This proves that Mr. Anderson was correct. There is good reason to know that there are a number more guns hidden, but, of course, there is no hope of finding them now."

Captain H. B. Dooner, D.S.O., M.C., is a Justice of the Peace for Sotik, and before settling in Kenya was for some years an Administrative Officer in Tanganyika. He has the reputation of being a stickler for facts.