

CONFIDENTIAL.**C.S.****1924.**

No.

11/24

Chief Constable

SUBJECT.

1924

19th March.

Previous Paper.

Alteration of amounts on cheques issued
by the Falkland Islands Coy.

MINUTES.

Minute from Chief Constable 19 March 1924 (1)
Lr from Mr J. G. Slaughter 17 March 1924 (2a)
Order by D. G. Morrison for delivery of
cheque value £5. (1b)

Inquiry held at Darwin 7th and 8th March 1924;

Statement by Atsio Vaghi. (1c)

" " D. J. Morrison (1d)

" " Thomas Cordwin (1e)

" " Alex Moir (1f)

" " John Skelling (1g)

" " Wm. Mellissey (1h)

" " Euvor Stanley (1i)

Y.E. Submitted
G.R. 13
O.C.S.
22 March 1924

Subsequent Paper.

The Chief Constable has other
correspondence on the subject which
should be put up in this way. as
I gather that he is not able to
proceed further in the matter.

~~11/11/24~~ 24 March 24

Chief Constable.

Referred.

W.H.B.

Director

24 March 1924

Hon Col Secretary

*Inclos 2
v.c.*

Attached letter from
F. I. Com dated 26 Feb 1924, and letter
dated 29 Feb 1924, also Camp order
No 7077. dated 13 January 1923, and
order No 7084 dated 15 January 1923, & order
No 7894. dated 19 Feb 1924.

I had to give F. I. Com receipts
for each of these three cash orders.

W.H.B.

26 March/24 Ch Constable

W.H.B.
Mr Gresham has requested that the
cheques may be returned to the Company.

W.H.B.

Director
27 March 1924

If the Police are quite unable
to trace the person guilty of the
offence the Chief Constable should
write to the M. & A. regretting
that the information received ^{was} 12 months
after the offence had been committed
is not sufficient to discover the
offender or offenders; ^{adding that} there has ^{also} been
been excessive negligence in the
acceptance of the clumsily altered
cheques payable to John Skilling
and Hugh Campbell.

The case of the cheque to
Attilio Vapri is different. It is for
the police to decide whether to
prosecute Morris or if satisfied
that he has committed an offence
they should take the usual action.

~~11th~~ 10 April 24

Chief Constable

Referred

G.R. 18

Director

10 April 1924

Letter to Manager of the I & C
J.P.S.
St Bonst

19-6-24

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

C.S. No.....

LETTER FORM.

Departmental Number.

From. *The Chief Constable*

Date. *19-3-24*

To. *The Hon Col. Secretary*

SUBJECT.

Reference
Numbers.

Sir

I have the honour to submit
depositions of enquiry held in
Darwin regarding certain cash orders
issued by Mr Moir J.P. which the
figure amounts being altered and
cashd in Stanley.

also one ~~the~~ cash order alleged
to have been forged by one Donald
John Morrison Shepherd at Walker
breck.

I am sir

Yours obedient servant

D/O Sullivan

Ch Constable

(1a)

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.

REGISTERED 1902.



Darwin Harbour.

March 17th 1924

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary

Sir

At the request of the Chief Constable I recently held an inquiry in Darwin into the matter of the alteration of two cheques in which the figures had been altered, in the one case from Two pounds to Twelve and another from One pound ten shillings to Thirty one pounds ten shillings.

We examined several witnesses but were unable to trace either cheque very far.

In the case of Campbell's cheque he had no recollection whatever of to whom he gave it and we have no suspicion's that Campbell altered it himself and the same seems to apply to one payable to John Skilling

The case of a cheque payable to Atilio Vaghi was different, his name having been signed

on the back by another man, Morrison who
received the money.

Morrison owns to having signed Vaghis' name
I did not seem to be aware that he had done
any thing unusual in doing so

I am sending in the evidence taken from the
various witnesses to the Chief Constable in
Stanley.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

J.G. Slaughter

Mr Moir.

Dear Sir.

Please give bearer, D. G. Morrison
one cheque value £5-0-0.

Attilio Vaghi

Recd. 9th Feb'y 1924
Am.

Inquiry held at Darwin on the 4th and 8th March 1924 regarding a Cash order 7894. dated 9th February 1924 issued by the Darwin Storekeeper. payable to Atilio Vaghi. Labourer. Walker Creek, whose signature was alleged to have been forged by Donald John Morrison. Shepherd, Walker Creek.

T. G. Slaughter. J. P. held the inquiry.

Atilio Vaghi, stated as follows. I sent a letter by Donald J Morrison to Alexander Meier Storekeeper Darwin asking him to give the bearer Morrison a Five Pound Cash order for me. I instructed Morrison to take four Pounds to ^{Walker} Kendal then in Stanley and told him to keep One Pound for himself. He asked me how he was to get the money and I told him to put his own name on the back of the order. When Walter Kendal came back from Stanley I found that he had not received the money. I asked the boy Morrison on his return about the money and he answered that he had the money at Arrow Harbours his father's house. As I understood that the boy was leaving the service of the Company I asked Thomas Goodwin Camp teacher, who was then in Walker

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Crack to ask us now to keep the
money off the boy Morrison's wages
when his account was settled.

J. H. Slough Jr

(1d)

Inquiry held at Darwin on the 4th 1894
March 1924 regarding Cash over 1894.

Donald John Morrison, Shepherd, Walker Creek made the following statement.

"I received a letter from Atilio Vaghi Labrous. Walker Creek to take to Mr. Mois Storekeeper. Darwin: and I gave it to Mr. Mois on the 9th Feb'y. Vaghi told me I would get a cheque for Five Pounds, and I was to give Four Pounds to Walter Kendal who was in Stanley and I was to keep One Pound for myself. I asked Vaghi how I was to get the money and he told me to put my own name on the back of the cheque. I received the cheque in an envelope addressed to Atilio Vaghi Walker Creek, which I opened and took out the cheque. As the cheque was made payable to Atilio Vaghi, I wrote his name on the back in order to get it cashed. I can't read or write, I can just write my own name. I copied Vaghi's name from the cheque. I did not know or think I was doing anything wrong by writing Vaghi's name on the back of the cheque. Walter Kendal met me in Stanley and asked me for the money, but I said I did not have it on me. I met Kendal several times in Stanley, but no more mention was made of the money and I did not give it to him?"

J. H. Slaughter JP

(1e)

Inquiry held at Darwin on the
7th and 8th March 1924, regarding
Cash ord. 4894.

Thomas Goodwin. Camp Beach made
the following statement.

"Atilio Vaghi came to see me
at Walter Kendal's house at Walker
Creek, knowing that I was on
my way to Darwin. Vaghi
told me that he had asked the
boy Donald Morrison for an order
which he had got for him in
Darwin about a fortnight before
but that Morrison had told him
that he had left the order at
Arrow Harton his father's house.

Believing that the boy was leaving
the Company's service he asked
me to tell Mr Moir to keep it
off his (Morrison's) account.

I arrived in Darwin on Sunday
night the 24th February and reported
the matter to Mr Moir on Monday morning.

J. S. Laughton J.

(14)

Inquiry held at Darwin on the 7th and 8th March 1924. regarding Cash over.
4894.

The following is the statement of Alexander Moir, Storekeeper Darwin.

"On the morning of Saturday 9th February the boy Donald John Morrison handed to me in the Store Office a letter from Atilio Vaghi Walker Creek. In the letter Vaghi asked me to "Give bearer D. J. Morrison one cheque value £50.0.0" I wrote out the cheque, put it in an envelope addressed Atilio Vaghi, Walker Creek. I handed the cheque enclosed as stated to the boy Morrison, who then asked me if I would make it payable to him. I answered "Certainly not" He gave no explanation for his request. I had no idea he was on his way to Stanley. I knew he was the Settlement Shepherd at Walker Creek and I regarded him as the "Postman" I heard no more of the matter until Thomas Goodwin Campbelle brought me a verbal message from Atilio Vaghi. The message was to the effect that Vaghi had asked the boy Morrison after his return from Stanley for the cheque which he had asked him to get for him and that Morrison replied that he had left it at "the house" meaning his father's house Arrow Harbour. I at once got on the

Telephone and spoke to the Stanley office. I asked Mr Creamer the Cashier if Cash order 7894. had been presented there. He went into the matter, and found that it had not been cashed. The date of my inquiry was Monday 25th February.

Later in the day I again communicated with the Stanley office, requesting a look-out to be kept for Cash order 7894. Mr. Creamer asked if there was anything "fishy" about it. I said "Vaghi has not received it" I knew then that the boy Morrison had been in Stanley, that he had been on his way there, when he called for Cash order for Attilio Vaghi. I informed the Office that Morrison had the Cash order with him in Stanley.

I. H. Staughton J. O.

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(19)

Inquiry held at Darwin on the 7th 8th
and 10th March 1924. regarding certain
Cash orders issued by the Darwin
Storekeeper - the figure amounts of which
had been altered and cashed in Stanley.
T. G. Slaughter J. P. held the Inquiry.

At the Inquiry which was held on the 7th March
John Skilling on oath deposed as
follows with reference to Cash order
4044 issued to him on the 13th January 1923.
(This order was produced ^{at the inquiry} ~~in Court~~)
"This Cash order for One Pound ten shillings
was changed for me at Goosegreen
by William M. Atasney in his house
on the morning of the 13th February 1923.
I received in exchange two ten
shilling notes and ten shillings in silver.
I also had another cheque for
Three Pounds, which was changed for
me by George Nicholls, Carpenter.
Goosegreen at a later date.
I did not have this Three Pound
cheque ^{on} with me at the time I changed
the One Pound ten shilling one."

The Inquiry was continued on the
following day, and John Skilling
stated as follows.

"I am quite certain that the Cheque
4044 was the one which William
M. Atasney changed for me on the
morning of the 13th February 1923.
No alteration appeared on it at
that time. I tried to change a

Three Pound Cheque with Frederick Jennings at Goosegreen on the night of the 12th February 1923, but Jennings said he was unable to do so. I left for Walke Creek on the following morning, leaving the Three Pound Cheque with Enos Stanley to change for me. Enos Stanley was unable to get it changed and brought it back for me to Walke Creek. This was the Three Pound Cheque which George Nicholls changed for me at a later date.

The Inquiry was resumed on Monday 10th March.

John Skilling made the following statement. "I now recollect that William M'Atasney took the ~~cheque~~ cheque outside before he gave me the change. Shortly after the daughter of George Nicholls came into M'Atasney's house and gave M'Atasney what appeared to be some money. I have no idea whether William M'Atasney had parted with the cheque or not, but it was after the girl Nicholls came to the house that I got the change."

(18)

At the Inquiry held at Darwin on the 7th March 1924. William M'Atasney made the following statement.

"I changed a cheque on the morning of the races the 13th February 1923 for John Skilling. I do not remember the amount but am inclined to think that the cheque was for Three Pounds. I am certain that the cheque was payable to John Skilling, as my wife commented on the signature at the time."

The Inquiry was continued on the 8th and William M'Atasney stated as follows "I feel more convinced than ever that the cheque was for Three Pounds, which I changed for John Skilling."

The Inquiry was resumed on Monday 10th March.

William M'Atasney stated that he could give no further evidence, and could only confirm what he had stated on the two former days of the Inquiry. On being questioned he said "I do not remember anything as to Skilling's statement that I had to obtain change from outside to pay him for the cheque."

J. G. Slaughter J.P.

Inquiry held at Darwin on the 8th March 1924

Frederick Jennings, Cook Goosegreen
made the following statement.

" I recollect John Skilling asking me
to change a Three Pound cheque on
the evening of the 12th February 1923"
I told him I was unable to do so
I never saw the cheque"

J.G. Haughton J.B.

Inquiry held at Darwin on the 10th March 1924.

Enos Stanley, Labourer, Walker Creek. made the following statement.

"I carried a letter for Mr. Morris to Darwin which I received from John Skilling at Walker Creek. I delivered the letter at the Store on Saturday the 10th February 1923. Later on the same day I received a letter addressed to John Skilling, which I handed to him in Darwin on the following Monday. I saw John Skilling again on Tuesday morning the 13th at the Racecourse. He gave me a cheque which he asked me to get changed for him. I recollect that this cheque was for Three Pounds. As I was unable to get it changed I carried it back to Walker Creek and returned it to John Skilling."

J. L. Slaughter J.P.

(2)

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited,
Stanley,

26th February, 1924.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I beg to inform you that two further cases of forgery have come to our notice, both of which were perpetrated previous to our discovery of that for which M. Hardy is now undergoing imprisonment.

Particulars are as follows:-

(1) Falkland Islands Co's Farm Order No. 7077, dated 13th January, 1923, signed by Mr Moir, payable to Jno. Skilling for £ 1. 10. 0., altered to £ 31. 10. 0.

(2) Falkland Islands Co's Farm Order No. 7084, dated 15th January, 1923, signed by Mr Moir, payable to Hugh Campbell for £ 2., altered to £ 12.

Unfortunately we cannot ascertain whether these cheques were cashed in the Office or paid into one of the Stores for goods supplied, and although Mr Moir has made tactful enquiries in the Camp the only information he has been able to elicit is that Hugh Campbell, upon whom no kind of suspicion should rest, thinks that he handed his cheque to Cartmell at Walker Creek.

Mr Moir also says that Percy Skilling, brother of the other payee, who was also employed at Walker Creek, left for Stanley on the 10th February.

The two cheques in question were cashed in Stanley

The Chief Constable,
Stanley.

on the 13th and 26th February, 1923, respectively.

It is, of course, quite possible that M.Hardy is responsible for these forgeries, and the only other line of investigation we can suggest is enquiries concerning Jno. Skilling. We suggest this as we know that he was in need of money for a considerable period, and that on one occasion a few months previously he informed us that Mr H.C.Harding had said that he could obtain an advance from the Stanley Office, which was paid to him; but on Mr Harding being asked by us later if this payment was in order the latter informed us that he had not sanctioned the advance at all - that he had, in fact, told Skilling definitely that he could not get one.

In conclusion I may add that as far as we are aware the discovery of the forgeries is only known to the writer, Mr Vincent, Mr Creamer and Mr Alex Moir, Sen.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'N.H.B. Graham'.

Manager.

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The Falkland Islands Company, Limited,

Stanley, F.I.

29th February, 1924.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I have to advise you that about the 21st February Mr Moir, our Storekeeper at Darwin, asked us to keep a look out for a Farm Order signed by him for the sum of £ 5, payable to Atilio Vaghi (a Walker Creek farm hand), and numbered No. 7894, as "a certain Camp hand" had been given the cheque to hand to Vaghi, which he had failed to do.

2. This cheque was collected by us from the Treasury today and bears the endorsement of Atilio Vaghi, which does not appear to the writer to be his usual endorsement, when compared with several specimens of his signature which we have in this Office. The cheque also bore the endorsements of A.L.Kiddle and the Treasury Clerk, Mr V. Atkins.

3. On enquiries being made of Mrs Kiddle, who recognized her own endorsement, she states quite positively that the cheque was paid to her by D.J.Morrison - "the son of Rory Morrison at Arrow Harbour". Mrs Kiddle also stated that she could not accurately remember how she disposed of it, but that "she probably paid it to one of the stores in Stanley".

4. In the Treasury Clerk's handwriting is his statement that the cheque was paid in to the Treasury by L. Williams Estate on the 21st February.

5. Mr Moir, on being rung up today (after the cheque had been collected from the Treasury) stated that the "certain

The Chief Constable,

Stanley.

Camp hand" before referred to was Donald John Morrison and that up to today's date Vaghi had still not received his cheque. If Vaghi continues his denial that he has received the cheque it would appear that Morrison should be called upon for some explanation.

6. In another matter which you are investigating you will remember that Mr Moir states that he thinks Morrison was in Stankey about the 13th to 15th February last year.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. B. Fresham
Manager.

Chief Constable
Stanley

Sir

with reference to your letters of Feb 26th and 29th of 1934. after careful inquiries through Walker Creek and Darroon sections, and also from inquiries made from several persons who recently visited Stanley from Goose Green and Darroon, I find I am unable to trace the person or persons who forged the cheques payable to Hugh Campbell and John Skilling.

I regret that the information received was twelve months after the offence was committed is not sufficient to discover the offenders or offenders, and that there has been excessive negligence in the acceptance of the cleanly altered cheques payable to Hugh Campbell and John Skilling.

The cheque payable to Atilio Vaghi this was altered by Donald Morrison, by and with the consent of Atilio Vaghi enclosed cheques nos 7077. 7084. 7894. returned.

I am Sir

yours obediently

W. J. Sullivan
Ch. Constable

To
Mr Gresham
Manager I J Co.

19-6-24

ii Hon

Col. Sec.

18-6-24

Sir.

having made further enquires concerning the forged cheques re Hugh Campbell, & John Skilling. last week I questioned several persons from the F I Co. Camp. and they assure me they have never heard the cheques in question mentioned while on the other hand they are anxious that the ~~cheque~~ culprit should be found. I have written to the Manager of the F I Co. on the subject and also returned the cheques

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant

W. Sullivan
Ch Constable