**WILLIAM ALLAN HAY**

**William Allan Hay correspondence with Gavan Duffy**

**NLI folders 10763/2, 3, 14, 20 and 22**

[Outstanding: 10763/2 Where is Hay’s missing 17 May letter and August cutting?

Check three ‘unidentified’ writers to Gavan Duffy in 10763/2/22 (one item 17 May 3 pages re trial), 10763/2/28 (1 item 17 May 4 pages re trial) and 10763/2/30 (1 item 1 page Casement innocent, both parties unidentified).]

**References corrected in my three editions:**

**1st edition**

p. 147 Then left for Uxbridge **[to Dick Morten’s]** Talked Congo, myself and “Love’s Horizon” in “Daily Mirror”. **[Confirmation of his appreciation of this poem occurs in 1916 when William Allen Hay mentioned it in a letter to Casement’s solicitor. Hay, who had met Casement in Africa, took the opportunity to say there was no truth in the aspersion cast upon his service in Lourenco Marques although he did not explain that particular allegation. Hay had earlier written that “after perusal of Mr (as he then was) Casement’s poetry,” he gathered that he had lost his (female) lover by death.[[1]](#endnote-1)]**

[References:

NLI 10763/2 (wrong) Loves Horizon poem actually by Casement and in letter of 14 July in 10763/14/3. Hay spells city Lorenço.

NLI 10763/11 (wrong) actually in letter in 10763/3/19 of 19 May. Hay writes “he lost his “love” by her death”.

Allen should be Allan.]

p. 398 As early as 17 May 1916, one acquaintance of Casement, William Allan Hay, a mercantile clerk who described himself to Gavan Duffy as once a “lone, young Scot in St Paul de Loanda” to whom Casement had been very kind, apparently without a hint of impropriety, was horrified by the press campaign. He enclosed a cutting from a Glasgow newspaper which talked of the diaries and the fact that “nothing so filthy, so pornographic, so infinitely disgusting as what Casement set down in black and white can be imagined. The things which he narrated as personal experiences over which he gloated were so horrible as to be revelations to experienced men of the world – things that had not been heard of by those that thought they knew what sin was like.”[[2]](#endnote-2)

[References: NLI 10763/2 & 11 (both wrong) as Loanda mention was in letter of 1 July in 10763/14/3 and not of 17 May, while cutting (first of two from same paper though second absent but first mentioned in 10763/20/4 of 3 August) was in 10763/3/7 and tipped into 18 May letter from Gavan Duffy to Hay with undated note by Hay. The Glasgow Evening Times newspaper story was itself copied from a Liverpool Daily Post newspaper columnist ‘Club Window’ (which had the smell of F.E. Smith about it). Extant cutting says, “No one ever more richly deserved his fate than Roger Casement. One does not like to speak ill of the dead (writes the Club Window correspondent of the “Liverpool Post”) but the truth about him ought to be published so that the Irish should not regard him as a martyr. The present writer has seen extracts from his diary and [quoted above from here:] ‘nothing so filthy, so pornographic, so infinitely disgusting, as what Casement set down in black and white can be imagined. The things which he narrated as personal experiences over which he gloated were so horrible as to be revelations to experienced men of the world - things that had not been heard of by those who thought they knew what sin was like.’”]

p. 497 A further diversionary technique that Casement’s solicitor adopted is exampled in a letter of 14 August sent to William Allen Hay, a man upset by newspaper allegations: “Pay no attention to that kind of rubbish appearing in the enclosure. It is sufficiently obvious that if charges of the kind indicated could have been established at all they would have been the subject of the prosecution and aspersions of this kind defeat their own end.”

[Reference: NLI 10763/21 (wrong) should have been 10763/22/1 in letter of 14 August.

Allen should be Allan, and in index.]

**REFERENCE ERRORS LIST**

**1st edition**: p. 147 ref 10763/2 should be 10763/14/3, and 10763/11 should be 10763/3/19; p. 398 ref 10763/2 should be 10763/14/3 and 10763/11 should be 10763/3/7; p. 497 ref. 10763/21 should be 10763/22/1.

Allen spelt wrongly in index and twice elsewhere

**2nd edition:** p. 157 should be p. 151 in index, no change from 1st edition; p. 408 no change from 1st edition; p. 514 no change from 1st edition.

Allen however correctly spelt Allan in index though still Allen on p. 151 and p. 514.

**3rd edition:** p. 165 ref 10763/2 should be 10763/3/19, 10763/14 should be 10763/14/3, and 10763/22 should not be there; p. 462 ref 10763/14 should be 10763/14/3 and also but omitted 10763/3/7; p. 570 ref 10763/22 should be 10763/22/1.

Allan spelt correctly throughout.

**4th edition – amended text:**

Then left for Uxbridge at 7. & got there 8.20. Found Dick, Mrs. M. Tommy & his Mother there. Talked Congo, myself and “Love’s Horizon” in “Daily Mirror”. **[Confirmation of his appreciation of this poem by Casement occurs in 1916 when William Allan Hay mentioned it in a letter of 1 July to Casement’s solicitor. He said it was published in “The Outlook” (London) on 12 August 1899. Hay, who had met Casement in Africa, took the opportunity to say there was no truth in the aspersion cast upon his service in Lorenço Marques although he did not explain that particular allegation. Hay had earlier written on 19 May that “after perusal of Mr (as he then was) Casement’s poetry”, he gathered that he lost his lover by her death.[[3]](#endnote-3)]**

As early as May 1916, one acquaintance of Casement, William Allan Hay, a mercantile clerk who later described himself to Gavan Duffy as once a “lone, young Scot in St Paul de Loanda” to whom Casement had been very kind, apparently without a hint of impropriety, was horrified by the press campaign. He enclosed a cutting from the *Glasgow Evening Times* citing a *Liverpool Daily Post* correspondent ‘Club Window’ (who had the smell of F.E. Smith). It read “No one ever more richly deserved his fate than Roger Casement. One does not like to speak ill of the dead…but the truth about him ought to be published so that the Irish should not regard him as a martyr. The present writer has seen extracts from his diary and nothing so filthy, so pornographic, so infinitely disgusting as what Casement set down in black and white can be imagined. The things which he narrated as personal experiences over which he gloated were so horrible as to be revelations to experienced men of the world – things that had not been heard of by those that thought they knew what sin was like.”[[4]](#endnote-4)

A further diversionary technique that Casement’s solicitor adopted is exampled in the letter of 14 August sent to William Allan Hay, a man so upset by Glasgow newspaper allegations that he had sent Gavan Duffy another cutting: “Pay no attention to the kind of rubbish appearing in the enclosure. It is sufficiently obvious that if charges of the kind indicated could have been established at all they would have been the subject of the prosecution and aspersions of this kind defeat their own end.”[[5]](#endnote-5)

**SEVEN NLI CATALOGUED HAY-RELATED ITEMS (17 MAY LETTER AND 3 AUGUST CUTTING MISSING)**

10763/2/32 **photographed** 3 April 1915 1 item 2 pages. “Letter from the Foreign Office to unidentified recipient regarding the movements of Roger Casement, 1915 Mar 26-Apr. 3”. Letter is a response from F.O., to William Allan Hay signed Eyre Crowe although not catalogued under Crowe or Hay. Casement’s statements regarded as “absurd”. Also an FO acknowledgment dated 26 March 1915. See 10763/3/19 where Hay says two FO “acknowledgements” were being enclosed in his 19 May 1916 letter.

10763/3/2 **photographed** 18 May 1916‘1 item 1 page’ copy letter from George Gavan Duffy to William Allan Hay thanking him for a letter of yesterday (17 May) and enclosures, and noting that the contents will be considered by Roger Casement's counsel.

Where is 17 May letter? Not in catalogue but I quoted from it (wrongly).

Three unidentified writers ?? are in Gavan Duffy 10763 files dated 17 May, in 2/22 (1 item 3 pages re trial), 2/28 (1 item 4 pages re trial) and 2/30 (1 item 1 page Casement innocent, both parties unidentified). Need to see also 10464/18 newspaper cutting of article “Why Casement must be hanged: The horrible confessions of his own diary” from 'The Weekly Despatch', 23 July 1916.

10763/3/7 **photographed** ‘1 item 3 pages’ undated “Includes a letter from William Allan Hay to George Gavan Duffy regarding Roger Casement. Also contains newspaper cutting titled "Casement As He Was".” The Glasgow Evening Times story was itself copied from a Liverpool Daily Post newspaper columnist (‘Club Window’). Hay has written his undated note on Gavan Duffy’s 18 May acknowledgment of Hay’s 17 May letter / the last digit (7) from pencil inscription on document.

10763/3/19 **photographed**, 19 May 1916, Hay to Duffy, ‘1 item 2 pages’ (sides),thanking him for yesterday’s note (copy in 10763/3/2 of 18 May; original returned and in 10763/3/7), typed purple ink letter enclosing two 1915 FO communications (presumably 10763/2/32 items), mention as an excuse for Casement of his lost female love through death (derived from his poetry), Hay a humble mercantile clerk, Easter Rising, Asquith visit mentions.

10763/14/3 **photographed**, 1 July 1916 3 sides,Hay to Duffy down as ‘unidentified’ in NLI catalogue although signed ‘Wm. Allan Hay’, Casement’s Love’s Horizon poem 1899 quoted in extenso, Lorenço Marques and St Paul de Loanda mentions.

10763/20/4 **photographed,** 3 August 1916 ‘1 item 1 page’, Hay to Duffy, “I enclose cutting from this evening’s Glasgow Evening Times which cutting to my mind in one of its extracts, contains a gross libel on the life and character of the deceased Roger Casement. It is to be hoped this will have your best attention.” No cutting present.

10763/22/1 **photographed,** 14 August 1916, Duffy to Hay, “I have your letter but pay no attention to the kind of rubbish in the enclosure”. Letter from George Gavan Duffy to William Allan Hay, Kennyhill Square, Dennistown, Glasgow, referring to a letter previously sent (10763/20/4 of 3 August) which concerned a Glasgow Evening Times article about Roger Casement of same date.

1. NLI 10763/2 & 11 WRONG should have been 10763/14/3 and 10763/3/19 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. NLI 10763/2 & 11 WRONG should have been 10763/14/3 and 10763/3/7 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. NLI 10763/14/3 and 10763/3/19 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. NLI 10763/3/7 (undated but on or after 18 May) and 10763/14/3 (1 July) [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. NLI 10763/22/1 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)