**EMAILS TO TNA KEW ABOUT CATALOGUE PHRASING (MR GERMAIN) 2019**

**From:** Jeffrey Dudgeon <jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2019 18:49  
**To:** CEE Records Enquiries <enquiry2@nationalarchives.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Suggested amendment to HO 161, C9025

Dear Vicky,

I understand your caution. However I really only wanted one phrase altered and that was "seized by the police from Casement's former London lodgings in 1916".

The TNA material I referenced makes it plain that the diaries were brought in voluntarily and not seized.

Nobody argues or claims they were seized in 1916.

To say that is inaccurate.

Regards

Jeffrey Dudgeon

**From:** Iglikowski-Broad, Victoria <Victoria.Iglikowski@nationalarchives.gov.uk> on behalf of CEE Records Enquiries <enquiry2@nationalarchives.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 17 July 2019 11:45

**To:** jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Suggested amendment to HO 161, C9025

Dear Mr Dudgeon,

Thank you for contacting The National Archives of the United Kingdom. Your enquiry has been passed to myself in the Collections Expertise and Engagement department to investigate and respond to.

Please be aware that we do not guarantee that our catalogue descriptions are historically accurate.  The majority of the record descriptions found in our catalogue have come to us from the government department that created the record with the record itself.  As such we consider the descriptions to form part of the record, whether they are factually correct or not.  Where appropriate we are able to add additional information to a record description.

Having reviewed the records in question and consulted with relevant colleagues, on this occasion, we do not feel the information found in the records is sufficient to amend the catalogue record description.

I appreciate that this is not the response that you hoped for but I hope it has provided you with some clarification nonetheless. We really appreciate your feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Iglikowski

Remote Enquiries Duty Officer

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)

Let us know what you think about your recent contact as your views are important in helping us improve our service. Please [complete our brief survey](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/emailenquiryservicesurvey2017/).

**From:** Discovery <[discovery@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:discovery@nationalarchives.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 06 June 2019 13:28

**To:** Discovery <[discovery@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:discovery@nationalarchives.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Suggested amendment to HO 161, C9025

A suggestion was sent below for Information asset with IAID **C9025** and Reference **HO 161**

( [Link to HO 161](https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C9025)) :-

**Field:** Description

**Description:** Casement's diaries were not "seized by the police from Casement's former London lodgings in 1916" as stated. A Mr Germain brought them into Scotland Yard.

**Recommendation:** A Mr Germain brought them into Scotland Yard on 25 April 1916. See TNA MEPO 2/10762.

**Other references:**

**Sent by:** Jeffrey Dudgeon

**Email:** [jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)

Garmendia, Jone <Jone.Garmendia@nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Mon 15/07/2019 11:54

Dear Jeffrey,

Thanks. I understand your points around these sensitive records. I am going to wait until our relevant records specialist is back from holiday to listen to his views before making a decision.

Our aim is to describe our files using a plain narrative, with factual information about the record, without historical analysis or interpretation.  It seems to me that some of the current description goes beyond this remit and beyond the content of the record itself. It is for historians and writers to provide historical interpretation and new theories. Archival descriptions should be neutral and avoid hypothesis or speculation, so we will review this one carefully.

I cannot tell whether the file HO 144/23481 contains the memo that you are after but the file is open and can be easily ordered in our reading rooms or online.

I am sorry that this is going to take longer than I anticipated but I shall get in touch with you again in due course.

Thanks again and regards

Jone

Jone Garmendia   
Head of Cataloguing

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**From:** Jeffrey Dudgeon <[jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)>   
**Sent:** 14 July 2019 13:00  
**To:** Garmendia, Jone <[Jone.Garmendia@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:Jone.Garmendia@nationalarchives.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Catalogue Amendments <[CatalogueListAmendments@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:CatalogueListAmendments@nationalarchives.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Suggested amendment to HO 161, C9025 - MEPO 2/10672 and MEPO 3/2415

Dear Jone,

Thank you for your helpful email.

I am sorry that I mistakenly gave you the wrong reference number.

It should indeed be MEPO 2/10672 not 2/10762.

I should also have added a second reference of MEPO 3/2415.

I have attached copies of those two occasions in MEPO files where it is stated that Mr Germain brought Casement's diaries in to Scotland Yard on 25 April 1916.

The matter is important as a new book by Paul Hyde, 'Anatomy of a Lie' majors on a theory that the diaries were forged after Casement's death and that the typed copies of the diaries, which he accepts were being shown around before the execution, were forged first.

This theory rather collapses if the evidence in TNA MEPO of Mr Germain's delivery in April is to be believed.

Hyde also makes great play of a statement in 1959 Home Office report on the diaries in TNA HO 144/23481 (TREASON: Sir Roger Casement: Report of Working Party on the Casement Diaries: proposed transfer to the Public Record Office).

The statement is from a memo of 6 March 1959 which says in its Annex A, "There is no record on the Home Office papers of the diaries or the copies having been shown to anyone outside the Government service before Casement's trial."

That statement (in p. 81 of Paul Hyde book - attached) does not add up to much but it is heavily relied on as evidence of absence of evidence of the diaries existing before, at least, the trial.

Any chance I could see a copy of that 6 March 1959 memo?

I hope all this makes sense.

Best wishes

Jeff Dudgeon

[Details of my 3rd edition are attached with an extract on Mr Germain's delivery of the diaries below:]

"Although the 1915 report on Casement’s cheques in relation to “W.P. Germain” of 50 Ebury Street had a question mark beside the word “lodgings” this was a lead plainly not pursued. It now appears that had a visit to No. 50 been made, the diaries would have emerged long before Casement’s arrest and the Easter Rising, in which event Irish history might well have taken a quite different course.

    In May 2000, at the Royal Irish Academy’s Casement Symposium in Dublin, a selection of the unseen Scotland Yard papers were to be unexpectedly revealed by the Foreign Office’s Mrs Gill Bennett, who spoke on *Casement and Whitehall*. What she distributed was a veritable treasure trove answering those key questions which had baffled researchers for fifty years, and proof positive of when and where the Black Diaries came from.

    In those Metropolitan Police papers there are two nearly identical references to the fact of the diaries arriving from 50 Ebury Street on the precise date mentioned in the House of Commons in 1959. In Quinn’s Special Branch minute of 22 June there appears the paragraph: “During the month of May 1914 Casement deposited with Mr Germain of 50 Ebury Street, Pimlico, S.W. some boxes containing books, etc. These books which included three diaries for the years 1903, 1910 and 1911, a ledger, an address book and a memorandum book were brought to New Scotland Yard by Mr Germain on the 25th April 1916.”[[i]](https://outlook.live.com/mail/search/id/AQMkADAwATE0YjcwLWMzOTAtN2E0NS0wMAItMDAKAEYAAAMKpni2Er1qRaCwQ35YnuyDBwBYQ6RxrDFFQaqyNLGav5VaAAACAQwAAABzEtXaw6XiSasMaWS7BoE9AAJtYpq1AAAA" \l "x__edn1" \o ")[i] So it was entirely the result of Germain’s voluntary act that Casement’s diaries resurfaced on Easter Tuesday. This is confirmed in a second reference, this time from a Metropolitan Police property list relating to Casement and dated 28 July 1916.[[ii]](https://outlook.live.com/mail/search/id/AQMkADAwATE0YjcwLWMzOTAtN2E0NS0wMAItMDAKAEYAAAMKpni2Er1qRaCwQ35YnuyDBwBYQ6RxrDFFQaqyNLGav5VaAAACAQwAAABzEtXaw6XiSasMaWS7BoE9AAJtYpq1AAAA" \l "x__edn2" \o ")[ii] There the contents of two trunks “Brought to Scotland Yard by Mr Germain, 50, Ebury Street, on the 25th. April 1916” were enumerated and detailed as including “3 diaries, 1 ledger, 1 address book, 1 memorandum book.” The last item was presumably the 1901 Army notebook while the sixth item was the apparently innocuous address book of Casement’s returned to Gertrude Parry in 1917 (and now in the NLI)."

[[iii]](https://outlook.live.com/mail/search/id/AQMkADAwATE0YjcwLWMzOTAtN2E0NS0wMAItMDAKAEYAAAMKpni2Er1qRaCwQ35YnuyDBwBYQ6RxrDFFQaqyNLGav5VaAAACAQwAAABzEtXaw6XiSasMaWS7BoE9AAJtYpq1AAAA" \l "x__edn3" \o ")[i] Scotland Yard MEPO 2/10672

[[iv]](https://outlook.live.com/mail/search/id/AQMkADAwATE0YjcwLWMzOTAtN2E0NS0wMAItMDAKAEYAAAMKpni2Er1qRaCwQ35YnuyDBwBYQ6RxrDFFQaqyNLGav5VaAAACAQwAAABzEtXaw6XiSasMaWS7BoE9AAJtYpq1AAAA" \l "x__edn4" \o ")[ii] NLI 10763/24 and Scotland Yard MEPO 3/2415

**From:** Garmendia, Jone <[Jone.Garmendia@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:Jone.Garmendia@nationalarchives.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 08 July 2019 10:28  
**To:** [jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** Catalogue Amendments  
**Subject:** FW: Suggested amendment to HO 161, C9025

Dear Mr Dudgeon,

Firstly my apologies as this investigation is taking longer than expected.

MEPO 2/10762 is a closed file connected to the Krays. See <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C10888099>

 Could you please confirm the MEPO 2 reference that you provided as the source of your information about the ‘seizure’ of Roger Casement’s diaries?

If there is a typo in your email, then you may have tried to cite MEPO 2/10662 or MEPO 2/10672, although there are a few other MEPO 2 files that mention Casement. Could you please double check your reference?

An archivist has searched two of our usual sources for catalogue descriptions at series level (the old PRO Guide and the old class Introductory Notes). None of these sources mention the police seizure.

I am very open to a data amendment to correct the description but to make a decision I must first verify the source of your information.

Thanks and regards

Jone

Jone Garmendia   
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**From:** Discovery <[discovery@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:discovery@nationalarchives.gov.uk)>   
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