

The passive voice in the past perfect – A very spectacular crime

When Chief Inspector Smart retired¹ after years in the Criminal Investigation Department², he remembered one of his most spectacular cases he had solved: A criminal gang had stolen the largest gold nugget in the world with about 72 kilogramme and about 3.8 million US Dollars worth.

But how had that happened?

Here is what Chief Inspector Smart had found out.	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city museum, which had loaned³ the nugget, had it displayed on a socket, surrounded by a bulletproof glass. • The museum had engaged especially trained personnel to keep watch and to react in cases of emergency. • In these cases the personnel had not only had to watch the nugget, but they also had had to safeguard it. • This had meant that the safety guards had had to place the nugget in a safe in the museum's cellar – and this is what the criminals had made use of. 	<p>EXAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nugget had been loaned, it had been displayed on a socket, surrounded by a bulletproof glass. <p>NOW YOU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially trained personnel had been engaged to keep watch and to react in cases of emergency. • In these cases the personnel had not only had to watch the nugget, but they also had had to safeguard it. • This had meant that the safety guards had had to place the nugget in a safe in the museum's cellar – and this is what had been made use of.

1 to retire = in Pension gehen

2 Criminal Investigation Department = Kriminalpolizei (Kripo)

3 to loan = (aus)leihen

- The criminals **had made** the following plan: without going into the museum themselves they had wanted to steal the nugget.
- And this is how it had worked: The robbers **had drilled** a channel from an adjoining private building into the cellar – directly into the safe.
- To have enough noise so that the public **had not heard** the loud criminals' drilling⁴, the thieves **had redirected** a train over weeks.
- Then they **had made** a false bottom into the safe.
- When the criminals **had finished** the channel, they **had ordered** a helicopter to fly over the museum.
- The helicopter **had made** such disturbances⁵ and **had caused** such shock waves⁶ that these **had alarmed** the automatic security system.

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- And this is how it had worked: A channel **had been drilled** from an adjoining private building into the cellar – directly into the safe.
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- A false bottom **had been made** into the safe.
- When the channel **had been finished**, a helicopter **had been ordered** to fly over the museum.
- Such disturbances **had been made** and such shock waves **had been caused** that the automatic security system **had been alarmed**.

4 to drill = bohren

5 disturbances = Unruhe, Lärmbelästigung

6 shock waves = Schwingungen

- The museum's night watch **had** therefore **thought of** an earthquake – in which case the officers **had started** the process of evacuating the nugget.
- So the thieves had sat in the adjoining building and had waited until the security guards **had placed** the nugget in the safe.
- There they **had** simply **taken** the nugget **out of** the safe and had disappeared with it.
- The museum **had even thought** the nugget safe until the following day when the personnel **had found out** that there had never been an earthquake at all!

- Therefore, an earthquake **had been thought of** – in which case the process of evacuating the nugget **had been started**.
- So the thieves had sat in the adjoining building and had waited until the nugget **had been placed** in the safe.
- The nugget **had simply been taken out of** the safe and the thieves had disappeared with it.
- The nugget **had even been thought** safe until the following day when it **had been found out** that there had never been an earthquake at all!

After Chief Inspector Smart and his team had found out this, neither they nor the press had made this public. So officially and to the criminals, the crime had remained unsolved. But a few weeks later, the museum announced a new outstanding exhibit to be displayed in the same place: a priceless royal golden crown with 55 diamonds. Thus, the Criminal Investigation Department around Chief Inspector Smart only had to wait in the adjoining building until the robbers made the mistake to repeat their robbery – this time, however, a few men waited for them with handcuffs...