

EAST AFR. PROT  
17476

C O  
17476  
REC'D  
APR 15

Ritch d.w.

Deportation

1915

13 Apr

Submit protest & appeals for redress.

Last previous Paper

4.2  
17094

Sir G. Fiddes.

M<sup>r</sup> Ritch undoubtedly has a grievance - the delay has been unavoidable owing to Genl. Matheron's absence, but why Genl. M<sup>r</sup> took the papers away from him is not clear.

The W.O. passed the case on to us on Feb. 2 (5565) & we have now passed it back. We do not accept responsibility for it there being more than W.O. have done (so far) now, but these inter-departmental transactions give Mr. Ritch a good handle though they are not responsible for the delay.

Send copy of above this letter to W.O. suggest that it might be explained to Mr. Ritch that the delay has not been due in any way to the work on which he is concerned but to the responsibility

Copy to W.O. sent 13 April 1915.

Copy to Mr. Matheron sent 2 Oct 1915  
Copy to Mr. Fiddes sent 15 Oct 1915

Subsequent Paper

W.O.  
17094

of obtaining info as to the results of  
the case being to the responsible officer  
being inaccessible. Say that the duty  
must, however, be a first great hardship  
on him & that the question of some  
of the matters above we may have to  
be considered - that if the A.C. decide  
to issue such an allowance the Government  
will be prepared to agree to some  
contribution towards it being refunded  
from S.A.P. funds should it be found  
that the deportation though ordered under  
war-time law was due to the representations  
or blame of Prot. officials.

Wes 15/4/15

10/1/15

At Home P. 16. 15

Wes 15/4/15

*W* *CW*  
I Garden Court

140

Temple, E.C.

16649/ 1915.



12 April 1915

The U . Secretary of State  
Colonial Office,  
Whitehall, S. W.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10 April.

With the greatest possible respect, I must express my surprise and disappointment that after nearly three months of correspondence and personal interviews this matter should, to all appearances, stand just where it stood at the beginning.

As far back as the 25 January I was informed by your department that your enquiries showed that my deportation was a War Office activity and that the whole matter had been referred to that office. Upon that intimation I promptly communicated with the War Office Secretary, and you will see that on the 2nd February you were good enough to inform me (4489/15) that the representations in my letter of the 25 January would be communicated to that office.

On the 5 February the Army Council were good enough to advise me that they were in correspondence with your department about the matter. I only received one other letter from the Army Council, dated the 19 February and which was virtually a repetition of their previous letter, and thenceforth the matter was again taken in hand by and all my subsequent interviews held with your department.

I naturally concluded that the matter was one that had been found to fall within the province of your department and not that of the War Office, and under that impression I remained

Colonial Office. (Contn. No. 2)

until the receipt of your letter now under reply.

In view of this communication, I have apparently to begin again my representations to the War Office.

Unfortunately, the delay has had the effect, in addition to not advancing matters, of exhausting my very slender resources, so that whereas I had hoped to be able to hold out until the case was examined into and my character and conduct vindicated, I now find myself confronted with the problem of having to meet current expenses over such time as it may take the War Office to arrive at its decision.

The condition of my finances makes it extremely likely that I shall be turned out of house and home in the near future, and that I shall find myself confronted with the indignity of being cited in the Courts as a defaulting debtor.

I need hardly say that it is most distasteful to me to discuss details of so intimate and domestic a character, and in excuse I can only remind you of the fact that at a moments notice I was forcibly deprived of my means of livelihood and with my family dumped down here, thousands of miles away, without, apparently, the smallest regard to the consequences to myself and my dependents.

I am now reopening communication with the War Office in the hope that without further delay some pronouncement of the Government's intentions will be made to me.

I have the fullest confidence that the more closely the matter is enquired into the completer will be my vindication and the more certainly will it be shewn that an unfortunate injustice has been committed.

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Colonial Office. (Contn. No. 3)

I have been so appreciative of the stupendous task with which the Government has had to deal since August, that I have endeavoured to exercise the utmost patience in calling attention to my own comparatively insignificant matter. I have studiously refrained from giving publicity to my case, preferring to rely upon the Government's sense of justice in its application to individuals no less than to nations, and I still cherish the hope that my confidence will prove not to have been misplaced and that I shall not be driven to abandon the attitude I have maintained throughout these long and trying months.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

L. W. Ritchie

C 15  
R 18 APR  
D 17

17 April 1915

In  
with ref. to the letter  
from this Dept. of 14 April  
and previous corresp.  
as regards the deportation  
of Mr L. W. Ritchie from  
the P. O. P., I am  
etc to forward, for  
the action of the A.C.  
a copy of a previous  
letter which has been  
recd from Mr Ritchie.  
I am to suggest  
that the A.C. might  
consider a reply to be  
addressed to Mr Ritchie  
to the effect that  
the delay in dealing  
with his case has not

DRAFT.

De fac.  
L. W.  
MINUTE.

- Mr. Egan 16/4/15
- Mr. B. C. 16.4.15
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Islington.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Ritchie 13 April  
(74) 76

