

EAST AFR. PROT

2284

12 JAN 17

22811

Crown Agents

1917

11 Jan

Last previous Paper.

6/235

Wireless Tel. Stations - Jubaland & N.F. Dist.

Submits further report by Cons. Fagin after discussion with Capt. Ridley - also letter from Cons. Fagin regarding terms on which Capt. Ridley has to be employed on erection of these stations. Awaits instructions as to completing formal contract with Wireless Co.

Mr. Butler

- (1) ? Tell C.A. to obtain the amended letter suggested in para. 3 of the C.E.'s letter of 9 January. And say we should like to hear the result of para. 4 in due course. *we should not be in a hurry to get the result of para. 4 in due course.*
- (2) We cannot make further progress. *we cannot make further progress as we have no more money.* Tell Mr. Cairne has replied to our letter on 12/3/17. *we must wait.*
- (3) *Supplement* As to Mr. Ridley's position. *we must wait.* ? Tel: to Gov: *initially* ref: to our letter of 8 Jan: on file 6287 asking for early reply pointing out that his engagement expires next month. Say that his *no engagement in the air force*

Handed to Cons. Fagin by Capt. Ridley 17 Jan 17. *Handed to Cons. Fagin by Capt. Ridley 17 Jan 17. See also 18 Jan 17. See also 24 Feb 17. See also 24 Feb 17.*

Next subsequent Paper.

2498

and the C. G.

And I think we might add
that we presume that he will
be provided with free transport?
(see A's letter of 28 Dec.)

I do not think we need take up
his doubt about his position with
regard to the military. He has local
military rank now.

You will notice that he raised the
question of the terms of re-employment
before the Capt. Staff.

Enc. to have copy of our letter
to C.A. on 57757, & copy of
57870, & incl. & this & incl.
RF for info.

W.A. 1917

W.B.

See above file in
Ridley's file C.A. 16.1.17

at once

201/19b

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
THE ABOVE REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER BEING QUOTED

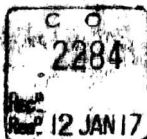
TELEGRAMS: GADEN LONDON
TELEPHONE: 7750 VICTORIA

4, MILLBANK,

WESTMINSTER,

WHITEHALL GARDENS,

LONDON, S. W.



11th January, 1917.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 57757 dated 8th December 1916, I have now the honour to transmit for the consideration of the Secretary of State a copy of the further observations of Messrs. Preece & Marlow Snell & Rider on the subject of the proposed Wireless Telegraph Stations for Jubuland after discussion with Captain Ridley.

2. I also enclose a copy of a further letter from the Consulting Engineers with its enclosure regarding the terms on which Captain Ridley should be employed to carry out the special work of erecting these stations. It will be seen from the last paragraph of their letter that it is desirable to settle this point early.

3. We await your instructions as to completing the formal contract with the Marconi Company.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

for Crown Agents.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

9. 1. 17.
enclosure.

9. 1. 17.
& enclosure

Messrs. Preece Cardew Snell & Rider to Crown Agents.

8, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.

9th January, 1917.



Gentlemen,

1. With further reference to your letter of the 11th ult. we have the honour to report that a full discussion of this question took place at our office on the 4th inst. when Mr. Caine, Captain Ridley, Mr. Gray (The Engineer in Chief of the Marconi Co.) and Mr. Llewellyn Preece, were present. It was decided that no change should be made as regards any of the generating and operating plant, but in view of transport difficulties, that lattice masts 160 ft. in length should be substituted for the sectional tubular masts provided for in the Contract for the four inland Stations, viz:- Serenli, Moyale, Wagheir, and Sungura. The tubular mast already specified for Kismayu will stand for that station.

2. It was arranged that Messrs. Marconi's would send complete drawings of their lattice mast to Captain Ridley, so that he might go through them and decide whether he could erect them at these out of the way places, and if so, what assistance and extra plant he would require.

3. He has passed the drawings to us, and we enclose them herewith (Nos. 21125/1, 16379, 16383/1, 16385/2, 16393) together with copy of a letter from him dated the 6th inst. in which he asks that an erector be appointed to help him, and also that a full supply of special articles which he enumerates be

sent out. We are writing you separately regarding the erector. As regards the masts and tools, etc. we beg to suggest that a copy of Captain Ridley's letter be sent to the Marconi Co. and that they be informed that the lattice masts are required at the four Stations, and asked to submit an amended tender for the complete equipment on these lines, full allowance to be made for all the special tools etc. mentioned by Captain Ridley.

4. As regards the tubular mast equipment which is not now required, and which will be left on the Company's hands, Messrs. Marconi will perhaps be good enough to make a proposal with regard to this.

We are etc.

FREECE CRADEW SNELL AND RIDER.

(Sd) Ll. Preecs.

Enclosures.

IP.

C O P Y.

9, Cyril Road,

Small Heath,

Birmingham.

January 6th, 1917.

Sir,

Jubaland W/L. Lattice Masts.

- (1) I beg to submit in accordance with your instructions the drawings of the masts, which I have carefully gone over.
- (2) I do not anticipate any difficulty in their erection. As it will be necessary to have 2 white men on the job, I beg to request that an erector be appointed to help me with their erection, a commissioned officer is not required. Would suggest an active fitter type of man from the Maker's works as quite suitable for the job. Salary about £200 with house allowance.
- (3) I note in drawing that jointing plates are to be permanently rivetted on, presumably this will be done before shipment.
- (4) Tools and plant. Request that an ample supply of Drifts, Hammers, Chisels, Stocks, and Biss, Lubricating Oil, Spanners, Spirit Levels, Measuring Tapes, Portable Punching Bears, Blacksmith's Flat Sets, Files, 1 Portable Forge with geared fan (not bellows) Tallow - white lead (for rigging) Carpenters' Saws, Nails, Screws, Paint Brushes, and Kettles, Marine Spikes, 3", 2", 1-1/2" Rope, Plumb Bob and Line, be supplied.
- Shipping Marks. Suggest the following. In addition to the Crown Agents' directions. Give each station an initial letter calling
- Kismayu A.
- Serenli B. and so on. All gear for each station to have its initial painted on the case, the same procedure to apply to the bundling of angles. This will

- 2 -

if approved, greatly facilitate the distribution of materials.

Suggest using equal parts of Red and White lead for painting steelwork, and dressing rigging with a mixture of white lead and tallow, alternatively the masts could be painted with Callenders' Kalbitum (cold brand).

I would suggest erecting Kiamayu first. This will give me Telegraphic communication with Mombasa on completion, and Kiamayu would become my base of operations.

Supplemental to tools and plant requirements stone breakers' hammers and shafts are necessary; any other tools can be obtained from Telegraph Store in R.A.P.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(Signed) H.J.W. RILEY.

W. Llewellyn Price, Esq.,
Queen Anne's Gate.

COPY.

LP/CB.

8, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster,
London, W. 1.

8th January, 1917.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies
4, Millbank,
Westminster,
LONDON, S.W.

Gentlemen,

Island Wireless Stations.

With reference to the erection of these Wireless Stations, we have the honor to attach a copy of a letter we have received from Captain Ridley, Assistant Engineer in East Africa, who has been instructed to carry out this work and to employ his time whilst at home on leave in making the necessary arrangements.

As will be noticed, Captain Ridley, who completes his Agreement with the Colonial Government next month, is not prepared to sign a further Agreement and do this special work, unless his salary is appreciably increased, and unless his commission as Captain is confirmed. We have discussed this matter with Mr. Caine, the Chief Telegraph Engineer in the Protectorate, and he has written us as follows:-

"I have reported the result of our meeting last Thursday to the C.O. and have also informed them that I understand from Mr. Ridley that he will not re-engage unless he can obtain a substantial increase of salary, and that he expects 2500, rising to 2800, as a wireless expert. I have said that I consider him worth the money and that we shall certainly not obtain an equally capable wireless expert for less."

We agree with Mr. Caine. Captain Ridley is an extremely well qualified wireless expert, most reliable, and capable of carrying out the erection of these Stations efficiently. He gained his knowledge when in the Navy,

8th January, 1917.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

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and has given every satisfaction during his service in the East African Protectorate.

We consider that his request is reasonable. The erection of these Stations in a wild and unsettled country calls for the employment of a specially qualified man, and one of strong personality. It is not a post which an ordinary wireless engineer could fill with satisfaction. Captain Ridley realises the position, but is quite prepared to undertake the work if properly paid.

Should the Government not agree, it would be essential to obtain a qualified expert from the Marconi Company. It is very doubtful whether this could be done now. But even if it could be arranged, we would point out that as that Company charges at least £55 a month, or £660 a year, for their Engineer, whilst in Government employ, it would be more economical for the Government to engage Captain Ridley. Further it would be undoubtedly advantageous to have these Stations erected by an Engineer well acquainted with the country, and by one who would also be most anxious to ensure that the Staff left in charge of each station, when completed, were competent and properly trained for the work.

We strongly recommend that Captain Ridley's application should be accepted, and we would ask that the Government be communicated with by cable since Captain Ridley's present appointment normally terminates on February 13th, and he might then be taken by the Navy or the Army. It would be extremely difficult to obtain another suitable man for this work.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

PREECE, CARDEW, SNELL & RIDER.

Enclosure.

9, Cyril Road,

Small Heath,

BIRMINGHAM.

28th December, 1916.

Dear Mr. Proce,

Inland Wireless.

You have no doubt heard that the erection of the 5 wireless stations is to be entrusted to me, and I am now on leave in Britain in order that I shall have a full four before me to commence the work which I understand is to be carried out with all despatch.

As there are several points that I wish definitely cleared up before I start the work, I beg to place the following before you.

(1) My salary £250 per annum as Assistant Telegraph Engineer is totally inadequate for the part of the country I have to work in, observing that I shall have to pay for transport (carrier or camel) over a land line at least 500 miles from my base of operations.

(2) I understand that the work is on behalf of Protectorate and Military and it is impossible for me to work as a Civil Servant with the Military unless I am given proper rank and command of my own section. My previous experiences as a Civil Servant when working for the Military have been certainly most pleasant due to circumstances over which I had no control; on the other hand I am pleased to report that the Military have written to my Chief expressing their appreciation of the work I did for them.

(3) Owing to the hurried nature of my departure from East Africa on leave there was no time to give me a definite reply as to the salary I should receive.

As the P.M.G.'s promises were only verbal I cannot

accept the same as likely to mature, and having roughly 45 days unexpired leave I desire to give you as such notice as possible.

(4) Being a progressive man, I regret to say as a result of that affair I am in a cul-de-sac with no hope of an outlet and if there is no opportunity given for progress then I still have my profession to return to commercially.

(5) The labour market for fully qualified wireless Telegraph engineers is 2500 per annum progressive. In addition to being a W.T. engineer, I am also a General Telegraph and Telephone Engineer. As regards my work, my late tour will bear every investigation, observing that I have introduced most satisfactory duplex working in the protectorate.

As an instance of the cost of labour the protectorate had to pay the Marconi Company £25 per month for erecting the Mombasa Station.

The conditions in the Postal Telegraph Department are lacking in many essentials, in view of the fact that my immediate superior officer, Mr. J. W. Freighton, after my service in the Protectorate is applying for a subordinate post on the West Coast, where the conditions appear to offer more scope for progressive men.

(6) I like B.E.A. very much, speak the language, am thoroughly experienced with handling and organisation of native labour.

In conclusion I ask for a progressive salary 2500-600 per annum with usual allowances, in view of the really exceptional circumstances under which I have to work during progress of work. Please forgive me for writing at such length.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H.J.W. RIDLEY.

CA. EAP
2284

5
A 15 JAN
D 16

17

17 Jan 1917

Drawn at 1360

Gentlemen,

DRAFT

I enclose with the rest of

your Agents

your letter of the 10th of January,

MINUTE.

Mr. Jewell 1571/17
Mr. Bottomley 16117/3

(E 201/19.6), with enclosures regarding

the proposed Wireless Telegraph Station

Mile.

for Jubaland, as to which you that

Lumbert.

Mr. Road.

approve of your obtaining the

Sir G. Piddis.

amended tender suggested in para 5 of

Mr. Steel-Mailand.

the Consulting Engineer's letter of the

Mr. Bonar Law.

9th of January.

Copy sent 17 Jan 17 of

2 drafts

2. Mr. Long will be given

~~to have~~ at the same time
you will also
submit the

~~as for~~ submit the tanks the

result of the suggestion made

in para 4 of the Consulting

Engineer's letter with respect to

the tubular mast equipment

attached as ~~is~~ ^{is} required.

7.11