

EAST AFR. PROT

39277

39277

REC'D
REG'D 12 OCT 14

Burgess, Mrs E.M.

DEATH OF HUSBAND MR J.D. BURGESS

1914

10th October

Last previous Paper.

Enquires if she and her children are entitled to pension.

~~Mr Burgess~~ Mr Burgess Rev. G. Fielder

A. J. D. Burgess was one

of the Mozambique Co's employees who was a volunteer, killed in the Longido fighting on Sept. 25th. I don't know whether his wife would be entitled to any pension from public funds, I should think not. But possibly the Mozambique Co might be liable to some extent.

A.C. 13/10/14

not liable, and, if they can't give anything it is hard to see how we can take into account. I think we must tel. to Gov. as follows:-

Amago
"Wife of J. D. Burgess and of 5 children are entitled to any pension benefit of his being a volunteer."

Vertical handwritten notes:
12 Oct 14
John Burgess
15 Oct 14
Mrs Burgess
18 Oct 14
19 Oct 14
20 Oct 14
21 Oct 14
22 Oct 14
23 Oct 14
24 Oct 14
25 Oct 14
26 Oct 14
27 Oct 14
28 Oct 14
29 Oct 14
30 Oct 14
31 Oct 14

449 523

Next subsequent Paper.

Nov 1914

point - take off your views.

& wife. W.S. Peoples that we are
in communication with the Gov. & will
write further.

[Before anything is decided we must
get W.S. Strawn. There must be plenty
of precedent - with the S.A. war if not
within].

Yes: we
might do so
at once
M

W.S. 14. 10. 14

H. J. R.

14/8/14

Stouffer P.

14. 10. 14

I have put into the letter to W.S. an enquiry
as to compensation for wounded volunteers - the point
is sure to arise.

W.S. 15. 10. 14

Correspondence with Lady Hythe
attached. Further action indicated.

Sp. B.

10. 12. 14

at Africa West

what can W Harcourt Bay,

lease?

HAB

See ^{minutes paper} ~~minutes~~ ^{last} ~~minutes~~

for key
see South
Africa

7.12.14

Please see 48628/14 etc ^{since} ~~answered~~

reply regarding delay ^{which has been} ~~due to~~ ^{the necessity of} ~~obtaining~~ the opinions of the Govts of E.A. Uganda and Nyasaland, and for revising a ~~similar~~ scheme for volunteers' pensions before this particular case could be dealt with. say that the proposal to treat volunteers in E.A. under the terms of the Army Pay Warrant is at present being considered by Treasury, and that it is hoped to introduce a pension scheme very shortly.

HAB 7.12.14

OFFICE, LONDON

Mr. [unclear] [unclear]
W. Butler

Having they their letter about J. D. [unclear]

I referred this back for papers, now annexed.
You will see that in our letter to [unclear] of
24. NOV. we pressed for a reply because there
was an actual E.A.P. case (this one).

The reply might be that we are awaiting
the hearing to give to some pension
being paid in these cases as if the man
had been serving with the Army in Europe;
that we will do every thing we can to
secure an early decision but that the
pension, even, we fear, only to a small
one.

Revised Treasury of our letter, in [unclear]
letter observing that the particular case
which we referred is urgent. We might
also take occasion to say that although
we referred to the Pay Board it
was intended that the dependents of
our volunteers should have as liberal
treatment as is to be granted to those
of officers or men of similar rank
serving with the Army or other arm
in Europe.

Telegraph to Gov.

by telegraph station, and told

W.A. 8/12/14

H. J. R.
8/24/14

P.M. 8.12.14

U. 9.12.14

J.
9.12.14

as proposed

type reply for my sig

~~H~~ 9.12.14

TELEGRAMS, CATSFIELD.
TELEPHONE 32 BATTLE.
STATIONS BATTLE & CROWHURST.

NORMANHURST
BATTLE.

4th Dec. /14

Dear Lady.

Forgive me troubling you.

I believe the case of this man who
was killed in E. Africa is coming up
for consideration re. pension at your
Office - & I only wanted to put in
a word - I know his poor little widow
& it is a dreadful case. I am sure if
there is not any pension, as she

has the means. The letter copy of which I
sent was written to her - her husband
is a good first to join this volunteer
force at a critical time -
I am sure you will do what you can

Yours
Edina Hythe

TELEGRAMS, CAYFIELD.
TELEPHONE 32 BATTLE.
STATIONS BATTLE & CROWHURST.

27
NORMANHURST,
BATTLE.

John Donald Burgess - (age 38)

Engineer & Assistant Manager for the Egyptian
Tobacco Company British East Africa -

He formed one of a party of Volunteers
who were got together to hold an outpost
pending the arrival of troops -
he was killed in action Sep 25.

(see letter enclosed)

His widow has the means - 2 little girls

(Copy)

Magadi,
B.E.A.

20

October 5th, 1914.

My dear Mrs. Burgess,

It was with the most heartfelt regret that I had to send a Galle home to the Company for them to send on to you, reporting that your husband had been killed in action on the German border, and now I must write you my sincerest condolences and tell you as far as I knew, or in fact as any one knows, just what happened.

Nothing I can say about the dear fellow will be any news to you I know, but he was a great-hearted gentleman and I think perhaps died the death he would have chosen. The Officer he was directly under had just reported to me what a hard-working tiger he was. We were all so fond of him and my small babies loved him better than anyone else in the camp, and were very sad when the news came in.

He so often spoke to me of you and the kiddies and I know how fond he was of you all.

Now as regards the fight, no one actually saw him hit as the fight took place in very thick bush country. He was one of a party of thirty men who had followed up what was said to be a smaller party of Germans. When they came up with them they found to consist of about one hundred and fifty men with axes. The Germans opened fire at once and for a time was I am afraid some little confusion. The four men of

the Magadi Force, one of whom was your husband, stood fast however and returned the fire and then our men rallied. This lasted for about ten minutes when the Germans started to advance. The Officer in command decided that our men could not hold out so he ordered a retirement and Burgess and three others were told off to cover it. They lay down taking cover as best they could and when next day our men went out (the Germans having retired) all four were found dead just as they had lain down, and if ever men gave up their lives to save others it was those four.

Burgess had been hit right between the eyes, the bullet passing through his brain, so death must have been painless and instantaneous. I do not think he could have known anything about it. His mule had also been shot quite near him. The German native troops had taken his rifle and field glasses, so they may also have taken any small thing that he may have had in his pockets.

I have been through his things and will send you by next mail one or two letters that he had in his boxes. When any one dies out here unless he has made a will in the country the Administrator General clears up the estate and we are supposed to send everything to him, but I have seen him and he agrees that we can sell anything that is not personal or likely to be valued by you and send the rest to him; he will forward them to you. Letters and those sort of things I will send to you direct.

Amongst ourselves out here we raised a small subscription for a memorial. We have got just over a hundred pounds, and I think

I am speaking for the others when I say that we think the best thing to do is to send it to you for the two girls, to use as you think fit.

I am writing this at the Coast so can not send on any letters or a copy of the very complimentary order published by the O.C. troops, but will send this later.

I do not know any of his people but you would oblige me if you would send them my condolences on the loss of such a brave true-hearted son or brother.

Give my love to the two girls and tell them how sorry I am for them, but they must find what consolation they can in remembering that like lots of his fellow countrymen just now he went under bravely and with his face the right way, and that in his case he was endeavouring, and successfully as it turned out, to save others.

And now I must close this. I am so sorry for you all, but I am afraid I am not a good hand at writing a letter of this sort, and express myself but poorly.

I can only say that as you are mourning a good husband and father, I have to grieve for a good friend, a loyal co-worker and a stout Englishman.

With my very deepest sympathy,

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd.) GUY SYMONDS.

Downing Street, 31

18th December, 1914.

My dear Idina

I am sorry that I have not been able to answer earlier your letter of the 4th December relative to the case of Mrs Burgess, whose husband lost his life in the fighting in East Africa. Certain enquiries had to be made before I could reply.

I am urging the Treasury, with whom the decision in the matter rests, to agree to the same pensions being paid in such cases as Mr Burgess; as if the officer killed had been serving with the Army in Europe. I will do everything that I can to secure an early decision, but I fear that in any case the pension, if one is given, can only be a small one.

Yours very sincerely
Edw. L. Harcourt

Aberystwyth 32
539
Loose

REC^d

[14]
Aylesford Bazaar
Kent

Oct 10th

Sir I am advised to
write to you without
further delay with
regard to your
despatch via the
Magadi Soda Co. that
my husband (J. D. Buey)

was killed in action in
British East Africa
on Sept 26th
I shall be very grateful
if you will kindly
inform me what
provision is due to
me & my two little
girls in consideration
of the fact that
I was entirely dependent
on my husband
It is understood ^{some} at

present whether
my husband (who of
course went to E. Africa
as a civilian) had
received a commission
or whether he had
merely enlisted as a
Trooper in the E. African
Mounted Rifles -
Trusting that you
may be able to
relieve my anxiety
in regard to the my

future financially
Believe me
yours faithfully
E. W. Burgess

Kindly reply to
Aylesford Garage

A. 15 OCT.
D. 5

~~SECRET~~

divd 40-25

15 Oct 1914

15 October ^{Wife of} ~~General~~ ^{an officer}
J. D. Burgess asks whether

she and children are
entitled to any pension

^{retained} in respect of his ^{has this} having been
killed ^{sallying} on active service

^{conspicuous} Have you considered the
point? ^{tidelock} Telegraph your views

Harcourt

DRAFT.

Tel.

Governor

Nairobi

MINUTE.

Mr. Cooke 14/10/14

Mr. Bottomley 15.10.14 f.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott. Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

Sent 2.25 pm 15.10.14 T.H.G.

Copy from Mr. Harcourt 45326/14

3 drafts

~~CH~~
ansd 40/25

28

15 Oct 1914

15 October. ^{Wife of}
^{Odessa} ^{and} ^{husband}
J. D. Burgess asks whether

she and children are
entitled to any pension

^{retained} ^{benefits}
in respect of his having been
killed on active service.

^{confabular}
Have you considered the
point? Telegraph your views.

Harcourt

DRAFT. Tel.

Governor Nairobi

MINUTE.

Mr. Cooke 14/10/14

Mr. Bottomley 15.10.14 f.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

Sent 2.25 pm 15.10.14 T.H.C. ansd 40/25

3 drafts

Copy file on 24/10/14 45/20/14

SC

Mr Burgess

15 Oct. 1914[Aylesford Vicarage
Kent]

Madam,

A.C. 14/10/14

I am &c to acknowledge

Mr Bottomley 15.10.14 fr.

the receipt of your
letter of the 10th of Oct

3 drafts

enquiring whether you
& your children are
entitled to any pension
in respect of your

White

husband's having been
as a volunteer (in the E.A.P.
billed) on active service.

(2) Mr H. is in com-

-munication with the Gen
of the E.A.P. with regard
to the matter, and a
further letter will be
addressed to you

Pressing

See

16 Oct. 1914.

The Secretary
War Office.

Sir,

I am 2c to state,
for the inf^y of the Army
Council, that an enquiry
has been received from the
wife of Mr V. D. Burgess, an
unofficial resident in the
(bought as a volunteer and)
E.A.P. who was killed,
in the engagement ~~with~~
~~a German force~~ near Lougilo
on the 25th of Sept., as
to whether she & her children
are entitled to any pension
in respect of her husband
having been killed on
active service.

40043

A.C. 14/10/14

Mr Bottomley 15/10/14

I draft

(in the East African theatre)

For Mr. Newell 24/10/14 4326

(2) MVA would be glad
to be furnished with the
views of the Army Council
regarding ~~the~~
The Adjutant-General's Office
is requested to refer the matter to the
Adjutant-General's Office for their
views on the subject.

Mr H. is in communication
the subject with the Gen
the E.A.P., who has been
requested to telegraph his
views in the meantime.

READ

11 Dec 1914

Sir,

Pressing

(75325)

DRAFT.

The Secy.

to the Treasury

MINUTE.

Mr. Downie 10.12.14

Mr. Baskin 11.12.14

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

With ref. to the letter
 from this Dept. of the
 24th of November respecting
 provision of pensions
 and allowances to members
 of the Volunteer Force in
 E. Africa and their
 dependents, I am able to
 state
 request you to inform
 the L.C. of the Treasury
 that the case referred to

in para 3 of that letter
 has now become a matter of urgency,
 is extremely urgent, and
 that he will be glad if
 to request that the

decision of the L.C. of
 the Treasury may be

communicated to him

as soon as possible

I am to add that although reference was made to the terms of the Army Pay Warrant, it is intended to be interpreted that the dependents of volunteers in E.A. should receive as liberal treatment as is granted at present to those of officers or men of similar rank serving with the Army on active service in Europe.

HC

P/39277/Paul H.P.P.

37

Days Ter
11 December

(39277)

my tel of 16 October

apt. Telegram
Preiner
Nairobi

Down 11.12.14
Bostrom by 7.2.11 f

San 2 50m 11.12.14

Presume A J D
Burgess ^{Keystop} reported killed
Ignite Hill was

John Donald Burgess
silvergray ^{reprinter}
Reply by telegram

stating rank held

Harcourt