

EAST AFR. PROT

26799

REC.
REC. 24 MAY 17

26799

Contas May. L. E.
Bord. M.P.

Lieut. Capt. C.K. Hilton

1917

May

Last previous Paper.

N.O.
24441Complains as to his rate of pay, &
being compelled to sail as a steerage
passenger to East.

Recd 23 May 17

Copy for Com. Capt. C.K. Hilton
sent to Contas. 15 Sept 17
4432917

Next subsequent Paper.

N.O.
28033

Mr. Bottomley

W. Butler

P. Fisher

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Mr. Steel-Haitland has asked for our observation on ~~this~~ ^{the} letter. At Miss Page's request I saw Sir Edward Coates when he called and explained the matter to him. I think he fully understood the position, which is not in doubt. It is briefly as follows:-

It is the rule that non-commissioned officers of the local East Africa Protectorate Forces, when invalided to this country from East Africa, receive half East African rates of pay (N.B. Half East African rates of pay are usually somewhat higher than full British rates of pay, plus allowances, in the case of non-commissioned officers and men). In ^{land} Corporal Hilton's case a stupid mistake was made in his last Pay Certificate by the local authorities, the Certificate being made to say that he was entitled to full East African salary at 6s.8d. per day while on leave (1943). (the local authorities made some other similar mistakes just about this time). The mistake was noticed here and the Governor was asked by telegram what the position should be (Telegram on 3010). He replied by correcting 6s.8d. to 3s.4d. a day (6231) and ^{land} Corporal Hilton has been paid accordingly.

He was clearly led to suppose, owing to the mistake made locally, that he would receive full East African rates while away from East Africa, and to that extent he has had very bad luck. On the other hand, it would obviously be unfair to other men in the same position if, as a result of this, he were given full pay, to which he is not entitled, while they only receive the regular half pay.

It is definitely said in Sir E. Coates' letter that, if ^{land} Corporal Hilton had known that he would only receive 3s.4d. a day, he might never have come to England at all. If this is correct, it is of course

*possibly
it never here
This is not
I have
had the last
of my attachment
made accordingly*

a strong reason for giving him some sort of compensation, but I am rather doubtful whether it could really be maintained because if the Medical authorities in East Africa thought it necessary for him to come home for treatment, they would simply have ordered him home, and he would have had no choice but to obey.

161
The Chief Medical Officer says that he was obliged to go for further treatment

As regards the ^{passage} passage, we have no information. It should certainly have been a second class passage and not a steerage passage, and I think we might at once pay him the difference between the two. Why they should have given him a steerage passage, I cannot make out.

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We must ask Govt about this. I confess it was somewhat ^{odd} that he should be reformed to a class passage was for the Empire. Hilton also the complaint should be made to the Govt. should refund difference to him.

As regards the pay, I can only suggest that we should refer out to the Governor commenting somewhat strongly on the mistake which has been made in the Leave Certificate, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{inquire} ~~and~~ ^{whether} ~~there is any~~ ^{ground} ~~for the statement~~ ^{that} ~~Corporal Hilton could~~ ^{had any choice} ~~have refused to come home~~ ^{if} ~~he had known that he was~~ ^{only to receive half rates} ~~observing that in that case~~ ^{there would appear to be a strong case for the grant of compensation to him on these grounds, and ask for a reply by telegraph on this point.}

Should also let Gov know what we have done with regard to passage

2/7 17/5/17

W. Steel Mackenzie

I am, subject to marginal notes. Shall we draft to Sir Edward Coates for your signature to the O.A.C.?

2/23

175 12/5/17

A.S. N. 17-5-17

copy the letter to Mr. ...

26/11/19
99, GRESHAM STREET, BANK.

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LONDON. E.C. 2.

8. May 1917.

The Right Hon. Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P.,
The Colonial Office, S.W. 1.

My dear Steel-Maitland

re Lance Corporal C.K. Hilton, E.A.M.R.

I called at the Colonial Office on Saturday last, but you had not arrived. Your Secretary, however, was very kind and introduced me to one of your Departments in reference to the above case.

Hilton was in British East Africa and enlisted in the East African Mounted Rifles, subsequently being made Lance-corporal. At that time he also held a commission in an Indian Volunteer Corp, but resigned that and, as mentioned ~~xxx~~ above, enlisted in the E.A.M.R. and was afterwards wounded and taken prisoner, remaining in the hands of the Germans for nine months.

The Medical Officer at Nairobi in August 1916 advised that Hilton should go to England as soon as possible for treatment which was not readily obtainable in the Colony. He made application to go to England and received permission to proceed in December 1916, being provided with a Pay Certificate, copy of which I enclose, to the effect that he was to receive further medical treatment on full pay at the rate of 4/8d. per day, but on arrival here he is only paid 3/4d. per day.

:2:

The Rt. Hon. A. Steel-Katland, M.P. contd.

8.6.1917.

There must be something wrong when a man leaves his country on the understanding that he will receive pay of 4/6d. per day, and when he arrives in the Old Country, through the fault of someone, is only allowed 3/4d.

I may also say that Hilton was granted a 2nd. class passage across, but as soon as he got on board ship was put into the steerage, and had to come across as a steerage passenger.

I understand that this man had a commission offered him in East Africa by Col: Fendall at G.H.Q., but owing to his health at the time the medical authorities did not consider he was fit to accept it.

I shall feel much obliged if you will look into this case, and see that this man has his rights.

I gathered from the interview I had with the gentleman connected with your office that a mistake had been made, and that the certificate should have only been filled up for 3/4d., but I ventured to point out that the mistake had not been made by Hilton, and that if it had been a question of his receiving 3/4d. possibly he might never have come over to the Old Country, but would have preferred remaining in British East Africa on full pay and taking the chance of his wound being properly treated there by the medical authorities.

So far as being compelled to come over as a steer-

The Rt. Hon. A. Steel-Maitland, M.P. contd.

8.6.1917.

age passenger, although the certificate gave him a 2nd. class passage, here someone is to blame, and again not Hilton.

Believe me to be

You have
G. F. Coates

O. I. I enclose a copy of Hilton's
Dear Certificate

G. F. C.

LEAVE AND LAST PAY CERTIFICATE.

Certified that L/Cpl. Cecil Kirkham Hilton, No 228, East Africa Mounted Rifles, who has been invalided to England for further treatment on the grounds of gun-shot wound has been paid full salary as L/Cpl. E.A.M.R. at 6/8d. per diem up to the 30th November 1916 inclusive, and is entitled to salary at the rate of 6/8d. per day from 1st. December 1916.

2. He has been provided with a 2nd. class single passage to England by the S.S. "H.T. Briton" which is due to sail from Mombassa on 10th December.

3. His civil appointment is that of.....
with salary at the rate of £..... per annum
and he arrived at Mombassa on First appointment on
return from Leave

(sgd). D.A. Thomas,
Captain.
for CHIEF PAYMASTER
EAST AFRICA PAY CORPS.

Date 7th. December 1916.

Downing Street,

23 May, 1917.

for Mr. Steel-Maitland's signature.

By Sir Edward Coates

I have your letter of the 8th

DRAFT.

May relating to the case of Lance
 Corporal C.K. Hilton, of the East African
 Mounted Rifles. I am afraid we must
 refer to the Officer Administering the
 Government, both as regards the rate of
 pay and as regards the provision of the
 steerage passage, before we can take
 any safe action in the matter. A despatch
 is being sent on these points, but we
 have asked for a telegraphic reply
 in order to get both questions settled.
 I hope satisfactorily, as soon as possible.

MINUTE.

Mr. Butler 18.5.17

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Grindle

Mr. Lambert

Mr. Read

Sir G. Fiddes

Mr. Steel-Maitland

Mr. Long

2 drafts

Register of the despatches

G. D.
MAY 8 1917
27

485

Downing Street,

24 May, 1917.

Ans A 43481

Sir,

With reference to my Confidential

DRAFT

(in reply)

despatch of the 6th February last, I have

the honour to transmit to you a copy of a

letter relating to the case of Lance-

Corporal C.K. Hilton, East African Mounted

Rifles.

2. The mistake made in providing for full pay from the 1st December ¹⁹¹⁶ onwards in Lance-Corporal Hilton's Leave and Last Pay Certificate would appear to have had most unfortunate results. Lance-Corporal Hilton was evidently under a complete misapprehension as to the rate of pay which he would receive while on leave and has been correspondingly disappointed by the reduction of the rate to half-pay in accordance with the Regulations. It is suggested in the letter of which I

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

CONFIDENTIAL

THE C.A.G.

MINUTE.

Mr. Butler 18.5.17

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Orinella.

Mr. Lambert.

Mr. Read.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Mr. Steel-Maitland.

Mr. Long.

*Edward Coates May 8
without enclosed*

2 drafts

now

now enclose a copy that he might possibly not have come to this country at all had he known that he would only receive half pay while on sick leave. If this is the case, I feel that there is ground for the grant of some compensation to him, reluctant as I am to create a precedent which might prove embarrassing in other cases. I should, however, be glad to be informed whether there is any reason to think that, if Lance-Corporal Hilton had known that he was only to receive half pay while on leave, he would have had any choice as to coming home, and would in that event have elected to remain in East Africa.

3. You will also see that it is stated in the letter that Lance-Corporal Hilton was put into the steerage on board ship. I have to enquire whether you are in a position to confirm this statement, and, if so, whether *the provision of a steerage passage was arranged by this was due to the arrangements of the Protectorate* authorities or was done by the Steamship Company on their own responsibility. In the former event, some explanation is required of the provision of a steerage passage for a European. In the

latter event, the Company should be called upon to refund the difference between the cost of a 2nd class passage and a steerage passage, and I should propose to pay the amount recovered to Lance-Corporal Hilton by way of compensation for the inconvenience to which he was put.

4. I shall be glad to have a reply from you by telegraph on both points. *as to pay and passage*

I have etc.

Signal WALTER B. LING