

EAST AFR. PROT.

17084

REC'D  
APR 13 1915

17084

for  
Reviewing Copy

1915

19 Inet.

Last previous Paper.

14080

Deportation of L.W. Ritch.

Sends letter from Judge Bonham Carter regarding the Ritch's movements before & since war, & reasons for deportation.

Sir G. Fiddes.

We are not much further advanced

? Why to W.O. L.F. referring to letter on 16649.

W.O.  
18.4.15

See also 17080

Copy 170 to 4 April 15 to Gov  
Copy (Garage) 5 days Copy 2 Oct 15  
20 Oct 15 R. W. 50 L.F.  
44430

Next subsequent Paper.

R. 14476

**EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE**

**CONFIDENTIAL No. 34**

17084  
REC'D  
15 APR 15

GOVERNMENT  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

15th March 1915.

300  
14/3/15

Sir,

In continuation of my Confidential despatch No. 24 of the 15th ultimo I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from Mr Justice Bonham-Carter respecting the deportation of Mr L.W. Ritch.

13.3.15

2. Mr Justice Bonham-Carter is shortly proceeding on leave and you may consider it desirable to discuss this matter with him.

3. General Malleson has not yet returned from the Congo and his report must therefore be delayed some time longer.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*[Signature]*  
GOVERNOR *[Signature]*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

H.M. High Court of East Africa,

Mombasa, March 13 1915.

17084

REC'D  
13 APR 15

Sir,

With reference to your enquiry concerning the deportation of Mr L.W. Ritch, No. S.10848/38 dated March 8.

I was absent from Mombasa from the 2nd October to 11th November 1914. Mr Ritch was arrested, I believe, on November 19 so that I have little knowledge of his actions just prior to the deportation.

Mr Ritch had always openly taken up the position of the Indians' advocate and the partisan of their causes.

Before the outbreak of the war I am of opinion that Mr Ritch was extremely careful to act with the greatest care in those capacities so as not to transgress the letter of the law.

During the very early period of the war the community of Mombasa was considerably disorganised and actions had to be taken which were not necessary in peace time; a good number of these actions were resented by the Indian population and this resentment was voiced through Mr Ritch to the military authorities. As far as I am aware Mr Ritch's manner was always perfectly deferential and the matters such as, under ordinary circumstances, were properly grounds for remonstrance. On the other hand the situation was one of great stress and Mr Ritch's action and presence in the town caused a great deal of extra trouble work and worry to the Military Authorities. It is impossible to me to

give

give more than an opinion but that opinion is that but for Mr Ritch's presence the friction between the Indians and the Military would have been much less.

At one time Mr Ritch volunteered to raise an Indian Town Guard and his offer was accepted. The Town Guard raised by Mr Ritch did not prove a success and had to be disbanded almost immediately. Mr Ritch would not approve of the officers that it was proposed to give him. In my opinion the movement of raising this Town Guard was not a genuine one but a political manoeuvre to get more power into the hands of the Indian Community. I do not think that the personnel of corps raised by Mr Ritch was that of a corps genuinely willing to assist the Government.

I have no direct proof but I am very strongly of opinion that during August and September Mr Ritch was a distinct hindrance to the smooth running of the Township of Mombasa.

During that time I was Acting Chief Justice and also was in command of the European Town Guard and in constant and intimate communication with the Officer Commanding Troops.

I have etc.,

Sd. ARTHUR BONHAM-CARTER

Puisne Judge.

The Hon:

The Chief Secretary,