

E. AFRICA
45668

C O
45668
REC'D
Reg'd 20 NOV 14

Date
1914
11th November
Previous Paper

233

INDIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
FREE TELEGRAMS AS TO WOUNDED

This copy of telegram from the Govt of India and letters to G.P.O. and Eastern Telegraph Coy respecting free transmission of telegrams concerning the wounded. Expresses hope a similar concession will be obtained from the Administration of East Africa.

To Lt Col. Cav. 25th Ma 14
Tel. for East
N.Y.S. 28 Nov 14
N.Y.S. 18 Dec 14
N.Y.S. 8 Dec 14

Dear Sir J. Fisher

I think the knowledge of free telegrams for the wounded is likely to be obtained, but it will mean that they will be sent direct if any relieve us of some trouble. I am sure if the Cable Coy. agree we should not I think raise any objection?

But we had better try to get the Cable Company to have our telegrams about our K.A.A. & volunteer wounded

- (1) Reply agreeing & say that the Govt of India has been instructed accordingly
- (2) Tel. to Gov. in this sense

Subsequent Paper
SPO
48490

Black Eastern Tel. Co. if they are prepared
to extend the arrangement to the care of British
officers & crew, now serving with the regular or
volunteer forces in the S. A. Post.

W.L.S. 20/1/14

I agree as to (1) & (2), but
I am doubtful about (3). In the case of
India it seems to have been a spontaneous
offer on the part of the Co. If we ask
a favour, ~~that~~^{it} may hamper us later
on.

H. J. R.

20/1/14

It will be seen that the concession
only extends to the land in the
S.A. Post.

If we are to fall into line
(I can hardly help it) I suppose
we shall be flooded with private
applications for tel. inf.

No 3 above seems to come first
in order: I say that we have been
informed that the I. O. of post has been arranged
& they have in mind to approve the
Co. The work on W.B. standing papers
There will be no difficulty with
if the Co. agree.

Dec 20. 11. 14

W. J. R.
Ed 21. 1. 14

Any further communication on this subject
should be addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India,
Public Works Department,
India Office,
London, S.W.

and the following reference quoted:—

P.W.4171.

C O
45668
REC^d
REG^d 20 NOV 14

INDIA OFFICE

WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W.

19 November 1914.

234

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India and of letters to the General Post Office and the Eastern Telegraph Company, on the subject of the willingness of that Company and of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company to transmit free over their lines telegrams from or to or concerning the wounded in the Indian Expeditionary Forces. I am to express the hope of the Marquess of Crewe that Mr. Secretary Harcourt will be able to obtain a similar concession from the Administration of East Africa.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Lionel Abraham

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

P.W. 4171 / 1914

C O
45663
REC ^d
REQ ^d 20 NOV 14

Public Works Department.

Copy Telegram.

235

From Viceroy, 10th November 1914.

Eastern Telegraph Company and Eastern Extension Telegraph Company have offered to transmit free over their lines telegrams handed over to them by War Office from or to or concerning wounded in Indian Expeditionary Forces. We agree on our part also to make no charge for such messages, and we suggest that His Majesty's Government and Governments of France, Egypt, and British East Africa be invited [to] grant similar concessions.

Secretary,
Public Works Department.

INDIA OFFICE.

45668

REGD

REGD

INDIA OFFICE

WHITEHALL, S. W.

Public Works

P.W.4111.

14 November 1913

236

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward herewith, for the information of the Post Master General, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India and of a letter to the Eastern Extension Company on the subject of their willingness and that of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company to transmit free over their lines telegrams from or to or concerning wounded in the Indian Expeditionary Force. I am to express the hope that the Post Master General, with the assent of His Majesty's Government, will also agree to make no charge for such telegrams.

The Foreign Office and Colonial Office are also being addressed with a view to obtaining a similar concession from the Governments of France, Egypt and British East Africa.

I am further to enquire whether the Post Master General will take the necessary steps to make the concession known

The Secretary,

General Post Office.

in this country. Points of detail can no doubt be best
settled by oral communication between representatives of the
offices concerned.

237

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(S^r) LIONEL ABRAHAMS.

INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL, S.W.

C O
45668
Recd
Retn. Date

P.W.4171.

19 November 1914.

Sir,

233

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to inform you that he has received from the Government of India the telegram, of which a copy is enclosed, and to express his grateful appreciation of the offer of your Company and of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

With regard to procedure, I am to say that as correspondence of and concerning the Indian Expeditionary Forces is also being dealt with at this Office, it is assumed that the concession will apply to telegrams of this nature handed in, or received, by this Office as well as by the War Office.

The enquiries suggested in the latter part of the telegram are being made.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) LIONEL ABRAHAMS.

The Managing Director,

Eastern Telegraph Company.

D.D.
25 NOV
25

25 Nov. 1914

cc
Sir,
R. H. K. ...

239

I am etc. to state
that he has been informed
by the India Office that
the Eastern Telegraph Co^{ys}
and the Eastern Extension
Telegraph Co^{ys} are willing
to transmit free over their
lines telegrams from or to
or concerning the wounded in
the Indian Expeditionary Force
which are landed in by the
War Office in the India
Office.

2nd Mr. N. is invited
to obtain, if possible, a
similar concession from the

Administration of the D. A. P.
where Indian troops are receiving
and

DRAFT.

The Managing Director
Eastern Telegraph
Co^{ys} Ltd

MINUTE.

- Mr. Dixon 24.11.14
- Mr. B. ...
- Mr. Reid 24
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Islington.
- Mr. Harcourt.

J. ...

we would be glad to know
whether the Eastern Telegraph
Co. would be ^{pre}pared to
extend the arrangement ~~for~~
the case of British Officers,
i.e. non-commissioned Officers
and men who are
serving with the regular
or volunteer forces in
East Africa.
~~The P.O. Administrator's~~ telegrams
regarding whom would be
handed in by the ~~Post~~
~~The P.O. Administrator~~ as
local for
Zanzibar or by this
Dept.

(Signed) H. J. READ.

the Under Secretary of State

we would be glad to know
whether The Eastern Telegraph
Co^y would be ~~pre~~ prepared to
extend the arrangement to
the case of British Officers
& non-commissioned Officers
and men who are
doing work the regular
or volunteer forces in
East Africa
~~P. A. Delectonates~~ telegrams
regarding whom would be
handed in by the ~~Govt of~~
~~The East Africa~~ ~~as~~
local for
Zanzibar or by this
Dept.

(Signed) H. J. READ.

Under Secretary of State

we would be glad to know
whether the Eastern Telegraph
Co^y would be ^{pre}pared to
extend the arrangement to
the case of British Officers,
&c. non-commissioned officers
and men who are
serving with the regular
or volunteer forces in
East Africa
P. A. Protectorates, telegrams
regarding whom would be
handed in by the ~~Govt of~~
~~The P. A. Protectorates~~ as
local for
Zanzibar or by their
Dept.

H. J. READ,
Secretary of State

we would be glad to know
whether the Eastern Telegraph
Co. would be ^{be} prepared to
extend the arrangement to
the case of British Officers,
~~the~~ non-commissioned Officers
and men who are
serving with the regular
or volunteer forces in the
East Africa
P. & O. Colonies, telegrams
regarding whom would be
handed in by the ~~Govt of~~
~~The P. & O. Agency~~ as
local for a
Prescription or by the
Dept

EDWARD H. J. READ,

Secretary of State

EA
45668

at sea

Tel. sent by State Co. 28/11/14
See Mr. Hibbert's note of 28/11/14

240

DRAFT

Tel.

Governor
Nairobi
Governor Zomba
Nyasaland

MINUTE

John 28/11/14
Read 28

Eastern and Associated
Telegraph Companies
are prepared to pass
free over their lines to
India or England
telegrams handed to them
by you from or
concerning wounded
provided such telegrams
are duly certified by your
Government

G. Fiddes. 28
H. Just. alone
J. Anderson.
and Ishington.
Harcourt.

copy 9/10 8 Dec. or 18/11/14
copy I.C. 8 Dec. 14

EA
45668

at sea
Tel. sent by 8 Feb 01
28/11/01
See Mr. Hubbard's note of 28/11/01

240

RAFT Tel.

Governor
Nairobi
Swynnerton
Mogasaland

Eastern and Associated
Telegraph Companies
are prepared to pass
free over their lines to
India or England
telegrams handed to them
by you from or
concerning wounded
provided such telegrams
are duly certified by your
Government

MINUTE

John 28/11/01
Read 28

G. Fiddes 28
H. Just. alone
J. Anderson.
W. Islington.
H. Harcourt.

copy 9/10. 8 Dec. in 18790
copy I. c. 8 Dec. 14 1879

Attach to

45668

241

• Mr. Reed

? Who or the

told

? somebody?

thank you?

W

Bring up for them

to done up no

planned up

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

NY 49/57/14

5/12

Attach to

45668

241

• Mr. Reed
 ? Who or the
 told
 ? Somebody?
 thank you?

Bring up further
 to the div of no
 please

see memo
 NY 49637/4

W
 5/12

The Eastern Telegraph Company Limited.

Electra House, Finsbury Pavement,

London, 25th November 1914.
E.C.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS.
LONDON OFFICE, 427 LONDON WALL.
LONDON BRANCH OFFICE, 252 LONDON WALL (4 LINES).

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.
LONDON - EASTERN AVE. LONDON.
LONDON - SIBSALLY, STOCK LONDON.

No. TA.

242

Dear Mr Johnson,

I have your letter of even date, and have forwarded, as services, your telegrams to the Governors of the East Africa Protectorate and the Nyassaland Protectorate respectively.

Yours truly,

W. Read

G.W. Johnson, Esq., C.M.G.,
COLONIAL OFFICE, LONDON.

W Read

? Now send I.O. copy
of Tel. sent to the two govts - in reply
to 45688. (Re Tel. to... with adv. reply officinally
to me letter thereon) J.M. 30/11/14
at once
H. J. [Signature]
30/11/14

The Eastern Telegraph Company Limited.

Electric House, Fenchurch Street, London.

London

28th November 1914.

213

Dear Mr Johnson,

Referring to your official letter No 46668/1914, of the 25th instant, if you would send me a message to the East Africa Protectorate, on the subject of the free transmission of messages with reference to wounded Indian troops in South Africa, we shall be very pleased to pass it over our lines as a service.

On receipt of reply, we will answer the above letter officially, stating that the Eastern and Associated Companies will be pleased to extend the same facilities to the Indian troops in East Africa, as they propose for other parts of the World.

For your information, we enclose copy of our original official letter to the Post Office, which was intended to include all parts of our system.

Yours truly,
For Managing Director,

W. H. H. H.
Traffic Accountant.

G. W. Johnson, Esq., C.M.G.,

COLONIAL OFFICE, LONDON.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
OFFICE, 127 LONDON WALL.
CABLES OPEN 1632 LONDON WALL (4 LINES)

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES:
"EASTERN" AVE. LONDON
"EASTERN" SINGAPORE, STOCK LONDON

ans 28/11/14

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.
THE EASTERN AND SOUTH AFRICAN TELEGRAPH CO. LTD.
THE EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA & CHINA TELEGRAPH CO. LTD.

Electra House, E.C.

27th October 1914.

TA.

The Secretary,
GENERAL POST OFFICE,
LONDON.

Sir,

It may be remembered that during the South African War, these Companies accepted telegrams from and to members of the Field Forces at half-rates, and also that telegrams with reference to the wounded, exchanged through the medium of the War Office, were carried free.

The Boards of these Companies are desirous of granting facilities during the present War, and will carry all messages from or to soldiers, sailors and nurses at Week-end rates, waiving the minimum charge for such telegrams, so that members of the Field Forces can communicate with their friends at a very cheap rate.

They are also prepared to exchange telegrams which it may be desired to send in connection with casualties without charge, provided that such telegrams are exchanged through the medium of the War Office.

Enclosed I beg to hand you for your information copies of messages which we have sent to the Governments of India, Union of South Africa and Egypt. We understand that your Department is communicating with the War Office and the Governments of the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand, on this subject.

We have had a reply from the Postmaster General, Pretoria, agreeing to the suggestion, and from the Inspector General of Egyptian Telegraphs, stating that Egypt will pass free all telegrams referring to casualties.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

ed. J. DENISON-PENDER.

Vice Chairman.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited.

TELEGRAM.

245

26th October 1914.

DIRECTOR GENERAL, DIRECTOR GENERAL,
EASTERN and EASTERN to POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS
EXTENSION TELEGRAPH COMPANIES, LONDON INDIA.

Companies are prepared to reintroduce Week-end telegrams without minimum sent from or to Field Forces including all soldiers sailors and nurses.

Companies also prepared to pass from over their own lines telegrams handed to them by War Office from or to or concerning wounded.

In South African War the Chief Intelligence Department War Office on outward Telegrams and Postmaster General Capetown on homeward telegrams certified to genuineness of these messages which were always coded by War Office in their own code.

Have communicated above proposal to British Post Office and shall be glad know if meets your approval.

Message Forms 5/56.
(979-5)

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited.

TELEGRAM.

217

26th October 1914.

M D T to ALEXANDRIA.

2/10 Hand Inspector General copy message to
India as from Director General Eastern.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited.

TELEGRAM.

213

26th October 1914.

DIRECTOR GENERAL,
EASTERN TELEGRAPH CO. to
LONDON

POSTMASTER GENERAL,
UNION SOUTH AFRICA,
CAPETOWN,

Company prepared to reintroduce Week-end telegrams without minimum sent from or to Field Forces including all soldiers sailors and nurses.

Company also prepared to pass from over their own lines telegrams handed to them by War Office from or to or concerning wounded.

In South African War the Chief Intelligence Department War Office on outward telegrams and Postmaster General Capetown on homeward telegrams certified to genuineness of these messages which were always coded by War Office in their own code.

Have communicated above proposal to British Post Office and shall be glad know if meets your approval.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited.

TELEGRAM.

211

27th October 1914. 9.22a

ALEXANDRIA to MD

FOLLOWING FROM INSPECTOR GENERAL:-

Egypt will pass free telegrams from to or concerning
wounded which are free ones, etc.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited.

TELEGRAM.

250

27th October 1914. 1.26pm.

P M C PRETORIA to DIRECTOR GENERAL EASTERN TELEGRAPH
CO, LONDON.

Shall be glad avail myself of Week-end service for
Active Forces and of free service through War Office in
connection wounded.

No 45668/1914
India

251

251

8 Dec = 1914.

DRAFT.

The Ad. Gen. for India
Public Works Dept.
India Office.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harpo 1/12/14

Mr. Bottomley 1/12/14

Mr. Reid 2

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Emmott, Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

5 f3

Sir,

I am etc. to

acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 19th
of Nov. (P.W. 4171) and to
request you to
inform me that the
Marques & Brew

that arrangements
have been made
with the Eastern
Telegraph and
Eastern Telegraph
Extension Companies

to read in f. Fiddes
shall we try get the
P.W. Co. to forward these
to you till you get the
contractual lines they
would like to see
the service report
they send
Better leave
x. d. where
x. Yes Dr

P.T.O.

for the free
transmission to
India or England
of telegrams from
or concerning the
wounded in the
forces engaged in

East Africa, provided such telegrams are duly
certified by Govt.

2. A copy of a
telegram which has
been sent to the
Governor of the E.A.
by the Govt. on the subject
is enclosed

2 APR
for H.S.P.

for the free
transmission to
India or England
of telegrams from
or concerning the
wounded in the
forces engaged in

East Africa, provided such telegrams are duly
certified by Govt.

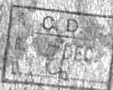
2. A copy of a
telegram which has
been sent to the
Governor of the E.A.F.
by Govt. on the subject
is enclosed

2 APR
for H. S. J.

NO 45668/1914

252

Africa



8 Dec 1914

Sir,

DRAFT.

The Secretary
War Office

I am to
request you to inform
the Army Board that
arrangements have been
made with the Eastern
Telegraph and Eastern
Telegraph Extension
Companies for the
free transmission to
India or England of
telegrams from or
concerning the wounded
in the forces engaged in

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper Dec 7/14

Mr. Read 7/14

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.