

EAST AFR. PROT.
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REC'D
15 DEC 15

26 Oct 1915

1915
26 Oct

previous Paper

Hospital fees due from Sir R Williams

Reports circumstances of Sir Ralphs
treatment at Mombasa and encloses copy
copies in which he expresses his intention
of appealing to Sec. of State for Colonies and War.

Dr. G. Fiddes

I have no doubt that the fee is
technically right - but, as Sir R. W.
appears to have done good work
without remuneration & to have been
assured by Col. Wapthorpe that he
was a military patient, I will let
the matter drop.

Write to the CA & tell them to take
the action in the matter -
& write to the fee saying that we
will not pay the fee as Sir R. W. appears to be
(as above), the S. G. has come to the

26 Dec 1915

present Paper

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI
15 DEC 1915
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 762.

October 26th, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit here-
with a copy of a letter from Sir R. Williams,
K.C.M.G., to the Crown Agents for the Colonies,
in which he expresses his intention of appeal-
ing to yourself and to the Secretary of State
for War if he is called upon to pay a certain
sum due from him to this Protectorate.

2. The history of the case is as follows.
It was first brought to my notice in connection
with an Audit Query of June 8th last asking
that cause should be shown why certain hospital
fees, due from Sir Ralph in respect of medical
treatment received by him at Mombasa, had not
been collected. The matter was referred to me
and I decided that the case did not fulfil the
conditions stipulated in the Chief Secretary's
letter

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

Sir Williams

9-8-15

Major Gilks

8-10-15

Col. Turner

letter to the Principal Medical Officer of August 22nd 1914 in which the payment of Hospital Fees by members of the Military or Voluntary Forces in respect of illness or wounds contracted on active service was waived by my instructions. To that opinion I adhere.

3. Payment was accordingly requested by the Treasury through the Crown Agents for the Colonies and Sir Ralph's letter is the result.

4. The facts are these. He came to me at the commencement of hostilities and in the most patriotic way placed his services at my disposal. I was naturally anxious to find a niche for so eminent an ex-public servant and after consultation with the military authorities we decided to appoint him to the Presidency of the Second Line of Defence, an important and dignified post which would not entail too severe a strain on his health. Sir Ralph was resident in Nairobi at the time and the duties of the appointment did not necessitate his leaving the town. At the same time he was under no compulsion to remain there.

You

5. You will see from his letter that Sir Ralph claims to be a military patient. I attach memoranda by Major Gilks and Lieutenant-Colonel Turner on the subject. I can only say that I never heard of any intention on his part to leave the Protectorate prior to his illness and I rather gathered the impression that it was largely because he did not desire to do so that he offered his services to the Government.

6. As to the value of those services I have nothing to add to the formal appreciation of them published in Command Orders, which Sir Ralph himself quotes. In any case it would not appear to affect the question of his inclusion in the category of a person suffering from illness contracted on active service. As to that, his sickness would appear to be attributable to residence at a high altitude and not the result of stress of work, and I can see no reason for exempting him from the payment of charges to which other members of the public are held to be liable. I am however quite prepared to accept without demur your decision as to whether the fees are to

be recovered or not.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Alonso Bujeda

GOVERNOR.

INCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 71 of 1915

P.

/Pensions 2277.

SIR RALPH WILLIAMS TO CROWN AGENTS.

at Admiralty House,
Queenstown,
19th August 1915.

Gentlemen,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant in which you enclose a demand from the Government of the Protectorate of British East Africa for the sum of rupees 504.75 in respect of Hospital Charges at Mombasa, as well as a copy of a letter from the Treasurer of the Protectorate.

You ask whether it would be convenient to me that you should deduct the amount from my pension. I have to request that you will not take any steps for such deduction.

The circumstances of the charges presented were as follows:-

I was invalided from Nairobi to Mombasa by the Principal Medical Officer to the Forces. I was sent down in charge of a nurse of the Military Hospital Authorities. It was well understood that I was to be dealt with as a Military patient

patient. Major General Napshare, then Commanding the Forces in British East Africa and Uganda, visited my bedside, and in reply to my enquiry, gave me a definite assurance that I was a Military patient. I have no doubt that he will so state if referred to.

It is perfectly correct to say that the 2nd Line of Defence was never mobilised on active service. It was not - but what are the circumstances?

I served as President of the 2nd Line of Defence from the 6th of August 1914 until the 13th of April 1915 when I was invalided home and gazetted out in "Command Orders", which ran as follows:-

"Resignations.

"His Excellency the Governor and Commander in Chief and the General Officer Commanding the Forces desire to place on record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Sir Ralph Williams K.C.M.G. in coming forward to give his services as President of the 2nd Line of Defence Committee at a crucial time. By his resignation of the Protectorate is losing the services of an energetic and patriotic official".

I also received the following from

Major

Major General Wapshare, the General Officer
Commanding:-

Nairobi,

2nd March.

"My dear Sir Ralph,

I cannot tell you how sorry I am to hear you are so seedy. I must ask you to forgive my not having written before in reply to your letter resigning the Command of the 2nd Line of Defence. I showed your letter to the Governor and he asked me to express to you in addition to my own his sincere thanks for your ~~service~~ very valuable services at a time when things looked far from bright. I am about to put a notification in Command Orders, notifying your resignation together with my sentiments on the valuable services you have given to the Protectorate. Please therefore consider yourself at entire liberty to proceed whenever it is convenient to you.

I hope very much to see you before you leave us.

Sincerely Yours

sd. R.Wapshare".

Now with regard to my very organised
an internal force of not much short of a
thousand men. That force was available at

all

all times against invasion, for the repression of native trouble, which at one time was not unexpected, and was a valuable and constant feeder to the forces at the Front. I also in conjunction with the local authorities, organised a system for defence and mobility in the event of invasion, or of trouble in any district. The value of the organisation may best be judged from the comments I have quoted.

In respect to the whole of this work I received neither pay, nor allowances of any kind whatever, and I specifically stated that I did not desire them. I gave my services, for what they were worth, with hearty good will.

I have no doubt that General Wapshare deemed it a just and proper act to treat me as a military patient during the very severe illness which I had incurred while doing duty, and there cannot be any manner of doubt that he was right.

I confess to a sense of considerable surprise that the account should have been sent to me.

Should the Governor of the Protectorate still deem it to be his duty to demand payment I propose to refer the matter for the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Secretary of State for War, after a report from General Wapshare has been received.

I request that a copy of this letter

may

may be sent to the Governor of the Protectorate for his personal and direct consideration, and, if necessary, to General Napshare, now serving, I believe, in the Persian Gulf.

I am, etc.

sd. RALPH WILLIAMS.

No. 402/23/15.

European Hospital,
Nairobi,

15th October, 1915.

The Principal Medical Officer,
N a i r o b i .

Sir,

In answer to your No. 20/283 of 12th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I treated Sir Ralph Williams K.C.M.G. at his own home in January 1915 and again in the first week of March 1915.

On the first occasion the trouble was a Septic throat which was at that time a very common ailment in Nairobi and cannot be put down to any activity and exertion in connection with the war.

On the second occasion I regarded Sir Ralph Williams' illness to be a general break down of the heart and vascular system and as such I ordered him to Mombasa where he recovered.

I do not think the second illness was caused by Sir Ralph's activities in connection with the war and my opinion is that it was the result

result of life at a high and unsuitable altitude acting on a circulatory system already tried highly by previous exertions in Africa and elsewhere and the effects would be aggravated by any extra activities if any, in connection with the war.

I have etc.

sd. JOHN L. GILKS

R.S.O.

ENCLOSURE No 3

L.D. No. 10.762 of Oct. 26th 1915

G.S.O.(1)

As Lieut. Colonel Johnson is away and Lieut. Colonel Milne is in Hospital I am sending in a memorandum on the subject. I believe that the D.D.M.S. considered Sir Ralph Williams to be a Military patient and that he sent down a Military Nursing Sister in charge of him to MOMBASA. Major Gilks, F.A.M.S., states in his certificate, attached, that he does not think the illness was caused by Sir Ralph Williams' activities in connection with the War. He however states it was due to living at this altitude.

Sir Ralph Williams gave me to understand that it was his work in connection with the War that kept him in this country.

Therefore, I am of opinion that his illness was caused through, and by, his Voluntary duties in connection with the War.

No. 79/6/2.

33. F. G. TURNER, Lieut. Colonel, F.M.S.

D.D.M.S., H.E.A. & Uganda.

Gov. 57822/1915 Est 410

11-80

22 December 1915

DRAFT.

Est
No 918

Gen. Sir H. Belfield

MINUTE.

- Mr. Harper 20/12/15
- Mr. Bottomley 20/12/15
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. G. Fiddles.
- Mr. H. Just.
- Mr. J. Anderson.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

acknowledge the receipt of
your letter No 762

26 Oct, 1915

on the
subject of the claim
made against Sir H.
Williams in respect of
medical treatment
received by him at
Montasa.

2 As Sir H. Williams

appears to have done
good work in the Prob

2 drafts

OTD

without remuneration, &
to have been assured by
General Dapshare that
he was a military
patent. I have come
to the conclusion that
it would be better to
allow the claim to be
waived, & the CA
to the fols. have been
informed accordingly.

8112
No. 57822/1915 - East.

22.

22 December 1915

Gentlemen,

DRAFT

The for. agts.

With reference to the letter addressed to you by Sir Ralph Williams of the 19th Aug. on the subject of the claim preferred against him by the Govt. of the S.A.P. in respect of Hospital charges at Brambosa, I am pleased to inform you that he has approved of the claim being waived.

W.A. 20/12/15

Bottomley 20/12/15

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