

EAST AFR. PROT.

127

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12853

REC'D  
REGD MAR 5

12958

Foreign Office

1915

18 Feb

Claim of Mr. Zaphiro

Last previous Paper

30 0653  
30834  
10

for refund of £332 being the sum expended  
by him in building fort & houses at Mopyla  
1907-08. Sends deep from Adis Ababa  
submitting to Zaphiro's claim for favourable  
consideration.

Mr. D. M. G. Justice

The question of whether  
anything should be paid to Mr  
Zaphiro is not an easy one, as  
there is so little to go upon.  
It is clear, I think, from the  
pp. that we have authorized  
anything on this scale & that  
Mr Zaphiro should be considered  
claim to a refund of any sums  
spent of him. But at the same  
time it may be a matter of  
equity that he should be paid  
something, even after this lapse

Copy to 317 Law Comptroller  
Adis Ababa 21-22 Feb 1915 6993-15

Next subsequent Paper

30 0653  
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of time

It wd seem desirable to  
 consult the Govt of the East  
 on the matter & I think this  
 is in the State's best interest  
 can do all things we have not  
 before brought the Govt of the East  
 very much into the question of  
 Mr Japhie's expenditure. Still,  
 the Govt of the East are in  
 in much more immediate control  
 of the Revenue from the District  
 than they were formerly & ought  
 at any rate be able to judge  
 of the value of the fort &  
 houses constructed.

? Send Mr. ... to Gov. East  
 & ask for his views on Mr  
 Japhie's claim.

Jan 27/15  
 ? Give a look in the direction of papers to  
 1832 if it is true that they are missing  
 at Zephania's building.

Feb 27/15

above

H. J. R.  
 28/12/15

Better  
 I think  
 H. J. R.

G. V.  
12853  
REC'D  
MAR 5

*22*

If any further communication  
is required, please write  
No. 19740/15.  
and address—  
The Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London.

Foreign Office  
March 18th, 1915.

SIR:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit, herewith, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Addis Ababa, submitting a request from Mr. Zaphiro, Abyssinian Secretary to the Legation, for refund of expenditure incurred by him between April 1907 and January 1908 in building the fort at Moyale.

The subject of Mr. Zaphiro's mission and the financial arrangements connected therewith was dealt with in a lengthy correspondence at various times, to which the following references may be given: Foreign Office letters to the Colonial Office dated October 17th 1905, June 19th 1908 (20542/08) and February 15th 1910 (4982/10).

From this correspondence it would appear that no claim for this expenditure was made by Mr. Zaphiro in May 1908, when he applied for funds in respect of other disbursements

*Ababa  
Jan 19*

*EC  
27/10/15  
2258  
4653  
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The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

disbursements made by him. It is also of course obvious that the fort was built without authorisation and in circumstances in which authorisation could not have been given.

On the other hand, Mr. Zaphire's request to claim a refund before should not be allowed to weigh against the claim should it appear otherwise well grounded.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Eggs A. Lowe

C. O.  
12053  
REC'D MAR 5

19740

130  
BRITISH LEGATION  
ADDIS ABABA

19th January 1915

Sir:-

I have the honour to recommend for your favourable notice, an application by Mr Zaphiro, Abyssinian Secretary in this Legation, to be refunded by the Government of East Africa the cost which he incurred in the building of the Fort and ~~mess~~ houses at Moyale on the southern frontier which have been taken over and occupied by their officials.

So far as I am aware this matter has never been brought before the Government of East Africa, who are probably under the natural impression that the buildings were put up at the expense of the Foreign Office. Mr Zaphiro has never before applied in writing, and it seems that the question being verbal only was forgotten, or that his former chiefs on the point of leaving thought that their successors would settle it.

Mr Zaphiro stated the matter at length, but in endorsing it, I should like to state that I believe it is now universally admitted by those who have any opportunity to judge, that his six years work on that frontier was a remarkable achievement. He was entirely alone for years together, at a distance for a letter of from two to three months, without any previous administrative experience, not even at that time a naturalised Englishman, and very poorly paid. He had about 600 miles of frontier to watch, to find and enlist some sort of soldiers, to deal with turbulent Abyssinians and Somalia and other tribes, to avoid frontier quarrels, and to get along somehow. He did it. He explains how Moyale came originally to be built under a mistake in Captain Maude's map, and how Major Gwynn showed him that it was the wrong ~~side~~

BRITISH LEGATION

ADD ABABA.

side of the line after the money had been spent. But that he was right in his choice of the spot has never been disputed, and it is not now conceivable that we could evaluate it. He was of course wrong in building the fort without previous sanction, but sanction would have taken some six months to arrive, and his action has been tacitly accepted by the continuous subsequent occupation of his buildings by the Government.

As to the money collected in ivory, I should imagine there must be a record of this transaction in British East Africa. If it is correct that they received £2000 by the spontaneous exertions of Mr Zaphiro, it might be hoped that they would be the more inclined to meet him on the question of repayment for his buildings which they still use. The amount claimed is only £ 332.

I venture to hope that special allowances may be made for the lapse of time in presenting this claim, and for any technical irregularity. Mr Zaphiro is without experience of such things, and seems to have been under the impression that Sir John Harrington would some day remember to have the question settled.

I have the honour to be, Sir  
with the highest respect  
your most obedient

humble servant

*Chas. Douglas White*

Right Honourable

Sir Edward Grey

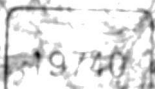
Bart. K.O. M.P.

etc etc etc

Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

18TH JANUARY 1910

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13 FEB 1910

I have the honour to bring to your notice certain facts concerning the building by me of the Fort Harrington at Moyale B.E.A.

I have been appointed by Sir John Harrington as British Southern Frontier Inspector in the beginning of the year 1906. I have been allowed a grant of L 900. (details of the expenditure of the above sum attached herewith). to Patrol the red line from Dolo to Lake Rudolph. It was agreed at that time between the Emperor Menelik and Sir John Harrington that pending the final delimitation of the Frontier, no Abyssinian should cross the red line and for this, I have been sent to watch the Abyssinian movements. The Emperor Menelik from his part sent a certain Officer by the name of Ganiajmez Soreu.

After I had inspected the red line all along the frontier I found that from Dolo to Lake Rudolph there was not a single place where I could make a permanent camp, the country being very low and consequently very unhealthy. Therefore I decided to take possession of Moyale which place according to Captain Wand's map was supposed to be on the red line. But it was afterwards found that a mistake had been made, and Moyale in the map should have been Gara Topessa, and that the Moyale which I occupied was about 2 miles north of the correct red line. However as it was impossible to find a healthy enough spot to live in except at Moyale, and as I had in my hands a letter from the Emperor Menelik saying that the red line runs from Roka Hill to the summit of Moyale, I took possession and started building a Fort and Houses. I had great difficulties with the Abyssinians who tried to stop me from building, but I continued to build until the arrival of Major Gwynn who told me that, I must stop building, as Moyale was at least two miles north of the red line.

The buildings were then nearly finished and the money had

had been spent and my fort and houses are still in use by the Officials of British East Africa.

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When Sir John Harrington sent me down, I had a free hand to do what I thought to be best in our interest on the frontier, but in no way to exceed my £ 900.

The building by me of fort Harrington gave us a footing on the Highlands of Boran which for me and the Government was very essential for when my soldiers and I returned from patrol work we always had Malaria fever and Moyale was a sort of Sanatorium, not only for us, but also to the natives south of the red line who used to come up to the fort Harrington during the rain season.

Such were the ~~the~~ reasons which lead me to decide to build a fort and 28 houses (Native Tinkles at Moyale). Moyale is about 4600 ft. altitude, very healthy and is on the centre of all trade roads to the south. Having my permanent camp at Moyale I could patrol east towards Dolo and west towards Lake Rudolph.

To build this Fort it was necessary for me to have workmen which I found locally with great difficulties. Skilled workmen had to be brought from Gardulla and Sidamo. The Fort cost me £ 332, which I spent from my salary.

I reported at that time to Mr Mohler His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in Adis Ababa and verbally to Sir John Harrington and Lord Herbert Hervey who promised to consider the question but this amount has never been paid to me.

As I have said above, Moyale being the centre of the ~~the~~ frontier and the trade roads, I started to control also the hunting of Elephants by confiscating from the native and Abyssinians hunters one tusk, if they were found in the act of killing Elephants in British territory without permission. In this way I collected about 6000 lbs. of Ivory and asked Mr. Mohler to instruct me what to do with it. Mr. Mohler's instructions to me were to hand over to the British East Africa Government through a certain English man named Mr. Boyce who was passing from Boran to Nairobi. Consequently I gave Mr. Boyce all the Ivory and a letter from me to the



to the Governor of British East Africa, together with the necessary transport up to Rendillie country.

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The second lot which was about 3000 lbs. I gave to Mr. Ray of the Beira Trading Company in the presence of Major Wynne to be taken to Nairobi. Major Wynne wrote a letter to the Governor of British East Africa informing him that he had sent the said Ivory to Mr. Ray to be brought to Nairobi.

The third lot I added to the first lot and sent together with all the Government Cattle.

The Ivory sent to me by British East Africa during the time on the Frontier was worth over £2000. I believe the papers and list to be in existence in British East Africa. I have a copy of the list of Ivory handed to Mr. Ray, they have asked me from Nairobi to collect any Ivory for sale, I have done so, as my orders from Sir John Harrington were to do what I thought best, and by confiscating this Ivory I checked the hunting of Elephants.

I am asking you now to be good enough to take the necessary steps that British East Africa pay me the amount of £352, spent by me for building Fort Harrington. They have received from me, as I have said above £2000 from the confiscated Ivory.

Also the Fort and houses are still in use, by their officials, which cost me £352 out of my salary at that time £200 a year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*Ph. C. Zepherino*  
*A. S. A. S.*

Different Expenses for Building the Fort Harrington at Moyale.

4.07	50 Workmen natives for digging the ground of the Fort, and 28 houses at two Mardouf each for 4 months each Mard. 8/2. /200.	
4.07	30 Abyssinian Axes 30 Mardouf.	60. 60
4.07	20 Bullocks ration for the above workmen each Bullock 8.	160.
4.07	50 Workmen for cutting wood for the Fort and the houses for two months each workman 4 Mardouf per month.	400.
4.07	20 Bullocks each Bullock at 8 ration for the above men.	160.
4.07	50 Workmen for transporting the wood from the Forest to Moyale for one month, 4 Mardouf each	400.
4.07	20 Bullocks for the above ration at 7. each	140.
4.07	Two Abyssinian sent by me to Gardulla, and two to Filmo for engineering 20 Abyssinian workmen for building the houses their expenses ration.	40.
4.07	Ropes bought locally	10.
4.07	Ropes (Abyssinian) and other tools from Gardulla.	52.
4.07	7 Abyssinian Workmen from Gardulla for building the Forts and houses 20 each per month and two Mardouf each (8 4) per ration for four months.	67.
4.07	Transport of lime from Moga with camels (35) Macks for the lime Rations etc.	248.
4.07	For cutting and transporting grass for thatching the houses.	258.
4.07	10 Workmen natives for helping the Abyssinians building the Fort and houses. at 4 Mardouf each per month for 4 Months.	320.
4.07	4 Months ration for 10 natives 20 Bullocks at 8 9	180.
4.07	Ropes for thatching the houses.	40.
	Grand Total.	3468.

Grant of L 900. per annum to Patrol the British Southern Frontier.

My Salary per Annum	L 300.
Subsistence allowance 10 shillings per day	L 182. 7/6
25 Abyssinian soldiers at £12 per month.	L 300.
Rations for 25 Abyssinians at £3.60 per month.	L 90.
20 Mules for transport bought at £40 each.	L 800.
25 Abyssinian loading saddle at £2 each	L 50.
20 Abyssinian leather straps	L 20.
Cooking pots for servants tents and etc. for 20 men.	L 20 1/2
50 empty sacks for packing	L 5.
Presents annually to the chief	L 50.
Extra ration for the soldiers on patrol service.	L 50.
Total.	<u>L 900.</u>

Afterwards I was obliged to enlist another 15 soldiers, as I could not patrol the frontier with only 25 and three years later this extra expense was paid by the Government.

FO 12958/1915

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E.A.P.

20

Lot

6 May, 1915.

4

Sir,

DRAFT.

E.A.P.

No. 317

For Sir H. C. Belfield

MINUTE.

Mr. Harpur 1 May 1915 -

Mr. Northcote 3.5.15 f.

Me.

Mr.

Sir G. Fisher.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

Recd 23/5/15

Copy 20, 22, 24, 25, 23, 43

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the FO with enclosures on the subject of the claim of Mr. Zaphiro, Abyssinian Secretary to the Legation, Addis Ababa, for the refund of expenses incurred by him in 1907 and 1908 in building the fort