

KENYA  
37081

544

C.O.  
37831  
RES.  
RECEIVED

GOVERNOR TEL  
414  
MOUTHEY

MR MAYER - NATURALISATION

1920

11th July

See previous paper.

Enquires if he can now be naturalised as Kenya Colony has come into being. States he is proceeding to Europe in August and fears difficulty without proper passport

57087  
19

Handwritten notes in left margin, including "Copy of ..."

*Mr. Mayer*

The Mayor naturalization paper appears to have been issued ... and last May ... where a file ... it attached paper ... behalf ... and a copy of ... will not ...

The Home Office ... after a year ...

Subsequent Paper

Handwritten numbers and notes at bottom left.

2 Feb 1920

545

TELEGRAM from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Dated 31st July)

(Received Colonial Office 8.45 p.m.)

C.O  
37881  
31st July, 1920.  
R.L.

Wey 54387

414 31st July ... catch 10th October

Confidential Now that Kenya Colony has come into being  
can Mayer become naturalised British subject forthwith  
strongly recommend. He is proceeding to England and  
France on 10th of August and fear his position will be  
difficult without proper passport

NORTHBY.

TELEGRAM



ALA 31 GA NARROBI 37 WY 3 0 T

CHARLES LN - PRIORITY 414

*in deep 10 Oct* *Confidential* *Now that*  
UNDEFOULD COMPOSIS NUMERARON KENYA COLONY

HAS COME INTO BEING CAN MAYER BECOME

*Naturalized British subject* *Although returned*  
HASCALL FORTHWITH RASINET SILVERROOD ANGRAPYTE

*proceeding to*  
PORTISGULO ENGLAND AND FRANCE APTERQUE AND

FEAR HIS POSITION TOUCHPIECE DIFFICULT

WITHOUT PROPER PASSPORT - NORTHNEY

The first line of this Telegram contains the order number.

( COPY )

547

278178/4.

4th October, 1919.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Shortt to refer to your letter of the 22nd ultimo on the subject of Mr. R.F. Mayer's application for a certificate of naturalization and to say for the information of Viscount Milner that Mr. Shortt understands from unofficial communications which have passed between the Departments that Mr. Mayer has for some little time ceased to hold a commission or to be serving in H.M. Forces, and he therefore is not in a position to benefit by the provisions of section 2 (5) of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, as amended in 1915 according to which a period spent in the service of the Crown may be treated as equivalent to a period spent in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Shortt would however be prepared in view of strong recommendations received from the Governor of the East African Protectorate to give favourable consideration to an application from Mr. Mayer were he either to come to the United Kingdom for the period of a year or again to serve in H.M. Forces for a similar period. The period spent by him in the service of the Crown during the war would be reckoned towards his five years residential qualification and any deficiency could be made good by taking into consideration the period previously spent by him in British South Africa.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(s) John H. ...

Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

Downing Street,

22nd September, 1919.

1929/1919.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this Department of the 21st May 1918 regarding Mr. P.F. Mayers application for naturalization as a British Subject, I am directed by Viscount Milner to transmit to you to be laid before Mr. Secretary Shortt, the accompanying copy of a despatch, with enclosures, from the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate on the subject.

2. Lord Milner is advised that by virtue of having "served in His Majesty's Forces" Mr. Mayer may escape the disqualification imposed by Section 3 (2) of the British Nationality, etc. Amendment Act, 1917, and it therefore becomes a question whether he can be regarded as eligible for naturalization under the Act of 1914.

3. After full consideration of the circumstances it would appear that as he has not been in the service of the Crown for 6 years the only ground on which Mr. Mayer could qualify would be that of residence in "His Majesty's Dominions". For this purpose his residence in the East Africa Protectorate is ruled out of account and the only period which can at present be calculated is the time spent by him in British South Africa some 20 years ago. This period however falls short by a few weeks of the four years residence mentioned in Section 2 (b) of the Act, but it has been suggested that if Mr. Mayer came to this country and resided here for a period equal

to that by which his residence in South Africa falls short of four years, and continued for a further year in the United Kingdom, making a total residence in His Majesty's Dominions of 5 years, of which the last year would have been spent in the United Kingdom, he might be regarded as qualified for naturalization under Sections 2 (2) and 2 (5) of the Act.

4. Lord Milner would be glad of Mr. Shortt's observations on this point and, if he concurs in the above view to be informed whether Mr. Shortt would be prepared to grant a certificate in this case if the requirements of Mr. Mayer's Bill in the requirements in the manner suggested.

SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE

No. 129.

CONFIDENTIAL.

8th August, 1919.

My Lord,

With reference to Mr. (now Viscount) Harcourt's despatch No. 362 of the 21st May 1916, I have the honour to refer once more to the case of Mr. R. J. Mayer, and to say that some time ago Mr. Mayer may be found whereby is gentleman become, as he has done for years past, a naturalised British subject. I think that, now that the war is over the fact of his having taken the oath of allegiance and served on the Intelligence Staff with an honorary commission in the Royal Air Force, should be recognised as a British subject. These technicalities can be overcome. I think it would be well for the Chief Intelligence Officer to be aware of this, which gave him the hope that as soon as after the war, his status as a British subject should be substantiated.

I have the honour to be,  
 Your Lordship's  
 Humble, obedient servant,

S. EDWARD MORTHEY.

Governor.

RIGHT HONOURABLE  
 VISCOUNT MILNER, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G.  
 ETC., ETC.  
 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
 DOWNING STREET,  
 LONDON, S.W.

15.  
 16.

(1).

This is to certify that Mr. R.F. Mayer of the "East African Standard" in Nairobi has been employed in the Secret Service under the Intelligence Department.

At the close of the war every effort will be made officially to confirm his status as a British subject.

Meanwhile every effort will be made to secure for him protection and that under no circumstances will he be deported outside this colony in company with persons who would do him harm.

This also guarantees that every effort will be made to prevent him falling into the hands of the enemy and that he will have no fear.

Nairobi, 17. 6. 15.

Signed,

Captain,

Headquarters Staff Officer

General Staff.

(2).

Lieut. R.F. Mayer served in the Intelligence Section at General Headquarters, Kenya, East Africa from March 1916 till November 1926, when I left the country. Previous to this he was employed on more than one occasion by the Secret Service in British East Africa, and was instrumental in bringing to justice an European who was attempting to communicate with the enemy.

Signed,

R. Meinertshagen,

Major, General Staff.



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Mr.

Mr. D. ...

Mr. H. ...

Sir M. ...

Sir G. ...

Col. ...

Lord ...

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