

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 1381/02
09

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1381
12 JAN. 09

Governor No.
589

(Subject)

1908

Service of R.N.R. Officers
employed on Lake Steamers.

p. Dec.

Last previous Paper.

Sends letter from post manager enclosing letter from
Capt. Jorabak asking that Army recommend demand
& allow such services to count for promotion in
R.N.R. Recommendations. & suggest that Steamers carry them

Army
2470 1/2

22.

(Minutes.)

Capt. Chancellor

I shd. be glad to be favoured
with your opinion on this matter
after consultation with Holby
especially.

Copy Admitted by me: Feb. 1
Army Standard Regt. Admty
To Gen 353 25 June 1903

1. In the event of war would the
Holby report on London this
R.N.R. men from our service. In that
case it wd. seem better that
they shd. not belong to the R.N.R.

2. Post let by that they will
range for in the fact in our
service, if the Army favour in
this report to allow the men
to count for promotion in
R.N.R.

Last subsequent Paper.

Admty
10203

(3) Would the placing of Maxims
on the ships make the service
qualify or would the ships
be disqualified from the defence
point of view.

N. Ellis

I have consulted the Admiralty &
am informed: —

As regards (1) of your minute,
The Admiralty claim the right
of recalling the R.N.R. officers
for service in the Fleet in case of
need. It is unlikely that this
right will be exercised in the
case of the officers in the service
of the Colonial Government on Lake
Victoria, but the Admiralty will
not undertake that the right
will not be exercised.

As regards (2) it seems ^{very} improbable
that these officers would resign
the solid advantages of a good
appointment in Government
service for the shadow of promotion
in the R.N.R. it may be observed
that they base their claim to
consideration partly on the fact
that they are recognised as
British officials, so that it
would appear that their position
apart from their R.N.R. status

is not unsatisfactory.

As regards (3) the placing of Maxim
guns on the ships would not
make the service qualify.

To mount guns on the vessels
would not give them the status
of "armed" vessels on the purposes
of the R.N.R. Regulations.

A vessel to be an "armed" vessel
must be commissioned.

I do not think under existing
circumstances that Maxims on
these ships would have any
defensive value.

A | generally it seems desirable that
the status of these officers should
be such as to attract a good
class of men, especially as they must
frequently come in contact with
German officials. I send the
correspondence to the Admiralty asking
them favourably to consider the
application.

I think the risk of the officers
being withdrawn by the Admiralty
in time of war is exceedingly
remote. These officers are unlikely
to be recalled unless the crisis is so
acute that in comparison with
the state of the Victoria steamers

will be of no account.

It might however be advisable J.R.C.
to ask the Admiralty to undertake

1/12 Antarctic
The Admiralty
circumstances
position
advised to
10/11/04
to be considered
one letter
the Admiralty
10/11/04
is same

to have been made upon
the fact that these statements
belong to the Company. As
however in such a case, the
fact that these reports
belong to a British Govt
instead of private individuals,
ought not to be regarded as
a fact.

Yours
at once

1381

Governor's Office
12 JAN 99

Nairobi,

December 8th 1908.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 589.

(Incl. 1.)

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 316 of 11th July on the subject of the service of Royal Naval Reserve officers employed on Lake Victoria counting for promotion, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Manager of the Uganda Railway with enclosure, and would venture to ask that the latter may be laid before the Lords of the Admiralty for further consideration.

It would I consider be well to add the said enclosure with annex.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

able servant,



In the absence of His Excellency

the Governor.

Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies
Downing Street,
London, S.W.

ENCLOSURE

1381

SECRETARIAT

552

No. 520

no. 122
1773

PARADES'S OFFICE,

RAIPONT,

December 5th 1908.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. and in reply to inform you that by 1909 and enclosures, I have forwarded to the Hon. Secy. of State with a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. J. M. Nicholl, Lt. Tenant R.N.S., commanding the "H.M.S. " at Bastian Nicholl states; that the "H.M.S. " was the first to date first to be built at the "H.M.S. " dated the 1st Dec. 1908. The navigation of the lake we hope that we shall be able to do of ability.

I am, Sir, very truly,
 Yours faithfully,
 [Signature]

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. and in reply to inform you that by 1909 and enclosures, I have forwarded to the Hon. Secy. of State with a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. J. M. Nicholl, Lt. Tenant R.N.S., commanding the "H.M.S. " at Bastian Nicholl states; that the "H.M.S. " was the first to date first to be built at the "H.M.S. " dated the 1st Dec. 1908. The navigation of the lake we hope that we shall be able to do of ability.

to the Administration,
 East Africa Protectorate,
 RAIPONT.

(a)

I respectfully beg therefore that the matter be referred back to the original office with the request that the Admiralty may be asked to reconsider their decision.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
"Act of Vessel"

ad. - H.M.S. COURIER.

...

...

...

Kisumu,

28th November 1908.

To

The Manager,
Uganda Railway,
Nairobi.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit that this letter be forwarded to its destination through the usual channel.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd/- HENRY J. TURNBULL.

Commander,

S.S. "Sybil"

To

The Admiral Commanding,
Coast Guard and Reserves,
Admiralty, London, S.W.

Sir,

With reference to certain communications between the Admiralty and the Colonial Office with regard to the application of certain officers of the Royal Naval Reserve at present serving on the steamers on Lake Victoria Nyanza to be allowed to count such service for promotion in the Royal Naval Reserve, I have the honour to submit that this matter may be given further consideration.

2.

I have the honour to point out that these vessels are vessels belonging to the Government of the East African Protectorate, fly the Government Flag and the Officers rank as officials of the Government.

These vessels range from 700 to 1,150 tons displacement and are circumnavigating an inland sea of some 26,000 square miles, running in conjunction with the Uganda Railway carrying passengers and goods to and from the various ports.

With two exceptions all the officers employed in this service are officers of the Royal Naval Reserve who have served for one or more years with His Majesty's fleet.

If as is stated in the Admiralty letter No. A.2617 dated 6th July 1908, My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are not prepared to allow service in these vessels to count for promotion, I infer that at the end of four years service officers must either resign their commissions in the Royal Naval Reserve (vide Art:113 Royal Naval Reserve regulations) or resign from the service of the Government of the East African Protectorate. This being the case it is to be inferred that these officers will resign from the service of the East African Protectorate as most officers of the Royal Naval Reserve who have served in His Majesty's fleet are proud of holding His Majesty's commission and have gone to a great amount of trouble and expense to obtain it and so are not likely to throw it away lightly.

This step would neither be in the interest of the East African Protectorate or of the British Empire of which the East African Protectorate forms part, as these steamers are one of the most important features of the Colony and the service can only be adequately maintained by the officers remaining in and growing with it.

I would also point out that one half of the Lake shore is German territory and these officers are recognised as British Officials and are visited as such by the German authorities, Military and Civil, it is therefore important that the official status of these officers be maintained.

Again I would point out that these officers are devoting their lives to the interest of the British Empire in an extremely unhealthy part of the Empire, and the importance of the work done is infinitely greater than that of many of the so-called Protectorate armed vessels in this and other Colonies.

In the event of My Lords Commissioners being moved to reconsider their decision, I would respectfully point out that Art:103 Royal Naval Reserve regulations might be altered to read after the word "Protectorate" line 4 "or vessels belonging to the Government of the British East Africa employed on Lake Victoria Nyansa" or the exigency might be covered by Art: 97 clause 2.

Should My Lords Commissioners decide to reserve their former decision I have the honour to submit that these officers be authorised to wear Royal Naval Reserve uniform on state or other occasions as provided for by the King's regulations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Sd/- Henry J. Turnbull.

Commander R.N. "Hobbit"

Lieutenant Royal Naval
Reserve and Senior Reserve
Officer, East African
Government vessels Lake
Victoria Nyansa.

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4

So

Don

DRAFT

5 190

MINUTE.

Mr

Mr

Mr Aust

Mr Antrobus

Mr ...

Sir ... Lucas.

Sir ... Hopwood.

Col. Seely.

The Earl of Cromer.



... officers of the Royal Naval Reserve
... the members of the ...
... to ... for ...
... at ...

Copy for 189 ... 1903

I am to explain that the ...

Reilly

Under the new Department of the Protectorate
 rate of pay for the officers of the
 vessels are ~~to be~~ the same. In that
 regard, the ~~same~~ ^{same} is ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~accord~~ ^{accord} with
 the ~~same~~ ^{same} side of the
~~same~~ ^{same} it is ~~to be~~ ^{to be} ~~very~~ ^{very} desirable

status of the officers and to
 attract a high class of men.

It is ~~to be~~ ^{to be} ~~informed~~ ^{informed} that the
 of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} on ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~ward~~ ^{ward} these vessels,
 as ~~expressed~~ ^{expressed} by Mr. Currie, would not con-

sider them "armed vessels" within the
 meaning of the regulations, and he would
 decidedly be very glad if on ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~occasion~~ ^{occasion}

the ~~same~~ ^{same} Currie ~~should~~ ^{should} ~~find~~ ^{find} ~~himself~~ ^{himself}
 able to ~~carry~~ ^{carry} ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~regulations~~ ^{regulations} so

as to ~~allow~~ ^{allow} ~~service~~ ^{service} in ~~these~~ ^{these} ~~circumstances~~ ^{circumstances}
 vessels to ~~serve~~ ^{serve} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~protection~~ ^{protection} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~naval~~ ^{naval}

naval ~~service~~ ^{service} on ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~less~~ ^{less} ~~favourable~~ ^{favourable} ~~terms~~ ^{terms}
 than ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~now~~ ^{now} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~case~~ ^{case} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~merchant~~ ^{merchant}

8.

Jan 1381/09
Zat

500
E. J. G. C.

558

Mid

DRAFT

The Sec

Admiralty

8 April 89.

MINUTE

- Mr Noall
- Mr Butler
- Mr Just
- Mr Ambrose
- Mr Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Seely
- The Earl of Crewe

Sir,

I am directed by the E
of Coenel to enquire ^{whether} ~~where~~
~~he may expect to receive~~
a reply to the ~~lt~~ from the

Office of the S^t of War dealing
with the question of allowing
the services of Officers of the
R. N. R. serving on the steamers
of the Uganda Rly to count
for promotion in the R. N. R.

/ W. J. G.