

EAST AFR. PROT
44771

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REC^d
REG^d 19 JUL 1916

Gov
Belfield 507

1916
16 August

PRINCESS MARY'S GIFTS TO TROOPS

Last previous Paper.
59145
15

Reports as to failure to issue about 2400 boxes. Enquires as to disposal.

Copy Princess Mary's Gifts to Troops. 26 Sept 1916
No. 705 - Copy above sent. 3 Oct 16 46330

Mr. B. Stanley

An interesting account of the habits & customs of the P. African carrier.

Copy disp. to Head + ask whether in this case as in the case of Uganda (cf. 1397) the balance of gifts shd be returned.

W. G. 21/9/16
21.9.16

Next subsequent Paper.
46330

August 16th, 1916.

44771
Rec^d
19 SEP 1916

4 ser
59145
15

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 800 of the 19th of November 1915 I have the honour to report that I have recently been informed by the military authorities that it has been found impossible to issue approximately 2400 boxes containing Her Royal Highness Princess Mary's gifts for the Protectorate forces.

2. I therefore caused enquiry to be made into the reasons for the failure to distribute these gifts. I have now ascertained that the men who did not receive them were members of the Carrier Corps, and the Director of Military Labour reports that by the time the gifts arrived, namely the 1st of September 1915, few if any natives who had been members of the unit on the 25th of December 1914 were still in the employment of the military. Some had deserted, others were dead, the majority had been discharged, and the work of ascertaining what natives were entitled to the gift would have meant careful analysis by a special staff, which could not have been made available, and the assistance of the Protectorate administration would then have had to be invoked in order that each man might be traced.

3.

3. The native carrier cannot be regarded in any sense as being on the same footing as a soldier. He comes in to work for a few months, frequently under an assumed name. He deserts on small provocation and is prone to replace himself by a brother or a friend if he is near home and wants to rest. On discharge he goes back to his location where he becomes merged in the vast mass of unregistered natives, or engages himself to an European to avoid further enlistment. Any attempt to trace him would be most difficult and it is probable that the mere institution of enquiries would arouse his suspicion or lead him to conceal himself or go out to work under another name on some European estate.

4. A very great increase of work has been thrown on the Protectorate administration who have had to recruit and repatriate large masses of natives and undertake endless enquiries about deserters and missing men. In the majority of districts there has been no increase, but rather a decrease, of staff, and to ask them to undertake to unravel lists of discharged men would have been to impose an arduous and almost certainly fruitless task.

5. I do not consider therefore that any blame can be imputed to the Director of Military Labour for his failure to distribute these gifts.

If

If they had been available on the 25th of December 1914 no difficulty would have been experienced, but the delay in their receipt rendered his task almost impossible. I should be obliged therefore if the circumstances of the case could be laid before Her Royal Highness and her wishes with regard to the disposal of the surplus boxes ascertained.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Always, Bepid.

GOVERNOR.

SEP 25

~~25~~

26 Sept 1916

(59145/15)

-dist. A 46830

Gentlemen
with reference to the letter
from the Office of the 11th of
Jan'y, I am re to

DRAFT.

The Honorary Secretaries,
R.H. Princess Mary's
Soldiers and Sailors'
Christmas Fund.

MINUTE.

- Mr. ~~Harper~~ 23/9/1916
- Mr. ~~Bottomley~~ 25 9 16
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle.
- Mr. Lambert.
- Mr. Read.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

transmit to you,
for your conson,
the acc. copy of
a despatch from
the Govt of the R.A.F. on
the subject of the
disposal of a
number of gifts
from H.R.H. Princess
Mary which it has
not been found
possible to distribute
to members of the

W. H. R. P. - 507 - 16 Aug.

ms
Copy for 705. 3 Oct 16 46330.16

Carrier Corps

2. Mr Bonar Law
will be glad to be
informed whether
the balance of the
gifts should be returned
to the fund, as
in the case of the
surplus gifts sent to
Uganda, as to which
I am to refer to your
letter of the 21st of March

M.
13917/18
Uganda