

1937

38009

38009

CO 533/477

KENYA

KENYA ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

PROVISION OF FURTHER EQUIPMENT.

Previous

R.

1936

297

309

Mr. Fisher

303

298

297

Subsequent

1938

309

Mr. Fisher

M: Flood

297

R. 309

R

Mr. Fisher

2

M: Flood

K.

297

298

297

R. 309

298/99

29 297

309/303

R. 99

297

29/10

29/10

30/11

3/11

3/11

10/11

17/11

20/11

6/12

27/12

8/12

14/12

14/12

17/12

17/12

24/12

29/12

30/12

4/1/38

5/1

R. 297

12/12

R. 309

12/11

Mr. Fisher

R. 297

27/11

R. 297

27/11

R. 309

27/11

Mr. Fisher

297

5/12

R. 30

5/12

297

10/12

R. 297

10/12

R. 297

10/12

R. 297

10/12

Mr. Fisher

C.I.

ADMIRALTY.....SECRET..... 31.12.36.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

States that the maintenance stores for the two mine-sweeping outfits held by the Kenya Govt. are now ready for shipment, with the exception of certain screws and bolts, and enquires whether commercial freight will be arranged by the C.O. or whether arrangements should be made by the Admiralty.

Kenya R.N.Y.R.

I have had a word with the Shipping Dept. Civil Agents, about this, & while they are quite prepared to arrange shipment of these stores, they do not think that there would be any saving if they did it.

I don't think there is any case for making a special appeal to flag laws etc for reduced rates, & in all the Cies, I would ask Army to make arrangements for shipment, noting that no Service opportunity can be foreseen.

? So proceed & inform Kenya

C.H. Ross with  
13/1/37

19 Jan  
15/1 at

2 So Army (1 bush)

22 JAN 1937

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

1931 file  
circulate with  
6214 for A/BK  
Baldwin

C.I.  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE  
R.N.Y.R.

ADMIRALTY.....SECRET.....31.12.36.  
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1436 file  
circulation  
6214/12A/36  
Bee

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AG with  
13/1/37

15/1

2 So Army (1 Bush) -

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE





DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

21. ADMIRALTY (M/NS 0103/37).....23.2.37.  
States that arrangements have now been completed for the despatch of stores by S.S. "Madura" which sails on or about the 6th of March and that they are being consigned to the Officer Commanding, Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Mombasa.

*Copy to Mr. Kenya of 13.  
Airmail. C.A. Rossmore  
26/2/37  
A.B. Hill*

**AIR MAIL 12** To Kenya - Secret - (90 11) A/1 - 27/2/37

13. I.P. COMPTON.....4.3.37.  
States that he has discussed the question of the magazine for the storage of naval ammunition at Kilindini with the Naval Armaments Branch at the Admiralty and begs to confirm that a cheaper of construction will be possible. Understands that a letter from the Admiralty will be sent to C.O. very shortly.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

14. O.A.G. KENYA.....TEL.47 SECRET.....8.3.37.  
States that assumption in third para. of (10) is correct.

15. ADMIRALTY.....5.3.37.  
States that boats indicated could now be made available for supply to Govt of Kenya at costs shown.

16. ADMIRALTY.....8.3.37.  
States that the arrangements for supply of a second winch and drum have been suspended; prefers that thermometers and hygrometers should be supplied on repayment and with regard to loan of magazine barrows suggests arrangements be made direct with W.O.

No. 13. Put by. (Commander Noad has already left the country.)

Nos. 14 and 15. No. 15 rather upsets Commander Noad's calculations. He was told at the Admiralty that there was no 32' dipping lug cutter available so he made enquiries about two whalers which were available. It now appears that there is a 32' cutter available at Malta.

*See Note*

*1933 1/2 cutter  
be found at  
the moment.*

It was the Naval C. in C., East Indies, who recommended that a cutter should be purchased (No. 1 on 38009/3/36).

It looks as if the first thing to be found out is

(a) does Kenya want a cutter, repaired for harbour service with sailing and pulling equipment at £270.1.3. - or £250.0.0; if it can be repaired in Kenya,

(b) two whalers, repaired for harbour service and fitted with sailing equipment but without sailing equipment at £100.0.0 each, or £25 each if they can be repaired locally.

If the O.A.G. decides on (b) we can write to the Union Castle Company and ask if they will carry the two whalers to Mombasa free of charge as they did in the case of the cutter purchased in 1933.

No. 16. I think we can ask Admiralty to arrange for the despatch of the thermometers and hygrometers and say that the cost will be borne by the Government of Kenya. We might add that if they will advise in regard to the number of magazine barrows necessary for the Kenya R.N.V.R. explosive store we will ask the War Office to supply them.

*C.A. Rossmore*  
11.3.37.

No. 15. ? as in 12.  
No. 16. ? as proposed.

*J.P. Bacon*  
19/3

3.6.37  
28. CROWN AGENTS... Encls. for return, Admiralty claim for shipping charges on material consigned to Kenya R.N.V.R. and enquires whether it may be paid from Kenya funds.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

The item of £2.14.6d. must relate to the winch and drum dispatched to Kenya in the early part of last year. We have already paid £64.6.2d. packing and freight on this, but I suppose this item for "wharfage" will have to be accepted.

See enclosure to No. 28 on the 1936 file.

The item of £2.4.7d. is for stores described as "clothing" sent from the Naval Yard at Trincomalee to Mombasa for the Kenya R.N.V.R. These stores were, I should think, ordered by Kenya direct. We have no way of checking the item, but I do not think it is worth referring the matter to Kenya.

Authorize Crown Agents to pay both items from Kenya funds, and inform the Governor and Secretary Governors' Conference, accordingly.

The Crown Agents have authority to pay the remaining item of 6/9 from Zanzibar funds.

C.A. Approved  
14/6/37

J.P. Bann  
14/6/37

26 To C.A. (25 and d) (encls to 25) 30.6.37  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

27 To E.A. Govs Conf. (w/c 25.26) 16 - 30.6.37

28 To Kenya - 506 - (w/c 25 + 26) 16/1 - 30/6/37

18/16

17 To Kenya - 237 - (w/c 15) cons - 18/3/37

18/13

To Admiralty (w copy 19/4/36 incl) - 15/16

24/3/37

SECRET - 23 3 37  
The total amount payable to the Admiralty the second annual instalment of £234.67 is expected to be paid at the beginning of the year 1938.

This is in order - See No 30 on 22/09/1/36. Draft herewith. It is the second instalment. C.A. Approved - 27/2/37.

To L.A. - (w/c R.O. in 19) - 19 and d.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

21 To Kenya (w/c 16 and d) 14 APR 1937

22 To E.A. Govs Conf. 16 (w/c 20) 28.4.37

23 To Kenya - 360 - (w/c 16 + 21) 16/1 - 30/6/37

24 To Kenya - Secret (w/c 20) 16/1 - 30/6/37

No reply received to (17) sent on the 14th/1/37

29. GOV. KENYA.....360.....27/37.  
(17 cont.) Requests whalers be acquired at costs indicated and asks if an estimate of additional requirements indicated could be obtained.

Refs to Army below  
C.F. Rossmith  
6/7/37

30 To Army (w/c 29) com 29 7 37

31. CROWN AGENTS.....SECRET.....14.7.37.  
Encls. Receivable Order and supporting vouchers rec'd from the Admiralty requesting payment of £33.15.0 in respect of freight on 18 tons of stores shipped to OTC K.R.N.V.R. on 6.3.37 and requests instructions.

This I think is the freight account for the maintenance stores for the 2 mine sweeping outfits. (See No 1)

? Authorised CA.

to pay.

C.F. Rossmith  
9/8/37

To CA (w/cencls to 31 in) (Stanod) - 17 8 37  
orig.

To Kenya Sec. (w/c 31 w/c enc. and 22) - 17/1 - 13 AUG 1937

34. GOV. KENYA.....SECRET.....17.8.37.  
Requests Admiralty be approached for information as to whether the winch of the Drifter "Noon tide" is suitable for working a Mk. III double Crocra Sweep and other information as indicated.

In sending a copy of No 10 to Army we can refer to No 5. We have not passed on to Army copies of the reports by Lt Colonel Wood & Command Blunt or of our despatch to Kenya of the 25th Feb (No 10)

Would this be a suitable opportunity? We might ask whether there is any prospect of Admiralty's leading Kenya arawler. (See in the connection the note on 38009/5737, of the 4th September, 1937)

C.F. Rossmith  
4/9/37

The point as regards a minesweeper for use by the Kenya R.N.V.R. is set out in Mr. Rossmith's memo. (No 6 on 38009/5/37), on wh. the Gov. had been raised by Sir C. Parkin in connection with the proposal to hire the "Argonia" from F.T. for training purposes. As we have not yet had a reply to No 10, in wh. the Gov. was asked to report his views after consulting the C-in-C, I doubt whether there will be much point in asking the Admiralty at this stage, as to the prospects of their being able to send

\* as to the suitability of a arawler in E. Afr. waters.

Kenya is ~~not~~ trawler.  
Instead, I am suggesting  
on 1/5 that when replying  
about the "Azania", we should  
ask whether the Gov. of Kenya  
is yet in a position to furnish  
his views, as reported in No. 10  
on this file, as to the provision of  
a suitable vessel for war service  
we shall presumably be sending  
to the Admiralty copies of that course,  
and I would recommend appropriate to  
include copies of No. 6, 7, & 8  
in this file.

If that is agreed, the action on  
this file should be confined to sending  
a copy of 34 to the Admiralty for their  
information.

J.J. Bassett  
13/9

Mr. Freeston has now reported in No. 7  
on 38009/5/37 that the "Azania" is doubtfully  
suitable for the purpose, and in any case can  
not be made available for use as a training  
vessel for Kenya R.N.V.R., and on that file I  
have submitted a draft of a letter to Mr. Freeston  
on the subject of what other arrangements are  
proposed, & a copy to the Admiralty.

On this file it will be sufficient to  
proceed as in draft herewith.

J.J. Bassett  
13/9

This copy appears to have been accepted  
when this file was sent on  
with 38009/5/37. I have not passed it.

J.J. Bassett  
31/9

~~35~~ To Admiralty (30/c 34)  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

We have not yet seen Dep, Kenya — 622 — 20.10.37  
need a reply to 30. (Ref. 29) Enquiries whether the acquisition of two whalers  
has yet proved possible.  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

The Admiralty have had three months to answer No. 30  
- 50

? Remind

Clotworthy 20/10/37

J.J. Bassett  
30/9

37 To Admiralty —

B/6

31/12

conco 3.11.37

~~37~~

38 Admiralty (M. 0222/37) 4.11.37  
Estimated cost of set of sails & mast and of fitting whaler  
to carry a Lewis Gun forward, is £38: suggests Union  
Castle Line be approached to convey a cutter to Kenya  
free of charge.

There appear to be three things which  
need doing

(1) ? Inform Kenya of the content of No 38,  
saying that the Union Castle Line are  
being approached about taking the boats  
out; that in the meanwhile the two  
boats have been ordered as requested in  
para 3 of No 29. This doesn't seem to have  
been done yet; and that if Kenya is  
to transport the first the £38 bill for masts,  
sails & Lewis gun fittings we will  
tell the Admiralty to provide them.

(2) ? Tell the Admiralty to buy the two  
boats for Kenya now, & to await  
further communication about masts etc

(3) ? When the available got in touch  
with Union Castle Line as suggested by  
Admiralty.

Offs to Admiralty & Kenya for course  
revenue  
Clothing Whaler  
W.P.

(17) I think we are entitled to go ahead  
with asking the Admiralty to supply these two  
whalers, without first ascertaining whether  
the Union Castle Line will be prepared to  
convey them to Mombasa free of charge. In  
the despatch of the 18th of March, the  
Governor was warned not to place any reliance  
on its being possible to arrange for these  
boats to be conveyed either by the Admiralty

by

by service opportunity or by a shipping line at  
special rates. In No. 29 he asked that steps  
should be taken to acquire these whalers, merely  
adding in paragraph 4 that he trusted that it would  
be possible to arrange for their transport by  
service opportunity or otherwise at special rates.

The only question is whether we should  
ask the Admiralty to go ahead, without first  
consulting the Governor, with the fitting of one  
of these whalers to take a Lewis Gun, and for the  
supply of one set of masts and sails. In No. 29  
the Governor asked that an estimate of the cost of  
this work should be obtained from the Admiralty, and  
this might have been interpreted that he would like  
to consider the estimate in comparison with the  
cost of doing the work locally. While, however,  
they could no doubt make a set of masts and sails at  
Mombasa, they could not fit one of these boats to  
take a Lewis Gun without getting the necessary  
mounting from the Admiralty. Moreover, the  
Commanding Officer's advice was that the whaler  
to be repaired by the Admiralty should be fitted with  
a mounting to carry a Lewis Gun, and this seems to  
imply that it was understood that the work would be  
done by the Admiralty. The Admiralty have lumped  
their estimate for the Lewis Gun mounting and for the  
set of masts and sails together at £38, and I think  
it is safe to ask them to go ahead without reference  
to the Governor.

As regards the proposal that the Union  
Castle Line should be asked to transport these two  
whalers to Kenya free of charge, the 1933 file  
containing the correspondence about the similar  
arrangement made for the conveyance of a cutter



has been missing for a considerable time, and is not available for reference. Curiously enough, none of the entries in the register contain any indication that such an arrangement was made. At my request, however, Mr. Jenkins has obtained from the Admiralty by telephone the following information about the arrangement.

In Kenya despatch No. 218 of 6/4/33 (No. 1 on 3142/33), it was stated that the Chairman of the R.N.V.R. Committee had been informed by Mr. A.M. Campbell, the representative of the Union Castle Line, that Mr. Robertson Gibb would be prepared to ship the cutter free if approached by the Admiralty. A copy of this despatch was sent to the Admiralty in a Colonial Office letter of the 25th of April, 1933, and thereupon the Admiralty made the arrangement with the Union Castle Line by telephone, and later on a letter was sent from the Admiralty thanking the Company.

Nevertheless, I am inclined to think that it would be preferable for the Colonial Office to approach the Company on this occasion and that it would be best to proceed by way of an official letter, as was done in the case of the request to the British India Company (No. 6 on 23138/1/34) to transport two sets of minesweeping equipment and two 12-pounder guns at reduced rates.

I submit drafts accordingly.

J. J. Pascoe  
20.11.37.

39 B. u. c. m. & Coy. Ltd. *copy*

10 To, Admy (w/c 39) (38 ansd. comp. 11.12.37)

DESIGNED UNDER STATUTE  
No. Kenya 1062 (w/c 28, 29 & 30) - 29.11.37  
6 Dec 1937

42. Union Castle

2 12 37  
Last copy of letter stated read from the Director of Navy Accounts & Finance - that C.A. are authorized to pay the sum of £430.34 from Kenya funds. Request return of my money

43. Union Castle Mail Steamship Co.

(39 ansd) States that they will be pleased to transport the two whalers to Mombasa free of ocean freight & insurance they will be refunded when the boats will be available for shipment

No reply received to  
(No. 35) reminder  
20.11.37

No 42. Admiralty requests payment of second of three instalments on the cost of material supplies for the defence of Kilindini together with freight and packing charges amounting to £40/1/7. This follows on from No 28 on 38009/1/36 in which it was requested that a first instalment be paid in respect of:

- (a) stores for the Examination Lewis and Pat
- Wire Signal Station
- (b) supply of a month
- (c) minesweeping maintenance stores

together with the packing and freight charges named up and over. This present request appears to be in order, & C.A. should be instructed to pay £430/13/4 from Kenya funds. This will leave a third instalment of £390/1/9 to which will be added, doubtless, further freight charges, to be paid next year.

Draft to C.A. herewith for comment

No 43 This is good. But perhaps there is a catch in "free of ocean freight" being not doubled with "free of charge" in our letter (39). I think it possible further later when it

know how soon the boats will be available for shipment in London.

The same time given gift of (43) to Army and ask when the boats will be available.

Two seed copies of (43) and two letters proposed in answer to it to Kenya Lt. inf ref (41)

With ~~some~~ ~~several~~ for exam.

No 35. Mail another week before sending.

Clothy Duke  
1/12

Very satisfactory.

I have spoken to Mr. Duggan of the Crown Agents' Shipping Department, who considers that there will be considerable advantage in their making the necessary arrangements with the Admiralty and the Union Castle Line for the shipment of these two whalers. The boats will have to be transported (probably by road, but possibly by a coastal vessel) from Devonport to London, and the Crown Agents will be able to see that no unnecessary expense is incurred. They will also be able to look after the customs clearance and the provision of the necessary shipping documents. I submit a draft to them accordingly.

it will probably cost £20 a piece to transport them.

J.P. Barron  
8/12

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

To U.C.M. Co. (43 and) -

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

To Army - conf -

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

To CA (Vouchers in 2)

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

To CA (Genelle as alt)

} 13.12.37  
} 13.12.37

Admiralty  
~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

is having giving particulars of steam winch referred to and states that the winch is available at HM Dockyard, Devonport & is suitable for working a Mark III Double Overhaul Sledge

There is no indication in (34) that Kenya wishes the winch, if available, to be acquired at once, so it will be sufficient to send copies of (35) and (48) + ends in original to Kenya Lt. inf (34).

Clothy Duke  
1/12

J.P. Barron  
17/12

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

49 Lt. Kenya 2nd. (7c 35 (6 emb) + 28 (orig emb). A/I. 28.12.37  
(3rd Approved)

50 Lt. Kenya 2nd. (7c 22 (6 emb) + 20). A/I. -  
51 Lt. Kenya 4. (7c 43 + 22). A/I. -  
(Checked by (41) - 19.12.37)

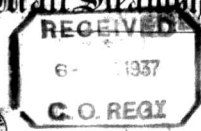
5 JAN 1938



# The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited.

B.

Telegraphic Address  
UNION-CASTLE LONDON  
Telephone  
MANSION HOUSE 2550 (9 LINES)



*5*  
3, Fenchurch Street

London E. 3 4th December, 1937.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE	F.
YOUR REFERENCE	38009/1/37.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
London, S.W. 1.

Sir,

39

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 1st December from which we note that it is proposed to dispatch to Mombasa two 25' Whalers, now lying at Devonport for the use of the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

*Recd 4/4*

*Copy to C/O 4  
Kenya*

In the circumstances you mention, we have to inform you that we shall be pleased to transport these two Whalers to Mombasa free of ocean freight, and no doubt you will kindly arrange for us to be advised when the boats will be available, respectively, for shipment in London.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

For THE UNION-CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE  
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.  
THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE AND THE  
DATE OF THIS LETTER BEING QUOTED.



12  
42

S. 2/9972.

TELEGRAMS: "CROWN, LONDON".  
TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 7722.

RECEIVED  
3 DEC 1937  
C. O. REGY

4, MILLBANK,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

2nd December, 1937.

*Copy - R  
+ Editor  
- 2/12/37*

Sir,

*(29) on 38009/1/37*

23.11.37.  
Statement  
Vouchers

With reference to your letter No. 38009/1/36 of the 21st January 1937, I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter and statement, together with further supporting vouchers in original; received by us from the Director of Navy Accounts and to enquire whether we are authorised to pay the further sum of £430.3s.4d. from Kenya funds. It is requested that the vouchers may be returned to us with your reply.

*Vouchers refd. 4/5  
Copy (to vouchers) to Kenya (20)*

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*W. L. ...*  
for Crown Agents.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
S.W.1.

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NAVY ACCOUNTS

TO CROWN AGENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Admiralty.

23rd November, 1937.

Gentlemen,

In continuation of Admiralty letter dated 22nd December last No. 1/D.N.A./L.C. 569/36 relating to the supply to the Kenya Government of certain stores for the Examination Service etc. at Kilindini, I have to forward a revised statement, together with further supporting vouchers, showing the actual cost involved.

It will be seen therefrom that expenditure totalling £538.13.10d. only has been incurred in respect of the minesweeping maintenance stores for the cost of which an estimated sum of £700 was originally included, and the total claim has accordingly been reduced to £1410.17.9d.

I have to request therefore that you will cause the sum of £430.3.4d. in respect of a second instalment on the stores supplied and the actual expenditure on packing and freight as set out on the accompanying statement, to be remitted to this Department at as early a date as practicable.

The cheque etc. should be drawn in favour of the Director of Navy Accounts (crossed "Bank of England") and forwarded with the attached slip.

I am, etc..

(Sgd) M. Robinson.

for DIRECTOR OF NAVY ACCOUNTS.

Subsidiary

21 October 1937.

AMENDED STATEMENT.

Store Account Claim No. 224/36.

Amount due from Crown Agents for the Colonies for Stores, labour etc. expended as under.

*J.M.M.*

for Director of Navy Accounts.

Voucher No.	Description.	Cost of Stores.	Expenses, packing & freight.	Total.
25.	Stores for examination vessel & port signal station.	£. s. d. 385. 5. 3.	£. s. d. 4.16.10.	£. s. d. 390. 2. 1.
125	- do - Freight of above supplies.	17.16. 2.	26. 1. 4.	17.16. 2. 26. 1. 4.
55	Signal Station & Examination Service Stores.	46. 7. 0.		46. 7. 0.
G/44.	Machine rocket signal & pistols. Freight of above stores.	69.12. 9.	1. 1. 6. 3.11. 3.	70.14. 3. 3.11. 3.
14 & 16.	Supply of winch. Freight of "	252. 8. 2.	64. 6. 2.	252. 8. 2. 64. 6. 2.
	Drawings supplied for Government of Kenya.	17. 6.		17. 6.
	<u>Minesweeping maintenance stores.</u>			
T.220. 5/2/37.	Freight in "Madura".		33.15. 0.	33.15. 0.
102.	Stores.	376.10. 2.	1.19. 5.	376. 9. 7.
120.	- do -	121.17. 2.	1. 6.	121.18.10.
101.	Ligherage.		4. 1. 0.	4. 1. 0.
129.	Stores.	4.11.	4. 6.	8. 5.
	Less. Amount received 2/2/37. Ady Claim L.C.509/36.		£1270.19. 1. £159.18. 8. £1410.17. 9.	490.15. 7. 99.17. 1. 590.12. 8.
			£780. 3. 6. £40. 1. 7. £820. 5. 1.	
	Expenditure in connection with freight and packing of minesweeping maintenance stores.		40. 1. 7.	
	Second annual instalment by which cost of stores is recoverable. i.e. one-half of £780, 3. 6d.		390. 1. 9.	
	Total sum now due.		£450. 3. 4.	

(Note:- The third and final instalment will amount to £390. 1. 9.)

C. O.

Mr. Paskin. 20/11/37.

Mr. Flood *copy*

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Perms. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

*see (1). 1938 file*

1 DEC 1937

November 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT.

THE SECRETARY,  
ADMIRALTY.

Sir,

I am etc. to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter  
No.M.04234/37 of the 4th of November  
and to request that the two whalers  
~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> now be made available for the  
use of the Kenya R.N.V.R. As  
indicated in the Governor's despatch  
No.360 of the 2nd of July, it is  
desired that one of these whalers  
should be supplied in its present  
condition at a cost of £5, as  
indicated in your letter No.M.04323/36  
of the 5th of March.

*To Union Castle line  
(57)*

(29)

FURTHER ACTION.

*Copy to Kenya (41)  
CA. 47*

2. It is desired that the other

whaler

C.O.

Mr. Taskin. 20/11/37.

Mr. Flood 25/

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



*Amal (123)*

1 Dec 1937  
November 1937.

Sir,

**DRAFT.**

THE GENERAL MANAGER,  
UNION CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP  
COMPANY LIMITED.

3 Fenchurch St.  
E.C.3.

I am etc. to refer to

the arrangements which the Company were good enough to make in 1933

for the conveyance to Mombasa free of charge of a cutter for the use of

the Kenya R.N.V.R., and to inform you that arrangements are now being

made for the supply by the Admiralty of two 25 ft. whalers, now lying at

Davenport, for the use of the Kenya R.N.V.R. Having regard to

the heavy expenditure which is being incurred by the Government of Kenya

on various defence services, and in particular to the measures which are

being taken for the defence of the

port

whaler should be repaired for harbour service and fitted with pulling equipment and with a mounting to carry a Lewis gun forward. I am also to request that one set of masts and sails may be supplied. It

is understood from your letters of the 5th of March and the 4th of November that the total cost of this whaler, so repaired and fitted, and of the set of masts and sails will be £90. 15. 9.

3. A copy of a letter to the Union Castle Line asking whether they would be prepared to convey these whalers to Mombasa free of charge is enclosed.

4. I am to suggest that this com<sup>ms</sup> be no longer be treated as confidential.

(Signed) J E W FLOOD

**FURTHER ACTION.**

*Copy to Kenya  
Admiralty  
CA 417  
Admiralty  
with 23/11/37*

*Copy to Kenya (2)  
CA 417  
Admiralty (120)*

C. O.

Mr. Paskin. 20/11/37.

Mr. Flood 25/

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Perms. U.S. of S.

Party. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



*Handwritten:* (43)

*Handwritten:* 39

*Handwritten:* 1 Dec 1937  
November 1937.

*Handwritten:* 16

Sir,

**DRAFT.**

THE GENERAL MANAGER,  
UNION CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP  
COMPANY LIMITED.

3 Fenchurch St.  
E.C.3

I am etc. to refer to the arrangements which the Company were good enough to make in 1933 for the conveyance to Mombasa free of charge of a cutter for the use of the Kenya R.N.V.R., and to inform you that arrangements are now being made for the supply by the Admiralty of two 25 ft. whalers, now lying at Davenport, for the use of the Kenya R.N.V.R. Having regard to the heavy expenditure which is being incurred by the Government of Kenya on various defence services, and, in particular to the measures which are being taken for the defence of the port

*Handwritten:* Copy to Kenya (2)  
CA 47  
Adm. (42)

**FURTHER ACTION.**

*Handwritten:* Copy to Kenya  
Adm. (42)



port of Kilindini, in the interests  
of shipping using that port, I am to  
enquire whether the Company would be  
prepared to transport these two whalers  
to Mombasa free of charge.

2. One of these two boats is  
being supplied in its present condition  
and would, no doubt, be available for  
conveyance to Kenya at an early date;  
the other <sup>will</sup> be ~~be~~ repaired for harbour  
service and will accordingly not be  
immediately available.

*under arrangement  
to be made by  
the Admiralty*

I am, etc.

Signed: J E W FLOOD

CONFIDENTIAL

38

Any further communication should be addressed to:-  
The Secretary of the Admiralty,  
London, S.W.1

quoting "M. 04234/37."

Admiralty, S.W.1.

4th November 1937



Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 38009/1/37 of 29th July, 1937, concerning the provision of two whalers for the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the estimated cost of manufacture of one set of masts and sails, and of fitting the whaler repaired for harbour service to carry a Lewis Gun forward, is £38.

2. As regards paragraph 3 of your letter, I am to state that, as far as can be foreseen at present, no service opportunity for transporting the two whalers to Kenya is likely to occur in the near future. In view of the fact that on a similar occasion in 1935 the Union Castle Line conveyed a cutter free of charge (vide Lieutenant Commander Noad's report in Colonial Office letter No. 38009/5/37 of 30th September, 1937), My Lords suggest that the Union Castle Line might be approached by the Colonial Office with a view to their doing the same again.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*J. Phillips*

The Under Secretary of State,  
COLONIAL OFFICE,  
S. W. 1.

*Recd A.O.  
copy to Kenya (21)*

*30*

*6 hours*

*(8) an 38009/5/37*

GAH/  
N

CONFIDENTIAL  
=====

38

Any further communication  
should be addressed to:-  
The Secretary of the Admiralty,  
London, S.W.1.

quoting "M. 04234/37."

Admiralty, S.W.1.

4th November 1937

3c  
RECEIVED  
5 - NOV 1937  
C. O. REGY

Sir,

30  
With reference to your letter No. 38009/1/37  
of 29th July, 1937, concerning the provision of two  
whalers for the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve,  
I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the  
Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the  
Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the estimated  
cost of manufacture of one set of masts and sails, and  
of fitting the whaler repaired for harbour service to  
carry a Lewis Gun forward, is £58.

Amud 40.  
copy to Kenya (21)

2. As regards paragraph 3 of your letter, I am  
to state that, as far as can be foreseen at present,  
no service opportunity for transporting the two whalers  
to Kenya is likely to occur in the near future. In  
view of the fact that on a similar occasion in 1933 the  
Union Castle Line conveyed a cutter free of charge  
(vide Lieutenant Commander Noad's report in Colonial  
Office letter No. 38009/5/37 of 30th September, 1937),  
My Lords suggest that the Union Castle Line might be  
approached by the Colonial Office with a view to their  
doing the same again.

No 6 here

(8) an 38009/5/37

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

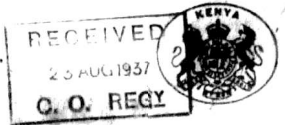
J. Phillips

The Under Secretary of State,  
COLONIAL OFFICE,  
S. W. 1.

CAH/

AIR MAIL

KENYA  
No.



18  
344  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

SECRET.

17 AUGUST, 1937.

Sir,

10  
With reference to your Secret despatch of the 25th February, 1937, transmitting copies of correspondence in regard to the provision of various items of minesweeping equipment for the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, I have the honour to state that the Commanding Officer has now received information from Lieutenant Commander C.B. Hoggan, Pilot in the Port Department of the Kenya & Uganda Railways & Harbour Administration regarding winches.

Copy to Admiralty (2)

Enclosed (4)

2. Provided you see no objection, I should be glad if the Admiralty may be approached with a view to the Plans Division supplying information as to whether the winch of the Drifter "Noontide", believed to be at Devonport, which Lieutenant Commander Hoggan inspected during his leave, is suitable for working a Mk. III double Oropesa Sweep. A sketch shewing overall measurements of this winch, together with information as to its weight and the steam pressure required to work it, would also be appreciated.

3. In the event of the winch in question having been disposed of, I should be glad to receive details of any two other winches of minimum size and weight which could work a Mk. III double Oropesa Sweep and which might be available for disposal.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble  
servant,

*R Brooke-Johnson*

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL,  
GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON. S.W. 1

C. O.

38009/1/37

30

Mr. Grovesmith.

12/7

Mr. Paskin

23/7

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Perml. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

R 24 JUL  
D 28

DOWNING STREET.

29 July, 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

DRAFT. CONSON.

THE SECRETARY,

ADMIRALTY.

(15)

(18)

I am etc. to refer to your letter of the 5th of March, reference M.04323/36, and the subsequent communication from the Colonial Office dated 24th of March, and to transmit to you for the conson. of the L.C. of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch which has now been received from the Gov. of Kenya in regard to the provision of craft for the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Kenya No. 360 of 2/7/  
(29)

FURTHER ACTION.

2. I am to request that an estimate may be furnished of the cost of one set of masts and sails, as

well

C. O.

38009/1/37

30

Mr. Grossmith.

12/7

Mr. Paskin

23/7 6.

Mr.

Ans (23)

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Parli. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

R. 24 164  
D 28

DOWNING STREET.

29 July, 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

DRAFT. CONSON.

THE SECRETARY,  
ADMIRALTY.

(15)

(18)

I am etc. to refer to your letter of the 5th of March, reference M.04322/36, and the subsequent communication from the Colonial Office dated 24th of March, and to transmit to you for the conson. of the L.C. of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch which has now been received from the Gov. of Kenya in regard to the provision of craft for the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Kenya No. 360 of 2/7/  
(29)

**FURTHER ACTION.**

2. I am to request that an estimate may be furnished of the cost of one set of masts and sails, as

well

as of the cost of fitting the whaler,  
which it is desired should be repaired  
for harbour service, with a mounting to  
carry a Lewis Gun forward.

3. I am also to request that  
Mr. Ormsby Gore may be furnished with  
Their Lordships observations on the  
question whether it would be possible  
to arrange for these boats to be  
transported to Kenya by service  
opportunity, or otherwise at special  
rates.

I am, etc.

Approved: J. H. FLOOD



AIR MAIL

KENYA

No. 360



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

29  
20

RECEIVED  
7 JUL 1937  
O. REGY

2 JULY, 1937.

Sir,

17

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 237 of the 18th March regarding the proposed acquisition of a 32-foot cutter or alternatively two 25-foot whalers for the use of the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

2. The Commanding Officer of the Reserve has been consulted and has advised, after reference to the Naval Commander in Chief, that the two whalers are now considered to be more suitable for his purposes than a second cutter, not only on account of the lower initial cost, but also because of the small complement of the Unit and the lack of facilities for hoisting and handling the heavier craft.

It is also considered that in the event of war the two whalers would be found the more handy for the many small duties which the Reserve would be required to undertake.

3. I shall be glad therefore if steps can now be taken to acquire the two whalers, one in its present condition at a cost of £5. 0. 0., and the second repaired for harbour service and fitted with pulling equipment at a cost of £52. 13. 9.

The Commanding Officer has also advised that the whaler to be repaired by the Admiralty

should .....

1.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,

LONDON. S.W. 1

30  
copy to Admiralty  
Barnard (21)

AIR MAIL

KENYA  
No. 360



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

29  
20

RECEIVED  
7 JUL 1937  
O. REGY

2 JULY, 1937.

Sir,

17

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 237 of the 18th March regarding the proposed acquisition of a 32-foot cutter or alternatively two 25-foot whalers for the use of the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

2. The Commanding Officer of the Reserve has been consulted and has advised, after reference to the Naval Commander in Chief, that the two whalers are now considered to be more suitable for his purposes than a second cutter, not only on account of the lower initial cost, but also because of the small complement of the Unit and the lack of facilities for hoisting and handling the heavier craft.

It is also considered that in the event of war the two whalers would be found the more handy for the many small duties which the Reserve would be required to undertake.

3. I shall be glad therefore if steps can now be taken to acquire the two whalers, one in its present condition at a cost of £5. 0. 0., and the second repaired for harbour service and fitted with pulling equipment at a cost of £52. 13. 9.

The Commanding Officer has also advised that the whaler to be repaired by the Admiralty

should .....

1.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,

LONDON. S.W. 1

30  
Copy to Admiralty  
London (41)

should be fitted with a mounting to carry a Lewis Gun forward, and that one set of masts and sails is most necessary for training purposes.

I shall be glad if an estimate of the cost of these additional requirements can be obtained.

4. I trust that it will be found possible to arrange for transport by service opportunity or otherwise at special rates.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

*D Brooker Poplan*  
AIR CHIEF MARSHAL,

G O V E R N O R.

C. O.

Mr. Grossmith.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Perms. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

*Secret*

14 April, 1937.

RECEIVED  
15 APR 1937  
SIR

**DRAFT.**

THE SECRETARY,  
ADMIRALTY.

*Copy to Kenya (23)*

I am etc. to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th of March (Reference: M. 21332/37) and to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that it would be appreciated if arrangements may be made for the thermometers and hygrometers for use in the Explosives Store of the Kenya R.N.V.R. to be sent direct to the Officer Commanding the Reserve at Mombasa. The cost of the instruments in question will be borne by the Kenya Government.

As regards the magazine barrows, I am to state that if their Lordships will advise in regard

FURTHER ACTION.

*Def. action*

*K Copy of this  
No 16 to  
Def. Sec. Kenya  
Ref. No 24 on  
1936 file.*

17

38009/1/37 Kenya.

Ans (29)

DOWNING STREET.

18 March, 1942.

Air Mail

Sir,

With reference to my

(ra).

secret despatch of the 25th of

February, I have etc. to transmit to

you, for your consideration, a copy of

a letter from the Admiralty, from

which it will be observed that

one 32-foot cutter and two 25-foot

whalers can be made available for

the use of the R.N.V.R. <sup>(Range)</sup> It will be

observed that ~~considerable~~ <sup>the cost of</sup> expenditure

would be required to make any of

these ~~vessels~~ <sup>whalers</sup> fit for harbour service

Before I take any steps in the

matter, therefore, I request that you

will inform me whether you <sup>and</sup> desire that

all or any of these <sup>boats</sup> should be acquired;

and if so, whether you would wish them

to

C. O.

Mr. Paskin. 18/3

Mr. Flood. 18/3

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bonomley.

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

KENYA

SECRET No. 237

O.A.G.

(with need no copy be treated as secret)

copy of secret sent Admiralty (x)

from Admiralty 573 (No 15)

FURTHER ACTION.  
Copy to Admiralty 4.  
Action on No. 16.

Have visited X alt.

to the number of barrows necessary for the R.N.V.R. Explosives Store the War Office will be asked to supply them.

I am, etc.

(Signed) J. E. W. FLOOD

C. O.

Mr. Paskin 18/3

Mr. Flood 18/3

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Parlt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

38009/1/37 Kenya.

Ans (29)

DOWNING STREET.

18 March, 1937.

Air Mail

Sir,

With reference to my

(10). Secret despatch of the 25th of

February, I have etc. to transmit to

you, for your consideration, a copy of

a letter from the Admiralty, from

which it will be observed that

one 32-foot cutter and two 25-foot

whalers can be made available for

the use of the R.N.V.R. It will be

observed that <sup>the cost of</sup> ~~considerable~~ expenditure

would be required to make any of

these <sup>whalers</sup> ~~vessels~~ fit for harbour service

Before I take any steps in the

matter, therefore, I request that you

will inform me whether you <sup>wish</sup> ~~desire~~ that

all or any of these <sup>boats</sup> ~~vessels~~ should be acquired;

and if so, whether you would wish them

**DRAFT.**

KENYA

SECRET No. 237

O.A.G.

(Information no longer valid for reference) Same)

copy of letter sent Admiralty

from Admiralty. 573 (No 15)

**FURTHER ACTION.**

Copy to Admiralty 4/.

Have visited X alt.

Admiralty No. 16.

to be repaired by the Admiralty or ~~would~~  
prefer the work to be undertaken  
locally.

4. On receipt of your reply

I will ascertain whether any arrangements

can be made for transporting these <sup>boats</sup>

vessels to Kenya <sup>at</sup> ~~by~~ special rates, but

*however*

*by service opportunity  
or otherwise*

No reliance should <sup>be</sup> placed on its being

possible to obtain any such concession.

I have, etc.

(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.



- (6) is less than was estimated in Lieut. Comdr  
 Noad's letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb. In view  
 therefore of your Serial Vol. No. 47 of  
 (14) the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, I shd. have had no  
 hesitation in accepting the offer of  
 these two whalers, were it not for  
 the fact that a cutter is also now  
 available at Malta. The acquisition of  
 second  
 of cutter was recommended by the  
 Naval C.-in-C. East Indies, as  
 reported in ~~the~~ Sir J. Byrnes's rep. No 406  
 of the 8<sup>th</sup> of Aug. & the offer of acquiring  
 whalers was only raised on the  
 understanding that a cutter wd. not  
 be available.

(No. 1 on  
 38009/3/36)

3. Having regard to the small  
 greater cost of repairing the cutter  
 you will no doubt wish to reconsider  
 the whole matter. I accordingly

(6) is less than was estimated in Lieut. Comdr  
 Now's letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb. In view  
 therefore of your Secret. No. 47 of  
 (14) the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, I shd. have had no  
 hesitation in accepting the offer of  
 these two whalers, were it not for  
 the fact that a cutter is also now  
 available at Malta. The acquisition of  
 a <sup>second</sup> cutter was recommended by the  
 Naval C-in-C. East Indies, as  
 reported in ~~the~~ Sir J. Byrnes' Rep. No. 406  
 of the 8<sup>th</sup> of Aug. & the cost of acquiring  
 whalers was only raised on the  
 understanding that a cutter wd. not  
 be available.

(No. 1 on  
 38009/3/36)

3. Having regard to the much  
 greater cost of repairing the cutter  
 you will no doubt wish to reconsider  
 the whole matter. I accordingly

Any further communication  
should be addressed to:—  
The Secretary of the Admiralty,  
London, S.W.1.

quoting " M: 01332/37



Admiralty, S.W.1.

8th March 1937

Sir,

(25) on 38009/1/36.

5

With reference to your letters of 28th October 1936 (38009/1/36) and 29th January 1937 (38009/1/37), I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the arrangements for the supply of a second winch and drum for the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve have been suspended as requested.

2. As regards the provision of thermometers and hygrometers, I am to say that these instruments cost only a few shillings each, and My Lords would therefore prefer that they should be supplied on repayment.

3. In regard to the request for the loan of magazine barrows, I am to state that the Admiralty obtain these stores on repayment from the War Office and no surplus stocks are held. It is suggested that arrangements for supply to Kenya be made direct with the War Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Samuel*

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
S.W.1.

Any further communication  
should be addressed to:-  
The Secretary of the Admiralty,  
London, S.W.1

quoting M.04323/36.



Admiralty, S.W.1.

5th March, 1937

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

O.O.H.L.

Sir,

With reference to Admiralty letter M.04323/36 of 11th November, 1936, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the undermentioned boats can now be made available for supply to the Government of Kenya at the costs shewn:-

- (4) of 38009/3/36
- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| (a) One 32 foot cutter at Malta.<br>Repaired for harbour service<br>and fitted with sailing and<br>pulling equipments.                                    | } ... £270.12.3d.     |
| (b) Two 25 foot whalers at Devonport.<br>Repaired for harbour service<br>and fitted with pulling<br>equipment.<br>(No sailing equipment is<br>available). | } ... £ 52.13.9 each. |

2. The costs shewn are in accordance with the normal method of accounting and the standard of work carried out and of stores supplied would correspond to the values shewn. It is possible, however, that such repairs as are essential to serve the purpose of the Government of Kenya could be undertaken locally at a lower cost, and if this course is preferred the boats could be supplied in their present condition at the following prices:-

- (a) 32 ft. Cutter - £75.12.0.  
(b) Two 25 ft. Whalers £5.0.0. each.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,  
COLONIAL OFFICE,

S.W. 1.

T.A.

Copy to Kenya (17)

*Hamilton*

27  
13

2 Spare Copies  
R-298

~~SECRET~~

6 MAR 1937  
C. O. REG

Gareloch,  
St. Botolph's Road,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.  
4th March 1937.

Sir,

9.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd February, reference 3809/1/37, and to inform you that I have discussed the question of the magazine for the storage of naval ammunition at Kilindini with the Naval Armaments Branch at the Admiralty.

6.

I beg to confirm that a cheaper type of construction will be possible as stated in my Secret letter to you of February 16th., and it is probable that the estimated cost of £2,650 can be reduced by at least half. I understand that a letter from the Admiralty will be forwarded to you very shortly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER  
(R.N.V.R. Kenya).

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

C. O.

Mr. Paskin. 24/2.

Mr. Flood. 24/2

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

AIR MAIL.

38009/1/37.

25 February.

Sir,

I have etc. to acknowledge the

2 DRAFT.

(No. 1 on 38009/4/37)

receipt of your Secret despatch of the

11th of February in regard to the

provision of a magazine for the storage

of naval ammunition at Kilindini, and to

transmit to you for your information a

copy of a letter which has been sent to

the Admiralty.

I take this opportunity to

~~transmit to you~~ <sup>forward</sup> for your consideration

copies of communications from

Lieutenant Commander Noad and

Commander Blunt in regard to the provision

of various items of equipment for the Kenya

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

KENYA.

O. A. G.

Secret.

To Admiralty 23/2/37  
on 2/4)  
From Lt. Comdr. Noad 16/2.  
(No. 6)  
From Comdr. Blunt.  
(No. 7)

Copy to Admiralty

**FURTHER ACTION.**

Copy on S.F.4.

Copy <sup>take</sup> 2/6

I assume that if the Admiralty should find it possible to offer the two

whalers mentioned by Lieutenant Commander Wood, and provided that you will wish me to accept the offer.

*and provided that the cost of reconditioning these and transporting them to Rombasa is not excessive,*

As regards the question of acquiring a minesweeping vessel, you will observe that while Lieutenant Commander Wood understands that a vessel of the trawler type may possibly be available shortly for offer to your Government

Commander Blunt does not consider that a vessel of this type would be suitable for war service at Rombasa. On the other hand the

cost of acquiring a new vessel, as recommended by Commander Blunt, will inevitably be large,

*of any of the types described &*

and you may perhaps think it desirable to accept the offer of a trawler, if it should materialize, for training purposes, and to leave

over the question of acquiring a more satisfactory permanent vessel to a later date. Before

informing me of your views on this question, you may perhaps wish to consult the Commander-

*in-Chief, East Indies Station, and to obtain a more full report from Commander Blunt on his arrival - I have, etc.*

(SIGNED) W. ORMSBY GORE

RECEIVED  
19 FEB 1937  
C. O. REGY

29  
30 7

A few remarks on the comparative values of certain types of vessels for the defence of the coast of East Africa and the training of L.N.V.R. Officers & Ratings.

Having just finished a course in Mine Sweeping & Anti Submarine Defence during which time I met the Senior Officers in charge & had access to the Mine Sweeping Manuals, I feel that what I learned might possibly assist in the choice of the best kind of vessel.

I also went to the Vernon (Head Dept. of Mine Sweeping) and had a talk with Commandr Corrie and his Assistant (Lt. Col) who has had much to do with the conversion of trawlers for mine sweeping.

The Captain of the M. Vincent, Training Establishment, who is an Ex War Mine Sweeper expert also gave me his valuable opinion on the disadvantages of a trawler and the advantages of some craft capable of doing more than one duty.

I have heard on good authority that Kenya may be loaned a small trawler for mine sweeping duties.

This trawler will have a speed of ten knots, a draft of 10ft has been condemned for anti submarine work and carries a 12 Pdr.

Any trawler large or small is undesirable as a mine sweeper owing to its deep draft. The only reason why they are used & will be used in the future, is because they are available in numbers & easily adapted for mine sweeping.

If a trawler could be profitably used in time of peace for fishing of E.A. the would be an economical proposition in time of war for conversion. The best speed of a trawler likely to be loaned to Kenya

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precludes her being used as an offensive weapon against submarines. Her armament being one 12 in would be smaller than that carried by a modern submarine.

A trawler in her routine requires a boiler clean every twenty days, & she is out of action for about four days during her 'clean'. They are in no way suitable for a tropical climate, and their living quarters would be intolerable.

Their draft would be a continual source of danger when working in those amongst the islands on a coral reef coast, where pinnacle rocks may lurk & charts are very small scale.

Such a vessel could fulfil only one duty, & that of mine sweeping.

As a training vessel, she would be required to go out running most forenoons, and the business of raising steam, a matter of hours, in her would be a handicap.

Alternatives. 1). A vessel has been designed in Kenyon and is being built which Commander Currie & his assistants consider to be in every way more suitable than a trawler, for East Africa. She will be about 70 ft long, 4.5 ft draft, speed of 17 knots & driven by an internal combustion engine. She would be fitted for mine sweeping and could carry depth charges.

It is possible she could be strengthened to carry a Judd's boat's 14" torpedo dropping gear, against a raider, but this has not been contemplated. She would also be able to hunt submarines & would carry beside a 12 in gun a machine gun capable of

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mercury 7" steel

Her hull is the same as a life boat - She would therefore be a good submer.

Her construction would be suitable for living in areas in a tropical climate. Cost about £18,000.

- 2. A modern 45 ft. pilch boat has a speed of 24 knots - She can sweep efficiently and can carry depth charges. Her cost is £2,710.

As the sweeping of narrow channels requires the service of two boats (for an "A" sweep) & the cost is low, a couple of these boats would be preferable to a small trawler.

- 3. The above 45 foot boat being on the small size, I saw the General Managing Director of Vosper's yard and he gave me a rough estimate for a 70 ft boat, fitted for sweeping, depth charges & 1/2" dropping gear and a speed of 20 knots, which was £10,000.

- 4. A Motor Torpedo boat, able to sweep, carry depth charges or torpedoes, & possibly fitted with humanis hunting gear - Speed 40 kts.

It is submitted that any of the above vessels (of modern speed) would be more suitable than a small trawler.

East Africa has had the war experience of an obsolete craft, doing more moral harm than good, in the sinking of the Pegasus, whose speed was too slow to accept action or refuse it, whose armament was useless against a modern ship & who was ~~actually sunk~~ actually sunk - ~~disabled~~ boiler charring.

D. J. A. L. Lt. Col. R. N. L. Ltd.

**SECRET**

The Warren,

Fashley Road,

Eastbourne.

16th February 1937.

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

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sir,

As requested, I have the honour to submit the following notes on various discussions with the Deputy Director of the Plans Division of the Admiralty (Captain E.M. Syfret R.N.) and other Officers on questions relating to the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

1. BOATS

No suitable second hand cutters of the dipping lug type are available. The question of the supply of two whalers was, therefore, broached. It is understood that two 25 foot whalers are available at Devonport Dockyard on Sale Charge at a value of £5 each which are classed as Harbour Service - Repairable. The Dockyard have been asked to supply at an early date estimates of the cost -

- (a) of repairing the boats so-as to be fit-for harbour service.
- (b) of repairing the boats and supplying complete sailing and pulling equipment.

The Admiralty will inform you when this information has been received. It is assumed that the cost will probably be between £60 and £80, and I strongly recommend that the Government of Kenya should acquire these boats as early as possible.

In the case of the cutter purchased in 1933 from the Admiralty, the Union Castle Company kindly carried the boat to Kilindini free of charge. I trust that arrangements can be made for similar action on the part of this Company in respect of the two whalers.

MINESWEEPING WINCH.

From information received from Kenya it would appear that the mine-sweeping winch already purchased by the Government of Kenya is too large and too heavy to be fitted in the "AL HATHERA."

This winch was ordered on a specification provided by the Flagship of the East Indies Squadron in 1935 after the inspection of the "AL HATHERA" in Kilindini. The "AL HATHERA" is fitted with a towing winch for her normal duties and it was proposed to fit the minesweeping winch on the deck abaft the towing winch during minesweeping practice. This has been found to be impracticable owing to the size and weight of the winch.

It is now proposed that either of the following alternative schemes be adopted:-

- (a) The existing minesweeping winch weighs approximately 7 1/2 tons. It is proposed that a lighter type of winch weighing approximately 5 tons be sent out as a substitute for the existing one. Lieut Commander C.B. Hoggan R.D. R.N.R., Senior Pilot at Kilindini, who is at home on leave at

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present will shortly be in Devonport in connection with his training courses. It was agreed that he should be asked to inspect and report upon the winches available at the Dockyard there. It was hoped that it might be possible to find a winch which would be suitable both for towing and for minesweeping and which, subject to the agreement of the Zanzibar Government who own the vessel, could be permanently substituted for the towing winch already fitted.

(b) Alternatively, the Admiralty propose to offer two light High Speed minesweeping winches. This type of winch is small and light and could be fitted on deck on either side, for minesweeping only, leaving the existing towing winch in situ. These winches are, it is understood, available at disposal prices. It is understood that the Admiralty would be prepared to buy back the winch already purchased which is at Kilindini.

MAGAZINE.

The question of the Siting and construction of the naval magazine at Kilindini has been discussed with the Naval Armaments and with the Civil Engineering branches. A cheaper type of construction than was anticipated will be sufficient. The drawings have not yet been received from Kenya. As soon as these are received by the Colonial Office, it is requested that I may be notified in order that I may be enabled to settle final details with the Armaments branch before I return to Kenya.

MINESWEEPING VESSEL.

It is understood that a vessel of the Trawler type may possibly be available shortly for offer on loan to Kenya. This matter is still under discussion as the disposal of the vessels in question has not yet been settled.

Since discussing this matter with Mr. Flood, I have been informed by Commander Blunt that he is submitting a report on alternative types of small craft which he considers would be more suitable than a trawler.

The urgency of sea training for the Reserve was stressed by the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, in his inspection report last year and the question of obtaining a suitable vessel has been receiving the attention of the Government of Kenya for some time. The main factor is the question of cost. I have requested the Admiralty to supply figures of cost of maintenance and upkeep should a trawler be available for offer to Kenya. Commander Blunt will also no doubt give figures of cost in respect of the other craft which he has been inspecting.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER  
R.N.V.R. (KENYA)