

1930

Kenya

No. 16308

SUBJECT

CO 533/403

M. H. Wilkinson

Lt. E. A. M. L. Corps

Previous

.39164/1924.

Subsequent

No. 1.

Mr. Wilkinson called to see me to-day, as a result of the correspondence attached.

He wants help in some form towards the cost of taking himself and his wife back to Kenya, either by way of <sup>the</sup> return passage privilege, which he did not make use of at the time, or by the grant of a pension in respect of the period from the end of 1918 to some date in 1921 during which he did not draw pension at all. Apparently he got a temporary pension in respect of malaria which at the last revision was reduced to about £50 per annum, but this lapsed as he did not apply for a new medical board. In 1923 when his case was referred to the Ministry of Pensions he was awarded a pension in respect of bronchitis, but the Ministry were unable to award it retrospectively earlier than 1921.

I told him that if he would write I would see what could be done, but there were serious difficulties, including the fact that the arrangements for war-time finance had been wound up. If it was a question of using money as a special concession from Kenya funds we should have to consult the Governor, and that would be <sup>mean</sup> three or four months delay waiting.

Wait.

S.D.S.

26.9.30.

W. H. D. H. S.

Mr Eastwood

Nothing further from Mr Wilkinson

? see by pl

W. H. D. H. S.

15/10/30

W. H. D. H. S. 16.10.30

2  
No. 1  
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a result of the correspondence attached.

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W.C.D.

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26.9.30

W.C.D.

Mr Eastwood

Nothing further from Mr Wilkinson

? per by per

W. Needham

15/10/30

W. Needham

2. M. G. Wilkinson 13/4/31  
 (Requests further information with  
 Sir C. Bottomley)
3. ~~Requests of date~~ with Sir C. Bottomley  
 13/6/31
4. G. Wilkinson (w/c 3) - s.o. 15 MAY 1931

①

18/6/31  
 in Westwood

to reply to M.G.

shows  
 13/6/31

? Wait till he writes

Sir C. Bottomley

15/6

I think so?

G. Keel  
 15/6

acting

W.C.S. 15.6.31

since

to

- Mr. W. Wilkinson 13/4/31
2. (Requests Gurdner interview with Sir C. Bottomley)
  3. Note of interview with Sir C. Bottomley  
~~Account of facts~~
  4. Mr. Wilkinson (w/c 3) - S.O. 13/6/31  
13 MAY 1931

*(Handwritten mark)*

*Done  
in Hartwood*

*to reply to Mr. H.*

*shows  
13/6/31*

*? wait till he inter.*

*Sir C. Bottomley*

*I think so?*

*Gordon  
15/6*

*G. Reed  
15/6.*

*acting*

*W.S. 15.6.31*

*since*

*to*

C.O.

Mr. Secl 9-5 p.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

C.O.  
R 11 MAY  
D ✓

S.O.  
for my signature

13<sup>th</sup> May

DRAFT.

M. H. Wilkinson Esq.

Dear Sir

Sir Cecil Bottomley has

asked me to send you on the enclosed account of the talk which you had with him on the 28 April regarding your disability pension as it is sorry that he has not been able to let you have it before, but hopes that you will understand that the pressing calls on his time have prevented him from dealing with it.

Q/1022

Denis  
Chambers (keep file 4)

The

O. O.

43

Mr. Sect 9:5 p

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

C. O.	
R	11 MAY
D	

P.O.  
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13<sup>th</sup> May.

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M. H. Wilkinson, Esq.

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Q/10/22

Remo  
Cherwell (Kest 1/2/24)

9.

The next stage in the process  
appears to be for you to write  
officially to the Under Secretary  
of State asking for a review  
of your case. ~~It is according~~  
with the understanding you  
reached with Sir C. B. Rowley  
As Sir C. B. Rowley explained,  
there is no objection to your  
using the enclosed memorandum  
as a basis in the preparation of your  
case, ~~to the~~ but it is of course  
very desirable that your  
letter should be self-contained  
and not depend in any  
way upon references to the  
memorandum.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) G. F. SEEL



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letter should be self-contained  
and not depend in any  
way upon references to the  
memorandum.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) G. F. SEEL

Steel 9/15 atome

W.C.

In enclosure  
6dp. 571  
Wickham

Other  
was given  
reference  
i  
(copy)

Copy to Mr. Sullivan 5  
13 MAY 1931

Lieutenant Wilkinson called to see Sir Cecil Bottomley on the 28th April.

He began by saying that possibly he had in the old days given people the impression that he was "drawing the long bow", and also of being rather troublesome; for instance, he had been obliged to sail from East Africa without his papers when invalided home; but this had not been his own fault. Sir C. Bottomley assured him that this had not had any effect on the consideration of his case in the Colonial Office.

He said that he believed there had been some misunderstanding as to the medical information which had been before the various authorities who had examined him in this country. At the time of his examination by Dr. Daniels, the Medical Advisor to the Colonial Office, Dr. Daniels had informed him that the only details before him were those given in the report of a medical board on him in Mombasa on the 13th December, 1916. At the time that the board was held he had been 400 miles away from Mombasa. <sup>He</sup> ~~He~~ ~~appreciated~~ however, that the Colonial Office were under the impression that all relevant documents had been furnished to the medical authorities in this country, <sup>and he said that this information</sup> ~~this he thought~~ was not correct, and might have had some bearing on his case. For instance, he believed that the medical authorities had not seen any records of his having suffered from neurasthenia.

He also mentioned that he had had a double hernia, in respect of which, however, there was no entitlement to pension. He was of opinion that

this

Steel 9/15 at once

V.C.

In enclosure  
6dp. 8712  
Wellton

On the  
was a good  
reference  
in  
(copy).

13 MAY 1931

Copy to Mr. Bullman 5.

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He also mentioned that he had had a double hernia, in respect of which, however, there was no entitlement to pension. He was of opinion that

this

this was due to his war service. Sir Cecil Bottomley doubted, however, in view of the general nature of such cases, whether it would be possible to establish successfully that this was directly caused by war service.

It appeared that there were two main points which he wished to ask should be taken up;

(a) The first was whether anything could be done in respect of the interval which had elapsed between the 26th December 1918, when the temporary retired pay of £52. 10. 0 a year awarded in the letter from the Colonial Office of the 15th August 1918 had ceased, until the 27th January 1921, when pension award by the Ministry of Pensions had begun. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he had never been informed in 1918 that it was necessary for him to apply for a renewal of this earlier grant, and that when, in August 1918, he had been put on a reduced rate of temporary retired pay, he had taken this to be a final decision.

38274/18

38274/18

He also mentioned that his pension did not include any entitlement in respect of his chest troubles, from which he suffered continuously, and which he also attributed to war service. It was pointed out, however, that in his memorandum submitted to the Hastings War Pensions Committee in September 1918 he had not made any reference to chest trouble.

He also enquired whether the Colonial Office would support an application from him to be paid the difference between 30 per cent

disability

M/P. letter  
7.8.18  
38274/18.

disability pension in respect of malaria, i.e. £52. 10. 0. which had been awarded for a short period in 1918, and his present rate of pension, such difference to be paid in respect of the period of the date of the first award in 1918 to the date when he began to draw his present rate.

(b) With regard to the question of passage, his case was that he was unable at the proper time to avail himself of the return passage concession, owing to illness contracted on active service, which made him then medically unfit to return to East Africa. <sup>He explained that the</sup> The letter which had been sent to him on the 21st September 1918, enclosing a letter of authority for medical examination with a view to the question of his fitness for return being definitely settled, had never reached him, <sup>and</sup> so that he had thus lost any possible opportunity of being regarded as eligible for return.

44948/18

After some discussion, in the course of which Sir Cecil Bottomley pointed out that the difficulties of the case were very greatly increased owing to the lapse of time since the events in question, it was eventually agreed that the Department would go into the matter carefully on receiving a formal statement of his case from Lieutenant Wilkinson, with special reference to the following points:-

(1) Whether, after this lapse of time, the question of a payment in lieu of the passage to East Africa which was not taken in 1918 could be considered;

*Answer*

(2)

*Inter-*

- (2) Whether any payment could be made to him in respect of the temporary retired pay awarded to him in 1918, which had elapsed between 1918 and 1921 owing to his not having applied for renewal, *and*
- ~~and~~ (3) Whether his bronchitis trouble could now be retrospectively considered in re-assessing his original disability pension in 1918, seeing that the records relating to his having suffered from bronchitis were not available then, but were subsequently produced in 1923, and taken into account in assessing the rate of pension which he was now enjoying.

Sir Cecil Bottomley said that when Mr. Wilkinson had sent in his application he would ~~take steps to refer the case to the Ministry of Pensions and ask them what they would do had it been a British Army case.~~ *prefer that the case should be referred to the Ministry of Pensions and ask them what they would do had it been a British Army case.*

*Lt.* Lieutenant Wilkinson made further observations to show that he had actually lost by having been invalided to this country instead of being allowed to remain in East Africa. For instance, he had lost the benefit of the favourable rupee exchange, and the opportunity of obtaining an interest in someone's farm. At one time he had been offered a post as manager of Lord Kitchener's farm, but he had not been able to take it up because he was pronounced unfit to return to East Africa. *He was informed that no claim for compensation could be made in his case.*

He also enquired whether there was any machinery whereby his pension could be finally determined and made permanent. At present the

Ministry

Ministry of Pensions would not award a permanent pension, and he believed that the reason for this was that there was a possibility that his case would become worse.

He believed that if his case had been thoroughly considered at the proper time he would have been entitled to a 100 per cent disability pension. The actual award in his case had not taken any account of his eye trouble, and a doctor to the Ministry of Pensions had told him that there was no entitlement in respect of this, though he himself was certain that the trouble had been begun by the conditions of active service in Kenya. He also believed that those conditions had given rise to a condition of pyorrhea from which he also suffered, but <sup>he requested that he should not</sup> ~~it was impossible to~~ <sup>make any claim on that account</sup> ~~adduce any support for this view.~~

*It was agreed that a note of the points raised should be sent to the Minister for his use in preparing his application and in evidence that it should be sent for that function only and that it should not be taken to imply any acknowledgment or pledge on behalf of the Secretary of State.*

9

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He also mentioned that he had had a double hernia, in respect of which, however, there was no entitlement to pension. He was of opinion that this was due to his war service. Sir Cecil

Bottomley



Bottomley doubted, however, in view of the general nature of such cases, whether it would be possible to establish successfully that this was directly caused by war service.

It appeared that there were two main points which he wished to ask should be taken up:

(a) The first was whether anything could be done in respect of the interval which had elapsed between the 26th December 1918, when the temporary retired pay of £52. 10. 0 a year awarded in the letter from the Colonial Office of the 15th August 1918 had ceased, until the 27th January 1921, when pension award by the Ministry of Pensions at the rate of £100 a year had begun. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he had never been informed in 1918 that it was necessary for him to apply for a renewal of this grant, and when, <sup>earlier</sup> ~~when~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~early~~ <sup>original</sup> in 1918, he had been put on a reduced rate of temporary retired pay, he had taken this to be a final decision.

He also mentioned that his pension did not include any entitlement in respect of his chest troubles, from which he suffered continuously, and which he also attributed to war service. It was pointed out, however, that in his memorandum submitted to the Hastings War Pensions Committee in September 1918 he had not made any reference to chest trouble.

He also enquired whether the Colonial Office would support an application from him to be paid the difference between 30 per cent disability <sup>pension</sup> in respect of malaria, <sup>(c.c. £52.10.0)</sup> which had been awarded for a short period in 1918, and his

present

present rate of pension, such difference to be paid in respect of the period of the date of the first award in 1918 to the date of the <sup>when he began to draw</sup> ~~the last~~ <sup>his present rate</sup> revision of his pension.

(b) With regard to the question of passage, his case was that he was unable at the proper time to avail himself of the return passage concession, owing to illness contracted on active service, which made him <sup>then</sup> medically unfit to return to East Africa. The letter which had been sent to him on the 21st September 1918, enclosing a letter of authority for medical examination with a view to the question of his fitness for return being definitely settled, had never reached him, so that he had thus lost any possible opportunity of being regarded as eligible for return.

After some discussion, in the course of which Sir Cecil Bottomley pointed out that the difficulties of the case were very greatly increased owing to the lapse of time since the events in question, it was eventually agreed that the Department would go into the matter carefully on receiving a formal statement of his case from Lieutenant Wilkinson, with special reference to the following points :-

- (1) Whether, after this lapse of time, the question of a payment in <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ of the passage to East Africa which was <sup>not</sup> ~~was~~ taken in 1918 could be considered;
- (2) ~~The question~~ whether any payment could be made to him in respect of the <sup>£100 pension</sup> ~~disability pension~~ awarded to him in 1918, which had lapsed between 1918 and 1921 owing to his not having applied for renewal;
- (3) Whether his bronchitis trouble <sup>and</sup> ~~ought to~~ <sup>be introduced</sup> ~~have been~~ considered in assessing his original disability pension in 1918, seeing that the records relating

38274/18

44948/18

38274/18

N.P. letter 7.8.18  
38274/18

relating to his having suffered from bronchitis were not available then, but were subsequently produced in 1923, and taken into account in assessing the rate of pension which he was now enjoying, and finally,

(4) Whether in view of all the circumstances it would be possible to review the rate of his pension so as to take into account all the factors which he claimed had not hitherto been included.

*said that if Mr*  
*Wilkinson had sent in his application he would of course be necessary to refer the case*  
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to send for news items. Consider whether  
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9. Trans. 2168. a year  
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L. K. Kinnison

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2. Panage Kinnison

94p. 198-21

© Top.

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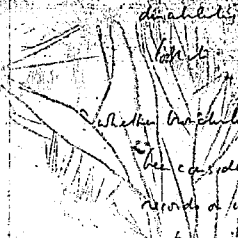
introduced person in extracts  
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to determine between what jobs  
present in (1948) & previous years  
1948 - 1948

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then send to all a series  
but news  
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 disability from ...  
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Whether ...

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As 117.3 P. ...

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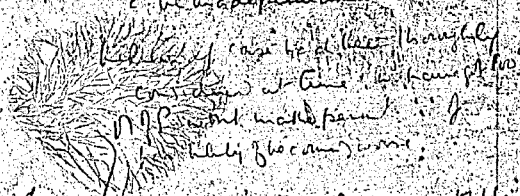
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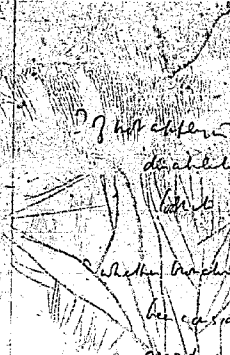
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April ...  
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Whether it was of all the

name of persian a brachylophylla & whether  
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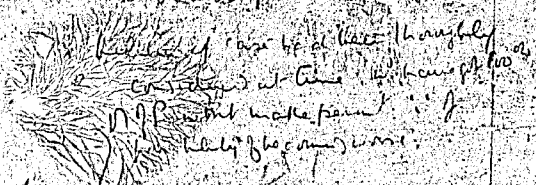
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April 1879

D.P. does not have it

47, Earley Crescent,  
Earls Court - SW 5

Amid  
sorrow - back  
weld. (in 1931)

RECEIVED  
20 APR 1931  
P.L. OFFICE

15th April, 1931.

(MAXMAN, 7377.)

Dear Sir Cecil Bottomley,

K

In October last, shortly following the interview of 26th Sept which you kindly granted me, illness overtook me severely; & again early in January - February this year, <sup>when</sup> I had doubtful chances of recovery. My physician says that I was worse than he had seen me since 1923 when I first consulted him.

Another relapse in March pulled me down sorely, & I am just making progress now that warmer days approach.

These illnesses & my eye-trouble have combined to debar me from fulfilling your wish that I should place with you in writing full details of the subject upon which I approached you, & the close scrutiny and annotation of relevant records impose an eye-strain <sup>which</sup>

M.A.F.

cont.  
copy - back to Mr  
Wash. 4.9  
(in 1931)

L13

47, Earlday Crescent,  
Earl's Court, S.W. 5

RECEIVED  
20 APR 1931  
C.L. OFFICE

15<sup>th</sup> April, 1931

(MAXMAN, 7377)

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which permits of only brief spells of reading and/or writing. The extent of this very letter so far represents just about my limit at one sitting.

I therefore trust that you will not have deemed me too negligent of your advice & wishes; and I shall be very grateful if you will grant me yet another talk and will guide me as to certain details, which I have now in mind, before I write them; as I do not want to write at too great length, and I also am a little uncertain as to how to present certain points without resurrecting old & buried misunderstandings as far as I am concerned with former colleagues in East Africa. I want my plea to succeed on the cases' merits; but I want also to safeguard and ensure with everyone an unimpaired atmosphere of brotherly love, relief & truth.

I am, dear Sir Cecil, Bostonily,

Very truly yours

Maurice H. Wildinson





# His Majesty's Eastern African Dependencies

CHD/D/EM.

TRADE & INFORMATION OFFICE.

KENYA, UGANDA,  
TANGANYIKA, ZANZIBAR.

*Royal Mail Building,  
Cockspur Street,  
(ENTRANCE, SPRING GARDENS)  
London, S.W.1.*

NYASALAND,  
NORTHERN RHODESIA.

TELEPHONE: REGENT, 5701/2.  
ANY COMMUNICATION RESPECTING THIS  
MATTER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY, QUOTING REF.

CABLES: EAMATTERS, LONDON.  
TELEGRAMS: EAMATTERS, WESTROND, LONDON.

8699/30

25th September, 1930.

Dear Sir Cecil,

Corbet-Ward has shown me your letter to him of the 23rd September with regard to Mr. Maurice Wilkinson, and I am replying to your letter because it so happens that I have twice seen Mr. Wilkinson; the first time I had a long interview with him and he explained the whole matter to me which was really in connection with the time when he was a member of the East African Mounted Rifles.

I went into the subject somewhat thoroughly with him and finally ascertained that at the time this was a matter which the Colonial Office said it was one for them to deal with, and not the War Office, and according to Mr. Wilkinson it was actually yourself who handled the matter at the time. I therefore suggested to him that probably the only course open to him, and certainly the best course, was to write to you and ask if you would be kind enough to give a talk to him to see whether anything could be done for him. It was really in connection with this that he asked to see you.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Commissioner.

Sir Cecil Bottomley, K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E.,  
The Colonial Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Personal.

16  
END

at No. 47, Eardley Crescent,

Earl's Court, S.W.5.

28th September, 1930.

Sir Cecil W. Bottomley, K.O.M.G., C.M.S.,  
The Colonial Office, S.W.1.

Dear Sir Cecil Bottomley,

Although probably you do not remember me, I recall gratefully the several interviews which you granted me in 1918 and later, when you helped me greatly with kindly advice and efforts on my behalf both during my sick-leave and after I had been invalided from the East Africa Local Forces.

I should much appreciate the favour: if you conveniently could arrange to see me for a while on an early occasion and accord me your advice and guidance on the subject of my returning to Kenya with my wife.

During my long sojourn in England the variable climate is very trying to me, and I do dread the winters. Each fall-of-the-year makes me virtually a prisoner until the close of the succeeding spring; also, life in England without friends is a strain. Those with whom I had kept touch here during my many years in Africa are gone - or dead in the war; also, I have found none of the old friends of my late father, who lived for many years in India and was sometime Consulting Engineer to H.H.Nizam's States, Hyderabad, prior to which he was Permanent Secretary to the Nizam's Public Works Department.

On the Usin Gishu Plateau, Kenya, where I was at the outbreak of the late war, some dear friends have offered their welcome to us to go out and make our home with them; and I do think that, to live again in that climate and environment would suit my health; and I am confident that, with my long experience in Africa, I shall easily find useful occupation amidst friends, to augment my disability pension of £168 p.a., i.e., 80% assessment.

Very truly yours,

*Maurice H. Wilkinson*