

1925

KENYA

233

C.O.
11564
12 MAR 25

DATE

13th February 1925.

CONF
17

DEATH OF GOVERNOR SIR R. CORYDON.

States as to nature of illness and sends copies of Death Report and a Certificate of Death.

S. of S.
Mr. Strickland

S. of S.

S. of S.

of State.

Previous Paper

O.C. 11562

MINUTES

(1) Major Dalton will be here on Sunday, and there is no need for us to send any officers to head Corydon, except the certificate of death, which she may need.

I send it to short letter & then partly draft a suitable despatch in reply - we have not sent nothing except the title referred to in para. 8.

W.C.D. 13.3.25

N. D. Bentley - signed in no said here

1 APR 1925

Edward Long

Bentley

Ross

Subsequent Paper

O.C. 11677

M 18272

an extract - my present goal -
has she already had enough evidence of the
word by you? CP: 13/3

In Strachey.

My only reason for not repeating
an extract is that extracts, while
curious in their nature, & I would much
rather leave the details of letters to
the major section.

But are you prepared?

CP: 14.3

We need not call an extract - we can embody it
in a letter saying that the ~~Dr. S.~~ S. P. S. has directed that
the following statement of the public feeling in the story, which
he has received from the Dr. S., should be communicated to the
the part is in a verbal summary without mentioning of the
beginning of paragraphs -

CP
14/3/25
since

Handbook

Classified

Excluded

Handwritten

March 23/25

75 for
24 27

RECEIVED
182
OFFICE

under Secretary of State

Colonial Office

London W1

for

for in receipt of

in letter of March 1964

being enclosed to

KENYA.

No. 17.

CONFIDENTIAL.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

KENYA.

13th February 1925.

C.O.
11564
12 MAR 25

Sir,

It is with the greatest regret that I have the honour to confirm my telegram of the 10th February informing you of the death of Sir Robert Coryndon.

by burz 15

2. It came as a great shock to the whole Colony; although Sir Robert had not been well at times during the past few months there were no grounds for believing that he was in any serious danger. It was on February 9th that the Doctors decided to operate and the operation was performed at 8 P.M. that evening. Sir Robert never rallied from the operation and died at eleven o'clock on the 10th morning.

att. Certificate

3. A professional Report from the Medical Officer in attendance is enclosed as also a Certificate of Death.

4. I was with Sir Robert during the later stages and I have written to Lady Coryndon giving her full accounts of the circumstances of her husband's death.

5. The deepest sympathy with Lady Coryndon has been manifested throughout the Colony and by all sections of its inhabitants. It is realised by all that the Governor's death was a great blow to Kenya for which he had done so much and shown an affection which was fully reciprocated by the people of this Colony. Every mark of respect was paid to Sir Robert's memory. All places of business were closed on the day of his death and the funeral. All flags were....

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LIEUTENANT COLONEL D.C.M.S. ALERY, P.O., M.P.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON S.W.1.

were half-masted, a tribute which was also paid by Consuls of Foreign Countries. The Funeral was held with full Military Honours on February 11th and was attended by very large numbers of all races in Kenya all of whom displayed every mark of respect and mourning.

742
75
6. I have already expressed to you in my telegram of the 11th instant the great appreciation felt throughout the Colony of the gracious act of His Royal Highness the Duke of York in attending the Funeral and of the sympathy that was shown by Their Royal Highnesses with Kenya in its very heavy loss.

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The great regret felt at the Governor's death and the universal sorrow for Lady Coryndon has been widely evidenced in public utterances and by the very large number of communications from public bodies and private individuals which are being received by me and which will be communicated in due course to Lady Coryndon.

77
78
8. I have to thank you on behalf of the Colony for your telegram of the 11th February expressing your appreciation of Sir Robert Coryndon and of the great blow his death is to the Colony. Your telegram has been published as a Special Gazette.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

E. A. Denham

ACTING GOVERNOR.

COLONY OF KENYA AND THE EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA PROTECTORATES.

DEATH REPORT.

.....NAIROBI.....STATION.
DATE...12th. FEBRUARY. 1925....

Name.	Nationality.	Age.	Sex.	Date of Admission.	Date of Death.	Disease for which Admitted.	Cause of Death.	Place of Death.
Ernie Coryndon	British	55	M	8-2-25	10-2-25		Acute Pancreatitis	European Hospital Nairobi.

Previous medical history as far as ascertainable:— Malaria, a very great deal in former years in South Africa at a time he suffered from an enlarged spleen; latterly he had been free from attacks. One attack of blackwater. No history of dysentery or of diseases other than malaria.

History of lat illness including treatment:— For several months past he had complained of indigestion and abdominal discomfort with increasing girth but he had not regarded this as serious and had not sought medical attention regarding the condition to lack of exercise. A fortnight before the acute onset of illness he had complained of pain in the upper part of the abdomen for which an ordinary bismuth mixture was prescribed with small doses of opium Salts. There was at this time slight icterus but nothing could be detected on examination. He expressed himself as being better after this. On February 6th he had a good deal of abdominal pain which lasted throughout the night but he did not seek medical aid until mid-day on the 9th. He then complained of general abdominal pain and had vomited once in the morning. The pain was unaffected either by taking anything by mouth or by the vomiting. There was no constipation and temperature and pulse were normal. Examination revealed a spot of tenderness above and to the right of the umbilicus but there was no resistance. All the organs appeared normal. No free fluid detected in the abdominal cavity. The slight icterus mentioned above was resisted. The general appearance of the patient was disquieting and he looked and seemed very ill. Food was withheld with the exception of a small amount of milk and soda. In the evening the temperature was 100° and the pulse 76. A very uncomfortable night was passed. On the morning of the 9th there was slight resistance on the right side of the abdomen and some tenderness towards the right iliac fossa; movement was good. No vomiting. Temperature 99° and pulse 84. During the day the abdominal signs became more pronounced and tenderness and rigidity in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen became marked. There was vomiting. The pulse rate rose considerably. In the afternoon a consultation was held between Dr. Wilson, Dr. Welch and Dr. Gilks. It was agreed that there was grave abdominal mischief, the nature of which was not obvious although signs seemed to point to an acute appendicitis. Operative

(A p.m. will be made on all fatal cases unless the relatives of the deceased object.)

interference appeared urgently necessary. The patient was removed to the European Hospital.

OPERATION. 8 p.m. by Dr. Welch. On opening the abdomen a considerable amount of blood stained fluid escaped. This was coming from above the transverse colon. The appendix which was retro-caecally placed was normal. The peritoneum was very little inflamed and there was no inflammatory exudate. Search was made for a possible ruptured gastric ulcer but the stomach and duodenum were normal. The pancreas was swollen and considerable haemorrhage occurred on puncturing the head thereof. The abdomen was drained with tubes into the right flank, and pelvis. The epigastrium and the pancreatic region was also drained. The patient was deeply shocked at the conclusion of the operation and did not ever recover from this. Death took place at 11 a.m. on the morning following operation.

Post operative treatment was by rectal saline injections combined with brandy all of which were retained. It was also given by hypodermic injections of strychnine and digitalin.

No post mortem examination was held.

John D. Gilks
P.M.O.

Recd 19.3.25
Allen 18 J

2nd

DPG 11564124 Kenya



St. John's
Nairobi
London
Orlando
New York

Sc

19 March 1925

AFT.
London

Mrs. [Name]

I am etc. to transmit to you
the accompanying ^{the} Certificate of Death
of Sir Robert Coryndon,
~~a report of your husband's~~ which has
~~been forwarded by~~
~~has received by~~ from the
Acting Governor of Kenya.

of death
of Sir Robert Coryndon

in the [unclear]
[unclear] for a
DPG, with 64124
[unclear] at present available?
no [unclear] of the
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

2. Mr. Amery has also directed
which he has received from the A.G. Governor,
that the foll'g statement, of the public
feelings in the Colony at the sudden
death of Sir Robert Coryndon, should
be communicated to you.

(Herein paras. 5, 6, 7 of the Gov's
Conf. rep. of 13 Feb., omitting the members
of the paragrahs)
(Signed) W. C. BOTTOMLEY

Recd 27.3.25

Bostonley 18/3

OPG 11564 (25 Kenya)

- Shuckburgh.
- Davis.
- Grindle.
- Masterton Smith.
- Ormsby-Gore.
- Amery.

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130 MAR 1925

- 1 APL 1925

March

1925

AFT.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
 No 7,
 of your Confidential despatch of the
 13th of February, transmitting a
 medical report and a certificate of
 death in respect of Sir Robert Coryndon,
 K.C.M.G., the late Governor of the
 Colony.

I have already informed you,
 in my telegram of the 11th of February
 of the very deep regret with which I
 received the news of Sir Robert
 Coryndon's sudden death. I cannot
 say how

6/12/25

leaves ~~and~~ with gratification, but not only
but feel that his place in the

Colonial has not in been a man
from
whose place, both as Governor and
friend, it will be difficult to
fill.

I have thought it well, in
transmitting to Lady Compton
the Certificate of Death enclosed
with your despatch, to communicate
~~to her the text of paras 5, 6, and~~

7 of ^{your} ~~your~~ despatch, (which have been
sent to Lady Compton) ~~as showing the~~
~~feeling of sorrow in the Colony~~
~~but also from the local Press, if~~
~~at the husband Sir Robert Compton's~~

~~death, and the widespread~~
~~appreciation of Sir Robert Compton's~~
~~sympathy which have been~~
~~extended to her in her bereavement.~~

self sacrificing work for the

good of the Colony.

(for the Secretary of State)
(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.