

EAST AFR. PROT.

No. 2410

Cl. of
8410

Recd
9 MAR

Governor. No.
Wason 64

(Subject.)

1908

31 Jan

Death of M^r Dresser.

Last previous Paper.

2/29/12

To communications from gov of the Rly, & death reports.

(Minutes.)

met read.

had copies of all the enclosures except n^o 1 to his brother. in ref to our letter on 3550

2/26 - 7/3

11/21/13
above

S.R.

Governor's Office,

Nairobi,

January 31st 1908.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No.64

(Incl.4)

C. 84:Q
MAR 08

My Lord,

With reference to my telegram of the 27th instant, I have the honour to transmit for Your Lordship's information two communications from the General Manager of the Uga to Railway relative to the death of Mr. Dresser, an officer of one of the Railway steamers.

I should be glad if Your Lordship would cause Mr. Dresser's relatives to be acquainted with the circumstances of this sad accident, and inform them that Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain and Mr. and Mrs. Keeling did everything that was under the circumstances possible.

I would also invite Your Lordship's attention to the warm terms of praise in which the General Manager speaks of Mr. Dresser's ability and character.

A copy of the Death Report is enclosed and a further report suitable for transmission to Mr. Dresser's relatives.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's Most obedient,

humble servant,

J. J. Jackson

(In the absence of H.E. the Governor)

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES,

BRISTOL STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

Mr. Christie
Jan. 27th '08
to
Jan. 29th '08
Death Report
P.F.O.
to
Dr. White

300

No. 17/17

No. 1

431 C. C. 8410

by Jan. 31 8

MANAGER'S OFFICE,

NAIROBI, 9 MAR 08

January 27th 1908.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 11/17 dated the 25th instant, I have received the following telegram from the Medical Officer, Nakuru, which shows that Mr. Dresser's death was caused, in the excitement of the moment, by his own thoughtless act.

In communicating the circumstances to the Colonial Office I would like His Excellency to state that I greatly regret the loss of Mr. Dresser who was a hardworking, capable Officer and a man who, had he remained in the service of the Uganda Railway, would have done credit to himself and the Government.

Copy of telegram dated the 25th January '08 from the Medical Officer, Nakuru.

" Dresser hit wounded buck on head with butt end of rifle. Rifle apparently on full cock and exploded from concussion, explosive bullet entered lower part of abdomen severed bowel in several places, severed large artery smashed spinal column and cord, smashed the pelvis completely. No suspicion of foul play. Marks in butt end of rifle showing where it struck the horn of buck. Stock broken in half. Death instantaneous. . . Buried Nakuru cemetery 4.30 this afternoon."

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

sd/- H. A. P. CURRIE.

Manager,
Uganda Railway.

The Secretary to the Administration,
East Africa Protectorate - NAIROBI.

ENCLOSURE

No. 2

Dispatch No. 54 of Jan. 31. 1908

C. O.
8410
9 JAN 08

No. 13
17

MANAGER'S OFFICE,
Nairobi,
January 28th 1908.

432

The following is forwarded to the Secretary to the Administration with the remark that Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain and Mr. and Mrs. Keeling did everything possible to render assistance,

On getting news of the accident Mrs. Keeling at once and alone proceeded with bandages etc. and was the first to find the body.

They brought it back to their house, looked after it for the night and next morning on arrival of the doctor gave up a bed to enable a post mortem examination to be made. (The bed had subsequently to be destroyed.)

In addition carts and men were placed at the Medical Officer's disposal for conveying the body to the station and Mr. Keeling went with it to Nakuro to be present at the funeral.

sd/- H.A.P. CURRIE.

Manager,
Uganda Railway.

Copy of letter No. 296
17 dated 28th January 1908.
From - The Manager, Uganda Railway.
To - Mr. A. Keeling, Elmenteita.

On behalf of the Railway staff I beg to express to you and Mrs. Keeling my sincere thanks for all you

The Secretary to the Administration,
East Africa Protectorate, NAIROBI.

(3).

did, first in endeavouring to render aid to the late Mr. L.A. Dresser after the sad accident which occurred to him on the 25th instant and later in taking care of his body and assisting in its conveyance to the Railway station.

2. My thanks are especially due to Mrs. Keeling for her action in immediately proceeding, alone, to find the body and if possible to render assistance.

3. I am sure that Mr. Dresser's relatives will appreciate your kindness and it will be some consolation to them to know that every endeavour was made by you to render him immediate assistance and that his remains were carefully tended until the arrival of the doctor and Railway staff.

4. I am asking His Excellency the Governor to inform his relatives of all you did.

Copy of letter No. $\frac{297}{11}$ dated the 28th January 1908.
From the Manager, Uganda Railway,
To Mr. E. Chamberlain, Elmentaita.

On behalf of the Railway staff I beg to express to you and Mrs. Chamberlain my sincere thanks for all you did, first in endeavouring to render aid to the late Mr. L.A. Dresser after the sad accident which occurred to him on the 25th instant and later in taking care of his body and assisting in its conveyance to the Railway station.

2. I am sure that Mr. Dresser's relatives will appreciate your kindness and it will be some consolation to them

(3).

to them to know that every endeavour was made by you to render him immediate assistance and that his remains were carefully tended until the arrival of the doctor and Railway staff.

3. I am asking His Excellency the Governor to inform his relatives of all you did.

INCLOSURE No. 3

In Despatch No. 61 of Jan. 4. 1908

435

8410

RECEIVED
9 MAR 08

Report of the death of Mr. A. L. Dresser, Chief
Officer S.S. 'Element Hill'.

On the 24th of January Mr. Dresser was
shooting at Elementista and had brought down a buck
who appeared to be dead but on Mr. Dresser going up
to him got on his feet.

Mr. Dresser then clubbed the animal over the
head with the butt of his rifle apparently forgetting
in the excitement of the moment that the rifle was
loaded. The impact caused the cartridge to explode
with the result that the bullet entered the abdomen,
severed the abdominal artery, and caused practically
instantaneous death.

The verdict at the inquest held on Mr Dresser
was - "Death by accident due to gunshot wound with
an explosive bullet".

[Signature]
Principal Medical Officer

P.M.O's Office

Nairobi,

January 31st 1908.

DEATH REPORT.

436 20. 11
In Despatch No. 21 of 1908

Name	Nationality	Age	Sex	Date of death	Cause of death	Place of death
Mr. Dresser	British	24	Male	Jan. 24 1908	Gunshot wound	Mr. Keeling's farm Elementeita

HISTORY OF LAST ILLNESS.

Mr. Dresser was shooting at Elementeita and had knocked over a buck, badly wounded but not quite dead. On going up to it the buck got up; in the excitement of the moment Mr. Dresser seized his rifle, which was loaded and hit it over the head with the stock, the impact apparently exploding the cartridge with the result that the bullet penetrated the deceased's abdomen, severed the abdominal artery and caused instantaneous death. A Coroner's inquest was held and the verdict given was, "Death by accident due to gunshot wound with an explosive bullet".

POST MORTEM APPEARANCES.

Deceased was a healthy looking, well nourished man. The entrance wound was situated about three inches above the crest of the pubis and was small and slightly to the left of the middle line. The bullet took a slightly oblique course downwards, inwards and to the right until it struck the 4th lumbar vertebra when its course was deviated downwards and to the left, emerging about three inches to the left of and two inches above the anus. The exit wound was about three times the size of the entrance and jagged. Three or four coils of small intestine were damaged and some torn through. The ascending colon was severed and the descending colon and upper part of the rectum completely destroyed. Very little remained of the lower portion of the abdominal aorta and upper portion of the common iliac arteries. The 4th and 5th lumbar vertebrae and base of the sacrum were in small fragments as were the left wing of the sacrum and left ilium. The lower part of the spinal cord in the lumbar region was destroyed.

(signed) W. C. P. White.

Medical Officer.

J. Hillgrove

Jan
84/10/08
C. A. P.

437

11
D. W.

DRAFT.

Charles Dresser Esq

13 Hill St.

Sir

MINUTE. 10/3

Mr. Noall 10/3

Mr. Read 11/24/31

Mr. Just

Mr. Astrobos.

Mr. Cox.

Mr. Lucas.

Sir F. Hopwood.

Mr. Churchill.

The Earl of Elgin.

I am directed by the
E of Elgin to transmit to
you with reference to my
letter of the 4th of Feb, the
accompanying copies of
reports relative to the death
of your brother 15th of a ...

R N. R

Encl 23 + 2 = 25410