

1921

E. AFRICA

60439

REC-6 DEC

FROM

DATE

G.B.O.

6RD DECEMBER 1921

378

FOR CIRCULATION

SUBJECT

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Grindle

Sir H. Lambert

Sir H. Read

Sir J. A. Marton Smith.

Mr. Wood

Mr. Churchill

MAIL SERVICE

States not made under contract and details present arrangements. No better service can be given with existing means of communication.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

56345

Mr. Stalham

Can you say whether the

S.S. took advantage of the direct

R.M. boat sailing from Southampton

in the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov & despatch a

mail to E.A. on the evening

of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ?

WMS 9 Dec 21

Mr. Battersby

Apparently not - as no mention of the

boat appears in the P.O. daily list of 23<sup>rd</sup>.

But there was a French Packet (no name)

on the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, and the vessel apparently (no name)

& (name) on the 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. P.O. daily list attached

Subsequent Paper

ms  
4098/22

*20 May 1921 - 10 Dec 21  
Copy comes from [unclear] at Dec 21  
[unclear] 6/19  
[unclear] 11/19  
[unclear] 12/19  
[unclear] 13/19  
[unclear] 14/19  
[unclear] 15/19  
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[unclear] 24/19  
[unclear] 25/19  
[unclear] 26/19  
[unclear] 27/19  
[unclear] 28/19  
[unclear] 29/19  
[unclear] 30/19*

Mr. Batters.

On your instructions I have telephoned to the GPO and have ascertained that they did not send mail for England to E. Africa by the SS Fairbrook Castle on 24 Nov.

They sent these by the P.O. boat "Plassy" on the same date, with the intention of transshipping them at Bombay. They say, however, that it is quite likely that an opportunity of transshipping at a more convenient place (i.e. Egypt or Aden) might present itself during the voyage, & would be used.

This has happened with the mails of a week later, which have been picked up by the Fairbrook on route. GPO cannot say where transshipment <sup>of the Plassy E. Africa</sup> will have taken place until they receive word from the end of January.

I did not discuss with GPO why they did not use the Fairbrook on 24 Nov. (This was my wish).

12.12.21

Written to find  
to send an enquiry  
to the Post Office

MB

13.12.21

Mr. Batters 379

Please see the

above minutes which I had clear up. Satisfactorily the complaint in the Post Office has been called attention to & G.P.O. having apparently not attended to the matter afforded by the direct sailing of the Fairbrook Castle.

We should send a letter to Mr. Batters with the substance of the letter, and as to the air service a proposal for a proposal for the establishment of such a service has recently been carefully considered. It is not considered feasible at the present time.

Kind regards etc  
G. C. Batters

and of 800 lbs  
to find up (the way  
is intended to be the  
later)

MS

13-11-21

Wed, 13.12.21  
C. Topica

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
LONDON, E.C. 1.

380

5 December 1921.



Your reference.....  
P.O. reference: 56375/1921

All communications should be  
addressed to—  
The Secretary,  
General Post Office.

C. O.  
60439  
REV  
REC: 6 DEC 21

*Le*

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 25th ultimo, I am directed by the Postmaster General to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the Mail Service from this Country to East Africa is not performed under contract, and that, in consequence of the infrequency of direct sailings from the United Kingdom to Mombasa, it is necessary to send the Mails by indirect routes. Until recently the Mails were sent weekly by the Indian Mail to Aden for onward transmission by the first suitable opportunity, also from Marseilles by occasional sailings of the Messageries Maritimes on the Indian Ocean Line; but lately the shipping facilities between Aden and Mombasa have been irregular and infrequent; and it was decided in October in order to avoid long periods of waiting at Aden, to send the Mails viâ India and viâ South Africa in alternate weeks for onward conveyance by the fortnightly contract services from Bombay and Durban provided by the ships of the British India Steam Navigation Company. The total time of transit by these routes is longer than viâ Aden (28 days to Mombasa viâ Bombay and 33 viâ Cape as against a possible 21 viâ Aden), but the service is regular.

Use is also still made of occasional sailings of French Packets from Marseilles for East Africa; and Mails are sent viâ Aden whenever a British Steamer is known to be due to call there en route for Mombasa.

Under-Secretary of State,  
COLONIAL OFFICE.

So

So far as the Postmaster General can see, no better service can be given with the existing means of communication; but the service will be kept under observation with a view to improvement.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*A. L. Ashley Forbes*

for the Secretary.

SPO [Africa]  
60439/21

381



16 Dec 1921

SB Genthorn

with ref to the letter from the

DRAFT.

(56575)

Dept of the 25th of Nov., regarding the  
mail service to East Africa, I am to  
inform you that a letter has been recd from  
the SPO stating that the mail service  
is not performed under contract, and that  
in consequence of the infrequency of direct  
sailings from the United Kingdom to  
Mombasa, it is necessary to send the  
mails by indirect routes. It is stated  
that until recently the mails were  
sent weekly by the India mail to  
Aden for onward transmission by the  
first off suitable opportunity, also for  
despatches by occasional sailings of the  
Messageries Maritimes to the India

~~Weymouth~~  
Weymouth No. 2A  
MINUTE.

- Mr. Jewell 13.12.21
- Mr. Patten
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle.
- Sir H. Lambert.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. Wood.
- Mr. Churchill.

Copy for 1922. 16 Dec 1921

HE

Ocean Line, but that lately the shipping facilities between Aden & Mombasa have been irregular and infrequent, and that it was decided - October, in order to avoid long periods of waiting at Aden, to send the mails *via* India & *via* South Africa in alternate weeks for onward conveyance by the fortnightly contract service from Bombay & Zanzibar provided by the ships of the British India Steam Navigation Company. The total time of transit by these routes is longer than *via* Aden, viz. 28 days to Mombasa *via* Bombay + 33 *via* Cap

as against a possible 21 *via* Aden, but the service is regular. It is also stated that use is still made of occasional sailing of French Packets from Marseilles for East Africa, and that mails are sent *via* Aden whenever a <sup>steamer</sup> Portugal is known to due to call there en route for Mombasa. The letter concludes by stating that, so far as the Postmaster General can see, no better service can be given with the existing means of communication, but that the service will be kept under observation with a view to improvement.

2 With regard to the suggestion for an air service, I am to state that a proposal for the establishment of such a service has recently been carefully considered, but that it is not considered feasible at the present time.