

EAST AFR. PROT.

No. 13518

13518

13 APR 08

No.

30720

(Subject)

1908

Late D. Fisher

Mar

Preceding Paper.

Sends me reports enquires how
that his condition at the time of
embarkation was not known to the
authorities

(Minutes.)

Mr. Head.

The local authorities cannot
be blamed^x, I think, but
at the same time I would
suggest that the M.O. at
Mombasa should be info
of the approaching embarkation
of every officer invalid from
Uganda on E.A.P. & that such
invalid officers should ^{always} be
instructed to ref. to the
M.O. Mombasa before embarking.

x. Nevertheless, seeing that D. Fisher
had been invalid owing to his
indiscreet indulgence in alcohol, I
think the ~~local~~ med. authorities
might, in his interests, have
info

Preceding Paper.

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Confidential

informs the ship's Doctor, who
MAY, might, if necessary, have been
prevented from ~~to~~ similar indulgence
on the voyage. Considering what
the complaint was, I do not
understand Col. Bell's statement
that the War Board do not
consider that the "Fishes" requires
any special care" on the voyage
I should tell the Govt so.

21
4

I think that we can let the
matter drop now.

Put by.

at once
to J.R.
21/4

~~in fact~~

see attached note from
the CA.

I reply affirmat^{ly}

I am paying for the cost of
carriage

23
14

24/4
done

13518

Governor
13 APR 08

East Africa Protectorate

18 March 1908

Confidential (20)

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's confidential despatch of the 4th ultimo, giving cover to the correspondence connected with the death of the late Dr R W H Fisher.

I regret exceedingly the circumstances brought to notice, but, from the Enquiries I have caused to be made, it appears that the helpless condition in which Fisher embarked was not known either to the Medical or other authorities.

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March 1908
1355
Windsor
March 1908
Windsor
March 1908
Windsor
March 1908

H H Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies,

Downing Street

Governor's Office
Nairobi

10 March 1908

East Africa Protectorate

Confidential (20)

My dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to
acknowledge the receipt of your
lordship's confidential despatch of
the 4th ultimo, giving cover to
correspondence connected with the
death of the late Dr. R. W. H.
Fisher.

2. I regret exceedingly the circumstances
brought to notice, but from the
enquiries I have caused to be made
it appears that the
helpless condition
Fisher embarked was
either to the Medical
authorities

Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies,

Downing Street

21
1908
March 1908
Buxton
March 1908
Bedford
March 1908
London
March 1908

authorities at Mombasa, and the
 the reports which were made to
 the Principal Medical Officer, the
 District Commissioner and the
 officers at Mombasa, and in the
 absence of any request for
 assistance by Dr. Fisher himself
 it does not appear that anyone
 is to blame for not being aware
 of the condition he was in when
 he embarked.

3. It seems to me that Dr. Fisher
 was under the influence of alcohol
 when he proceeded to the ship
 and that he remained in that
 state in his cabin till he died,
 and that Gorges, who was a fellow
 passenger, not even being aware
 that he was on board.

4. I feel sure that had any
 of the Medical or Administrative
 Staff

authorities in Mombasa, and from the reports which I enclose from the Principal Medical Officer, the Provincial Commissioner and Medical Officers at Mombasa, and in the absence of any request for assistance by Dr. Fisher himself, it does not appear that anyone is to blame for not being aware of the condition he was in when he embarked.

3. It seems to me that Dr. Fisher was under the influence of alcohol when he proceeded to the ship and that he remained in that state in his cabin till he died; Colonel Gorges, who was a fellow passenger had even being aware that he was on board.

4. I feel sure that had any of the Medical or Administrative Staff

Staff been aware of Dr. Fisher's
 condition when he embarked,
 assistance would have been at
 once forthcoming, and that
 he would have been committed
 to the care of the ship's doctor
 or of one of the Protectorate
 officials travelling home with
 him.

5. I have caused the necessary
 arrangements to be made with
 the various shipping companies
 in the sense referred to in

the latter portion of Paragraph
 8 of your Lordship's despatch
 under reply

6. The delay in transmitting the
 report of the Medical Board,
 which

which is much to be regretted,
 was due to the fact that it
 was returned to the office of
 the Principal Medical Officer
 for a further reference, and
 the Principal Medical Officer being
 at the time absent, it was held
 over till his return. Instructions
 have been issued which will
 obviate such delay in future.

I have the honour to be
 with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
 humble servant

Thos. Smith

Secret. Confidential (C) 18 March 1908

C. O.
13518
15 APR 08

Sec. M.P. Confidential No. 601/1908.

Minute No. 6.

Dr. R. W. Fisher appeared before an Invaliding Board on November 26th 1907, and was recommended to be sent to England for the reasons given in the Proceedings of the Board.

The Board was held at Nairobi and some days later Dr. Fisher proceeded to Mombasa to await the arrival of the S.S. "Kronprinz".

During his stay at Mombasa I saw him twice, the last occasion having been on the evening of the 15th December when I met him out walking. He appeared to be in his usual state of health, and I noticed nothing amiss. He embarked on the S.S. "Kronprinz" the following morning, but I was not aware that he was carried on board, and in such a circumstance am at a loss to know why medical assistance was not called in.

With regard to Officials invalided to England, if it is considered that the invalid requires treatment on the voyage a Medical Officer accompanies him on board ship, personally hands him over to the Ship's Doctor to whom full details of the case are given also the method of treatment. If an invalid requires special care or attention during the voyage, in addition to informing the Ship's Doctor as to the case he is invariably placed under the care of a fellow passenger, and in some instances where this could not be done an Official has been specially sent to England in charge of the case.

The

2.

The members of the Medical Board which invalidated Dr. Fisher state that they did not consider he required any special care or treatment on the voyage, and from what I saw ^{of} him in Mombasa I am of the same opinion.

Dr. Fisher was invalidated from the Protectorate chiefly on account of being addicted to undue indulgence in alcohol. Although I had been aware for some time of this failing on his part, and had spoken to him on the subject, definite proof could not be obtained till he was sent out to Kisii to bring in Mr. Joll who had contracted Blackwater Fever.

Dr. Fisher arrived at Mr. Joll's camp suffering from Delirium Tremens. Fortunately Mr. Joll's attack appears to have been a mild one, recovery having practically taken place before Dr. Fisher's arrival, otherwise the result might have been serious.

I have no information as to why Dr. Fisher confined himself to his cabin nor as to the immediate cause of his death.

Nairobi.
2nd March 1908.

J. Hill,
Principal Medical Officer.

Medical Department,

Mombasa,

March 10th, 1904.

The Provincial Commissioner,

Sir,

In your enquiry with respect to the late Dr. Fisher I beg to state that I did not see him either officially or unofficially though I heard that he was in Mombasa during part of November.

Yours truly,

Sgt. A. Robertson,

Medical Officer.

Despatch confidential (copy) of 18th March 1906

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European Hospital,

Mombasa,

March 10th, 1906.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of date regarding the late Dr. Fisher's movements in Mombasa prior to his departure by steamer, I have the honour to inform you that Dr. Fisher's arrival at Mombasa from up-country was not reported to me officially,

I heard casually at the Club on the evening before he went on board, that a Dr. Fisher was staying at one of the Hotels, but beyond that I heard nothing.

I had never met him, or heard anything regarding his appointment in the Protectorate service, neither do I know under what circumstances he went on board, or anything about him.

I have etc.,

Sgd. William Radford,

Medical Officer.

Provincial Commissioner,

Mombasa.

