

From

O.H.M.S.

28th January, 19 41.

The High Commission Representative,

Pitcairn Island,

Eastern Pacific.

W. & S. LTD.

To The Chief Postmaster,

Post and Telegraph Department,

Wellington, N.Z.

R.E. Christian (deceased), late Postal Agent,
Pitcairn Island: payment of salary.

Your wireless message of the 27th January directing me to take no further action to carry out the instructions contained in your memorandum P.WN. 27/267 of the 11th October was duly passed on to me by Mr A.E. Fuller. I am therefore returning the voucher enclosed with your memorandum, unaltered.

J.E.M.

Telegram.

From:- The Chief Postmaster, Wellington, New Zealand,

To:- The Chief Magistrate, Pitcairn Island.

27th January, 1941.

Pass to Fuller your 0524/23rd - No further action
necessary.

Chief Postmaster.

Telegram.

From:- The High Commission Representative, Pitcairn Island,

To:- The Chief Postmaster, Wellington, New Zealand.

23rd January, 1941.

Your letter 11th October - Fuller's letter 22nd November,
para. 4 - Do you still wish voucher to be amended, please.

Maude.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,

Chief Post _____ OFFICE,

WELLINGTON, C. 1.

P.WN. 27/267.

11th October _____, 1940

Memorandum for

Mr H.E. Maude,
Deputy Commissioner,
Western Pacific High Commission,
PITCAIRN ISLAND.

R.E.Christian (deceased), late Postal Agent, Pitcairn
Island: payment of salary.

I return herewith the voucher in respect of salary due to the late Mr R.E. Christian for the period 1st October to 31st December, 1939. The voucher has been signed by Mrs Ada Christian, widow of the payee, but it is regretted that this acquittance cannot be accepted. In the circumstances, I should be glad if you would arrange for the present signature to be deleted and for the form to be signed by Mr Warren Christian, son of the late Postmaster, who has been specially authorised to receive payment of amounts due to the late Richard Edgar Christian.

Payment of the amount due will be arranged when the voucher is returned to this office.

Encl.

J.W. Mathews
Chief Postmaster. f

POSTAGE RECEIVED IN CASH.

No 26904

Acct. 54.

Name of person, firm, or Government Department posting:		Date or period:	
Byrd Expedition		7-10-1940	
Number of Pieces.	Class (i.e., Letters, Circulars, Newspapers, &c.).	Rate.	£ s. d.
551	Letters	@ -	8 7 -
		@	
		@	

P.W.N. 27/269
Petraeus Island

RECEIVED the above amount.

[Signature]

Receiving Officer.



IN REPLYING PLEASE QUOTE THE
NUMBER HEREUNDER.
CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO AN OFFICER BY HIS
OFFICIAL TITLE, NOT BY HIS NAME.



DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

P.WN. 27/267.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Chief Post Office,
WELLINGTON, C.1.
8th October, 1940.

Mr H.E. Maude,
Deputy Commissioner,
PITCAIRN ISLAND.

Dear Sir,

Receipt of your letter of the 4th ultimo covering
a remittance of 27 dollars 25 cents is acknowledged. A
receipt for the amount realised when the remittance was
exchange for sterling is attached.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Postmaster.

Encl.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

Pitcairn Island,

6th September, 1940.

Received from the Deputy Commissioner, Pitcairn Island, this day, New Zealand postage stamps to the value of £7.5.4., together with the sum of £2.14.8. in cash, making a total Stamp Imprest of Ten Pounds only (£10).

David A. Young

Postal Agent,

Pitcairn Island.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

Pitcairn Island,

Eastern Pacific,

4th September, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have taken over from the family of the late Mr. R.E. Christian, the recently deceased Postal Agent at Pitcairn Island, New Zealand postage stamps to the value of £7.5.4., together with the sum of £32.14.8. in cash, making a total of £40, which I understood from my conversation with you during my recent visit to Wellington was the value of your Stamp Imprest issued to him.

2. Any stamps remaining unsold, together with the balance of the Imprest in cash, will be forwarded to you after the closing of the New Zealand Postal Agency on the 15th October.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J.E.M.

Deputy Commissioner,

Pitcairn Island.

The Chief Postmaster,
Chief Post Office,
Wellington, C.I.,
New Zealand.

STANDARD
AGENT
WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

Pitcairn Island,
Eastern Pacific,
4th September, 1940

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENT
Sir,

With reference to the final paragraph of your letter, P.WN. 27/267, of the 14th May, addressed to Lieutenant-Commander Cross of the Navy Department, Wellington, and forwarded to me for action by the Western Pacific High Commission, Suva, Fiji, I have the honour to enclose herewith the sum of 27 dollars and 25 cents which I have obtained from the family of the recently deceased Postal Agent, Mr. R.E. Christian.

(27. 25 cents).

2. I understand that this money was handed to the Postal Agent by a member of the Byrd Expedition, towards the latter part of 1939, in payment of postage on a number of letters sent from the island, but that, owing to their being no stamps available locally at the time, the envelopes were merely postmarked here, leaving the necessary accounting action to be dealt with in Wellington.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J.L.M.

Deputy Commissioner,
Pitcairn Island.

CROWN
STANDARD
The Chief Postmaster,
Chief Post Office,
Wellington, C.I.,
New Zealand.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

Pitcairn Island,
Eastern Pacific,
4th September, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with your verbal request made to me during my recent visit to Wellington, I have succeeded in tracing the quarterly salary voucher sent by you to the Postal Agent, Pitcairn Island, under cover of a memorandum, P.Wn. 27/267, dated the 29th September, 1939.

2. Unfortunately, the then Postal Agent, Mr. R.E. Christian, died on the 20th June, 1940, and, due no doubt to the long and serious illness which preceded his death, he evidently forgot to sign the voucher. I have accordingly had the voucher signed, on his behalf, by his widow and next of kin, Mrs. Ada Christian, and should be glad if you would remit the £2.10.0. direct to her.

3. I can vouch for the fact that the duties of Postal Agent on Pitcairn Island during the period from the 1st October to the 31st December, 1939, were duly performed by the late Mr. R.E. Christian.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J.L.M.

Deputy Commissioner,

Pitcairn Island.

The Chief Postmaster,
Chief Post Office,
Wellington C. 1.
New Zealand.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

P.Wn. 27/267

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Memorandum forChief Post Office,
Wellington, C.1.
29th September, 1939.The Postal Agent,
PITCAIRN ISLAND.

Salary Voucher, 1st October/30th December, 1939.

I should be glad if you would sign the attached voucher in the space provided, and return it to me by the first available mail.

A record of the name of the steamer and the date on which the mail is despatched should be kept for future reference, if necessary.

Encl.

J.G. mind
Chief Postmaster. *ms*

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

Pitcairn Island,

3rd September, 1940.

Received from Mrs. R.E. Christian New Zealand stamps to the value of £7.5.4., together with the sum of £32.14.8. in cash, in settlement of the Imprest of £40 held by the Postal Agent, Pitcairn Island.

Deputy Commissioner,

Pitcairn Island.

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENTS

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

Pitcairn Island,
3rd September, 1940.

Received from Mrs. R.E. Christian, for forwarding to the Chief Postmaster, Wellington, New Zealand, the sum of twenty seven dollars and twenty five cents in United States currency, originally handed by the Postal Agent, Pitcairn Island, in prepayment of letters sent from the island.

Deputy Commissioner,
Pitcairn Island.

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENTS

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENTS



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI.

No. 1154.

13th July, 1940.

Sir,

With reference to your forthcoming visit to Pitcairn Island, I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter received from the Naval Secretary, Wellington, together with a copy of a letter from the Chief Postmaster, Wellington, regarding certain difficulties at present being experienced in connexion with the operation of the Post Office in Pitcairn Island.

17. 5. 40.

2. Copies of this correspondence are being forwarded to the Postmaster-General, Fiji, for transmission to Mr. A.E. Fuller, and the Naval Secretary has been informed of the establishment of a Post Office under the control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific on the 15th October.

3.

H.E. Maude, Esquire, M.B.E.



- 2.-

3. With reference to (11) of the sub-enclosure to this letter, I am to request that you will investigate this matter and collect the money in question. It should later be handed to Mr. Fuller for the necessary accounting action.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. MacDonald.

For Secretary to the High Commission.

N.A. 8/10/17.

Navy Office,

Wellington, C.I.

17th May, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that officers of this Department have become aware of a feeling on the part of the Chief Postmaster, Wellington, that certain difficulties were being experienced in connexion with the operation of the Post Office on Pitcairn Island.

2. The Chief Postmaster was accordingly requested to set out the difficulties experienced, and I have the honour to transmit, for Your Excellency's information, a copy of a memorandum received from him on this subject.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N.T. Cooper,

Naval Secretary.

His Excellency
The High Commissioner for the Western Pacific,
Suva,
Fiji.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Chief Post Office,
Wellington, C.1.

P.WN. 27/267.

14th May, 1940.

Lieutenant-Commander Cross, R.N.,
Navy Department,
Wellington, C.1.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your oral request in reference to the proposed visit to Pitcairn Island of a representative from the office of the High Commissioner for Fiji: I shall be glad if arrangements can be made for the officer concerned to point out to the Postal Agent at Pitcairn Island -

- (1) The necessity for numbering all letter-bills forwarded either to this Dominion or to overseas countries, notably United States of America and Great Britain.
- (2) The insertion on the letter-bill of the name of the conveying steamer.
- (3) The preparation of a duplicate copy of the letter-bill which should be retained by the Postal Agent for future reference.
- (4) The preparation of a mail waybill which should be handed to the mail officer on the outgoing conveying vessel.
- (5) The entry on the waybill of all mail bags despatched.
- (6) The preparation of customs declarations for all parcels forwarded from the Island whether to New Zealand, United States of America or Great Britain.
- (7) The necessity for consulting the current issue of the Postal Guide so as to ensure that correct rates of postage are affixed to all post articles whether letters, parcels or other second-class matter.

- (8) Stamping and date-stamping on the day of posting of all outgoing mail matter.
- (9) The necessity for returning to the Dominion promptly the quarterly salary voucher which is forwarded for his signature. He should also make a record of the name of the vessel by which the salary voucher is returned to New Zealand.
- (10) It is observed that, on several occasions, parcels have been returned to Pitcairn Island from United States of America because of the fact that the address given on the parcel was insufficient to enable delivery to be effected. The Postal Agent should be impressed with the necessity for ensuring that the fullest address available is shown on the parcel.
- (11) On the 5th January last a member of the Byrd Expedition called at this office and handed in a number of letters which had been post-marked by the Postal Agent and in respect of which he had accepted from the Expedition 27 dollars 25 cents postage money. He, however, omitted to affix stamps to the envelopes. The necessary accounting action was, therefore, taken at this office. Although he has been communicated with twice, the Postal Agent has omitted to remit to me the amount due for postage, 27 dollars 25 cents. It will be appreciated if the officer will take steps to ensure that this amount is forwarded without further delay.

Yours faithfully,

F.G.NIND

Chief Postmaster.

PITCAIRN ISLAND.

STATEMENT OF MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

I. Duties of Postal Agent.

The Chief Postmaster, Wellington, has reported the following matters regarding the duties of postal agent which he asks may be investigated and regularised:-

- (a) The necessity for numbering all letter-bills forwarded either to this Dominion or to overseas countries, notably United States of America and Great Britain.
- (b) The insertion on the letter-bill of the name of the conveying steamer.
- (c) The preparation of a duplicate copy of the letter-bill which should be retained by the Postal Agent for future reference.
- (d) The preparation of a mail waybill which should be handed to the mail officer on the outgoing conveying vessel.
- (e) The entry on the waybill of all mail bags despatched.
- (f) The preparation of customs declarations for all parcels forwarded from the Island whether to New Zealand, United States of America or Great Britain.
- (g) The necessity for consulting the current issue of the Postal Guide so as to ensure that correct rates of postage are affixed to all post articles whether letters, parcels or other second-class matter.
- (h) Stamping and date stamping on the day of posting of all outgoing mail matter.
- (i) The necessity for returning to the Dominion promptly the quarterly salary voucher which is forwarded for his signature. He should also make a record of the name of the vessel by which the salary voucher is returned to New Zealand.
- (j) It is observed that, on several occasions, parcels have been returned to Pitcairn Island from United States of America because of the fact that the address given on the parcel was insufficient to enable delivery to be effected. The Postal Agent should be impressed with the necessity for ensuring that the fullest address available is shown on the parcel.
- (k) On the 5th January last a member of the Byrd Expedition called at this office and handed in a number of letters which had been postmarked by the Postal Agent and in respect of which he had accepted from the Expedition 28 dollars 25 cents postage money. He, however, omitted to affix stamps to the envelopes. The necessary accounting action was, therefore, taken at this office.

Although.....

Although he has been communicated with twice, the Postal Agent has omitted to remit to me the amount due for postage, 27 dollars 25 cents. It will be appreciated if the officer will take steps to ensure that this amount is forwarded without further delay.

It appears that the recent issue of a King's Regulation to provide for the establishment and regulation of a post office in Pitcairn Island (supplement to the Western Pacific High Commission Gazette No. 13 of 30th April, 1940), provides a convenient opportunity to put the post office on a more business-like footing.

II. The Status of the W/T Station (High Commission letter No. 4258 of 20th May, 1940)

The Post and Telegraph Department in New Zealand do not regard it as a matter of importance that the Pitcairn W/T station should be placed upon an official basis and are prepared to concur in the view of the New Zealand Naval Board that the station should remain a private station for official traffic only, and that a charge should not be made. The existing arrangement is very satisfactory from the naval point of view and it seems desirable during the continuance of the war for it to be maintained on its present status and thus among other advantages avoid the trouble which accounting for messages would involve.

III. Interference with Engine used for W/T Station.

The engine and generator now used to provide the necessary power for the W/T Station, are the private property of Andrew Young; Mr. Dyett reports that he anticipates trouble in this connection. The engine in question is the only one suitable for use in connection with the W/T Station and it is undeniable that it is being used and subjected to wear and tear with no special benefit to himself as an individual. Mr. Dyett points out that the engine, like the W/T Station, is at the disposal of the High Commissioner and of the naval authorities, and that it has not been used by Mr. Dyett for any purpose other than the running of the W/T set. The engine and the generator are located 150 yards away from the W/T station and there have been occasions recently when someone has extracted the fuzes and so cut the power supply, which looks as if Mr. Andrew Young is obstructing its use for W/T purposes. Mr. Young is stated by Mr. Dyett to complain that the W/T station is placing too heavy a load on the engine and that his wife's head is affected by the noise.

IV. Provision of an officially owned Diesel Engine for the W/T Station.

In view of the situation referred to under III above, and on the general grounds that the generator, like the W/T installation itself, should be officially owned, Mr. Dyett suggests that a suitable engine should be purchased by the High Commissioner. Enquiries which have been made here, however, indicate that generators and engines are at the present time very difficult to obtain and are expensive; up to date a suitable combination has not been located. Furthermore it will be necessary to bed down and erect the plant, and it is doubtful whether there is anyone on the Island possessing sufficient

technical.....

technical knowledge to do this satisfactorily, so that it would appear probable that the firm supplying the equipment would have to send a representative to the Island to do the work, thus adding to the expense. A further point is that it is difficult to justify the acquisition of new plant when suitable equipment already exists.

The Naval Board accordingly consider that the best solution would be for the basis upon which Mr. Young makes his plant available to be regularised by means of offering him a money payment in return for which he would be required to keep the machinery in working order and available for use for the purposes of the W/T Station, and be contingent upon his maintaining a satisfactory service.

V. Internal dissensions amongst the Islanders.

The following notes are based on a number of letters written by Mr. Dyett to Lieutenant-Commander R.L. Cross, R.N.V.R., who is one of the Naval Control Service Staff at Wellington, and acts as the Naval Board's liaison and staff officer for all matters connected with Pitcairn Island :-

(a) Look-out watch for shipping.

It appears that for some time past the original arrangements for maintaining a constant watch for the arrival of ships have partly fallen into disuetude and that the Islanders have ceased to provide a look-out on Saturdays. In the result, two ships, one of which was the "Akaroa", arrived without their approach being observed.

Mr. Dyett states that he has made it his business recently to keep watch on Saturdays and intends to continue doing so.

(b) Destruction of fruit trees.

Mr. Dyett reports that there have been cases of attempted destruction of young coconuts belonging to Mr. Herbert Young.

(c) Disorderly behaviour.

Mr. Dyett reports that there has been friction between the Magistrate and his two assessors on the one hand, and the Internal Committee and its chairman on the other, and he expresses the opinion that the Magistrate has overridden the Chairman of the Internal Committee. Mr. Dyett mentions ugly scenes at cricket matches where quarrels have taken place, with drawing of knives and talk of murder.

Mr. Dyett further expresses the opinion that the Island needs an Administrator, appointed from outside, with power to administer the Island on sound lines, and he thinks that many of the inhabitants would welcome such a move. He suggests a man who would be capable of being Administrator, doctor and school teacher in one, and no doubt has in mind arrangements such as at Tristan da Cunha. Possibly the recent death of the Magistrate may bring matters to a head and it certainly provides an opportunity for His Excellency, after receiving the report of his representative who is to visit the Island, to institute any changes which appear desirable.