

Watkins Report - Extracts from Appendices

The Appendices to the Report are extensive, but not fully transcribed at this time. Certain extracts are given below which detail the Carrier Corps operational procedures, and give information about Carriers deaths and death lists.

Appendix A/B The MLB Handbooks

Appendix I table 6, total recruitment and death figures

Appendix II Carrier hospitals and numbers of bed

Deaths in Carrier hospitals

Appendix IV Paymaster operations

Appendix V Registration Card system and Kipandi

Appendix A/B: The M.L.B. Handbook

The original report contained extracts from the MLB handbook, two versions given in Appendices A and B; in the photographs to hand these pages are now not all attached or are obscured. Some sections are still readable. Below is the page setting out procedures for the accepting death reports and circulation of death lists. This is a verbatim transcript of Watkins' own words.

DEATHS Death Reports of M.L.C. natives were accompanied by

- A. Medical Officer's Certificate.
- B. Native's Kipandi.
- C. Native's Finger Impression

The last-mentioned were, when possible, taken on admission to Hospital and when this was not practicable, after decease. If the details of report agreed with the Statistical Officer's records, the following procedure was carried out :-

- A. Entry made on Card shewing Date, Place, Cause, By whom reported and Document reference.
- B. Kipandi cancelled (A special stamp being kept for this purpose and filed in Depot and numerical order.
- C. Weekly lists of all verified death by Depots were compiled and furnished to Paymasters and Depot Officers concerned. The Paymaster was required to check particulars with his records and to fill in wages due to deceased native, returning a copy of this form when completed to the Statistical Officer.

Death reports unaccompanied by Medical Officer's certificate and boy's kipandi, or either, were queried, and no entry made on card or lists until full verification was obtained.

The Military Labour Corps published monthly a list of Natives who had died during the month. This list gave full particulars of the native together with the amount of wages due at death. These lists were forwarded to the District Commissioners and Political Officers, and they were an authority to pay the next-of-kin any amount due.

Drafts for these lists were compiled from completed weekly lists returned by Paymasters, subjected to further check and forwarded to printers. On return they were distributed to D.C.'s P.O's and Paymasters concerned.

Printed Death Lists reflected the following information :-

- A. Registered Depot Lettering and number of kipandi,
- B. Native and Father's name and date of engagement.
- C. Date, place and nature of Death, and by whom reported.
- D. District, District references, Chief.
- E. Cash found on deceased (if any).
- F. Wages owing at death.

[followed by statistical statements, deaths by Area]

Appendix 1 table 6, total recruitment and death figures

These deaths were verified according to the procedures outlined above, and are therefore a floor representing the minimum number of Carrier deaths.

As given in the Appendix text

	Recruitments	Deaths	Percentages
(a) B.E.A	162,578	23,869	14.6
(b) Uganda	110,947	1,179	10.7
(c) G.E.A.	197,312	12,934	6.5
(d) P.E.A.	10,927	450	4.1
(e) Zanzibar	3,404	210	6.1
(f) Sierra Leone	5,005	808	16.1
(g) Nigeria	3,987	814	20.4
(h) Seychelles	776	222	28.6
TOTALS	494,936	40,486	8.18

These figures are incorrect (per Hodges?) for Uganda

It appears the typist reduplicated the initial 1 in the Recruitments column

This also makes the percentage calculations seriously incorrect.

Corrected figures

	Recruitments	Deaths	Percentages
(a) B.E.A	162,578	23,869	14.6
(b) Uganda	10,947	1,179	10.7
(c) G.E.A.	197,312	12,934	6.5
(d) P.E.A.	10,927	450	4.1
(e) Zanzibar	3,404	210	6.1
(f) Sierra Leone	5,005	808	16.1
(g) Nigeria	3,987	814	20.4
(h) Seychelles	776	222	28.6
TOTALS	394,936	40,486	10.3

Note, this does not affect the number of deaths, only recruitments

Appendix II: Carrier hospitals and numbers of beds

In the Report Watkins describes evolving a system in which all Carrier Depots eventually had a hospital attached; these would have been field hospitals consisting of groups of tents or bandas. There were 35 hospitals of varying size, the largest was at Dar es Salaam.

<i>place</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max beds</i>	<i>place</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max beds</i>
Kisumu	100	1000	Kilwa Kiswani		250
Nairobi	500	1200	Mtandwala	400	1000
Voi	500	1000	Lindi	500	1200
Mombasa	500	1000	Mingoyo	400	1400
Tanga		250	Mtama		400
Dar-es-Salaam	200	2000	Ndanda		400
Morogogo	100	500	Massassi		500
Mikesse		500	Port Amelia		1000
Kilossa		500	Ankuabe		400
Rufigi		500	Medo Boma		400
Dodoma	500	1200	Lumbo		400
Duthumi		200	Monapo		1400
Iringa		400	Nampula		1000
Itigi		200	Norforce1		100
Summit		200	Norforce2		100
Tabora	100	600	Norforce3		100
Lulangura		200	Norforce4		100
Kilwa Kivinji		100			

Appendix II: table 4

Summary of Admissions, Deaths in Hospital and Discharges to Duty

This table follows the list of hospitals and beds.

	<i>Admissions</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Discharges to Duty</i>
1917			
January	5,985	351	
February	6,725	624	148
March	11,419	1,325	909
April	10,350	1,506	542
May	12,891	2,278	1,957
June	19,330	3,903	3,867
July	21,302	3,481	7,794
August	15,377	2,805	4,708
September	18,146	2,682	9,595
October	10,069	1,734	8,357
November	8,624	1,380	7,677
December	12,769	2,079	9,919
1918			
January	11,027	1,848	5,558
February	11,464	1,170	6,097
March	10,979	853	6,109
April	5,717	495	4,166
May	5,071	448	3,600
June	6,329	455	4,499
July	4,259	217	2,679
August	5,763	262	3,430
September	4,649	203	3,389
October	4,166	259	4,243
November	10,976	937	4,359
TOTALS (TYPED)	231,387	31,293	103,602
<i>Excel totals</i>	<i>233,387</i>	<i>31,295</i>	<i>103,602</i>

The error in Admission is perhaps is perhaps because the typed numbers for August 1917 are not lined up correctly, making it easy to misread 5 as 3.

From Watkins remarks elsewhere it is likely the rest of the men were either officially discharged to return home or decided to go home themselves.

Appendix IV: Paymaster operations

Not fully transcribed yet; this is a short summary of the information:

Problem is paying large numbers of men small amounts of money, especially when they're moving around much of the time. He says this is an account of their final system.

Every recruit was Registered at a recruiting Depot and given an iron disk (kipandi) with Depot ref and unique ID number. Depots were assigned blocks of numbers, eg Dar-es-Salaam 700,000 - 800,000 so the recruit's ID on disk might be 'DAR 752,301'. Depot Officer made a Card for him with details of name, father's name etc etc, then sent information to the Carrier Corps' Paymaster who made a Pay Card for him. He's now on the books.

Larger Depots had their own Paymaster, who accounted to the HQ chief Paymaster-in-Charge. The scheme was initially run from Nairobi, later from Dar es Salaam. Depot Paymasters paid their own men and rendered monthly accounts to central Paymaster. Gives details of paymaster lists, how they reconciled them, and a voucher system for ensuring the men didn't get paid twice over.

Carriers could turn up at another Depot (they might have been sent a long way from where originally recruited) produce his ID and get money advanced; Watkins mentions a reconciliation system for this. [I assume the man's details were then forwarded from initial Depot].

Appendix V: Procedures for Statistics and Records

This is a description of Registration Card system and Kipandi. It is not fully transcribed yet; this is a short summary of the information:

Functions of the Office were to ensure complete records of Carriers were kept until discharge or death; to compile monthly schedules and lists of various things like recruitment statistics. Records office was divided into sections corresponding to B.E.A and G.E.A. et al, then Depots within them.

CARDS

Info on Card for each Carrier:

- A. ID – depot letters + kipandi #
- B. Name and Father's Name
- C. Tribe, Chief, District, Village, sub-chief
- D. Date engaged, grade (capacity in which employed), rate of pay
- E. Movements, Promotions or Reductions, Wounded or Injured
- F. Discharges, Desertions, Death
- G. Finger Prints

Cards were kept in boxes of approx 1000 each. Boxes were grouped into sets of

- 1) 'known effectives' (=currently working)
- 2) dubious, deserters, missing
- 3) Re-registrations [Carriers from foreign depots re-registered with MLC]
- 4) Deaths
- 5) Discharges

There are descriptions of Card indexes; re-registration procedures; 'Units to Depots' – Military Units provide a monthly Nominal Roll of Carriers they're employing; Unit Ledgers [maybe a chargeback system].

Also Hospital records – monthly Nominal Rolls of Admissions and Discharges.

Watkins gives examples of balancing accounts, and figures. e.g. in Dar es Salaam in Aug 1917 over 48,000 separate payments were made to Carriers. Over time the total system rose to 100,000 payments monthly. Over 4 years MLC paid out ~ £2.5m with a final reconciliation error less than £300. (Watkins is proud of that, indeed it's pretty good!).