

Bitcain Island School

(At end of 1940)

Child	Grade	Age	Child	Grade	Age		
		Yrs. M			Yrs. Mths.		
Keith	VI.	15-11	Carl	III.	11		
Clarence	"	15- 1	Pervis	"	12	9	
14.10. Reeve	"	14- 8	Errol	"	13	7	
Irma	"	13- 7					
			Vula	"	13		
			Royal	"	12	9	
			Charlotte	"	12	8	
Lyndon	V.	14-10	Orise	"	10	4	
Len	"	14- 9					
Oswald	IV.	14- 7	Hugh	II.	14	3	
Wiles	"	13-11	Robin	"	12	6	
Oscar	"	13- 6	Lanford	"	11	8	
Curley	"	13- 7	Charles	"	11	7	
Jim	"	11- 4	Douglas	"	10	6	
			Radley	"	9	9	
Myrl	"	14-10					
Lorena	"	14- 1	Seidelia	"	12	2	
Thelma	"	12- 9	Celia	"	10	4	
Joycie	"	12	Evelina	"	10	4	
			Joan	"	9	7	
			Fern	"	9	2	
			Zeta	"	8	2	
			Iris	"	8		
			Norma	"	12	11	
			Hicks	I.	7	9	
			Leon	"	6	2	
			Eddy	"	6	3	
			Hazel	"	7	4	

Mr. [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] is

3 years.

He is then entitled to

4 months holiday

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

No. 2645.

16th July, 1940.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to forward, for your information, a copy of a letter received from Mr. F.P. Ward, the Schoolmaster in Pitcairn Island.

20. 6. 40.

2. His Excellency will be glad if you will investigate the various matters referred to therein, and submit a report thereon in due course.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*B. MacDonald.*

For Secretary to the High Commission.

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



COPY

Pitcairn Island,

20th June, 1940.

The Secretary,  
The High Commissioner,  
Suva, Fiji.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you by letter that our Chief Magistrate (Mr. Edgar Christian) has died. You probably received the radio message to that effect. He left it with me to see that a radio telegram was sent also to the Admiralty to express his thanks for kindness received in that a ship was to call with help for him. We could not understand why the doctor who saw him did not suggest that he be taken to New Zealand before. Nor did he tell anyone, so far as I know, the seriousness of his case or what the trouble was, or how best to treat it. Probably he had reasons for his silence. I cannot say.

It is terrible, Sir, to see these poor people suffer at times without medical attention. If only a nurse were here to bring some measure of relief, or to inspire confidence and give the correct treatment when needed, and perhaps report on certain cases to a medical man at intervals. I think the cause of Mr.

Christian's



Christian's death would be cancer. Some suggest appendicitis. Had the ship arrived in time, the doctor could have diagnosed the case. A recent radio message advised Mr. Christian to be ready to go to New Zealand on the 20th but instead we have just laid him to rest in the little cemetery today. He died at five o'clock this morning. On the way to the cemetery the coffin was covered with a Union Jack. Another flag was flown at half-mast on the flag-pole and others were conspicuously displayed.

Mr. Christian was much worried about a movement which has apparently been carried on by Mr. Dyett (the N.Z. wireless operator who has recently come to the Island) and his friends, who seem to have been working against him. Some time before his death he talked freely with me and I endeavoured to do what I could to help and encourage him. He wished me to write to you about the circumstance, wishing to clear himself in case of any misunderstanding.

There was some trouble about the Post Office. It seems that there was some intrigue to wrest the position from him. That was the reason for his recent inquiry in a radio message concerning the postal arrangements.

Then again, messages Mr. Christian has directed to be forwarded evidently have not  
been



been sent according to his direction, but alterations have been made in them, and that not necessary to make them shorter. It was evidently Mr. Dyett's intention to have the Island radio station closed down (the one other than his) for he complained in messages to N.Z. that it was interfering with the working of his set. Once, to test the sending of a certain message, Mr. Christian had Mr. Andrew Young (in charge of the other radio) take down the message sent in order to compare it with what he had given Mr. Dyett to transmit. Someone, who saw what was doing at the radio shack, ran up and told Mr. Dyett. He promptly complained, at the end of the message to Fiji, saying that no message could be kept private because of "this other blasted machine listening in." It is believed that he sent messages not authorized by the Chief Magistrate and which complained of his methods and actions with intent to work against him in the positions he occupied.

Mr. Christian said only a day or two ago, after receiving from His Excellency the message re Mr. Maude's proposed visit, "Now, if I can go to New Zealand and be fixed up, I should be out just about in time to come home with that man. If Mr. Dyett wants to take him  
from



from me, it may work out just the opposite, for I'll be thrown into his company." He seemed much cheered by the prospect.

Just to show the attitude of Mr. Dyett: Recently it was expected that a gentleman would arrive by the next ship bringing the new stamps. A legal man was coming with him and he, perhaps, accompanied by his wife. Notwithstanding that the Chief Magistrate made all arrangements for their accommodation, Mr. Dyett, in full knowledge of that fact, but evidently wishing to take him away from Mr. Christian, had a room prepared where he is staying and declared that he would be first to see the visitors and persuade them to come to his place. And it did seem that this was not out of kindness but to serve his own purposes.

Mrs. Christian said to me this morning about her deceased husband, "He didn't live to defend himself, Mr. Ward." That seemed to be a great desire of his but it was not to be. I encouraged them not to worry about that - it would probably all work out all right.

Please accept my apologies, Sir, for taking so much of your time when so many duties press. But I wished to explain a little of the situation from our late Chief Magistrate's viewpoint and thus honour my word to him. I

believe



believe he was a man who tried to do his best for the Island. Without remuneration, he served the people in various offices through the past thirty years. No man is without faults, of course, and the people here, no less than elsewhere, are not slow to "pull a man to pieces."

Some of Mr. Dyett's ideas, too, may be very good, but there is usually a right and a wrong way of obtaining one's own way. And the spirit in which a thing is done will often brand it as good or bad.

Our school is running along nicely. We have six children in the sixth grade this year and I am hoping that two or three at least will obtain the Primary Final Certificate.

Thanking you for your kind interest in the affairs of our tiny island,

I am, etc.,

(Signed) Frederick P. Ward.