

*Soldier*

ABX. 420316c

REGISTRATION & REPATRIATION SECTION,  
NATIVE WAR RECORDS,  
P.O. BOX 123,  
BOKSBURG.

16 .3.1942.

Dear Mr. Mphahlele,

Megalomaniacs are at large! The world has gone mad. Man has assigned to himself the gruesome task of being Cain to his fellowmen. The world, White South Africa included-is armed to the teeth. But <sup>what</sup> of the poor black man-the Muntu? No, he must participate in a non-combatant capacity, i.e. he must be a soldier that does not fight, or, in other words, a labourer. His position has not changed from what it was during the Boer War or from that of the labour Contingent of 1914. Driving Troop Carriers is just the same in essence and principle as driving the ox-wagon <sup>as</sup> our fathers drove during the Boer War; being a stretcher-bearer, for a non-combatant, is worse than digging trenches. The digger of trenches, the stevedor at the French ports was safer than our stretcher-bearers, who are open to enemy fire and liable to be hit at any minute. At our office here we get many corresponding reports at different times from men <sup>who are from</sup> up North. Then the question comes in: Why let a man show his courage only by daring the enemies' musketry? Why not, if he be a man of <sup>african</sup> courage at all, let him fight the Huns, or the Japs, or the Itos? Other <sup>are-</sup> the K.A.R., and Belgian Congo natives. ~~Thereason~~

The reason is this; South Africa is not Democratic-for democracy, according to Rhodes' dictum: "Equal rights ~~to every man~~ for all civilised men South of the Equator", knows no colour. Worse still, my homeland is unchristian. Here I <sup>when</sup> draw no line. Catholic and Protestant are alike a disgrace to Christianity ~~and~~ colour is at stake. Then there the question of so called superiority. The white man regards himself as our superior- hence he always has to control the black man. Even here in the army the relationship between white and black is that of master and servant. It was that reason which made the Government, immediately after "Oubaas" had pronounced his Bloemfontein Charter, gazette the statement that all Non-European N.C.O.'S were subordinate to Europeans (Privates or N.C.O.'S) because of their superior knowledge. Superior knowledge in what? Theology? for we have chaplains. Teaching? for there are many teachers in the army. Military Affairs? <sup>that</sup> Who said we blacks could not master the course? Were we given a trial? It is nothing but the ugly head of Imperialism and white superiority showing itself-and we are dissatisfied. Why did they not give us a black army-a totally black army from the O.C. to the lowest private? Europeans need not salute our Officers, nor we theirs. There is nothing in a forced salute-it means nothing. Oftimes the man, as he gives it, curses you for the inconvenience it causes him. But the idea of a black army is an Utopian dream. So let's cut that out. What then would be the solution? Equal chances of promotion irrespective of colour, race or creed. To-day in our offices we have Europeans with ~~us~~ they get of course all the promotions, all the money, all the rights to go home when they wish, and we the people who do most of the work get no promotions worthy of the name, no remuneration sufficient to keep the wolf from the door. We have no ~~free~~ freedom of movement. Only last week I turned down an offer to be a Sergeant at Welgedacht. It means nothing, for I will still be subordinate ~~to~~ to a European private. What mockery!

Then we have our life in Camp. On arriving we are only supplied with 2 blankets, even though it be Winter. At least, that was my <sup>experience</sup> when I ~~arrived~~ enlisted in August last year. We do not sleep on beds or mattresses. One blanket you use as a mattress and you cover yourself with the other. Then the cement on which you sleep makes its effect felt sooner or later. Since I enlisted, I am troubled with discharges from the right ear.

At our camp the food is very poor. In the morning we get bread with black tea or black coffee. In Winter they will include cocoa which ~~has~~ has no milk in it. We sometimes conclude that Elsie Chubb as well as Newman were telling us lies in their books when they said milk is a perfect food. At our Camp I see milk supplied to members of the Cape Corps and to

CONTI.....

Europeans. At lunch, we get a kind of soup I'd supply to my domestic animals. There are times, however, when I'd give the lunch we are supposed to eat to pigs. What the authorities think about this I do not know. Of course many of us eat only twice a day—in the morning and late in the afternoon. In fine, no cultured man <sup>would</sup> enjoy the food rationed <sup>in</sup> our camp. Unfortunately, when M. R.C.'S and members of advisory boards visit our Camps they do so formally. If they were to come to-morrow without giving notice they would find things in a sorry state. The biscuits we are sometimes given are usually mouldy.

With regard to treatment I would draw your attention to the attitude of the Civic Guard towards Natives. You are, I am sure, aware of the fact that the Civic Guards are worse than the worst Malanite or the Pirowite type of Dutchman. The Government has now given white civilians a chance to avenge the imaginary wrongs which you and I have committed. Similarly, we have been placed under Europeans who have some knowledge of one of either the Suto or Nguni group languages. Some know no language other than <sup>the</sup> Patois generally called "Fana ka lo". At the parade ground and in some officers, your brothers are called "Kafirs". Last week I had to tell our Sergeant-major that we object to the use of the word "Kafir" when it is directed to us. In our office we are not called men; but boys. The word boys in our office has not the same significance as when used by "Uobaas" when he says: "Our boys Up North". Some officers and European N.C.O'S. think nothing of being rude, vulgar, and impolite to black soldiers. Only to-day, it was suggested than one of the "Boys" had stolen a fountain pen—and all the fellows here <sup>with</sup> exception of two are teachers.

Since last week we have been registering chaplains. You may perhaps know The Rev. Mr Mataboge. L.Th. Well, <sup>he</sup> goes to "Phaka", he washes his own dish, he sleeps in the same rooms with the men he is supposed to lead spiritually. The result is that all the week-end news-women and liquor-is discussed freely in his presence. Why? he has no military rank. He is to the bulk of the recruits just another Native minister.

We are anxiously looking forward to the fruits of the meeting which giants like Dr. Xuma, Messrs Godlo, Thema, Maphikela and others had with Field-Marshal Smuts. That Dr. Xuma is going to be something before long. That memorandum of his which you sent me was gluttonously read by our clerks, and on Sunday 15th. inst; I was with Mr Molefe who was present when it was presented to the Commission. IF you have any other Xuma literature lend it me please.

Smuts talks of arming the Natives. What will happen if the natives says: Let's carry on as usual. Of what use are rifles against armoured cars, tanks, and air-craft? They must not talk of giving us rifles, if that is what is meant by arming Natives. We want to enter all the avenues of military training for which a man is qualified. Why not let us earn our wings as pilots or be gunners of the air, etc? That is going all out for an all in war.

That in brief is a general survey of the life enjoyed by your brothers in khakhi. I hope it will encourage you to enlist at your first opportunity. I am going on leave on the 28th. inst.

Greet the family,  
Yours sincerely,

H. M. K. K. K. K. K.

THE AFRICAN CHURCH.

545, Cook Avenue,  
Batho Location,  
Bloemfontein,  
17th March, 1942.

*Lehurd*

ABX.420317a

*St. Mrs. Xuma*  
*Sophiatown*

*Ceremonies and occasions*

BLOEMFONTEIN.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been instructed by the Church Council of St. Paul's African Church to extend to you an invitation to honour the Consecration of their Bishop Elect-the Very Rev. Walter Marshall Mochochoko-Ex Canon of the Bloemfontein Cathedral-(Anglican)- now Vicar-General of the African Church in the Orange Free State with your presence. The Consecration will take place in the Pro-Cathedral Church of St. Paul's, Four/Six Location, Bloemfontein on the 5th April, 1942 at 9.30 a.m. If you are free to favour us with your presence please let us know.

Yours Sincerely,

*W. Mento*  
HON. SECRETARY.



ABX. 4203176

Z. 14 B.



GELIEWE IN U ANTWOORD TE  
VERWYS NA  
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. \_\_\_\_\_

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.—UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA,

KANTOOR VAN DIE—OFFICE OF THE

Army Education Section,  
University of the Witwatersrand,  
JOHANNESBURG.

17th March, 1942.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,  
85 Toby Street,  
Sophtown,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Dr. Xuma,

I know that I am expressing the feelings of Colonel Malherbe, as well as my own, if I thank you once more for your share in the success of yesterday morning's meeting at the Military College.

I have no doubt whatever that the addresses of yourself and Mr. Ngakane made a very deep impression on most of the members of the class. Their applause, as well as the expression of thanks from one of the students at the meeting, were genuinely felt, and not merely a formal and superficial compliment.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*R.F. Alfred Hoernlé*

R.F. Alfred Hoernlé, LT.COL.



## UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.  
DEPARTEMENT VAN NATURELLESAKE.  
Cape Town.

18th March, 1942.

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19

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African Congress Deputation.

Dear Dr. Xuma,

Thank you for your letter of 9th March. I will send you the summary of what took place at the meeting with the Minister as soon as I can, but ever since you left I have been so busy with Parliamentary duties that I have not been able to do so.

You may rest assured that the matters referred to will receive consideration and that a reply will be sent in due course.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. S. M. J.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,  
"Empilweni",  
85 Toby Street,  
Sophiatown,  
JOHANNESBURG.

ABX 4203/86

18th March, 1942.

Prof. D.D.T.Jabavu,  
Fort Hare,  
ALICE, C.P.

Dear Professor Jabavu,

I was very glad to get your kind letter about the grant from the Bantu Welfare Trust. I am very sorry that I did not have the good fortune of seeing you so that we could have had a chat about other matters of common interest.

As President-General of the African National Congress, I had put in an application for the grant. The application was, no doubt, favoured by both Mr. Saffery and Senator Jones, who urged me to apply and told me of the time of the sitting of the meeting, months ahead.

I am glad that the application received favourable consideration from your Committee of the Bantu Welfare Trust. I thank you for having pressed the matter in the meeting.

I am sure, by now, you know about the representative Deputation of the African National Congress that awaited on the Government.

From letters of the African Parliamentary representatives and from the statement made openly by the Deputy Prime Minister, we have reason to believe that the Government, according to Colonel Reitz, "was faced with a most unassailable case which deserved the most serious consideration on the part of the Government".

I am sure we can do a whole lot for our people if we continue with the cooperation that has been shown recently by various organisations, and by the support given by different organisation to the recent representations made by the African National Congress before Government bodies.

I see that your way, you are all up and active and all groups seem to be working together. That is a good sign.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

ABX. 420319

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,  
CAPE TOWN.

19th March, 1942.

Dr. Xuma,  
104 End St.,  
Doornfontein,  
JOHANNESBURG.

*14 call matters - General*

Dear Dr. Xuma,

Mrs. Ballinger has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of the evidence written by her and submitted to the Miners' Phthisis Commission by the Natives' Representatives. I must apologise for the untidiness of this copy, but the revised copies are not yet ready and there may not be enough to go round.

Yours sincerely,

*Sam Lutzel.*

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

ABX. 420320a

UNIVERSITEIT  
VAN DIE  
WITWATERSRAND



UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND

JOHANNESBURG  
MILNER PARK

TELEFOON No. 44-3781.  
TELEGRAMME: "UNIVERSITY."

TELEPHONE No. 44-3781.  
TELEGRAMS: "UNIVERSITY."

BY BEANTWOORDING GEE OP:	IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:
No. _____	

20th March, 1942.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,  
85 Toby Street,  
Sophiatown,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Dr. Xuma,

At the last meeting of the Editorial Board of "Common Sense", the suggestion was made, and gladly accepted, that you be asked to contribute an article to the next issue on "Africans and the War", or some similar topic.

We thought that it would be very interesting if you gave an account of the topics discussed at the recent conference, in Cape Town, between yourself and other representatives of the African Congress, on the one side, and Col. Reitz and Government officials on the other side. It would be most interesting to the readers of "Common Sense" if you were to summarise the points made by you and your colleagues and the reply of the Government representatives. And you might end up with an expression of opinion on the effect which Government action along the lines suggested by you and the members of the Congress would have on the attitude of the African population to the war.

If you agree to write this article (for which, by the way, you would receive an honorarium - small, but as large as "Common Sense" can afford to pay), please keep it within about 1500 words, and send me the manuscript or typescript not later than 6th April.

I do not know whether you have seen copies of "Common Sense" in the past. If not, please let me know so that I can have a copy or two sent to you as a sample. We have had previous African contributors, the most recent having been Prof. Matthews. I hope you will accept this invitation. If you are able to do so, please let me have your reply as soon as possible. The article itself need not reach me before April 6th, though, if you can send it any sooner, it will make things easier in the office.

P.T.O.

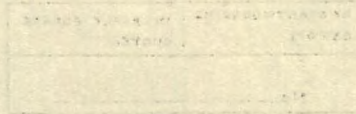


With all good wishes to Mrs. Xuma and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

*R.F. Alfred Hoernlé*

(Prof.) R.F. Alfred Hoernlé.



20th March, 1921.

Dr. A. B. Xuma  
85 Teyateyan Street  
Sophaia Town  
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Dr. Xuma,

At the last meeting of the editorial board of "Common Sense", the suggestion was made, and kindly accepted, that you be asked to contribute an article on the next issue on

the subject of the African population to the war. You and the members of the Congress would have on the attitude of the effect which Government action along the lines suggested by you and your colleagues and the reply of the Government representatives. And you might end up with an expression of opinion on the subject of "Common Sense" if you were to summarize the points made by you and your colleagues and other representatives of the African Congress, on the one side, and Col. Reitz and Government officials on the other side. It would be most interesting to the African Congress, between yourself and other representatives of the in Cape Town, between yourself and other representatives of the give an account of the topics discussed at the recent conference. We thought that it would be very interesting if you

If you agree to write this article (for which, by the way, you would receive an honorarium - small, but as large as "Common Sense" can afford to pay), please keep it within about 1500 words, and send me the manuscript or typescript not later than the 15th.

I do not know whether you have seen copies of "Common Sense" in the past. If not, please let me know so that I can have a copy of it sent to you as a sample. We have had previous African contributors, the last recent having been Prof. Rappaport. I hope you will accept this invitation. If you are able to do so, please let me have your reply as soon as possible. The article itself need not reach me before April 15th, though if you can send it any sooner, it will make things easier in the office.

ABX.4203206

Health - Croghan Community Clinic

20th March, 1942.

Sister Grace Wares,  
Croghan Community Clinic,  
Wilberforce,  
Evaton.

Dear Sister Wares,

In order to avoid further misrepresentation of instructions given, I must repeat them in writing.

- (1) No one other than nurses in the employ of the Croghan Community Clinic, except ofcourse the Superintendent of Wilberforce Institute, must have a key to the Clinic.

You must, therefore, immediately give all nurses their keys.

- (2) While the Clinic need not be opened for routine work on Sundays and Holidays, there should be someone available at the Clinic for people who come in cases of emergency.
- (3) Nurses should rotate on all services so that they can have the full experience and acquaintance of all the activities of the Clinic. For instance, each nurse in the employ of the Clinic should spend, at least a week in a month, in each ~~one~~ <sup>service</sup> as Drug-room, Records, or Attendance to the Doctor during Clinic visits.
- (4) Nurses who have received monies either in the District or in the Clinic, should hand over such money to you and get a dated receipt for the amount.
- (5) All Clinic monies and valueables, after being handed over to you, must not be kept in the public draws at

. the/.....

Sister Grace Wares.

-2-

20th March, 1942.

at the Clinic; but you must put them in safe keeping in your room until you can send them up to the Superintendent of Wilberforce, Dr. Coan.

- (6) All linen belonging to the Clinic should be kept under lock and key, and be supplied by you if and when needed.

You are thus solely responsible for any loss of money or materials after these conditions have been satisfied.

Yours faithfully,

PHYSICIAN IN CHARGE.

ABX/pd.

# WILBERFORCE INSTITUTE

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RT. REV. F. M. REID, M.A., D.D.  
PRESIDING BISHOP

JACOB NHLAPO, B.A., DIPL. B.S.  
PRINCIPAL

REV. J. R. COAN, M.A., D.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT & DEAN,  
SCHOOL OF RELIGION

MRS. C. L. OPPERMAN  
SECRETARY

*Address all communications, Money and  
Postal Orders to the Superintendent.*



*P.O. Wilberforce,  
Transvaal, S.A.*

23rd March, 1942.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,  
104 End Street,  
Doornfontein,  
JOHANNESBURG.

*Health - Croghan Comm. Clinic*

Dear Sir,

Re: ANNUAL REPORT.

With reference to the above subject I hereby offer my humble apology for having sent away the report before you had the opportunity to see it or hear it read. I accept the full responsibility for the report being submitted to the Board and subsequently passing it to the Additional Native Commissioner.

You will recall, no doubt, that in our discussions of a report on several occasions I suggested that you take the initiative and prepare a report as well as make arrangements for the auditing of the Books.

I felt that many pressing duties did not give me sufficient time to write up a creditable statement of the health activities of the Clinic. I had just about given up the idea of preparing one. But the report was demanded by the Native Commissioner, who stated that the Native Affairs Department wanted a report of 1941, Financial Statement, as well as more information on the control of the institution and the extent of its service in the village. Two more letters followed pressing the same point. I phoned the Native Commissioner to say I would prepare a statement to be ready on the day of the Board meeting.

I had no time to assemble the information needed. I asked Sister Wares to do so. This she did but not until the morning of the 11th. I typed it the same day, still typing when the Board members entered for the meeting. So there was no chance to let you see it prior to the meeting.

During the meeting, I asked Sister Wares to read it. Being Presiding Officer I did not care to read it myself. When you arrived, we had just closed discussion on that subject and we were discussing the financial statement. The understanding was that I should type extra copies and send them to the Native Commissioner at the earliest possible moment. Had our meeting not been so long, I probably would have remembered that you had not seen the report. The four days following consumed all of my energy and time. Having faithfully promised Mr. McMaster to send in the report as read in day or two, I fulfilled that promise on Monday.

I realize/....

I realize the blunder made in sending it away before you saw it. But it did not occur to me after the meeting that you were absent when it was read, and consequently, did not have the opportunity of seeing it. For this error, I am deeply sorry. I beg your forgiveness.

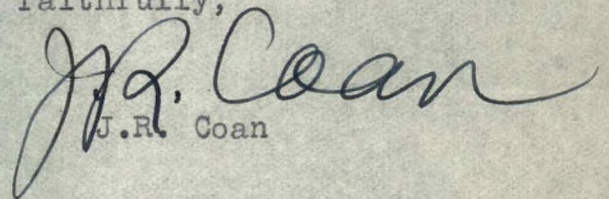
I had no intention, of disregarding the medical Superintendent. Extreme pressure from all sides caused me to make this breach of professional ethics. On the one hand, was the pressure from the Native Commissioner urging me to "expidite matters." On the other hand there was the multiplicity of complex problems in entertaining the delegates to the three-days meeting as well as the supervision and administration of the church in general.

To complete this task so that I should not be troubled with it longer was my aim, forgetting that fact that you had not seen the report. Mr. McMaster, phoned after our conversation that the report is still in his possession. He will wait for revised copies to be sent him in triplicates. I am enclosing a list of statistic supplied by Sister Wares, since I sent the report on Monday. She did not have them ready on the day of the Board meeting.

You may make whatever alteration you find necessary, and forward three copies to Mr. McMaster.

I regret that I am unable to give further attention to it.

Yours faithfully,

  
J.R. Coan

JRC/DNM.

ABX. 420323b  
Social Welfare - Jan Hofmeyr School of Soc. Work.  
23/3/42

Rose Cottage,  
Mauzara H. M. Sch.  
P. O. Englecho,

23:3:42.

Dear Dr.

Kindly explain as fully as you possibly can about J. H. Hofmeyr Sch. I am in possession of a prospectus for it, but would still like you to please explain more and then give me your candid opinion from what is going on. Thanking you in anticipation for an early reply.

I am,

Yours sincerely,  
S. Akhlauli.

ABX-420323c

23rd March, 1942.

Mr. R.G. Baloyi, M.R.C.,  
Gool Hostel,  
11, Leeuwuen Street,  
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Baloyi,

People are clammering here for a report of the deputation, and, they are getting impatient over it. I have been asked by several European papers to give a condensed idea of the proceedings.

However, my desire is that we, the Transvaal Members of the delegation - Mr. Gosani, you and I, should give a report soon at a Mass meeting convened at the Social Centre. I would like to make arrangements immediately, if you would advise me about when you will come.

Anyway, I wish that you should make special arrangements to return as soon as possible so that we can give the people the benefit of our efforts.

I do not want to give the report in your absence as I would like you to participate in acquainting the people with the efforts of the National Congress.

With best regards to Mrs. Baloyi and yourself,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS.

ABX/pd.

ABX. 420324a

*Politics - General*

24th March, 1942.

Mrs. M. Ballinger, M.P.,  
Houses of Parliament,  
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mrs. Ballinger,

I received your letter of recent date and, I thank you for it and the sentiments expressed therein.

I also received the Memorandum you drew up for the Miners' Phthisis which you were good enough to have Miss Wentzel to send to me. I thank you for it.

As to the candidature of Advocate Douglas Buchanan, I may say that he should see Chief Daliwonga Matanzima, Chief Victor Poto, Mr. Qamata, Mr. Sakwe, Mr. Tennyson Makiwane of the Bhunga, Rev. S.G. Mvambo of the "Umthunywa" newspaper and Chief Dalindyabo Mtirara. All these men are most likely to be at the Bhunga at Umtata so that it may not be necessary to go to their places unless he goes there before the meeting of the Bhunga.

I shall write some of them, as I have already written to the Rev. Mr. Mvambo to whom I had mentioned the candidature of Mr. Neil Boss, that I have advised him since, that in view of the candidature of Advocate Buchanan and the fact that many of my friends had been committed to him, I felt that all of us should concentrate on Mr. Buchanan's candidature and reserve a man like Mr. Boss for another occasion.

I may confidentially tell you that I have since strongly advised Mr. Boss to stand down under the present circumstances and that, if the Provincial Councillor, Mr. Burman, decided to re-contest his seat, he, Mr. Boss, should try his luck on it, as a stepping stone to higher honours.

I am enclosing, herewith, a letter introducing Advocate Buchanan to any of the people concerned.

Yours sincerely,

ABX/pd.



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**XUMA, A.B., Papers**

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