THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1919 race riots

How significant a factor was race in the riots of 1919?

Key Stage 5 | Interwar 1918-1939

Lesson

Introduction

The 1919 race riots were the first time many people became aware of the presence of black and minority ethnic people living in Britain, including those who had lived and worked here for many years and served in the war.

At the end of the First World War, the demobilisation of troops caused severe post-war competition for jobs. The perception that foreigners were 'stealing' jobs was one of the triggers for the rioting and attacks on black and minority ethnic communities in British port cities.

Use this lesson to find out more about the 1919 race riots in Cardiff and Liverpool. How significant a factor was race in these riots?

Suitable for:

KS 5

Time period:

Interwar 1918-1939

Connections to the Curriculum:

Edexcel A level History:

Britain transformed, 1918–97 Race and immigration: immigration policies and attitudes towards ethnic minorities, 1918–39.

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Teacher's Notes

The focus of this lesson concerns the riots that took place in Cardiff and Liverpool in 1919. The lesson is designed to support students following a thematic study on race and immigration and attitudes towards ethnic minorities from 1919 onwards. The lesson introduces students to different historical sources – from the census, the Home Office and the Colonial Office – to evaluate how significant a factor race was in these riots.

Please note these sources include some racist and abusive language and are presented here to accurately represent a historical narrative. This language wasn't acceptable at the time and isn't acceptable today.

To explore the diverse social context of Butetown in Cardiff, students can first examine extracts from the 1911 census. These provide evidence of interracial marriage and religious tolerance. Through a police letter on the Cardiff riots, students can then explore the possible social and economic causes of the riots.

Students can continue by comparing these to similar earlier riots in Liverpool, using a letter from the Head Constable to the Home Office. Subsequent Home Office sources provide further context on race relations and employment, in addition to sources from the Colonial Office, which include a telegram from the Cardiff Seamen's Boarding Housekeepers Association and a Home Office letter about seamen's lodging houses. The final sources explore debates about the issue of eugenics from the Medical Research Council, as well as the personal story of a seaman as told in a source from the Colonial Office, which explores interracial marriage, racial attitudes and issues concerning repatriation.

Students can work in pairs or small groups to study each source and report back to the rest of the class to discuss their answers to the different tasks. Alternatively, they can work through the tasks independently. All sources are transcribed and the lesson includes a downloadable bibliography for further reading.

You may wish to explore the following extension questions with students:

Extension questions

Teacher's Notes

- Why are the majority of these sources from the Home Office/Colonial Office?
- How does your understanding of the sources in this lesson help explain the image of the plaque used at the top of the webpage?
- How could the census returns be used to explore causes of tension within Butetown or between Butetown and the wider British public after the First World War?
- How can the census be used to discuss topics such as the occupations of women, religious tolerance, co-existence of different religious communities, and intermarriage of different cultures and races?
- What might the impact of interracial marriage have been on port society at that time?
- What other sources could you use to explore the causes and events of the 1919 race riots?

Sources

Banner image: Close-up of the plaque to Charles Wooten at Queens Dock, Liverpool. Photographed by Rodhullandemu. CC BY-SA 4.0. View in Wikimedia Commons

1. Census returns for Butetown, Cardiff, 1911. Catalogue references: 1a Class: RG14; Piece: 32125; No. 208 1b Class: RG14; Piece: 32125; No. 214 1c Class: RG14; Piece: 32127; No

2. Extract from a letter from the Cardiff Chief Constable to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, 13 June 1919. Catalogue ref: HO 45/11017/377969/5

3. Letter from Assistant Head Constable of Liverpool, L. Everett to the Home Office, dated 10 June 1919. Catalogue ref: HO 45/11017/377969/6

4. Letter from the Office of the Superintending Aliens Officer (an office of the Home Office based in Liverpool) to the Home Office in London, 11 June, 1919. Catalogue ref: HO 45/11017/377969

5. An article from the Morning Post, 13th June 1919. Catalogue Ref: HO 45/11017/377969

6a. Letter from a clerk at Cardiff Town to the Home Office relating to lodging houses in

Teacher's Notes

Cardiff, 21 April 1921. Catalogue ref: HO 45/11897/332087

6b. Telegram from the Cardiff Seamen's Boarding Housekeepers Association to the Colonial Office, London, 13 June, 1921, Catalogue Ref: CO 323.879

7. Letter from the Eugenics Education Society to the Colonial Office, 24 January 1919. Catalogue ref: FD 1 1734 (5 & 4).

8. Letter from a seaman named Claudius Smart to the Colonial Office, London 3 January, 1921. Catalogue ref: CO 137 744

Background

In the aftermath of the First World War, street protests, riots and strikes broke out in countries worldwide as millions of workers faced unemployment and housing shortages – rather than the promised peacetime prosperity. In 1919, a series of violent riots in Glasgow, South Shields, Salford, London, Hull, Newport, Barry, Liverpool and Cardiff saw street fights, vandalised properties and five people killed. Thousands-strong white working-class crowds in these port towns directed their anger at black and minority ethnic communities, blaming colonial workers – whose numbers had increased to meet war time shipping needs – for post-war job shortages.

The sense of menace and the lingering effects of racism continued into the 1920s was most evident in the comments of the immigration official E.N. Cooper, who wrote to the Home Office after visiting an employment centre for seamen: '...we found ourselves the only white men in a surging sea of 500 negroes pressing around us offering their services, assuming that I was the ship's captain who had come into the room to engage a crew' (HO 45/11897/332087/100).

The 1919 riots were one of the most severe incidents of unrest in 20th century Britain. Known as 'race riots', they came to national prominence via the newspapers of the day, making many aware of the presence of black and minority ethnic communities in Britain. The coverage was often hostile and racist in tone, suggesting that the problem of communities unable to mix was long-standing.

However, census records from 1911 provide a more complex picture. While there were occasional incidents of racial tension, reports testify to a spirit of co-habitation as mariners of many different races and cultures settled with White British women to bring up their families. Before the war, major port cities like Cardiff and Liverpool were international trading centres and home to established black and minority ethnic seafaring communities. They expanded during the war as workers from the colonies were recruited to meet increased demands from shipping. When peace came, the shipping industry contracted and all British workers were affected, including White merchant sailors returning to their home ports after serving in the armed forces. Inflammatory press reports at the time, however, traced the outbreak of the Cardiff riots to widespread racist attitudes towards mixed-race couples, as

Background

much as to resentment about rising unemployment.

In February 1919, the Home Office responded to concerns about rising levels of unemployment in British seaports by launching a repatriation scheme to return black and Arab colonial workers to their countries of origin. Local repatriation committees were established in port towns that had experienced riots to promote the scheme. Despite penalties for not taking part, many refused to participate, feeling Britain was their home. The continuing crisis led the government to offer £5 plus £1 voyage allowances to anyone who participated. The Colonial Office, however, were keen that married couples where the husband was black and the wife white should not be repatriated, fearing it would upset the existing social order in the colonies they were removed to.

On one level it was matters of ethnicity that triggered the 'race' riots. However, the historian Jacqueline Jenkinson urges caution in seeing the riots as purely a matter of racism and prejudice. She asserts that time and place are very important to keep in mind. In South Shields, Glasgow and Hull, job competition just after the war played a significant role in the disturbances. In Cardiff and Liverpool, where there were far larger and more settled black and Arab communities, race played a more significant role, fuelled by concerns in the media and amongst the public about interracial relationships.

In addition, any analysis of the rioting in 1919 and its fallout needs to take into account other factors. These include:

- The post-war psychological trauma of returning service personnel.
- The significant financial depression, which saw a spike in unemployment.
- The expansion of the franchise (the right to vote), which meant that politicians needed to placate working class voters at the same time as meeting the threat of increasing industrial militancy and the fear of Bolshevik revolution.
- Women were emboldened by their experience of war service, leading to significant changes for post-war society.
- Finally, the ill-defined nature of Britishness further fuelled disputes as to who was British and who was not.

Tasks

Sources 1a, 1b, 1c: Census returns for Butetown, Cardiff, in 1911.

The census is a register or list of people in the United Kingdom that takes place every ten years. Each return shows the structure of the household, the occupations of its inhabitants, their relationships to each other and their original place of birth.

1. What do the returns for Butetown reveal about the diversity of Cardiff port in terms of interracial marriage and religious tolerance?
2. Examine the three different households in each of the returns. Describe the benefits of being with people who shared your country of origin or the experience of migration. What drawbacks might there be?
3. Why do you think that details regarding faith are recorded in Source 1b?
4. Why do you think details on Mr Shaw's return Source 1c shows that, although born in Hong Kong, he is a 'British subject by parentage'?
5. What do all of the census returns tell us about the mobility of families and employment during the early twentieth century?
6. How do the census returns help us to reflect on the types of challenges the seamen or families might have faced?
7. What do you find most interesting or surprising about these returns?
8. What other original sources would be useful in finding out about the diverse community of Butetown?

Source 2: Extract from a letter from the Cardiff Chief Constable to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, 13 June 1919

1. What economic and social factors does the author suggest could have caused the rioting?
2. What do the black sailors claim in terms of their status? Explain the basis of their claim.
3. The Chief Inspector refers to 'practically concentrating all his force' upon the Butetown area. How could geographical or other boundaries be significant in the riots? If so, how do you see this presented in this report?
4. What does the use of the term 'coloured men' infer about this document and the author?

Tasks

Source 3: Letter from the Assistant Head Constable of Liverpool, L. Everett, to the Home Office, 10 June 1919.

1. Why do you think the Head Constable is writing to the Home Office?
2. What actions is the Liverpool Head Constable calling for in his letter to the Home Office?
3. What reasons does the letter give for the 'outbreak of enmity against the black population' in Liverpool?
4. Compare this letter to Source 2. Which source do you think would be a fairer assessment of the subject? Give your reasons.
5. The letter states that relations between the black and the white population have been deteriorating for some time. Can you explain why?
6. Can you identify the different black populations mentioned in the letter and comment upon the attitude of the Head Constable towards them?
7. What inferences can you draw from the tone of the letter?

Source 4: Letter from the Office of the Superintending Aliens Officer (an office of the Home Office based in Liverpool) to the Home Office in London, 11 June, 1919.

1. Why was there a meeting between Mr Kirkham and the employment exchange?
2. What do you think the writer means by 'the coloured problem'?
3. How does he suggest that this could be solved?
4. Why are 'Chinese and Negroes' described as unemployable?
5. Why is the employment of Irishmen described as 'unacceptable'?
6. What does this document infer about racial tensions in Liverpool at that time?

Source 5: An article from the Morning Post, 13th June 1919.

1. What is the date of this article?
2. Why is this date significant in relation to the 1919 race riots?
3. Comment on the language and tone of this article.
4. What reason does the writer give for Australia's objection to unrestricted non-white immigration?

Tasks

5. How does the writer describe the approach of British colonial rulers when they are abroad?
6. Which nationalist or anti-colonial voices may the writer of the article be referring to?
7. What is the significance of the term 'brothers-in-law' in this context?
8. What does this article reveal about debates taking place on the issue of race and racism at the time?

Source 6a: Letter from a clerk at Cardiff Town to the Home Office relating to lodging houses in Cardiff, 21 April 1921.

1. Why is trade at the dockyard described as 'stagnant' in 1921?
2. Why does the writer suggest that overcrowded lodging houses is a 'serious' issue?
3. What possible consequences could he be referring to if matters are not resolved?
4. How many of these men could claim to be British?
5. What do the following suggestions for non-British Subjects mean? a) Repatriation (b) Accommodated in a concentration camp

Source 6b: Telegram from the Cardiff Seamen's Boarding Housekeepers Association to the Colonial Office, London, 13 June, 1921.

1. Why might the Boarding House keepers choose to contact to the Colonial Office in this way?
2. How does this source affect your view of the boarding house keepers' situation and the seamen who stayed with them?
3. What other sources could you use to find out more about the missions or rest houses referred to in both sources?

Source 7: Letter from the Eugenics Education Society to the Colonial Office, 24 January 1919.

1. Why have the Eugenics Education Society and the Anthropological Institute written to the Colonial Office?

Tasks

2. Why do both organisations regard racial mixing as a ‘problem’?
3. What possible concerns might the Colonial Office have in relation to racial mixing in the Empire?
4. What is the greatest concern according to the Eugenics Society and Anthropological Institute regarding racial mixing?

Source 8: Letter from a seaman named Claudius Smart to the Colonial Office, London 3 January, 1921.

1. How does Claudius Smart express himself in this letter to explain the difficulties of his situation?
2. How does he suggest that the authorities could resolve it?
3. Can you explain what the repatriation scheme involved?
4. How did repatriation affect the seamen, their wives and their wider families?
5. What can we infer from this source and source 7 about the attitudes of the authorities and the public towards white British women who married black men at this time?
6. What can we learn about the personal circumstances/predicament of the women, men and families affected by these changes?

Source 1a: Census return for Butetown, Cardiff, in 1911.

Catalogue Ref: Class: RG14; Piece: 32125; No. 208

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 208 (To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

	NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head" or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every Person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town, or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	INFIRMITY. If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile" or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted	LANGUAGE SPOKEN. (1) If able to speak English only, write "English." (2) If able to speak Welsh only, write "Welsh." (3) If able to speak English and Welsh, write "Both." No entry to be made in this column for children under three years of age.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
1	Ahmed Ali	Head	31		Married	7	[illegible]		—	Seamen Boarding house keeper 942		Own acc. 6	At Home	Turkey 817	Turkish	—	English Turkish
2	Sarah Ali	Wife		27	Married	7	1	1	—	assisting in business		0	At Home	Bristol 131	~~English~~	—	English
3	Queenie Irene Ali Bozecan	Daughter		3										Glamorgan Cardiff		—	English
4	Mary Ann Burke	Servant		44	Widow	—	—	—	—	Domestic Servant 971	Seamens Boarding house 942	0		Somerset Frome 140		—	English
5	John D'asso	Servant	39		Single	—	—	—	—	Cook	Seamens Boarding house	4		Greece 815	Greek	—	Greek
6	Antoni George	Boarder	37		Single	—	—	—	—	Sailor 841	Mercantile Marine	Worker 4		Turkey 817	Turkish	—	Turkish
7	Ali Omli	Boarder	25		Single	—	—	—	—	Sailor	Mercantile Marine	Worker		India Peshawar 708		—	Pathan English
8	Mehmet Mustapha	Boarder	22		Single	—	—	—	—	fireman "Ships" 842	ditto "	Worker		Turkey 817	Turkish	—	Turkish
9	Earbram Osman	Boarder	46		Single	—	—	—	—	fireman "Ships"	ditto	ditto		Turkey	Turkish	—	Turkish
10	Ismile Sollman	Boarder	23		Single	—	—	—	—	fireman Ships	ditto	ditto		Turkey	Turkish	—	Turkish
11	Mary Ann Briscombe ~~Sister~~	~~Sister~~		23	Single	—	—	—	—	Domestic Servant 970		Unemployed		Glamorgan Cardiff			English
12																	
13																	
14																	
15																	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that:—
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
(2.) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3.) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator E.J.G.

	Total. Males.	Females.	Persons.
	7	4	11

1 (9)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

Nine

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature Ahmed Ali

Postal Address 41A Bute St Cardiff

3503

Transcript: Source 1a

The census is a register or list of people in the United Kingdom that takes place every ten years. Each return shows the structure of the household, the occupations of its inhabitants, their relationships to each other and their original place of birth.

Download a PDF transcript of this document
https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/education/census-1a.pdf

Source 1b: Census return for Butetown, Cardiff, in 1911.

Catalogue Ref: Class: RG14; Piece: 32125; No. 214

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 214
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

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NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head" or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow" opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every Person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town, or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	INFIRMITY. If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile" or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted	LANGUAGE SPOKEN. (1) If able to speak English only, write "English." (2) If able to speak Welsh only, write "Welsh." (3) If able to speak English and Welsh, write "Both." No entry to be made in this column for children under three years of age.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Israel Outh	Head	44		Married				Outfitter 89 (Seamans.)		Employer	at Home	Russia Resident	Russian Jew	800	English
2	Rosa Outh	Wife	~~38~~	38	Married	16	4.	3.	1.				Russia Resident	Russian Jew	1	English
3	Jacob Outh	Son	8		—				School				Russia Resident	Russian Jew		English
4	Barnet Outh	Son	2		—								Glamorgan Cardiff			X
5	Jennie Outh	Daughter		b.m.	—								Glamorgan Cardiff			X
6	Ethel Evans	Servant		37	Single				Domestic Servant		0		Glamorgan Aberdare		465	Both 2
7																
8																
9																
10																
11																
12																
13																
14																
15																

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that:—
(1.) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
(2.) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3.) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous

Initials of Enumerator. E.V.

Total. Males.	Females.	Persons.
3	3	6

3
1

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

Four

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature J Outh

Postal Address 51 Butetown St.

4

Transcript: Source 1b

The census is a register or list of people in the United Kingdom that takes place every ten years. Each return shows the structure of the household, the occupations of its inhabitants, their relationships to each other and their original place of birth.

Download a PDF transcript of this document
https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/education/census-1b.pdf

Source 1c: Census return for Butetown, Cardiff, in 1911.

Catalogue Ref: Class: RG14; Piece: 32127; No 360

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 360
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

	NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head" or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "one month," "one month," etc. Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every Person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town, or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	INFIRMITY. If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile" or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted	LANGUAGE SPOKEN. (1) If able to speak English only, write "English." (2) If able to speak Welsh only, write "Welsh." (3) If able to speak English and Welsh, write "Both." No entry to be made in this column for children under three years of age.	
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10. 320.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.		
1	Tum Shaw	Head	40		single					Chinese Grocer shop		Employer		Hongkong	British subject by Parentage	716—	Chinese & English		0
2	Ng Hat	assistant	36		married					assisting in management	of Chinese provision shop	worker		Hongkong	do	1	Chinese & English		0
3	Ah Tune	Waiter	41		single					servant		worker		Hoi Mun Tow	Chinese	818	Chinese		3
4	Ah Paw	Cook	30		single					Cook at shops	4 86 Limehouse Causeway London E.	worker		China	do	1	Chinese & English		0
5	Ng yong	Waiter	38							Chinese Boarding House		0				07	Chinese & English		0
6	Ah yee	servant	24		single					servant	320	worker		Canton China	do	818	Chinese & English		0
7																			
8																			
9																			
10																			
11																			
12																			
13																			
14																			
15																			

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that:—
(1.) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
(2.) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3.) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: Wo

	Total. Males.	Females.	Persons.
	6	—	6

0

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

6 Rooms

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature Tum shaw.

Postal Address 197 Bute Road, Cardiff.

4

Transcript: Source 1c

The census is a register or list of people in the United Kingdom that takes place every ten years. Each return shows the structure of the household, the occupations of its inhabitants, their relationships to each other and their original place of birth.

Download a PDF transcript of this document
https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/education/census-1c.pdf

Source 2: The Cardiff Chief Constable to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, 13 June 1919. Catalogue Ref: HO 45/11017/377969/5

Cardiff City Police. 73

TELEPHONE Nº 3213.

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER
Reference

Head Quarters,
Law Courts.

(5)

comprising 16 coloured men for shooting; one coloured man for possessing firearms; and 4 Britishers for wilful damage. The casualties were approximately 12 in number; two proved fatal (one white and one coloured man) 3 coloured men have fractured skulls; one white man fractured skull; and the others were minor injuries.

It is not possible for me to estimate in figures the damage that has been caused.

So far as this day, Friday, has gone there is a certain liveliness amongst the white population in and abutting upon the affected area. It may develop during the evening but I have increased the mounted police on duty to 12 in number and am practically concentrating all my Force in the area of Butetown which is approximately a mile long by 300 yards wide.

There can be no doubt that the aggressors have been those belonging to the white race. To go fully into the probable cause of their attitude would open up many issues but briefly it might safely be said that racial feeling which now exists is due to the following:-

The coloured men resent their inability to secure employment on ships since the Armistice as they are being displaced by white crews;

They are dissatisfied with the action of the Government;

They regard themselves as British subjects;

They claim equal treatment with whites and contend that they fought for the British Empire during the war and manned their food ships during the submarine campaign.

The white population appear to be alarmed at the association of so many white women with the coloured races and imagine that they entice the white women to their houses. (As a matter of fact so far as the Police can observe certain white women court the favour of the coloured races).

The housing question also arises. The coloured men have earned good wages during the war; they have saved their money; they have purchased houses; are always willing to pay higher rents; and even exhorbitant sums as "key money" to secure possession of dwelling houses or shop premises. This feature particularly irritates the demobilized soldiers who have been unable to secure housing accommodation.

Transcript: Source 2

Cardiff City Police.

(5)

comprising 16 coloured men for shooting; one coloured man for possessing firearms; and 4 Britishers for wilful damage. The casualties were approximately 12 in number; two proved fatal (one white and one coloured man) 3 coloured men have fractured skulls; one white man fractured skull; and the others were minor injuries.

It is not possible for me to estimate in figures the damage that has been caused.

So far this day, Friday, has gone there is a certain liveliness amongst the white population in and abutting upon [next to] the affected area. It may develop during the evening but I have increased the mounted police on duty to 12 in number and am practically concentrating all my Force in the area of Butetown which is approximately a mile long by 300 yards wide.

There can be no doubt that the aggressors have been those belonging to the white race. To go fully into the probable cause of their attitude would open up many issues but briefly it might safely be said that racial feeling which now exists is due to the following: –

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They are dissatisfied with the action of the Government;

They regard themselves as British subjects;

They claim equal treatment with whites and contend that they fought for the British Empire during the war and manned their food ships during the submarine campaign.

The white population appear to be alarmed at the association of so many white women

Transcript (cont.): Source 2

with the coloured races and imagine that they entice the white women to their houses. (As a matter of fact so far as the Police can observe certain white women court the favour of the coloured races).

The housing question also arises. The coloured men have earned good wages during the war; they have saved their money; they have purchased houses; are always willing to pay higher rents; and even exorbitant [very high] sums as “key money” to secure possessions of dwelling houses or shop premises. This feature particularly irritates the demobilized soldiers who have been unable to secure housing accommodation.

Source 3: The Assistant Head Constable of Liverpool, L. Everett to the Home Office, 10 June 1919. Catalogue Ref: HO 45/11017/377969/6

TELEPHONE No. 8300 CENTRAL.
TELEGRAMS: "DEVOIR, LIVERPOOL."

Please address your letter
THE HEAD CONSTABLE,

and in your reply quote No.

HOME OFFICE 11 JUN 19

CENTRAL POLICE OFFICE,
LIVERPOOL.

10th. June, 1919.

Your reference No. 6

Sir,

I have the honour to call your attention to the outbreak of enmity against the black population of this city which has been growing for some time and, on Thursday last, culminated in a serious encounter resulting in one negro being thrown into one of the docks and drowned, and several policemen being seriously injured, one, who was shot, is still lying in a dangerous condition in hospital.

The trouble has been caused between the citizens and the blacks, mainly on account of the blacks interfering with white women, capturing a portion of the labour market and West Indians having been demobilized here with plenty of cash assuming an aggressive attitude. Others are West Africans who were working on ships chartered by the Government which have now finished their work and the crews paid off in Liverpool. Those employed by Elder, Dempster & Co., are well looked after and kept together in boarding houses.

Already there are over 200 in our charge for their own safety, and considerable damage has been done to property in which the blacks lodged.

I should be glad if the Secretary of State could advise if there is any power to intern them either on board ship or in one of the Military Camps which is now vacant on the outskirts of the city, and what steps he suggests can be taken to remove this black population, some 2000 to 3000 by compulsory repatriation or otherwise. I am confident that, unless a drastic and quick clearance is made, disturbances leading to loss of life will result.

I am informed by Messrs.Elder,Dempster & Co. that, if desired, they can fit up a ship to return 100 of them to West Africa next week.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

L. Everett

Asst.Head Constable.

The Under Secretary
of State,
Home Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

E/J.

Transcript: Source 3

Sir,

I have the honour to call your attention to the outbreak of enmity against the black population of this city which has been growing for some time and, on Thursday last, culminated in a serious encounter resulting in one negro being thrown into one of the docks and drowned, and several policemen being seriously injured, one, who was shot, is still lying in a dangerous condition in hospital.

The trouble has been caused between the citizens and the blacks, mainly on account of the blacks interfering with white women, capturing a portion of the labour market and West Indians having been demobilized here with plenty of cash assuming an aggressive attitude. Others are West Africans who were working on ships chartered by the Government which have now finished their work and the crews paid off in Liverpool. Those employed by Elder, Dempster & Co., are well looked after and kept together in boarding houses.

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I am sir, your obedient servant,

L Everett,

Assistant Head Constable.

Transcript (cont.): Source 3

The Under Secretary of State,
Home Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1

Source 4: The Office of the Superintending Aliens Officer to the Home Office in London, 11 June, 1919. Catalogue Ref: HO 45/11017/377969

377969/6

12 JUN 1919 ALIENS OFFICE

Office of the Superintending Aliens Officer,
Old Harbourmaster's House,
Liverpool.

13

Telephone: CENTRAL 7296.
Telegrams: PASSPORTS, LIVERPOOL.

June 11th, 1919.

H.M.Inspector.

Chinese Seamen

Mr. Kirkham had an interview with the Manager of the Employment Exchange, Liverpool, but the result was not satisfactory. He was told that farmers would not, or dare not, employ Chinese and Negroes on account of the bitter feeling that at present exists, and in the Ormskirk District, Irishmen are also unacceptable. He added that the coloured problem is causing them a good deal of anxiety, and he ventured the opinion that ultimately the Government will have to repatriate these unemployable men.

There has been quite an outbreak of racial rioting in Liverpool during the last week, mainly directed against British Negroes. Possibly the outbreak is quite sporadic, but while the feeling lasts it will make it all the more difficult for coloured men of

14

of any kind to obtain work - or justice.

The attached cuttings are from today's Liverpool Post and are of interest.

E.H.C.

Transcript: Source 4

June 11th, 1919.

H.M. Inspector.

Chinese Seamen

Mr Kirkham had an interview with the Manager of the Employment Exchange, Liverpool, but the result was not satisfactory. He was told that farmers would not, or dare not, employ Chinese and Negroes on account of the bitter feeling that at present exists, and in the Ormskirk District, Irishmen are also unacceptable. He added that the coloured problem is causing them a good deal of anxiety, and he ventured the opinion that ultimately the Government will have to repatriate these unemployable men.

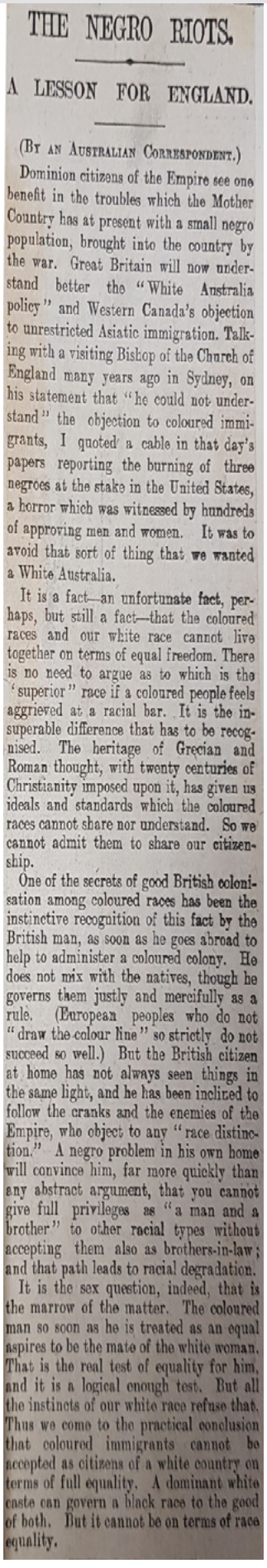
There has been quite an outbreak of racial rioting in Liverpool during the last week, mainly directed against British Negroes. Possibly the outbreak is quite sporadic, but while the feeling lasts it will make it all the more difficult for coloured men of any kind to obtain work – or justice.

The attached cuttings are from today's Liverpool Post and are of interest.

E.n.c.

Source 5: An article from the Morning Post, 13th June 1919.

Catalogue Ref: HO 45/11017/377969



THE NEGRO RIOTS.

A LESSON FOR ENGLAND.

(By an Australian Correspondent.)

Dominion citizens of the Empire see one benefit in the troubles which the Mother Country has at present with a small negro population, brought into the country by the war. Great Britain will now understand better the "White Australia policy" and Western Canada's objection to unrestricted Asiatic immigration. Talking with a visiting Bishop of the Church of England many years ago in Sydney, on his statement that "he could not understand" the objection to coloured immigrants, I quoted a cable in that day's papers reporting the burning of three negroes at the stake in the United States, a horror which was witnessed by hundreds of approving men and women. It was to avoid that sort of thing that we wanted a White Australia.

It is a fact—an unfortunate fact, perhaps, but still a fact—that the coloured races and our white race cannot live together on terms of equal freedom. There is no need to argue as to which is the "superior" race if a coloured people feels aggrieved at a racial bar. It is the insuperable difference that has to be recognised. The heritage of Grecian and Roman thought, with twenty centuries of Christianity imposed upon it, has given us ideals and standards which the coloured races cannot share nor understand. So we cannot admit them to share our citizenship.

One of the secrets of good British colonisation among coloured races has been the instinctive recognition of this fact by the British man, as soon as he goes abroad to help to administer a coloured colony. He does not mix with the natives, though he governs them justly and mercifully as a rule. (European peoples who do not "draw the colour line" so strictly do not succeed so well.) But the British citizen at home has not always seen things in the same light, and he has been inclined to follow the cranks and the enemies of the Empire, who object to any "race distinction." A negro problem in his own home will convince him, far more quickly than any abstract argument, that you cannot give full privileges as "a man and a brother" to other racial types without accepting them also as brothers-in-law; and that path leads to racial degradation.

It is the sex question, indeed, that is the marrow of the matter. The coloured man so soon as he is treated as an equal aspires to be the mate of the white woman. That is the real test of equality for him, and it is a logical enough test. But all the instincts of our white race refuse that. Thus we come to the practical conclusion that coloured immigrants cannot be accepted as citizens of a white country on terms of full equality. A dominant white caste can govern a black race to the good of both. But it cannot be on terms of race equality.

Transcript: Source 5

THE NEGRO RIOTS.

A LESSON FOR ENGLAND.

(By an Australian correspondent.)

Dominion citizens of the Empire see one benefit in the troubles which the Mother Country has at present with a small negro population, brought into the country by the war. Great Britain will now understand better the “White Australia policy” and Western Canada’s objection to unrestricted Asiatic immigration. Talking with a visiting Bishop of the Church of England many years ago in Sydney, on his statement that “he could not understand” the objection to coloured immigrants, I quoted a cable in that day’s papers reporting the burning of three negroes at the stake in the United States, a horror which was witnessed by hundreds of approving men and women. It was to avoid that sort of thing that we wanted a White Australia.

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One of the secrets of good British colonisation among coloured races has been the instinctive recognition of this fact by the British man, as soon as he goes abroad to help to administer a coloured colony. He does not mix with the natives, though he governs them justly and mercifully as a rule. (European Peoples who do not “draw the colour line” so strictly do not succeed so well.) But the British citizen at home has not always seen things in the same light, and he’s been inclined to follow the cranks and the enemies of the Empire, who object to any “race distinction”. A negro problem in his own home will convince him, far

Transcript (cont.): Source 5

more quickly than any abstract argument, that you cannot give full privileges as “a man and a brother” to other racial types without accepting them also as brothers-in-law; and that path leads to racial degradation [decline].

It is the sex question, indeed, that is the marrow of the matter. The coloured man so soon as he is treated as an equal aspires to be the mate of the white woman. That is the real test of equality for him, and it is a logical enough test. But all the instincts of our white race refuse that. Thus we come to the practical conclusion that coloured immigrants cannot be accepted as citizens of a white country on terms of full equality. A dominant white caste can govern a black race to the good of both. But it cannot be on terms of race equality.

Source 6a: A clerk at Cardiff Town to the Home Office about lodging houses in Cardiff, 21 April 1921. Catalogue Ref: HO 45/11897/332087

...63. C/U.

22 APR 21

332087/24.

CECIL G. BROWN,
TOWN CLERK.
CLERK OF THE PEACE.

CITY HALL,
CARDIFF.

21st April, 1921.

Sir,

My Authority have received a report from their Inspector of Lodging Houses to the following effect, viz:-

"I beg to draw the attention of the Committee to the serious "congestion at present existing in the Seamen's Lodging Houses "in the City. Some of the houses are full, but most of them are "overcrowded. This is caused principally by the fact that very "little trade is done in shipping at the Docks. I am also "informed that many of these men are paid off in foreign ports "and are not allowed to remain there and take their chance of "signing on another ship; they pay their passage across to "this country, and when they land here they have very little "money on them. They cannot get away again owing to the "stagnant state of trade at the Docks.".

The following statement shows the licenced Seamen's Lodging Houses which are overcrowded, viz:-

"Date.	Situation of House.	Nationality.	No. of persons licensed for.	No. of persons in house.
"13.4.21.	38, Maria St.	Arab	9	38
" "	1 & 2 " "	"	10	24
" "	224, Bute St.	"	18	40
" "	220, " "	Japanese	18	36
"12.4.21	215 " "	Arab	34	72
"13.4.21	234 " "	Portuguese	14	17
"15.4.21	268 " "	Arab	13	50
" "	24 " "	Maltese	10	19
"14.4.21	223 " "	Arab	20	52
" "	156 " "	"	10	41
" "	161 " "	Maltese	29	34
" "	185 " "	Arab	18	45
"15.4.21	18 & 19 Angelina St.	"	17	29
" "	16, Maria Street	"	6	7
" "	26, " "	"	5	17
"15.4.21	24, " "	Arab	7	9
"14.4.21	23, Loudoun Squ.	Russian Fin	8	12
" "	52, " "	West African	15	37
"17.4.21	43, " "	British	9	23
" "	11, Frances Str.	West African	9	17
" "	4 & 5 Maria Street	Egyptians & Arabs	15	16
"18.4. 21	11, West Church St.	Arab	8	72
			303	707

The following places are also being kept open during the night for shelter, viz:-

The Seamen's Mission at the entrance to the West Dock, from 100 to 150 are accommodated there every night.

-2-

332087/24.

The Fennish Mission, Hannah Street. There were 18 men sleeping there on the 17.4.21.

The John Cory's Sailors and Soldier's Rest, Bute Street. There were 16 men sleeping there on the 17.4.21.

I am desired by my Authority to draw the serious attention of His Majesty's Government hereto, and to point out that the Boarding House Keepers state that they are unable to keep these Seamen any longer without payment. The position here, is, therefore, very serious, and likely to become more so.

I am to ask that instructions be given so that those who are not British Subjects may be either repatriated forthwith, or accommodated in a concentration camp.

I shall be glad to hear from you.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Cecil G. Brown

TOWN CLERK.

The Under Secretary of State,
Home Office.

Transcript: Source 6a

City Hall, Cardiff.

21st April, 1921.

Sir,

My Authority have received a report from the Inspector of Lodging Houses to the following effect, viz:-

“I beg to draw the attention of the Committee to the serious congestion at present existing in the Seamen’s Lodging Houses in the City. Some of the houses are full, but most of them are overcrowded. This is caused principally by the fact that very little trade is done in shipping at the Docks. I am also informed that many of these men are paid off in foreign ports and are not allowed to remain there and take their chance of signing on another ship; they pay their passage across to this country, and when they land here they have very little money on them. They cannot get away again owing to the stagnant state of trade at the Docks.”

The following statement shows the licensed Seamen’s Lodging Houses which are overcrowded, viz:-

Transcript (cont.): Source 6a

Date	Situation of House	Nationality	No. of persons licenced for.	No. of persons in house.	HO Inspector Report. [handwritten]
13.4.21	38 Maria St	Arab	9	38	40
13.4.21	1&2 Maria St	Arab	10	24	38 + 1
13.4.21	224 Bute St	Arab	18	40	73
13.4.21	220 Bute St	Japanese	18	36	80
12.4.21	215 Bute St	Arab	34	72	75
13.4.21	234 Bute St	Portuguese	14	17	17
15.4.21	268 Bute St	Arab	13	50	66
15.4.21	24 Bute St	Maltese	10	19	19
14.4.21	223 Bute St	Arab	20	52	63
14.4.21	156 Bute St	Arab	10	41	45
14.4.21	161 Bute St	Maltese	29	34	55
14.4.21	185 Bute St	Arab	18	45	72
15.4.21	18 & 19 Angelina St	Arab	17	29	24
15.4.21	16 Maria St	Arab	6	7	17
15.4.21	26 Maria St	Arab	5	17	20
15.4.21	24 Maria St	Arab	7	9	14
15.4.21	23 Loudoun Squ	Russian/ Finn	8	12	12
15.4.21	52 Loudoun Squ	West African	15	37	28
17.4.21	43 Loudoun Sq	British	9	23	23
17.4.21	11 Frances Str	West African	9	17	19
17.4.21	4&5 Maria Street	Egyptians & Arabs	15	16	27
18.4.21	11 West Church St	Arab	8	72	16
			303	707	840

Transcript (cont.): Source 6a

The following places are also being kept open during the night shelter, viz:-

The Seamen's Mission at the entrance to the West Dock, from 100 to 150 are accommodated there every night.

The Fennish Mission, Hannah Street. There were 18 men sleeping there on the 17.4.21.

The John Cory's Sailors and Soldier's Rest, Bute Street. There were 16 men sleeping there on 17.4.21.

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I am to ask that instructions be given so that those who are not British Subjects may be either repatriated forthwith, or accommodated in a concentration camp.

I shall be glad to hear from you.

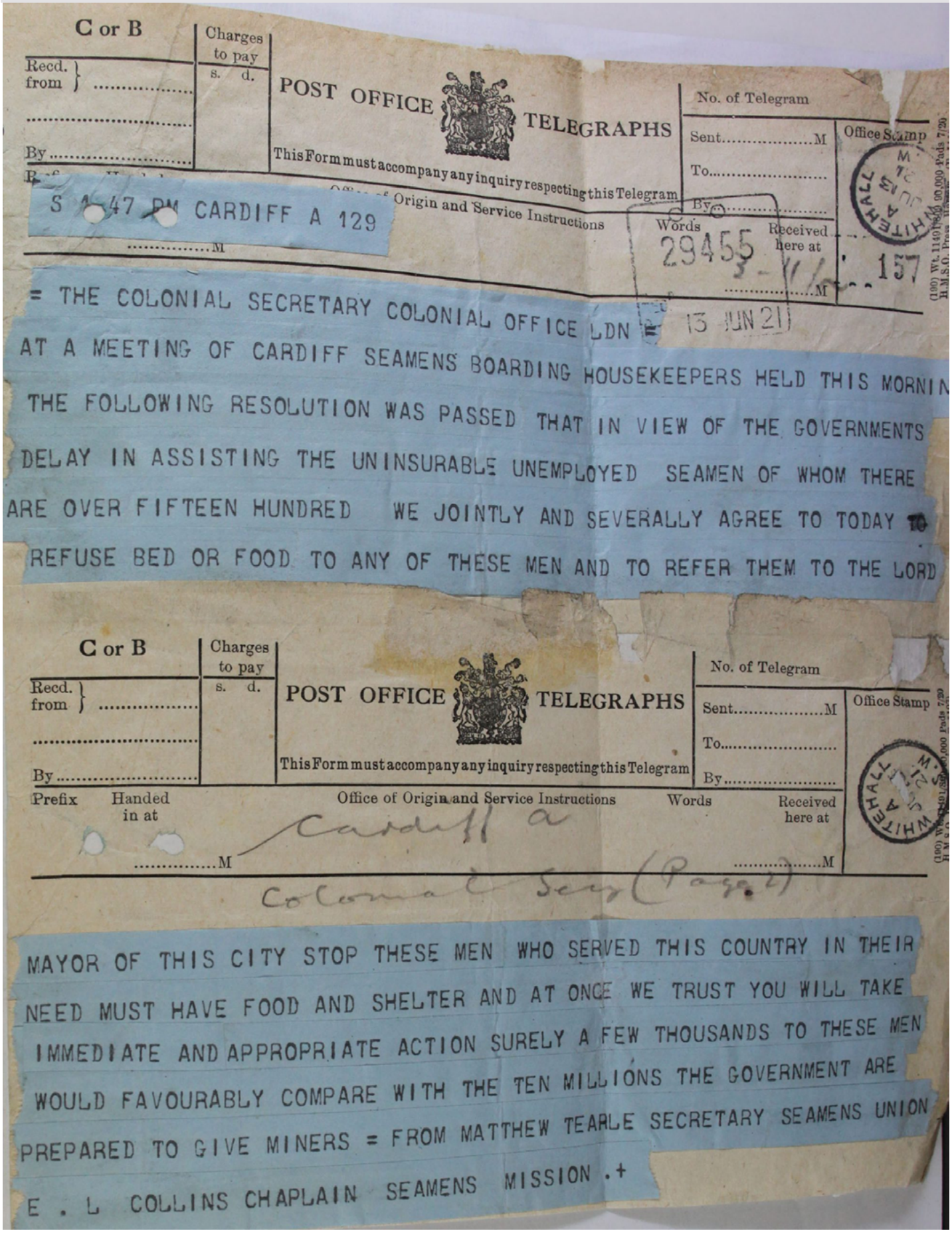
I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Cecil G. Brown

TOWN CLERK.

Source 6b: The Cardiff Seamen's Boarding Housekeepers Association to the Colonial Office London, 1921. Catalogue Ref: CO 323/879



C or B

Recd. from } .....

By .....

Charges to pay s. d.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram

No. of Telegram

Sent.....M

To.....

By.....

Office Stamp

WHITEHALL A 21 JUN 21 M

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

Words 29455

Received here at .....M

157

S 1-47 PM CARDIFF A 129

.....M

= THE COLONIAL SECRETARY COLONIAL OFFICE LDN =

13 JUN 21

AT A MEETING OF CARDIFF SEAMENS BOARDING HOUSEKEEPERS HELD THIS MORNIN

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PASSED THAT IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENTS

DELAY IN ASSISTING THE UNINSURABLE UNEMPLOYED SEAMEN OF WHOM THERE

ARE OVER FIFTEEN HUNDRED WE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY AGREE TO TODAY TO

REFUSE BED OR FOOD TO ANY OF THESE MEN AND TO REFER THEM TO THE LORD

C or B

Recd. from } .....

By .....

Charges to pay s. d.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram

No. of Telegram

Sent.....M

To.....

By.....

Office Stamp

WHITEHALL A 21 JUN 21 M

Prefix Handed in at .....M

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

Cardiff a

Colonial Secy (Page 2)

Words

Received here at .....M

MAYOR OF THIS CITY STOP THESE MEN WHO SERVED THIS COUNTRY IN THEIR

NEED MUST HAVE FOOD AND SHELTER AND AT ONCE WE TRUST YOU WILL TAKE

IMMEDIATE AND APPROPRIATE ACTION SURELY A FEW THOUSANDS TO THESE MEN

WOULD FAVOURABLY COMPARE WITH THE TEN MILLIONS THE GOVERNMENT ARE

PREPARED TO GIVE MINERS = FROM MATTHEW TEARLE SECRETARY SEAMENS UNION

E . L COLLINS CHAPLAIN SEAMENS MISSION .+

Transcript: Source 6b

The Colonial Secretary Colonial Office LDN

At a meeting of Cardiff Seamen's Boarding Housekeepers held this morning the following resolution was passed that in view of the Government's delay in assisting the uninsurable unemployed seamen of whom there are over fifteen hundred we jointly and severally agree to today refuse bed or food to any of these men and to refer them to the Lord Mayor of this city STOP

These men who served this country in their need must have food and shelter and at once. We trust you will take immediate and appropriate action. Surely a few thousands to these men would favourably compare with the ten millions the Government are prepared to give miners = From Matthew Tearle, Secretary, Seamen's Union

E. L. Collins, Chaplain, Seamen's Mission.

Source 7: Letter from the Eugenics Education Society to the Colonial Office, 24 January 1919. Catalogue Ref: FD 1 1734 (5 & 4)

The Eugenics Education Society.

"Eugenics is the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations either physically or mentally."

President—Major Leonard Darwin.

Vice-Presidents—

Dr. Richard Arthur, M.L.A., President, New South Wales Branch.
Sir James Barr, President, Liverpool Branch.
Dr. Benham, President, Dunedin Branch.
Mr. H. W. Bishop, S.M., President, Christchurch Branch.
Sir James Crichton-Browne, F.R.S., Ex-President, 1908 to 1909.
Bishop D'Arcy, President, Belfast Branch.
Professor Starr Jordan, President, Eugenic Section, American Genetic Association.
Professor H. B. Kirk, M.A., President, Wellington Branch.
Mr. W. C. Marshall, M.A., President, Haslemere Branch.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Moulton, P.C., F.R.S., President, Birmingham Heredity Society.
Sir J. L. Otter, J.P., President, Brighton Branch.
M. Edmond Perrier, President, Société Française D'Eugénique.
Professor E. B. Poulton, F.R.S., President, Oxford Branch.
Professor Sergi, President, Comitato Italiano per gli Studi di Eugenica.
Professor Seward, F.R.S., President, Cambridge Eugenics Society.
Bishop Welldon, President, Manchester Branch.

Members of Council—

*Sir R. Armstrong-Jones.
Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S.
Mr. Crofton Black.
*Mrs. Theodore Chambers.
Mr. A. M. Carr-Saunders.
Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.
*Miss E. Corry.
*Mr. R. Newton Crane.
Mr. A. E. Crawley.
Sir H. Cunningham, K.C.I.E.
*Dr. Langdon Down.
Mr. Havelock Ellis.
Professor J. Findlay.
Mr. F. C. Wheler Galton.
*Dr. Greenwood.
Dr. W. Hadley.
*Mrs. Henderson.
*Colonel Hills, F.R.S.
*The Very Rev. W. R. Inge, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's.
Miss Kirby.
Mr. Ernest Lane, F.R.C.S.
*Professor E. W. MacBride, F.R.S.
*Lady Owen Mackenzie.
Mr. Robert Mond.
*Dr. F. W. Mott, F.R.S.
*Mr. G. P. Mudge.
Mrs. G. Pooley.
Dr. Archdall Reid.
Mr. John Russell.
Mr. F. C. S. Schiller, D.Sc.
Prof. A. Schuster, F.R.S.
Capt. Edgar Schuster, D.Sc.
*Dr. C. G. Seligman.
Professor Spearman.
Professor J. A. Thomson.
Dr. A. F. Tredgold.
Mrs. Alec Tweedie.
Mr. W. C. D. Whetham, F.R.S.
*Capt. Douglas White, R.A.M.C.

*Executive Committee.

Hon. Secretary—Capt. Edgar Schuster.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. Fleischl.

Secretary—Mrs. A. C. Gotto, O.B.E.

11, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
W.C. 2.

Office Hours:
10-30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays, 10-30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Telephone No. Holborn 5797.

January 24th, 1919.

To The Right Honourable Viscount Milner,
Secretary to the Colonial Office.
Downing Street,
Whitehall.

Sir,

The Council of "The Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland" and of "The Eugenic Education Society" have recently had under consideration certain problems relating to racial miscegenation particularly the progeny which result from the mixture of diverse human races. These problems have not only a theoretical interest but are intimately related to the welfare and future of many populations now resident in various lands lying within the British Empire. We have to acknowledge that as regards the results of racial miscegenation we are at present very ignorant, nor can we find any records in the publications of the Colonial Office which will help in the elucidation of this difficult but important matter.

In the greater number of British Colonies:- in Africa, in the Straits Settlements and in the Pacific, racial mixtures are being formed but with what results we have at present no means of telling. We wish to ascertain the physical fitness of the resulting hybrid races:- how they compare as regards bodily strength, aptness for civilisation resistance to disease and particularly power to reproduce and multiply with the parent races. There are also social problems connected with miscegenation which require investigation.

In the opinion of our Councils certain practical steps might now be taken which would secure information of the greatest value in the solution of these problems; but to move in this matter, without both the assistance and cordial support of the Colonial Office would be almost impossible. May we therefore beg for an opportunity of discussing these matters with you and of laying before you certain proposals for your consideration?.

Yours very truly,

President of R.A.I.

President of E.E.S.

Transcript: Source 7

The Eugenics Education Society.

President – Major Leonard Darwin,

...

Secretary – Constance M Brown.

11 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
W.C.2.

January 24th, 1919,

To the Right Honourable Viscount Milner,
Secretary to the Colonial Office,
Downing Street, Whitehall.

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In the greater number of British Colonies:- in Africa, in the Straits Settlements and in the Pacific, racial mixtures are being formed but with what results we have at present no means of telling.

Transcript (cont.): Source 7

We wish to ascertain the physical fitness of the resulting hybrid races:- how they compare as regards bodily strength, aptness [suitability] for civilisation resistance to disease and particularly power to reproduce and multiply with the parent races. There are also social problems connected with miscegenation which require investigation.

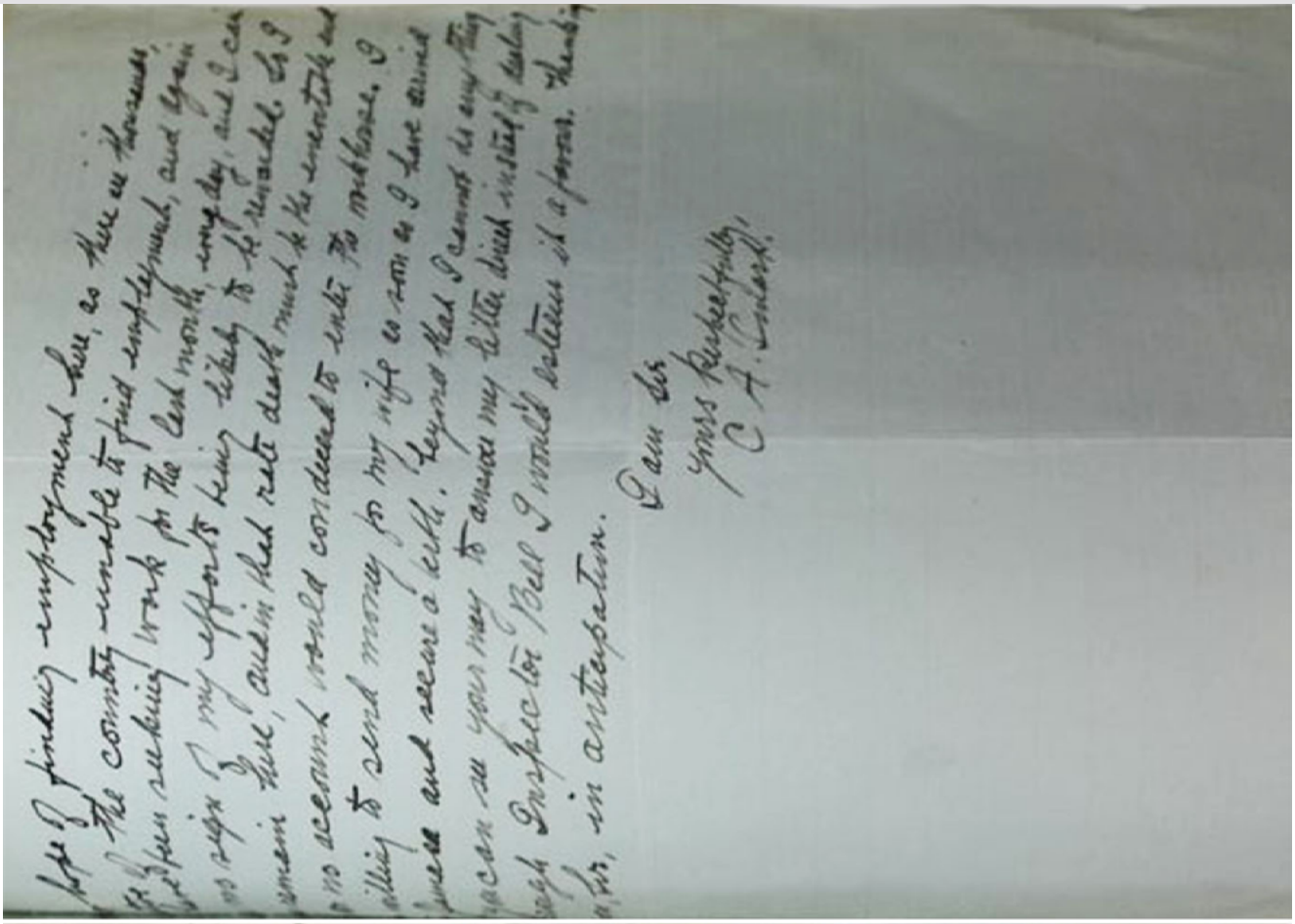
In the opinion of our Councils certain practical steps might now be taken which would secure information of the greatest value in the solution of these problems; but to move in this matter, without both the assistance and cordial support of the Colonial Office would be almost impossible. May we therefore beg for an opportunity of discussing these matters with you and of laying before you certain proposals or your consideration?.

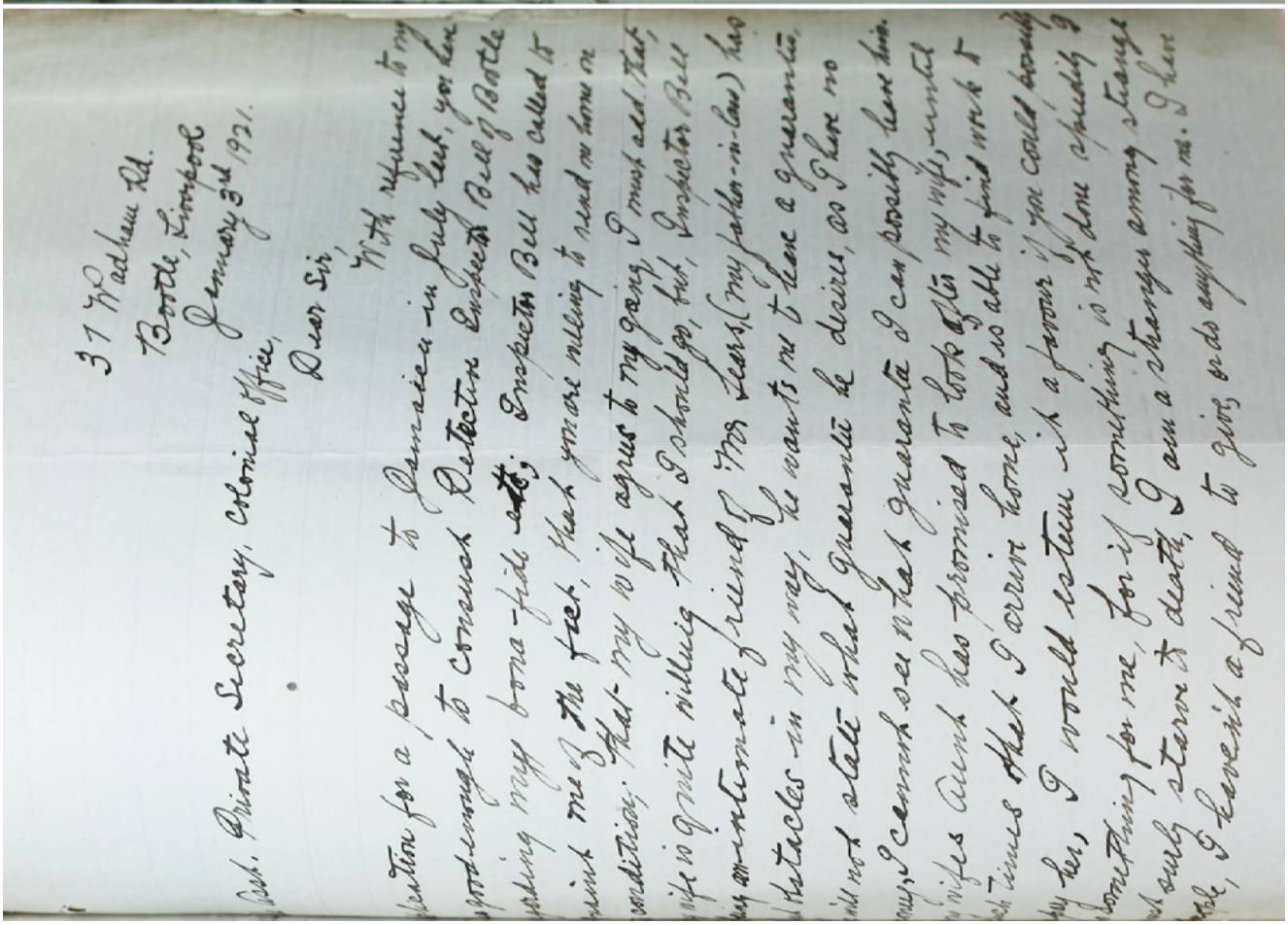
Yours very truly,

President of R.A.I

President of E.E.S.

Source 8: Letter from a seaman named Claudius Smart to the Colonial Office, London 3 January, 1921. Catalogue Ref: CO 137 744





Transcript: Source 8

The Assist. Private Secretary, Colonial Office, 31 Wadham Rd,

Bootle, Liverpool

January 3rd 1921.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my application for a passage to Jamaica in July last, you have been good enough to contact Detective Inspector Bell of Bootle regarding my bona-fide [illegible], Inspector Bell has called to acquaint me of the fact, that you are willing to send me home on condition that my wife agrees to my going. I must add that, my wife is quite willing that I should go, but, Inspector Bell, being an intimate friend of Mr Sears, (my father-in-law) has put obstacles in my way, he wants me to leave a guarantee, he will not state what guarantee he desires, as I have no money, I cannot see what guarantee I can possibly leave him. My wife's aunt has promised to look after my wife, until such time that I arrive home, and is able to find work to repay her. I would esteem it a favour if you could possibly do something for me, for if something is not done speedily I must surely starve to death. I am a stranger among strange people, I haven't a friend to give, or do anything for me. I have no hope of finding employment here, as there are thousands of men? In the country unable to find employment. And again I have been seeking work for the last month, every day, and I can see no sign of my efforts being likely to be rewarded. So I may remain here, and in that rate death must be the inexorable [unavoidable] end as on no account would I condescend to enter the workhouse. I am willing to send money for my wife as soon as I have arrived in Jamaica and secure a berth. Beyond that I cannot do anything. If you can see your way to answer my letter direct instead of dealing through Inspector Bell, I would esteem it a favour.

Thanking for this, in anticipation.

I am Sir,
Yours respectfully,
C. A. [Claudius] Smart

External links

Below is a selection of useful blogs from The National Archives with documents for further study:

- From Cardiff to the Caribbean[1]
- Raising awareness of the 1919 'race riots' in Liverpool[2]
- Once British always British: Stories of Indian and Yemeni sailors in Britain in the 1920s[3]
- Black Poppies: Britain's Black Community and the Great War[4]

Below are some additional useful links from outside The National Archives:

- The Yemeni Project[5]

An online archive relating to the history of the South Shields Yemeni community.

- The Heritage & Cultural Exchange: Tiger Bay and the World[6]

A community-based organisation that aims to chronicle the cultural diversity of Tiger Bay and Cardiff Docklands.

- Writing on the Wall: From Great War to Race Riots[7]

An archive documenting black ex-servicemen, seamen and factory workers stranded or left destitute in Liverpool after the First World War.

[1] https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/from-cardiff-to-the-caribbean-the-1919-race-riots/

[2] https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/raising-awareness-of-the-1919-race-riots-in-liverpool/

[3] https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/once-british-always-british-stories-of-indian-and-yemeni-sailors-in-britain-in-the-1920s/

[4] https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/black-poppies-britains-black-community-great-war/

[5] https://www.theyemeniproject.org.uk/

[6] https://www.tigerbay.org.uk/

[7] https://www.greatwar-to-raceriots.co.uk/

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our Onsite Workshops are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our Online Workshops allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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