

PC 6/1/1/7/42



20th January, 1954.

The Secretary,
Y.M.C.A.
Toc H. War Funds Trust,
P.O. Box 1586,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Arising out of discussions which took place at the Y.M.C.A. National Conference at the end of last year. I understand that your Trust will soon be wound up and its funds distributed amongst suitably deserving organisations. I am writing therefore, to enquire into the possibility of obtaining a grant for the work of the Y.M.C.A. for Africans, at Edendale, near Maritzburg.

This venture was started as a project of the National Council of Y.M.C.A.s working through the Natal Regional Council, just over two years ago. A Y.M.C.A. Hall is leased and run as a Social Centre in Edendale - a peri - urban slum on the outskirts of Maritzburg with a population of some 20,000 people most of whom are Africans. The Y.M.C.A. is the only body which provides regular, organised recreational facilities in this area.

During the first two years of its operation the Edendale Y.M.C.A. received a substantial grant from the Natal Regional Council of Y.M.C.A.s. However owing to the comparative failure of this Councils recent appeals for funds, we are faced with a greatly reduced grant for the current year.

This comes at a time when the Hall which is in use is already too small for our purposes when our work is expanding and when we have an opportunity to purchase a much larger and more suitable building as a permanent Y.M.C.A. property. Cost of this hall would be in the region of £3,000 and it has been suggested that it might be regarded as a Memorial Hall to African Ex-Servicemen.

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The Edendale Y.M.C.A. is a new project. Its activities have come to be accepted as an integral part of life of the community and we cannot afford to let its work lapse now. If your fund could in any way assist us with a grant towards the purchase of the building referred to, as a permanent Y.M.C.A. War Memorial to Africans, and towards the furtherance of this work, it would go far towards ensuring the success of the whole project. We feel that no opportunity of establishing and securing the work should be missed and any assistance which your Trust could render would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

CHAIRMAN.