

EAST AFR. PROT.
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62003
Recd
Regd 26 DEC 1916

No Series Cont
aining 112

1916
Sept.

previous Paper.
48888

TURKHANA EXPEDITION 1915

Trs report by major General Sir M.J. Ticho.
Draws attention to services of certain officers and
men. Recommends grant of A.G.S. Medal.

Mr. Butler:

We had Genl. Edwards report on
45008/15, and the A.G.S. Medal
has already been granted.

? Copy of despatch sent to W.O.
pointing out that the medal
has been awarded. W.O. 28/12/16

Mr. Read:

The Col. will now know from our
telegram of the 17th of November on
45888, that the medal has been
granted. We must leave the question

subsequent Paper.
45890

individual rewards to the W.O.; but
I can't imagine that they will be
able to grant any, in view of the
number of claims from more important
spheres of military activity.

Tab

29.12.16

at once

H. J. R.

29/211/16

1-3

270

No. 112.

CONFIDENTIAL

September 12, 1915

REC'D
REC'D

DESPATCH RELATING TO FIELD OPERA

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a copy of a report by Major-General Sir Tighe, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., relating to the Report which took place in 1914-15 against the T tribes.

2. These operations were undertaken in a country of desert wastes and unhealthy and the troops were subjected to long and trying marches under a tropical sun, while the small supplies of water obtainable were frequently tainted with soda or salt, or putrid. The casualties of our forces were 88 while those of the enemy were 586, and the capture of nearly 150,000 head of stock was effected.

3. In fact these operations against the Turkhans

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR

DOWNING STREET

Turkham were equal in importance and proportion, if they did not exceed, those of any other measure in Uganda or East Africa since the outbreak of the Uganda Mutiny. The troops were required to perform a task involving prolonged exertion and endurance, while the difficulties inseparable from a line of communication extending some 200 miles from the Uganda Railway to the field base with a forward projection of some further 300 miles must not be forgotten.

4. I have much pleasure in bringing to your notice the excellent services performed by the following officers:-

Colonel (Temporary Brigadier-General) W. F. S. Edwards, D.S.O., for the thorough manner in which he carried out the operations, the success of which was largely owing to his energy and skill.

Bimbashi D. A. Fairbairn, 9th Soudanese Regiment, for good work in his capacity as Officer Commanding the Company of the 9th Soudanese Regiment during the third phase of the operations.

Captain G. S. Long-Innes, Police Service Battalion, for good work in his capacity as Officer Commanding No. 3 Column.

Lieutenant R. F. Wainford, Police Service Battalion, for good work in his capacity as

Officer

From

To

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Date.....

Sir,

In accordance with instructions received from the War Office, I have the honour to report myself in connection with my appointment to the West African Frontier Force.

2. My address is:—

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

..... Rank,

..... Regiment.

Appointed to.....

To Sail.....

African (West) No. 691.....

Vaccination Certificate.....

Record of Service on A.F. B. 199.....

Officer Commanding No.1 Column.

Lieutenant L. Handley, Police Service Battalion, for consistent good work throughout the operations.

Mr. D. R. Crampton, District Commissioner, for assistance rendered in his capacity of Political and Intelligence Officer.

El Yashashi Samit Effendi Mohamed El Sherif, 9th Soudanese Regiment, for good work generally.

No.2805 Shawish Abd El Jan Hussein, 9th Soudanese Regiment, for good work generally.

No.1824 S/Sergeant Ali Egal,

No.421 Corporal Sundulli,

No.4410 Corporal Noah Katanga,

No.2324 2/Constable Okoth Obero,

No.3246 2/Constable Odare Okello,

No.3049 3/Constable Ondole wa Kithoga,

Police Service Battalion, for prominent service throughout the operations.

5. I have also much pleasure in recommending for special distinction the following members of the Expedition:-

Captain W. Higby, Police Service Battalion, for the efficient handling of his command under particularly difficult and trying conditions, the Column under his direction having performed continuous good and meritorious work throughout the operations.

Captain

Captain G. De Blanc Smith, Police Service Battalion, for the ability and strenuous activity shown by him in his capacity of Adjutant and Quartermaster and for the able assistance which he at all times accorded the Officer Commanding.

No.1211 Sergeant Mahomed Ahmed, Police Service Battalion, for gallant conduct at Thaigwa on March 3rd, 1915, when he succeeded, while in charge of a party of only six men, in capturing large quantities of stock in spite of the repeated and determined efforts of large bodies of the enemy to recover them.

No.1888 Corporal Hamis Mchenza, Police Service Battalion, for coolness and gallantry in extricating, with the loss of one man only, a reconnoitring patrol of 5 men when completely surrounded by some 200 or 300 spearmen at Murooskar on April 12th, 1915, in spite of the determined and prolonged attack by the enemy.

No.3444 3rd Constable Ndonge Nzenta, Police Service Battalion, for gallant conduct on the night of April 6th, 1915, in the course of an attack by the enemy on a post on the Turawell River, in that he took the place of his Section Commander who was wounded, being himself severely wounded, and continued to direct the fire of the Section until the retirement of

the

the enemy.

6. In his covering letter to the War Office, dated July 16th, 1915, General Tighe stated that he proposed to record for the present the names of officers employed on subsidiary expeditions who have rendered distinguished service, and to submit those deserving of commendation at the end of the war. The names I have mentioned above in paragraphs 4 and 5 are with the exception of that of the officer Commanding referred to by Brigadier-General Edwards in his report on the Expedition, a copy of which accompanied by Confidential despatch No. 63 of the 18th of August, 1915.

7. Finally I desire to submit a strong recommendation that the efforts of the troops who took part in this expedition should be recognized by the grant of the Africa General Service Medal. I understand that the Governor concurs in my views on this point and that my recommendation will be Brigadier-General Edwards is at active service in German East Africa and General Tighe's report will in be sufficient to meet the case.

to be

INCLOSURE

INCLOSURE

To Despatch No. 112 of 12/1/1915

1914/Despatch No. 112 of 12/1/1915

REPORT ON TURKHANA EXPEDITION-1915.

1. In November 1914, it was decided to send a Punitive Expedition against the TURKHANA Tribes, whose conduct had been far from satisfactory.

They repeatedly raided the neighbouring SAMBURU tribes, obliging the latter to evacuate a large portion of their grazing ground, and looted much stock from them.

2. The conduct of the operations was entrusted to Lieutenant-Colonel W.F.S. Edwards, D.S.O., in command of the Police Service Battalion.

The composition of the Force was as under:-

	<u>British Officers.</u>	<u>African Officers.</u>	<u>British Ranks.</u>	<u>African Ranks.</u>
Police Service Battalion.	12		2	300
I Company 9th Sudanese Regt (in last phase only).	2	2		67
Uganda Police.	1			40
Armed Constabulary, N. Frontier.	2			14
Med: African.	1	3		2
Total.	18	5	2	423

POLITICAL OFFICER. Mr. D.R. Crampton, D.C. (TURKHANA District)

3. The area of operations comprised some 12,000 square miles, West of Lakes RUDOLF and SUGOTA.

The country is wild and sparsely inhabited, barren, and mountainous, and broken districts, alternate with low lying and swampy areas, covered with thick bush. The climate is trying, both on account of the heavy rains,

and

and the great heat.

4. The objects of the expedition were:-

- (i). To punish, and exact retribution for their raids, from the TURKHANA Tribes.
- (ii). To capture the principal refractory Chief EBE, and all other rebel Chiefs.
- (iii). To disarm sections of the tribes reported to be armed.

5. The operations were divided into three phases, the duration of which extended from 4th February to 28th May 1915.

6. The preliminary concentration of troops, was made in 3 Columns, and was completed as under:-

- No. 1 Column, Commander - Lieutenant R.F. Rainsford, at NGINYAN, on 30th January 1915, after 9 days march.
- No. 2 Column, Commander - Captain W. Rigby, at MARICH, on 29th January 1915, after 16 days march.
- No. 3 Column, Commander - Captain C.S. Long-Innes, at NGABOTOK on 2nd February 1915, after 21 days march.

7. The first phase of the operations, consisted in driving the country on to the TURKWELL, and round up stock. The area of operations was the valleys of SUGOTA and KERIO, flanked to the West by the TURKWELL river.

The only active operations during this phase, resulted in the loss of 1 Policeman, and 2 porters killed, and a despatch runner wounded. This occurred on the line of the TURKWELL.

Although there was little fighting, there was hard marching. As instances of which, it is recorded that one column covered 120 miles in 4 days on one occasion, and 150 miles in 6 days on another; another column marched 36 miles in 16 hours, without water.

8. A week was spent in placing four different columns in position for the second phase of the operations. 71.

Three columns moved practically parallel to each other, and in a general direction from South to North, covering the country between Lake RUDOLF, and the TURKWELL RIVER, North of a line NGABOTOK - South end of Lake RUDOLF.

The fourth column operated in the area enclosed by PURILE RIVER-ROCKY PEAK-NAKOKO HILL. In addition to the above, the line of the TURKWELL was also picquetted.

During the movements of these columns, 4 attacks were made by the enemy; 2 of them were at night on the TURKWELL RIVER line, resulting in 1 Policeman being killed, and 4 severely wounded.

An attack was also made on a grazing guard on the 9th April 1915, when some ^{stock} was carried off, (this was afterwards recovered), and 1 man was wounded.

The fourth attack was made with considerable tenacity, on a small patrol, one Policeman being killed.

9. As a preliminary to the third phase of the operations, 8 days were spent in reorganising the force.

The area covered comprised that lying West of Lake RUDOLF, and between Mts. LABUR, PELEGECH, and SINGHOTE-TARASH and MUROSKAR Range; and KOZIBIR HILL-KOSIBIR RIVER, and the TURKWELL RIVER, below the point where the former runs into the latter. In this phase a detachment of the 9th Sudanese Regiment from MORONGOLE co-operated.

Two Flying Columns operated from the KOZIBIR RIVER. "A" Column to the North, as far as the line TARASH-KAGWALAS. "B" Column through the KAGWALAS HILLS to PELEGECH Mountain after which it was divided ^{into} two portions. One of these (No. 2 Column of the Police Service Battalion, under Captain Rigby) operated towards and to the North of LABUR Mountain. It then wheeled South and drove the country West of Lake RUDOLF, to-

wards

towards LARAMET Camp. The other portion worked due East ,
also towards LARAMET Camp. / "A" Column closed in to fill
the gap KAGVALAS HILLS-MURUKANYARIF. 72

The efforts of these columns were directed to rounding up stock, and the capture of EBE, and other Chiefs.

In the former the troops met with considerable success; but owing to lack of guides and want of knowledge of the country, the rebel Chiefs succeeded in evading capture. In this ~~day~~ they were greatly helped by the difficult nature of the ground.

The Officer Commanding the expedition, however, is confident that the three principal Chiefs; EBE, LOLEL and LOKWELL suffered heavily in loss of stocks, and their power is finally broken.

It was found that as far as rifles were concerned the TURKHANA were unarmed.

10. The Supply and Transport arrangements were entirely dependent on porter and donkey transport, principally the latter. They were controlled by the Adjutant and Quartermaster of the Police Service Battalion, Captain LeBlanc with, and are reported to have been most satisfactory.

11. During the expedition, the health of the force suffered considerably, 25% of the British Officers being invalided, and 8% of the rank and file; in addition to this a large percentage was treated for malaria and dysentery.

In the KERIO valley an unknown epidemic attacked No.2 Column, causing over 20 deaths in a few days.

12. Our casualties during the operations were:-

<u>Killed.</u>		<u>Wounded.</u>		<u>Missing.</u>	
Comb.	Non-Comb.	Comb.	Non-Comb.	Comb.	Non-Comb.
8	4	18	2	3	-----
					died

Died of disease.

73

Comb. Non-Comb.

24

9

The enemy's casualties are reported as

Killed.

Wounded.

Captured.

407

86

63

Stock of all kinds captured totalled nearly 150,000 head.

13. While the detachment of the 9th Soudanese Regiment was taking part in the TURKHANA operations, a party of some 40 men was left at MORONGOLI under MULAZIM-AWAL ISA EFFENDI MOHAMED, 9th Soudanese Regiment.

On April 29th, at about 7.30 a.m., a report was received that a raid by a large body of natives (MERILE or TURKHANA) was being carried out against the KARAMOJA tribes.

The Effendi at once moved out with 30 men, and some 15 minutes after leaving camp, he encountered the enemy, estimated at 2000 men with some 40 rifles.

He at once attacked them, drove them off and recovered the looted stock.

The enemy's losses were estimated at about 200 killed. Ten rifles and 200 spears were captured.

The losses of the Soudanese Detachment were two porters killed and one wounded.

Gen. EAP

62003
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C. BN
1 JAN.
3.

~~So~~

~~1916~~

3 Jan 1917

Sir,

with ref to the ^{letter from} ~~copy~~ of
the sect. of the 8th of Sept. ^{noted in the margin, I have to}

transmit to you, to be laid

before the A.C., the acc. copy

of a despatch from the Gen. of the

EAP, enclosing a copy of a

report by Major-General Sir

W. J. Tighe relating to the

operations against the Turkish
tribes - 1914-15.

2. I am to point out

DRAFT.

(41361
Uganda)

Secretary
War Office

MINUTE.

Mr. Jewell 1/11/1917
Mr. Bottomley 1/11/17 for
Mr.

- Mr. Grindle.
- Mr. Lambert.
- Mr. Read.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- ~~Mr. Bonar Law.~~

12 Sept 1916

that the Africa General
Service Medal has been
awarded for these operations, the
draft Army Order on the subject
having been sent to the C.O. in
your note, 68/East Africa/922
(A.G. 10), of the 12th of Oct.

?

FOR THE RECORD

62003 / 16 cap

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War Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.

RECEIVED
JAN 17
COL

15th January 1917.

35 (M.S.3)

The Secretary of the War Office presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State, and, with reference to Colonial Office Letter No.62003 of the 3rd instant, would be greatly obliged if a copy of the report furnished by Brigadier-General A.H.M. Edwards, referred to in the enclosure which accompanied the Colonial Office letter above quoted, can be supplied for reference.

W.S.
Under Secretary of State,
COLONIAL OFFICE.