

EAST AFR. PROT  
11902

11902  
Rec<sup>d</sup>  
Reg<sup>d</sup> 12 MAR 15

Boaring 82  
for Governor

MARSHIAN OPERATIONS

1915  
2nd January

The despatch by O.C. relating to Field Operations. States as to good services of certain officers. Requests to endorse recommendation for grant of African General Service Medals to troops and followers. Prefers to leave matter for S. of S. decision.

Last previous Paper.  
Gov  
11141

Mr. Bottomley

(and reply prepared below)

(1) send copy of despatch and note to W.O.

drawing attention to the good services rendered by the British Officers mentioned in the O.C.'s report and the Gov's despatch.

(2) Ackn. note say that the S. of S. has read this and the despatch of 3 July (1860) with interest and considers that great credit is due to Officers and troops concerned for the successful conclusion of the operations

and that he writes with satisfaction the good services of Lieut. Col. Graham and the Officers especially mentioned in his report say that their names have

been brought to the notice of the Com. Council and that he will refer to para. 5, approve the grant of the Medal for Distinguished Conduct

How? 302 can 30 April 15  
Capt. 302 can May 15

5/11/15  
K.H.K.  
22000  
No. 41/15/15  
470  
22000

in the field by Effendi & Uddi Sheriff & Uddi  
and Sergeant Tama Adur. [Uddi's 198  
of the K.A.R. Regts. The Sgt may award this  
medal.] and say that the question of  
the grant of the Afr. General Service Medal  
to all troops and followers will be left over  
for future consideration.

[I see that Col. Hoskins in his minute  
of 28/6/44 strongly recommended the  
A.G.S. medal - observing that the  
two remaining alternatives were to  
grant the native troops (a) a monetary  
reward (b) another wife each.

I presume that the question of the  
grant of the Medal is for the consideration of  
the Interdepartmental Rewards Council  
which is, I understand, suspended at  
present.

? bring up these pp. when the Council  
is reconstituted.

I suppose that it cannot yet be decided whether  
the A.G.S. Medal, if granted, should be given  
to Mr. Lense, the Vet<sup>y</sup> Officer, and the  
M.O. with the expedition? Col. Hoskins's  
minute suggests that the proposal is  
only meant to apply to native troops  
and followers. If it is not for the  
Vet<sup>y</sup> Officer we can definitely inform  
Mr. Lense now, in answer to his inquiry  
(see File 4979/9), that no medal will be  
granted].

27/2/45

We might suggest to W.D. that the def. should be published & the African General Service Medal awarded. They will probably refuse, but we need not take it for granted that our expeditions are not to be recognized. Of course all ranks get the medal - & there is no good reason for excluding his case.

There is being  
of his file  
the medal is not  
be granted  
W.D. 10/2/15

W.D. 23/15

In my opinion, following our  
precedents, this is not a case in which  
the A.G.S. medal is to have been agreed to  
~~be granted~~ of the Rewards Com.

However this is a particularly  
inopportune time to give it as proper  
in E. Afr. would be able to understand  
why this hunting exped<sup>n</sup> gets a medal  
the combatants elsewhere get nothing

I sh<sup>d</sup> say as much to W.D. in  
sending this; & add that the Gov. will  
be inclined to call on the D.C. to  
state the nature of his services in  
report of the D.C. is recommended  
[I transferred a permit to

dep. leads on without any clear  
idea of what the column really did ]

Cattle driving  
W

Apr. 24, 4-15

Apr. 24, 15

It seems to have been a well  
timed piece of police work  
successfully conducted, and should  
be commended as such.  
It hardly seems to justify  
a medal.

J.  
26.4.15

I agree with Ed. Polington

Apr 27.4.15

Room 3

303

11902

EAST AFRICA PROTESTANTS

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

No. 22

27th February 1916.

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a despatch by Lieutenant Colonel A.K. Graham, Officer Commanding 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles, relating to the recent operations against the Mercha operations.

2. I consider that the result of the operations has been entirely satisfactory and trust that it will in future be possible to carry on Civil Administration without any difficulty.

3. Colonel Graham has outlined the course of events which have led to what is now the

4. It is my pleasure to advise that you are hereby notified as officers:-

Lieut. Colonel A.K. Graham, D.  
Commanding 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles, as Officer Commanding the Mercha operations performed his duty with the utmost intelligence, energy and discretion.

RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

discretion, and the thanks of Government are due to him for the efforts which have enabled him to bring matters to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

Lieutenant-Colonel L.H.S. Ward, 4th Battalion, King's African Rifles, Commanded the Lines of Communication with ability and relieved the Officer Commanding of a large amount of responsibility.

Major L.H. Soames, 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, proved himself an able leader in the field. His previous knowledge of the country was of great assistance to the Officer Commanding.

Captain J.F. Edwards, 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles, performed the duties of Staff Officer to the Force in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

Lieutenant S.G. Phillips, 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, Transport Officer. An indefatigable Officer to whose able management of the Serenli Military Transport Corps the success of the operations is in no small measure due.

Lieutenant S.J. Iyaganya, 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles, Base Supply and Transport Officer, Serenli.

Lieutenant F. Elliott (Reserve of Officers), Assistant Superintendent of Police (now a District Commissioner). Acted as Intelligence Officer. His knowledge and experience

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Lieutenant C.G. Phillips, 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, Transport Officer. An indefatigable officer to whose able management of the Serenli Military Transport Corps the success of the operations is in no small measure due.

Lieutenant S.S. Lovatova, 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles, Base Supply and Transport Officer, Serenli.

Lieutenant F. Elliott (Reserve of Officers), Assistant Superintendent of Police (now a District Commissioner). Acted as Intelligence Officer. His knowledge and experience



3.

experience of the Somalis added very considerably to the success of the final negotiations.

Mr. H. Massey, East Africa Protectorate Medical Service, carried out his duties in a very capable manner.

5. Further I recommend that the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field be granted to the following African Officer and Non-commissioned Officer.

- (i) Effendi Abdi Sheriff Ahmed, P. (Camel Company), 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles.
- (ii) No. 4008 Sergeant Jama Adur, P. (Camel Company), 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles.

6. I have some hesitation however in endorsing the general recommendation that the African General Service Medal should be given to all troops and followers employed in the operations.

Being personally unaware of your views as to the circumstances under which this medal should be bestowed I prefer to leave the matter for your decision without further observations than to say that although it is a fact that the troops incurred considerable hardship in the course of the operations there appears to have been but little active conflict with the enemy.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your humble, obedient servant,

*Ed. Bourne*  
OFFICER

No 1288.

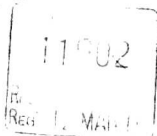
ENCLOSURE

332

16 Dec 1918. 82 of 2 - 2 - 1918

From

The Officer Commanding  
3rd King's African Rifles.  
(late Commanding Mershan Force)



To

The Honourable  
The Chief Secretary.

NAIROBI, 11th January 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the recent operations in the Mershan country.

The state of tension which had existed between Government and the Mershan Somalis subsequent to the receipt by the latter in April 1918 of the order for disarmament culminated in December in an attack by the Mer Tulha section on the Signaling Post at Adalifah.

Previous intelligence had led to the belief that this section would have refrained from any overt act of hostility and this action on their part complicated matters since the country occupied by them lay athwart the Lines of Communication between Sereeli and Garabahare. The Officer Commanding Troops decided to deal with the Tulha and escort simultaneously reserve food supplies to Garabahare—70 miles North of Sereeli.

On the 21st of January Captain Stonor attacked the Tulha at Bogoyce. Owing to the obstinate and

unexpected opposition offered by the enemy and the difficulty of carrying our wounded - Lieut A.W.D. Bentinck and one Eirendi were both dangerously wounded- through a hostile bush country to Geredahare, Captain Stonor decided to abandon his original plans and return to Sereñli. The number of troops did not admit of the formation of a Line of Communication between Sereñli and Geredahare.

2. On my arrival at Sereñli on 3rd February the situation was complicated still further by the very disquieting rumours as to the attitude of Aoukir Jibrahil section of the Aulihan and I felt that if they were to join the Merehan there would be a grave risk of a general conflagration and a rising of the entire Ogaden Somalis in the Province which would have necessitated a costly, tedious and probably indecisive expedition. I accordingly asked for reinforcements and applied also for some Indian Package Camels as the local supplies was quite inadequate for the requirements of the troops and for the transport of food supplies from Kismayu to Sereñli a distance of 250 miles.

With considerable difficulty 70 Hassan Jibrahil "illaloes" were obtained. Their fighting value was not great but they proved invaluable in driving stock and above all their adherence to Government committed the Aulihan as a whole against the Merehan.

3. On the 17th February the force advanced against the Her Fulha who, having suffered a few casualties retired driving their stock into the dense bush on the river Juba. As it was necessary to inflict as much damage as possible before the advent of the rains I decided to leave the Her Fulha for the time being and proceed to Garebahare and operate against the other sections of whom the Ahmed Wet were undoubtedly the most bitter opponents of Government control.

4. On the 20th February the force moved to Makalla, a big watering centre, no opposition was encountered and a certain amount of stock was killed and captured. I divided the troops into two columns to hold Hwabali and Makalla respectively. A night attack was made on the latter camp, but was equally repulsed, the fire discipline of the troops being excellent.

As there was little stock in the neighbourhood the force returned to Garebahare and proceeded thence along the Juba River to Lugh and Jahago. Minor skirmishes occurred and a good deal of stock was collected but the shortage of rations necessitated a return to Serenli which was reached on March 20th. A few days prior to this one Company 1st King's African Rifles had arrived at Serenli.

Though the actual casualties inflicted on the enemy were small the political results were most satisfactory as some sections who had previously been sitting on the fence remained loyal and the

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON

others realized that despite their boast, our men could move anywhere. Further the presence of three Companies of Sir King's African Rifles in Gebwen and Yonti had an excellent effect on the Somalis in Southern Jubaland.

5. On the 31st March I despatched a Column under Major Soames to proceed North from Garabaha. This patrol effected the capture of a large amount of Ali Dera stock and inflicted several casualties. Major Soames' movements were considerably hampered by the lack of water and he returned to Serenli on the 20th April. The same day the Indian baggage Camel<sup>s</sup> escorted by one Company 3rd King's African Rifles arrived at Serenli with food supplies, and I received His Excellency's telegraphic instructions that any future action I might take was to be not so much for the disarmament of the tribes as for the re-establishment of our prestige and the early resumption of Civil Administration.

6. The arrival of the reinforcements and the general effect of seeing a large caravan of Indian camels marching from the coast to Serenli had a very dispiriting effect on the Marahan and active opposition now to all intents and purposes ceased.

The troops moved out in two Columns under Major Soames and myself and collected practically all the fines in rifles, ponies, and stock which I had indicated.

7. Though there was very little actual fighting the troops underwent considerable hardships. Marches were long, the country a very trying one and the heat especially from January to March very intense, and further till the arrival of the Indian baggage Camels the men were frequently on half rations.

8. I have the honour to bring especially to the favourable notice of His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief the services of the following Officers :-

Lieut-Colonel L.E.S.Ward, 4th King's African Rifles, Commanded the Lines-of-Communication with ability and relieved me of a vast amount of responsibility.

Major L.H.Somes, 1st King's African Rifles, has proved himself an able leader in the field. His previous knowledge of the country was of great assistance to me.

Captain J.F.Edwards, 3rd King's African Rifles, performed the duties of Staff Officer to the Force in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

Lieut. C.G.Phillips, 1st King's African Rifles, Transport Officer, an indefatigable Officer to whose able management of the Serenli Military Transport Corps the success of the operations is in no small measure due.

Lieut. E. J. Lovegrove, 3rd King's African Rifles, Base Supply and Transport Officer Serenli.

Lieut. E. Elliott, Reserve of Officers, Intelligence Officer to whose knowledge and experience of the Somalis the success of the final negotiations must be attributed.

Dr. T.H. Massey, East Africa Protectorate Medical Service, proved himself an ideal Medical Officer for the Force. There can only be a very few amongst the Officers and men who are not grateful to him for his professional skill and cheery optimism.

9. I have the honour also to recommend very strongly the bestowal of the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field on the following African Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer :-

- (i) Effendi Abdi Sherif Ahmed F. (Camel Company)  
3rd King's African Rifles.
- (ii) No. 4008 Sergeant Jama Adur F. (Camel Company)  
3rd King's African Rifles.

10. In conclusion I hope His Excellency may be pleased to recommend the grant of the African General Service Medal and Clasp "Merehan 1913-1914" to all troops and followers employed in and North of Serenli between the 15th December 1913 and 31st May 1914.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

sd/- B. B. GRAHAM Lieut-Colonel.

Officer Commanding 3rd Bn: K. A. Rifles.

(late Commanding Merehan Force.)

Lieut. E. Elliott, Reserve of Officers, Intelligence Officer to whose knowledge and experience of the Somali the success of the final negotiations must be attributed.

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9. I have the honour also to recommend very strongly the bestowal of the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field on the following African Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer :-

- (i) Effendi Abdi Sheriff Ahmed P. (Camel Company)  
3rd King's African Rifles.
- (ii) No. 4608 Sergeant Jama Adur P. (Camel Company)  
3rd King's African Rifles.

10. In conclusion I hope His Excellency may be pleased to recommend the grant of the African General Service Medal and Clasp "Marehan 1913-1914" to all troops and followers employed in and North of Serenli between the 15th December 1913 and 31st May 1914.

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Your obedient servant.

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Br. B. GRAHAM Lieut-Colonel.  
Officer Commanding 3rd Bn: K. A. Rifles.  
(late Commanding Mercha Force.)

For 11902/1915

EAP



Loc

30 April 1915.

DRAFT.

E.A.P. - No. 302

For Sir W. Belfield.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 29/4/1915.

Mr. Bottomley 30/4/15

Mr. Reed 30/4/15

Mr.

Sir G. Fiades.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

Recd 11/5/15  
16/5/15

Jenkins to me  
D. Harvey & Elliott noted  
2/19

On 100 cases 1 May 1915

Dear Sir,  
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular, No. 52 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Insty and to inform you that relating to the recent operations against the Meneha tribe which I have read with interest. The operations seem to have been well timed and successfully conducted, and to reflect great credit on Lt. Col Graham and the officers, non-

(17)

Commissioned Officers and  
men who took part in  
them.

3 I regret that I am  
not able to <sup>support</sup> ~~approve~~ Lt.  
Col. Graham's recommendation  
that the Africa General  
Service medal should be  
granted for these operations.  
I am however prepared to  
consider the question of  
granting the R.A.F. Distinguished  
Conduct Medal to Effendi Abdi  
Sheriff Ahmed and Sergeant  
Jama Asker & have to request  
that you <sup>should</sup> call upon the  
Officer Commanding to state the  
nature of the services in respect  
of which it is recommended  
that the medal should be  
awarded to them.

2. The ~~good services~~  
of the officers <sup>mentioned</sup>  
the deep: we being  
brought to the notice  
of the Army Council  
I have noted with  
the terms in which  
refer to Lieut: F. E.  
District Comm<sup>r</sup>,  
D. J. H. Huxley  
the E. Africa Post  
Medical Service

(Signed) Lt. HARGREAVES.

commissioned officers and  
men who took part in  
them.

3 I regret that I am  
not able to <sup>support</sup> ~~approve~~ the  
Col Graham's recommenda-  
tion that the Africa General  
Service medal should be  
granted for these operations.  
I am however prepared to  
consider the question of  
granting the ~~R. A. F. Distinguished~~  
Conduct Medal to Effendi Abd  
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that you will call upon the  
Officer Commanding to state the  
nature of the services in respect  
of which it is recommended  
that the medal should be  
awarded to them.

2 The ~~first~~ <sup>part</sup> names  
of the officers <sup>mentioned</sup>  
the despatch: we being  
brought to the notice  
of the Army Council  
I have noted with  
the terms in which  
refer to Lieut: F. G.  
District Comm<sup>r</sup>,  
D. J. H. Newey  
the Africa Post  
General Service

(Signed) L. HARCOURT.

Gov. 11902/1915  
E.A.P.

1st May 1915

Ans'd 22090

DRAFT.

The Secretary,  
War Office.

MINUTE.

- Mr. ~~Harper~~ 29/4/15
- Mr. ~~Bottomley~~ 30/4/15
- Mr. ~~Lead~~ 30
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Wellington.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Sir,

I am or. to transmit to you to be laid before the Army Council the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Gov<sup>mt</sup> of the I.A.F. forwarding a report on the recent operations against the Mesehan tribe, together with a copy of the reply which he has addressed to Sir H. Bedford.

Mr. Harcourt has not considered that the operations were such as

Gov. 82. 2 July 1915  
(H. Harcourt)

would justify the grant  
of the Africa General  
Service Medal, but  
he would be glad  
if ~~the dispatch could~~  
~~be published in the~~  
~~London Gazette and~~  
if a note could be  
made in the W.O. of the  
good services of the  
Officers mentioned.

(Signed) H. J. READ.  
for the Under Secretary of State