

J6

EAST AFR. PROT

19018

REC'D
APR 26 1915

19018

Gov's Depy 216
Bawring

MR WODSON'S JOURNEY
FROM NAIROBI TO ADIS ABABA

1915

19th March

Last previous Paper.

Trs copy of Report.

30/12601

See 70.
12601

Put by

atome

is J.H.

28/IV/15

Put by

Next subsequent Paper.

17

C. O.
19018
REC'D
26 APR 15

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 216

March 19th 1915.

Sir,

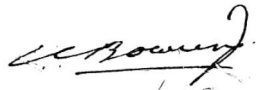
I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of
a report by Mr. A. Hodson, His Britannic Majesty's
Consul for Southern Abyssinia of his journey from
Nairobi to Adis Ababa.

From Mr. Hodson
8. 2. 15
with enclosure

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,



GOVERNOR *in Deputy*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

DOWNING STREET,

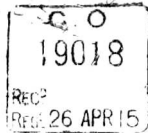
LONDON, S.W.

INCLOSURE

is Despatch No. 216 of 29-3-1915

No. S.A. 4

BRITISH LEGATION,
ADDIS ABABA,



February 8th, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that in accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State I left England on September 6th by the Lunvegan Castle and proceeded via the Cape and Mombasa to Nairobi reaching that place on October 17th.

After having reported to H. E. the Governor and receiving the necessary instructions I left Nairobi on November 4th and proceeded to Moyale via the Unso Nyero River, the Lorian Swamp, Wajoleir and Mt. Korondil reaching my destination on December 28th. At Moyale I received your letter under cover of which was forwarded my commission as H.B.M Consul for Southern Ethiopia with the exequatur of the Abyssinian Government attached, and two passports one from the Minister of War and the other from the Minister of the Interior.

2. ~~Fitaureri~~ ~~Rajdi~~ the Abyssinian ~~Officer~~ in charge of Southern Abyssinia was not at Moyale, and the petty official left at the frontier raised objections to my passing through but these Mr. Glenday, the officer stationed at Moyale, overruled, pointing out that with the passports I held I could not be stopped, so on December 31st, I left Moyale.

(2)

Moyale with two mules and eight camels, four police, two oxes, an Abyssinian-French interpreter and my personal servants.

3. We did not proceed by the main route to Adis Ababa but instead went via Arero, the headquarters of the Balameras Waldi Gabriel, as not having seen Fitaurari Waldi I was anxious to meet Cerezmach Gashe who was said to be there in order that I might present my credentials, thus preventing any chance of its being thought that I was trying to pass through secretly.

4. The first wells we reached after leaving Moyale were just the other side of the Cof Hills and contained an unlimited supply of water, and a large quantity of Boran stock are watered here. There were long narrow entrances to these wells with perpendicular walls, in some cases quite a hundred yards long, worked through the ground, to enable the stock to get nearer the water level.

5. From the Cof Hills we proceeded to Kajibo Hill about 33 miles, obtaining water for ourselves from the Boran villages in that neighbourhood. There is a plentiful supply, I believe, in the Borbor wells, a few miles from the hill.

6. From Kajibo we trekked on to Wujjille, 25 miles, where there is a large supply of water in wells and a quantity of stock is watered here. All along this route I was most courteously received by the different

~~Boran-~~

(3)

Boran Chiefs whose villages I passed through. I was most careful in speaking to them to say nothing of a political nature or anything which could be construed as such.

7. From Wujjille we went to Arero. I might mention the road prior to this was over undulating country consisting of large open plains and country lightly covered with thorn and other bush. The undulations are covered with isolated hills and groups of hills, conspicuous amongst them being Gof, Kajibo, etc. It is admirably suited for stock in every respect. After leaving Wujjille we passed through some thick bush till we arrived at the foot of the Arero highlands. I proceeded on ahead of my camels by a path which wound up a precipitous hill to Arero where there is a small outpost of Abyssinians. It was indescribably beautiful arriving at the top with flowers, creepers and cedar forests to greet the eye. The altitude being over 5000 feet the climate is excellent. Through a mistake the camels came by the same path as myself instead of going by an easier route to the West, with the result that some of them did not arrive till the next day. The ascent was so precipitous that it is a marvel to me how they managed to climb up at all.

8. On arrival at Arero I was most courteously received by the Balambaras Walda Gabriel who turned out his soldiers as a guard of honour, and after he had entertained me, he pitched his own tent and put it at my disposal-

(4)

disposal my caravan not having arrived. The next day I showed my passports to the Balambaras to whom they were read by Fitaurari Waldi's secretary. On seeing the seals of the Minister of War and the Interior the whole assembly rose and, after having bowed, remained standing while the contents of the passports were read. The same day Walda Gabriel and his party paid me a visit when I entertained them to the best of my ability. Their remarks were most cordial hoping that we should always be friends whilst I was in their country, and that I would pay them another visit on my return to Mega. Whether these remarks were genuine or not it is, of course, impossible for me to say, but the Balambaras certainly gave me the impression of being friendly disposed.

9.. Having expressed a wish to visit Taga Roba one of the highest points of the Arero highlands, situated about ten miles to the South West of this place, where by the way Fitaurari Waldi has just built a new house for himself, I left the next morning with an Abyssinian escort. We passed through fine forests and scenery till we reached the edge of Taga Roba, height 5740 feet, and from here the view was imposing, Mega and other mountains being plainly visible and Dirre unfolding itself before one as far as the eye could see. I was able to take the bearings of several of the mountains with my prismatic compass for future reference.

Before-

Before returning we were entertained in Fitaurari Waldi's house.

10. At Arero I met two Greeks Messrs. G.S. Cardovil and M.F. Salvracae with whom I had a long discussion re the supply of food for Moyale. They told me that Fitaurari Waldi was present the obstructionist in preventing trade and was decidedly unfavourable towards the British. This only bore out what I was told by Mr. Glenday I.E. that it was extremely difficult at the present moment to get food supplies through from Abyssinia because of the difficulties put in the way of those wishing to trade and that a prohibitive price was asked for the meal that was actually brought down. They also told me that they had at Arero 2000 head of cattle for which, after heavy bribes, they had obtained permission to export to Nairobi. All the stock I saw looked remarkably well and could be handled without showing the slightest sign of fear. In fact I have never seen animals so tame.

11. On January 8th I left Arero. Balambaras Walda Gabriel to add to his kindness having heard that my camels had been excessively tired by the precipitous ascent to Arero, supplied me with eight fresh ones on his own initiative. I was much struck by this further mark of his courtesy. After travelling for 19 miles through an open valley with thorn and small trees scattered over it we reached Yamado where there is plenty of water and from here we passed over stony country

(6)

and crossed several nullahs running towards the Dawa river till we reached Tulawayo, 25 miles distant, where there is a plentiful supply of water in wells, and from Tulawayo we travelled on for ten miles till we struck the main route ^{to} Adis Ababa at Karayo, Fitaaurari Gedu's village, the Chief of the Sabu section of the Boran. I noticed between Yamadu and Tulawayo several Kuso trees with their peculiarly noticeable red flower utilised, I believe, for medicinal purposes. There were many Boran villages along this route rich in cattle and sheep.

12. From Karayo we proceeded to Kuku where I hired baggage mules, leaving my camels to rest at Kuku, and from this place passing through superb scenery we travelled on to Gatelo. Here with the exception of my orderly I returned the police and syces I had brought with me, giving them instructions to return to Moyale picking up the camels at Kuku en route. I had intended having a journey of still 275 miles ahead of me to engage some local men to take their place and act as an escort but as these people demanded their full wages in advance, which would have meant that I should have had no control over them, I decided to dispense with their services and to leave without, so having engaged a nagadie with eight fresh mules I left Gatelo on January 18th arriving at Alatta on the 21st. Here I was most hospitably received by Fitaaurari Gabra Medin who did everything he could to make me comfortable. Leaving Alatta on the 23rd with eight fresh mules I arrived at Adis Ababa on February 6th. It would take too long

to -

to describe the beauties of Sidamo in this report with its wonderful mountains, forests and valleys so rich in produce of every description, and the views which are practically impossible to adequately express on paper, and I venture to say that it would be difficult to find a finer or richer country or one with greater possibilities in front of it.

13. Before concluding I should like to state that as far as I was able to gather there is no cause for anxiety in Southern Abyssinia in so far as British East Africa is concerned. This does not, of course, include robber bands and poachers which I expect will be a menace in the neighbourhood of our border for some years to come.

I think my appointment has caused a certain amount of suspicion in the minds of some of the officials in the South. They say why do the British want Consuls at Harrar, Gambela, Gondar and Mega. I hope that I shall be able to dispel these suspicions in due course. There was a rumour that the Germans had taken Nairobi, and Lugh in Italian Somaliland. In Sidamo Lij Yasu is not popular. He has ^{ill} caused a good deal of feeling by recalling Dejazmatch Balza and taking his country, which was given to him by Menelik, away from him. Balza has been a fine soldier and for this and other reasons was popular with the people. Lij Yasu has given this country to Betwedet Halli Giorgis who married Worzero Sehing his half sister. Halli Giorgis has appointed Atto Zerufu to be Governor of Sidamo and he resides at Abera close to Alatta. I met two

(8)

maxims and several mules laden with ammunition returning to Sidama. These had accompanied Detachment Balza to Adis Ababa on his recall, and had been sent back by Lij Yasu. Another point that makes him unpopular is that his father was a Mohammedan and they say in consequence that he has leanings towards that faith.

13. I drew 500 dollars from Moyale for my journey and out of this expended 215 dollars, approximately £21, made up as follows.

Hire of baggage mules	136	dollars
Miscellaneous	79	"

In conclusion I attach a rough sketch of the road followed and a detailed route report showing the elevation, distances etc., The photographs I have taken I will submit with my annual report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble obedient servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

H. B. M. CONSUL.

C. H. Walker Esq.,

H.B.M. Charge d'Affaires,
Adis Ababa.

(8)

maxims and several mules laden with ammunition returning to Sidamo. These had accompanied Deszmatch Balza to Adis Ababa on his recall, and had been sent back by Lij Yasu. Another point that makes him unpopular is that his father was a Mohammedan and they say in consequence that he has leanings towards that faith.

13. I drew 500 dollars from Moyale for my journey and out of this expended 215 dollars, approximately £21, made up as follows.

Hire of baggage mules	136 dollars
Miscellaneous	79 "

In conclusion I attach a rough sketch of the road followed and a detailed route report showing the elevation, distances etc., The photographs I have taken I will submit with my annual report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble obedient servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

H. B. M. CONSUL.

C. H. Walker Esq.,

H.B.M. Charge d'Affaires,

Adis Ababa.

PLACES	DISTANCE	TOTAL DISTANCE	TIME	ELEVATION			REMARKS
				1st Camp	2nd Camp	3rd Camp	
to Gof Wells	2.5	2.5	* M.7.	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	Boran Villages. Plenty of water in Gof Wells. Good going.
of wells	3.8	5.8	M.9.	4 3 0	4 3 0	4 3 0	Boran Villages. Going good. Water in Boran well a few miles away.
to Wujilli Wells	2.5	8.2	M.7.	3 4 0	3 4 0	3 4 0	Boran Villages. Going good. Plenty of water in wells.
to Wujilli Wells	2.7	1 1 0	M.9½	5 2 0	5 2 0	5 2 0	Going good or first part. Afterwards very hilly. The ascent to Arero is precipitous and most difficult. Water plentiful.
to Arero	1.9	1 2 9	M.6	4 3 4 0	4 3 4 0	4 3 4 0	Going good. Plenty of water one hour from Arero village.
to Yanado Village	2.5	1 5 4	C.10½	4 3 8 0	4 3 8 0	4 3 8 0	Road hilly and bad in places. Plenty of water in Tulawayo wells.
to Yanado Village	1.0	1 6 4	C.4.	5 1 2 0	5 1 2 0	5 1 2 0	Good going. Karayo is a Boran Village where the Chief of the Sabu lives.
to Karayo	1.6	1 8 0	C.6	5 2 0 0	5 2 0 0	5 2 0 0	Sidama be-ins. Good going. Water plentiful.
to Finchoa	1.8	1 9 8	C.7.	6 4 0 0	6 4 0 0	6 4 0 0	Road hilly ascending Sidama highlands. Forests and magnificent scenery. Water plentiful.
to Kuku	2.7	2 2 5	M.11	6 1 4 0	6 1 4 0	6 1 4 0	Very hilly. Plenty of water on route. A large village at Gatalo.
to Gatalo	2.8	2 9 3	M.25	6 8 8 0	6 8 8 0	6 8 8 0	Left main road shortly after leaving Gatalo and went by another route to the East. Very hilly and dense forests and difficult even for pack mules. Plenty of streams crossed. After 30 miles road joins main route again. Fine views of Lake Abaya. Large village at Alatta. Abera, the capital of Sidamo, lies about 4 hours to the South. Telephone starts.
to Alatta	1.7	3 1 0	M.5	6 0 0 0	6 0 0 0	6 0 0 0	Some steep hills. Plenty of water on route.
to Sidamo River	1.5	3 2 5	M.5½	6 1 2 0	6 1 2 0	6 1 2 0	Water in wells at Kolla.
to Kolla	3.4	3 6 0	M.11½	5 8 6 0	5 8 6 0	5 8 6 0	A large market is held here every week. Road to Gardula branches off. Water in River. A good view of LAWASA on route.
to Haroko	1.0	3 7 0	M.8½	6 1 4 0	6 1 4 0	6 1 4 0	Several villages. Road hits river where there is plenty of water.
to Urbarak	2.2	3 9 2	M.7½	6 6 6 0	6 6 6 0	6 6 6 0	Plenty of water in stream.
to Sitti	2.4	4 1 6	M.8½	7 1 8 0	7 1 8 0	7 1 8 0	Plenty of water on route. Open country. A view of LAWAI obtained.
to Haroko	2.1	4 3 7	M.7½	6 4 4 0	6 4 4 0	6 4 4 0	Plenty of water.
to Sodo	2.1	4 5 8	M.7½	7 2 0 0	7 2 0 0	7 2 0 0	" " "
to Sodo	2.8	4 8 1	M.8	6 9 0 0	6 9 0 0	6 9 0 0	" " "
to Furi	1.5	4 9 6	M.5	" " "	" " "	" " "	" " "
to Adis Ababa	1.2	5 0 8	M.4	8 1 0 0	8 1 0 0	8 1 0 0	" " "

* (M) Pack Mule
(C) Burden Camel

C.O
19018

REF. 26 APR 1915

R. E. N. A. I. K. S.

0 Boran Villages.

0 Plenty of water in Gof Wells. Good going.

0 Boran Villages. Going good. Water in

0 Border Well a few miles away.

0 Boran Villages. Going good. Plenty of
water in wells.0 Going good for first part. Afterwards
very hilly. The ascent to Arero is precipitous
and most difficult. Water plentiful.0 Going good. Plenty of water one hour
from village.

0 Road hilly and bad in places. Plenty of

0 water in Tulawayo wells.

0 Good going. Karayo is a Boran Village

0 where the Chief of the Sabu lives.

0 Sidama begins.

0 Good going. Water plentiful.

0 Road hilly ascending Sidamo highlands.

0 Rocks are magnificent scenery. Water

0 plentiful.

0 Very badly. Plenty of water on

0 route.

0 Loulo. A large village at Gafelo.

0 Left main road shortly after leaving Gafelo and
went by another route to the East. Very hilly
and dense forests and difficult even for pack
animals. Plenty of streams crossed. After 30 miles
the road joins main route again. Fine views of
Lake Abaya. Large village at Alatta. Abeta, the
capital of Sidamo, lies about 4 hours to the
South. Telephone starts.

0 Some steep hills. Plenty of water en route.

0 Water in wells at Kella.

0 Large market is held here every week.
Road to Gardula branches off. Water in
River. A good view of LAWASA en route.0 Several villages. Road hits vines
where there is plenty of water.

0 Plenty of water in stream

0 Plenty of water en route. Open country.

0 A view of LAWAI obtained.

0 Plenty of water.

0 " " "

0 " " "

0 " " "

0 " " "

0 " " "

0 " " "

