

INCLOSURE

**CONFIDENTIAL**

No. T.P. 3-303-1914.

22911  
17

480  
C O  
45008  
SEP 15

**REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS**

— AGAINST THE —

**TERKANA—1915.**

BY

**Lieut-Colonel W. J. S. Edwards, D.S.O.,**

**Commanding the Turkana Column.**

- TABLE OF CONTENTS -

— 112 —

	Paragraph.	Page.
Composition of the Column.....	1.	1.
Political Officer.....	2.	3.
Organization and Concentration.....	3.	3.
An appreciation of the situation on my arrival in Turkana.....	4.	5.
Narrative of Operations.....	5.	6.
Concentration and Departure of the Troops.....	6.	10.
Departure of the Column for Nairobi..	7.	10.
Casualties and details of captured Stock.....	8.	10.
Disposal of captured Stock.....	9.	20.
Maintenance of the Troops.....	10.	22.
Health.....	11.	23.
Recommendations covering good services performed.....	12.	23.

**CONFIDENTIAL.**  
No. 2. P. 3/308/14.

**OFFICE OF THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TURKANA  
COLUMN,**

**NAIROBI,**

**28th June 1918.**

**FROM,**

**THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TURKANA COLUMN,  
- NAIROBI -**

**TO,**

**THE BRIGADE MAJOR,  
HEAD QUARTERS STAFF OFFICE,  
- NAIROBI -**

**Sir,**

I have the honour to furnish herewith my report on the operations undertaken by the Column detailed by the General Officer Commanding the Forces in British East Africa to punish the Turkana, a tribe resident in the Northern Frontier of the East Africa and Uganda Protectorates which, for some considerable time, has been persistently hostile to Government and whose increased treachery since the outbreak of War with Germany rendered punitive measures an immediate necessity.

**- REPORT -**

**COMPOSITION OF THE COLUMN.** 1. The Column as originally constituted comprised the Police Service Battalion and a detachment of Police drawn from Naroto in Uganda, but as I decanted the force

at my disposal inadequate to cope with the theatre embracing the third and last phase of operations in Uganda or to prosecute my final manoeuvre to a successful issue I took upon myself the responsibility of requisitioning the services of the Company of the 9th Sudanese Regiment stationed at Morongole in Uganda, the Company in question joining up with the column at Nakoke on the Turkwell on the 24th April. In this connection I would state that, being some 220 miles from the telegraph, I had of necessity to act as my judgment served me best and I trust that I may be considered to have acted rightly in the matter. On the 31st March the column received further addition in the form of two Administrative Officers from the Northern Frontier District of the East Africa Protectorate - Messrs. Deak and Athill - together with their orders of 14 Rank and file drawn from the Armed Constabulary of that District, the party in question having come to Turkana for the purpose of receiving, on behalf of the Samburu, the stock which had been directed should be set aside from that captured from the enemy in satisfaction of the claim in respect of the last raid by the Turkana on that tribe. The party having arrived and the claim being still incomplete I attached the entire mission to the column since none of its members were anxious to remain at the Base - Ngabotok - in a state of idleness. The composition and strength of the

Column

Column was therefore as follows:-

Unit.	PERSONNEL				Remarks.
	Officers		Other Ranks		
	Brigade	Company	Brigade	Company	
Police Service Battalion.....	12.	-	2.	300.	
Uganda Police from Harato.....	1.	-	-	40.	
1 Company 9th Sudanese Regiment.	2.	2.	-	67.	
Armed Constabulary Northern Frontier.	2.	-	-	14.	The two officers belong to the Administration Northern Frontier District vide para above.
Medical-Police Service Battalion.	1.	2.	-	-	
Medical-9th Sudanese Company.	-	1.	-	2.	
<b>TOTAL STRENGTH.</b>	<b>19.</b>	<b>5.</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>423.</b>	

POLITICAL  
OFFICER.

2. Mr. D.R. Grompton, District Commissioner, Turkana District having been appointed Political Officer to the Force joined the column for duty on its arrival at the base - Marich - on the 29th January.

ORGANISATION  
OF CONVOY  
ACTION.

3. The provision of the service outfit of the Police Service Battalion and the collection of the transport train - porters - occupied the period from the 29th December 1914, to the 10th January 1915, the Battalion, which had been divided into three columns, entraining

at Nairobi for Londiani on the 11th January at which latter place it detained on the 19th January. The full complement of porters not having arrived at Londiani by the date of the arrival of the Troops the despatch of columns to their respective bases had of necessity to be done piecemeal as follows:-

Column No. 2 to Narich on the 14.1.15.

" " 3 " Ngabetok " 14.1.15.

" " 1 " Nginyan " 22.1.15.

The placing of these columns at their respective field bases together with supplies and stores for 70 days transported by some 3500 porters was a matter of some difficulty, while the varying nature of the temperature which ranged from 75° on the Plateau to 95° on the plains in combination with the extremely mountainous, rugged, and precipitous nature of certain sections of the native paths, proved extremely trying to all, the porters suffering considerably. In this connection I am pleased to be able to record that, in spite of the difficulties encountered and the fact that the Railway and Field bases were so widely separated vide particulars below:-

Londiani to Narich.....	167 miles.
" " Ngabetok.....	230 "
" " Nginyan.....	118 "

It was found possible in all instances to place troops, stores and supplies at respective bases almost simultaneously, the dates of arrival thereat being as

495

under:-

No. 2 Column at Marich	on 29.1.15	time taken	16 days
" 3 " " Ngabotok	" 3.2.15	" "	21 "
" 1 " " Nginyan	" 30.1.15	" "	9 "

On arrival at respective bases the porter transport, with the exception of 100 porters per column, was replaced by donkey transport it being possible the more readily and efficiently to provision troops operating in so remote a part of the Protectorate by the latter than by the former system; donkeys require grazing only, carry two loads to a porter's one, and can exist without water for two or three days at a time, while with a little gentle persuasion supported by a sufficient staff of good and capable donkey boys they can travel practically as fast as porters.

The concentration of columns at their respective bases was completed by the 3rd February active operations being commenced the following day.

4. The meagreness of the intelligence available made an accurate appreciation of the situation out of the question. As far as I could ascertain, however, it seemed certain that, having learnt that an expedition was impending, several sections that had been deemed well disposed to British Rule in the past had, under the influence of the turbulent factions, thrown in their lot with the disaffected portions of the tribe, the leader of the warlike sections being Ebe a Chief who had been a thorn in the flesh of Government for several years past and

whose

Appreciation  
the situation  
on arrival in  
Kana.

whose attitude was still one of open hostility to the assertion of British Authority. To what extent these previously loyal sections had thrown in their lot with the disaffected could not be accurately determined for the reason that the disloyal factions had so influenced the inhabitants that intelligence of a reliable nature on this account was unobtainable. Judged by the little information available it seemed that of the four main sections of Turkana to wit Bellai, Neseto, Nyisirr and Ngamatak the position was as follows:-

- (A). Bellai and Neseto sections with the single exception of Ainigwa, the Chief of the Bellai, hostile
- (B). Of the Nyisirr, the sub-sections under Headmen Yekori and Lekiriana hostile, the remaining sub-sections loyal with the exception of that under Headman Lekwell which was doubtful
- (C). The Ngamatak had to date been loyal but whether they had changed their attitude could not be ascertained.

while it was reported that the Turkana were in possession of a number of guns chiefly of the Gras pattern, as also that they would receive the assistance of a certain <sup>section</sup> of the Abyssinians from Labur who were well equipped both with arms and ammunition, reports both of which were subsequently proved to be devoid foundation. So much by way of the situation.

RECAPITULATION OF OPERATIONS.

1. Before proceeding to the main narrative it would seem fitting that I should summarise in brief the primary objects to be achieved by the Force and the in-

tentions



Intentions by which I purposed to endeavour to attain such results, the details concerning which are as follows:-

(A). Objects to be achieved.

- (i). To effect the capture or surrender of the refractory Chief who the fomentor of the trouble in Turkana, and all other rebel Chiefs.
- (ii). To exact from the Turkana full retribution in the matter of their raids on the friendly Samburu and so enable Government to satisfy the claim of the Samburu in respect of their losses assessed by the Administration as being 11,450 cattle, 1,750 donkeys, 350 camels, 21,900 sheep and goats.
- (iii). To so punish the Turkana as to reduce the tribe to a state amenable to peaceful Administration.
- (iv). To disarm the armed Sections of the Turkana reported to be in possession of rifles.

(B). Intentions in the matter of the results to be attained.

- (i). To bring the enemy to action whenever and where-ever possible.
- (ii). To so harass the enemy as to keep him constantly on the move with the object of (1) making him disclose his whereabouts in his efforts to elude the activities of respective columns (ii) wearing down his stock and so make it an easy prey to the Troops.

With these preliminary remarks I now proceed to my narrative.

Operations, which comprised three phases as under, covered the period from the 4.2.15 to the 26.5.15, and embraced an area of approximately 15,000 square miles:-

1st Phase: From 4.2.15 to 26.3.15.

2nd Phase: From 1.4.15 to 15.4.15.

3rd Phase: From 26.4.15 to 26.5.15.

the reference maps employed being:-

- (1). Africa, Rudolf Province, Sheet 26, at 1.014 inches to 18 miles.
- (2). Africa, Albert Nyansa, Sheet 26, at 1.014 inches to 18 miles.
- (3). Africa, compiled sketch - portion Turkana District at 1.014 inches to 18 miles.
- (4). Uganda, Sheet 2 at 1 inch to 18 miles.

### 1st PHASE.

Concerning the first phase of operations which covered the period from 4.2.18 to 23.3.18, the theatre of activity of the troops embraced the entire Sugota and Kerio Valleys together with the country West of the Kerio River from a point South of Navel Hill and from thence North West to Sekere on the Wei-wei, and the area North of these points as bounded by the Wei-wei and Turkwell Rivers and the Kalabata River on the North; while to prevent the enemy with his stock crossing North into the Turkana area in Uganda the Turkwell was picketed from Ngatok to its mouth by a succession of Posts. Operations covering this phase were prosecuted by three Columns as under:-

- No. 1 Column under Lieut. R. F. Sainsford operating in the Sugota Valley.
- No. 2 Column under Capt. W. Rigby operating in the Kerio Valley.
- No. 3 Column under Capt. C. S. Long-Innes holding the Turkwell.

the sections punished in the course thereof being the Dillal and part of the Hamato who suffered especially severely in the matter of their fighting machine, and most severely in the case of their stock.

Turning to the tactics employed driving movements

combined

combined with a resolute pursuit represented the general character of the operations undertaken during this period, while those of the enemy were for the most part confined to making off with his stock in which manoeuvre he exercised great mobility, tenacity, and cunning—a source of enterprise which caused him heavy casualties. The only real offensive embarked on by the enemy in the course of this phase was directed against the line of posts on the Tarkvalli where he succeeded in killing one policeman and two porters as well as wounding one despatch runner. Although there is nothing in the way of military importance to record for the period on which I am now reporting, nevertheless, the extreme mobility of the enemy combined with his capacity for making off with his stock imposed on the troops a deal of excessively hard marching of which, without bolstering up these operations, I desire to bring to notice the following performances, No. 2 Column on one occasion covering 120 miles in four days and on another 180 miles in six days, and No. 1 Column 135 miles in five days and a march of 36 miles in sixteen hours without water on another. The fact that the afore noted performances were undertaken under a shade temperature ranging from 85° to 105° and that more often than not water was either scarce, tainted with soda or salt or else putrid, and that the troops were encumbered with huge herds of captured stock is proof that the series of operations comprising this phase were not devoid considerable toil

toil and fatigue. At the close of the first period of these operations ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the Suk levies attached to No. 3 Column on the Kerio-engaged for the purpose of herding and driving stock - were suddenly attacked by a strange disease both rapid and fatal in its results the deaths resulting therefrom totalling over 30 in three days when the remainder of them deserted en masse, with the result that for some five weeks Capt. Rigby's Column, which totalled but 110 of all ranks, was saddled with the onerous task of driving and herding some thousands of head of captured stock both in the course of operations and on transit to the Stock Base.

The Medical-Officer-in-Charge was unable either to locate the origin of or diagnose the disease, the symptoms of which being the sudden swaying of the body from front to rear and from right to left death resulting in about two hours.

With a view to shortening the length of this report I purpose to defer the particulars concerning casualties both of the force and enemy and of the latter losses in Stock until the close of this section of the report when the details in connection therewith will be included in one schedule so designed to give the exact figures in respect of each phase of operations.

#### 2nd PHASE

The second phase of operations occupied the period from the 1.4.15 to the 16.4.15, the placing of the various columns to their new bases being effected between the

the 24.3.18 and 31.3.18. For this phase the theatre of activity of the troops embraced the country intervening between the Turkwell and the Karie Rivers North of the Kaiyata river and lake Nudolf from Ngahotak on the Turkwell and from a point opposite Katiaman on the Karie, together with that portion of the Turkana Country on the North Bank of the Turkwell bounded by the Furlie River on the South, the Kosibir River on the North i.e. the River which enters the Turkwell at Nakoko Hill, the Turkwell on the East between where the Furlie River enters the Turkwell and Nakoko Hill, and on the West by the Escarpment between where the Furlie River enters the plains and the Kosibir River directly North of the Rocky Peak.

Refers touching on the actual operations covering this phase it seems advisable that I should mention that, in the interim between the first and second phase, the hostile Turkana had so worked upon the susceptibilities of the members of the sub-sections of the Nyigirr and those of the combined sections of the Nganatak who had hitherto been counted as loyal and in consequence held innocent from military action as to cause them to throw in their lot with the disaffected portions of the tribe with the result that I had no alternative but to declare these previously friendly factions as belligerents, the conduct of operations being regulated accordingly.

The prosecution of the operations comprising this phase was effected by four flying columns, one operating

from a point on the Kerio some fifteen miles from its mouth on a line across to Mount Lasagan and from thence to Laramet Camp on the Turkwell, the second from a point on the Kerio opposite Katicman across to the Turkwell Bend Camp on the Turkwell, the third from Kileber to opposite Nakoko on the Turkwell through the ranges of Hills Tiris, Mottle, Kiemo and Nganatak, and the fourth within that portion of the Turkana country on the North bank of the Turkwell as already defined above; while the Turkwell remained piguated as in the case of the first phase.

In the course of these operations the enemy showed a certain amount of offensive enterprise notably as under:-

On the 4.4.1914: he made a night attack on one of the posts on the Turkwell River line when he succeeded in killing one policeman.

On the 6.4.1914: he made a further night attack on another of these river posts wounding severely four policemen.

On the 8.4.1914: he attacked in considerable force a grazing guard to stock on route down the Turkwell to the Stock Base when he succeeded in making off with the lot as also killing one levy. The stock so taken was all recaptured the same day.

On the 14.4.1914: he attacked in great numbers a reconnoitring patrol of one Corporal and five men dispatched by Capt. Rigby from No. 3 Column to reconnoitre the country around Murocher and which he succeeded in surrounding, it being only by the exercise of considerable coolness and gallantry that the Corporal-in-Charge managed to extricate the patrol from its perilous position. So persistent were the efforts of the enemy that the patrol was unable to make its way back to its Column, the Corporal-in-Charge falling back on Nakoko on the Turkwell which place he succeeded in reaching at 8.30 p.m. with the loss of one policeman killed, he having been engaged with the enemy from 3 a.m.

Regarding

Regarding the tactics employed by the enemy with regard to the flying columns there is nothing of importance to relate, his efforts being confined, as in the case of the first phase, to driving off his stock when he again suffered severe losses. Concerning the night attacks on the posts on the Turkwell River of which mention has been made above the enemy effected his purpose by a stealthy advance made under cover of a pitch dark night to within effective throwing spear range of the Zarebas into which he discharged them with collective force when he bent a hasty retirement. As it is my intention to curtail this narrative as much as possible I do not purpose straying into details concerning the difficulties encountered by the Troops during the period covered by this phase of the operations by virtue of the nature of the country, unreliable intelligence, intrigues on the part of the Turkana guides, climatic conditions, and the quantity of stock to be handled, suffice it to say that all columns performed their allotted tasks in a highly satisfactory manner as is borne out by the heavy losses inflicted on the enemy both in the matter of his fighting machine and stock of which full particulars will be found in the schedules of which mention has been made above. It is further pleasing to record, as proof of the effectual results of these operations, that several headmen tendered their submission all of whom were sensible enough to realize the futility of further opposition.

The operations to date were I regret to say not without their toll in the matter of sickness for at the close of this phase of the operations, one officer and the Sergeant Major had to be invalided on account of general breakdown and another officer for sunstroke a number of the rank and file also being invalided, while the sick rolls of all columns showed a considerable increase both in the matter of dysentery and malaria.

### 3rd PHASE.

The third and final phase of operations occupied from the 26.4.15 to 26.6.15, the period from the 17.4.15 to the 26.4.15 being engaged in getting respective columns into position. Operations for this phase embraced some 5,000 square miles, the zone of activity being the country on the North Bank of the Turkwell as bounded by the Turkwell River on the South between the points Nakoko Hill to the point of entry of that river into Rudolf, on the North from a point on Lake Rudolf North of the Labor Mountains hence West to Pelagash - which is wrongly placed on the map - and Singhota Mountain, on the West by the escarpment formed by the chain of Hills South of Singhota Mountain and the Tarash and Maroucker Ranges to the Southernly point of the latter range, and the Naxibir river at a point opposite the Roaker Peak to Nakoko Hill on the Turkwell, and on the East by Lake Rudolf. For this phase I had the assistance of the Company of the 9th Sudanese Regiment from Morogole in



Uganda, under the command of Bimbashi Fairbairn, <sup>which</sup> joined the Column on the 24.4.18, and hence I was enabled thoroughly to prosecute the scheme as designed for the final phase. My force, prior to the arrival of this support, being insufficient to effect the achievement of the objects remaining to be attained to wit-

- (1). Thoroughly to punish the enemy within the theatre covering this phase of the operations.
- (11). To capture or destroy Chief Ebo, and such other rebel chiefs as might be with him, or who might be met with in the course of these operations.
- (111). To disarm the armed sections.

Concerning the measures taken for the fulfilment of the above mentioned issues I deemed it advisable to operate in the first instance by means of two flying columns, one operating from the Kosiwir River North East and East within the area intervening between the escarpment formed by the Kosiwir, Muroseker and Warash Ranges, and Nakoko on the Turkwell to the South of the Kagwalas Hills, the other through the Kagwalas Hills to Palogesh Mountain; the Turkwell River being held as in the case of the two previous phases. The Palogesh column having completed its operations around Palogesh and Singhote Mountains was formed into two columns one of which comprised No. 2 Column the Police Service Battalion under Capt. Wigby, and the other the Company of the 9th Madras Regiment under Bimbashi Fairbairn, the former column operating West of the Labur Mountains and the range of Hills to the South East

East of the Labur range to the Turkwell River, and the latter to the East of these same formations to Laramet Camp on the Turkwell; while the column previously stated as operating from the Kouibir River to the South of the Kagvalas closed up Eastwards so as to form a holding line on the Western flank with the object of confining the enemy to the zone of manoeuvre of these flying columns. For this phase of the operations the enemy offered but little resistance his whole endeavours being devoted to getting away his stock and in harassing the guards with the object of cutting out stock in which endeavours he suffered heavy casualties. Regarding the lack of guides - the whole course of this phase of operations being conducted on compass bearings - or any with a knowledge of the country or its numerous hiding places secreted in the recesses of a wild country hard to penetrate alone prevented the capture of this refractory Chief as from information gleaned from prisoners the columns were close on his heels on several occasions, in fact on one occasion he formed one of a party surprised by the Column under Himbashi Fairhairn. Although she managed to escape, nevertheless, I am in a position to report that he, together with two other notable hostile leaders to wit Lalal and Lokwell - suffered severe losses both in stock and warriors, while I can state with the utmost confidence that his power is broken beyond restoration i.e. provided the country is submitted to active administration

forthwith

507

forthwith, and the various sections of Turkana have some one to advise them regarding the desires and policy of Government and the benefits that accrue from peace and just rule. Turning to the question of the large number of guns stated by the Intelligence Reports on this District as being in possession of the Turkana I can affirm without fear of contradiction that the reports in question are totally unfounded, for neither in the course of these operations or in their raids on the Samburu have the Turkana employed rifles which certainly would have been the case had they possessed them, in the circumstances I do not feel called upon to discuss the question further. The sections dealt with in the course of this phase included the Nganatak, Nyisirv, and Nuoete all of whom suffered severe losses both in the matter of their warriors and stock, and I consider the results achieved, of which full particulars will be given in the schedule previously mentioned by me in the earlier stages of this narrative, to reflect to the credit of all ranks the more so seeing that the vagaries of the Clerk of the Weather caused these operations to be executed either in torrential rains when the whole country was either a veritable sea or vast slime bath or under the rays of a relentless sun when water was scarce and the country practically a barren volcanic debris strewn waste.

This brings me to the conclusion of my narrative as far as active military operations are concerned the  
 completion

completion of the third phase furnishing the setting piece to the activities of the Turkana Column in Turkana.

As a final commentary to the above consecutive narrative I feel justified in stating that throughout these operations the utmost forbearance has been shown the enemy it being satisfactory to record that the actions of the troops have been devoid those black spots which generally characterise native warfare, while I am satisfied that the Turkana have suffered full retribution for the acts for which it was necessary to punish them as also that the mission of the column has been successfully accomplished. Finally, I would add the strong recommendation that a survey of Turkana be undertaken at the earliest possible date since a trustworthy map of this part of the Protectorate is a dire necessity.

MEMORANDUM  
D. DEPARTMENT  
THE TROOPS.

6. The concentration of the various columns at the base - Ngabotok - was completed by the 5.6.18, the two following days being occupied in making arrangements in the matter of the troops to comprise the Garrison which I had been instructed by Command Head Quarters to leave behind in Turkana. The force detailed as garrison being 150 Rank and file together with Lieutenants Anderson and Rainsford of the Police Service Battalion.

MEMORANDUM  
THE COLUMN  
R. HAYMOND.

7. The balance of the column left Ngabotok for Nairobi on the 8.6.18, the journey from the former mentioned

place

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE  
 Reference: C.O. 533  
 155  
 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

508A

SEE OTHER PAGES

From	Period	To	In amount of gain						In amount of loss		Total	Description of stock	
			1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49			
1st Period	1.1.15.	31.3.15.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1,000	1,000
2nd Period	1.4.15.	31.6.15.	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	2,000	2,000
3rd Period	1.7.15.	31.9.15.	3	3	3	3	3	3	9	12	3	3,000	3,000
TOTAL													6,000

SEE OTHER PAGES

place to Kisumu (219 miles) being completed on the 24. 6. 15, the troops entraining the same day and detraining at Nairobi on the 25. 6. 15.

**QUALITIES AND**  
**LIST OF CAP-**  
**TURED STOCK.**

8. Concerning casualties and Captured Stock the following schedule presents an accurate statement:-

The casualties in respect of the levies occurred principally in their direct encounters with the enemy either when herding or driving stock, while with regard to those shown as died of disease the cause of death has already formed the subject of reference vide the closing stages of my narrative on the first phase of the operations.

operations. The remaining details of the schedule call for no comment.

2. Regarding the disposal of captured stock annexure 5A to this Report portrays accurately the character of its distribution. Concerning the Samburu claim, the particulars of which are as follows:-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Donkeys.</u>	<u>Camels.</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; goats</u>
Original Claim.....	11,480.	1,750.	860.	31,500.
Less Stock captured by Mr. Athill and Leves in December 1914.....	1,500.	271.	475.	4,375.
CLAIM TO BE MET BY TURKANA COLONY.....	10,000.	1,479.	385.	17,125.

I am in a position to report that the claim as represented by the final totals of the above table was met in full prior to my departure from Ngabetok, the Political Officer - Mr. Crampton - defraying the balance wanting to complete from the stock which I placed with him at the close of operations, vide (item 7) of the Annexure of which reference has been made above. Turning to the stock shown as placed at Morongole in Uganda (item 6) this was captured by the Company of the 9th Sudanese in the course of the third phase of operations when the country was such a quagmire as to make it impossible for the Officer Commanding - Sirbashi Fairbairn - to return the stock

to

DISPOSAL OF  
CAPTURED  
STOCK.

to the base, so rather than destroy it and being but six days from Harongole he deemed it advisable to place this particular capture at that Station. In the matter of the Stock shown as returned to the Turkana in the course of operations (item 9) this was done in pursuance with the recommendation of the Political Officer <sup>Mr.</sup> Crampton, and with which I thoroughly agreed, that 30 per cent of the stock captured from each section, of which 20% should be female stock, should, provided the people punished consented to refrain from further hostilities and that such undertakings were deemed by Colonel Commanders to be reliable, be returned to those concerned. It being undesirable to reduce the Turkana to such a state of poverty as to threaten them with extinction as a tribe. Concerning losses, item (11) the Suk are reported to have stolen approximately some 7,000 sheep and goats from consignments of stock in course of passage from Ngabotok to the Stock Base on the Turkwell, in which connection I consider that the headmen between these points or in the vicinity thereof should be called upon to refund the same or in default fined three times the loss on this account. Regarding losses in respect of deaths the toll is a heavy one, but nevertheless, inseparable from the conditions arising from being obliged to drive huge herds of stock over sandy waterless plains or barren rocky wastes, it being not an uncommon occurrence for stock

having



512

having to go several days either without water or grazing. Again, in many instances the only means of watering stock was from a few deep sunk water holes an impossible task when some thousands of head were involved. In any case it would be difficult for those unacquainted with the magnitude of the task involved in the handling of some 157,000 head of stock or the conditions under which such task had needs to be accomplished to form any idea of what would be pronounced a remarkable feat. I consider, however, that the toll exacted in the course of these operations is only what could reasonably be expected having regard to the conditions involved.

10. It is satisfactory to be able to record that, throughout the course of these operations, the maintenance of respective columns in the matter of supplies was accomplished without a hitch. The maintenance of a force possessing a supply base some 280 miles from its Railway Base and holding three separate lines of communications, the maximum limit of which approximated a further 150 miles could not be termed an easy task. That matters worked so smoothly in this respect is due to the unpar-  
 X X  
 ticular efforts and organizing ability of my Adjutant and Quartermaster - Captain Le Blanc. G. Smith -, considerable praise being also due the Administration both at Kismu and Huias for having succeeded in placing the various consignments of supplies at the Base by the appointed times.

512

having to go several days either without water or grazing. Again, in many instances the only means of watering stock was from a few deep sunk water holes an impossible task when some thousands of head were involved. In any case it would be difficult for those unacquainted with the magnitude of the task involved in the handling of some 157,000 head of stock or the conditions under which such task had needs to be accomplished to form any idea of what would be pronounced a reasonable loss. I consider, however, that the toll exacted in the course of these operations is only what could reasonably be expected having regard to the conditions involved.

10. It is satisfactory to be able to record that, throughout the course of these operations, the maintenance of respective columns in the matter of supplies was accomplished without a hitch. The maintenance of a force possessing a supply base some 220 miles from its Railway Base and holding three separate lines of communications, the maximum limit of which approximated a further 150 miles could not be termed an easy task. That matters worked so smoothly in this respect is due to the unspairing efforts and organising ability of my Adjutant and Quartermaster - Captain Le Blanc, G. Smith -, considerable praise being also due the Administration, both at Kinross and Humein for having succeeded in placing the various consignments of supplies at the Base by the appointed

times.

MAINTENANCE  
OF THE  
TROOPS.

X X

times. Before closing this paragraph I must record how excellently the columns were served by the donkey transport employed which was found to be most reliable and in every way adapted to overcome the many difficulties and obstacles which this remote part of the country presents.

**HEALTH.**

11. Concerning the health of the Force I am unable to report favourably that of the Officers being bad, while with regard to the Rank and file and followers the classification fair only is permissible. Of the Officers 35 per cent were invalided as likewise 8 per cent of the rank and file, in addition to which a considerable percentage of all ranks were treated either for malaria or dysentery.

**REMARKS ON THE SERVICES PERFORMED.**

12. In conclusion I desire to bear testimony to the good work done by all ranks during the whole course of these operations under conditions which have placed a heavy strain even on the strongest, it being my privilege to bring to the notice of the General Officer Commanding the Forces in British East Africa and Uganda, the services of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men mentioned below under the categories "Mentions" and "Special distinction" lettered "A" and "B" respectively:-

**(A) MENTIONS.**

Mr. D. R. Crompton - the Administrative Service - for assistance rendered in his capacity of Political and Intelligence Officer.

Siabashi

Sinhathi B.A. Fairbairn - the 9th Sudanese Regiment - for good work done in his capacity of Officer Commanding the Company of the 9th Sudanese Regiment during the third phase of operations.

Captain C.S. Long-Innes - the Police Service Battalion - for good work done in his capacity of Officer Commanding No.3 Column.

Lieutenant R.W. Rainford - the Police Service Battalion for good work done in his capacity of Officer Commanding No.1 Column.

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

<p>           No. 2008    <b>Shawish Abd al Jan Hussain</b>             No. 1894    <b>3/Sgt. Ali Rgal</b>            *    421    <b>Corporal Sandulli</b>            *    4210    <b>      Nash Kattiga</b>            *    2384    <b>2/Constable Gaoth Chero</b>            *    3348    <b>      Gdaro Ghalla</b>            *    3049    <b>3/Constable Ondole-wa-Kithoga</b> </p>	<p>           The 9th            Sudanese            Regiment            -----            for good            work gene-            rally.             The Police            Service            Battalion            -----            for promi-            nent servi-            ces throu-            ghout the            operations         </p>
---	---

while I desire in the most grateful terms that I can commend to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the administration at the centres Kismu and Suakin in the matter of forwarding supplies from the Railway Line to the Supply Base, which expression of appreciation I would ask may be notified to all concerned.

For Special Distinction.

In the matter of category "B" I have pleasure in mentioning for special distinction the following, all

515

of whom have performed meritorious and exceptional services:-

*850*  
Captain N. Nigri - the 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.

*Got P.M.C. & always*  
Captain G. Le Blanc Smith - Adjutant and Quartermaster the 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 has at all times accorded me both in the field and office when his sound judgment has proved invaluable.

*bcw*  
No. 1841 Sergeant Mahomed Ahmed - the Police Service Battalion - for the exercise of gallant conduct at Khaiga on the 3rd March 1915, when he succeeded, while in charge of a party of but six men, in capturing large quantities of stock in spite of the repeated and determined efforts of large bodies of the enemy to recover same.

*bcw*  
No. 1888 Corporal Hamis Mahomed - the Police Service Battalion - for the exercise of considerable coolness and gallantry in extricating, with the loss of but one man only, a reconnoitring patrol of 5 men when completely surrounded by some two to three hundred spearmen at Nurucakar on the 14th April 1915, in spite of determined and prolonged attack by the enemy.

*bcw*  
No. 2444 Sgt Constable Edna Hamish - the Police Service Battalion - for gallant conduct on the night of 6th April 1915 in the course of an attack by the enemy on a post on the Tarkwell 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 enemy.

Finally, I am aware that the operations forming the

subject

515

of whom have performed meritorious and exceptional services:-

550  
Captain V. Nigay - the 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.

*Got P.M.C. for C always }*  
Captain G. Le Flang Smith - Adjutant and Quartermaster the 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 has at all times accorded me both in the field and office when his sound judgment has proved invaluable.

560  
No. 1243 Sergeant Mohamed Ahmad - the Police Service Battalion - for the exercise of gallant conduct at Khaigva on the 3rd March 1918, when he succeeded, while in charge of a party of but six men, in capturing large quantities of stock in spite of the repeated and determined efforts of large bodies of the enemy to recover same.

560  
No. 1288 Corporal Hamis Mahanna - the Police Service Battalion - for the exercise of considerable coolness and gallantry in extricating, with the loss of but one man only, a reconnoitring patrol of 5 men when completely surrounded by some two to three hundred spearmen at Murooskar on the 14th April 1918, in spite of determined and prolonged attack by the enemy.

560  
No. 1444 Sub Constable Hama Hamha - the Police Service Battalion - for gallant conduct on the night of 8th April 1918 in the course of an attack by the enemy on a post on the Turkwall 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 enemy.

Finally, I am aware that the operations forming the

subject

516

subject of this dispatch are of the most insignificant character as compared with the main operations now in progress elsewhere in the Protectorate, but, nevertheless, I venture to express the hope that the General Officer Commanding will be pleased to consider that the services of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men mentioned in category "B" above are, in view of what has been accomplished, worthy of special reward and I commend their names especially to notice on this account.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*W. S. Edwards*

LIEUT-COLONEL.

OFFICER COMMANDING, THE TUKANA COLONY.







Gov. 45008/1915  
E.A.P.



820

14 October, 1915

Sr.

DRAFT.

E.A.P.  
Conf.

Sr. de St. C. Belfield.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Cooper, 12/10/15-
- Mr. Pottanley, 12.10.15
- Mr. Read 12
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

I have the honour  
to acky. the receipt of  
your conf. dep. No. 82  
of the 18th of August  
forwarding reports on  
the recent operations in  
the Turkana country,  
and to inform you that  
I share the your satisfaction  
at the thorough manner  
in which the suggestion of  
the tribe has been effected  
and your appreciation of  
the strenuous and sustained  
efforts made by Lieut.  
Colonel Edwards and the

Pat 95 Dep. 5/6 note  
as Col. Edwards &  
Mr. Crompton.

his command, under most trying conditions of country and climate.

I also endorse your commendation of the work done by Mr. Hampton as Political Officer.

2. I approve of your action with regard to the distribution of captured stock, as detailed in para 2 of your despatch.

In this connection I observe that Mr. Hampton, in section 8 of his report, suggests that a sum of £5000 should be set aside as a fund for the development & improvement of the Turkana Country. An arrangement of this kind would be ~~advised~~ <sup>advised</sup> similar to that ~~made~~ <sup>adopted</sup> in the case of the Kisii ~~district~~ <sup>district</sup> & I consider that it would be very desirable

to adopt a similar course <sup>into effect</sup> ~~the present case~~. 520

3. With reference to para 12 of Mr. Hampton's report it would appear to be advisable so far as I am able to judge, to remit the Hut Tax for the years 1915-16 & 1916-17.

Yours

521

0165/6935.  
M.S.3/362

War Office,  
Whitehall,  
S.W.

23rd March, 1917.

The Secretary of State for War presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and would be glad to receive a copy of the report referred to in the attached copy of letter addressed to the Colonial Office on the 15th January last.

*Under Secy March 24/17 45008/5*

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

*Mr Bottomley*  
*Report is in 45008/5*  
*? send in orig. for return 2hr*  
*making no trace of receipt*  
*of W.O. note of 15/1/17 (this is*  
*W.S.)*  
*W.S.*  
*25/3*

*Yes. and recie. in 3 weeks if they do not return the report earlier.*  
*W.S. 26.3.17*

COPY

0165/6935 (M.S.3)

15th January, 1917.

522

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.

(Initialed M.D.G.)

The Under Secretary of State,

COLONIAL OFFICE.