

38190

1937

38190

CO 533/483

KENYA

KENYA - ITALIAN SOMALILAND BOUNDARY.

Previous

298

1/4

297

28/4

1935

Mr. Perkins

19

Mr. Flood

19

R. 309

Subsequent

298

24/5

297

25/5

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27/5

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3/6

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R. 297

15/1/36

R. 309

18/1/2

Mr. Perkins

23

Mr. Flood

23

R. 298

4/1

R. 307

15/1

R. 309

15/1

Mr. Perkins

16

303

23/1

R. 297

28/4

299

27/1

297

14/3/7

R. 309

14

Mr. Perkins

3/6

303

6/4

C.I.
BOUNDARY.

1. GOV'S DEPUTY (WADE).....CONF.127.....16.11.36.
Tra. extracts from report by District Commr., Garissa, indicating general condition of that part of the boundary line the maintenance of which is the responsibility of the Italian Somaliland Govt. and comments thereon drawing attention to certain inaccuracies which he considers should be placed on record and suggesting that perhaps the Italian Govt. should be informed.

copy on
20/11/36

The work to be done with regard to replacement of damaged beacons and construction of a frontier track is described in the Exchange of Notes between H.M.G. and the Italian Government (Cmd.4491).

This despatch shows that practically nothing has been done by the Italians ^{in this respect} and very little by Kenya, but it is as well to have on record the demarcation inaccuracies now discovered.

Send a copy to the Foreign Office and ask that the inaccuracies may be brought to the notice of the Italian Government.

Draft herewith.

C.A.G. *[Signature]*
18/11/36

J.P. *[Signature]*
25/11

The area of a triangle 2 m x 4 x 5 1/2 is about 2 1/4 sq miles (1760 acres). As the land is of no value it doesn't really matter but the boundary had better be marked properly. It seems clear that it will have to be marked again.

~~Probably~~ The Walker piece for which the Italians are responsible follows the meridian for about half its length and then goes off ~~to the~~ S.E. where it is on the meridian it can be identified again but there may be trouble elsewhere.

S.W. *[Signature]*
25/12

2 To F.O. (info) copy.

4 JAN 1937

[Handwritten mark]

3. F.O. (J. 64/66) 14.1.37

The copy of despatch, No 36 of 13.1.37, sent to H.M.R., Rome forwarding a copy of (1) and requesting the matter be brought to the notice of the Italian Govt.

? Lead GCA of Nos 2 & 3 to Kenya. G. Conf. Ref 1. C. K. Rosintha 157/137

C.D. 25 JAN 25

J.P. Passani 16/1/37

20 Kenya - Conf (No 2 & 3) A/1 - 25 JAN 1937

5. ACTING GOV. KENYA.....48 CONF.....15.3.37. Details report received from O-in-C, N. Frontier District regarding maintenance of Kenya-Italian Somaliland Boundary.

The Italians are responsible for the maintenance of the track & principle Beacons from Beacon No 15 (inclusive) to Beacon No 29. KIAMBOI to KOLISO is the line from Beacon 28 to midway between Beacons 24 & 25.

? Copy to G.O. G. Conf. Ref 3. C. K. Rosintha 248/177

J.P. Passani 3/1/37 at once

6 & F.O. - (J. 65) 29.4.37

7. F.O. (J. 1679/64/66) 29.4.37. Trs. copy of despatch No. 290 of 7.4.37 rec'd from HMR Rome regarding demarcation of frontier between Kenya and Italian Somaliland.

While here in another communication, Mr Lambert (F.O.) enquired whether the CO. is likely to suggest that this should be linked up (in due course) with the discussions with the Italians, on the Northern frontier of Kenya. I said that it seemed to me to be an entirely separate matter, that it would be a pity to involve the objection to such proposals for a commission to rectify the Kenya-Italian Somaliland boundary, for no provision has already been made by existing agreements.

It will be sufficient to send copy of such & sub. encl. to Kenya & to reply.

J.P. Passani 19/5

Yes: better keep this request of course if they do have a boundary commission for Kenya Ethiopia it can spend a few days settling this.

J.P. Passani 11/1/37

Memorandum for G.O. Kenya

To Lambert.

30. 24.5.37

9 To Kanya - bonf (2) (4/10 and 1/10) 0/1 - 31/5/37

10



38190737

C.D
21 MAY
D 21

C. O.

Mr. [unclear] 20/5.
Mr. Parkin 21/5/55.
Mr.

- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

Sd. for Parkin's
Signature

24 May 1955

Dear [unclear].

DRAFT.

[unclear] [unclear], [unclear]
70.

You asked me the other day whether the Co. would be likely to suggest that the Italian Govt's proposals regarding the demarcation and maintenance of the frontier between Kenya and Italian Somaliland, (70. (Ken. No. J. 1679/64/66 of the 27th of April), should be linked up in due course with the discussions with the Italians on the subject of the Northern frontier of Kenya. We feel that it would be a pity to overload the Anglo-Italian discussions with proposals for a Commission to rectify the Kenya - Italian Somaliland boundary, for which provision has

FURTHER ACTION.

Action
v. Minutes

has already been made in
existing agreements. In
the circumstances we are
merely transmitting a copy
of Sir Eric Drummond's despatch
No 290 and the enclosure, to
the Finance of Kure.

Yours sincerely,
J. H. Paskin.

(Signed) J. H. PASKIN.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 31679/62/66

and address—not to any person by name, but to

"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

Dipl. act.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to *the under secretary of state for the Colonies* and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy *4* of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
April 27 1937.

RECEIVED
28 APR 1937
O.O. REGY

Reference to previous correspondence:

X C.O. letter 38190/27 of April 7. (6)

Description of Enclosure.

Open enclosure sent to Kenya (9)

Name and Date.

Subject.

From

W.M. R.,

Rome.

No 290 of April 7.

*Demarcation of frontier
between Kenya and Italian
Somaliland*

Similar letter sent to

British Embassy.

R O W E.

7th April, 1937.

S. 290.

(135/37/37)

Sir,

Encl to (3)

I have the honour to report that, in accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch No. 36 (J 64/64/66) of the 13th January, I duly conveyed to the Italian Government the information contained therein regarding the maintenance of the boundary between Kenya and Italian Somaliland and the inaccuracies in the demarcation of that boundary which have recently come to light. I enclose a translation of a reply which I have now received from the Italian Government, from which it appears that instructions have been sent to the Italian authorities on the spot to carry out as soon as possible the works necessary for the maintenance of the boundary pillars which are under the charge of the Italian authorities.

2. As regards the inaccuracies in the demarcation of the frontier, the Italian Government suggest that this question should be referred in due course to any mixed commission which may later be charged with the survey of the frontier on the ground and with the necessary corrections under the provisions in Article 13 of the Florence Agreement of 1927.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND.

The Right Honourable
Anthony Eden, M.C.,
etc. etc. etc.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Su.Med.III.

No. 211041/22.

NOTE VERBALE

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform His Britannic Majesty's Embassy that the Royal Ministry of the Colonies has brought to the notice of the Government of Italian Somaliland the facts communicated in Note Verbale No. 30 (155/12/37) of the 26th January last regarding the demarcation of the frontier between Kenya and Italian Somaliland and has issued to the above-mentioned Government the necessary instructions in order that it may make provision, as speedily as possible, for the necessary works of maintenance of the boundary pillars indicated in the annex to the above-mentioned Note Verbale, and where maintenance falls to its charge.

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs has further the honour to inform His Britannic Majesty's Embassy that the Royal Ministry of the Colonies has taken note of the statement regarding inaccuracies discovered by the British colonial authorities in the original demarcation of the northern part of the frontier between Italian Somaliland and Kenya, and has observed in this connexion that the inaccuracies in question might be taken into account when it is found opportune, for the examination also of any facts which may later come to light, to nominate a mixed commission to carry out the necessary surveys and consequent corrections on the ground, which may be decided upon by mutual agreement in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Florence Agreement of 1927.

Rome, the 3rd April, 1937 - Year XV.

KENYA.

NO. 4

CONFIDENTIAL.



5
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI,
KENYA

REC'D
27 MAR 1937
C. O. REGY

5 MARCH, 1937.

Sir,

4
With reference to your Confidential (3) despatch of the 26th January on the subject of the maintenance of the Kenya-Italian Somaliland Boundary, I have the honour to inform you the following report has been received from the Officer in Charge, Northern Frontier District:-

"The Italians have completed the recutting and clearing of the boundary from Ras Kiamboni to Kolbio. They have now suspended work, and there does not appear to be any immediate prospect of its being continued northwards. The cutting party consisted of an Italian Officer and 40 Bejan and Boni porters. No Somali accompanied the safari."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

ACTING GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

L O N D O N. S.W. 1

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. J. 64/64/66

and address—not to any person by name, but to—

"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

3.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to *the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies* and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

Jan 14, 1937.

RECEIVED
15 JAN 1937
C.O. REGY

Reference to previous correspondence:

(2)

C.O. letter no 38190/36 of Jan 4

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>J. H.M.R. Rome no. 36 of Jan 13</p>	<p>Determination of frontier between Kenya & Italian Somaliland</p>

Copy sent to Kenya (14)

Similar letter sent to

No. 36

(J 64/64/66)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13th January, 1937.

Sir,

With reference to Your Excellency's despatch No. 923 (136/15/36) of the 9th August, 1936, I transmit herewith copy of a letter from the Colonial Office regarding the maintenance of the boundary between Kenya Colony and Italian Somaliland.

2. Under paragraph 3 (5) of the notes exchanged between the United Kingdom and Italy on the 22nd November, 1935 (copies of which were enclosed in my despatch No. 923 of the 2nd December, 1935), the Government of Kenya undertook the maintenance of the track and principal beacons from beacon No. 1 (Maica Rie) to beacon No. 15 (excluding the beacon), and the Government of Italian Somaliland the maintenance of the track and principal beacons from beacon No. 15 (inclusive) to beacon No. 29 (Daw-aa-Galant).

3. I shall be glad if, provided you see no objection, you will bring the matter to the notice of the Italian Government as suggested by the Colonial Office.

I am, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir Eric Drummond, G.C.M.G., G.C.B.,

etc., etc., etc.

Rome.

C. O.

- Mr. Grossmith.
- Mr. Paken 2
- Mr. Plover 23/25
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottamley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt.-U.S. of S.
- Parly.-U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

18/12
 C.O.
 R 23 DEC
 D 31

Ans. (3)

DOWNING STREET.

December, 1936.

4 JAN 1937

Sir,

DRAFT.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

I am etc. to refer to the
 correspondence terminating with your
 letter of the 27th of August, 1935,
 No. J.3586/144/66, regarding the
 delimitation of the frontier between
 Kenya and Italian Somaliland, and to
 transmit to you, to be laid before
 Mr. Secretary Eden, a copy of a despatch
 from the Governor of Kenya ^{regarding} concerning
 action taken ^{recently} by the Kenya Government,
 pursuant to the Exchange of Notes
 between His Majesty's Government and the
 Italian Government, dated the 22nd of
 November, 1933 (Cmd. 4491).

38190/36

16th November 1936 D

FURTHER ACTION.

2. Mr. Ormsby Gore would be
 obliged, provided Mr. Eden sees no

By to Kenya (4)

objection, if the inaccuracies in the original
cutting between the frontier beacons now
reported by the Governor of Kenya may be
brought to the notice of the Italian Government.

*Nos 4 & 6, and the unsatisfactory
condition of that portion
of the line for which
the Govt. of Italian Somaliland
is responsible,*

I am, etc.

(Signed) J. E. W. FLOOD

RECEIVED

14 DEC 1938

C. O. REC'D



KENYA

No. 127

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA

CONFIDENTIAL.

16 November, 1938.

Sir,

(32) on 18008/32

I have the honour to refer to the Governor's Confidential despatch No.89 of the 24th June, 1932, and relating correspondence on the subject of the maintenance of the Kenya-Italian Somaliland Boundary, and to enclose for your information extracts from a report by the District Commissioner, Garissa, which indicates the general condition of that part of the line the maintenance of which is the responsibility of the Italian Somaliland Government.

1947 F.O. 2

It will be observed that portions of this part of the line are in some danger of obliteration, and, although it is realised that it cannot be expected that any action would be taken by the Italians at the present time, it may be considered desirable generally to invite the attention of the Italian Government to its present condition.

In this connection I should add that no further communication has yet been received from the local Italian Authorities regarding the contemplated air reconnaissance referred to in the Governor's despatch quoted above.

2. In regard to that portion of the line which is this Government's responsibility, it has been considered

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE W. ORMSBY-GORE, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1

considered desirable to take independent measures sufficient to ensure that the original line and the sites of the primary beacons should not be entirely obliterated.

With this object in view sufficient clearing and stumping has been done to enable the passage of motor vehicles where the surface permits, and steps have been taken where necessary to perpetuate the beacon sites by a system of witness marks.

It should, however, be remembered that, once the beacons themselves are obliterated, it is very doubtful whether the witness marks which have been established, however valuable for domestic purposes, would be accepted by the Italian Government.

In course of the work on the northern portion of the line two inaccuracies in the original cutting between the beacons have been reported, and the following is an extract from the report of the Officer-in-Charge of the work:-

" The discrepancies to which I have referred are apparent to a person using binoculars and standing on the cairn on Burki Fino which is the highest point on the boundary line between Beacon 1 and 9. The line coming from the direction of Beacon 4 southwards appears as if it should, if absolutely straight, come out at a point considerably to the east of the cairn. Which means, that if the cairn has been accurately sited,

sited, some portion of the cutting between the two beacons has encroached on Italian territory. This, however, is a minor matter involving a few acres of ground.

But looking Southwards from Burki Fino a much more serious discrepancy can be seen. The lane proceeds accurately down hill to Beacon 5, continuing in a straight line for approximately two miles further. It then suddenly turns westward through an angle of from 15° to 20° and continues in a wavering line for perhaps two more miles. At this point, a large tree on rising ground, it turns back Eastwards again and proceeds in a straight line to a point in alignment with the cairn on Burki Fino and Beacon 5, about four miles on from the tree, whence a slight turn brings the lane back into the true for Beacon 6.

The effect of this is to put a triangle of ground from Kenya territory of roughly two miles by four miles by five and a half miles into Italian Somaliland. These distances are all approximate and were not measured.

A careful search was made at the place two miles South of Beacon 5 where the lane first turned out of the true and it was found that the original cutting had proceeded in a straight line for about twenty yards before coming to an abrupt stop. It had then started again in the direction of the large tree described but, although obviously the original cutting, it was not straight. It is significant that this second line passed through a
lugga

lugga further on at a place where is a water hole. The lane was unfortunately cleaned from the direction of Beacon 6 towards 5 and in the broken hilly country in this area the slight turn out of the true described above went unnoticed by the native in charge, especially as the original cutting was clearly defined and quite straight for the four miles up to the large tree. But on arrival there, the much sharper turn, followed by cutting in a wavering line, showed that there was an error. An extensive search was at once carried out for traces of any cutting in the true line between Beacons 6 and 5, but none could be found other than that followed."

It is considered that these inaccuracies should be placed on record; and it may be considered desirable, in order to avoid unnecessary complications when the joint survey contemplated in the Exchange of Notes between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Italian Government, dated the 22nd November, 1935, takes place, to bring them to the notice of the Italian Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Adwards

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

16

EXTRACTS from A REPORT, NO. ADM.15/2/5/56 of the 22nd MAY,
1956, by the DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, GARISSA.

KENYA - ITALIAN SOMALILAND BOUNDARY.

I have to report that I have walked along this boundary from half a mile North of Primary Beacon No.20 to one mile South of Beacon No.22. I originally hoped to visit No.19 also, but, hearing of trespassers in Rama Guda I decided to deal with them, rather than go on to Liboi and allow them the chance to escape. I left the boundary at Beacon No.22, because Mr. Kennaway had already reported on No.23 (vide my ADM.15/2/54 of 14.8.54).

2. At the point where I reached the boundary it is crossed by a well-defined track, which had been used by people and goats recently. No further human tracks were found till some 18 miles South of Beacon No.21, and no other signs of people having crossed lately were seen at all. Trespass is, however, commoner in the dry season.

3. At the place where I reached it, the line of the boundary can be seen clearly Northwards and Southwards when standing on it, but one might easily cross it unwittingly. Thereafter the line gets less and less recognizable the further South it is followed. Trees and bushes overhang it, innumerable bushes have sprung up in the middle. At times the line can be seen for some distance ahead at clear patches, or where the bush on either side is markedly taller than that on the line. Generally speaking, however, it is comparable to a Somali stock track, little if any better than many I have used in this district. Following it is easy, but for 90% of the distance along which I travelled, no one crossing it would realize that it has ever been a cut track.

4. The

4. The worst places I saw were:-

(a) The area marked "Uarrach" on the map attached to Cmd. 4491. This is the Italian spelling: the R.G.S. system renders it "Warak" (vide Cmd. 4491, page 44), a point of some importance since when I was questioning my guide I pronounced it with a final "ch" and he failed to recognize the name. When we got there he promptly hailed it as "Warak".

(b) The immediate vicinity of the pool "Gangesa" 4 miles North of Beacon No.22.

(c) A large plain beginning a quarter of a mile South of Beacon No.22. I cannot say how far it extends Southwards.

At all these no trace of the boundary remains. All three are open with small clumps of bushes, (a) and (c) being black cotton plains liable to become morasses after rain. There are many stock and game tracks, and without a compass it would be hard to be sure of the right one. Indeed at Gangesa it took me some 15 minutes to find where the line became visible again in thicker bush.

5. My guide stated that he saw Beacon No.19 two years ago, and that it was then standing. Possibly it still is, since No.25 was broken long before that: I saw the remains myself in 1951. Nos. 20 and 21 should be traceable again, and are moreover in an area seldom habitable. At the same time Somalis may scatter the cement and obliterate the marks on trees, or even mark more trees and so cause confusion.

6. I could identify none of the gabions mentioned on pages 24 and 25 of Cmd. 4491. There are many mounds

mounds on the line and I could not be certain which were artificial. Of the tracks crossing the boundary mentioned, the only one recognized was that to Jara Jila midway between Beacons 21 and 22. Possibly the others would show up better in the dry weather when vegetation is sparser. There is another much larger track, just North of that to Jara Jila, leading to "Amuno" in Kenya which is not marked. Neither of these tracks had been used lately except by game.

