

X.F.7872
22 NOV 1926

KENYA
CO 533/363

X.F.7872
22 NOV 1926

From
GC'S DEPUTY
JORTHCOYE 932

Date
21st October 1926.

ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN 3rd R.A.R. and Italian Irregulars.

CLOSED
UNTIL
~~1927~~

| Previous paper | (Minutes within) | |
|------------------|------------------|--|
| Subsequent paper | | |
| H.A. | 23/11 | |
| Room 29 | 23/11 | |
| Mr Mackay | 23/11 | |
| Mr Allen | 23/11 | |
| Mr Cheevers | 24 | |
| X.H. Room | 3 2/4 | |
| Mr Mackay | 26/11 | |
| Mr Mackay | 26/11 | |
| Room | 11 | |
| H. McLean | | |

(3061) W.C. 22057/24 15m 11/26 J.F.W. (B. 2337)

NOT TO BE TURNED INSIDE OUT.

Encloses copies report on encounter between soldiers of the 3rd K.A.R. and 5 Italian Irregulars which took place at El Wak in British Territory. Adds that he has had no communication from the Italians on the subject.

(a)

Mr Maclay

Rather an unfortunate incident: but the Italians do not seem to be making a fuss about it, which is lucky. It looks as if they realised that their lives had no business in British territory - see the last lines of page 1 of Enclosure 1. I suppose it was for the F.O. to say whether they wish to take the matter up from our side.

? Copies of despatch & enclosures to F.O. in store draft, saying that they will doubtless inform us should they propose taking any action in the matter.

C.A. Cliffe

Mr Allen
Sir C. Bracher

23. XI. 26.

A ~~minor~~ similar occurrence has just taken place in Somalia, & we have taken the occasion to protest mildly to the Italian Govt in regard to their letting armed Italian irregulars cross the Br. frontier. The Italian policy of arming friendly natives & sending them out against hostile tribes tends to produce such occurrences.

XF 7512/26
1) Govr's Deputy Northcote 932 ----- 21st Oct. 1926.

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(A)

Mr Mackay

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? Copies of despatch & enclosures to F.O. with short draft, saying that they will doubtless inform us should they propose taking any action in the matter.

CAH Cliffe

Mr Allen
Mr C. Spracher

23 XI 26.

A ~~similar~~ similar occurrence has just taken place in Somalia, & we have taken the occasion to protest mildly to the Italian Govt in regard to their letting armed Italian irregulars roam the Br. frontier. The Italian policy of arming friendly natives & sending them out against hostile tribes tends to produce such occurrences.

I don't think that there is ~~much~~ any
point in our calling the Italian
fact's attention to the present incident
but if they raise the question we
appear to have a strong case as the
Italians were in Br.
territory & apparently
began the fighting

Certainly not
O.

I think we can send the despatch
with no comment

Equatorial
28/11/26

London
28/11/26

C.S.
24/11
at once

To F.O. 26 NOV 1926 / S/1a

Seen S. Lowe
1.12.26
M. M. M.
2/12/26

Noted

ka



KENYA.

No. 932

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

21st October 1926.

X.F. 7872
22 NOV 1926

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit for your information copies of a report received from the Senior Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province, regarding a fight which occurred at El Wak in British territory between soldiers of the 3rd King's African Rifles and five irregular Italian levies in which two of the latter were killed and one wounded.

2. I have not as yet received any communication from the Royal Italian Government on this subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. A. H. [Signature]
GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

Copy to 70
26 NOV 1926
f.a

NO. 223/21/B/26.

The Honourable,
The Chief Native Commissioner,
Nairobi.

Encounter between an N.C.O. & 8 rank & file of
3rd King's African Rifles & 5 Irregular Italian
levies in British Territory at El Wak.

*Disturbed
in summary
report*

I have to report that on the 23rd ultimo a party of 9 men of the 3rd King's African Rifles on transfer from Mandera to Wajir came into contact with a party of 5 Marehan irregular levies in the employment of the Italian Government. The meeting took place at El Wak in British Territory and as a result of the refusal of the Marehan levies to comply with a demand of the King's African Rifles to render up two Adjuran prisoners and two rifles whom the levies had seized in British Territory, fighting occurred in which 2 of the levies were killed and one wounded and one taken prisoner. It is stated by the King's African Rifles concerned that the fighting was commenced by the Marehan levies who opened fire upon the King's African Rifles and this statement is supported by Gurreh witnesses.

A copy of a report of the matter submitted by the Officer Commanding, King's African Rifles Detachment Wajir is enclosed.

On the 8th instant Mr Pease District Commissioner Mandera met Lieut Bianci at El Wak, the latter having been despatched thither by the Resident Serenli in order that he might enquire into the incident above reported. I am informed by Mr Pease that Lieut Bianci appeared to appreciate that

the incident was due to the action of the Marchan levies in entering British Territory for the purpose of seizing certain Adjuran tribesmen who are alleged to have run away from Italian Territory, and that the Marchan levies were therefore to that extent responsible for the incident.

In reprisal for the losses incurred by the Marchan levies as above reported, further Marchan levies visited a British Well at El Wak after the departure of the King's African Rifles from the wells and carried off 4 Gurreh prisoners and 63 head cattle and 8 camels to Serenli; Lieut Bianci informed Mr Pease that he believed that the Resident Serenli would make no difficulty about the return of these Gurreh and the seized stock.

The affair appears to have occurred as a result of the unauthorized encroachment of Marchan irregular levies. So far as I can ascertain no blame can be attached to the King's African Rifles concerned for their action in the matter.

T. O. Buller

Ag' Senior Commissioner,
Northern Frontier Province.

Copy to:-

The District Commissioner, Mandera.
The Officer Commanding, K.A.R. Wajir.

The Officer Commanding, K.A.R. Manderu.
The District Commissioner, Manderu.
The Adjutant, 3rd. K.A.R. Nairobi.
The Senior Commissioner, N.F.P., Meru.

**Fight at El Wak between King's African
Rifles and Italian Askaris.**

This morning NO.18620 L/C Waldemarian and 8 privates of NO.16 Platoon arrived here with 1 prisoner and reported as follows:-

On the morning of August 23rd they reached El Wak on their way here from Manderu and camped at the wells. They were told by some Gurreh that 5 Italian askaris had been for some days in their manyatta and had taken a goat etc. Shortly afterwards 5 Italian askaris appeared with 1 prisoner and two Fusilgras rifles. The Corporal King's African Rifles questioned them and the informed him they were taking the prisoner and the rifles to their camp, that the prisoner was a British Subject, that they had no pass or permission to cross the frontier. He demanded that they should hand over the prisoner and two Fusilgras rifles. They refused and the Corporal said he would take them by force. The Italian askaris jumped up, and ran to cover about 70 yards off and opened fire on the King's African Rifles the latter extended, lay down and fired back, killing two Italian askaris wounding another who escaped without his rifle and captured a fourth. The remaining one got away unhurt with his rifle. They brought in 4 Italian rifles, 3 cartridge belts with 42 rounds in each, two old Fusilgras rifles and the prisoner.

A Gurreh, Musa Melishe, whose manyatta was involved and who witnessed the fight, supports the Corporal's evidence and says he got news on the road here that the Italian askaris near El Wak have since raided his manyatta, seizing 4 men and 300 head of stock.

The prisoner, Abdillei Farah, Marchan, says he enlisted 1½ months ago, that his post consists of 1 Sergeant 1 Corporal and 30 Irregulars near El Wak. They received orders from the Residents at Sereni's to arrest two Italian Subjects and 5 of them were detailed for the job and followed the manyatta which contained these men when it moved across the frontier. His account of the fight is simply that the King's African Rifles were the aggressors.

The Senior Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province and the Officer Commanding Troops are expected here in a day or two and I will report the matter to them for a full investigation.

Sd/ G. Murray, Lieut.
For Officer Commanding No.4 Coy, K.A.Rifles.