

EAST AFR. PROT.  
24811

C.O.  
24911  
1913

467  
1913  
June  
previous Paper  
4/12/13

VOLUNTEER RESERVE

States that there is nothing in the law or in conditions of service to convince him that the movement is of any real practical utility. Is not disposed to support any request for additional expense upon Reserve as at present constituted. Would support any movement for a proper Volunteer Corps but regular and exceptional privileges enjoyed must cease. Sends report by I.C. on rifles and asks copy may be forwarded to W.O.

Captain French

J.R.

22/7/13

Mr. French Mr. J. Anderson

I agree with the conclusions arrived at by Mr Belfield that the Volunteer Reserves as at present constituted in BEA are not of such utility as to warrant any additional expenditure on them.

This fact is in my opinion no fault of the Reserves themselves but rather because the assistance which may be expected from them is of such an "undefined description"

The volunteering spirit is undoubtedly deserving of all encouragement, but it is also necessary to guide it.

There is no advantage in aiming too high demanding too much of volunteers in newly settled countries, but there should be a definite and considered aim which takes

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into consideration not only existing conditions but also possible future developments -

I am inclined to think that in BFA more has been thought of encouraging the volunteering spirit than of considering the *raison d'être* of the forces to be raised.

I would suggest therefore that the Govt be asked to state what, in his opinion, should be the duty of the Volunteers or Volunteer Reserves in the event of either sporadic or general native risings - When this has been laid down clearly & definitely and approved here and also perhaps by the O.D.C. it should be possible to ascertain how far the volunteering spirit will carry the settlers of BFA towards the attainment of the object desired.

From experience gained elsewhere I believe that the best method of dealing with native risings is to strike quickly and hard in the first instance - It is obvious that no white force will be able to do this in BFA for some time to come, and indeed as long as the K.A.R. Police are maintained it is not necessary that they should be asked to do so.

But on the other hand these Volunteers might with great advantage be utilized to secure the Uganda Railway & to cover the concentration of white settlers along the line in the event of such an unfortunate

official element in any such force, because if there were such a rising the normal administrative work in the Protectorate would probably be increased, & the services of civilian officials would be less rather than more available ~~than~~ for military purposes than they are at present. Administrative officers might however, should they wish to do so, be allowed to join the force under modified conditions & so obtain the benefit of musketry training.

It seems to me that the employment of Volunteers must be considered with reference to the varying conditions obtaining in each separate Protectorate: and BFA is unlike other African Protectorates in that the Uganda Railway is a definite and extremely important artery affecting Uganda as well as BFA, and also because of the constantly increasing population of white settlers in the highlands.

Finally the Governor might be asked whether it is possible to employ the services of some of the settlers of experience as reserve officers of the K.A.R. on condition of their doing a small period of <sup>training</sup> ~~service~~ annually - This in my opinion would be greatly to the advantage & most useful to the K.A.R.

as proposed by Capt. Frost  
H.S.K. 25/7/13



such as to make it feasible,  
when financial considerations  
will permit, to raise a full  
company of volunteers at each  
of two or more centres, there  
can be no question that he is  
quite right in depreciating  
any additional expenditure  
on the existing Volunteer Reserves.  
"Volunteer Reserves" are really  
nothing more than Rifle Clubs,  
the members of which are under  
an obligation to serve in time  
of emergency, and, unless such  
organizations exist alongside  
of properly organized volunteer  
units, in which the members of  
the Reserves can be enrolled  
when required, the usefulness  
of the volunteer Reserves must  
always be of doubtful value  
as compared with the better  
organized units.

It is for this reason that the

O. D. C. have always been careful  
to recommend the organization of  
"Volunteer Reserves" only:-

- (a) In the case of places where properly  
organized volunteer units are also  
maintained, in which the members  
of the Reserves can be enrolled in  
time of emergency.
- (b) In the case of places, such as the  
African Protectorates, where there  
are white populations which are  
so few in numbers and so  
widely dispersed as to make  
the raising of properly organized  
volunteer units impracticable, &  
where it is the obvious duty of  
the white settlers to qualify themselves  
to bear arms in time of emergency.

Although it is very desirable that  
everything possible should be done  
to encourage volunteering, it is  
at the same time highly essential  
that wasteful expenditure should

be avoided, and I agree with  
Capt French that, if at a later  
date the financial conditions of  
E Africa are such as to make it  
practicable to raise a properly  
organized volunteer corps, the  
degree of usefulness that such  
a corps will possess should,  
in the first instance, be carefully  
considered, and ~~that~~ further  
that the exact duties the corps  
would have to perform in time of  
emergency should be clearly  
defined: indeed one of the main  
reasons for having a Defence  
Scheme is to ensure that this is  
done.

14.10.13.

G.H.W.

Pat G. 2

K.S.R.

1575/13

at home 15.10.13

C.O  
24811  
REC  
19 JUL 13

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

June 19th 1913.

No. 467

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Sir,

*the*  
*17/12/13*

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 439 of July 25th 1912 relating to the Volunteer Reserve.

*Report by Insp. General*

2. On my arrival in the Protectorate this subject received my early consideration and I had intended to submit an expression of my views upon it in connection with the provision for expenditure on a Volunteer Corps which it was originally proposed to insert in the draft Estimates for the present year. Subsequently, however, in order to conform strictly with the "half and half" principle the amount inserted in the first instance had to be cut out and the existing financial situation renders it improbable that it will be possible to take any steps in the matter in the immediate future; but, as the measures contemplated would in my opinion have been highly desirable, had funds permitted of their being carried into effect, I deem it desirable to describe in some detail the conclusions to which I was led as a consequence of my investigation into the actual organisation of the

Volunteer

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DONNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

(2)

**Volunteer forces of the Protectorate.**

3. I have examined Ordinance No. 20 of 1910 with the view of ascertaining what is the advantage which the Government and the general public of the Protectorate derive from the formation and maintenance of the Volunteer Reserve in return for the expenditure for which the Ordinance has made the Government liable, and so far as I can see the benefit to the country and the public is limited to assistance of an undefined description in the event of a call to active service.

4. The Ordinance has been passed and the Reserve organised upon lines which are calculated to render enrolment attractive, but there is nothing in the provisions of the law or in the conditions of service to convince me that the movement is of any real practical utility.

5. The organisation is in fact, as described by Colonel Treziser, neither more nor less than a Rifle Club, the members of which, in return for an undertaking to place their services at the disposal of Government in the event of war or serious disturbance, and subject to a condition to pass an annual musketry course, are placed in possession, free of cost to themselves, of ranges, rifles and ammunition, and the means of providing prizes for their periodical competitions.

6. The grant of such extensive privileges can only be defended on the ground that rifle practice is a necessary factor of efficiency for active service, but the reply to that is that real efficiency as a disciplined and serviceable body is not

attainable

(3)

attainable by that means alone. It seems to me to be beyond question that if skill in rifle shooting is not supplemented by those qualities which can only be developed by habitual submission to discipline and by that experience in military evolutions which is obtainable only <sup>by</sup> regular drill and by the study of tactics, the assistance which would be rendered by a body of untrained sharp shooters would be of very doubtful value.

7. For these reasons I am not disposed, on the information before me, to support any request for additional expenditure upon the Reserve as at present constituted. I do not wish to say that it may not have been reasonable to offer encouragement in this form in earlier days, when the white population was widely scattered and numerically insufficient to render possible the formation of a Volunteer Corps, but now that the number of able bodied white British subjects has attained its present dimensions, there should be no difficulty in raising a full company at two or more centres, and I consider that assistance should be given to rifle shooting in the future only as an adjunct to the more serious and important duty of military training and discipline.

8. If the members of our white community are disposed to offer themselves for enrolment in a Volunteer Corps, the movement will have my fullest support, but in any event I am of opinion that the peculiar and exceptional privileges enjoyed by the Volunteer Reserve must cease.



(4)

9. I am strengthened in this view by the result of an inspection by the Inspector General, King's African Rifles, of the rifles in the possession of this Reserve. I attach copies of his Report and would ask that one of them be forwarded to the War Office, as requested. It is to my mind a proof that its members do not take proper care of the weapons entrusted to them and leave them to be looked after by native servants. Under the existing Ordinance I am advised that it would be difficult to insist on a deposit in the case of each rifle issued and I have come to the conclusion that the only remedy lies in the formation of a disciplined Volunteer Corps as soon as our finances will allow of the requisite expenditure.

10. The Officer Commanding Troops concurs with the opinions expressed in this Despatch.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*H. Conway, Beyard*

GOVERNOR.

INCLOSURE

In Dispatch No. 467 of 19 6 19 13

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BOMBO.

U g a n d a

I.G.835

28th December 1912.

C. O.  
24811REC'D  
19 JUL 13

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I inspected the available rifles of the Volunteer Reserve at Nairobi on the 21st December 1912. I attach a return showing the result of this inspection. There can I think be no question that this shows a very serious state of affairs due in my opinion first to ignorance of the methods of cleaning a rifle and secondly to carelessness on the part of — members who have allowed their rifles to be cleaned by boys and not given any personal supervision to the matter. It is I consider a fair assumption that the rifles of the Nairobi Units, where there is an armoury, will be found as good as, or even better than, those of the outside Units.

No rifle was classified as "Bad" or "Condemned" until it had been inspected by two other officers, including a Volunteer Reservist, as well as by myself. Many of these shown as "Indifferent" would with native troops be considered bad.

It is quite clear that steps must be taken to put an end to such a waste of public money, and I therefore make the following suggestions for your consideration.

- (a) To adopt the system of a deposit. I suggest that

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR &amp; GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF,

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

(2)

that a sum of Rs. 40 should be deposited by every member in possession of a Government rifle. On his handing in his rifle, it should not be re-issued until it had been examined by an expert, and any damage that could not be put down to fair wear and tear should be charged against the deposit.

(b) No man should be allowed to be in possession of a Government rifle until he thoroughly understands how to clean it, and has given proof that he is competent to do so.

(c) Instructions should be drawn up by the Officer Commanding Troops for the care of rifles. These should be printed and a copy issued to each member.

(d) Members of the Volunteer Reserve should regard the cleaning of their rifles as a duty, which should not be allowed to devolve on their boys.

(e) Every rifle should have a history sheet showing to whom it was issued and <sup>on</sup> what date. Any defects should be entered.

(f) The Adjutant of the Volunteer Reserve would of course have authority to inspect a rifle at any time.

I have &c.,

Sd/- G. THESIGER Colonel  
Inspector General,  
The King's African Rifles.

## EAST AFRICA VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

## Inspection of Rifles

C.O  
24811Recd  
19 JUL 13

NAIROBI UNIT	54 Rifles inspected.
Good Rifles	12
Indifferent Rifles	18
Bad Rifles	15
Condemned Rifles	9
Total	54 of which 14 rifles had the wrong bolts.

RAILWAY UNIT	44 Rifles inspected
Good Rifles	6
Indifferent Rifles	10
Bad Rifles	9
Condemned Rifles	19
Total	44 of which 6 rifles had the wrong bolts.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN UNIT	11 Rifles inspected.
Good Rifles	1
Indifferent Rifles	3
Bad Rifles	5
Condemned Rifles	2
Total	11 of which 3 rifles had the wrong bolts.

Total number of rifles inspected ... 109

Good Rifles	19
Indifferent Rifles	31
Bad Rifles	29
Condemned Rifles	30
Total	109

23 Rifles had the wrong bolts.

Gov 24871/1913.

96

E.A.P.

850

DRAFT.

E.A.P.

No 86

only

26 Sept. 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Belfield's despatch, N<sup>o</sup> 467, of the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, ~~and to inform you that~~ relating to the Volunteer Reserve, and to inform you that it was referred to the Inspector General of the King's African Rifles who was asked to discuss the matter with you on his arrival at Nairobi with a view to his advising

W.A.B. 25/9/1913  
 Bottomley 25/9/13

Copy to Mr W.O. 26 Sep 13

W.A.B. Wilson

(A)

over