



EAST AFR. PROT  
40279

40279  
22 Nov 13

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1913

31 Oct.

Last previous Paper.

To  
40032

Situation on S Abyss. Frontier.

Sends further report by Mr. Kittermaster  
repts encounters with party of Abyssinians near  
Konyangawani

Mr. G. Fiddes

We must wait for the S. G.'s  
views on Mr. Kittermaster's rather vague  
proposals. I do not think that it  
is worth

Send copy to F.O. for info, with  
ref to previous comm. 27. ?

H. J. R.

25/11/13  
Pr. 26.11.13

at once  
Ch 16.11.13

S.R.

Next subsequent Paper

40821

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EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI, 22ND OCT 1913  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

(No. 855)

21  
22nd October 1913.



457

Sir,

799

In continuation of my despatch No. 599 of the 11th of October, I have the honour to forward herewith a further report by Mr H.B. Kittermaster, Assistant District Commissioner, regarding the encounter with a party of Abyssinians near Loryangawani.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

B.B. Bowring  
*[Signature]*  
Deputy GOVERNOR.

x No 38066

16.9.13.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, F.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Continuation of report on reconnaissance to the north of Mt. Kulal and the wounding of Mr Lloyd Jones.

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The water hole at which Mr Lloyd Jones received his wound is situated at 3°17' N and 36°44'50" E and is known to the Samburu by the name of Bwanu. The boma which he attacked is the same one as the Samburu reported as existing there in April, to which the raided Samburu stock had been driven. Indeed it was obvious that it had been standing for many months if not years and I came to the conclusion that it was probably a regular port of call for hunting parties. In size it was not very large, capable of holding perhaps 30 men but it was very strongly built, consisting of a stiff thorn zareba about eight feet high with several small huts inside. But I am still in doubt as to what this particular party of Abyssinians, who were annihilated, were doing. It is possible that they were some of the original gang which raided Kulal in April and that the donkey safari trail that we picked up was merely a posho safari from the Reshiat country. They may on the other hand have been a party newly arrived to hunt and the absence of any skins except a lion skin, an oryx and a few Grantii seems to point to their having been there but a short time. But so far as my information serves me, there are no elephant to be found at this time of the year on the low ground: they are all on Kulal and Nete in the forests. So that unless half the party is even now on Kulal hunting elephant, it seems hard to guess what they were doing at this boma.

Indeed the most plausible theory is one put forward by the Abyssinian K.A.R. namely that the activity

activity of the Abyssinian government on the frontier has scared these hunters and that they were just lying in hiding there. It is even possible that they were part of the same gang which killed Captain Aylmer. But whatever they were doing, there is not the least doubt that they were some of these so called Tigre who are giving so much trouble on the frontier and I consider that Mr Lloyd Jones has done a great service in wiping them out. Strong offensive action of this sort should deter similar parties from coming this way.

I regret that I was unable to get to Herr water. From Captain Stigand's account it is a large water hole capable of carrying a big camp whereas Bwanu is quite a small one. Even had we found no one there, it might have afforded valuable evidence as to the routes and habits of these Tigre. I think however that it is more than possible that quite a colony would have been found there and that this may be the starting place for these raids on our people. The desert country NW of Marsabit is now practically denuded of natives and except for an occasional camel safari crossing to Kulal I get hardly any news from this part. These men may be continually wandering about there. Last year Abyssinian cartridges were picked up at Laiperra water 30 miles from Marsabit on the Kulal road.

It seems to me very necessary that a strong patrol should go out from Marsabit passing along the line of water holes extending all the way from Marsabit to Herr and a stay of some days made at Herr while the country round is being scoured. But I consider it would be hazardous to attempt this with the half company stationed at Loiyangalani. The necessity of leaving guards in the Bema, etc. reduces the

effective

effective striking force of such a patrol to about 25 R. & F. If my premises are correct, one must reckon on the possibility of finding as many as 50 of these tigre collected in one place, to judge from Captain Llewellyn's experience of these parts. I do not anticipate aggressive action on the part of these men against people able to defend themselves as I gather that their raids and hunting are purely commercial speculations but it must be borne in mind that they are outcasts and desperate men, that they are armed with rifles of a particularly destructive calibre and (some of them at any rate) magazine rifles and that people who hunt elephant for a living are not to be despised as poor shots.

I recognise that this western half of the district is of less importance than Koyali and the Eastern half. It is also less patrolled and known. I do not wish to think that I am suggesting that special operations should be undertaken here. I do however suggest that when this detachment now at Loiyangalani is relieved, it or its relief should make this detour round the water holes of the north. The news of such a patrol would almost certainly get spread about and even if no one was met with, the knowledge that this detachment was mobile would probably have a deterrent effect. At present this country to the north is a no-man's land. If this course of action were followed it could be done at practically no increased expense.

One more point remains to be discussed, the suitability of Loiyangalani as a station for this detachment.

Between Loiyangalani and the Frontier lies a stretch

stretch of more than 100 miles of country now uninhabited owing to the Abyssinian menace. Formerly Samburu and Rendile occupied it right up to the Reshiat country and Hurri Escarpment. This tract of country these raiding parties know far better than we do at present, its possible roads and water holes. I say its possible roads advisedly for as far as I can see it is a very difficult country for transport, especially in the vicinity of Kulal, consisting as it does of unbroken lava rock. Thus information of an impending raid is impossible and pursuit of an accomplished raid difficult.

Some 70 miles north of Kulal is a considerable hill called Longemdoti on the lake shore and north of this for some 15 miles is a ridge of chaotic volcanic rock called Murti Ndare (Sam). Beyond this broken ground the country flattens out to the North and becomes very bare and desolate. East of this broken ground (along the line of my safari) the country is open and the going good and water attainable, so far as I could see, right away to Horr. In the volcanic ridge is what is usually referred to as the water hole in ~~Teleki's~~ Teleki's Basalt Ravine, a considerable pool which the Samburu state to be permanent. A very strong position could be made at this water hole. From Horr lying under Hurri there is a line of water holes extending to Marsabit.

My idea in giving you this information is to allow the consideration of the possibility of pushing forward this detachment to a better striking point. This Murti Ndare is possible Horr seems to suggest itself as the best place. It is equally accessible with Kulal from Marsabit and I imagine much more so from Moyali. A

detachment

detachment at Horr patrolling east and west would be astride the route by which these Tigre enter the Protectorate. It would seem to give a more uniform frontier line with Moyali and incidentally would let the Rendili come back to their old grazing grounds.

I recognise how vaguely I am writing: there may be many insuperable objections to any scheme of movement: I do not even know if Horr is the big water hole it is rumoured to be or if climatically it is a possible place for a permanent post, but not knowing what policy for the Frontier is being considered I give you this information for what it is worth.

I also realise that the Officer in Charge is the proper person to whom this should have been addressed in the first instance but I understand that this detachment at Kulal is to be relieved shortly and thought that in case the Officer i/c should wish for a patrol via Horr the military authorities might have warning. A copy of this is of course being sent to him.

Sd. H.B. KITTERMATER.

A.D.C.

Loiyangalani.

16.9.13.