Warner 27
Field
1914
th January

CAMELS VERSUS MULES FOR TRANSPORT

The report by Major L. J. Hickson, Acting Chief Veterinary Officer, should be noted for three reasons. It is not considered practicable to utilize mules in place of camels. Means also there is no possibility of forwarding mule breeding in the Northern Part of the Prot.

Mr Bottomley ~~[illegible]~~ Sir G. Fiddes

An interesting report in view of present situation – & the Serenli Transport seems to be in a good way on the whole, if bottle can be avoided –

Mules must be given the go-by, I am afraid.

Publ. ALP 19/2/14

Cons. 21.2.14

H. J. R. 26/2/14

R. 2.3.14

Wood 7.3.14

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

January 7th 1914.

No. 27

Sir,

Treas
22336/6

In accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 2 of your despatch No.532 of July 4th 1913, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a report by Major L.H.Hickson on the Serenli Military Transport Corps.

Report
Nov.8th 13

2. I agree with Major Hickson that the Camel drivers should if possible be enlisted for three years and the Officer Commanding Troops will be asked to make this a condition when engaging new men for service.

3. As regards your enquiry in paragraph 3 I may say that it is not considered practicable to utilize mules in place of camels for transport purposes. It is a very difficult matter to procure mules in that part of the Protectorate and if they were imported a large number would probably be lost between Kismayu and Serenli.

4. I fear also that there is no possibility of fostering mule breeding in the Northern Part of the Protectorate and I do not think it would be wise to attempt anything of this nature where conditions are so adverse that all hope of success would

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

would be eliminated.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Humble, obedient servant,

Hornsby Bryant

GOVERNOR.

No.486/7/18

INCLOSURE 27 of 7 1914

The King's African Rifles,
S E R E N L I G. O.
8th November 1913.

To

The Adjutant,
3rd King's African Rifles
Nairobi.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the attached report on the Serenli Military Transport Corps, in accordance with your No.898/36/13 dated 20th of August 1913, received at Serenli on the 19th of October 1913, and seen by me on 31st October 1913.

I have etc.

Sd. L.H.HICKSON Major

Commanding Troops Jubaland.

4 Sections [illegible]

Camp for [illegible]

1 Section [illegible] on [illegible]

Barrosabare road.

State on November 1st 1921.

on	No. of Camels	No. fit wanting rest	No. now fit	No. sick	very sick	Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Remarks
Sec.	50	-	50	-	-	50		1		12		
Sec.	50	10	30	10	-	50			2	1		
Sec.	50	10	30	6		6		1		1		
Sec.	50	30	4	16	-	6						
Sec.	50	30	10	10	-	5		1			20	Drivers not sufficient to allow for Signal, Station sick camels, [illegible] &c.
ick	13				13	13				1		
	26					26						
ation												
	289	80	124	41	13	289	1	3	1	30	2	

Probable Facilities for Transport in early February 1914.

Patrol Strength.

11 Officers
250 Infantry
85 Syces
14 Ponies
50 Riding Camels
25 Ilalces
Followers

with 21 days food
2 days water
300 rds reserve ammunition
5000 rds for Maxim Gun

Transport necessary for this for 200

1 Transport necessary for supplies Serenli - Garrebahare } 50

209 camels already purchased.
41 camels to be purchased by Officer i/c S.M.T.Corps.

Total 250

Trypanosomiasis.

Since the arrival of Mr. Leese (Camel Expert Veterinary Department), the latter has made extensive blood examinations and found a large proportion of camels infected with the disease known as 'Tryphasomiasis'.

I think it can now safely said that nearly all our casualties since this country was opened have been due to this disease.

It is to be regretted that the fact that this disease, the infection of the 'Tsetse Fly', was carried by 'Bal' (Tabanus) could not have been communicated to officers serving in these parts before, as it has been known and worked - Mr. Leese informs, for 8 years in India, where the losses from 'Tryps' were formerly very heavy.

Officers here had come to suspect something of the sort from what the natives said of the disease they call 'Dukkan'.

'Bal', in the rains and just before they break, is prevalent along the river Juba; and it is at Helimerara, Lolleshid and on river side patrols that the camels probably become infected.

The Advanced Base has now been moved to Barrebahare Camp 18 miles West of the river and the line of communication from Serenli will now not touch the river, but will go through 'safe' country - this should minimise risk of infection.

But as two of the most important questions gun-running and raid by the Merehan against the Italian tribes are connected with the river both River Dawa and Juba (the former being probably 'fly' as well as 'Bal'), it cannot be guaranteed that troops and their transport can always be kept away from the 'Bal' country.

The best chance of stamping out the Tryps, I am advised by Mr. Leese, is routine blood inspection by 'Skilled Veterinary Officer or Salutri' - and the segregation of infected camels.

Other casualties

Other Casualties.

Pneumonia and sore backs.

Syces.

The Arabi syces [illegible] years and are [illegible] generally relied on-

But the legal intern, [illegible] vary periods, are necessarily [illegible] were [illegible] locally engaged men, [illegible] Syces.

It must therefore [illegible] to find out the extent to which they [illegible] is a doubtful point.

If this [illegible] for [illegible] pay [illegible] from [illegible]. Be-sides [illegible] well, [illegible] movements.

Saddlery.

(1) The native horse saddling is quite [illegible] its advantages being that it can be obtained locally, suits locals like 'barrijiis' and [illegible] form of saddling is [illegible] properly by the local syces.

It is a very heavy [illegible] 3 mats are used, [illegible] about [illegible] lbs [illegible] to not less than [illegible].

(2) Arab saddles made [illegible] only the syces who have [illegible] understand saddling properly [illegible].

These saddles [illegible] advantage of being light.

'Indian Pattern' or [illegible] Saddle.

(3) Mr Lucas recommends this-

Its advantages are it is light, [illegible] trees (see page 193 Animal Management) which can be altered according to the formation or condition

of the camels.

The disadvantages are (1) it would mean either buying in India or employing trained Indian Palas makers (2) the local syces would take a lot of training to saddle properly and might do more harm than good with it.

Veterinary.

A sufficient supply of ordinary medicines for camels is now available.

A Veterinary Store has been constructed and this will be placed under charge of the Veterinary Officer when he arrives.

The present charge against the Vote is sufficient.

Remounts.

The death rate on last 12 months working was 30%.

This, I consider, is the minimum percentage which should be allowed for Remounts yearly; and that will only suffice as long as a sufficient establishment of camels is kept, for the work required to admit of all camels getting long periods of rest each year.

Purchase of Camels.

This is a slow and laborious affair. It will be some time before the Transport Officer has completed purchasing.

The market price is rising. Camels which are discarded for the Corps often fetch high prices at open auction for sending to Kismayu where rates are high.

Transport Officer.

An Officer has been struck off other duties to carry out those of Officer-in-Charge Serenli Military Transport Corps.

It has been found quite impracticable for an

Officer to do his regimental work and properly supervise the Transport.

Sd. L. H. Hickson Major

Commanding Troops, Jubaland.

Serenli

8/II/13.