

EAST AFR. PROT.

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47522 ~~Secret~~

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Source

East Africa Protectorate Operations

1914

24 Oct.

Reports actions at Campi Ya  
Marabu (September 19<sup>th</sup>) and  
Ingina (September 26<sup>th</sup>)

103

lv Balta  
lv Blad  
lv Ingina

As earlier telegrams about  
these engagements are below.  
Both little fights were very  
well fought especially the  
latter (at Ingina) where  
we counted a far stronger  
force of the enemy with  
insignificant losses as  
compared with ours, and  
thus prevented them from  
getting up the Nile to

48289

destroy the Tsavo bridge

In the Campi Ya Masabu

action we unfortunately lost  
Lieut. Foster. It would be

difficult to extract information

for his relatives from the reports

but I should be willing that there

could be no objection to their

having the whole report of this

isolated little action for their

information and in sending

copy of desp. and enc. to

the War Office. I suppose that the

small engagement

at Campi Ya Masabu, in which

Lieut. Foster was killed, might

if the A.C. see no objection

be communicated to his relatives

for their confidential information

W.S. 1/12/14 E.G.M. 1/12/14

and I am willing about making any suggestions

made but

approved? W.S.

12.12.14

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

24th October 1914.

SECRET.

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Sir,

I have the honour to transmit for your information despatches in original received from the General Officer Commanding describing the encounters which took place at Campi ya Marabu on September 19 and at Mzima on September 26.

2. I regret that it has not yet been possible to obtain information from the Military authorities regarding the men wounded in the earlier action, but I have thought it inadvisable to delay the transmission of this despatch in order to await further particulars.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

*H. E. Blyden*

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

ENCLOSURE

Headquarters Staff Office.,

Nairobi, the October 1914.

From.

The General Officer Commanding Troops,  
British East Africa and Uganda Protectorates.

To.

His Excellency the Governor  
and Commander in Chief.,  
British East Africa Protectorate.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to submit a report on  
the action which took place at Campi Ya Marabu on  
the 19th September 1914.

1. The following troops were occupying Campi  
Ya Marabu on the 19th September 1914.
 

3 Sections "A" Company 4th King's African Rifles.	)
1 Maxim.	Lieutenant Foster K.A.R. )
1 Section Somali. M.I.	Captain Isaacson K.A.R.
	Lieut. Miles. B.A.M.R.

The Somalis and miles were occupying a  
thorn boma "A" and the King's African Rifles a  
similar boma "B".

2. It was arranged between Captain Isaacson  
and Lieutenant Foster that, in case of attack, the  
miles were to be taken out of the boma "A" and  
crossed over to the North bank of River Moli Yuresh  
at point "D" through bushes at point "E".

A picquet, composed of Somalis, was posted  
at point "G".

3. At 6.30 a.m. the enemy advancing up the river  
came into touch with the picquet at "G".

Captain Isaacson immediately ordered the  
miles across the river, and then proceeded towards  
the picquet, shortly afterwards meeting a wounded  
Somali retiring on the boma, who reported the enemy

SECRET

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to be in strength.

The enemy, estimated at 3 or 4 white Officers and 100 rank and file, had now opened out on either side of the track at point "G", and kept up a heavy fire; seven of the miles were hit in crossing the river.

On reaching point "G" Captain Isaacson met Lieutenant Foster who had also retired his Company to the North bank of the river.

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Lieutenant Foster on being informed that, the enemy's strength was only about 100, ordered his Company to advance to bushes "E".

- 1 Section King's African Rifles on left with)  
1 " Somalis. Lieutenant Foster. )
- 2 sections King's African Rifles on right with )  
Captain Isaacson and Lieut. Miles. )

The enemy kept up a very heavy fire to our front and left. As our men reached point "E" Lieutenant Foster was hit, but continued to urge on his men in a very gallant manner.

The two section Commanders Sergeants Hagenas Abdul Farag and Mohammed Fadulla, led their respective sections against the enemy, and eventually drove them back.

The enemy's fire then slackened and died away.

The wounded were got back to baraba "B".

A further short burst of fire took place from point "G", as the enemy's rear guard closed up.

The whole action lasted about 2 hours, and from reports received later from the Masai, the enemy appear to have retired in disorder.

The result of this action considerably heartened the Masai in the neighbourhood of Campi Ya Karabu.

Casualties.

British.	Killed.	Lieutenant Foster. 5 rank and file. 1 Somali.
German.	Killed.	15 rank and file.

18. This little action was fought with spirit and determination. Lieutenant Foster died a gallant death, and the British Officers and rank and file of the Somali Section and "A" Company 4th King's African Rifles gave him courageous support.

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I have the honour to be.,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

*Clas Howard*

Brigadier General.,  
Commanding forces.

Copy forwarded to the Chief of the General Staff,  
simla for his information.

Signed. J. M. Stewart.

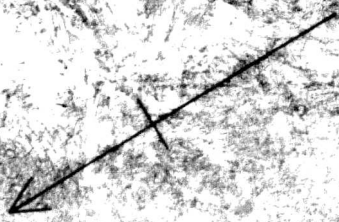
408

Brigadier General.,  
Commanding troops.

# SKETCH

TO ALIGNMENT OF LINE IN LOC

ON ACTUAL AT CAMP TA MARRA PER SEPTEMBER 1960





ENCLOSURE

Headquarters Staff Office,

Nairobi, the 18th October, 1914.

From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,  
East Africa and Uganda Protectorates.

410

To

His Excellency the Governor and  
Commander in Chief,  
East Africa Protectorate.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to submit a report on the  
action which took place at Mzima on the 26th September, 1914.

1. The troops at Mzima, on the 26th  
September, were as follows:-

Captain Saunders, 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles, in  
command.

Lieutenant Lovgrove.	3 Sections, "D" Company, 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles.	80.	1 Maxim.
Lieutenant Pades.			
Lieutenant Shelmeley.	"E" Company, 4th Battalion, King's African Rifles.	100.	1 Maxim.
Lieutenant Hill.			
Lieutenant Davis.	King's African Rifles Mounted Infantry.	20.	
Captain Issamon.	Somali Scouts.	15.	
Mr. Frost.	Intelligence Agent.		

2. The Camp, under the orders of Captain  
Saunders, had been well entrenched.

3. From papers found after the action, it  
appears the enemy's force consisted of:-

3 Companies African Troops.	360.
1 Company European Volunteers.	40.
6 Maxims	

under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Von Bock.

4. A few shots were fired into the Camp  
at daybreak.

5. The main attack commenced at 1 p.m. and  
continued with lulls until 5 p.m. The enemy advanced by 3  
parallel tracks towards our Camp.

country, the action was very disappointed. The enemy's superiority in Machine Guns was not felt. Lance Corporal Ismail Takir, who was in charge of "B" Company, 4th Battalion, King's African Rifles' Machine Gun, succeeded in completely silencing them, and in inflicting considerable loss on their Detachments.

7. After all firing had ceased, patrols were sent forward to reconnoitre, and regain touch with the enemy, who had broken up and fled in small parties.

8. From traces left by the enemy, it appeared that their losses were heavy, and they sustained a severe and unexpected reverse.

9. Information obtained from papers left on the ground, and from a wounded German Askari, shows that the intention of the enemy was to expel our Detachment from the upper reaches of the Tsavo, and eventually to destroy the Railway Bridge over the River Tsavo.

10. The casualties were:-

BRITISH.	2 Rank and file, King's African Rifles,	slightly wounded.
GERMAN.	Lightenant Colonel Von Book.	Killed.
	2 Europeans (Officers).	Killed.
	10 Askaris.	Killed.

11. This small engagement reflects great credit on Captain Saunders, and the Officers and men of his Detachment.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient, ~~humble~~ servant,

*John Stewart*

Brigadier General,  
Commanding Forces.

6. Owing to the thick nature of the 411  
country, the action was very dispirited. The enemy's  
superiority in Machine Guns was not felt. Lance Corporal  
Ismail Fakir, who was in charge of "B" Company, 4th Battalion,  
King's African Rifles' Machine Gun, succeeded in completely  
silencing them, and in inflicting considerable loss on their  
Detachments.

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Your Excellency's most obedient, ~~and~~ servant,

*The Stewart*

Brigadier General,  
Commanding Forces.

Copy forwarded for information to the Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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Copy forwarded for information to the Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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Copy forwarded, for information, to the Chief of the General  
Staff, Simla.

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413

7 Dec. 1914

Dear Sir,

With ref. to the letter from the Dept. of S. Oct. 9 am etc to transmit to you for the information of the Army Council a copy of a despatch from the Gen. of the P.C.D. forwarding the reports of the P.O.C. upon the engagements fought at Campiyo during the Sept. 1914 and Luzina on Sept 26<sup>th</sup>.

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DRAFT.

The Secretary  
War Office

MINUTE.

- Mr. Egan 5/2/14
- Mr. Botherley 7/11/14
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Lillington.
- Mr. Harcourt.

to Colonel 1914

I am to suggest that a copy of the report on the Campiyo

which

objection is forwarded  
to the relatives of  
that officer for their  
confidential information

I am  
Yours  
H. J. R.