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Governor 93
Board

MARAGWET PATROL

Date
1912

February

Trs reports detailing the operations conducted by the patrol. Is convinced that the future history of the tribe will prove the active measures taken to have been the most humane. Calls attention to the good work done by Mr McClellan and Major Ward.

Previous Paper

125
1/12Sir G. Fiddes

This seems to be all right.
 Ask: - express approval of the action
 taken - say that Mr McClellan &
 Major Ward deserve great credit for
 having settled the matter so speedily
 & effectively - say that Mr Harcourt
 has acted with pleasure the terms
 which Major Ward refers to in report
 of the 20th of Jan 2 to certain officers
 Mr. C. & say that, as regards the officers
 & Harcourt officer, Major Ward's remarks
 will be brought to the notice of the

Chief Mr. J. A. C.

(signed)
 11/10/12

the W.O. - I add that Mr. Harcourt
has been glad to receive the for
testimony to the admirable conduct of
the troops - send copy of despatch
to the W.O. calling attention to Major
Gardner's special commendation of certain Officers
& of Major's Dickenson - + Col: Thayer
to see papers on his return - Pat^r & Dep^t &
see what is said about
Mr. McClellan.

H. J. R.

19/III

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As proposed

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

February 10th 1912.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 93

Sir,

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889
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With reference to my telegram of the 8th of January reporting the submission of all sections of the Maragwet, I have the honour to transmit herewith reports by Mr. J. W. T. McClellan, the Political Officer, and Major L. E. S. Ward, the Officer Commanding troops, detailing the operations conducted by the Patrol.

Mr. McClellan
Dec. 29th 11
Mr. McClellan
Jan. 19th 12
Major Ward
Jan. 20th

2. The Patrol consisting of two companies of the 1st King's African Rifles left Nairobi on the 25th of November 1911 and on arriving at their base proceeded through country of the most difficult nature to the plateau on the summit of the escarpment. The inhabitants of the district may be broadly described as the upper and lower Maragwet, the two sections being quite distinct as those residing on the tops of the hills refrain to a great extent from intercourse with those who occupy the lower slopes. The upper Maragwet own a certain number of cattle, goats and sheep, while the lower Maragwet, with few exceptions, possess goats and sheep only.

3. On the arrival of the Patrol at the summit of the escarpment the upper Maragwet, possibly from

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

from the fact that they had most to lose from resistance, came forward with negotiations for peace. They were informed that the main object of the Patrol was to secure the two murderers of the late Mr. Van Breda, and were ordered to make every effort to that end; but as after many conferences spreading over several days no result had been achieved, it became evident that more active measures must be adopted.

4. The upper Maragwet were manifestly prepared to submit at the first show of force, whereas those on the lower slopes were of a more rebellious nature, and as the latter were strongly suspected of harbouring the two murderers, it was decided to send a force to their villages with the object of capturing stock and burning some huts, while dealing as gently with the inhabitants as was possible under the circumstances. Accordingly on the 14th of December last Lieutenant Lloyd Jones proceeded with 'A' Company to the lower slopes. On the arrival of the column the Maragwet immediately assumed the offensive, but were eventually dispersed with a loss estimated at 10 killed, while a native soldier of 'A' Company was dangerously wounded by a poisoned arrow. Six head of cattle and some 350 sheep and goats were captured. In the evening the Maragwet, against whom the operations had been conducted earlier in the day and accompanied by one of the murderers, whom it was sought to capture, attempted to rush the camp

camp, but withdrew after firing several volleys of poisoned arrows.

5. As the result of these operations, the principal headmen of the upper Maragwet attended by their followers, came into the camp bearing two tusks of ivory which they deposited as a token of their willingness to assist, and asked that they might be given a period of two days in which to endeavour to capture the murderers. This request was granted, with the result that on the evening of the second day one of the latter was brought in, and at the same time the whole of the upper Maragwet formally submitted to the Government.

6. It was now a well established fact that the second murderer was living in one of the villages on the lower slopes, and as the Sambiri, a small section of the Maragwet, undeterred by the punitive measures of the 14th of December, still held out and obstinately refused to surrender him, orders were issued on December 28th to Captain Filsell to proceed with 'D' Company to the village where it was believed that the wanted man was residing. On the arrival of the column early in the morning, Captain Filsell summoned the principal inhabitants and told them that unless they surrendered the murderer by 2 p.m. he would take steps to burn the village. As this warning had no effect, at the time stated Captain Filsell gave orders to set fire to the huts

huts, when the Maragwet at once attacked. After some slight resistance about 100 huts were burnt, and at 4.30 p.m. the Company retired. The casualties were estimated to be 5 Maragwet killed and wounded. No casualties occurred among our troops.

7. The next few days were spent in negotiations, and on the 2nd of January it was reported that the second murderer had fled into the Suk country accompanied by a small band of followers. His departure was succeeded by the submission of all the remaining sections of the lower Maragwet.

8. The Patrol was accordingly withdrawn with the exception of 50 rank and file under a British Officer, whom it is considered desirable to retain until they can be replaced by a Police force.

9. The Maragwet are for the present under the administration of the District Commissioner, Ravine, until a more effective arrangement can be devised. They are rapidly settling down to administrative control, as is evinced by the fact that they are cutting a good road through the forests to the Government station at Uasin Gishu, and are becoming alive to the possibilities of trade. The loss of life is of course regrettable, but I am convinced that the future history of this tribe will prove the active measures taken against them to have been the most humane.

10. A subsequent report has been received announcing the capture of the second murderer

in the Namdi country.

11. I would wish to take this opportunity of expressing my deep sense of satisfaction at so speedy and effective a settlement of the country, for which Mr. McClellan and Major Ward are almost entirely responsible. Moreover the conduct of the troops throughout can only be described as admirable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

James
GOVERNOR.

C O

Camp Keptoria 8003

Marquet Patrol

20th. December 1911.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that after many unsuccessful attempts to induce the Saadirri to hand over the second man we require we moved camp from the hills on the 20th. inst. & descended to the plains, 3000 feet below. As there seemed for a time unlikelihood to induce the population to come to camp with out result. After sending messages that we were returning in a few days, the patrol proceeded northward along the foot of the escarpment on the 21st., 22nd., & 23rd., on the last date reaching the northern end of the Marquet Country. The whole population here friendly & appeared glad to see us. The entire range is divided into small sections of Marquet or the various tribes. One of these men Tenayon, had a net of traps set for the purpose of catching the actual village in the Saadirri country where the man we wanted was living. On the return journey we were east to the Maro River returning to the Saadirri Section on the 27th., a fine plain, the escarpment.

On the 28th. a party consisting of the plain with Tenayon as guide to surround the village which was previously mentioned, but either from mistake or otherwise the guide failed to find the way till daylight, the party arriving at the village after 7 a.m. Several men were caught, however, in the village & two of these were sent

The Hon. Secretary,
 Nairobi

sent to tell the people that unless they brought in the murderer by 2 p.m. the huts would be burnt. Armed natives then commenced to collect until a considerable force was in the vicinity of the party, which was under Captain Filceil & Lieutenant Llewellyn. At 2.30 no news coming in, a light was set to the huts, where on a flight of arrows resulted, in the ensuing fighting four or five of the enemy are reported as hit. Today, the 29th., a messenger has again been sent to urge the young men to come in also for, at 4 p.m., they have not done so & the old men state they cannot control their warriors who threaten to attack porters on the roads. The Section involved is now quite a small one, extending along the foot hills of the escarpment for two or three miles. It is said all the people on the hills have abstained from open rebellion with these huts & all their property has been scrupulously left to them.

The hill sections are now all in a state of rebellion, then they have been driven off into the forests to the east.

The plain is now a scene of desolation, with many thousands of goats.

If the natives still refuse to bring in the murderer, it is proposed to send parties to the various hills to capture the goats.

The murderer, it is said, is still in the hills which were burnt, the day before yesterday, & is all over a hill to within a mile or two of the camp at the present moment, the young men still refusing to bring him up.

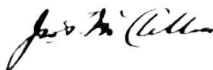
I would add that every care has been taken to avoid needless loss of life, but this section of country will not be safe until the murderer is captured & the prestige of the young warriors, who have for some time terrorised their neighbours & elders, is broken down.

As I have before mentioned movement is most difficult owing to the steepness of the hills. In selecting any permanent camp it will be necessary to choose a hill site as the natives by an excellent system of irrigation are able to direct the stream into any one of the many channels they have leading onto the plain.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient humble servant



Provincial Commissioner

I shall have a copy of the report &c

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