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Assignment

OPERATIONS IN SORAT-PILOR DISTRICT OF SUDAN

1917  
with Dec.

The despatch from Egypt covering despatch reporting on operations against THE LAW - Nuer tribes.

Subsequent Paper  
30/18152  
Som

See Robinson  
see Beckwithley Hill Road

See No. 18152/17 Sena Island, which relates to the same operations. They seem to have been similar in scope to our Finkhona operations.

The report is a rather interesting

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By 24/1/18

W.S.D. 1/18

W.S.D.  
K. J. R.  
7/2/18

Put by

SRCA

Subsequent Paper

SKM

In any further communication on this subject, please quote W.34 / 1947, 238541. The Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London.

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DEC 29 1947

Confidential  
Confidential

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office.

December 17, 1947

Reference to previous correspondence

Letter from Foreign Office April 4 (W. 69803)

Description of Enclosure

Name and Date

Subject

M. High Comm. r  
Egypt, no. 280,  
November 24

Lau-keer  
operations

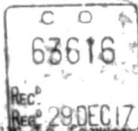
(Similar letter sent to

W. O

THE RESIDENCY,

CAIRO,

November 24th, 1917.



Sir:-

I have the honour to forward, for transmission to the War Office, a report by the Acting Sirdar on the operations recently conducted by Major E.A.T. Bayly, D.S.O., Royal Welsh Fusiliers (attached Egyptian Army), in the Sobat-Piber district of the Sudan.

These operations have been conducted with skill and thoroughness, and great credit is, I consider, due to those responsible for the preliminary staff arrangements and to the officers and troops engaged. It is with great pleasure that I have the honour of bringing to your notice the good services of the officers and men mentioned at the end of this report.

A map to illustrate the operations described in the report is inclosed therewith.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) Reginald Wingate.

Right Honourable

Arthur James Balfour, O.M., M.P.

etc., etc., etc.

Subject:- Operations in the Lau-Nuer Country.

HEADQUARTERS,

EGYPTIAN ARMY,

KHARTOUM.

November 14th, 1917.

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M.S./B.14/125.

Sir:-

I have the honour to submit the following despatch on the operations undertaken against the Lau section of the Nuer Tribe in March and April last.

2. Causes leading to the operations.

Owing to the paucity of staff and lack of the necessary funds, it had not yet been practicable to establish any administrative post actually in the Lau-Nuer Country.

3. In consequence, for the past five or six years the Lau Section had been gradually showing a disposition to evade payment of their tribute and a general reluctance to submit to Government control. Contributory causes were an exaggerated confidence in their ability to withstand Government troops owing to the acquisition of rifles which they had obtained from across the Abyssinian frontier, and the apparent lack of means and power on the part of the Government to enforce its orders.

4. Affairs finally culminated in the practical extermination of a party of the 9th Sudanese under Ki

Yuzbashi

General Sir Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

Ac., Ac., Ac.

Yuzbashi (Captain) Said Effendi Nur, near Kongor in 1916. This was a post established to protect the Illusa who inhabit the districts to the south of the Laus, from raids by the latter.

5. The other sections of the Nuer Tribes were undoubtedly waiting to see what action Government would take and the result of any collision between the Laus and the Government forces.

6. It was therefore considered essential that the Laus should be effectively dealt with in order to put an end to the unrest in this district and bring home to the whole Nuer tribe that Government orders must be carried out and that raids on peaceful tribes could not be permitted.

#### Description of the Country.

7. The Laus are a strong and populous section of the Nuer tribe in the Upper Nile Province. The area inhabited by them is, roughly, contained in a triangle of which the apex is near Nyerol, the sides Khor Kwanjor on the West, and Khor Thul on the East, and the base a few miles South of Parallel 8.

8. The country generally is a flat expanse of cotton soil covered with coarse grass and intersected by shallow khors which are fringed with a belt of thin forest and bush.

9. The rainy season extends from May to September during which time practically the whole country is flooded except for here and there small mounds and ridges slightly above the level of the plain.

10. In the dry season water is only found in widely scattered shallow depressions known as Fulas and during this season the Nuers move in all directions in search of water

water and grazing ground. In the rains they collect in their permanent villages on the higher ground.

11. The only real rivers in the district are the Sobat and Pibor.

Plan of operations.

12. The rivers were abnormally high this year and the flooded country did not drain off as quickly as usual which necessitated postponing the operations until March and April, but the force was engaged in making all necessary preliminary arrangements including formation of bases and transport of supplies from commencement of the year.

13. The general idea was to round up the enemy by means of drives and, if possible, bring them to action somewhere in the centre of their district.

14. Hitherto, when single columns have operated against other sections of the Nuers, it has been found impossible to deal with them effectively as they evaded contact with the troops and quickly dispersed driving their cattle into neighbouring districts.

15. It was therefore decided that the force should be divided into three columns, one operating from Akobo working westwards, one from Sillup working South, and the third from Jonglei in Mongalla Province, working North.

16. A half company Sudanese garrisoned a supply depot at Abwong and another half company at a forward base at Atcing.

17. A river flotilla consisting of a gunboat and an Auxiliary Steamer operated on the river Zaraf to act as a stop on the western boundary.

18. A gunboat was also used for patrolling on each of Akobo and Sobat in order to prevent any attempt of the enemy to break across these rivers.

19. The

19. The three columns under the general command of Major E.A.T. Bayly, D.S.O., (Royal Welch Fusiliers) were composed as follows:-

"A" or Northern Column:- Base Sillup

Officer Commanding:- Captain G.C. Godwin, Yorkshire Regiment.

1 Company Mounted Infantry.

2 1/2 Companies 9th Sudanese  
Machine Gun Section, 9th Sudanese  
100 Friendlies.

"B" or Eastern Column:- Base Akobo.

Officer Commanding:- Major C.H.K. Bacon, Royal West Surrey Regiment.

2 1/2 Companies 15th Sudanese  
1 Maxim Section, Abyssinian Mule Battery  
25 Mounted Police

50 Friendlies.

"C" or Southern Column:- Base Jonglei.

Officer Commanding:- Major G.G.S. Brander, Suffolk Regiment.

1 Company Mounted Infantry  
1 Company 12th Sudanese  
1 Maxim Gun Section, 12th Sudanese  
100 Friendlies.

20. Communication was maintained by means of wireless installation on the gunboat on the Zeraf in touch with Malakal and Nasser and a field section at Atoing.

#### Resumé of operations.

21. "A" and "B" columns left their bases, Sillup and Akobo on the 1st March and the 27th February respectively with orders to concentrate in the neighbourhood of Kaikwi on March 6th, where information pointed to a possibility of the enemy collecting to oppose the advance



advance of the troops.

22. "C" column left its base on 1st March with orders to occupy Duk Ridge, which is the western boundary of the Lau country.

23. The Officer Commanding Patrol and his Staff Officer accompanied "A" column with Major C.H. Stigand, Royal West Kent Regiment, Governor of the Upper Nile Province, as Chief Political Officer.

24. Touch was obtained between "A" and "B" Columns on the evening of the 6th March and the following day they met at Faddoi on Khdr Thul close to Kaikwi having met with only slight opposition from small parties of the enemy, who evaded all attempts to be brought to close action.

25. The two columns halted at Faddoi while the transport was sent back to Sillup to bring up supplies.

26. In the meanwhile small parties were sent to clear up the country in the neighbourhood.

27. During this period the enemy showed little enterprise, contenting themselves with sniping the camp at night.

28. It was the intention to remain at Faddoi until the return of the column from Sillup. Information, however, was obtained from prisoners that the enemy was collecting at Dengkura, north of Faddoi, where the chief Tribal Shrine is situated, and intended to give battle at Amwet el Sogheir.

29. It was therefore decided to form a flying column and advance and engage the enemy at once before they had time to reconsider their decision and disperse.

30. This column consisting of three companies of Sudanese, two Maxims, and Mounted Infantry, left Faddoi on the 16th March.

31. The



31. The main column marched direct to Anwet el Sagheir while the Mounted Infantry made a wide sweeping movement S.W. with orders to rejoin the column at Anwet el Sagheir on the 20th March.

32. On the 19th March about 7 a.m. on emerging from thick bush the enemy about 600-700 strong was seen advancing across the open plain with a sacred black bull in advance.

33. The Nuers attempted to work round both flanks through the long grass, firing intermittently at ranges varying from 300-700 yards.

34. A Square was formed and the force moved on to a small mound. It was hoped that the enemy would be induced to attack but they collected in small parties evidently undecided what to do.

35. Fire was then opened with Maxims and volleys at 600-700 yards range. The sacred bull was killed almost at once and this apparently so disheartened the Nuers that they dispersed and fled west. Their losses were about 40 killed and wounded.

36. The troops continued their march and reached Anwet el Sagheir the following day without further opposition and were joined by the supply column from Sillup on the 20th March.

37. By this time information had been received that the Southern Column had arrived in the vicinity of Duk Ridge on the 10th March and that the enemy had been headed back and were evidently making for Fadding on the Khor Pilus in the district South of Anwet el Kebir.

38. It was decided to make another attempt to round up the enemy by a drive of the three columns on Fadding, "B" column moving South to Anwet el Kebir and thence along Khor Pilus to Fadding, "A" Column down Khor Thul

to Nyerol, and after leaving all prisoners, captured cattle and sick there to move down Khor Pilus to Fadding and "C" column to advance direct to Fadding from Duk Ridge.

39. Although this concentration at Fadding did not entirely attain its objective owing to "C" column failing to get the necessary instructions and therefore not conforming to the general movement, "B" column captured some 1200 head of cattle and 750 sheep and inflicted severe casualties on the enemy.

40. "A" and "B" columns now returned to Nyerol and as heavy rains had fallen and there were indications of an early rainy season it was clear that operations would have to be concluded by the end of April.

41. In addition it had been settled to establish an administrative post and garrison at Nyerol so that the effect of the patrol should not be lost and that a partial administration of the Laus might be commenced.

In order to do this and collect a year's supplies at Nyerol all available transport was needed and this necessitated any further operations being of a limited nature.

42. Major Bayly therefore decided to undertake one more drive eastwards "B" column to march on Burmalwal on Khor Nyanding whilst the Mounted Infantry and two Maxims swept round via the Sobat to the mouth of Khor Nyanding and drove the enemy south into the arms of "B" column at Burmalwal. "C" column at the same time to move against the enemy reported to be at Pala Lang in the district some 20 miles south of Anwet el Kebir.

43. The Mounted Infantry acting with dash and enterprise cleared the country between Jisir on the Khor

Nyanding

Nyanding and Burmalwal, capturing 1500 head of cattle and 1200 sheep. This Corps invariably showed the greatest spirit and initiative which thoroughly demoralised the enemy and contributed in a large measure to the success of the operations. The enemy fled westwards towards Fula Lang and were subsequently severely dealt with by "C" column.

44. It was now 11th April and in view of the near approach of the rains the Officer Commanding considered it advisable to cease operations and directed all columns to return to their bases as circumstances permitted.

45. "B" column met with little opposition during the above-mentioned drive and arrived at Akobo on the 25th April having captured 674 head of cattle and 239 sheep.

46. While at Burmalwal the officer commanding this column received overtures from three influential Chiefs desiring for peace. He interviewed them and sent them to Nyeroi to see the Political Officer.

47. Meanwhile "C" column had operated against the enemy south of Amot el Ketir and surprising him at dawn on the 17th April completely routed him capturing cattle and inflicting heavy casualties. Large quantities of dura were found stored and were destroyed as it was not possible to remove it owing to lack of transport.

48. This column then moved against the enemy at Fula Lang who immediately scattered in all directions.

49. Owing to heavy rains falling and mortality amongst mules and horses the Officer Commanding wisely decided to cease operations in conformity with the general order and return to his base at Konger where he arrived

arrived on the 25th April.

50. With the exception of a few half-hearted night attacks on "B" and "C" columns the enemy proved most unenterprising during these final drives.

51. The river flotilla did not come into contact with the enemy at any time but proved most useful in keeping up communication between the various columns and headquarters at Khartoum.

#### Result of operations.

52. Although no decisive defeat was inflicted owing to the enemy not having effected any large concentration, they were severely punished by loss of prisoners, casualties and captured stock. They have learnt that Government is strong enough to enforce its orders and that the possession of rifles does not necessarily make them able to withstand disciplined troops.

Three of the leading chiefs have voluntarily surrendered and a general desire on the part of the people to submit has been manifested since the patrol took place. The neighbouring sections of the Nuer tribe who were "sitting on the fence" and watching development under the firm conviction that Government was about to be defeated, have entirely changed their attitude. Much useful information has been gained of the country in which the operations have taken place.

53. During the operations the following captures were made:-

108 male prisoners  
4496 cattle  
3000 sheep and goats  
large quantity of dura.

Our casualties were slight.

54. Great credit is due to all ranks for the successful manner in which these operations have been carried out against an evasive enemy in a difficult country

country, with a scarcity of water and long and arduous marches and counter-marches which were necessitated by the character of the operations.

55. In conclusion I have the honour to bring to your notice the names of the following officers, officials, non-commissioned officers and men for valuable services rendered in connection with the patrol:-

Headquarters.

- Major E.A.T. Bayly, D.S.O., Royal Welsh Fusiliers,  
Commanding the Patrol.
- Major Hon.B.A. Forbes, Royal Irish Rifles, Staff Officer  
Patrol.
- Major G. Thwaites, D.S.O., Army Service Corps, Staff  
Officer Supplies (since deceased)
- Captain R.S. Aulas, M.C. Army Veterinary Corps, Staff  
Officer Transport.
- Captain A.P.C. Martyn, Royal Army Medical Corps, Senior  
Medical Officer.
- Captain C.G. Martin, V.C., D.S.O., Royal Engineers,  
Military Works Department.
- Lieutenant S. Hart, M.C., Military Works Department.
- Major C.H. Stigand, Royal West Kent Regiment, Political  
Officer.
- El Yuzbashi Ahmed Effendi Hilmi, Staff Officer 13th  
Sudanese.
- No.914 Colour Sergeant G. Rees, Welsh Regiment.

Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

- Major A. H. Betterton, Derbyshire Yeomanry.
- Lieutenant G.A. Heineky, 4th Hussars.
- El Yuzbashi Akab Effendi Selim, M.C.
- El Mulasim Awal Weda'etalla Effendi Ibrahim Rahmatalla.
- El Mulasim Awal Suleiman Effendi Omar M.C.
- El Mulasim Awal Ahmed Effendi Fuad Sadek.
- El Mulasim Tani Darrag Effendi Ali
- El Mulasim Tani Ismail Effendi Mohammed Ali.
- Col. Sadek Abd el Rahim.
- No.374 Shawish Beshir Maruf.
- No.908 Shawish Murein Murkan.
- No.807 Shawish Ahmed Abd el Hamid.
- No.563 Nafar Saber el Kheir Adam.

Artillery

Artillery.

El Bimbashi Aziz Effendi Fahmi.  
 El Yuzbashi Arafah Effendi Rafat.  
 El Yuzbashi Hassan Effendi Mohammed Abd el Wahhab.  
 El Mulazim Awal Abd el Hamid Effendi Mohammed.

9th Sudanese.

El Yuzbashi (now Saqkolaghasi) Mustafa Effendi Mohammed el Maghrabi.

El Yuzbashi Sumit Effendi Mohammed Sherif.  
 El Mulazim Awal Ali Effendi Balla.  
 No. 1799 Bash Shawish Faragalla Abdulla.

12th Sudanese.

Captain E. A. Barton, East Surrey Regiment.  
 Captain H. C. E. Jobb, Royal Lancaster Regiment.  
 El Bimbashi Osman Effendi Sidki.  
 El Mulazim Awal Abd el Rahim Effendi Gabriel el Sudani.  
 El Mulazim Awal Mahmud Effendi Nurein.

15th Sudanese.

Major C. R. K. Bacon, Royal West Surrey Regiment.  
 Major C. G. S. Brander, Suffolk Regiment.  
 Major G. L. St. A. Davies, Worcestershire Regiment.  
 Captain J. H. Brecklehurst, Coldstream Guards.  
 El Yuzbashi Mohammed Effendi Abdulla Adlan.  
 El Yuzbashi Mohammed Effendi Hamid Abd el Gabbar.  
 El Mulazim Awal Hussein Effendi Said.  
 El Mulazim Awal Bekheit Effendi Ali.  
 El Mulazim Awal Muss Effendi Alla Gabu.  
 No. 1325 Bash Shawish Kapsun Adam.  
 No. 596 Bash Shawish Abdulla Mohammed Ali.

Engineers.

El Yuzbashi Ali Effendi Hilmi, 7th Battalion.  
 El Mulazim Awal Pausi Effendi Nasr el Din, 13th Sudanese.  
 El Mulazim Tani Hassan Effendi Mohammed Husni.  
 Sgt Abd el Mejid Mohammed el Dik.

No. 5311 Ontashi Abd el Radi Saleh, 13th Sudanese.

Medical Corps.

Captain F. M. J. Brett, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps.  
 El Yuzbashi Ibrahim Effendi Risk.  
 No. 1904 Ontashi Ramadan Guma Ashri.  
 No. 1947 Wakil Ontashi Abd el Rahman Arafah.

Department of Supplies.

El Mulazim Tani Mustafa Effendi Bayuni Ghorab.  
 No. 21705 Sergeant J. F. Mackenzie, Army Service Corps.

Sudan Government.

Major J. Stevenson-Hamilton, Retired Pay (Reserve of Officers).  
Major H. Castle Smith, Suffolk Regiment.  
Major C.G. Godwin, Yorkshire Regiment.  
Captain J.J. Bramble, Royal Marines.  
El Yussufi Ibrahim Effendi Abd el Rahman.  
Translator Mohammed Effendi Hassan Yusef.  
No. 244 Shawish Kafi el Mahia, Upper Nile Province Police.  
No. 741 Shawish Baballa Ali, Upper Nile Province Police.

WIRELESS.

No. 183543 Private J.W. Knight, Army Service Corps.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) L.O.P. Stack.

Major-General.

Acting Sirdar of the Egyptian Army.