

1925

KENYA

111

C O
17219
REF
RE 16 APR 25

FROM
FOREIGN OFFICE

DATE
15th April 1925.

FOR CONSIDERATION —
Mr. *Bottomley*
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.
.....
Permt. U.S. of S.
Part. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

JUBALAND. FORMATION OF ITALIAN CORPS OF COLOURED TROOPS.

Copy of despatch from Rome regarding - Present strength is 2000 men and an increase may be expected.

Provides Paper
20. 17012

MINUTES
These are evidently the 2,000 men spoken of in 13508/25. The Italians expect to need a larger force than Kenya has been content with to keep order in Jubaland.

Rel. to Gov. adv. 1/4/25 1300
copy copy made to no 392 - 27 APR 1925

The O.A.G. should have a copy of this L.F. for info. ref. F.O. letter of 25 March enclosed with Dep. No 323 of 2 April 1925 (14269/25)
Gds
16.4.25.
One soldier to 7 inhabitants
Gds
17.4.25

Subsequent Paper
K. 17586

(see on 16506/25 and 17100/25)

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. CH 494/1803/22

and address—

not to any person by name,

but to—

"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

C. O.
17219
REF
RE 16 APR 25

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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 copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
April 15th, 1925.

Reference to previous correspondence: *see*
Colonial Office letter of April 8th, no. 15149.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From HM Representative (Rome) re 264 March 31 st	Formation of corps of Colonial troops for service in Jubaland

Similar letter sent to *War Office*

No. 264.

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

British Embassy,

Rome, **31st March**, 192**5**.

Reference to previous despatch:

From Foreign Office:
To

Description of Enclosure

Name and Date.	Subject.
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itary Attaché.

n March, 1925.

**Formation of corps of coloured troops
for service in Jubaland**

MILITARY ATTACHE
 BRITISH EMBASSY
 ROME

BRITISH EMBASSY

ROME

30th March, 1925.

Your Excellency,

Italian Troops in Jubaland.

I have the honour to submit herewith, for Your Excellency's information, a copy of a report which has reached me from a reliable source:-

For the maintenance of order and safety in Transjuba it has been found necessary to form a special corps of occupation composed of coloured troops (Arab, Eritrean and Somalis). These troops are commanded by Italian Army officers.

Enlistment, begun in December 1924, was viewed favourably by the natives, and has made possible the formation of units which, after intensive training, show that they possess the necessary tactical skill.

On March 21st, 1925, in the zone of Omargergeb near Mogadiscio, tactical exercises, with service ammunition, were carried out by native infantry units, machine-gun sections, and camel-pack artillery sections. His Royal Highness the Duke of the Abruzzi, who witnessed the exercise, received the troops in review and expressed his satisfaction at the rapid and excellent training of the new units.

A semi-official communiqué states that the strength of this special corps is about 2000 men. It adds that this force is not sufficient to give Italy the necessary control over the unruly tribes; an increase in the numerical strength of the force may therefore be expected in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's humble, obedient servant,

W. S. Diakon

Colonel,

Military Attaché.

To/ His Excellency

The Right Hon. Sir Ronald Graham,

G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G.,

&c. &c. &c.

His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador,

ROME.