

527



EAST AFR. PROT

C.O
34700

113 34700

Conf
Bowring 119

Situation on Abyssinian Frontier

1913

12 Sept.

Last previous Paper

For
33593

Confirms let to Sept and encloses reports. In view of British position has consented to immediate despatch to Mogale of reinforcements specified. Notes precautionary measures issued. Submits views. Unless Abyssia put adopt firmest possible attitude with regard to the whole position as to the frontier deal will have to be reconsidered.

Letter of Fielder

The message regarding the 200 Type seems to have been somewhat vague. Mr Hope communicated it to Mr. Thompson on the 15th of Aug. as nearly 2 months have now elapsed & nothing appears to have happened so may be that it was misapprehended.

You will see that in para 7 of his letter of the 14th of July Mr Hope states that it is of the greatest importance that Gwynne's boundary should be insisted on now. As Gwynne's boundary is necessary for the more effective control of the frontier district & it only involves a slight territorial adjustment. I do not think that a view of

Copy to com. sent
Copy to com. sent 20 Oct 31. 70
3/1899
Annotat. Copy above sent. 7 Mar 91.

10, 100, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000

Next subsequent Paper

For
34701 send.

of recent occurrence, but need not any
hesitate about adopting it provided that
we are strong enough to hold it, but all
the old I think wait until Col
Harkins has had time to look into
matter of report

Send copy of 318249 + our reply, with
copy of the deep one, to the F.O.
explain what has been done to reinforce
our troops on the frontier, say that
Col. Harkins the new I.G. of the
H.A.R. is on his way to look into
+ report on the military situation
generally + that in the meanwhile
Mr. Thompson will ^{at least} no doubt be
instructed to bring back figures as
the case to bear upon the Abyssinian
front. - + send copy of the
correct ~~copy~~ to the D.M.O. for info
3rd Pers Note ?

* J.R.

9/5/13

W. 9.10.13
10.10.13

* 11.10.13

34700



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA 20

13th September, 1913.

EAST AFRICA TELEGRAMS
CONFIDENTIAL No. 119.

756

Sir,

With reference to my cipher telegram of to-day's date, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following papers:-

For
31849

~~Letter - 14th July.
Mr Hope.~~

(1) Mr Hope's letter of 14th July with enclosure (received on August 29th).

~~Letter - 15th August.
Mr Hope.~~

(2) Mr Hope's letter of 15th August (received on September 10th).

~~Letter - 15th August.
Mr Hope.~~

(3) Copy of Mr Hope's letter of 15th August to H. B. M's Minister at Adia Ababa (received September 10th).

~~Letter - 16th August -
Mr Hope & Moyali.~~

(4) Copy of letter dated 15th August from the Officer in Command of Troops, Moyali, to Adjutant 3rd K.A.M., Nairobi (received September 10th).

~~Minute - 11th Septbr.
Mr Hope & Moyali.~~

(5) A minute by the Officer Commanding Troops on the subject.

2. I cannot but regard the position on the frontier as serious in the extreme, a view which is shared by the Officer Commanding Troops, and I consider that reinforcements must be sent to Moyali with the least possible delay.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LEWIS H. COURT, F.R.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

* No 31849

Ear

delay. I am awaiting a reply to my telegram before instructing Colonel Graham to make all necessary arrangements for the immediate despatch of the troops and the necessary instructions will be issued to the civil authorities as regards the supply of the requisite number of porters who will have to accompany the detachment.

3. I propose also to issue explicit instructions to Mr Hope to run no risk of a serious conflict with the Tigre and to utilise the force at his disposal after the additional troops have arrived on the frontier solely for the purposes (1) of maintaining an adequate garrison at Gondol and (2) of providing himself with a sufficient escort when he is out in the district. These precautions being adopted I do not apprehend any serious complications in the immediate future but I must confess to considerable misgivings as to Mr Hope's personal safety and the position of the Moyali garrison pending the arrival of the reinforcements.

4. These reinforcements will consist of 50 men of B. Company, 3rd K. A. R., a portion of the survivors of the two Sudanese Companies which suffered so severely from berberia at Sarenli last year. It is with the greatest reluctance that I consent to their being sent out again on detachment duty so

soon

(3)

soon, but I consider that the urgency of the present situation justifies steps being taken which would otherwise have been most inadvisable.

5. It is I think clear that unless the Abyssinian Government can be induced to adopt the firmest possible attitude with the Tigre, it will be necessary for the position of this Protectorate with regard to its Northern Frontier to be entirely reconsidered.

It has been possible hitherto for us to maintain our position on the frontier with a very small force but now that an British officer has been killed by a raiding party from across the border and nothing is being done by Abyssinia to punish his murderers it appears to me that there are but two alternatives open to us, viz: to retire from the frontier altogether or to assert ourselves in some considerable force.

6. The increase of our small garrison at Moyalt which I am now advocating will, it is to be hoped, suffice to avoid a serious rebuff in the near future, but I feel most strongly that unless a far more progressive policy is adopted by Abyssinia without undue delay we shall be obliged, in order to avoid a possible disaster, to occupy the frontier in greatly increased strength.

7. The alternative of retiring altogether may, I presume, be dismissed as impossible at the present stage in the history of our occupation of the Frontier, and the effect of

such

such a policy on the part of the protestants would indeed be difficult to assess.

6. I must add that I have no information whatever as to the disposition of the newly formed force of Armed Constabulary. The news of Captain Aymer's death was received after Mr Hope had left Nairobi in May last with the balance of part of the new force, and he heard of it while en route for the frontier. His original plans were therefore altered and instead of proceeding to Moyali via Karfil he proceeded to the former station via Marsabit. He has not yet furnished any report on the distribution of the Armed Constabulary being no doubt for the present too seriously engaged in dealing with the position on the Frontier.

3. In view of this unexpected call, Colonel Graham requested me to ask that the new Nyasaland Company, which I have been advised is composed of fully-trained troops, may be sent to Nairobi and not to Karfil as previously arranged. It is essential that there should be in Nairobi some fresh troops available for any emergency which may arise, and this further depletion of the headquarter garrison renders the question of the relief of detachments more acute than ever.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your humble, obedient servant,

W. H. Murray

W. H. MURRAY

No. 59/113

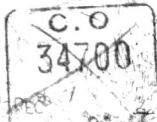
ENCLOSURE

dated 14th July 1913
NORTHERN FRONTIER DISTRICT

M O Y A L R s.

14th July 1913.

21



SIR,

With reference to the question of Tigre on the frontier, I have the honour to point out that the majority of so called Tigre are undoubtedly Abyssinian soldiers and not the outcasts which the Abyssinians make out they are. The number of real Tigre is very small.

1. This fact is rather corroborated by the fact that last December when Fitawari Wuldi proceeded along the frontier to look for Tigre he caught none.

2. In H.M. Minister's despatch dated 27th May, he states that he has been informed by Fitawari Hapta Giorgis that there had been continual fighting between Abyssinian soldiers and Tigre and that over 80 of the latter had been killed. Mr. Barrett informs me that since 1st August 1912 he has heard of no such fighting and I am convinced that if it had taken place we should have heard of it. I am afraid that the Abyssinians are only bluffing when they state that they are making efforts to arrest these people as they know very well that most of the so called Tigre are very likely employed themselves on their patrols.

3. Fitawari Wuldi who is in charge of this frontier and lives at Gondula has never been down to see me. In fact he was near here the other day and instead of waiting

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

FAIROBI.

No. 49/27

INCLOSURE

In despatch No. 49/27 to His Excellency the Governor, FRONTIER DISTRICT,

ROYALE,

14th July 1913.



Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatches of 26th and 27th May.

2. Mr. Barrett informs me that since August 1912 he has heard of no fighting between Abyssinian soldiers and Tigra and I am convinced that if it had taken place we should have heard of it.

3. There is no doubt that the majority of so called Tigra are Abyssinian soldiers and this is rather corroborated by the fact that when Fitaurari Wuldi went along the frontier in December last he caught no Tigra.

4. The number of real outcasts is very small and it is purely bluff on the part of the Abyssinians sending patrols to catch Tigra as they know quite well most of them are soldiers and probably some of them take part in the patrol.

5. From information Mr. Barrett has collected there seems to be no doubt that the men he attacked at Kooka Sigud were men belonging to Balamberas Wuldi Gabriel and came from Hawero. Two of the men who were wounded are reported to be living in the house of a Greek called Markos at Hawero.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. K. H. O.
OFFICER IN CHARGE.

H. S. M. S. M. S. M. S.

AMH:AMH:

Copy forwarded to The Hon'ble the Chief Secretary for his information

Encl 2 in No

ENCLOSURE

27

1913

AGRICULTURE FRONTIER DISTRICT,

MOYALE,

15th August, 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to request that you will inform the Minister at Addis Ababa by cable that so far the local officials have not made any attempt to carry out the orders said to have been given them from Addis Ababa to arrest the Tigre on the frontier.

2. I have corresponded with Fitaurari Walde but can get nothing definite out of him.

3. The situation at present is far from satisfactory as the Abyssinians appear to be doing nothing about the Tigre question and therefore I have the honour to request that more troops may be sent on the frontier and also mules which are very necessary.

4. A rumor has just come in that 200 Tigre are waiting to attack me when I go out in the district, whether true or not, I do not know.

I have the honour to be

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sd) J. O. W. BERT.

OFFICER IN CHARGE.

The Honble the CHIEF SECRETARY,
NAIROBI.

No. 10/9/13.

No. 10/9/13. **SECRETURE**
DISTRICT, 28

ROYALE,

15th August 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that if Fitaurari Waldi has received orders from Fitaurari Kaptu Giorgis about assisting us to arrest Tigre he is delaying a very long time about it. It is now a month since I heard from you, and Waldi has not arrived here or written to give me any information as to his plans.

The officials down here do not seem to be worrying themselves about the matter very much.

A runner has just come in saying that 200 Tigre are waiting for me somewhere with hostile intentions.

The local officials here have had no information about the alleged arrest of the murderers of Gabbra killed at Maikona, which Fitaurari Kaptu Giorgis reports to you as having been captured.

etc.
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

J. C. Hote
OFFICER IN CHARGE.

H.E.M.'S. MINISTER.

ADIS ABABA.

Copy forwarded to The Hon'ble The Chief Secretary, Nairobi, for his information.

Encl. 4 No. ENCLOSURE

In District of Northern Frontier District,

Moyale.

20

15th August 1915.

L. H. C. Dickinson,

To - The Adjutant,
Brd King's African Rifles.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following as regard the situation up here.

It would appear that the Abyssinian Officials on the border are not acting according to the instructions which we understand were issued by the Abyssinian Government at Addis Ababa. Mr. Hope had arranged a meeting with Garamatch Gashu at Guddaduma however that fell through on account of the Garamatch being ordered to Addis Ababa.

On the 31st July Mr. Hope heard from Pittawari Waiki that he intended coming down if he should hear there were any Tigre on the border. Mr Hope wrote and told him that there were were Tigre on our side and requested his coming down and meeting him at Guddaduma. Mr. Hope has not yet received an answer to his letter.

It is rumour has come through that there were 500 Tigre who have collected at Guddaduma with hostile intentions against us. Mr. Hope however had not intended requesting to G. Waiki until he had heard that Pittawari Waiki had arrived there.

The situation up here at present is far from satisfactory. The delay on the part of the Abyssinian Officials in taking action is suspicious.

I am proceeding with Mr. Hope to Debell and as we intend to get further information and await a reply to Mr.

Mr. Hoop's letter to Pittawari Field.

I have the honour to ack.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. Dickinson Lieut.
3rd King's African Rifles.

ADDIS ABABA, Addis Ababa, 11th September 1918.

11th September 1918.

The Honourable
The Chief Secretary

Reference your No. 4473 Confidential dated 11th
September 1918.

I consider Mr. Hope's letter extremely serious. We
can not lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with
people who are theoretically outlaws from their own Go-
vernment and it is notorious that Adis Abeba has absolu-
tely no control over the Tribes inhabiting the Southern
boundaries of Abyssinia and it is my opinion that Mr.
Hope would incur the gravest risks by an encounter with
Tigre.

Were he worsted in such an encounter the Tigre, on
the principle that one may as well be hanged for a sheep
as a lamb, might not improbably descend on Moyali itself
with its very ^{well-armed} garrison and resources. Captain
R.F. Loder-Symonds told me when he was stationed at Moyali,
on two separate occasions he thought Moyali town would be
attacked and took every military precaution he could.

(As regards actual re-inforcements I can send about '60
'B' Company Sudanese. The present Kufal garrison consist-
ing of Wabasha and Abyssinians must on no account be
ordered to the frontier. I do not see how the temporary
abandonment of Kufal can effect Moyali, but it would
perhaps be advisable to get Mr Hope's views, I am sure
he will oppose such a course. I do not know where the

Northern Frontier District Police 120 (or 125) are at
times and whether they have relieved by Warburton
sent.

32

(3) In view of these calls I think the new Nyasaland com-
pany should be sent to East Africa and not Zanzibar. I
can send a few more Kavirondo to Zanzibar and also the
remnants of 'D' Company 1st Battalion, who will be re-
turning to Nyasaland next August or September and thereby
complete the Zanzibar garrison of 2 companies.

B R Graham

(Lieut-Colonel

Commanding Troops East Africa Protectorate

34700

16887
18

981

34700



DRAFT

11/1/19
70

18

MINUTE

- Mr. A.C.P. 17073
- Mr. S. P. 16
- Mr. H. J. 16
- Mr. J. Anderson
- Lord Emmott
- Mr. Harcourt

with ref. to the letter from the
18/1/19 No. 35573

reference to the Sec. of the
to the Government of the

copy of correspondence with
the value of the East
relating to the situation
on the Abyssinian frontier

12 Sept
16 Sept
14 Sept
12 Sept
12 Sept
12 Sept

34700

2. The new 1.9. of
the K. of the R. is now on
the way to

with a report on the
military situation
generally that
temporarily the
force at Mopta is
being strengthened
by men with a nucleus
of an additional company
of West African troops
already in the area
before the evacuation
being directed to Mopta.

3. Mrs. Pitt will
take further action pending
receipt of the S.G.'s report,
but in the meantime will
consider that Mrs.
Pitt's at Adis Ababa
should be instructed to
bring back papers on

reference to her upon the
approximately

Jan etc