

EAST AFR. PROT  
42143

42143  
Recd  
20 OCT 14

Governor  
Conf  
154  
Field

MORU- KISMAYU  
HON'BLE K. DUNDAS' JOURNEY

1914

2nd October

Trs Report.

at previous Paper.

24437

This has been waiting for  
copy to W.O.R with refer to  
our ltr of 24<sup>th</sup> of July in  
file D7.  
24437

at once  
H. J. R.  
25/21/14

SR

Copy to W.O.R 25 Nov 14

at subsequent Paper

42143

151

REC'D  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NATROBI,

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 154.

October 2nd, 1914.

Sir,

*42*  
*24437*

With reference to your Confidential  
despatch of July 21st, I have the honour to  
Report  
transmit herewith a copy of the Hon'ble K.  
Dundas' report of his return journey from Meru  
to Kismayu as requested.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*A Conway Bejard*

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARGREAVES, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

No.

4213

INCLOSURE 152

Despatch No. 154 of Oct. 2, 1914

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

KIMMAYU.

8th April 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour to report herewith on my journey from Meru to Kimmayu. My actual itinerary has already been supplied to you in advance.

On my arrival at Archer's Post I found four of the twenty five camels seriously ill; the symptoms being those of tsetse fly. If my diagnosis was correct, the disease was probably contracted somewhere between Marti and the Post. The remaining twenty one camels were all fairly well, though somewhat poor. This made it inadvisable to overload them and further rapid marching was out of question; in fact the necessity for muzzling the animal was obvious.

At the same time the number of camels at my disposal was quite inadequate for the conveyance of the large quantity of supplies I had to deliver to Mr. Mure at the Lorian.

This had already been foreseen and the Clerk in charge at the Post had been requested to obtain as many donkeys as possible. But although he had managed to secure some twenty donkeys, he had quite failed to procure saddles for them.

I therefore decided to move slowly on down the river and camp at some more suitable spot where better grazing might be obtainable and there wait for the donkeys to join me.

I waited some five days and then, as there appeared no chance of obtaining saddles, gave order for

the order

Kimmayu

temporary saddles of hides and gunny bags to be made. With these we started off; and although these saddles were shockingly bad and unsuitable for the work, and each beast was carrying a pack of 180 lbs. these donkeys did very well and developed a surprisingly rapid rate of marching. In some 14 days later we reached the Lorian, all the donkeys were still alive and there were no sore backs or saddle galls.

Within a few days of leaving the Post all four of the sick camels had died; no further cases of sickness or other complaints occurred amongst the beasts until Belesha Kau had when two camels died from the after effects of thirst.

At Malka Ropah I met the Inspector General King's African Rifles who in consequence of news communicated to him in a telegram I delivered to him advised me to push on to Kismayu as rapidly as possible, and this I therefore decided to do.

Contrary to arrangements made and instructions given to him, Mr. Lure did not meet me at the Lorian, considering his presence more urgently required elsewhere. I left behind for him however 45 loads of pothe and some other supplies; sufficient probably to last him for the next four months.

I found the Bohawal Zubair were fast preoccupied by their contemplated raid on the Abdak, in which I estimate some seven hundred men were taking part. The greater portion of these had already left to perform the preliminary ceremonies or rites observed on these occasions, and the rest were ready to join them on the receipt of instructions. I had the impression that the majority regarded the venture

more

more in the light of a duty than a sporting enterprise, and I think it is possible that no great amount of persuasion would have been required to have effected their disbandment.

I made no comment on their proceedings beyond warning them against crossing the Tana, which I suggested would amount to "casus belli".

Despite their preoccupation however I found the Mohamed Zubeir still very friendly and anxious to please. They were unable to supply guides maintaining that none of their people knew the route, which I believe was quite true; for it is a peculiar circumstance that that the Southern Jubaland Mohamed Zubeir are cut off from their clansmen in the North by an intervening section of Aulihan who occupy the country from the commencement of the second of the two Lorian swamps in the West to Bananch or even further in the East.

I stopped one day at Malka Nyacha and moved on the next day to Malka Naega and Kalut where I found settlements of Aulihan and Shidhal; the local headman of the former is Agman Mahomed son of Mohamed Agman, of the latter Hassan Aden or Hassan Nyiro (the "shortone" name given him by his mother). Here I obtained a somewhat unreliable and dictatorial guide, who in the early stages of our acquaintance frequently attempted to lead us astray.

Assan Mahomed complained to me very bitterly of the unfairness of employing a Mohamed Zubeir interpreter in dealing with the Aulihan. I advised him to speak to Mr. Mure about this and also suggested, that if they objected to an interpreter of another tribe, the remedy lay in their own hands. Later a large deputation requested leave to address me on the same subject, but I refused to see them.

The return journey 331 miles occupied me 13 days, and average of 35 1/2 miles a day. The latter portion of the route

was however exceedingly dry and the last 340 miles was covered in eight days.

Instead of following along the Lak Dera we left the river and proceeded to climb in a north-easterly direction the low hills to the North of the swamp, named by Mr. Dracopoli the "Lorian Hills" but known to the Natives as "Omara". From here we continued by a circuitous route, still in a North and sometimes a north-easterly direction, to Banasch, when the trail lead once more due East and occasionally South East.

Between Kalalut and Banasch we struck at fairly regular intervals large artificial rainpans containing what is for this description of country comparatively good water; the most important of these were Kamorra Haegineh, Harrah, Alonga Kaeroh, Wargirra and Banasch, though on arrival at this last rain pan, where we had been informed we should find large numbers of Aulihan and be able to obtain an ample supply of water for the long waterless march of about 114 miles ahead of us, we found the natives tracking West in search of water and the supply of standing water in the pans completely exhausted. By digging small holes along the edge of one of the pans we were however able to collect sufficient water to fill up 100 of our tins and with this supply we pushed on hoping to find water in the wells at Ao. This is a typical example of the unreliability of native information on the subject of water, when travelling in these parts. Had we arrived a few days later we should have been forced to return to Wargirra to fill up our tins, and the distance to be covered to Tabtu would then have been increased to 158 miles.

At Ao we found a number of wells but the water in them was insufficient to water the stock and after wasting a valuable twelve hours digging out one of the wells in the

hopes of increasing the flow we were forced to push on to Taptu, without having watered the transport boats.

At Taptu we found the largest dam met with on this safari; the water was however so foul from the enormous quantities of stock watering there that a number of the camels rejected it, and we ourselves found some difficulty in swallowing the stuff. Disappointed here therefore we pushed on once more Belchsa Kaukhani, there to get our first drink of good water over a distance of 154 miles; 136 of which had to be covered in four and a half days.

In addition to the rain pans mentioned a large number were passed which had recently contained water. The previous season had been an exceptional one, otherwise I think there can be very little doubt that on this particular route there can be no certainty of water between Kälalut and Belchsa Kaukhani.

After leaving Belchsa Kaukhani water was not struck until Kururmit; but it is typical of the country that whilst we had to march with great rapidity to Belchsa Kaukhani we still could not afford to rest there; there was every sign of heavy rain about to fall, and the natives warned us that should rain fall we should find the route ahead impassable. In fact small local showers of rain did occur shortly after leaving Belchsa Kaukhani, and we had the greatest difficulty in places to get the camels across the slippery soil.

As remarked above, our route lay away from the Lak Dera, and we did not strike the river again until we were well between Raatchah and Ab, where there was so little to distinguish it from the rest of the country, that I doubt whether I should have recognised it had the guide not informed me we were actually marching along its bed. As a matter of fact from Dakatohah onwards at any rate, the Lak Dera has no

clearly

clearly defined bed, but spreads out over a large expanse of country, thus the rain pans at Dakatchah and the wells at Ao are filled from the Lak Dere, though both are some miles distant from what may be assumed to be actual line of the old river bed.

The wells both at Ao and at a Belchsa Kaukhani, as also the vegetation and general appearance of the surrounding country, are very similar to those at Afmadu. The wells at Ao are however by no means permanent; those at Belchsa Kaukhani are permanent and in every respect equal to the Afmadu wells; they have the further advantage of being only about one fifth the depth of the Afmadu wells.

The route between Kalalut and Bananch lies through bush, which nowhere is so dense as on the Tadjahir route, and in places opens out into small plains, and extensive views are frequently obtainable; chiefly owing to the more undulating nature of the country. The most noticeable feature is a wide well defined valley, which is crossed at Harrah and the floor of which undoubtedly at times becomes converted into a swamp. After crossing this valley we did not see it again until Salah, where in the distance we caught occasional glimpses away to our right of an horizon, which I was informed was its southern slope. Again some few miles after leaving Bananch I noticed to our left about 3 miles away a long line of "achu" trees, which continued all the way to Tar Guda and which mark marshy land in the rains along a depression that leads into the Lak Foggie, which I here not very far distant; this depression is I understand the continuation of this same valley. Shortly after leaving Bananch the appearance of the country undergoes a marked change. The bush opens out and in places gives way to open plains of a very light alluvial soil which produces a fine dust. This change lasts until Dakatchah where the route



one more leads through thin bush; the open plains are however said to continue as far East as Jello and Northwards to the Lak Boggle.

From Turgada onwards till Ki mayu I reached the country is very similar to that between Bamatta and Bansaah; though between Ohanghes and Bohkhojok there is a belt of the thickest bush I have seen in Jubaland.

It may be taken as a general rule that wherever alluvial soil is found the country will be more or less open; and contrariwise where bush is found the soil is dry and sandy.

In my opinion the route I followed from the Lorian is likely to prove a most difficult one for wheeled traffic at all times when even slight rains have fallen and practically impassable during heavy rains. Nor do I think that any alternative route is likely to prove less difficult since I think one may safely regard the opinion that the soil formation over the whole of this particular area will be found to be identical.

A feature of some interest was an outcrop of rock some five miles beyond Augchah. This was the only rock met with since leaving Marti, on this route.

As before stated the Fulani occupy the country between Balah and Bansaah. Aullah villages were met with only at Balah, Warjirra and on trek from Bansaah. After leaving Bansaah no native villages were met with until we reached the Taktu District where we saw more Ogaden than anywhere else on the safari. At a moderate estimate I should put the number of natives round Taktu at four to five times the number in the Mohamed Zubeir village at Malka Tyscha. Whilst the majority were Ogaden, there were also considerable numbers of Sheikhah and Magabul. In an ordinary season these people would have been collected round Afmada presumably.

No bloodsucking flies were met with ~~anywhere~~ after leaving the E'Uaso Ngiro; though I can imagine them being very plentiful, <sup>at certain times</sup> in many of the places we passed by; particularly so at Alanga Kaeroh.

Ornithodoros Moubata <sup>was</sup> found at Ao and Balchsa Kaukhan. Within a few days of leaving the Lorian there was a very noticeable rise in the thermometer; and the heat became <sup>most</sup> oppressive, the more so since on two occasions only after leaving Malka Ropoh did we find even a small amount of shade to camp under on the whole journey to Kismayu. Dust devils were very bad and made it difficult to keep a tent pitched during the heat of the day.

Frequent aneroid and thermometer readings were taken daily; but these have not yet been worked out and the results cannot therefore be given.

Very little game was seen after leaving the Lorian. At Balchsa Kaukhan elephants abound in great numbers judging from their tracks. There were lion settlements at Ao and Balchsa Kaukhan.

Natives were not met with at any place other than where special mention of them has been made.

The health of the caravan was good though the Somali suffered very severely from the heat.

The health of the transport stock was also excellent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sl. K. R. Dundas

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.