

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 41729

41729
14 NOV 08

Number of No.
Action 373
1908
Codes

(Subject)

Patrol of Katak Country

previous Paper

reads report by Dist Commr with covering letter by Mr. ... Consider result most satisfactory & commends action of Mr. ...

(Minutes)

Mr. Antrobus

Reply that the S. J. S. commrs with Mr. ... in considering that the results of the patrol are satisfactory & that Mr. ... deserves commendation for the peaceful & satisfactory manner in which he accomplished his mission - & asks for a copy of the maps - & when the map has been received send it with this copy: & enc. to the D. D. O. - General ... & also what is said about Mr. ...

no 6
copy for return to no. 2. & 1. 5/8

Yes

H. J. R.

17/11

30.11

East African Protectorate

Governor's Office.

Nairobi.

October 20th 1908.

41729

14 OCT 08

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 515

(Incl. 2)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for Your Lordship's information a Report by Mr. Archer,

District Commissioner, Mumias District, on a patrol which has recently been conducted in the Ketosh country in the vicinity of Mount Elgon, together with a covering letter by Mr. Ainsworth, Provincial Commissioner of the Kisumu Province.

2. The results of this patrol are, I consider most satisfactory and I agree with Mr. Ainsworth in considering that Mr. Archer is to be commended for the peaceful and satisfactory manner in which these results were attained.

3. The map mentioned in the Report is not enclosed, but if Your Lordship wishes, a copy will be forwarded.

H. H. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES.

DOWING STREET,

LONDON, E.C.

forwarded subsequently.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

(In the absence of H.E. the Governor)

INCLOSURE

In Reply to No. 22 of 1906

1906

41729

Report on the work carried out by the Kitesh Patrol between July 25th and September 1st 1906.

Fifty men of the "A" Company, and King's African Rifles under the command of Captain R. G. Dowe arrived at Mumias Station on July 25th for the purpose of patrolling the northern regions of the District inhabited by the Kitesh and Elgunyi peoples.

Nothing in the nature of a really serious situation had arisen here, but disturbances and affrays amongst the various clans themselves had become recently of such frequency, that it was clearly high time that the Government should take steps to bring these people under more effective control. For owing to lack of staff at the station in the past very little evidently had been done in the matter of administering this area, lying directly beneath the slopes of Mount Elgon. And the natives here, neglected for so long by the Administration, had conceived a false idea of their independence, and were imbued with the belief in their immunity from responsibility to Government for acts of lawlessness committed in this country, which they considered to be beyond the range of administrative control from Mumias.

It is not surprising therefore to find that a general movement of Kitesh in this direction had been steadily proceeding, for here apparently the moral authority of elders was treated with but scant respect, and such obligations as the payment of Hut Tax and the rendering of labour might also, it was probably thought, well be avoided.

The chiefs themselves, however, possessing less of influence, consequent upon their rapidly decreasing

following

followings, in the settled areas nearer the station, continually directed our attention to this matter, and to prevent these colonies of Kitch extending right away along the eastern slopes of Higon, where, by reason of distance, the proper controlling of them might have become a difficult matter, it became obviously necessary for us to fix a definite north eastern limit to the range of the tribe without further delay.

There was one other factor in the situation. The natives here were known to be in possession of a considerable number of firearms, which obsolete and useless weapons though they might be for the most part, were still sufficient, I am convinced, to imbue them with a certain feeling of self confidence, so far as we were concerned, and to lead them to adopt an attitude of superiority over the other peoples living nearer the station who conformed to Government authority.

A further very desirable measure, therefore in my opinion, was the prompt disarming of these people.

With these ends in view the Patrol, accompanied by myself, left Mamias Station on July 25th.

As the personal loads of Captain Leets and myself, for the baggage of the detachment, and for the 17 loads of Maxim Gun ammunition, 70 porters from Mamias were taken, and in Kitch an average of 55 porters were employed throughout for the carriage of food, confiscated rifles, and other impediments.

I took with me also Marunga, sub-chief of Mamias, a thoroughly competent and experienced man, long connected with the Administration of this district, who is the prospective Chief, under the new scheme of administrative reorganization in this district, for the whole of the northern area. In the days of inter tribal warfare, and Mamias combined with Gumbi for the subjugation of the northern part of the district, before the days of our

Administration

Administration, Marunga was Mumia's generalissimo of forces, and in the disturbed times of our own earlier Administration he often also played a useful part.

Being a strong man - physically and morally - with a reputation behind him, and also I believe a just and fair dealing one, he is the one man in the district I think who could fill this post, which I should only wish to regard as a temporary one until such time as we have definitely established our control and law and order here, and the local Headmen are equal to the situation and can carry out the duties expected of them.

The first central point in Kibosh visited was Njauja's. Formerly he was the most influential man in Kibosh. At the time of our visit we found him a broken-down, infirm old man, and, shortly, indeed, after our departure we learnt of his sudden demise. I am glad, therefore, to have had the opportunity of giving him a last pleasure by conferring the position of his son, Sudi, as the prospective chief of Kibosh, and relegating to a position subordinate to him, two headmen, Mafiro and Busole who have been trying to set themselves up in opposition.

I determined also from this camp the southern boundary of the Kibosh tribe, which is to divide them from the ~~Nawagaga~~ of Mumia's sub-district.

A careful route-traverse was made throughout this tour, and this is shown on the accompanying sketch-map, so that it is unnecessary for me, I think, to trace in detail in this report the daily movements of the column.

In northern Kibosh the ^{first} important centre visited was Kavibiri's, and here we were encamped for five days.

The natives from all the surrounding parts attended the "shauris", and everything went smoothly and well; food was brought in for purchase, and porters were forthcoming to relieve those supplied by Njauja for the carriage of the food thus far. It cannot be doubted, therefore, that the lesson taught these people two or three months ago

Then fifty of the offenders, in a recent disturbance, were brought to the station and detained for a month's work in the Government shambas, has had a very good effect.

From here the Patrol worked due east, camps being made amongst Kirui's Kitoah, and amongst the Elgonyi and Engabuni people living directly beneath the slopes of the mountain.

It is noteworthy fact that the Engabuni have now discarded their old cave dwellings, and live out in the plains with the other tribes. It appears that the Hamdi were their chief source of dread in the past, and many caves were pointed out to me which had been ransacked by marauding bands of these people, and had thereafter been left deserted. It seems strange perhaps that the Hamdi, considering that they are undoubtedly very closely related to the Elgon people, should have been the aggressors in their case, but amongst savage peoples such finer considerations, I suppose, would be scarcely likely to stand in the way of possible loot. And so it was, amongst the Hamdi, who always regarded Sambut as quite their most productive field for raiding operations.

Materi's was the next Kitoah centre visited, and here arose our first difficulty. For though word had been sent in advance that food supplies for the column would be required no natives came into camp that day, and on the following day Materi himself came in to say that it was no use our stopping longer as all his people had disappeared and had gone into hiding in the bush, and that he could not get food-supplies for us. Materi's people were sent out to try and get into touch with this section of the Kitoah, but without avail, and they only returned to report having seen various Kitoah sneaking away into the bush carrying their rifles with them. This made matters rather more serious, and the only thing now to be done, in my consideration, was to move away from the vicinity, to give the natives time to return.

return to their villages and settle down, and then suddenly to return to the scene by a forced march, search the village for guns, and if possible ignore their presence at a "shauri".

I am quite well aware that instances of this sort are to be looked upon as a general rule with disapproval, but situations in the wilder parts of the Protectorate are apt to arise where a consideration of the ends more than justifies the means, and such in my opinion was the present occasion. For had we simply gone away and left these people to their own devices, to repeat this behaviour on every subsequent occasion of a Government visit - for these are their regular obstructive tactics - little success could honestly have been claimed for the results of this expedition.

Accordingly two short marches were made to the north to Mbuyuni, which is the camp lying directly at the foot of the south-eastern spur of the mountain. Here some Kikosh porters were paid off so that news of our whereabouts on that day might be carried to the Kikosh concerned and that night Captain Dobos with about 40 K. A. R., and with Police Askaris of Marunga to act as guides to the column, returned to Mterri's, and made a systematic search at daylight of as many as possible of the villages. I am told that the behaviour of the Kikosh Morans on this occasion was despicable. Full of idle boasts as to their womankind, and full of assertions of valour and self confidence before, they presented on the arrival of the troops in their villages, the most pitiable appearance, howling with fear and cowering in the innermost recesses of their huts before they had been touched. And well it is that the Kikosh are at heart such craven people, for with the well-fortified and entrenched villages in which they dwell and with the number of rifles and the amount of ammunition they had in their possession, they could really have put up an exceedingly

stout

stout fight, though I had every reason to
hand that they would not have the spirit to do so.
number of rifles were found concealed in the huts and
more were produced after the temporary impounding of the
cattle. No resistance of any sort was offered, and no
shot was fired. The condition of the return of the
cattle was the coming into the Government camp of the
natives for "Mauri", and this was at once agreed to.
The moral effect on the Fitosa of actually finding them-
selves in the power of stronger military to find moreover,
oddly enough, cannibalistic tendencies are attributed,
was very great, and on the following day I was glad to be
able to return to their owners all the detained stock.
The natives arrive in small parties, and I made
great point of impressing on them the foolishness of their
ways for they were not lords of the bush, but a cattle-
owning people and if we had wanted their stock it would
have been taken years ago; further wherever their cattle
could be driven there also could Government men go, and
the only result of their hiding themselves away in the
bush like this was to give us a bad impression of them.
As to rifles, I explained that they would do much better
to hand in these weapons now of their own accord rather
than later be found in possession of them and be impris-
oned for this offence.

I decided to leave Marunga behind at this point to
collect all the remaining firearms in this locality while
the Takari proceeded along the south eastern slopes of
the mountain.

This area has been regarded in the past as being
well-populated by Elgoyi natives, I believe, but it was
found to be uninhabited to all intents and purposes,
except by a few Elgoyi herds who take out precarious
existence high up on the mountain side. Years ago the
fertile lands and excellent pastures of this region
in their occupation, but tradition has it that they

killed their chief, and from that time forward a curse
has lain over the lands. More likely however is it that
the Ninyai retired from this area in face of constant
raids made upon them by the Karooja people, and as a
matter of fact, as a tribe, I should say is now on the
verge of extinction through a general process absorption
by other tribes.

With no natives to administer here, then, we can
well give up the idea of running through a trade road
from this station to the north via the eastern side of the
mountain. At the "Zirani" camp, which is the "junction"
camp of Col. Macdonald's survey, signs of the presence
of Karooja hunters were noticeable by their game-traps,
but there was no sign of the alleged Karooja settlement
here, of the side from which the northern Kitchi are
always complaining, and I am glad therefore that we made
no representation on the subject to the Uganda authorities.
And the Kitchi womenkind are sometimes appeared it will be
by struggling parties of about Karooja hunters, and not
I think by any organized raiding parties from Uganda
territory.

Two fairly recently-used Swahili trading encampments,
however, were observed in this locality, and it is these
people from Mwali who are helping to swell the Uganda
ivory dues at the expense of our own Protectorate. For if
they smuggle from the east side of Elgon, it can be very
safely predicted they do so also in much greater degree
farther north along the coast where distance from
possible Government observation and control, and where
access to their undertakings is more assured. Short
travellers were met here throughout as my time was employed
in ~~surveying~~ the country, and I trust that the results
as shown in the accompanying map will be of use to the
Survey Department.

On return to Matera's again I found that Marungu had been successful during our ten days absence in collecting a further very considerable number of firearms from the natives of this part, but he reported having had much difficulty in this respect with Kifumo's people.

I sent for Kifumo therefore, and after some consideration decided the best thing to do would be to make Kifumo himself come into the Station with a party of his people so as to accustom them somewhat to Government ways; for having lived in a remote district they have undoubtedly been left very much to their own devices in the past, and are still in a most utterly savage state.

Detention in the station of similar wild people having been proved, as already mentioned, to have been a most effective method of dealing with them, a repetition of the experiment in the present case might with advantage it was thought, be applied, and Marungu was accordingly left behind to see that Kifumo carried out his undertaking to come into the station with a party of fifty of his people who had been causing trouble. It was preferable thus that they should come in more or less voluntarily than that they should be brought in with us under a guard, I thought.

Before leaving Matera's I decided on what I consider to be a suitable limit to the range of the Kitoah tribe in the north, as one which meets all their real requirements; and the ^{extension} ~~improvement~~ of this boundary I might add was accepted more or less without demur by the tribesmen, very few of whom as a matter of fact were affected by it in regard to the position of their villages.

The boundary provisionally fixed is:-

The west bank of the Kivira River from the point where it issues, by a fall, from Kigo, to the point of entry of the Namakha stream; thence following the Namakha (to east to its source); from this point connecting

with

with the Machemo stream by an imaginary line, and then following the Machemo down stream at the River Macia.

Later when we have these people under better control it might be thought advisable to give way to their wishes, and allow them to extend further along towards the south eastern extremity of the mountain; but for the present, the smaller the area in which we can confine these people the easier it will be for us to administer them from Muniad.

It was now the 29th of the month (August) and as I considered that our duties in northern Kitosh were for the time being at an end, the return march by a more easterly route than that followed on the way up was begun, and we reached Muniad without incident on September 1st.

During this tour 107 rifles of all make from '303s to muzzle loaders, and about 400 rounds of ammunition, mostly composed of Government Martini Henri, were confiscated from the Elgonyi and Kitosh, and in this connection Marunga deserves much credit, for he not only obtained most of the information as to the hiding-places of these weapons, but he also collected a considerable portion of them himself.

In very few cases indeed were these weapons delivered up voluntarily by their owners, but search had to be made in the huts - sometimes they were actually found built into the walls - , in the bush, and in the caves up the mountain side. This fact shows that the ~~mountain~~ natives were only too well aware that they carried these firearms in contravention of Government regulations, but at the same time I feel more disposed to make every effort to trace the rascally traders who sold these weapons to the natives in this district, often for as much as five cows for a Smith, than to take any further action against the natives themselves, who have paid a large sum for an article now confiscated by the Government.

The process of disarming the natives throughout this district is now proceeding, and as the date of closing this report (Sep. 25th) has resulted in confiscations to the total number of 400. Where this figure will end I do not know, but I can only say that it discloses a remarkable state of affairs, and only too fully bears out Mr. A. B. S. P. Wayne's remarks as to the "high degree of fidelity" of the traders in this district in the past, though in a few cases the weapons have been obtained through other sources, I believe, notably from the Waganda and the Nandi.

When the process of confiscation has been completed, and this should be in about a month's time, lists of all the stamped firearms will be forwarded to the various stations in upcountry trade centres, in the endeavour to trace these firearms back, through the registration papers, to the owners who have parted with them in this reprehensible way to wild savages, and a final report will then be submitted on the whole subject.

The work of the Patrol, I am glad to be able to say, was carried out without bloodshed, and without firing of a single shot, and I think the results accomplished may go far towards promoting the peaceful settlement of the whole of a somewhat disturbed area.

G. F. Archer
 District Commissioner.

25th October, 1905.

INCLOSURE No 3

In Despatch No. 573 of 25th 1905

No. 2584/156/I.

Your Honour,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a report received, together with covering letter, from the District Commissioner, Lamia, on the results of the recent Kikoin patrol.

Certain of the methods employed may not be fully approved by His Excellency; I would, however state that in my opinion, it is most necessary in districts like Kikoin to act with firmness and promptness and I fail to see, bearing in mind the object in view, how the District Commissioner could have acted otherwise. Indeed, I would record my opinion that the District Commissioner has accomplished a difficult task in a most satisfactory manner, and deserves every credit for the results obtained.

I would remark that the 400000 four hundred rifles of various kinds were being recovered from the natives of the Kikoin district. This fact by itself proves that strong and decisive action was and is necessary in dealing with this matter.

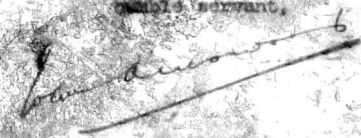
There remains, I believe, a good deal yet to be done in connection with the recovery of firearms in the district.

I forward

His Honour THE LIEUT-GOVERNOR,
East Africa Protectorate,
NAIROBI.

I forward the original map and would ask that it be returned as requested.

I have the honor to be,
Your Honour's
most obedient
servant.



Provincial Commissioner.

fox 4779

500

JWD

7 Dec 08

L. A. P.

no. 613

Sir,

I have the honor to ack. the recd. of your
app. no. 513 of the 20th Oct., forward-
ing a report by the District Commr. of
the Muzias Dist. on a patrol recently
conducted in the Ketosh country.

L. F. L. 4779

Mr. ...

M3/12/1

I concur with you in thinking that the
results of this patrol are satisfactory,
and that Mr Archer deserves commendation
for the peaceful and successful manner
in which he accomplished his mission.

I shall be glad to receive a copy of
the map referred to by Mr Archer.

*Gen Dft to be
consideration of
Mr Archer.*