

EAST AFR. PROT.
No. 5072

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12 FEB 06

No. 24

(Subject.)

1906

Jan 18

Death of Mullah Ashgar.

From previous Paper.

Yrs Capt Salkeld's report re: & making arrangements for 1st Batt. KAR to be moved to Konye on completion of Ganda Operations

(Minutes)

Mr. Antrobus.

Asst. & express appreciation of Capt. Salkeld's prompt action.

As he is wearing his uniform, the Army, it is not worth while to send copy of this to the S.O., he will be right etc.

H. J. R.

13/2

Pub. Feb. 24

Quite a satisfactory way of dealing with Mullah.

5072

Ms. 185-16-18-18-18

... of his country's loss

5072

Commissioner's Office + EE 06

Nairobi,

January 18th 1906.

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EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 24

(Inc 1.1.)

My Lord,

With reference to my telegram No. 2 of January 4th reporting the death near Yote of

Herti Somali named Ashgar, I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship herewith Captain Salkeld's

report giving full details of the circumstances connected with the same.

I am of opinion that Captain Salkeld's report confirms the matter checked what might have developed into a very troublesome movement.

A later telegramic despatch received from

Captain

H. H. Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies

Downing Street

London

50725

12-11-66

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Sir,

I have the honour to report that on the 26th instant I received information that fighting was taking place among the Somalis on the Italian side of the Juba river near a place called LANCHOU LI about four or five hours north of Gobwen on the coast. I also heard that a number of our Somalis wanted to cross the river and take part in the fighting. I gave orders to close the river against all the Somalis irrespective of tribes.

2. On the evening of the 27th instant I received the following information:- A man called ASHGAR on the Ruge plain about five hours walk from Yonte was announcing that he was ready to fight the Government. He had been in Kiama two or three days before and tried to employ a Sheriff named Ali to join him as a preacher but failed. I issued a warrant for his arrest and sent out Mohamed Ali, a Government paid Herti Chief, and six police to arrest him. This they tried to do, but Ashgar attempted to attack them, and endeavoured to persuade his followers to do the same. The police then ~~gave up~~ and sent in information.

3. At about 8.30 p.m. on the evening of the 28th I received information from Captain Bailey that the Police were unable to arrest Ashgar and that he had a following

variously

variously estimated at from 40 to 150 men. On receipt of this information I issued orders for the possible defence of Rismayu, Gobwen and Yonte and at about 11.30 p.m. I left with Dr. Pritchard for Gobwen, where the Camel Corps was waiting for us and marched to Yonte. There I left Lieutenant Gordon with orders to march on Sangahooker with the Yonte Garrison supported by the Police and a ^{small} Somali levy who had orders to march after him and join him. I with Dr. Pritchard and the Camel Corps under Captain Bailey left Yonte and marched on Ruga. On my arrival at Ruga I was met by Mahomed Aden and his party who told me that Ashgar and his party had driven off all their cattle and were moving on the Yaka into. I sent orders to Lieutenant Gordon to march on Handaraf. About 8 a.m. I passed Malkhara

where Ashgar and his people had camped for the night. I followed up by Handaraf, on approaching which place we came across one of Ashgar's parties who fled down the road followed by us.

4. On riding into Handaraf I saw a considerable number of Somalis under trees in the bush. One of them shouted out, "kill them, they are only a lot of slaves". A party was made headed by Ashgar and in the fight he killed one horse and one man, one wounded and one killed. The British called Mullah Ashgar was however killed. We stopped immediately and I called to the Somalis to send me the man and horse and I told them that the man had been killed leading the party and had been killed leading the party.

at once fired on. I gave them five minutes to go away which they did and we then marched back to Malkaana without any interference.

5. At Malkaana I met Lieutenant Gordon and the Yonta Garrison. We all marched on to Sangahooker where we met the Police and the Somali levies and camped for the night.

6. From Sangahooker I sent a letter to the Chiefs of the Osman Mahamood, Omer Mahamood, and Wadeneyli sections of the Hertis to tell them that I had met one so called Mullah Ashgar and killed him, and that they had better send their chiefs in to see me for I understood that his following was made up of men of these three sections.

7. Next morning I marched back to Yonta. From there I sent another letter to the above mentioned chiefs repeating what I had previously said and again saying they must come in ~~to see me~~. I am now awaiting news from them.

8. I believe the death of this man ~~has~~ stopped what might have become a dangerous movement among the young men of the Somalis. I believe him to have been a fanatical Mahomedan who intended fighting at all hazards. I never saw a man when attacking more determined to kill or to be killed, and I think if he had not been stopped at Handara he would have ~~been~~ ^{been} the Yakadinto grazing grounds and very likely have collected

considerable following of young men which, if not dispersed would have led to considerable trouble. Ashgar was of the Omasi Hamud section of the Herti Somalis and had lately returned from spending some months in the country of the Mullah Mohammed Abdullah somewhere near Illig or Obbia. He was, I think trying to take the position of a fighting Mullah. The remainder of the Herti except the three sections mentioned above had nothing to do with the man. When I hear from the three sections from which this man's followers were recruited I will write again.

10. If I find after a thorough investigation of the matter, that any particular were backing up Ashgar and showing signs of setting themselves up against Government, I propose to fine them or to deport any particular individuals whom I consider dangerous to the State.

11. In the recent baraza of the Herti following on an anonymous letter received by the late Commissioner I was authorized to deport certain men vide my letter No. 57 of August, 1903 if I thought necessary. I have good reason to believe that one at least of these men with this name was present with Ashgar, and if this is proved to be an affliction, I propose to deport him without waiting for the further authority.

12. Since writing the above I have held a baraza with all the Herti I could collect, all sections being present. They were unanimous in stating they wanted peace and repudiated all connection with the Mullah.

13. I have ordered them all to concentrate near Kismayu to show that they mean what they say and they are doing so fast. I anticipate no complications but as a matter of precaution I think it would be advisable to return No.1 Company King's African Rifles to Jubaland as soon as possible.
14. I trust that my action will be approved.

I have &c., &c.,

Sd/- R. S. Salkeld, Capt.

Ag. Sub-Commissioner, Jubaland.

to
R. W. Commissioner,

Enclosure

In Col. J. Hayes Sadler, P. Jess.
No. 24 of January 1894.

Captain Salkeld reports that all is quiet and that the return of No. 1 Company, as requested in the despatch enclosed herewith, is not now considered necessary. I am however making arrangements for the return of this Company to Kismayu as soon as it can be spared from the Mandi Field Force.

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

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,



5072

DRAFT.

15 March 1906

Indexed

E.A.P. h-135.

Commons House of Commons C.D.

MINUTE.

Mr. Lobb th/₃

Mr. T. S.

1701.13/1/2

Mr. Antrobus.

Mr. Coe.

Mr. Lucas.

Mr. Graham.

Sir H. Dumassey.

Mr. Churchill.

The Earl of Elgin.

... With the honour
to which the receipt of
your despatch h-24 of the
15th January 1906 enclosing
Capt R.E. Selkell's
report on the death
of Mulla Akhyar,
and to request that
you will convey to
the officer my appreciation
of the prompt and
successful action
on the matter.

I am