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E. AFRICA

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283

Entomological work

Under direction of Brit. Consul in Egypt
Submit report.

1917

Lamborn

~~Mr. Brit. Consul~~
~~Mr. Brit. Consul~~
~~Mr. Brit. Consul~~

Mr. G. Fiddler

The Committee of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Pathology, and the report of this meeting on the matter. Mr. Lord Harcourt said that the thought the condition of affairs indicated in it very disappointing results, factory, and the Committee agreed. Mr. Shepley said he would take an opportunity of mentioning the matter to Gen. ...
I presume copies should go to ...

Mr. G. Fiddler, Mr. E. B. ...
The W.O. ...
The two schools of ...
The implied criticisms of ...
concerned

25 June
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M^r Reed

Quincy, Ill. Aug. 19th 1876

Dear Sir,

As I have informed, I have the Schools

at home

Aug 19th 1876

Recd. 13 FEB 1917

Ann.

22173

REC'D

Re 30

No I.

Littlemore,

near Oxford, 8th February, 17.



Sir,

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I have the honour now to submit, as requested, a report on my entomological work while under the direction of the military authorities in East Africa.

2. I reached Kilindini from Nyasaland in late March 1916 and was forwarded to Taveta, a military base, assurance being given that my military position would then be defined. However I found no one in authority there having any knowledge of me, and my position, that of the only civilian at an enormous military base, being absolutely untenable, proceeded to Mombasa on the advice of the Base Commandant. I reported myself to the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services, who, on my pointing out the entire impracticability of attempting to do any work in the field as a civilian, informed me that the matter had not rested with the local military authorities, for instructions had been given by the War Office that I was not to be afforded military rank.

Towards the end of the month the matter was rectified and on 26th April I set out once again, this time with non-commissioned rank as Captain in the East African Veterinary Corps, having instructions to report to the Assistant Director of Veterinary Services at Mombasa. By him I was referred to the General Headquarters Staff at Mombasa, in German East Africa, where I arrived on 2nd May.

3. Having examined for tsetse-flies a horse camp in the vicinity, where I found none, I was instructed on 6th May to survey for tsetse-flies the road running from Mombasa to Arusha, a stretch of some 90 miles.

The march proved an interesting one, as for two days the path ran through the rich farming districts and fertile woodland along the southern slopes of Kilimanjaro, then for a day across grassy plains, and finally through the rich

farming...

bitten, they had not realised the nature of their assailants. Fortunately at this point a new deviation of the road had been made through more open country, and it was only necessary to point out that the convey beasts which had passed through and all the battery mules of the particular regiment then in camp were probably infected.

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On 22nd ~~June~~^{May} I reached the drift at the junction of the Muruangoi and Senje rivers and in traversing woodland for 7 miles to the south again met with morsitans in small numbers and I recommended that the convoys should travel through this area at night.

Thereafter all the way to Lokissale, a distance of 20 miles, at an elevation of 4,000 to 4,500 ft. a few scattered flies were met with. I was of opinion that these had probably travelled ~~with~~ the transport, the thinly wooded country with large grassy ~~tracts~~ and the elevation not being ~~low~~ has been ~~easy~~ to judge, such ~~as~~^{conditions} especially ~~in~~ the fly ~~area~~ moreover was ~~not~~ ~~at~~ ~~all~~ ~~serious~~ along this section on my return journey a few weeks ~~ago~~.

On 23rd ~~June~~^{May} I reached Lokissale, and on 24th received instructions to proceed in search of assises along the road as far as Ufioni. For 37 miles of more or less open country no flies were encountered, but thereafter to mile 44 at the T. Bengere River 4,000 feet, morsitans was fairly abundant.

It was necessary then to point out that, though to the south of the River there was a very considerable plain and good grazing, it was the practice to outspan animals on both sides among the thorn bushes on the north infested with the flies. The desirability of night travel and outspanning always to the south was duly emphasized in a report dated 1st June. Judging however by the large number of animals outspanned in the fly area on my return, no action could have been taken.

Along a farther stretch of the road, 15 miles, to Ufioni only scattered flies, probably carried by the transport from the area mentioned, were found.

e. At Ufiomi I was further instructed to survey the road for tsetse as far as Kondoa Irangi, 50 miles, a task which I completed by 10th June, finding none. I here found lively operations in progress between General Van Deventer's forces and the main German body, and as the food question was rather a pressing one, both for myself and my carriers, I was not sorry when on 17th June I received instructions to return and report myself ~~for further~~ instructions to General Head quarters at Moshi.

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Between Ufiomi and Lolissale I travelled by a more northern route, a German track, used for many weeks by our transport but later abandoned on account of its rough nature, in favour of the more southern route by which I had come down. On this old road for a stretch of about twenty miles, ten to the north and ten to the south of the Tarengere River, Morsitans swarmed and were very troublesome.

f. An increasing feature the nearer one approached the actual scene of military operations was the number of dead, and of ailing and discarded animals, scattered along the road. Many oxen had apparently dropped while on trek and had been left where they fell, their bodies being crushed and their bones driven into the earth by the constant passage of motor lorries. Dead horses too were abundant, I counted some twenty all recently dead at Tarengere River crossing, some in the water, which latter at my suggestion were removed by the orders of the Camp Commandant.

g. In the immediate neighbourhood of Ufiomi were numbers of dead horses, mules, and donkeys in varying stages of decomposition, so situated round the camp, in the middle of which was a large hospital, that whatever the direction of the wind, those therein, the sick and strong alike, suffered from the effluvia. Fortunately the medical charge was just then assumed by a Major of the permanent R.A.M.C. Staff who appreciated at once the necessity

for radical... ..

for radical measures, so that, on the very morning of his arrival, eighteen funeral pyres within a stones throw of the camp indicated the adequate disposal of as many decomposing animals.

The presence of these ~~unpleasant~~ ^{offensive} and frequently the entire lack of sanitation, resulted in the appearance of enormous swarms of Muscids, which were a scourge wherever one camped, settling in great numbers on all articles of food, and permitting of no rest at all by day. AS TO THESE I reported to the D.D.V.S. in the following terms:

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reporting to the
Soleja Camp. 6th June.

" Note
I have to request you to bring to the notice of the proper authorities the following observations on the phenomenal increase of the various Muscids which has taken place since the advent of the dry season. The common house fly literally swarms at all camps and all the factors concerned being as follows: - the insect, which breeds especially in excreta, is bred every spot doing so by the insanitary state of the camping places, especially those spots at which troops are in the habit of camping for a single night, where no latrine accommodation, either for Europeans or for the hundreds of natives, is ever provided."

Intimate

At Ussa, a camping ground about 4 miles square, on the Moshi-Arusha road, just west of Raschauser, 200 natives and some white troops camped during the night I was there, no latrine accommodation being provided, and I was informed and from the state of the ground had no difficulty in believing, that no less than 2000 carriers had been there on the previous night.

in some of the fixed camps regulations as to the use of latrines do not seem to be enforced, and in others no latrine accommodations provided for the natives, so that the immediate vicinity is fouled in the extreme.

The role which the housefly plays in the dissemination of dysentery, enteric, and similar well known diseases has been well established. 290

2. The Green fly, Sarcophaga, and the green bottle flies, *Phorocera* and *Lucilia*, which are an equal pest, breed especially in putrescent *carabera* feeding (also) on the flies themselves. This special pabulum is provided by the large numbers of dead transport animals left rotting especially near the camps. At Taree, for instance, there were twenty and at the arrival of the R.A.M.C. staff, conditions were worse. From these dead animals the flies fly direct to water or settle on human foodstuffs. The further risks to health must be obvious.

Fortitude

(*) This was the case, for example, at New Moschi when I arrived on 2nd May, some weeks after our occupation. Heavy rains were on, the drainage from the hill running into the Pangani River, from which the camp water supply was then in part drawn. As a result of a conversation I had with a sanitary officer, latrine accommodations were once provided.

I must take this opportunity of pointing out the fact, which obtrudes itself as a prohibition on the luckless pedestrian at various camps, south of Lokkissale, and at Soke Komooa Irangi, viz :- that no attempt has been made set apart by rail or otherwise a section of the scanty water for European use. It is the rule to find at such places the water churned up by the hoofs of the animals, and often fouled by their dejecta, or by the presence of dead animals in the immediate vicinity.

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No acknowledgement of this report was received, nor was there any evidence, so far as I could judge, that any action was taken as a result of it. Weeks later, for instance, on 20th July, I passed at one spot on the roadside between Insochono and Handeni no less than 300 dead horses, the odours from which tainted the air over a very wide area, and on the following day I passed by water at another halt.

I reached Mombasi again on 1st July and there received instructions to carry out three further reconnaissances for fly (a) between Ngulu Gap, in the Pare mountains, and Same, (b) between Same and German Bridge, (Mabirioni), and (c) between Mabirioni and Handeni, a stretch of altogether of about 160 miles.

I returned from Mombasi to Mwayuni, a base in N.E. Africa, by railway, most of it on the new Voi-Nairobi line, and set out on foot for Ngulu Gap, which I reached on 6th July.

In the Gap itself, an elevation of 8100 feet, and along the track for 15 miles to the south, Dallmannia literally swarmed, being more numerous I think than any species of the fly in any corner of the areas which I have ~~examined~~ ^{examined}.

Same, on the Tanga-Mombasi railway, was reached on 12th July, no more flies being encountered; and subsequently the road, more or less closely parallel to the railway, was reached from there.....

(9) The significance of this kind of thing will appear when the following observations are considered in connection with the fact that...

from them as far as Mabirichain in which camp a few scattered pallidipes were taken. The Pangani River was then crossed and the journey continued along its west bank for three days to Lusuhomo, the point where the German trolley line from Mombasa to Handeni crosses. Here a few scattered pallidipes were again met with, and they were taken now and again during the three following days up to a point three miles N. of Handeni, 8800 ft, which was reached on 22nd July.

At Handeni the work was interrupted by an attack of dysentery, following on several attacks of malaria, which kept me in various field hospitals for the greater part of a month, but I was able to report myself again for duty on 24th August.

On 29th August I received instructions to proceed to Tanga, and thence by first available ship to Bagamoyo, a report being required as to fly on the Bagamoyo-Morogoro road, a section of the original Arab slave route from Tanganyika to the coast.

Bagamoyo was reached on 5th September and I set out on trek forthwith. For 5 days the route ran through thin woodland interspersed with grassy slopes on which heads of yoked cattle were here and there dotted, but on the 5th day, ~~at a point about~~ two miles east of Ngerengere, an important station on the Central Railway and about 100 miles west of Dar es Salaam, ~~the route was crossed and~~ ^{a Chambus appeared in considerable numbers.} On the following day the journey was continued to Kilimo, some 25 miles east of Ngerengere, along a road south of the railway. ~~At this point the route was crossed by the~~ ^{consequently, annoying pallidipes were present in great numbers, though not so numerous, and, as they were} ~~at this point the route was crossed by the~~ ^{the latter species occurred in unusually large numbers, and as far as I could ascertain, there was no other species.} At Ngerengere, the end of the journey was reached on 12th September.

Two days spent at Morogoro, in the tsetse survey of the neighbourhood, resulted in the discovery of abundant morsitans some two miles to the north of the town in the usual thorn bush country, extending back, as I was informed by transport men, for 15 miles, throughout which the fly was reported to be troublesome.

I visited also the German Government stock farm situated about two miles south of the town and about 500 ft up in the hills. The man in charge, a Swiss formerly in the employ of the German Government, informed me that prior to the war the cattle had thrived there for many years, but that recently owing as he thought to the constant movement of troops and animals into the town through the fly area, the fly had been taken on the farm, with the result that there had been progressive loss in the stock.

10. On 19th Sept. I received instructions to return to Dar-es-Salaam and attempted to do so by the old road more or less parallel to and south of the Central Railway, along which I marched for 4 days, meeting on 23rd vast swarms of morsitans in the neighbourhood of Kaughala, about 20 miles east of Morogoro, and 15 miles south of the railway. But the track, which had evidently not been in use for many years, became less and less defined, undergrowth became sprung up, and so I was then compelled to strike and return north for the Jagwaga road once again, along which I returned to that town, and a further two days march along the 25 miles of coast, during which I saw no flies, brought me into Dar-es-Salaam.

11. It had become increasingly obvious that no practical value had resulted from my tsetse surveys, it is hardly to be expected that military operations would be modified by the presence of the flies... the time spent... the losses in... also... the...

large

nextent replaced, and the ox convoys had almost given place to mechanical transport. I did not feel, either, that my work if continued would have any value subsequent to the war, since the fly distribution had undoubtedly been extended as a result of military movements, and was almost certainly to become again modified in the direction of ~~more~~ ^a restriction of the fly areas when the country reverted to a more normal state of affairs. The Germans being hemmed up in a comparatively small corner of the country, and the ~~rest~~ of the camp ~~ground~~ within sight, I therefore tendered my resignation to the Director General of Communications, under whose instructions I had latterly been, ^{and} who, on my discussion of the position with him, agreed unreservedly with the view expressed, so that on 17th November my resignation was accepted.

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It was a lamentable reflection that so much time and energy had been wasted to no little purpose. A certain value doubtless had resulted from our surveys in reference to animal camps, and one's further conclusions as to results could only have been arrived at as the outcome of experience.

14. Facilities in regard to biologic observations were almost entirely lacking. The following points were however noted: Morsitans had undoubtedly become more widely distributed along the roads as a result of military movements. It occurred for instance in thin bren in the neighbourhood of a large pond in the partially dried up, Mugangoin river at which, previous to the war, the Masai had been in the habit for years of watering their cattle with impunity in the dry season. It occurred sparsely also along the last 15 miles from Sanja River ^{into the hills} an average elevation of 4,000 ft in more or less open country with merely a few dwarfed trees scattered here and there, and in country of a similar character between Lasagna and Maganda. Its spread to the Government farm at Morogoro has already been commented on.

227³/₁₇ Capua

~~Handwritten scribbles and lines~~

DRAFT.

- 1) ady. La Pul. no 473
- 2) Administrator Galt German Capua
- 3) The Director no 105 Tropical Diseases Bureau

MINUTE.

a) The Sec 400

25 June 1917

Mr. Barley, 20 June

Mr. Indian up

Mr. Grindle.

Mr. Lambert.

Mr. Bond.

Sir A. Piddon.

Mr. Steel, Maitland.

Mr. Long.

with ref to your letter of

(10.4.1917) the 27th Dec 1915 No
(59681) 0165/7090 (M 21)
Ser 10

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a) for the info of the A.C.

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Tropical Diseases Bureau of Palermo

8 Feb 1917

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while under the direction

of the military authorities

in Casablanca

(62)

(304)

DOWNING STREET.

25th June, 1917.

GERMAN EAST AFRICANo. 100.

Sir,

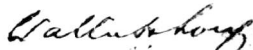
I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, copies of a report to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology by Dr. W. A. Lamborn on his entomological work while under the direction of the military authorities in East Africa.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,



ADMINISTRATOR

H. A. BYATT, ESQ., C.M.G.,

cc., cc., cc.,

Mr Hodgkin,

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4/18

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Mr Head

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22nd December 1917.

The Librarian,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, N.

299

Dear Sir,

I have received an application from Mr. E.A. Greening Lamborn for 50 copies of Dr. W.A. Lamborn's Report to the Colonial Office, Tropical Diseases 7564, 25-30; proof ²²⁴⁷³ 22473. I shall be glad if you will inform me whether the copies can be supplied to this Office for sale to Mr. Greening Lamborn, and if so what price should be charged for them.

Yours faithfully,

P/p The Superintendent of Publications.

A. Olson

L. 22/737/7 before

771

DRAFT

16 January 1948

The Dept of Publications
HM Stationery Office

Sir,
I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd Dec 1947 to NSO/EMIS, to inform you that six copies of D/W.G. Lamborn's report on his entomological work in Papua, are being sent to you.

MINUTE

- Mr. [unclear] 8/1
- Mr. [unclear] 9/1
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]

dist [unclear] Lamborn's report for his personal use confidentially.

It is noted that certain implied information of the report is contained in the report and is being sent to you for your information.

be good enough to explain
the position to Mr. E. L. Greening
Lansdown in relation to his
request for fifty copies of the
report.