

1937

38329

C0533/486  
KENYA

38329

MOMBASA NATIVE DISTURBANCE

Previous

R 297 1/2

297 5/2

309 1 1/2

Mr Dawe 16

297 7/3

309 18/3

Mr Parkin 19

303 20

295 23/3

297 15/3

Subsequent

1938

R 297 30/3/38

Mr Flood 30/3

Mr C. Parkin 30/3

Regisley 31/3

Mr Flood 19

Mr C. Parkin 19

R 297 29/4

Mr Parkin 1/4

Mr Flood 2

Mr Flood 1

Mr Flood ✓

Ward 5/10

Mr C. Parkin 6/10

S. B. 4/10/38

C. B. 9/10

NATIVE  
DISORDER  
RIOT.

2  
3

Sir C. Parkinson

There are press reports of rioting in  
Mombasa with loss of life. We have heard nothing  
officially & though one doesn't want to worry people  
in the middle of it I think a telegram as per attached  
would do no harm and would show legitimate concern.  
I would not ask for a report, will get it beyond doubt!

(3) This contact  
avoided

J.C.O. Hunt  
17.8.

It is certain that we get no  
report from Kenya Govt. We have  
now given them time enough  
to report.

= recd  
28.8.37  
[Signature]

To Kenya tel 166

28.8.37

DESTROYED UNDER  
STAMP 11

GOV. KENYA..... THE TOUR NO. .... 9.8.37.  
Gives details of Mombasa riots and states that a  
further report follows by air mail.

That's all right. If it hadn't been in Kenya there  
should have been no press reports at all. I believe  
all is quiet & we shall hear by mail.

? Put by  
J.C.O. Hunt  
30.8.

[Handwritten mark]

recd  
30.8.37  
[Signature]



Dr. Richardson

I have added word to the  
draft - they may come in handy  
in the context of a P.S.

The report is being reviewed  
to show that information  
material is not to be lost.

W.C.S.

5.10.37

W.C.S.

6.10.37

9 Kenya 876 8 lines. 6ms 11 OCT 1937

No reply received to (9)

sent with mail

Dr. Richardson  
8.297

5.1.38

Clarks White 1942

(11) m  
A. M. A. W.  
11.2

No reply received to (9)

Dr. Richardson  
8.297  
17.2.38

Kenya has had beauty 50 minutes to  
send in the P.C.'s report mentioned in the  
2nd para of (9). ? Rerrum.

Clarks White 1943

J.J. Passeri

19/3

at once

10 Kenya 6ms 7/2 - 25 MAR 1938

C. O.

Mr. Parni 1/2

Mr. Flood . 4/10

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley. 5. 10 .

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

+ Perm. U.S. of S. 6. 10. 37

Party U.S. of S.

X Secretary of State. WJ 6. 10. 37  
(Common)

C. D.  
R. 7-OCT  
D 9

Annod 1  
Sun, 1938

SAF

11 OCT 1937

I have rec. to ack. the receipt of your Dep. No. 567 of the 24<sup>th</sup> of Sept. in regard to the disturbances wh. occurred at Malbasa in August, & to convey ~~to you~~ ~~my~~ ~~expressed~~ ~~of~~ ~~satisfaction~~ at learning that, as a result of the action taken by the Administration & Police authorities concerned, the situation was kept under control, & order re-established, without any casualties being sustained or caused by the Police.

DRAFT.

Kanga

No. 876.

Gov.

FURTHER ACTION.

stet  
WJ

I shall be interested to learn, in due course, the result of the Provincial Commissioners' examination &

the necessary means to prevent,  
or deal with, similar  
occurrences in future.

(Signed) W. ORMSBY GORE.

AIR MAIL

KENYA

No. 567



8  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

NAIROBI

KENYA

24 September 1937.

RECEIVED  
23 SEP 1937  
Sir,

With reference to the Governor's telegram Tour No. 2 of the 31st August, and previous telegrams, I have the honour to make the following observations on the disturbances which occurred at Mombasa during the week ending the 28th August, and in which a number of Washihiri Arabs and Luo natives were involved.

2. Copies of reports by the Provincial Commissioner, Coast, the District Commissioner, Mombasa, and the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mombasa, are attached, from which it will be observed that the immediate cause of the trouble was a dispute between an Washihiri house-owner and his lodger, a Luo native. In the subsequent disturbances, eleven Washihiri were killed or died of wounds, and one Luo was also found dead. No firing by the Police took place, nor, as was alleged, was a bayonet charge made. The Police neither sustained nor caused any casualties during the fighting, which was confined to the native location, not affecting the rest of the town, the deck area, or the Mombasa Trade Exhibition, which was being held at the time.

3. The Washihiri and Luo are employed at the docks, the former mainly as stevedores on board the ships, and the latter on the wharf and in the sheds. Statements have appeared in the local press that the reason of the disturbances was long-standing ill-feeling between the two tribes, due to the fact that the Luo are gradually ousting the Washihiri in this work. The

Provincial ...

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. GIBBSY GORE, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S. W. 1.

AIR MAIL

KENYA

No. 567



8  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

24 September 1937.

Sir,

With reference to the Governor's telegram Tour No. 2 of the 31st August, and previous telegrams, I have the honour to make the following observations on the disturbances which occurred at Mombasa during the week ending the 28th August, and in which a number of Washihiri Arabs and Luo natives were involved.

2. Copies of reports by the Provincial Commissioner, Coast, the District Commissioner, Mombasa, and the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mombasa, are attached, from which it will be observed that the immediate cause of the trouble was a dispute between a Washihiri house-owner and his lodger, a Luo native. In the subsequent disturbances, eleven Washihiri were killed or died of wounds, and one Luo was also found dead. No firing by the Police took place, nor, as was alleged, was a bayonet charge made. The Police neither sustained nor caused any casualties during the fighting, which was confined to the native location, not affecting the rest of the town, the deck area, or the Mombasa Trade Exhibition, which was being held at the time.

3. The Washihiri and Luo are employed at the docks, the former mainly as stevedores on board the ships, and the latter on the wharf and in the sheds. Statements have appeared in the local press that the reason of the disturbances was long-standing ill-feeling between the two tribes, due to the fact that the Luo are gradually ousting the Washihiri in this work. The

Provincial ...

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. GRISBY GORE, P.C.; M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S. W. 1

Provincial Commissioner, Coast, reports, however, that there is no truth in this statement, and advises that the basic cause of the trouble lies in certain other aspects of the relationship existing between these two sections of the community.

4. In the first place, the Washihiri own several small shops in the native location where natives buy goods on the credit system. The Luo who work at the Port are notoriously improvident, and are frequently in the position of owing to these shopkeepers more than one month's wages, and the bickering which follows tends to develop from words to blows. Secondly, many of the Luo lodge with Washihiri householders and get into debt over their rent. This close contact between the two tribes is not really desirable, and has resulted in disputes over African women.

5. The state of affairs which has given rise to these disturbances is at present under careful examination by the Provincial Commissioner, with a view to the formulation of proposals designed to remove the causes of friction between the Washihiri and Luo, to prevent future occurrences of this nature, and to deal promptly with the disputes that are always likely to arise in a town such as Mombasa, containing a mixture of peoples, many of whom are temporary immigrants without the steadying influence of their wives and families.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

The Hon Colonial Secretary (F.),

NAIROBI.

MOMBASA RIOTS.

I forward herewith the report of the District Commissioner, Mombasa.

2. I consider the District Commissioner did all in his power to prevent the spread of the trouble by holding barabas throughout the town on 25th August, and going amongst the people.

3. The Superintendent of Police is to be congratulated on the quiet organisation of patrols, and arrangements for keeping his limited rank and file fed, and rested when possible.

The Officers and men behaved in an admirable manner and carried on for long periods without relief or sleep.

A report on the Police work has been forwarded by the Assistant Superintendent.

4. I would like to emphasise that the rioting was confined to the native location and that the rest of the town, the Dock area, and the Mombasa Trade Exhibition, carried on in a normal manner.

5. Our thanks are due to Captain House, Commanding the Coast Defence Unit K.A.R. who readily agreed to take over the guards at Government House and the Treasury, and the control at the Exhibition grounds; also to the Government Coast Agent who promptly took over the charge of all transport arrangements.

6. I will at a later date forward recommendations for increased powers to enable the District Commissioner to cope more efficiently with a sudden flare up of this kind. There is also the question of the emigration of Washihiri from Aden in the Dhow season to be considered

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER,  
COAST.

Copies to:-

The District Commissioner, MOMBASA,  
The Asst. Supdt. of Police, "  
Captain House, R.A., Coast Defence Unit, MOMBASA;  
The Government Coast Agent, MOMBASA.

13<sup>th</sup> September 1939

L.S. 25

The Hon. Provincial Commissioner Coast

MOBASSAMOBASSA, KISUMU

It is with regret that I have to report that serious rioting occurred in Mobassa during the week ending August 26th with the result that eleven Washihiri were killed or died of wounds and one Luo was also found dead. A number of Washihiri and Natives were also admitted to or treated at the hospital.

Monday 25th August.

The trouble began on the Monday night and is believed to have arisen when a Jalu Native who was drunk returned to the Washihiri householder where he lodged. The Native caused trouble and was ejected and a slight fracas took place between him and some friends on the one side and some Washihiri. These people were dispersed by the Police.

Later some Jalu attacked an Washihiri child. Police went to the scene and met a band of about 30 Washihiri who ran away on seeing them.

Tuesday 24th August.

The various headmen were seen and sent to the Police Station to see what information they could furnish.

In the evening there was further trouble. Jalu attacked several Washihiri shops and beat up 4 male Washihiri and one old Washihiri woman. Fighting occurred and three Natives (2 Jalu and one Wteita) were admitted to hospital in a serious condition. Later a Jalu was found dead but at some little distance from the scene of the fight, the Wteita from whom I took a dying statement at 11 p.m. on the 24th (the man has recovered) informed me that he had been attacked by Washihiri as he was returning from work.

Strong Police patrols with European officers were kept going all night. All was quiet by dawn.

Wednesday 25th August.

Together with the Superintendent of Police, District Officer and various headmen I visited Majengo where the shops were shut and a large crowd of Washihiri had collected. I went round with them and saw the shops which had been attacked and also the old woman who had been beaten up. I then addressed the crowd advising them to disperse and resume peaceful trading assuring them that a strong Police force would be kept in the vicinity. The Washihiri then dispersed.

In order to re-enforce the Police, the District Officer Commanding Coast Defence was approached and the ... took over the duties of Guard at Government House.

Later in the morning with the Superintendent of Police, Livali and several Headmen I proceeded to the port and held seven barakas with the labour and warned them against any repetition of this fighting.

At 4 p.m. the Provincial Commissioner accompanied the Livali and myself to the Railway Landies, where the railway labour - mainly Jaluo - were addressed.

Later in the evening a shop belonging to an Washihiri was smashed by, it is believed, Jaluo from the railway landies. The entire family was subsequently evacuated to a place of safety, by the Police, the Provincial Commissioner and myself being present.

That night a band of Washihiri congregated together at an hotel as they said they were afraid to be alone. The Police allowed them to remain as they were perfectly peaceful. I visited them myself at a later hour and all was satisfactory.

#### Thursday 26th August.

In the early morning I went to Majengo. At the entrance to Macupa road two Jaluo had been chased by Washihiri and took refuge in an Indian loka. I saw the men and then proceeded to Majengo accompanied by two Arab Elders. On the way I met various small bands of Washihiri armed with sticks. I spoke to them and they dispersed to the extent of running away in twos and threes up narrow streets.

As I returned from Majengo I met the Superintendent of Police with a large force of Police, he having been out since 5 a.m. as there had been further trouble.

About 9 a.m. the Superintendent of Police, the Livali and myself held a conference with the Provincial Commissioner and an order was circulated all round the Town and the Port that any band of persons found with sticks would be arrested.

The Provincial Commissioner and myself then interviewed the Washihiri Elders. The Elders wished a meeting at 4 p.m. between the Washihiri and Jaluo but this was considered unsafe owing to high tension prevailing. The I.C.A. (Coast Defence) took over the guard at the District Commissioner's Office and also the Embassy Exhibition, thus releasing more Police.

Later in the morning there was a clash between the contending parties and one Washihiri and one Jaluo were taken to hospital badly injured.

A large band of Washihiri was met and showed great truculence and 25 were arrested.

About noon a serious clash occurred near the Cable Wireless Station and one Washihiri was killed and three others so seriously injured that they also died.

Following on this a very large gathering of natives - mainly Jaluo but other tribes were also represented - collected beyond Majengo on the railway line and were then attacked by the Washihiri.

The Police endeavoured to come between the two parties were completely overwhelmed but held their ground.

The Superintendent of Police reported to me that things were so serious that it would appear necessary to fire on the mob. The Provincial Commissioner and myself proceeded to the Police Station where the Superintendent of Police had issued ammunition and then we all went to the scene of action. On arriving the Police were given the orders, fix bayonets, high post - double march.

The Washihiri were then retreating and the natives had collected back on the railway line and the re-enforcements took up their position whilst the Provincial

Commissioner, Liwali and myself advanced about 150 yards and addressed the crowd and ordered them to disperse. In this we were assisted by two Roman Catholic Fathers and the crowd eventually moved away and the Washihiri corpses were removed to the mortuary.

No order was given to fire upon the mob and although the Police advanced with fixed bayonet, noting in the nature of a bayonet charge took place, as was reported in the press.

During the afternoon the Catholic Fathers under police escort removed Native women and children from the Majengo area to the Railway Landies.

The Provincial Commissioner then telephoned to the Commissioner of Police for extra Police and the following morning 34 extra men arrived together with a European Police officer.

Six lorries were then engaged (Thursday afternoon) and stationed at Majengo where a camp had been pitched and constant patrols were made day and night by the Police in these lorries.

From the 28th August until the 1st September I remained each night at the Police camp, as no general orders had to be given to the Police, as reported in the press.

#### Friday 27th August.

In the afternoon Natives attacked the Washihiri stalls in the Jacupa market and one native was arrested. In the evening a band of 17 armed Natives were encountered and sixteen arrested.

#### Saturday 28th August.

Further Police re-enforcements arrived from Nairobi by train and the Chief Native Commissioner and Commissioner of Police by air.

#### General.

The position eased off on the Sunday but constant patrols moved round the affected area.

On Wednesday 1st September, Mr. Leslie and ten rank and file returned to Nairobi.

On Monday 6th another fifteen Police were returned to Nairobi and on the 7th a further fifteen.

The Majengo camp has been broken up but 10 men are posted in the village as a precaution.

The Municipal Brewery was closed until 6th September when it was opened again for one hour. It is now opened as formerly, permission has been given for football matches to be played again and all is normal.

I went to a very large barasa of Washihiri on the 7th and addressed them at some length. I was followed by Sheriff Hassan Altas who gave I understand a very good speech. This gentleman, a travelling Sheikh, has a good deal of influence which he has thrown whole-heartedly on the side of law and order.

On Sunday 13th the Provincial Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and myself attended a large barasa of Natives mainly from Kavirondo and spoke to them on the question of riots.

The total number of arrests is :-

Mashihiri	24
Jaluo	42
Kamba	1
Ngishu	1
Wirima	<u>1</u>

I have visited the prisons with the Mashihiri and Jaluo Headmen and seen the convicted men and made various arrangements for them in connection with their families. Most of the Jaluo have now been removed to Nairobi and will be released at Kisumu.

District Commissioner

JAC/WP.

MAJENGO RIOTS.

Monday,  
23.8.37.

On the night of Monday August 23rd Jaluo Headman Joseph Omingo came to the Police Station at 9.00 p.m. and reported that fighting was going on between Jaluos and Washihiri in Majengo location. A party of Police under No. 350 1/Const. Oloo was sent out immediately and at 9.30 p.m. Asst. Inspector Kelson with Corporal Okumu also went to Majengo. The action taken by Asst. Insp. Kelson and the Constables was as follows:-

A band of about 50 Washihiri were met and instructed to sit down, but immediately ran away in all directions. Asst. Inspector Kelson and party continued to patrol the area until 10.30 p.m. when he returned to the Police Station leaving patrols in Majengo with instructions to report immediately if any bands of Washihiri were met. Nothing further eventuated that night.

On the following morning I reported the matter to the District Commissioner, Mombasa, who interviewed the Washihiri and Jaluo Headmen. I also with Asst. Inspector Kelson talked to the Headmen at the Police Station appealing to them to prevent their people from causing breaches of the peace.

Tuesday,  
24.8.37.

On evening of 24th August the Chief Inspector was on duty as "Officer Standing-by" at Mombasa Police Station. At 7.10 p.m. one JOSEPH OMINGO Kavironde Headman came to Police Station and reported that some Washihiri and Manyalas were fighting together in Majengo location and that several had been injured. The Chief Inspector

at once

at once proceeded with informant and nine native ranks in the Police Ambulance to the scene of the affray, on the way reporting to me while I was on duty at the Mombasa Exhibition. On arrival at Majengo at a spot near Makupa Market the Chief Inspector met a large crowd of Washihiri, all in a very excited condition. They informed him that about an hour before a gang of Jaluos, whom they thought were railway employees, had come into their location (Majengo) armed with sticks and assaulted them and had then chased off, presumably to the Railway Landies, and that owing to the darkness they would not be able to identify any of their assailants. There were no Jaluos about the locality at this time. The Washihiri then pointed out five of their injured (4 men and 1 woman) who were in different houses. They were collected together and put in the Ambulance and taken to the Native Hospital. They all had head injuries (bruises) but none serious. The nine native constables were left to patrol the Majengo area until about midnight. Later at 9.00 p.m. the Chief Inspector again visited Majengo location, all was quiet then. On the way to Makupa Police Station, to which he then proceeded, he was stopped on the road by Police whistles from the direction of the rice swamp near Majengo and on proceeding there he found two native constables from akupa with the dead body of what appeared to be a Jaluo native lying in the grass at that spot: they reported having discovered this about half an hour previously and that Washihiri were suspected of the affair. Just then Asst. Sub-Inspector Salim arrived and reported that he had found this

body with

These Washihiri were  
led by Jaluos in front  
of the crowd

body with the constables and had just been notifying Mombasa Police Station by telephone. Shortly after Chief Sub-Inspector Abdala Said and Asst. Inspector Kelson arrived on the scene, and after an examination of the body it was removed in the Ambulance to the Mortuary at the Native Hospital. During the course of that night two other natives, one Jaluo and one Teita, were brought to the Native Hospital from Majengo area after assaults by Washihiri, but both have since recovered.

At about 10.00 p.m. whilst on board the s.s. Madura, I received a phone call to the effect that a Jaluo had been found dead in the rice swamp while 3 other natives had been found seriously injured. I immediately left the ship and proceeded to the Native Civil Hospital there the Sub-Assistant Surgeon informed me that one of the injured native was likely to die so I got in touch with the District Commissioner who came up and took his dying deposition. By this time the Chief Inspector, Asst. Inspector Kelson and Chief Sub-Inspector Abdulla Said had come in and reported all was now quiet. I then got in touch with Dr. Euser who came to the Hospital and operated on all three injured natives. All of them are now doing well.

After leaving the Hospital I drove right through Majengo and found all was quiet and in order, with strong Police patrols alert.

Wednesday,  
25.8.57.

These Wash  
& the Vass

I called on the District Commissioner who agreed that the Washihiri at Majengo should be interviewed so the District Commissioner, District Officer, Liwali, Asst. Inspector Kelson and myself proceeded there and arrived just after a party of 60 or 70 Washihiri had been attacked by a party of natives who on seeing the police stationed there had then dispersed. These Washihiri were all shopkeepers in the area who had closed their shops and grouped together with all manner of weapons, they were in a highly excited condition. The District Commissioner and I addressed these Washihiri and endeavoured to get them to open up their shops which they eventually did and dispersed. Leaving Asst. Inspector Kelson and Chief Sub-Inspector Abdulla on duty with 15 native ranks the District Commissioner and I then went to Government House and asked permission to hand over the Government House Guard to the King's African Rifles. This was agreed to and the Guard was relieved. The District Commissioner, Liwali and I then went to the Port where all the labour was addressed, both Washihiri and native. In the afternoon all Railway labour was addressed by the Provincial Commissioner, District Commissioner and Liwali. At 1.00 p.m. I relieved Asst. Inspector Kelson and Chief Sub-Inspector Abdulla on duty at Majengo and from then to 3.00 a.m. the Majengo area had continual European and Native patrols with a lorry to assist, all members of the Unit taking part.

During the late afternoon of this day the Washihiri again closed all their shops and congregated at one hotel but quite peaceably; complaining.

plaining that they were afraid to be alone owing to the likelihood of attacks by Jaluos. About 6.00 p.m. a party of Jaluos attacked a Shihiri duka near the Railway Landies and damaged it seriously, however the Police got to the scene expeditiously under 2/Asst. Inspector Carter and dispersed the natives. Strong patrols were then put on this area which was about 1 mile distant from the venue of the other disturbances.

When the news of this attack came through to the Washihiri congregating as mentioned above they all with one accord started to rush to the scene, however Sub-Inspector Bachan Singh and I who were <sup>on</sup> then duty persuaded them to return which they did. Later in the evening the inhabitants of the duka which had been attacked were evacuated and taken to the Police Station for safe custody. No further disturbances occurred that night and at about 11.30 p.m. the crowd of Washihiri dispersed and went to their respective shops. During the evening of this day the Provincial Commissioner, the District Commissioner and Livall visited the disturbed areas continually.

Thursday,  
28.8.57.

I left for Majengo at 5.00 a.m. and everything appeared quiet. The railway employees were just commencing to go to work from their landies. r. Penfold and myself with our cars containing African Subordinate Officer drove right through Majengo to the landies and then down the new road to the Shell installation. On the roads were crowds of Kavi-rondo and natives of other tribes going to work. When we arrived close to the Shell installation

we heard Police whistles blowing in Majengo. We returned hastily to the landies where we were told that a party of some 30 or 40 Washihiri had come through and beaten up a Jaluo. The individual was seen but was very slightly injured on the back of the head. The African Subordinate Officer and ourselves then dismounted from the cars and we proceeded on foot after the Washihiri band eventually catching them up on Makupa Road. By this time their number had dwindled to about 6 or 7. I detained the man who appeared to be their leader namely YAZZID bin AWATH and took him to the police station to have his statement recorded. Verbally he stated that he had, with others, been taking one of their people through to the Shell Installation where he worked and that they had been attacked. They had gone in numbers because they were frightened of being attacked. Mr. Penfold was left on duty at Majengo and was to be relieved by Asst. Inspector Nelson at 9.00 A.M.

*Yazzid bin Awath was taken to the hospital and the car returned to the station.*

I then proceeded to the Provincial Commissioner's Office for a conference at which the Provincial Commissioner, the District Commissioner and Livali were present. It was decided that all persons, whether native or Arab, were to be arrested on sight if they should be carrying weapons. By the time this discussion had ended Mr. Leslie had arrived from the Police Camp on my request and after calling at the Police Station and hearing of further disturbances we proceeded to Majengo together. Here we found a fracas between Jaluo and Washihiri had occurred in which both sides were to blame. One Washihiri and one Jaluo were seriously injured, the latter being sent in to

hospital by

hospital by the Police, and while the former was removed to hospital by Mr. Petrie the Coast Guardian reporter.

At the scene were Chief Inspector Rawlinson, Asst. Inspector Kelson, Asst. Inspector Mactear, Chief Sub-Inspector Abdulla Said and Asst. Sub-Inspector Salim with about 30 native ranks.

After the fracas 25 Washihiri in possession of weapons were arrested by 2/Asst. Inspector. Mactear while various natives were arrested for similar offences. Peace was then restored and Mr. Leslie and I returned to my office and got in touch with Headquarters and asked for re-inforcements which were granted. Later we visited the Coast Defence Unit and the Officer Commanding agreed to take over Police duties at the Exhibition thereby relieving more of my African Subordinate Officers for other duties.

The time was now about noon and Mr. Leslie and I visited the Police Station again to learn the position at Majengo and found that trouble was now brewing in the railway landies. We proceeded there without delay and found a mob of some 300 or 400 natives of mixed tribes parading through Majengo and down with weapons of every sort and kind and singing.

This crowd was eventually shepherded back to the railway landies where Mr. Leslie, Inspector Overton, Chief Sub-Inspector Abdulla Said and myself talked to them and tried to get them to disperse. No Washihiri were met with at this time. In this conversation it transpired that the Jaluo believed that one of their womanfolk had been killed

and that

and that they were going to wreak vengeance on the Washihiri; in fact they asked my permission to allow them to go down and fight them that afternoon. Suddenly the cry went up "Washihiri, Washihiri" and immediately the crowd dashed off, they now numbered something in the neighbourhood of a 1000. This crowd split up into 3 or 4 parties and at the double wound their ways in and out of the alleyways in Majengo until they came to some Washihiri dukas near the Wireless Station. Here they massed again and attacked the dukas where they killed outright 1 Washihiri and fatally injured 3 more. Mr. Leslie, Asst. Inspector Kelson and I with about 20 African Subordinate Officers arrived at this time and drove off the crowd of Jaluo, collected the injured and sent them into the hospital.

On the Jaluo being driven off some 10 - 20 Washihiri came out of the dukas with knives and swords, etc. and started after the Jaluo. This was prevented however and followed after the Jaluo ourselves, who started to throw stones at the Washihiri and ourselves. The Police Constables however went for them and they eventually turned and started at the double to return, as we thought, to their landies.

When however they got as far as an open space called Ziwani just off the Makupa Road they all stopped and collected into a bunch numbered by this time well over a thousand.

The position now appeared very ominous so Mr. Leslie and I decided that an armed force must be brought up as early as possible to cope with them

as it

as it appeared likely that the Washihiri would come in numbers and make a fight of it.

I then left the scene leaving Mr. Leslie, Asst. Inspector Kelson, Chief Sub-Inspector Abdulla Said and Asst. Sub-Inspector Salim with some 20 - 30 Constables to carry on.

I proceeded to the Police Station and got in touch with the Sergeant Major and told him to fall in all available men with their rifles. From there I went to the Manor Hotel and after some slight delay saw the District Commissioner and explained the position. We then collected the Provincial Commissioner and came along to the Police Station.

The ambulance then left for the lines collected 30 armed men to whom I issued 5 rounds each and the Provincial Commissioner, District Commissioner, Asst. Inspector Maclear and myself left for Majengo. On our arrival we found the scene of action had moved from where we had left it to the Railway Football Ground and that a big fight had taken place there. Washihiri in large numbers were streaming away from the ground towards us. I gave the orders Fix bayonets, High Post, Double March and we doubled down the path-way, through the Washihiri to the Football Ground of which we found the police in possession where they were lined across it, Mr. Leslie being in-charge with Asst. Inspector Kelson, Chief Sub-Inspector Abdulla Said and Asst. Sub-Inspector Salim assisting.

An enormous crowd of natives were lined along the railway line facing the Police and the way by which the Washihiri had run away I fell in the

armed men and extended them to 2 paces across the Football Ground facing the native mob. I then gave the order "One Round Standing Load", put all safety catches on and then stood the armed men at ease. The Provincial Commissioner and District Commissioner then went forward and talked to the native mob. After some argument and truculence on the part of a few and with the assistance of Fathers Devenish and Connaughton the mob were slowly persuaded to disperse and return to their landies.

After this we collected the dead Mashihiri of which there were seven and put them in the ambulance and sent them off to the Mortuary at the Native Civil Hospital.

The Provincial Commissioner at this point considered it necessary to try and get the reinforcements from Nairobi by aeroplane that night and left to telephone to that end. This was not feasible however.

All Police were now withdrawn from the Football Ground and grouped at a strategic point in Kajengo from whence any point at which trouble might arise could be watched. Three more lorries were then asked for and received from the Government Coast Agent and it was arranged for armed patrols to visit all points in the affected areas by lorry throughout the night, a European Officer always being in charge of the patrol while the Camping place where Police were grouped was always under European supervision. Throughout the whole of this night no incident occurred, in fact the whole of Kajengo was deserted.

What had ensued during my absence to fetch

the

the armed force can best be described by the Staff Officer but I understand that the native mob at Ziwani moved across to the Football Ground and that some 400 or 500 Washihiri then came up and tried to attack them. The Staff Officer with his small number of Police then got between the two mobs and for some time managed to keep them apart. Eventually however this became impossible and the two mobs came to grips and a fight on a large scale took place, in the middle of which the Police were trapped. At length the Washihiri were put to flight and the Police succeeded in getting the Jaluo away in the opposite direction over the Railway line where they massed again as described previously. Mr. Leslie during this fight was attacked by one YAZZID bin AWATH but No. 516 2/Const. Masau of the Port Police defended Mr. Leslie by striking his assailant before he could do any harm. No Police Officer, European, Asiatic or African sustained any injuries nor did they cause any serious injury to anyone else.

Friday,  
27.8.37

8.00 a.m. I relieved the Staff Officer who had done duty during the night from 11.00 p.m. onwards. All was quiet when I took over. Strong Police patrols were concentrated on the railway landies to watch the labour going to their work but no incident occurred. At 8.20 a.m. the Police re-inforcement arrived under Mr. Pugh and went straight to Majengo and relieved a portion of my Unit. At 11.00 a.m. the Chief Native Commissioner and the Commissioner of Police arrived by air and after a visit to the Provincial Commissioner's Office went to the scene at Majengo. Here all was still quiet. The lorry patrols were still

being

being carried out, and in addition foot patrols were being sent out. The Chief Native Commissioner and the Commissioner of Police visited all salient points in Majengo during the day including a large crowd of natives who had collected at the landies. This crowd however was peaceable and had only collected as posho was being issued. Owing to the fact that it was feared that trouble might arise again over the burial of the Mashihiri dead and owing to the fact that the week-end was approaching the Commissioner of Police considered it expedient to get further re-inforcements and these were accordingly ordered.

Saturday &  
Sunday  
28/29.8.57.

Saw continued lorry patrols being carried out. Further re-inforcement arrived on the Saturday morning and were drafted out to Majengo. The week-end however passed off without any incident, and the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Native Commissioner returned to Nairobi by Sunday's train, having continually visited Majengo throughout their stay.

Monday to  
Wednesday,  
30th Aug: to  
1st Sept.

Continual patrolling carried out but no incidents. On Wednesday the Staff Officer returned to Nairobi together with 10 men.

Thursday,  
2.9.57.

Mombasa Unit took over all their duties ~~from~~ again from the Coast Defence Unit, while the remaining Nairobi men carried on the patrols in Majengo.

Friday and  
Saturday,  
3/4.9.57.

Nothing to report.

Sunday,  
5.9.37.

The ngomas were going to be held but were cancelled by the District Commissioner on Saturday afternoon.

Monday,  
6.9.37.

15 more Nairobi men were returned. The position being peaceful the Municipal Bar was re-opened for an hour and no incidents took place.

-----

On Schedule "A" (attached) will be found the names of those killed and it will be seen that only one Luo was killed while eleven Kishihiri met their deaths.

Attached at the back of this report will be found a Schedule of all prosecutions taken up.

OFF. SECRETARY OF POLICE  
Nairobi

LIST OF DECEASED IN PAJENGO RIOT.

- 1 Asaya w/o Minigba - Jakuo
- 2 Saich bin Ahmed - Mshiri
- 3 Hamed bin Awath - "
- 4 Awath bin Aboulla - "
- 5 Risik bin Mohamed - "
- 6 Abed bin Mbarak - "
- 7 Karame bin Abou - "
- 8 Hamisi bin Laghurun - "
- 9 Yassie bin Awath - "
- 10 Salim bin Yusulman - "
- 11 Karame bin Itha - "
- 12 Aboul bin Hussein - "

27

SCHEDULE OF ARRESTS, PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS

Total number of arrests made

70

Washiris	24
Jaluo	43
Mkammas	1
Mgiamas	1
Giriamas	1

A. Charged and convicted under section 81 F.C. "Going armed in public" sentence 3 months H.L. Tribe Jaluo

B. Charged and convicted under  
(1) Sec. 81 F.C. going armed in public  
(2) Sec. 72 F.C. unlawful assembly

40

sentence (1) From 3 to 6 months H.L. according to weapon  
(2) 1 month w/o H.L. concurrently

Tribe Jaluo	22
" Washiri	23

C. Charged and convicted under section 80K F.C. These cases relate to the rioting at Majejo market

sentence 3 and 4 months H.L.

Giriamas	1
Mgiamas	1

D. Charged for unlawful assembling section 72 F.C. Tribe Jaluo

sentence 1 to 10 weeks H.L.  
" 4 to 6 " H.L.

E. Charged for being armed in public section 81

Tribe Jaluo 1 sentenced to 2 months H.L.  
Mkammas 1 " 12 months H.L.  
as he was arrested at the time of the milk  
breaking.

F. Charged, convicted and sentenced under sec-73 F.C. rioting. sentence 18 months H.L.

Tribe Jaluo

G. Charged with rioting section 73 F.C.

Tribe Jaluo

sentence 1 discharged, arrested to save him from Washiri  
" 1 18 months H.L. The man who struck A.I. Kelson  
" 1 13 months H.L.  
" 1 12 months H.L.

- H. Charged for (1) wilfully obstructing a Police Officer Section 231 (b) P.C. sentence 2 years H.L.
- (2) Going Armed Section 61 P.C. sentence 4 months H.L.

Tribe Mashiri

1

- I. Charged with rioting section 73 P.C. and escape section 110 P.C.

- (1) 18 months H.L.
- (2) 2 months H.L.

Additional Charges

- (1) rioting 18 months H.L.
- (2) Going Armed 18 months H.L.

This man rioted at 10 a.m. on 26.8.57 when he led a company of Jaluo. he was arrested but escaped. Threatened Provincial Commissioner and did a war dance round dead Mashiri at 1 p.m. on same day. All sentences consecutive.

Tribe Jaluo

1

- J. Charged under section 73 P.C. rioting

Tribe Jaluo

7

- sentence 1 discharged, no evidence
- 1 18 months H.L.
- 1 12 months H.L.
- 4 10 months H.L.

19

REPORT OF THE STAFF OFFICER ON THE  
DISTURBANCES BETWEEN THE DEPARTURE  
OF MR. PALFREMAN TO OBTAIN  
RE-INFORCEMENTS AND HIS RETURN.  
THURSDAY, 26TH AUGUST 1937.

-\*-

After the departure of Mr. Palfreman to obtain re-inforcements the Luo assembled on the large open space outside Majengo Location called, I understand, Ziwanj where their numbers were re-inforced apparently by Luo from the Railway landies. At that time my party consisted of 25 African police, Asst. Inspector Kelson and Asst. Sub-Inspector Salim and I considered that any attempt to disperse the assembly would have been ineffective as by reason of the small number of police it would not have been possible to prevent numbers of Luo passing round our flanks thus permitting them to re-enter Majengo Location.

Further, reports indicated that Washihiri were collecting in the Location with the object of attacking the Luo and I decided to maintain, if possible, a barrier of police between the two tribes.

In view of the increased number of Luo and the presence of the Washihiri I detailed Asst. Sub-Inspector Salim to proceed to Makupa Police Station and telephone Mr. Palfreman, advise him of the position and request additional re-inforcements.

It would seem that the Luo may have expected the Washihiri to attack them on the open space, but possibly the presence of the Police between the two parties prevented this development.

The Luo then decided to endeavour to re-enter the village proceeding towards the location in several large parties. A cordon of police was thrown along a road on the edge of the village but by reason of the

numerous parties and the difficulties encountered in blocking the many passages between houses a number of Luo secured admittance to the village. The largest body was, however, driven by the police along outside the village in the direction of the Wireless Station but it endeavoured to enter the village along a wide road. The police cordon was placed across the road and although a number entered the village the main body was prevented from entering.

The Luo who had entered the village killed a Washihiri and themselves were attacked by Washihiri armed with knives, swords and spears, while a few carried sticks or clubs. The Luo retreated towards their tribesmen outside the village and were permitted to pass through the Police cordon, as many as possible being disarmed. The cordon was also able to restrain the main body of Washihiri from making contact with the main body of Luo.

The police then drove the Luo towards the Railway Line driving them over a football ground and actually reaching the permanent way. The police halted on the football ground, where they were subjected to stoning by the Luo who used ballast from the railway line. The main body, possibly 2,000 Luo, remained on or near the railway line, while a few were in front of them endeavouring to break back through the cordon. The Washihiri were following the Luo and although the police cordon was formed across the football ground, numbers of Washihiri were able to penetrate the cordon or pass round the flanks and advance towards the Luo who also advanced towards their attackers.

The Washihiri, possibly several hundred, attacked the Luo and a pitched battle ensued, the police being surrounded. A Washihiri leader was killed close to the railway line. His fellow tribesmen retreated followed by the Luo. The Washihiri retired towards the village but were followed by a number of Luo who managed to pass through the cordon and killed two further Washihiri on the football field. The main body of Luo were, however, held by the cordon and again driven back to the railway line where they were joined by those who had followed the retreating Washihiri. The Washihiri retired into the village and both parties were separated with a cordon of police across the football field when armed re-inforcements arrived under Mr. Palfreman who was accompanied by the Provincial Commissioner, Coast and the District Commissioner, Mombasa.

*P. S. S.*  
STATE OFFICER.  
9.9.37.

COPY FOR REGISTRATION

RECEIVED

31 AUG 1937

F. O. C.

32

Telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated 31st August, 1937. Received 2-52pm 31st August, 1937.

Tour No. 2.

no 6

My telegram Tour No. 1. Situation continues quiet but patrols are still being maintained at night and day. No firing by police has taken place during the disturbances and they have neither sustained nor caused any casualties.

RECEIVED

30 AUG 1937

O. O. F. O.

Telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies

Dated 29th August, 1937. Received at 12.10 pm. 29th August.

TOUR No. 1. Your telegram No. 166 Mombasa riots confined to faction fighting arising out of petty disputes between WASHIHIRI Arabs and JALUO Africans and a few odd members of other up-country tribes joining in. Coast and other Arabs not involved nothing directed against the Government European community or Indians,

Disturbances confined to natives of location remainder of the town unaffected and Mombasa (two corrupt groups) normal. Complete order restored Saturday night. There is a police detachment still camping at the location and constant lorry patrols maintained.

Casualties 14 WASHIHIRI and JALUO dead. About 60 arrested large number already convicted. Situation slight normal.

Fetch LESLIE and RAMSON us. Further report by air mail follows.

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



Coded & sent 12 noon  
28/8/37

*[Handwritten signature]*

N<sup>o</sup>. 166. I regret to learn that there has been serious disturbance in Mombasa & according to press report further rioting was expected last night. You will no doubt be sending early official information. Intelligence reports state that Kalia and Kibson were attacked by Arabs.

DRAFT. Code telegram

Governor  
Nairobi

*[Handwritten mark]*

FURTHER ACTION.

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Times

27.8.37

27 1937

## BAYONET CHARGE AT MOMBASA

### NINE ARABS KILLED IN RIOTING

#### EUROPEANS ATTACKED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAIROBI, AUG. 26

A fresh clash between Arabs and Luo tribesmen in Mombasa to-day resulted in nine Arabs being killed and many Arabs and Luo being seriously wounded. The Luo have now been joined by other sections of the Kavirondo tribe and by members of the Wachagga tribe. During to-day's disturbance in the native quarter small groups of police became involved in the fighting and had to be rescued by bayonet and baton charges carried out by reinforcements.

Two Europeans—a District Officer, Mr. Leslie, and an assistant superintendent of police, Mr. Kelson—were attacked by Arabs with swords, sticks, and stones while attempting to establish order. An Arab armed with a sword aimed a blow at Mr. Leslie which was warded off by an African policeman. As a result of these attacks and in view of the unsettled position generally, the police have now been authorized to fire should circumstances demand, and if a magistrate is present to warn the crowd. Twenty-five extra African police and one European officer left Nairobi by train to-day for Mombasa, and to-morrow the Commissioner of Police will fly to Mombasa if, as is expected, there is more rioting to-night.

Knives, spears, and swords were freely used in a street battle involving thousands of men this afternoon, when the casualties occurred. The Luo outflanked the police, who were standing on a railway line separating the two factions, and advanced on the Arabs shouting tribal war-songs and intent on avenging the death of one of their number yesterday. The Arabs demonstrated outside the hospital, asking to be allowed to see their injured, but were persuaded to disperse. They also formed a noisy crowd during the burial of the Luo killed yesterday. The cemetery was heavily guarded by police. There has been some looting and destruction of shops, and this morning the main battle was preceded by scattered fights between small groups.

All women are being kept indoors, and numbers of tribesmen are leaving the affected district in order not to be involved in further disturbances.

Morning Post  
27/8/37

"Times"  
27/8/37

# BAYONET CHARGE AT MOMBASA

## NINE ARABS KILLED IN RIOTING

### EUROPEANS ATTACKED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAIROBI, AUG. 26

A fresh clash between Arabs and Luo tribesmen in Mombasa to-day resulted in nine Arabs being killed and many Arabs and Luo being seriously wounded. The Luo have now been joined by other sections of the Kavirondo tribe and by members of the Wachagga tribe. During to-day's disturbance in the native quarter small groups of police became involved in the fighting and had to be rescued by bayonet and baton charges carried out by reinforcements.

Two Europeans—a District Officer, Mr. Leslie, and an assistant superintendent of police, Mr. Kelson—were attacked by Arabs with swords, sticks, and stones while attempting to establish order. An Arab armed with a sword aimed a blow at Mr. Leslie which was warded off by an African policeman. As a result of these attacks and in view of the unsettled position generally, the police have now been authorized to fire should circumstances demand, and if a magistrate is present to warn the crowd. Twenty-five extra African police and one European officer left Nairobi by train to-day for Mombasa, and to-morrow the Commissioner of Police will fly to Mombasa if, as is expected, there is more rioting to-night.

Knives, spears, and swords were freely used in a street battle involving thousands of men this afternoon, when the casualties occurred. The Luo outflanked the police, who were standing on a railway line separating the two factions, and advanced on the Arabs shouting tribal war-songs and intent on avenging the death of one of their number yesterday. The Arabs demonstrated outside the hospital, asking to be allowed to see their injured, but were persuaded to disperse. They also formed a noisy crowd during the burial of the Luo killed yesterday. The cemetery was heavily guarded by police. There has been some looting and destruction of shops, and this morning the main battle was preceded by scattered fights between small groups.

All women are being kept indoors, and numbers of tribesmen are leaving the affected district in order not to be involved in further disturbances.

# POLICE RUSHED TO MOMBASA

## ELEVEN ARABS DEAD IN CLASH WITH NATIVES

### BRITISH OFFICERS ATTACKED

MOMBASA, August 26.

Police reinforcements from Nairobi are being hastened to Mombasa following a renewed outbreak of rioting, shop-breaking, and looting in Majengo, the native quarter, to-day.

Eleven Arabs have been killed, while at least one native of the Jaluio tribe was seriously wounded. The exact number of casualties cannot, however, be ascertained as, in addition to the wounded transferred to hospital, many others, fearing arrest, are being treated secretly by native physicians and witch doctors.

The trouble is the outcome of many recent night affrays between Arabs and members of the Wachago and Jaluio tribes.

This morning, Jaluio labourers from Kavirondo, in retaliation for alleged Arab insults, formed a war patrol and, chanting their war song, made a lightning raid on the Arab section.

Arab and native factions finally came into conflict in a narrow lane where they fought a battle with straight Arab swords, Somali stabbing spears, knives and knobkerries.

### POLICE CHARGE

In the afternoon rioting again broke out and became so serious that the police were forced to make a bayonet charge, scattering the rioters.

In this affray, District Officer Leslie and Chief-Inspector Nelson were attacked by Arabs armed with swords and throwing stones. Leslie was saved from certain death from the sweeping blade of an Arab sword by an African Askari. Both he and Chief-Inspector Nelson escaped injury.

The burial of the Jaluio native killed in yesterday's fighting, in which seven natives were also seriously injured, necessitated a strong police guard this morning.

Although the night passed quietly all shops in the native location were closed. The police are now armed with ball ammunition and are patrolling with fixed bayonets. They have been on duty 48 hours without a break and are almost exhausted, sleeping in the open under trees.

The angry tribes and Arabs have been warned by the Administration that further rioting will have serious consequences. Nevertheless, more trouble is expected this evening by the Arabs.

The Commissioner of Police will fly to Mombasa from Nairobi if the situation does not improve.—Reuter.

TRADE EXCHANGE

# RIOTING TRIBES ATTACK BRITISH

NAIROBI, Thursday.

**P**OLICE reinforcements are racing tonight from Nairobi to quell rioting and looting in Majengo, native quarter of Mombasa. Already nine Arabs have been killed in fighting with Jalu tribesmen.

The riots have been going on for forty-eight hours.

This morning Jalu labourers, who said they had been insulted by Arabs, made a lightning raid on the Arabs, chanting their war song as they went.

The two factions fought with swords, spears, knives and knobkerries.

In the afternoon rioting broke out again, and became so serious that the police made a bayonet charge.

In this fight, a British administrative officer named Leslie and Assistant Superintendent Kelson, of the Kenya Police, were saved from certain death by the arrival of the police.

As an Arab cut at Mr. Leslie with his sword, a native policeman lunged forward and warded off the blow.

All police are now armed and patrol with fixed bayonets. They have been on duty for forty-eight hours without a break.

The tribesmen and Arabs have been warned by the Administration that further rioting will be severely punished.

Cause of the fighting is unknown. There has been ill-feeling between Jalu and Arabs for some time. — Daily Express Correspondent and Staffer.

Daily Herald 27/8

## WAR CRIES, SPEARS IN KENYA RIOT

By Our Own Correspondent

NAIROBI, Kenya, Thursday.

**W**ILD war cries in the streets of Mombasa's Arab quarter, today, drove traders to take shelter. Kavirondo tribesmen, armed with spears, charged the Arab crowd, killing nine and injuring scores.

Two British police officers, Administrative Officer Kelson and Inspector Leslie, were caught up in the fight.

Blood-craved blacks and Arabs harked at the officers with swords and spears, and Mr. Leslie was saved by a native policeman from a sword blow which would have decapitated him.

Daily Tel 27/8

## KENYA FIGHTING CONTINUES

NATIVE SAVES OFFICER

From Our Own Correspondent

MOMBASA, Kenya, Thursday.

Fresh and more serious outbreaks of fighting occurred last night and this morning between native and Arab tribesmen at the Majengo native location.

District officers were called from a luncheon in honour of Mr. O. Pirou, the South African Minister of Railways and Harbours and of Defense, to deal with a severe outbreak.

It is now stated that more than tribal faction is at the root of the trouble. There are reports that the Arabs are being prompted by agitators.

Ten deaths have been reported. Several other men are seriously wounded.

Reinforcements have been sent by air from Nairobi.

A police staff officer, Mr. Leslie, and an inspector, Mr. Kelson, were attacked and stoned. Mr. Leslie was saved by an Askari from an Arab's sword.

The police, using bayonets, subdued the crowd. No shots were fired. The fighting continues.

Daily Mail 27/8

# 9 Killed in Natives' Riot at Mombasa

From Daily Mail Correspondent

NAIROBI, Thursday.

**S**AVAGE war-cries were heard to-day in the native quarter of Mombasa, and police were forced to make a bayonet-charge on a mob of thousands of fighting Arabs and natives.

Yesterday's trouble between natives and Arabs broke out again this afternoon, when nine Arabs were killed, one seriously wounded, and many of both sides taken to hospital with knife- and spear-wounds.

One British administrative officer named Leslie and a European police officer, Inspector Kelson, were in-

involved in the fight and stoned. Leslie narrowly avoided injury when an Arab aimed a blow with a sword at him. A native policeman warded off the blow.

## Witch Doctors

There were demonstrations by Arabs outside the hospital while they were seeking permission to visit their injured. A number have been secretly treated by witch doctors.

Police reinforcements are being hurried from Nairobi to-day, and the Provincial Commissioner is to fly to Mombasa to-morrow.

Further trouble between Arabs and natives—ill-feeling between them has long existed—is feared after dark.