

Mem 32 Sub Police
Station at Ndindam,
for the building of
a Police Gymnasium
at Ndindam.

2. Subject to their
Lordships' concurrence
Mr. Harcourt proposes
to approve of the
reallocation.



EAST AFR. PROT.
4848

C. O.
7878
REC.
4 Mar 13

90
1913
12 February
last previous Paper.
P 36701/12

Marchan Country

His report by Mr. Harcourt on present state of
affairs. Matters on the whole seem quite satisfactory
but troops will have to be retained for some time

Mr. J. Anderson.

Mr. Bennett.

ack. & say that Mr. Harcourt has
read with interest & satisfaction
- & send the despatches to the D.M.S.
for perusal & return 3rd per. Note?

Satisfactory so far.
Ch. J. 3. 13

Yes, but I had hoped the patrol
might have returned sooner
H. 9. 3. 13

1913-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

7878

890

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA. 261

12th February 1913.

~~WEST AFRICA PROTECTORATE~~

No. 22.



Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 178 of the 17th of October 1912, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a report by Mr Hope on the present state of affairs in the Marchan country.

2. Matters seem to be on the whole quite satisfactory but troops will evidently have to be retained in the district for some time in order to produce any lasting effect.

I have the honour to be,
etc/ Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

[Signature]
GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LEWIS HARGREAVES, B.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

* N. 3309/5

[Handwritten initials]

(*)

Encl in No

462

INCLOSURE

Hello Merara,

In Reply to Comd 12-2-1912

14th January, 1913

SECRETARIAT
 REC'D
 7 MAR 13
 7875

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have just concluded a tour through the Merihan country.

I was accompanied by Captain Soames with Lieutenant Gifford and one company and Captain Crawley Boovey and some camel corps. While I was detained at Humbali and Arasa hearing shauris the Military officers explored the country and got very useful information about roads etc. Captain Soames is making a map of the country. Lieut. Gifford has done very good work as regards signalling and kept in communication with Serenli till we left Arasa for the River Dawa. If he had had one more squad of signallers he could have kept in communication with Serenli the whole time. He has proved that it is possible to keep in Helio communication with Serenli from anywhere in the Merihan country.

I went first to Humbali which is the chief centre inland. Owing to the fact that the rains were on and water was obtainable anywhere the people were scattered all over the country but

but all the chiefs came in to see me.

403

I think on the whole the Merihan are inclined to keep quiet and obey the Government but there are undoubtedly a certain number of turbulent spirits among the young men, especially amongst the latest comers who have not much property, and it is quite likely there may be a slight outbreak of trouble at any time. At the Baraza at Hello Merara, when I first arrived, I had told the Rer Ahmet Wet that they were to pay blood money to the Rer Para Ugas for the man they had just killed and that they were to have it collected in a month and ready for me when I arrived at Humbali. I sent a letter to them a week before I left for Humbali to remind them.

On arriving at Humbali Dala Jama the oldest chief of the Rer Ahmet Wet arrived with 39 head of camels of which only 9 were of the quality paid for blood money.

The customary amount is one hundred female camels and the rule is that fifteen good ones should be brought at once and after that the balance is paid by degrees and very often the equivalent is paid with cattle or cloth. In this case the Ahmet Wet had paid nothing previously and they sent in 39 camels of all descriptions evidently as a test to see what I should do. None of the other chiefs of the Rer Ahmet Wet

came in.

I knew that all the Merihan were watching to see what I would do and the subsequent behaviour of the whole tribe would probably depend on my action.

I sent word to the chiefs of the Rer Ahmet Wet that they were to come and see me the following day and explain their behaviour and I moved suddenly a day's march to a place near where they were supposed to be. I had heard that they were moving their villages away into the bush but my sudden move must have frightened them and all the chiefs, including Shirre Jama, arrived at my camp. They brought me a present of two bullocks which I refused and I let them clearly understand that I was very angry and insisted on having one hundred young female camels brought in and gave them 4 days to do it in. I arrested five of the chiefs and took 5 of their horses.

At the end of four days they had brought in the camels and I think they were really frightened. They admitted they had been in the wrong and promised in future to do what they were told. I afterwards released the chiefs and returned the horses.

There is great jealousy between the Ahmet Wet and Fara Ugas. In the north before

the

the Merihan immigrated here the Fara Ugas was the chief section and the chief of the Fara Ugas was Sultan of all the Merihan. The Ahmet Wet immigrated here before the Fara Ugas and for some time were the most powerful here. During the last three years the Fara Ugas have been coming and are now as strong as the Ahmet Wet and want to be considered the chief section again. The son of the last Sultan has arrived and claims to be made Sultan of the Merihan. I have told them that at present they are all the same but eventually when Government knows them better and finds out which are good men then some may be made head chiefs.

On the way to Humbali we camped at a place called Biniga which was rather interesting. There are the remains of a stone wall and trench which form a circle of about 500 yards in diameter. The remains of the wall can be traced all the way round and in some places still stands ^{eight} or ^{nine} feet high in which places can be seen loopholes at symmetrical distances apart and height from the ground evidently used to ^{fire} ~~fix~~ through. The wall was plastered inside. There are no traces of stone buildings inside the wall but just outside are the remains of a stone mosque and another building which might have been a watch tower. None of

the natives here can tell me anything definite about the history of the place. The people who lived there originally are supposed to be a tribe called Madinle who afterwards moved west and dug the wells of Eil Wak and Wajheir, but there are no traces of these people left and I have not come across any old men who remember them. The Merihan have been here 60 or 70 years and they tell me the wall was in the same condition when they arrived.

The day I reached Humbali Mr. Aylmer also arrived there from Eil Wak with Garre chiefs. I thought at first it might be possible to settle up raids which had happened since Mr. Archer passed through the country but I found it was impossible to do so and therefore told both the Garre and Merihan chiefs that all old questions must be forgotten and that they must start afresh and remain friendly. The Merihan were rather dissatisfied as they have been the most recent sufferers but I warned them strongly against any more raiding.

The behaviour of the Merihan has been so far satisfactory and I am convinced that it is due to the show of force that has been used. The Merihan are not yet convinced that the Government intends to remain in the country and I have heard from several sources that the

Galti think that if they keep quiet for a month or two the Government will withdraw and then they will be able to return to their old practices of raiding.

The Galti Merihan, i.e. those who have immigrated here during the last 5 years, are quite different to the remainder, the majority of them having been with the Mullah, Mahomed Abdulla. Several of the chiefs here were in the fight at Jiabulli. I do not think the Merihan are so strong numerically as was thought. I doubt whether all the Merihan could muster more than 1500 fighting men all together and perhaps 300 rifles. There are about 120 horses only in the country chiefly owned by Ahmet Wet and Para Ugas.

From the neighbourhood of Humbali I moved on to the River Dawa striking it at Unsi. The day I arrived there some ~~Gewe~~ Gabowen from Dolo came to inform me that the night before Aulihan, Rer Afgab, from the Abyssinian-Italian boundary had raided their villages on the ~~nathz~~ north side of the Dawa and that the raiding party were still in the neighbourhood. I moved on to Dolo and Captain Scames sent Lieut. Gifford and ^a ~~the~~ company further down the Juba. On hearing of our presence at Dolo and neighbourhood the raiders returned to their

own country without making any further attempts to cross the river.

While I was at Dolo I was visited by chiefs of the Degodi tribe living in Abyssinian territory. Through them I sent letters to the Rer Afgab and Rer Ali (Auliban) telling them that the British Government was now in this country and therefore they must stop raiding.

The Degodi chiefs told me that the day they left their village to come to see me a large Abyssinian caravan with ivory had arrived en route for Lugh. They assured me that if we had a post at Dolo all this trade which they say is large, would go to Dolo instead of Lugh and now that there is a road cut from Serenli to Kismayu and the road from Serenli here will soon be cut, all this trade could be diverted to Kismayu instead of Barawa or Mogadiscio.

It was astonishing to see the difference at Dolo and the country between Dolo and Lugh. On my previous visit a month before the whole country had been deserted but now all the Gabowen, Gesarra Gudda and Garre Mama have recrossed from the Italian side and the country on our side is thickly inhabited again. All these tribes are cultivators and a great asset to the country. I hope after next rainy season

to be able to supply Moyale with food from Dolo as it is only 14 days journey for a camel caravan and a good road.

The Italian Government has closed Lugh to most the Merihan sections and so the Merihan are naturally anxious for a town in their own country. I have got a few traders to start here and hope to get them to start at Dolo as well.

The next three months are the critical times here as the river is low and fordable anywhere and it is during these months that most of ^{the} raids take place. The people who suffer most are the people living near the river, and now that all these tribes have returned to our side I think we are bound to do our best to protect them. A post at Dolo and another at Hello Merara and constant patrols of camel corps would I feel sure keep the country quiet. This is also the opinion of the Italian Resident at Lugh who tells me that already this year there is a marked difference in the condition of the country. He has also started patrols on his side and has a police post at Dolo.

So far everything has been so satisfactory that it would be a pity to risk an outbreak on the part of the natives by reducing the number of troops. I feel sure that in a few months when the Merihan are used to the

presence

presence of Government they will remain quiet but at present their future behaviour is a bit doubtful. As long as they see the Government is strong I think they will keep quiet. There may be an outbreak between Rer Para Ugas and Rer Ahmet Wet.

The outside dangers are raids from the Rahamven from Italian territory between Lugh and Serenli. They made a large claim against the Merihan for stock taken in the past and when I told the Italian Resident that I could not go into these old questions the Rahamven were very angry and sent me a message to say that they would not have peace but would retaliate on the Merihan this Gilal. Since that one section of Rahamven, called Malim Wen, have said they are willing to have peace and I have told the elders of this section to come and see me. I have heard one or two rumours of parties of Rahamven having crossed but they have returned at once on seeing troops about. I hope by having constant patrols along the river they will be afraid to come over. I fear however that small parties of ~~from~~ four or five may slink across and commit isolated murders in which case it will be difficult to keep the Merihan in hand.

Between Dolo and Lugh the danger is
raids

raids by Rer Afgab and Rer Ali, sections of
Aulihan, who live on the borders of Italian
Somaliland and Abyssinia. Along the Dawa the
danger has been from Degodi.

There is a fairly large traffic in arms
across the Juba, chiefly Ogaden from the north
crossing and going to Jubaland. A party of
29 went through a week or two ago, travelling
by night and laying up in the day times but I
just missed them.

Sheikh Ismail is the most important chief
and all the sections listened to him. During
the last two years he has been very ill and
unable to get about and his influence got
naturally a bit weakened. However now he is
backed up by Government I think he will regain
all his old influence which will be of great
help to us.

etc
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

~~Sr.~~ J. O. W. HOPE
Officer-in-Charge, N.F.D.

War Office,
Whitehall,

S.W.

14th March 1913.

REIVED
MAR 19 1913
OFFICE

which
to
18/18

The Director of Military Operations

presents his compliments to the Under
Secretary of State for the Colonies and begs
to return with thanks the undermentioned
papers:-

Despatch dated February 12th 1913 from the
Deputy Governor of the East Africa Protect-
orate (with enclosure), relative to the
present state of affairs in the Marehan
country.

Gov 7878/1913

E.A.P.

C
R. I. MAR
D. 11

473

989



DRAFT.

E.A.P.

(No. 193)

12 March 1913

1913

Sir,

Mr. Belfield

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bourne's despatch No. 90 of the 12th of Feb^y*, and to inform you that I have read with interest and satisfaction the report by Mr. Stowe on the present state of affairs in the Murchan country.

15 March

15/3/13

No. 7878

D. R. ...