



EAST AFR. PROT.
20706

C.O.
20706
18 JUN 13

Governor
Conf
55

Field

ABYSSINIAN RAID NEAR MARSABIT

1913

th May

The report by Mr Kittermaster. Although the raiders suffered a severe reverse in this case the report following on the one previously submitted discloses the existence of a widely spread movement of aggression on the part of Abyssinian natives and emphasises the necessity for vigorous action.

Last previous Paper.

20357

Mr G. Fielder

It would appear from the one that a very small force is capable of dealing with a number of sporadic raids, provided the difficulty is to be on the spot at the right time. It looks as if more frequent patrolling of the frontier by a more mobile force will be the remedy but we have hitherto been hampered by the scarcity of water. If as the result of the claim which is being made on the Abyssinian front a connection with Capt. Ayleson's command, we obtain a well advanced frontier, we ought to be able to keep it under better control. Copy to the F.O. is on that the inf. contained in the paper appears to Mr Humeant that the claim which is being

Next subsequent Paper

20943

made reports to the Department for
more convenient factors, in accordance with the
wishes of Capt. [unclear] - + suggest that
the substance of it sh^d be communicated
to Mr. [unclear] as soon as possible? - + copy
of our l^{tr} to the [unclear] - [unclear] 1913?
H. J. R.

1913/13

Pr. 19. 6. 13

Vll. 14. 6. 13

19. 6. 13.

19. 6. 13

20706

C. O.
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL No. 55

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

518

BRITISH EAST AFRICA



27th May 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter from Mr Kittermaster the officer in charge of Marsabit, relating to a raid recently perpetrated in the vicinity of that station.

1.5.13

2. Although the raiders in this case suffered a severe reverse, the report in question following on that already forwarded to you under cover of my Confidential despatch No. 54 of the 21st instant * discloses the existence of a widely spread movement of aggression on the part of Abyssinian natives on our side of the frontier and emphasizes the necessity for vigorous action.

Handwritten initials

I have the honour to be,

etc / Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Handwritten signature

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, B.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWLING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

* No 20357

OP

Encl in No.

INCLOSURE

to be attached to 55 of 27

C. O.
20706
REC
Recd: 18 JUN 13

549

No. 62/42/13.

District Commissioner's Office,
Marsabit,

3rd May 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that about 3 a.m. on April 25th a report was brought into the Boma that a Samburu kraal some 12 miles from the Boma had been attacked by Abyssinians and all the cattle carried off, including Government stock.

I was out of the station on safari at the time.

The District-in-charge (Mr S.F. de Sousa) immediately sent off all the Saharics available under the Sergeant Major. He went himself later to the kraal and received news that all the cattle had been recovered.

Details of the incident are:-

On April 24th a raiding party of some 30 Beahiat and 8 Abyssinians (the latter with rifles) caught two Rendili Moran who were herding camels and from them got information as to the manyattas near.

During the night they split into two parties, the one stopping near the Rendili manyatta the other going on to the Samburu cattle manyatta which was about 3 miles nearer to the Boma. The Samburu manyatta was attacked at dawn and all the cattle lifted including the Government stock. The raiders at the Rendili manyatta waited till they saw the other party returning before showing

Honourable
The Chief Secretary
to the Government,
Nairobi.

showing themselves, when they made an attempt to lift
the Rendili goats. It happened that the Government 550
Camel Boma was alongside the Rendili manyatta and in it
were 1 Somali Askari and 3 armed NyGAs. On the alarm
being raised my men opened fire and the Rendili Moran
assembling in some force the raiders desisted, and drew
off. Meanwhile the Samburu Moran were following their
cattle and a running fight ensued for about 10 miles.
Half way through the raiders finding that they were
hindered by the large mob of cattle abandoned half of it
and tried to get away with the rest. At the end of
about 10 miles my Askaries from the Boma were seen
approaching and the raiders then abandoned all the
cattle and took to flight. The Askaries then returned
with the cattle. Some Moran followed the raiders as
far as Murkum which is about 40 to 50 miles from the Boma
on the road to Kulal and there gave over the pursuit.

About 25 of the raiders were killed and 14 of
our natives killed or wounded.

4 rifles (French) and 80 rounds of ammunition
were captured.

The raiders were on foot without any transport.
This leads me to suppose that they probably came from a
base camp somewhere in our Territory possibly Horr though
this is not a conclusive deduction as owing to the present
rains they are independent of water.

I have endeavoured to warn the Troops at Kulal
but the natives are very nervous now of that side of the
District.

I have etc.,

H. S. S. KIRUMASTON

Assistant District Commissioner.

No 20706 / Sent Africa Public 10 19

G.D.
R. 20/10/19
D. 21

551



21 June 1913

Sir. I am directed by Mr Sec Harcourt

to transmit to you for ^{consr} the ~~copy~~ ^{copy} of a despatch with enclosure, received from the Govt of the P. of A. respecting a raid perpetrated by Abyssinian tribes in the vicinity of Ouararab.

2. Mr Harcourt considers that the info contained in the despatch strengthens the claim which is being made against the Abyss Govt for a more energetic protest, in connection with the murder of Capt. Aylmer, and he would suggest that the substance of the despatch and its enclosure should be communicated to Mr Newenham in the event of

~~DRAFT~~

The U.S.S.
20

~~MINUTE~~

- Mr. ... 20613
- Mr. Robertson
- Sir G. Fiddes
- Sir H. Just
- Sir J. Anderson
- Lord Emmott
- Mr. Harcourt

Handwritten notes and signatures:

Handwritten: 20106

Handwritten: * No 20706

Handwritten: 21 June 1913

Handwritten: H. A. READ

Handwritten: Secy Secretary of State