



EAST AFR. PROT

11533

LCB

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11533

Belfield
Copy
203

Operations agst. Marchau

1914

5 March

Submit obs regarding attitude of neighbouring tribes. Considers chances of any concerted action on the part of Somalis agst. port are extremely remote

Last previous Paper

Govt 11166

Dr. G. Zoller

It looks as if the Mohamed Zuber & Abd Wad will share the fate of the Killenny etc.

Ask & express entire assurance in the latter part of para: 8 - & send copy of concepⁿ to the F.O., W.O., & J.O. for info. V.F.F.?

H. J. B.

28 ~~July~~ /14

All very unsatisfactory tho we can do nothing effective at present. P.M. 30.3.14

to 30.3.14

to 30.3.14

P.T.O.

Recd Cont 31 March 14
Copy to Govt 30 April 14
W.O.

Next subsequent Paper

Govt 11570

hit Rear.

The big fight on the Lorician between the Old Water and Bush' Tutsis in April showed how a well timed attack place practically under the nose of Captain Sutherland and his Detachment - either knowing anything was in the air.

Our very shadowy administration in this area makes any premature attempt to cover the ravine section of the Ofedun Lorician most dangerous. At the same time the situation calls loudly for firm handling if we are to prevent it's going from bad to worse. Half Companies of foot soldiers and a handful of police to deal with each local trouble will not do. They may outdo us in all sorts of trouble.

I considered the military situation in a despatch to the Gen on April 6

A. J. H. 27^v
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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

March 5th 1914.

11503
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Confidential No. 43

Sir,

Genl 8252

I have the honour to refer to the remarks made in paragraph 9 of my Confidential despatch No. 25 of the 15th ultimo respecting the attitude of other sections of the Somalis during the operations against the Marehan.

AG. P. C., Jubaland

Memorandum
Jan. 20th

2. Colonel Granam has alluded in his telegrams to the likelihood of the neighbouring friendly tribes joining the Marehan and I propose in the following remarks to review the situation from that point of view.

3. The Ogaden Somalis with whom we mainly have to deal, may be split up into six sections, viz: the Mohamed Zubeir, Aulihan, Magnabhai, representing the Balalla Kabiialla group, and the Abd Wak, Abdulla and Ber Monamed, forming the Talamoga Kabiialla group, the last three being very closely allied and ready to stand by one another at any time. Theoretically against a mutual enemy all should combine and in intertribal warfare if one Balalla tribe is attacked all the Balalla have mutual obligations and should combine against the aggressor, but in practice this is not always the case.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

4.

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWLING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

(2)

4. The Marehan on the other hand are not related to either the Hertl or Ogaden Somali - their descent is from quite a different source and they are really aliens in Jubaland who have made themselves a strong unit by their depredations.

5. The most important of the Ogaden sections mentioned above are the Mohamed Zubeir, the Aulinan and the Abd Wak. For the past two years the Mohamed Zubeir and the Abd Wak have been engaged in desultory fighting, and a short time ago a fierce battle was fought which ended in the loss of many lives.

The trouble between these two sections started in 1911 when the Abd Wak suddenly arrived on the Lorian and on being ordered away by Mr. Deck proceeded to attack and cut up a village belonging to the Mohamed Zubeir.

The Abd Wak had no right whatever so far North as the Lorian, as they have ample water and grazing on the Tana, and their object clearly was to make a determined effort to invade a portion of territory to which they had no claim.

An account of the recent fight has been submitted by Captain Salkeld, Acting Provincial Commissioner, Jubaland, who arrived at the Lorian on his way from Wajneir two days after it had taken place, and a copy is attached for your information.

6. It will be observed that both tribes suffered heavily, the Mohamed Zubeir having the heaviest casualties and losing a number of powerful headmen

amongst

amongst whom was Ahmed Magan, the recognised chief of the Ogaden Somalis. It was only quite recently that Government had had to arrest this Chief on account of his behaviour at a baraza held at Wajheir where he publicly proclaimed that the British soldier Wagner had actually been handed over to him by Sir Percy Girouard. This statement was latterly denied by Ahmed Magan at a public baraza at Wajheir.

Aden Hagei by tribal custom would naturally succeed Ahmed Magan as head of the section and his power is perhaps even greater than that which the latter possessed. I may mention that he is one of the surviving Chiefs who was implicated in the murder of the late Mr. Jenner.

7. From information which I have gathered from officers who have administered the Somalis, I do not think that we need fear the Monamed Zubeir joining in the Marehan operations. The section has been considerably weakened by the recent fight and rather than waste their strength against Government, I think it much more likely that they will preserve it for another encounter with the Abd Waks in order to avenge the deaths of so many chiefs.

According to the latest reports the Adalinan have been persuaded to join with the Government and I think that this will influence the Monamed Zubeir to hold aloof, for they have nothing to gain in allying themselves with the Marehan.

8. Arising out of the Monamed Zubeir - Abd Waks fight Mr. Deck has suggested in a memorandum on the

the general situation, copy of which I attach, that:

1. the Mohamed Zubeir be sent back to Ahmadu and the Deshak Wana
2. that the Adinan be sent back to Serenli, and
3. that the Abu Wak be removed from the Lorian to the Tana River.

These proposals if carried out would doubtless have a very beneficial effect but I fear that they could not possibly be undertaken at present. In any case I cannot agree that only half company would be required to move both the Mohamed Zubeir and the Abu Wak from the Lorian.

In my opinion it would be unwise to attempt any such measures unless we had an adequate force to carry them through successfully.

9. There is no doubt that the Abu Wak are a standing menace to the peace of Southern Jubaland and the Northern Frontier District. Their attacks would have fallen on any tribe that happened to be near the Lorian and falling a Somali tribe the Boran would have suffered. Formerly all the Talamooga sections were domiciled in Miskaya behind Port Durnford but they have of late years concentrated on the Tana and quite recently worked their way up towards the Lorian Swamp.

It will now be necessary to pay more attention to the movements of this tribe and perhaps the advisability of the reopening of Sankuri Station will have to be considered.

10. Somalis being a nomadic tribe are constantly moving about to find fresh pastures for their stock and the movement all along is inclined towards the West and South. In the cattle areas

it will be necessary to define the grazing limits of the various sections and endeavour to foster trade, the development of which is likely to establish peaceful state of affairs sooner than anything else.

11. An important point that must not be overlooked is the immigration from the North. Officers are agreed that this is bad for the country as the natives that come over are strangers who have been used to a constant state of tribal warfare and having lost their real tribal organisation and responsibility are merely adventurers. The establishment of better communication, which will mean more effective administration, will go a long way to keep this immigration in check.

12. The personal element is a great factor in the administration of Somalis and I am glad to think that our Staff in Jubaland and Tanaland are making a point of this. Intertribal warfare is bound to take place and will not do much harm provided it does not assume big proportions. In the case of the Mohamed Zubeir and the Abd Wak the fighting has become of a serious nature and both sections are always armed ready for war which causes a feeling of great unrest in the country. It will, therefore, be necessary to establish peaceful relations between the two sections as soon as the Marehan operations are concluded.

13. I trust that these remarks may serve to show that the chances of any concerted action on

(6)

the part of the Somalis against the Government
are extremely remote.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Alway Beyced

GOVERNOR.

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Short History of the Mohamed Zubeir and Abd Wak
fighting.

About 1 1/2 years ago the Abd Wak moved North from the Tana to the neighbourhood of Wajheir and were ordered off by Mr. Deck.

This order they obeyed but raided a Mohamed Zubeir village and killed all the inhabitants, 26 in number.

Fighting on a small scale went on until December 21st, 1913 when the Mohamed Zubeir 400 strong with 200 rifles attacked the Abd Wak and claim to have killed 174. This affair took place about 7 hours South of the Lorian.

On January 16th the Abd Wak surprised the Mohamed Zubeir on the Lorian killing 180 including Ahmed Magan and most of the leading men. (List of men of importance killed attached.)

January 18th - I arrived on the Lorian without having received any news of this nor had the Somali Chiefs with me had any news.

January 21st - Reconnoitring parties returned and reported the Abd Wak had fallen back to the Tana with probably outposts at Werotu Shimbaru about 25 miles North of Sankuri on the Tana.

Mr. Mure had written to the Mohamed Zubeir and Abd Wak that we were visiting the Lorian. The Mohamed Zubeir received their letter but we do not know if the Abd Wak did.

The fighting between these two tribes has throughout been of a savage description. No mercy has been shown and none expected. Mutilation of men and women has been common and I cannot suppose peace will be easy

to make or that they would combine.

The losses appear to have been heavier all round than was at first thought. I suppose in the last 2 or 3 months there have been at least 600 casualties in the two tribes concerned.

We had nearly a 100 patients mostly women and children.

All the enemies dead were left unburied.

It is possible the Mohamed Zubeir may reassume the offensive when rain comes.

I do not however think this intertribal fighting is for the moment a political danger.

Sd/- R.E.Salkeld.

Acting Provincial Commissioner,
Jubaland.

Names of Mahomed Yusuf Chiefs Killed.

- x Ahmed Magan.
 - x Meghak (Mahomed Yusuf)) brothers of Magan Yusuf
 - x Hassan Yusuf)
 - x Abdallah Hassan (Osman)
 - x Yasin (Ogas Nur - Chief)
 - Haji Osman. Ker Hersi
 - Yussuf Dar
 - Maalim Yusuf
 - x Mahomed Golla
 - Ibrahim Khomel
 - Ahmed Osman
 - Ali Samanta (Ogas Guled)
 - Mehdi Mahomed
 - Ahmed Nur
 - Ahmed Mahomed
 - Yusuf Magan
 - Sayid (Said)
 - Hassan Kordi
 - x Haji Mahomed
 - Abdullah Adil
 - Samboul Magan (younger brother of Ahmed Magan)
 - Haji Ibrahim
 - Mahomed Gamed.
- Remaining brothers of Ahmed Magan
- Duru Magan
 - Singoh Magan
 - Osman Geyli
 - Hassan Ga
 - Mussein Magan

* Men marked thus are Government recognized chiefs.

Elders.

Ali Ahmed.

List of rifles on or near Lorient.

	Ugass Guleed Mohamed zubeir	200
	Ber Hersi	100
	(Ahmed Sugans town section)	
	Ber Amar	50
	Guleed Khaleef	20
	Saunter Khaleef	25
	Amedi	30
		<hr/> 125
x	Aulhan in Southern Djibouti	150 ? doubtful
	Ber Suliman (at Wajheir)	25
x	Axl Wak	350 ? doubtful
	Dugandeed (near Wajheir)	70
x	Dagodi (near Wajheir)	400 ?doubtful

I think the estimates marked x are much beyond the truth.

The average rounds per man is not over 20 and I think nearer 10.

R. E. Salkeld.

Malka Galla,

January 20th, 1914.

The Chief Secretary,
Nairobi.

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Sir,

I have the honour to suggest that the following measures be adopted to meet the situation brought about by inter-tribal quarrelling among the Ogaden on the Lorian. The matter is of some urgency, as not only is the peaceful administration of the Wajheir district threatened, but also the security of our main road to the Frontier.

I. That the Mohamed Zubeir be sent back to Afmadu and the Deshek Wama. This may mean reflooding the lake to a certain extent to provide enough water for them. But the Mohamed Zubeir at present on the Lorian and at Wajheir do not number ~~more~~ than 2,000 people and 4,000 head of stock, and the present time is especially favourable for their removal as there is rain water on the road from Wajheir to Afmadu. The camel owning Mohamed Zubeir can be left at Wajheir, as they have been there several years and Afmadu is not camel country. They are few in numbers and left by themselves at Wajheir can be easily managed.

II. That the Aulihan, at present living at Wajheir and on the Lorian, be sent back to Serenli whence they came. It is undoubtedly a mistake to allow a section of tribes to break away from the main body and establish itself as a separate community in another district. The distance

distance and difficulty of communication between Wajheir and Serenli make it impossible to administer them if free movement between the two districts is allowed. I should say the Aulihan now in the Wajheir district do not number more than 1,200 people with about 2,000 head of stock principally camels. They have hitherto committed no overt act of disobedience at Wajheir, but I have reliable information that they have intrigued with the Abud Wak and have done their best to stir up that tribe to attack the Mohamed Zubeir with a view to weakening the latter's position in Wajheir.

III. That the Abud Wak be removed from the Lorian to the Tana River. This will leave a large distance between them and the Mohamed Zubeir and diminish the facility of continuing hostilities. Now that Ahmed Maghan, the Mohamed Zubeir Chief, has been killed it is highly improbable that his tribe will give up the struggle if they are allowed to remain anywhere in the neighbourhood of the Abud Wak. It is a well known fact that a Somali tribe whose chief has been killed labours under an acute sense of disgrace until the insult has been wiped out by killing the chief of the tribe which inflicted it.

IV. That the Northern Frontier Constabulary and the Kismayu Police now at Wajheir be employed to remove the Aulihan. All told, the Constabulary and Police now number about 75 men, more than enough for the purpose.

V. That the Mohamed Zubeir and Abud Wak be removed from the Lorian by the Company, K.A. Rifles, which I understand is coming down the Uase Nyiro as escort

to

to the Inspector General of the King's African Rifles on his way to Wajheir. If more men are required they could be supplied from Wajheir and the removal of the Aulihan postponed till the Mohamed Zubeir and Abud Wak have been separated.

There is another strong reason for the removal of the Mohamed Zubeir and Aulihan from Wajheir, in that the District is now overcrowded. The water supply is ample but not the grass, and quarrels over grazing grounds are constantly taking place. The Her Mahomed Matan (Yaben) and the Dagedia (Yaben) both tribes rich in stock and consequently peacefully inclined together with the Boran, Ajinan and Sakuye, who are at present afraid to come to the district on account of the grazing difficulty, will form an ample population for the district. The Habr Suliman and Magabul Ogaden, who were living in Wajheir when the station was first opened, can be left where they are, as they are few in numbers and rich in stock.

I do not anticipate serious trouble in moving either the Mohamed Zubeir and the Abud Wak - weakened in numbers by the constant fighting of the last year, they are not likely to resist if firm steps are taken.

I have taken the liberty of putting forward these suggestions for the following reasons:-

(1) The Inspector General is on his way here, and it may be worth his while to consider them. (2) It may be some time before Mr. Hope, who is at Moyale, can forward any suggestions on the matter. (3) The present time is very suitable for removing the Mohamed Zubeir as there is rain water on the road to Afmadu.

The

The Uaso Nyiro River ought to be a valuable trade route and the Lorian District excellent country for cattle, sheep and goats, should be inhabited by a peaceful taxpaying population of Boran. Instead it is at present the "suck-pit" of the Ogaden, and "wars and rumours of wars" have created such a sense of alarm and insecurity as to render administration exceedingly difficult, trade dangerous and taxation impossible.

I have, &c., &c..

Sd/- S.F.Deck.

District Commissioner.

