

EAST AFR. PROT.
No 19725

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30 MAY 08

Cover of No. 19725
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(Subject)

1908

Death of Hon. A. Blyth

7 May

Last previous Paper

Send report on circumstances of Col. Patterson

Copy sent B. G. to ...
3 June

(Minutes)

Sir F. Hepwood

10/1/6

3/1/6

1.6

Send subsequent Paper

Camp Warden's Office
Nairobi, Kenya
May 10th 1968

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30 MAY 68

With reference to the death of the late honourable Audley Bivth, I have the honour to state that he and Mrs. Bivth left Sumruti on or about the 11th February last on a safari with me to the Quazo Nyiro. I was going on a tour through the Fortien Game Reserve and he and his wife were going to accompany me part of the way. Soon after we started Mr. Bivth got ill and had to be carried in a hammock, he had high fever and I think got a touch of the sun. I asked him to turn back when we reached the Quazo Nyiro and Mrs. Bivth was anxious for him to return also but he insisted on going on saying that he wanted to see the country now that he had got so far.

We reached Laxaria on the 20th March, for three days previously he had been ill with what was I think a touch of the sun again. He had a high temperature and shivers. He had persisted in going out in a very strong sun while in a rather weak state in spite of a strong remonstrance from both Mrs. Bivth and myself. On the 18th and 19th March Mrs. Bivth sat up all night with him and on the 20th I sat up with him until about 12a.m. when I left him asleep and I then sat down.

SECRETARY
to the Administration,
Nairobi.

down on a chair near the tent door and I lay until about 6 a.m.

I awoke and hearing him moving, asked how he was. He said oh pretty well. I then said you had better stay here today and I will go on. He replied oh no, I am on all right. I replied you had better be carried, he said, no, it is too hot for the men to carry me I shall ride.

I then went away and was talking to the headman, Manyak bin Diani some 60 yards away when he heard a shot and rushed up to the tent. I found Mr. Elyth lying back in bed with a revolver in his hand and his thumb on the trigger. I took the revolver out of his hand and gave it to the headman. The bullet had entered the right temple and death was practically instantaneous.

The revolver was a .450 and all the chambers were loaded save one. I did not allow Mrs. Elyth to see the body as I did not consider it right that she should undergo the shock it would be bound to give her. I buried Mr. Elyth quietly at about 11 a.m. and hurried Mrs. Elyth away from Laxmia as quickly as possible. I may mention that Laxmia is about 40 miles south of Marsabit. I returned to Nairobi as quickly as ill health would allow me and reported the accident by telegraph, (on reaching Fort Hall) to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. I also cabled the sad news to England.

I need hardly add that Mrs. Blyth was with
heart broken by the sad occurrence, they were a most
devoted couple and she had nursed him most tenderly
whenever he was the least bit ill. He, too, was much
out of it as he was an old friend and brother officer.

I was glad to bring Mrs. Blyth back safely to
Fairfield on the 15th instant.

I have nothing further to add to this sad
account except to state that I consider Mr. Blyth
as a little high backed and a good deal of his
revolver was loaded and so discharged it accidentally
with fatal consequences.

I have etc., etc.,

14/11/1881
L. COL.

W. W. W.