

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.

No. 34211

E G  
34211  
18 97 00

10/15

Office or Individual

(Subject)

Patterson, J.H.

Circumstances connected with the  
Death of Hon A Blythe

1908

15 Sept

Last previous Paper

10/106

Replies to statements reaf

(Minutes)

Sir T. Sturges

This is rather long in reading and I have no time now to minute at any length - I do not want to keep it back.

I call this in the whole a very good statement - I think it is clear that it is better to drop the matter.

But one thing must be impressed on (Mr) Patterson - there is nothing at present to show that he was the subject of malicious attacks, or that the cause assigned of his kind has back

After all these circumstances

T.C. Higgins & Co. Dec 14/08



Next subsequent Paper

10/106

let to comment on it. I will pass to the next  
comments. Perhaps, as time progresses  
and paper I know the answer.

Mr. Garrison  
19 24

For Mr. Hopwood would  
be glad if those (I really  
could find time to read  
the papers (see also 31719)  
with a view to verbal discussion

HCD  
22/9

Sir F. Hopwood

I have read General Patterson's reply,  
and have to read all the papers.  
Col. P's action - the march is more  
than ever "unaccountable" to me in  
4000000 phrases.

18 219 00

via Patterson  
letter on  
9 Sept. 10  
Col. P's  
action  
is  
unaccountable  
to me  
in  
4000000  
phrases

ad here

I have written to the  
President on the matter  
of the march. I am  
for a view of personal  
papers which conversation  
is to be. Common sense  
of Sept. 18th was 32729  
I think he should be sent

at his instance is dated, the  
telegram to which he attached  
importance - It is one of the  
small things which has not matter  
to the case of Mrs. Harris  
mentioned on this paper I cannot

Tyler

20.9

The main question must stand  
on for conversation, and indeed  
nothing can be decided until we  
have the BEA reply to Lt. Patterson's  
statements. The only decision  
in J. Brown can be sent in the  
main suggested by Sir F. Hopwood.

25.9

See Lord Cross's letter of 24 Sept. to  
which a copy is annexed with Sir F.  
Hopwood's despatches, on which I left  
C.H. 29 Sept.

Sir F. Hopwood  
Lord Cross

As regards his Col. P's letter mentioned  
on which paper annexed - Can Col.  
Patterson be peremptorily sent back on  
the face of Sir P. Mason's report of 21/27?  
The problem is this - Col. Patterson

... no more under suspension. He obtained  
leave to come away under medical certificate.  
The Govt left it to the Sec of State to determine  
the amount of the leave. It is that was done  
as to send Col. Patterson to Sir P. Mansel.  
Accordingly he should be capped up, and  
the Govt asked us to stop pay through the  
... I irregularly on accounts. Nothing  
has been said as to grant of leave, and  
the technical position is that Col. Patterson  
is on leave under a medical  
certificate at the pleasure of the Sec of  
State.

It is a question to say that he  
must be in the Fort Belvoir at the end  
of six months leave - or he might  
be sent to Sir P. Mansel with a view to his  
re-employment elsewhere.

C. H.  
26/11/01

I have discussed with Sir  
Mansel a new form on  
... drafts for approval.

151<sup>st</sup> May 1820 11/9106

Handwritten signature: R. W. B. (likely Robert White)

(Alte. 25 DE VERE GARDENS. W.)

Sept 1908  
Dear Sir Francis Wood,  
Perhaps I may like  
to emphasize my reasons  
for going on to Inverhit  
after the way.

I would like to call  
particular attention to  
that portion of my  
letter on page 17 in which  
I state. Moreover had  
I shown any weakness.

and you are to the Antislavery  
to which I have written the reason of  
to whom it is what the cause always is,  
consequently why it had some so many  
been. So this war could have been at an  
should perhaps have no. By the way  
wished the following can be left without  
No matter what may be made as a  
personal news determination would not  
as to public duty, my own strong  
attitude of the regard central them and thereby  
made it absolutely secure the her safety  
impossible for me to trust that they  
yield to their circumstances and only  
and return immediately.

Cromwell 1798

412

33. DE VERE GARDENS

W

23 Sept 1798

justify the course of action  
which I took and show  
that my judgment  
containing my reasons  
to Marshal was under  
all the circumstances, sound

I am sending you  
a rough copy of my report  
letter I received from  
Colonel before last  
as per P. O.

I should be much obliged if you would in  
kind as to let me have back my letter of the  
Aug for the it is not  
Cross in T only

Cromwell

depth of infamy. <sup>which you may have seen</sup> <sup>Polk's</sup> <sup>he met his</sup> <sup>death exactly as I state</sup>  
is no doubt that a <sup>the</sup> <sup>ingest</sup> <sup>and only</sup>  
conspiracy has been <sup>for the</sup> <sup>interest</sup> <sup>it may</sup>  
hatched by a few <sup>cause</sup> <sup>Thos. Polk</sup> <sup>- if</sup>  
who have <sup>he</sup> <sup>hears of</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>will</sup>  
upland <sup>know</sup> <sup>it is</sup> <sup>so</sup> <sup>very</sup>  
about me. <sup>absurd</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>defeats</sup>

of course there <sup>since</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>could</sup>  
not a word <sup>have</sup> <sup>seen</sup> <sup>me</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
in the change <sup>your</sup> <sup>day</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>I</sup> <sup>could</sup>  
show <sup>have</sup> <sup>made</sup> <sup>every</sup> <sup>thing</sup>  
show <sup>my</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>an</sup>

interview I have had a  
small letter from Europe  
which states I am sorry  
that your brother has  
been confided

I cannot believe that  
this is true & so I  
St. Geronimo must be  
gone mad -   
grounds whatever - but  
pity spite - to do  
thing - I hope you will  
celebrate to see  
astounding confession  
rumour is true & comes  
order the immediate  
of my brother which  
very interesting

Natural & store  
It is no wonder that  
I am always in a hurry  
your former reports  
to be better  
I believe that there  
are some sensitive  
at the Colonial  
I look  
forward to your

reply  
I believe that there  
are some sensitive  
at the Colonial  
I look  
forward to your



doing the right thing  
by men  
[unclear]  
[unclear]

P.S. I am not bothering  
you with maps &  
notes etc. and  
am sending them  
in to the [unclear]  
you see them [unclear]  
[unclear] after we  
[unclear] good things  
and have seen  
[unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]

Colonial Office

Downing Street W 6B

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that

the enclosed copy of the report of the

Committee on the subject of

the proposed

amendment to the

Bill is now available for your perusal.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

W. H. G. ...

2nd 1/2 papers

111

THE BARN  
-RUBNER, LOMBERBACH  
CLIPPOPE  
411 NORTHWICH

INT.

BELMONT HALL

NORTHWICH

Oct 10 1881

L. H. Hemen

Dear Sir  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter mentioned therein. I have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Yours truly,  
L. H. Hemen

~~Copy~~

Reply to letter No. 30106, /1908

of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.

h

To,  
The Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street, S.W.

Cavalry Club,

London,

15<sup>th</sup> September 1908.

My Lord,

In reply to your Lordship's letter No. 30106/1908 of the 4th inst. asking me to furnish you with my observations and explanations on the proceedings at the inquest held into the circumstances connected with the death of the Honourable Audley Blyth at Mombasa on the 21st March last.

I have the honour to state in the first place that words fail me to express my indignation at the vile insinuations which have been made against me and at the incalculable injury which may be done to my reputation and to that of Mrs. Blyth by the extraordinary course taken by the authorities in East Africa and the hostile attitude which they have adopted towards me as shown by the nature of the proceedings at the second enquiry held after my departure and the suggestive and offensive questions put to native witnesses, especially at Mombasa.

I most emphatically affirm that the relations between Mrs. Blyth and myself have been absolutely correct and I am utterly astounded that the authorities should have allowed the conduct of an English lady to be canvassed in the manner they have done.

It is more than atrocious that such insinuations should be made against an officer, who, when placed in a very delicate and difficult position, acted in the only right and proper manner and did everything in his power

to

to shield and guard the unfortunate lady who was so tragically left in his care.

There seems very little doubt that all these malicious lies were started the moment my back was turned by enemies of mine, who, to serve their own ends, would stop at nothing to effect my ruin.

I cannot understand however, how any one possessing a level head, sound judgment, or even ordinary common sense could for a moment give the slightest credence to vile gossip of this kind. It is most astounding to me that the authorities in East Africa, instead of showing a strong hand at the outset and stamping out these malicious lies and bazaar gossip, should actually have fanned the flame of slander by stirring up all sorts of scandalous tales at the enquiry after Mrs. Blyth and I had left East Africa.

There was absolutely plain evidence before the Governor - all given and proved before Mrs. Blyth and I left the country, stating exactly how Mr. Blyth shot himself and all the circumstances connected with his death. It was made absolutely clear then and there that he died by his own hand, and at the inquest on May 5th I asked the Court whether any further witnesses were necessary as most of the men of my safari were then at Nairobi and I could put my hand on any man required. I was informed by the Court that no further evidence was needed.

Why therefore and at whose instigation was a further enquiry considered necessary after my departure?

If any doubt had crept into the minds of the authorities as to the cause of Mr. Blyth's death, and no such doubt is apparent in any of the questions, surely in all fairness to me, I should have been communicated with at once and kept informed of all the steps the local officials were taking.

Instead of this I was kept entirely in the dark about

about the further enquiry which was being held.

No opportunity was given to me of denying any of the statements made, or explaining any course of action called in question.

During the course of this enquiry questions suggesting impropriety on the part of Mrs. Blyth and myself were freely put to the natives (especially at the enquiry at Mombasa) which would naturally stir up endless scandalous baseless gossip and encourage the natives to make statements damaging to the reputation of Mrs. Blyth and myself.

The authorities ought surely to have instantly put before me the proceedings at this second enquiry and got my explanation to the views which the Court saw fit to take of my actions.

Instead of this I knew nothing whatever about the matter until the 5th inst., 2½ months after the finding of the magistrate!

Rumours damaging to my reputation and that of Mrs. Blyth were allowed to spread, and these naturally grew blacker as they spread; the result is that stories of the wildest and most lurid description have reached England and are now being freely circulated.

As the officials in East Africa in searching for a motive for Mr. Blyth's death have not hesitated to insinuate that it might have been due to the misconduct of Mrs. Blyth and myself (though the Court admits in the finding that there is no evidence whatever of this), I must now, in all justice to myself and in defence of Mrs. Blyth's reputation and my own, place some facts before your Lordship which will throw an entirely new and very clear light on the circumstances connected with the death of Mr. Blyth and supply the real solution of the whole question. These facts were quite unknown to me at the time of the inquest

on May 8th, when I gave a very clear and accurate account of what actually occurred.

They have come to my knowledge since that date and as they are most relevant to the case I now state them as follows:-

1. The late Mr. Blyth was unfortunately addicted to drink which he took secretly.

2. Last summer he was so bad that he was confined to his bed three-times from this cause, and only a comparatively short time previous to setting out for East Africa, he had a very bad attack of Delirium Tremens, during which he had to be held down by two male nurses.

3. Before setting out for East Africa he had already threatened to take his own life during one of these attacks, and had also threatened that of others.

It is quite inexplicable to me how his Father, who knew all these facts, could have encouraged him to go out to East Africa by supplying him with £500 especially for this expedition. A hot country like East Africa is the very last place he should have been sent to, as it would almost certainly prove fatal to any one suffering from Mr. Blyth's disease.

It is Lord Blyth's indiscretion, to call it by a mild name, that is the cause of the trouble brought upon me, and I can rightly claim to be protected from the consequences.

Had I had the very faintest suspicion that Mr. Blyth was secretly addicted to drink and had <sup>had</sup> D. T's, I need hardly say I should never have had him with me on my safari.

The circumstances under which Mr. Blyth accompanied me are as follows:-

Very shortly before I left England last October, Mr. Blyth informed me that he was coming out to East Africa with

his



His wife and a Mr. Gillott some time in January of this year. He asked me if I would do what I could for him in the way of getting a safari together, and this of course I readily promised.

At the end of December 1907 I got a cable from him saying merely "two coming." so I naturally thought this meant Mr. Blyth and Mr. Gillott, but found on Mr. Blyth's arrival in Nairobi that it was his wife who was with him.

As I myself was about to start on a safari to the north to reduce the area of the Northern Game Reserve and if possible find a natural eastern boundary to it, I thought it would be a good opportunity to take Mr. Blyth with me for part of the way so that I might show him the ways of the country and how to run a safari. It was then my intention to proceed on my long journey alone and leave Mr. Blyth to return at his convenience.

I asked Mr. Jackson's permission for Mr. and Mrs. Blyth to accompany me, which was readily granted.

We left Nairobi on January 21st and I noticed nothing unusual in Mr. Blyth's manner, although he was ailing from time to time, until after we had left Sumguti, when he began to be worse sometimes and complained of severe headache.

I thought nothing of this at the time as it did not seem to be in any way serious.

When we reached the Great Nyiro I strongly advised him to return and Mrs. Blyth did the same. He, however, insisted on coming on as he said he wished to see more of the country now he had got so far.

I, of course, had no power to make him return, so I reluctantly acquiesced in his accompanying me further, especially as I wanted to see him quite well again before finally leaving him.

Later

Later on he developed symptoms which appeared to me to have been caused by the sun.

As I was obliged to go on and could not possibly leave him behind in this condition, without medical aid in a country he knew nothing about, and the language of which he could not speak, I decided that the best and only thing for me now to do was to push on as fast as possible to Waresabit, where I hoped he would quickly recover in the cool highlands.

Both Mrs. Blyth and I did everything that was possible in the way of tending and caring for him. We had him carried day after day in a hammock, and often one or other of us would walk beside him with an umbrella to keep the sun off.

Sometimes he was quite all right and sensible in his mind, but at other times he was more or less irresponsible but not to such an extent as caused me any serious anxiety until we reached Lungaya. It was here that I first discovered that his indisposition was aggravated owing to drink, which he took secretly, without the knowledge of either Mrs. Blyth or myself.

I spoke to him very seriously about this matter at this place, and he gave me a promise that he would abstain for the future.

At the same time, of course, I took very good care that there was no possibility of his getting any whisky again.

When we reached Leresmie a couple of days later, he was still ill with what I thought to be sun, and on his account I rested there for two days.

During the nights of the 18th and 19th March he was so ill that Mrs. Blyth had to sit up with him all night.

On the afternoon of the 20th March, Mr. Blyth slipped out of his tent unknown to me, and on hearing that he had gone out I immediately sent 6 men after him

to carry him back if necessary, as I knew he was in no fit state to be out of camp.

Meanwhile, however, he had shot a giraffe close to the camp (although, of course, I had told him that he must not shoot while he was in the Reserve) and was brought back so ill that I seriously thought he was going to die there and then. I spent two hours fanning him and rubbing him and putting cold water on his head, assisted by the boys and a couple of sarakis. I then put him to bed.

When I was sitting up with him that night, he was very suspicious of everybody he saw, and would not rest while the boy Idi and two men whom I kept handy to help in case they should be required, remained in the tent. As he seemed to be less excitable and suspicious when they were away, I told them quietly to go just outside the tent and remain there concealed from his sight, but within easy view, while I sat up with him throughout the night.

At the request I have described exactly what followed so it is needless to go over these details again.

As the Court has gone out of its way to call my conduct even after Mr. Blyth's death into question, and insinuates impropriety between Mrs. Blyth and myself, while it admits that there is no evidence to show that Mr. Blyth was influenced by any conduct of mine, I must now give your Lordship the following simple account of what actually took place

Within a few hours after Mr. Blyth's death the safari became mutinous, and, instigated by a few scoundrels in it, seized all the rifles and ammunition while I was away burying Mr. Blyth. On my return they assumed a most threatening attitude and began to dictate terms to me as to where the safari was to go and where not to go.

They

They knew perfectly well that I could look for no help or succour as we were so far from civilization, so they hoped to force me by threats into compliance with their demands, most of them wishing to return.

Of course I had not the slightest intention of giving in to them, or of returning to Nairobi until the work which I had set out to do was satisfactorily accomplished.

I could not allow any private matters no matter how serious, to interfere with public duty and I hoped that my work would be completed when I reached Marsabit, which was only some 50 to 40 miles further on.

I therefore went out amongst the mutinous crowd and told them that they must obey me or take the consequences, and that if they refused to accompany me I should still go on alone as I had Government work to do. I informed them that the moment this was done I would collect at Marsabit sufficient Samburu spearmen to round them up and take them prisoners to Nairobi where they would be severely punished. On hearing this, some of them shouted out to bind me, but none dared take the initiative. I gave them an hour in which to decide and then walked away. It was an exceedingly difficult position for me, as of course I was overwhelmed with anxiety for the safety of Mrs. Blyth.

Before the time limit I had given them had elapsed I am glad to say that they all returned to their senses and duty.

I must state that the Headman (Wenykai bin Diwani) never joined the mutineers.

All this time Mrs. Blyth was in a dazed and half frantic state of mind owing to the terrible shock she had just had, so for her sake I thought the sooner we got away from the scene of the tragedy, the better.

I therefore ordered the safari to be ready at 2 p.m. to march to Marsabit, which I had been informed was 1½ days march away.

As a matter of fact it took us 3 days to reach this place owing to the terrific heat of the sun, the bad going, and Mrs. Blyth's overwrought condition which necessitated a halt of one day near Reti close to Marsabit.

During this time no tent was pitched. Mrs. Blyth simply lay on a rug and I stayed awake while she slept and kept guard over her close by. Every now and then she woke up out of her sleep crying and in a very nervous condition. I, of course, did all I could to soothe her and gave her every support or protection that was in my power.

When Marsabit was reached Mrs. Blyth was still in a very nervous and overwrought condition and I saw that it would be altogether out of the question to ask her to sleep again in the tent in which the tragedy took place. She herself shrank from the idea. As part of it was covered with blood I ordered this portion to be destroyed. The remainder was packed away where she could not see it again.

There was now only one tent left and as it was absolutely necessary for Mrs. Blyth's own safety that I should be near her, I asked if she would have any objection to having this tent made into two compartments by a division down the middle, so that she might occupy one side of it and I the other.

She expressed her entire approval of this plan, and said that it would be a great relief to her to know that I was close by in case of need.

Although under one roof, the tent was now made into two tents, each with its own separate doorway. This arrangement continued throughout the return journey.

Personally, I never undressed except in the afternoon when the tent was empty and I could take a bath in

safety when water was obtainable.

I always lay down at night in my clothes with a rifle beside me. In addition to this an armed askari stood outside her door all night and every night, with instructions to call me on the slightest alarm.

These precautions were very necessary considering that I had a few bad scoundrels among the safari, who might be up to any wickedness.

Mr. Gollyer at Rumuruti told me that one of my men was a great blackguard, had raped a sergeant's wife while in the Police there, and had been flogged and dismissed from the Force for the crime.

These were the kind of men I had to protect Mrs. Blyth from, and in addition it must be remembered that we were in a strange and savage country.

Just as Marsabit was reached I unfortunately got very ill and had both fever and dysentery, and only for the careful nursing of Mrs. Blyth and the good supply of milk, I believe I should not have recovered.

I was intensely anxious at this time for the safety of Mrs. Blyth, as her position would have been exceedingly serious in case anything had happened to me.

When I got somewhat better Mrs. Blyth collapsed again and got morbid and depressed. I believe it was only the fact that she had to start nursing so soon after the tragedy that saved her from an attack of brain fever or a break down of nerves of some kind.

As even yet the work which I had been sent out to do was not finally completed, I therefore, as soon as my illness would allow, ordered some 8 or 10 porters to carry

a few absolute necessities for one day only, and set out on a short march some 6 or 8 miles north of my camp.

I had been told that the Urray range of mountains could be seen from the northern edge of the forest some 4 or 5 miles from camp, and my reason in setting out was to see if this range really existed so that I might take their bearing, include them in my map and thus complete the natural eastern boundary to the Reserve which I had come out to find.

When I had satisfactorily accomplished this object I returned to camp, and out of this simple fact has been woven the silly bazaar gossip that I tried to go north and was only prevented from doing this because the guide led me astray and I could get no water!

We returned to Nairobi by the shortest and most direct route, and as quickly as my illness would allow.

My exertions unfortunately brought on a return of my illness which continued more or less until we got through the Meru country, and from the effects of which, I was reduced to a mere skeleton on my return to Nairobi.

I naturally did my very utmost in every way I could to hide the fact of my illness from any member of the safari and I am glad to see from the evidence given at the inquest that in this, at any rate, I have been fairly successful.

I feared to let the safari know that I was ill in case they should mutiny again and get out of hand. It was absolutely essential for Mrs. Blyth's safety that they should know that I was well enough to protect her and keep a strong hand over them. I was overwhelmed with anxiety on her account throughout the journey, so on this account I showed myself continually to the safari, though I was so worn out and emaciated from the effects of my

illness

illness when I reached Nairobi, that as soon as the P.M.O. of the Protectorate saw me, he sent me before a Medical Board who ordered my immediate return to England on sick leave.

Before going into the details of the official enquiry I must once again state that I am more amazed than I can express to find that the authorities in East Africa have allowed the good name of Mrs. Blyth to be dragged through the Court in the manner they have done.

I cannot speak too highly of the care and devotion Mrs. Blyth gave to her husband under very trying circumstances while her goodness and kindness to me while I was ill are beyond all praise.

As I have already stated I gave a very clear and accurate account at the inquest on May 8th of what took place, and I utterly deny all evidence given by porters, askaris, gunbearers and boys, which in any way differs from mine.

It will be seen that these witnesses have contradicted themselves flatly on many points, so it is not at all to be wondered at if some of this contradictory evidence contradicts mine.

I can, however, find no "unfortunate contradiction" between their evidence and mine on any point of importance.

Of course a couple of scoundrels among them have told some malicious lies, but these are so evidently lies on the face of it and so contrary to the general evidence of all the other witnesses, that I should have thought any one with the slightest insight into native character would instantly have recognised them as such and given no credence to them whatever.



4.6

I see that the Magistrate in his finding points out an apparent discrepancy between Mrs. Blyth's statement and the account given by the other witnesses.

I can corroborate what Mrs. Blyth stated about not being aware of anything but the sound of the shot, as she was so dazed that for some hours afterwards she did not seem to realize what was going on.

Even in this particular the evidence of the various witnesses is contradictory though the Magistrate states that on this point "All say that she ran away from her husband's tent immediately after the shot was fired."

I would like to point out that three witnesses, Ebrahim bin Ali, Idi bin Ali and Paul (cook), all state just the reverse, viz:- that they saw Mrs. Blyth running away from her husband's tent before they heard the shot.

Saiba Lambele Masai also states,

"When Mr. Blyth shot himself he was alone: Mrs. Blyth was just going to go inside at time and rushed away again."

In fact out of the whole 16 witness, (excluding Mrs. Blyth) four say she was not in the tent when the shot was fired and only five of them say she was in the tent at the time, and to my certain knowledge three of these five witnesses, viz:- Abdi Hassan, Kar Kheri bin Murtah and Abudi wa Laisho, could not possibly have seen her at all, as they were beyond me at the time, at a point from which it was absolutely impossible to see what happened.

The fourth of these five witnesses (Assani bin Kombo) states that he went to the river to wash and that then he heard a shot. Now it was absolutely impossible from the river to see whether Mrs. Blyth ran out of the tent or did not.

I do not know where the fifth man, Motal bin Suleman was, but he states, "I was on duty at night." Now this is quite sufficient to show me from what I know of the askari routine, that this man after coming off duty at daylight would go to his tent, (which was some 50 yards away at the rear of the camp) and be in all likelihood asleep at the time the shot was fired.

I think this fully explains what is called by the Court, discrepancy in Mrs. Blyth's evidence. I know there was no such discrepancy and I can fully corroborate all she says.

The Magistrate then goes on to state that, "After his death the conduct of Mrs. Blyth and Colonel Patterson as disclosed by the evidence of the boys and porters requires a good deal of explanation which they have not had the chance of giving, but there is no evidence that Mr. Blyth was influenced by any conduct of theirs."

I consider that this is a most invidious and highly objectionable statement to make.

The Magistrate admits in one breath that there is no evidence that Mr. Blyth was influenced by any conduct of ours and yet says that our conduct after Mr. Blyth's death requires a great deal of explanation!

I cannot see how my conduct after Mr. Blyth's death is a matter for the investigation of the Court, or why, when once it had been proved by the evidence that my conduct had nothing whatever to do with Mr. Blyth's death, the Magistrate at Mombasa should still consider it his duty to probe into my private life, and by the suggestive and highly offensive nature of his questions to the natives, apparently encourage them to make statements reflecting on the moral character of Mrs. Blyth and myself.

I protest strongly against the nature of these questions

questions, which without doubt have given rise to endless scandal of a most objectionable type.

It never for one moment occurred to me that any one could put any evil construction on my conduct in regard to the single tent, and I considered it so perfectly natural and proper under the circumstances that I told Mrs. Hinde, the wife of the Commissioner at Mombasa all about it. It is not likely I would mention the matter so openly to the first lady I met on my return if I had thought for a moment that there was anything questionable in what I had done.

All I can now say is, that if I were put in the same unfortunate position again and under the same tragic circumstances, I would do exactly the same thing in spite of all the evilminded scandalmongers in the Protectorate of East Africa or elsewhere!

The Magistrate next goes on to state, "there was a quarrel about a week before at Lingaid where all three had apparently hit the same elephant, but there is nothing to show what it was about and Colonel Patterson and Mr. Blyth shook hands afterwards.

There was no quarrel whatever between Mr. Blyth and myself about an elephant or anything else, either at this place or elsewhere.

Our relations throughout, up to the time of his death, were of the very friendliest and had he been my own brother I could not have cared for him or given him more attention than I did.

What gave rise to this alleged quarrel is as follows:-

At this place, Langaya, I discovered for the first time that Mr. Blyth was drinking secretly more than was good for him, and Mrs. Blyth asked me to speak to her husband

about

about it and see that he could get no more.

Acting on Mrs. Blyth's request I immediately took steps to prevent him from obtaining any whisky, and after dinner that evening I expostulated with him very emphatically for indulging in this manner, telling him in forcible language that it was not fair either to Mrs. Blyth or to me, and pointing out to him that only the day before, when he was charged by an elephant, his nerves were so shattered owing to this habit, that he was not able to aim his rifle or pull the trigger when the huge brute was almost on top of him.

Mr. Blyth denied at first that he was drinking secretly, but when I pointed out the clear proofs I had of it, he admitted his fault, said he was sorry, promised to abstain and shook hands with me.

In expostulating with Mr. Blyth, I no doubt raised my voice considerably above the ordinary and hence arose the rumour of a "quarrel about an elephant."

The Magistrate then goes on to state,

"In view of the evidence of the whole Safari, it is very difficult to understand why Colonel Patterson insisted in going on to Marsabit instead of turning back at once"

This is a most extraordinary statement to make.

I quite fail to see what is difficult to understand in my conduct in continuing my march to Marsabit instead of turning back at once. Why should I turn back at once? Apparently, according to the Magistrate, because the porters wanted to do so!

The words he uses are, "the evidence of the whole safari."

As, however, my instructions were to reduce the area of the Reserve and find a natural eastern boundary to it, I had of course, no intention of returning until my work was completed,

completed, and this could not be done until I had reached Marsabit, which was only some 35 miles away.

It is certainly not my view that I would be serving the interests of the Government by turning back before my duty was accomplished for any private reasons whatsoever. Moreover, had I shown any weakness at this time and given in to the mutineers, it is difficult to estimate what the consequences might have been.

I certainly would never allow any men under my orders to dictate where I was to go, or what I was to do.

One of the most extraordinary things of all these extraordinary proceedings, is that this Magistrate seems to think I ought to have taken my cook and my gunbearers, askaris, porters etc. into my confidence, and asked their advice as to what I should do and when and how I should do it!

He goes on to surmise that, "It could not have been to get camels, as the camels got at Marsabit were left behind at Lersasia on the way back," which by the way is not true.

A few camels were left at Nessdee, but the majority came on with me to Laishamunye at the Guaso Nyiro.

The Magistrate next says.

"His statement that he returned as soon as possible is flatly contradicted by the whole safari, and apparently they did not turn back until their Samburu guide led them astray."

Where do I make this statement? As a matter of fact however, I did return as soon as my work was accomplished, and as quickly as my health would allow.

The Samburu guide never led us astray and there is absolutely no truth in this statement of his. I went as far as I considered it necessary to go and then returned.

I quite agree with the Magistrate's statement that,

"the case is a painful one and the circumstances extraordinary but from quite a different standpoint.

What I consider painful is the view the authorities have taken of the whole matter and the extraordinary manner in which they have conducted the case throughout.

I protest in the strongest possible way against the manner in which the enquiry was conducted in my absence, especially that portion of it which was conducted at Mombasa, where highly suggestive questions were put to native witnesses in a manner prompting them to make statements damaging to the reputation of myself and Mrs. Blyth, some time after it had been clearly proved in the Magistrate's Court at Nairobi by some 8 or 10 witnesses that Audley Blyth died by his own hand, and that the conduct of Mrs. Blyth and myself was in no way responsible for it.

It is incomprehensible to me how any one possessing discrimination and insight into native character, could for a moment have given any credence to the malicious lies told by a couple of black boys at Mombasa. Yet the Magistrate at Nairobi seems to have been influenced in his finding by the very evident perjury of these witnesses.

I will now go into the evidence of the various witnesses more in detail.

1st Witness (1st Enquiry)

About my own evidence of course I need say nothing, except that it is a clear and true account of what actually took place.

End Witness (1st Enquiry)

It will be noticed that the Headman (Nwenyai bin Divani) overheard me telling Mr. Blyth that he must not go shooting, that is to say in the Reserve.

3rd Witness (1st Enquiry)

With reference to what Mrs. Blyth states about having to go to Marsabit to get camels to come back, I remember giving her this as one of my reasons for going on, as of course she too wished to return to Nairobi after the tragedy.

1st Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Hamis Munyagwazi.

This man states that I had Mr. Blyth's papers and clothes burned.

There were no papers to burn beyond some old newspapers which lined his box, and I had the clothes burned as they were no longer useful and would only be a burden to carry in the wilderness, and I did not want any of the boys to get hold of any garments and wear them before Mrs. Blyth, thereby causing her pain.

As a matter of fact the boy Idi took a coat belonging to Mr. Blyth immediately after his death and put it on. I took it away from him and had it burnt.

It will be seen from his evidence that this has rankled in his mind ever since.

2nd Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Abdi Hassan.

This witness says, "We saw Mrs. Blyth run out of the tent." This is impossible, as I have before explained.

The supposed quarrel mentioned has also been explained.

3rd Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Kas Kheri bin Muftah.

This witness also could not possibly have seen where Mrs. Blyth was.

4th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Ambian bin Yusuf.

No comments needed, except that this witness

says that he saw the revolver firmly grasped in Mr. Blyth's hand.

5th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Asmani bin Kombo.

He says, "in the morning safari was going to shoot." This is not accurate as I have already explained.

What he states about Idi however, bears out my statement and shows that I was up and about.

He also states, "I went to the river." If this is accurate it was quite impossible for him to see from there where Mrs. Blyth was when the shot was fired.

The excuse he makes for taking away all the weapons is, of course, made in case I should bring a charge against him of having mutined on safari.

I was much too ill and weak when I returned to Nairobi to take any steps to have the mutineers punished.

6th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Saiba Lambelo Masai.

This is the only witness who shows any attempt at truth about the shooting of the elephant as he evidently saw me shoot it twice when it charged Mr. Blyth.

This witness was close beside me the night I sat up with Mr. Blyth and he states the truth regarding this matter. "Colonel Patterson sat up with Mr. Blyth."

With reference to his statement about the burial, I need hardly say I had Mr. Blyth buried quite decently and had his grave surrounded and covered with heavy stones.

He bears out my statement that no papers were burned.

7th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Karege wa Lenuwasai.

I may mention that I picked up this man on the way, long after we had struck the Guaso Nyiro. I thought he



might be useful. He was not a guide however, as my proper guides had been supplied to me by Mr. Collyer at Rumuruti. This man had been boy to the late Mr. Newmann, and Mr. Collyer at Rumuruti asked me to try and get hold of him and bring him down with me as he was a thorough rascal and wanted for several things.

I found him a great liar and most unreliable.

With reference to what he states about cattle, I bought nine at Meru on behalf of Mrs. Blyth, and paid for them with Mrs. Blyth's goods, for food for the journey for her safari, in case of necessity. The usual food supplies however were forthcoming and there was therefore no need to issue the cattle. On reaching Embu and finding that cattle were not allowed to be moved through the district, I requested Mr. Horne, the D.C. to have them sold on behalf of Mrs. Blyth, which was done. The amount realized was £11, 18, 8, which I handed over to Mrs. Blyth.

Of course what this witness states about my inducing Mr. Blyth to go on, is an absolute lie. I did my utmost to persuade Mr. Blyth to return as did also Mrs. Blyth, but he insisted on coming on. This witness is entirely unable to understand conversation in English and how he can be represented as saying "Colonel Patterson induced him to go on a little," is therefore incomprehensible.

His statement about why we had to turn back, is of course, also a lie.

8th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Abudi wa Laisho.

This Masai was close to me on the night of the 20th and he of course knew, and states, that I sat up with Mr. Blyth.

He could not have seen Mrs. Blyth run out of the tent for this was not possible from the position he was in.

What

435

What he states about the camels being all left at Lersamis on our return, is inaccurate as I have before pointed out, and there was not plenty of water from Lersamis back.

9th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Motal bin Suleman.

No comments needed, except that this man apparently noticed that I was not well at Fort Hall.

10th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Athuru bin Kombo.

This witness states that my tent was small (two loads) and the other large (five loads). There was practically no difference in the actual size of the tents, but, Mr. Blyth's was heavier, being lined and with a larger awning. It however, was not five loads as stated by the witness, but only three loads.

I may point out that this man gets near the truth about the camels where he states that they were taken as far as the Guaso Nyiro, but he is wrong in stating that those we got at Marsabit were left at Lersamis.

11th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Ebrahim bin Ali. (called twice)

I must state that this boy was thorough young scoundrel whom I had repeatedly to chastise for being dirty, lazy, and an unmitigated liar.

The whole of his evidence is so contradictory and malicious and absolutely untrue (practically) throughout, that it is a mere waste of time to deny item by item what he states. This had already been done by me, and the evidence of the other witnesses flatly contradicts him in every material (malicious) point.

At Nairobi this man came to me for a character.

I wrote him out one, stating exactly what he was, namely a liar and a lazy worthless rascal. He went and got this read by someone who understood English and when he found out what was in it, he came back and put it beside me saying, "Thank you, master," and cleared out quickly. He then went to Mrs. Blyth and told her that I had sent him to her to give him a reference. I do not know what reference she gave him, but I do not think even her kind heart could let her say much in his favour.

This man says that he saw me in Mombasa, but did not speak to me. He knew much better than to come near me owing to the fraudulent way he had obtained the chit from Mrs. Blyth.

His statement that I slept in the same tent with Mrs. Blyth the night that Mr. Blyth shot himself, is flatly contradicted by the evidence of Saiba Laibale Masai, and Abudi wa Laisho, who were both with me or close by throughout the night.

I cannot understand what he means by saying that we avoided bomas on the way back.

At all events he is lying as there were only two bomas which I could possibly have called at on the way to Nairobi, as will be seen by the map, and we visited both.

One of these was Embo where I stayed all night with the District Commissioner and told him about the tragedy, and the other was Fort Hall where I went and had an interview with Mr. Lane, the Provincial Commissioner and told him also about it.

While at Fort Hall I consulted Dr. Lindsay, the M.O. in charge about my Dysentery, for which he treated me.

I also sent telegrams about the tragedy to the Lt. Governor from this place, and cabled to England.

He also states that we took six days to reach

Marasbit

Marsabit from Lersamis, whereas it only took three.

12th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Idi bin Ali. (called twice)

The remarks which I have made with regard to the unreliability and maliciousness of the evidence given by Ebrahim, applies also to that given by this boy, which is untruthful and contradictory on many points.

It will be noticed that when he was recalled on the 10th June, he entirely contradicts what he said on the 4th June regarding taking tea to Mr. Blyth, and my whereabouts on that morning.

He also of course is inaccurate about the time it took us to reach Marsabit from Lersamis.

I may mention however, that I was warned by Captain Riddell, M.V.O. of Nairobi, to be very careful of this boy, as he considered him to be one of the biggest liars, scoundrels and drunkards in the country.

In consequence of this warning I kept a close watch on him and he behaved well enough on the journey to justify my giving him the very guarded hint which I did on leaving.

13th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Chadi bin Abdullah.

The evidence given by this man is not very material and calls for little comment, except to say that he is generally inaccurate, especially that part of it which relates to the elephant.

The only real fact he mentions is about his own running away, which he promptly did when the elephant charged, and I did not see him again for over an hour.

14th Witness (2nd Enquiry)

Paul, Christian.

This man apparently tries to give honest evidence, but he is inaccurate in his statements about where Idi slept and where I slept. (Of course I did not go to bed at all that night

night.)

It will be seen that he also contradicts the witness Ebrahim bin Ali.

One would think that the Court imagined that I usually took my cook into my confidence as to where I was to go, and by what road!

Of course the man could not tell anything about this, and could only surmise; he is of course wrong when he states that we avoided the bomas coming back. We did nothing of the kind, but if I could have saved a few miles in my journey to Nairobi by omitting to call at one of these bomas, I should not have hesitated to do so.

And now to sum up the proceedings and evidence.

1st. The evidence given by the natives is only such as can be expected from them, viz: misstatements, contradictions, and from some flat perjury.

2nd. The questions asked by the Court were most objectionable and uncalled for.

3rd. The Magistrate appears to have assumed that the conduct of Mrs. Blyth and myself after the tragedy "required a good deal of explanation" and he moreover states as a fact that, "There was a quarrel about a week before."

These assumptions are unwarrantable in a person acting in a judicial capacity, especially in the absence of the persons chiefly affected.

A very grievous wrong has been done to Mrs. Blyth and myself, and I call upon your Lordship to take such action as will put matters right,

To give your Lordship some idea of the extent of the injury I have suffered, I may state that the slander is now being circulated that I shot Audley Blyth and tried to run off with his wife!

Some of these stories tally so well with

the perjured evidence given at the second enquiry, that I have grave suspicions that the proceedings of this highly objectionable enquiry have already been given out by officials.

I can hardly credit that such a line of action could possibly be taken and I would ask your Lordship to enquire if such a thing has been done.

The wrong to Mrs. Blyth and myself by any such proceeding before I had had an opportunity of replying to the malicious statements of some of the witnesses would be inestimable, more especially if these proceedings got into the hands of enemies.

I would ask your Lordship very respectfully why I have not received these proceedings earlier - proceedings which closed in East Africa on the 20th June and should have reached the Colonial Office not later than July 26th - Surely it is evident that it was all important that my observations and reply to these proceedings should have been obtained at the earliest possible moment. Yet 8½ months were allowed to elapse before I was told a word about it.

I have the utmost confidence now that it is clearly proved that a grievous wrong has been done, that your Lordship will lose no time in taking such vigorous and exceptional action as will put a stop once for all to these malicious and atrocious lies, and put matters right in the eyes of the public.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

J. H. Patterson

Mr. Ambrose

See extract from letter of Lord Curzon 440  
We must send Patterson apology on  
his former position as to the former  
we should have his particular attention  
this point raised by the Secy. of S. in the  
Colonial Office, S.W.

addition is made to  
have in precise terms  
what instructions were given to  
Patterson when he left on the trip.

24th September, 1908.

Yls 25.9

My dear Hopwood,

+++

+++

+++

I have read Colonel Patterson's reply care-  
fully. There are good points in it, and some weak ones.  
On the general question Sir James Hannan used to say that  
as people were rarely caught in flagrant delict a jury  
must give a verdict if they made up their minds (a) that  
both parties had a strong inclination, and (b) a full  
opportunity for indulging it. In this case there is no  
question as to (b). As to (a) I do not know what the  
evidence is.

As regards particular points (1) whose was the  
safari, and how was it got together? What was the nature  
of the permission given by Jackson for the Blythe to  
accompany Patterson on an official tour? (2) Patterson  
writes throughout as if he were a timid and helpless  
person among these not very formidable natives, except  
when it suits his argument to say how impossible it was  
to give way to them. He gives me the impression of try-  
ing to exaggerate for our benefit the dangers of the  
situation. The statement that he was too ill to have  
the mutineers punished when he got to Naarabi is simply  
incredible. An average curate would have had enough  
spirit for this. (3) There is no satisfactory explana-  
tion of the determination to proceed. If it is proper  
to

to take guests on such an expedition, it would be proper to bring a woman back after such a tragedy. (4) It may have been foolish of Lord Blyth to furnish his son with funds for such an expedition, but how about Mrs Blyth? She must have known of his health and his habits, and why did she take him? (5) Why did all the natives combine to tell <sup>his</sup> him about these people? (6) the single tent is not accounted for satisfactorily.

All this does not alter the fact that if the Brunner and Blyth families combine to support Patterson and his story, it may be difficult to take action. The only thing at present is to have Sadler's observations on the apologia, he making such private enquiry as he can into the truth of statements for which material exists for proving their truth or falsehood from official sources.

Yours sincerely,

Crewe.



Colonial Office,

Whitehall Street, S.W.

Mr. J. Hopwood

Colonel Patterson should now be informed that he must proceed to British East Africa. I am not entirely clear, however, as to the conditions under which he should go back: should he still be treated as suspended, and if so, what action on his part can terminate this temporary condition?

It is however, in any case desirable that he should be on the spot, when the opposite regarding his reply is sent to us so that he may state his own case there.

— 29 —

Said by tele.

"matter concerning"

is your letter

(H.E.)

14/9

13<sup>th</sup> Sept 1908

LONG THONG,  
CLOFTON,  
THRAPSTON

Dear Sir,

I wrote on Sunday (11<sup>th</sup>) to

Mr Francis Woodward asking for an interview

You were good enough to offer me an  
interview at Woodbury, saying that Mr Francis  
was out of town, and I was glad to accept the  
offer.

My immediate object is to secure that  
Col. Patterson's reply to the Report of the  
Joint Commission shall not be sent out to  
the press until I have seen Mr Francis.

I beg of you to arrange that for me.  
It is a matter of great importance to me,  
as well as to Col. Patterson.

TELEGRAMS - FITCH WASHBURN  
THRAPSTON - 8 MILES  
LARKS & WILSON  
THRAPSTON - 25 MILES  
CLOFTON

9  
May I ask it of your courtesy to  
telegraph to me in the morning to B. P.  
Longthorpe Fitzhugh?

I am in great anxiety.

My action and Lord Blythe's action in  
allowing poor Shelley Blythe to go on this  
expedition in his sad condition has brought  
great and pitiful undervalued trouble upon  
an innocent man.

Yours faithfully

John Blythe

H. Dale

34211

C.T.

1428 copy

East Africa Protectorate.

Handwritten initials

**DRAFT**  
**EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE**

Downing Street, —  
October, 1908.

Governor

Sir J. Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., G.B.

MINUTE

Mr. Harrington, Sir,

Adm.

Mr. Just

Mr. Andrews

Mr. Cox

Sir C. Lucas

X Sir F. Hopwood

X Col. Seely

X The Earl of Grey

Referring to your Confidential despatches of the 27th of June and the 22nd of July, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement by Colonel J. H. Patterson, relative to the allegations on the evidence & those facts the circumstances connected with the death of the Honorable A. Blyth in the East Africa Protectorate.

2. Before I can express any further opinion upon this unfortunate occurrence, I desire to be furnished with your own observations upon Colonel Patterson's statement.

15 Sep  
clearly copied

for review

2/1 (D.P. equivalent)

3. I am dealing in another despatch of even date with the question of Colonel Patterson's accounts; <sup>but</sup> regard to this ~~matter~~ <sup>personal</sup> matter, I desire to learn:-

(a) whose was the Safari, and how was it got ~~back~~ <sup>up</sup>, and what was the precise nature of the permission given by the Lieutenant Governor for ~~Mr~~ <sup>Mr & Mrs</sup> Blyth to accompany Colonel Patterson on an official tour.

(b) how far can you find a satisfactory explanation of Colonel Patterson's determination to proceed to Marsabit after Mr. Blyth's death, and how far is there in your opinion ground for <sup>his</sup> statement that <sup>his</sup> ~~Colonel~~ ~~Patterson~~ <sup>was</sup> too ill when he arrived at Nairobi to require the punishment of the mutineers ~~in his party~~.

4. I should like further to learn whether you can discover any motive which <sup>simplest</sup> ~~could~~ <sup>has</sup> induced the natives to combine, according to Colonel Patterson's suggestion, to tell a

series

series of lies about his relations with Mr and Mrs Blyth.

5. Generally speaking I desire that you should make such <sup>confidential</sup> ~~private~~ enquiry as you can to prove the truth of the statements which are in Colonel Patterson's letter, and I cannot too strongly impress upon you that it is desirable to do this with much judgment and tact, endeavouring to prove their truth or falsehood from official sources without unduly encouraging gossip or talk.

~~There~~, etc.,

*Handwritten notes:*  
We have not sufficiently  
enquired in the simple  
past future  
type

*Handwritten notes:*  
I am assuming Col  
Patterson's statement  
is correct & must be taken  
at the end of the report  
the medical officers  
report his health requires  
will be requested to  
do no more further  
investigation in this  
direction.

~~I shall have to enquire  
into the statement  
of the Protector  
made that he  
was in the spot where you  
are making your enquiries and  
have every opportunity of stating his  
case to you. But the report of  
the Medical Officer that his Dept  
makes it very difficult whether I can  
fairly insist on this course.~~

C D  
22

P  
34211

~~CAF~~

446

East Africa Protectorate.

DRAFT

12.10.1908

JW

Colonel Patterson.

Downing Street,

6 October, 1908.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harris Sir,

Mr. *John*

Mr. Just.

Mr. Antrobus.

Mr. Cox.

Sir C. Lucas.

\* Sir F. Hopwood  
20.9

\* Col. Saely (Army)

\* The Earl of Crews.  
C.L.X

I am directed by the Earl of Crews

to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st of August, replying to the allegations made as to certain irregularities in your accounts during your journey last Spring to the Northern Game Reserves of the East Africa Protectorate. I am also to acknowledge the receipt of the cheque enclosed in that letter.

2. I am at the same time to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th of

September

September, furnishing your reply to the allegations which have been made in connection with the circumstances surrounding the death of the Honorable A. Blyth in the Protectorate.

3. You will remember that on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May last you were granted leave by the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate on a ~~sick~~ report by the Medical Board, but the amount of such leave was left <sup>to</sup> the hands of the Secretary of State. On your arrival in England you were sent for examination by the Medical Adviser to this Department, but owing to the other circumstances which ~~intervened~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~issued~~ <sup>issued</sup> as to the length of your leave.

4. The Secretary of State is willing that you should now have the full benefit of the 6 months leave which was recommended by the Medical Officers in the Protectorate, but

he desires that you shall be in the Protectorate punctually when your leave is up on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, and you will be good enough to make arrangements accordingly.

5. The Governor of the Protectorate to whom your replies on both the financial and the other questions are being transmitted, has been instructed to hold back his rejoinder on both subjects until you are present in the Protectorate, so that you may have full opportunity of stating your case or making any further explanations before he reports to me fully upon the subject.

6. Lord Crowe desires me to add that although your service in the Protectorate has been very brief, your sick leave under ordinary circumstances would have been on half pay, pending, however, the final judgment upon the financial questions which have arisen over your journey in the Protectorate, His

Lordship

Lordship has not seen fit to issue any instructions for the payment of your salary during your leave.

I am, etc.,

F. J. S. M.