

DESPATCH.

EXST APR. 1901

4560

C.O.
4560

REC'D
8 FEB 1905

Governor. No.
Date 18

1909

12 Jan 2

Abyssinian Raid
on districts S.E. of Lake Rudolf

Set Previous Paper.

36044
9
16

In copies of letters re considers this a similar
raid in the past into Turkana country indicative of
change of policy on part of Abyssinian Govt that Govt
is disposed to take advantage of our weakness of control in
the frontier districts. Urges establishment of a station at Marsabit

W. Antrobus

See minute on $\frac{Jw}{4745}$

H. J. R.

18/2

Att. Feb 19

Feb 19.2

18/2

5845
Cavalry 27th

Subsequent Paper

4745

C.O.
4580

RECORDED
8 FEB 09

Governor's Office,

Nairobi,

12th January 1909.

116

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 12

(Encl. 3)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of letters from the Provincial Commissioner Naivasha and District Commissioner Rumuruti giving particulars of a raid by Abyssinians on districts lying to the South East of Lake Rudolf.

2. A raid of a similar nature into Turkhana country was reported in August last and the two occurrences taken together are, I consider, a striking indication of the recent change of policy on the part of the Abyssinian Government as noted by Mr Zaphiro in his latest letter a copy of which is enclosed herewith for Your Lordship's information.

3. The Emperor Menelik and his advisers are evidently well aware of the weakness of our control in the frontier districts and disposed to take advantage of the situation.

Naivasha
with

Encl. in do.

Mr Zaphiro
extract

H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES.

DOWNING STREET,

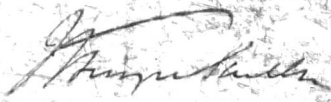
LONDON.

S. W.

4. In the circumstances I would venture to urge strongly the desirability of establishing the Station at Marsabit at an early date in order to counteract this tendency on the part of the Abyssinian authorities. I am apprehensive that otherwise we shall find, when we do assert our influence in the territories lying to the South of the boundary line, that we are taking over an impoverished country with a destitute population.

5. The extended operations of the Horns Trading Company, too, constitute in my opinion a further argument in favour of strengthening our position on the frontier.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant.



INCLOSURE 2

No. 18 of Jan. 12, 1909.

Copy.

C. O.
4560
REC'D
8 FEB 09

Provincial Commissioner's Office,
Naiwaasha.

December 28th 1908.

118

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of
a letter received from the District Commissioner,
Rumuruti, respecting a reported raid by Abyssinians in
the Rendile country.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Sd/- J.W.T. McClellan.

For Provincial Commissioner.

INCLOSURE //

In Despatch No. 11 of Jan 12 1909.

C. C.

4560

Recd

8 FEB 09

No. 65/08.

District Commissioner's Office,

Rumuruti,

December 21st, 1908.

119

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Ole Lelit, Samburu Chief, yesterday reported that the Abyssinians raided two Rendile villages about a month ago at Mount Kuloi, taking the goats and sheep but leaving the camels, also killing one man and wounding another.

Kuloi is, I think, situated to the North of the General Mathew Range and is not far East from the S.E. corner of Lake Rudolf.

A number of the sheep raided belonged to Lebarsaip, brother of Ole Lelit.

Mr MARRO, an old Rendile man was the owner of one of the Kraals raided.

Ole Lelit was certain that this raid was quite distinct from that, about which I find there was some correspondence in August.

I have told Ole Lelit to make every endeavour to send in to this Station one or more of the men who were in the Rendile village at the time of the raid.

If these come in I will send them to you, as it is possible that you may wish to question them.

I have etc. etc.

Sd/- A.J.M. Collyer.

District Commissioner.

INCLOSURE II

In Despatch No. 11 of Jan. 10, 1909.

C. O.
4560

Extract from Mr Zaphiro's report dated 8.10.08

120

The Abyssinians have lately changed their policy concerning the Frontier, being aware that I have no more than twenty to thirty soldiers to patrol a populous country, and a line of four hundred miles long, they take no notice of me, and are crossing the line by hundreds, destroying the elephants and oppressing the natives on our side. These, seeing that their complaints are disregarded commence to lose confidence, many of them crossing the line so as to avoid the Abyssinian hunters.

A raid was made lately by Fitarauri Ismani's soldiers (Governor of Tchencha, north of Gardula who is under Fitarauri Hapta Giorgis) on the west side of Rudolf (British soil). This raid was accompanied by a European; it is reported they killed many natives and took numberless cattle and donkeys.

You will see that all the officers and principal hunters who have had trouble with me have been promoted and those who befriended me were dismissed, e.g. Basha Woldi Gabriel. The hunters Desta, Zerafu and seven others who continually went to the south of the line to kill elephants have been promoted by the Emperor himself.

Lately the principal hunter Desta arrived here with thirty soldiers, he was supposed to have a letter from the Emperor to kill elephants on the north of the line. I had news of his arrival and watched him carefully; he killed eleven elephants near the line, but was not satisfied, and crossed the line at Toraba where he killed seven elephants. I got hold of one of his soldiers with his rifle, and I also confiscated his flour,

10/10/08

Berberi etc which I found on a tree south of the line.

It was also reported that the Italian Officer at Lugh, (probably Mr. Bernocchi) had been sending letters to the natives on our side to cross the Ganalle River, saying that the Abyssinians would not raid them in future, and that if they did not come he had orders from the Emperor to raid them. (Native reports).

From Muggad to Tuka and all over the Golbo there are over one thousand Abyssinian hunters who call themselves Tigreans killing indiscriminately all kinds of elephants and obliging the natives by force to give them food. They killed ^{over} one hundred and fifty elephants lately.

September 19th. Over two hundred hunters crossed the line at Waye Golbo, destroying a great number of elephants they very nearly killed a Boran who told them not to shoot elephants in Golbo.

September 22nd. All over the Rendille country there are reported to be hundreds of Abyssinians destroying elephants.