

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.
11314

C. O.
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... of Individual.

1909

S. Abyssinian Boundary Commission

Previous Paper.

Sends deep. f. Adis Ababa enclosing map for map. resp. certain changes he has found it necessary make in the boundary line marked on map attached to S. Frontier treaty. Suggests advisability of supporting line marked out by way of survey & representation to Abyssinian Govt. on lines indicated.

Mr. Ventrolon. The proposed arrangement is an equitable + workable one, & we must try to get it accepted.

ack: & say that Lord Cromer concurs in the suggested instructions to H. M.'s Charge & affairs at Adis Ababa - & return the sketch retaining 2 copies - one for the Office - one for the Secy of the E.A.P. - & send copy of the same by air to the Secy of the E.A.P. 17/3

H. J. R.

7/IV

Secy E.A.P. Wood

do proceed

W. B. C.

John P. H.

Subsequent Paper

11315

W. G. H.

all copy comes for Conf 19 April

C. O.
11314
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APR 2 1909

FOREIGN OFFICE

April / , 1909.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 10661/09.

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

Sir:

With reference to my letter of the 3rd ultimo respecting the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia Boundary Commission, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Adis Ababa enclosing a despatch from Major Gwynn respecting certain changes he has found it necessary to make, in the course of the delimitation, in the boundary line marked on the map attached to the Southern Frontier Treaty.

Sir E. Grey is of opinion that when the time arrives to discuss with the Abyssinian Government the results of the delimitation, it will be advisable to support the line marked out by Major Gwynn.

It

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

70/796

A. H. Harvey
13. Feb 27
(original for return)

(10661/09)

It could be pointed out, in justification of the changes introduced by that Officer, that it was always understood that the line was to be delimited so as to be workable in practice, and to judge from the map, the area conceded to Abyssinia is larger than that taken by Great Britain.

Moreover it is to be hoped that the alterations made in the line will now render it unnecessary to insist upon sites for British frontier posts within Abyssinian territory, which would otherwise have been the case.

Another point in favour of Major Gwynn's line is that it is practically identical with the one already accepted locally by the Abyssinians when Mr. Zaphin was on the frontier.

If the Abyssinian Government complain of Major Gwynn's action, they might be informed that they should have sent their Commissioners with that Officer in order to settle the details of the line on the spot, and that it was their failure to do so which necessi-

tated

(10661/09)

necessitated his making these alterations in the Treaty line by himself.

I am to suggest that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Adis Ababa should be instructed to make representations to the Abyssinian Government on the above lines, in the event of their raising the question.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

W. Langley

(10661/09)

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W. Langley

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C. O.
11314
RECO.
REC'D 2 APR 09

BRITISH LEGATION,
ADIS ABABA.

27th February, 1909.

148

Sir:-

I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch just received from Major Gwynn at Moyale. From this it appears that no chiefs of any importance had been sent to meet or assist him, notwithstanding the orders of the Emperor and the repeated assurances of Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis.

I informed the latter a few days ago that according to my information the orders he had given to his subordinate at Gardula, Fitaurari Woldi, to send people to meet the Commission, had not been obeyed, and he then replied that as they had decided to send Mr. Schubert (vide my despatch No. 6 of the 30th ultimo) to the frontier as their Commissioner, the original instructions had been countermanded, and these men would now accompany their own Commissioner instead of Major Gwynn.

Mr. Schubert, Lieutenant of the 12th Regiment of

Artillery

Edward Gray, Bart., M.P.

&c., &c., &c.

Artillery at Dresden (Reserve), recently came to see me, and informed me that he had been delayed through the non-arrival of the surveying instruments he had asked for, and latterly, through difficulties about the supply of mules and camp equipment; he expects his arrangements to be complete in a few days' time, when he will start for the frontier, working from East to West.

Major Gwynn's report shows that the line as marked on the Treaty map has been very materially departed from, and I am afraid that whatever the Emperor's original intention may have been with regard to the British Commissioner's delimitation, he is now almost certain to raise difficulties over the alterations made. With this point in view I have telegraphed for permission to persuade, if possible, Mr. Schubert of the necessity for the deviations introduced and of the eventual benefit accruing by the concessions made on either side.

With regard to the situation of Fort Harrington, Mr. Zaphiro's Head Quarters, which is now found to be in Abyssinian territory, I think it probable that the Emperor will make no serious objection to the line

being

being moved sufficiently northwards to include it in British East Africa, as he is aware that Mr. Zaphiro has lived there for some time, and that it has always been considered as British.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) Herbert Hervey.

Anglo-Abyssinian Boundary Commission.

MOYALE,

27th January, 1909.

Sir:-

I have the honour to inform you that I have received your private communication that no Abyssinian representatives had been detailed by the Emperor up to December 19th. On January 14th I received a letter from Fitaurari Waldi in charge at Gardula in reply to my letter of December 11th, also informing me that he had no instructions and that no commissioners have arrived. I have been unable to get into touch with any of the Abyssinian Frontier Officers though I have again sent to Fitaurari Waldi and asked him to meet me in the neighbourhood of Lake Stephanie in order to explain to him personally the Frontier as demarcated.

I enclose a copy of Captain Maud's map on which I have marked approximately the Boundary as demarcated.

This shows that the wells of Chillako and a large bit of territory in the neighbourhood has been conceded

to

Britannic Majesty's Minister,
Abyssinia.

to Abyssinia and on the other hand the Kuffoli corner has been cut off and Guddaduma has been placed in British territory. There are also minor deflections of the frontier Northwards West of G. Roka in order to include certain wells at the foot of the Escarp in British territory.

I am afraid these deflections will not prove acceptable to the Emperor and I have been very unwilling to make them as they may appear to be a departure from the Treaty.

On the other hand I found that at all a literal acceptance of the treaty line would have given us a frontier absolutely impossible to patrol or watch and if it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to occupy up to the frontier subsequent modifications would have to be made or permission obtained for passage of armed parties through Abyssinian territory. From Hclali near Moyale to Jarra under the treaty line there is no water within a long distance of the frontier during the dry season. Nor is there any regular East and West route while the Kuffoli corner would always entail a detour. I have also found that Captain

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Maud was misinformed as to the number of inhabitants in the Golbo and their ordinary habitat. During the dry season a considerable population collects near the foot of the escarp and depend entirely on the wells there for their water supply. The majority of these wells are practically on the plain level and physically belong to the Golbo. Goddaduma situated where the escarp ends and the upper and lower plains commence to run together is in rather a different category. It is however much more used by the people of the Golbo than by the people of the highlands. In the dry season great numbers of the Golbo inhabitants and the Garre assemble and outnumber the permanent inhabitants who are Boran. These wells therefore are of vital necessity to many of the inhabitants on the British side while only a few who under the treaty would be Abyssinian subjects are affected. They found also a most important strategic point on the frontier and its use would be essential to any movement of troops along the frontier in the dry season.

All Abdi chief of the Garre willingly agreed the sacrifice of Chillako and the surrounding country

as well as to waive his claim to the Gullgullo and Horruffi districts provided Gaddaduma was secured to British territory.

With exception of the concession I have made in respect of El Chillako the frontier demarcated represents very nearly the line which the Abyssinians have accepted in practice since Mr. Zaphiro has been in the country although the Abyssinians have never relinquished their claim to Gaddaduma.

I hope therefore the Emperor may be induced to accept my settlement. At the same time I realise that I may have acted beyond my powers and should the Emperor object it would seem better to throw over my work and leave matters as they were before rather than to deliberately accept an unworkable line. I may remind you that the French Government claimed and received a very large concession in Northern Nigeria on the ground that the line laid down in the Niger convention made it impossible for them to communicate between their Niger territory and Lake Chad territory.

2. I regret to report that on arrival at Moyale I found that the site selected by Mr. Zaphiro lay North

of the red line shown on the treaty map. Mr. Zaphiro made a genuine and I think an excusable mistake as the spur shown on Captain Maud's map as Churre Moyale has at least two principal names "Topeisa" for all the southern portion of the spur and "Kilta" for the highest portion. Churre Moyale is the name of an area covering several wooded spurs to the North East of Kilta and it is here that Mr. Zaphiro has established himself.

The spur shown on Captain Maud's map as Churre Moyale, and as such an unmistakable feature, is not at all so easy to recognise on the ground owing to the maze of under features which Captain Maud's map is on too small a scale to show. There is a slight further confusion owing to the whole of the spur being shown about 2.m. too far South with reference to G. Roka and G. Burroli.

I decided that it was better to place beacons so as to include Fort Harrington in British territory moving the frontier a little North of the summit of Kilta. There is no territory of any value to Abyssinia affected whereas it might be difficult to obtain as

good a site for Mr. Zaphiro's Head Quarters, all the labour expended on the construction of Fort Harrington would be wasted and the native mind would be disturbed by further change. I have no doubt that the Emperor will raise no objection on this point if the origin of the mistake is explained.

I have advised Mr. Zaphiro meanwhile to suspend further building operations during his absence with the commission.

3. I have the honour to report that while I was in the Gurre country various parties of Abyssinian soldiers crossed the line and killed elephants and looted some camels and sheep. I captured one party of six with rifles. They stated they had run away from a large party of Dejaz Tafari's men who were in Gullgullo under Balambaras Chafer. They stated that the whole party had previously been at El Mole killing elephants. I brought these men as prisoners to Moyale and destroyed their rifles and discharged them.

After reaching Jarra I heard that one party of Basha Walda Gabriels men (of Arero) under a man called Chakwalla had come into British territory at Hara Dowa

due East of El Mole Looting and beating natives also hunting elephants.

I also heard there was a party at El Mole. As I thought these men might be in connection with the Commissioners I sent two messengers to them with a letter. They proved to be a party of Dejaz Tafari's men also elephant hunting but they gave false names and ran away as soon as my messengers left. Before I arrived at Jarra there was also a party of Basha Walda Gabriel's men there elephant hunting.

All these parties belonged to Abyssinian Officers and have nothing to do with "Tigrean" hunters.

It would appear that unless the Emperor issues very stringent orders the frontier will be ignored and parties will cross it as soon as Mr. Zaphiro and I are known to have moved on.

4. Mahomed Hassan has returned from the Merchan country and failed to induce the tribes to give up their rifles. He was able to recover a herd of over one hundred camels recently looted by some Galti and has obtained much useful information. He reports that there are many more rifles in the country than the

tribes

tribes admitted having when I was at Hara Farah and thinks there must be at least one thousand, also that new rifles are constantly coming in. Also that there is a great deal of communication going on with the Mullah. The tribes however agree to keep the peace till the Government come and the deserted districts along the Dawa are reoccupied and the road reopened. This cannot be expected to last many months.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

C. W. Gwynn. Major.

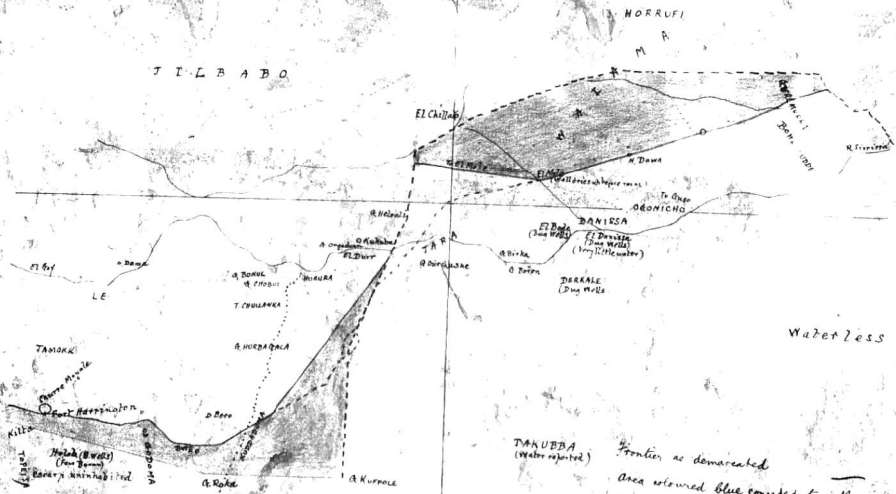
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I have,

C. W. Gwynn, Major.

(Signed)

Very truly yours,
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,
 [Signature]



Frontier as demarcated
 Area coloured blue conceded to Abyssinia
 Area coloured pink conceded to B.E.A.
 Frontier Road
 Approx area of Shere Woyale
 The wells of Buda and Subona west of S. Raha are important.
 Most of the detached hills in folios have wells
 almost in every case during the rainy season

to
11314 Ea.P
9

14

19 April

Sir

DRAFT.

The P.S. of S.
Foreign Office

MINUTE.

- Mr. Hatcher *refc*
- Mr. Read 14
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- The Earl of Crewe.

I am p. to ^{ack. the} ~~be advised~~
 recd. of your letter of the
 18th inst. no. 10661/09 transmitting
 a copy of a despatch & its enclosure
 recd from M. Ch. d'Affaires
 at Addis Ababa respecting certain
 changes which Maj. Juyuen has
 found it necessary to make
 in conn. with the delimitation
 of the Southern frontier of
 Abyssinia, and ~~in reply~~
~~to~~ to request you to inform
 Sir Evelyn that his Lordship
 concurs in the instructions
 which it is proposed to ^{propose the suggested}
~~be~~ issued to ^(Herbert) Sir H. Hervey in
 the matter.
 The map enclosed in your letter is
 returned herewith.

make
two copies to be made