

armed, and equipped, and taught the use of their rifles.

14. They were marched inland by me on the 28th November, and the regular detachments at Adadleh and Hargeisa, 55 miles and 100 miles distant from Berbera, were relieved on the morning of the 1st and 2nd December respectively, and supplies of rations and ammunition were taken over at both places.

15. A defensible masonry block-house for the storage of ammunition was built at Adadleh.

16. No rifles had yet arrived from England, so the new levies were armed with the spare Martini-Henry and Snider rifles of the Coast Police, and later on, when, on my return from Hargeisa on the 4th December, new sections were raised, such other serviceable rifles of various calibres as were available in the Protectorate were utilized.

On the departure of the regulars, 150 Martini-Enfield single-loading .303 rifles were left on loan to the Protectorate, and these also immediately passed into the hands of the new levies.

17. There was at this time, owing to the feeling of exasperation caused by the sufferings of the people, no difficulty in obtaining infantry recruits, even at the low rate of pay of 12 rupees a month, a rate 4 rupees less than that given to the Coast Police. On the first day some 1,200 men came forward.

In selecting men, only those vouched for by responsible Chiefs, and those belonging to trustworthy tribes were enlisted, no Dolbahanta being allowed to enter the ranks.

18. Every man, before marching out of Berbera, was paid an allowance to purchase his own Somali shoes, and also a piece of American cloth. Extra hides and spare steel were sent up with the sections, and the men, amongst whom were many shoemakers and workers in iron, made and repaired their own shoes, and made axes with which to cut thorn-bushes. On the march thorn zaribas were made every night.

19. In the beginning of December, when an expedition was sanctioned, you authorized me to increase the infantry of the levy up to 1,000, and, later on, to form a Mounted Corps of 500 men.

20. As I was at this time alone, I had had to personally conduct the detachments up-country, and as this involved journeys of 200 miles to Hargeisa and back, I now found it impossible to spare the four days occupied by the journey.

21. Much work had to be done at the coast in bringing over riding camels from Aden, in purchasing transport animals and supplies, and in sending caravans up-country.

Estimates had to be prepared, and arms, equipment, clothing, stores, water tanks, &c., ordered from England, Egypt, or India.

22. I found it necessary, therefore, to apply for the immediate services of two Subalterns in order to take charge of the up-country posts, and on the 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles sailing from the coast, the services of Lieutenants Byrne and Walshe were placed at my disposal. They were at once sent up to take charge of the levies at Hargeisa and Adadleh (50 miles apart), whilst I continued to enlist men at Berbera.

23. The raising of the Mounted Infantry gave much trouble. As soon as he could be spared from Hargeisa, Lieutenant Byrne was sent westward to Doboek, where the Chiefs had agreed to bring up horsemen for enlistment.

He succeeded in raising 100 men, bringing their own ponies and saddles, but owing to the threatening attitude of the Rer Ali Ogaden, and to the consequent disinclination of our tribes to

leave their flocks unguarded, further enlistment came to a standstill.

24. Owing to the hindrance caused to my plans, I had the honour to ask permission; as a preliminary measure, to deal with the Rer Ali. Men, transport, and supplies were concentrated at Hargeisa, and two sections of riflemen were sent 50 miles southwards to observe the border. You were unable, however, at this time on political grounds, to sanction an advance across our border.

25. The Gadabursi, whose Chiefs had promised to produce a contingent of horsemen, failed to do so, although Mr. Keyser, His Majesty's Consul at Zeyla, used every endeavour to induce them to come forward. The tribes in this part of the Protectorate had not suffered from the Mullah's raids, and being of separate origin to the Ishak tribes, were not affected by the latter's misfortunes.

26. In order to fill up my mounted branch I found it necessary to apply for sanction to purchase ponies and mount my infantry on them, and even then the Mounted Corps filled up so slowly that it was not complete when the time came for starting. I had to enlist extra infantry to make up the deficit, and also to arrange for getting in tribal horsemen with spears during the progress of operations.

27. A number of spearmen were also enlisted for a Transport Corps. These men were not continuously employed, but were called up for service or discharged as found necessary.

Their duties were mainly connected with the charge and protection of captured live-stock sent back from the front, and a certain number assisted the transport riflemen, and were utilized as spies and for reconnoitring work at a distance from the field columns.

The men for the greater part received no pay, but were given a bonus out of the live-stock captured from the enemy.

28. By the middle of January, when the first British Officers began to arrive on the coast, 600 men had already been raised, and the detachments at Hargeisa and Adadleh were considerably strengthened.

29. These arrangements not only kept matters quiet after the departure of the regulars, but, owing to the exaggerated reports of our strength which reached the Mullah, he became apprehensive of raids by our levies and tribes on his own live-stock, and so confined himself to looking to his own protection, and abandoned the idea of making any further organized attacks upon our border.

30. Altogether 21 Officers joined me, viz., 1 Major, 6 Captains, 1 Medical Officer, and 13 Subalterns.

When the levy was sanctioned no local military establishments existed with the exception of the Coast Police, of whom some forty men were available for the charge of sections.

Likely men of the levy were made acting Non-commissioned Officers, and taught by four Indian havildars lent me from Aden. The latter returned to India when the Somalis were sufficiently advanced to take charge of sections.

31. The infantry was divided into two corps of 500 men each, and the camelry and mounted infantry formed one corps.

The Mounted Corps was commanded by Major Beynon, D.S.O., Indian Staff Corps, and he was assisted by Captain Bruce, Royal Field Artillery, who had charge of the camel corps, and Captain Merewether, Indian Staff Corps, commanding the mounted infantry.

The two infantry corps were respectively commanded by Captain Phillips, Royal Engineers,