

6. From native information it is believed that many of the Dulbhanta flocks have been driven into the Nogal, and that the tribesmen are collected with the Mullah in the neighbourhood of Galadi, and are bent on fighting. It is also understood that a number of Mijjarten and other tribes are in the neighbourhood of the Amai Wells with their flocks.

The occupation of Galkayu and Damot will bring both forces within 80 miles of one another, and interposed between the two forces of the Mullah.

It is intended to drive off the enemy in the neighbourhood of the Amai Wells as soon as Galkayu is occupied. The Mijjarten will probably proceed west towards Jeriban, and the operations undertaken on the 16th March towards Galadi will probably have the effect of driving the Mullah east. In this event the line between Damot and Galkayu will probably be free of the enemy in any numbers.

7. Should water, therefore, be found in Damot, and should the Bohotle Flying Column be able to occupy that place by the 16th March, and should communication with Galkayu have been opened up, it would be advisable to push out a strong reconnaissance towards Galkayu.

The date of this reconnaissance should not be earlier than the 30th March.

A similar reconnaissance would be pushed out from Galkayu towards Damot to meet the force coming from that place. The opening up of communications will, however, enable the exact date to be fixed, and every endeavour must therefore be made to accomplish this.

8. When messengers are sent through, the latest information of the movements of the Mullah, and all news of importance, must be included in despatches.

Despatches should be duplicated, and sent by different messengers, and numbered consecutively.

By order,

G. FORESTIER-WALKER,

Chief Staff Officer,

Somaliland Field Force.

The Officer Commanding,

Berbera—Bohotle Force,

Berbera.

From Brigadier-General W. H. Manning, Commanding Somaliland Field Force, to the Secretary of State for War.

Obbia,

20th February, 1903.

SIR, I have the honour to report progress made since my last despatch.

The attitude of the surrounding tribes has been very friendly, and they have sent in camels and supplies for sale freely. Over 500 camels have been obtained during the past 3 weeks, since the deportation of Yusuf Ali.

Rations for the force have been sent forward steadily, and the advance post (Dibir) has now a sufficient stock to permit of the force advancing.

I have telegraphed that reconnaissances towards Galkayu have been made in two directions, one to Killadebha and another to Wargallo.

I have selected the latter route, as it fulfils more the conditions for our advance as desired by the Italian Government, and is also a better watered route, at any rate as far as Wargallo.

Native information states that the Mullah has filled in the wells in the Mudug region.

I do not anticipate, however, that the clearing out of these wells will be a very difficult operation.

Wargallo will be occupied as an advanced post on the 27th instant, and the wells en route will be cleaned and made fit for use by the Advanced Force.

I leave on the 22nd instant, with the troops forming a Flying Column, to occupy Galkayu, the centre of the Mudug region. This place will be occupied on the 3rd March.

The remainder of the force, conveying 1 month's rations for the entire force, will march from Obbia on the 6th March, and will reach Galkayu on the 15th March, on which date the whole force will be concentrated at Galkayu.

I have sent instructions to the Officer Commanding, Bohotle Force, to occupy Damot as soon as possible, to dig wells there, and to endeavour to open communication, by messengers and by wireless telegraphy, with Galkayu.

I regret, however, that the Marconi system, up to date, has not produced any definite results in the way of messages from Lodabal (where one section is located) to the base. The Naval Officer in charge is, however, very confident of success.

I anticipate that some opposition may be encountered in the occupation of Galkayu, but I consider that the Mullah will remain with his main body in the thick bush in the neighbourhood of Galadi and Dudub, where it will eventually be necessary to attack him.

Information received from the Benadir coast is to the effect that the Mullah himself is near Hiran, a swamp of that name situated on long. 45° 15', lat. 5° 35', but that the majority of his following is at Galadi.

The reports of sickness among the Mullah's following are confirmed from several sources. It appears that dysentery of a virulent type has been prevalent, and that many deaths have occurred.

The reports also definitely state that an alliance has been in force for some time between Yusuf Ali and the Mullah. Of this alliance I feel there can be no doubt, as I have on more than one occasion stated.

I have, in another despatch, referred to the means by which I propose to remove the base at Obbia, and which I think will prove effective.

The health of the force, both Officers and men, remains excellent.

I have, &c.,

W. H. MANNING, Brigadier-General,

Commanding Somaliland Field Force.

From Brigadier-General W. H. Manning, Commanding Somaliland Field Force, to the Secretary of State for War.

Galkayu,

6th March, 1903.

SIR, I have already telegraphed the information of our march from Obbia to Galkayu, and the situation as at present. In the course of the next few days I hope to be able to locate the position of the Mullah's force which I believe to be in the neighbourhood of this place. Native spies reported the vicinity of a number of men and animals on the morning of the day of our arrival in camp; this would appear to have been a party who had come down to some neighbouring wells for the purpose of watering animals. I sent out spies a few hours after my arrival here to track these people, and held a force of mounted troops and infantry in readiness to march out at night, if news of their still being close at hand was received during the night. These spies, however, have not yet returned, and it is therefore evident that the Mullah's people have moved off on hearing of our arrival. The occupation of these