

From the Officer Commanding Flying Column to the Officer Commanding Lines of Communication, Bohotle.

SIR,  
Danop,  
23rd April, 1903.

I should like to bring the following incident, which occurred during our return to Danop on the afternoon of 22nd April, to the notice of the General Officer Commanding Somaliland Field Force:—

“Owing to the thick bush and the rear-guard having to hold their ground while wounded men were being placed on camels, the rear-guard had got considerably in rear of the column. Captain Bruce, who was with the rear-guard, was shot through the body from about 20 yards, and fell on the path, unable to move. With him at the time were Captain Walker, Indian Army (Bikanir Camel Corps); Captain Rolland, Indian Army, Intelligence Officer, Flying Column; two men, 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles; one Sikh and one Somali of the Camel Corps. In the meantime the column, being unaware of what had happened, were getting further away. Captain Rolland ran back some 500 yards, and returned with help to bring off Captain Bruce, while Captain Walker and the men remained with Captain Bruce, keeping off the enemy, who were all round in the thick bush. This they successfully accomplished, but not before Captain Bruce was hit a second time and the Sikh wounded. But for their gallant conduct Captain Bruce must have fallen into the hands of the enemy.”

I beg to submit the names of the Officers for the Victoria Cross and the men of the 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles and 6th Battalion King's African Rifles for the Distinguished Conduct Medal (names of men attached), and the Sikh for the Order of Merit.

I have, &c.,  
J. E. GOUGH, Major,  
Officer Commanding Flying Column.

The names of the men recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Order of Merit are—

1. B.C.A. No. 126 / Regimental No. 2376 Lance-Naik Maieya Singh, 24th Baluchistan Regiment.
2. No. 66 Sergeant Nderamani, 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.
3. No. 87 Corporal Cormoni, 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.
4. Sowar Umar Ismail, Somali Camel Corps. Tribe Habr Toljalla (Abokr Abdulla), 6th Battalion King's African Rifles.

J. E. GOUGH, Major,  
Officer Commanding Flying Column.

The Chief Staff Officer,  
Somaliland Field Force.  
Bohotle, 1st May, 1903.

I forward herewith Major Gough's despatches describing his operations from Danop, and the action near Daratoleh; also, in a separate letter, Major Gough's recommendation of certain Officers and men for special mark of distinction.

2. In forwarding these documents, I desire to place upon record an expression of my high appreciation of the care, foresight, and dash exhibited by Major Gough during the operations

which he describes, and in which he proved himself to be an able and trustworthy commander in the field.

J. SWANN, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commanding Berbera—Bohotle, Lines of Communication.

Officer Commanding Berbera—Bohotle Force,  
The General Officer commanding desires that this despatch, which he has read with much interest, shall be written up, so as to include movements from departure of the column from Bohotle.

It is at present an inchoate document, for it leaves the reader unaware as to Major Gough's original force, of his march to Danop, and of the force which he there left.

Will you please, therefore, request Major Gough to make these necessary additions to the commencement of his despatch, and to return the despatch through you?

G. FORESTIER-WALKER, Lieutenant-Colonel, Chief Staff Officer.

Bohotle,  
Chief Staff Officer, 22nd May, 1903.

Major Gough's despatch, covering operations from 14th April to 28th April, forwarded herewith.

Also his original recommendation of officers and men for special marks of distinction.

J. SWANN, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commanding Berbera—Bohotle Force.

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

Head-Quarters, Somaliland Field Force,  
SIR, Bohotle, 29th June, 1903.

I have the honour to report the progress of events since my last despatch. I had decided to move across the Haud to Bohotle all other troops except the garrisons of Galkayu, Bera, Dudub, Galadi, and Badwein, retaining hold upon these places until the last moment, and then withdrawing the garrisons of Galadi, Dudub, Bera, and Galkayu, so as to concentrate at Badwein upon the same day, for the march across the Haud. I carried out this movement concentrating the whole force at Badwein on the 17th June, the withdrawal from the various posts having been unmolested.

I had heard rumours from deserters from the Mullah's camp that a move towards the Nogal was contemplated. I did not, however, attach much importance to this rumour, since such a move could not have been made at the time, unless the watering places then in our possession had first been captured. However, heavy rain fell late in May and early in June, filling up the waterholes (“balis”) to the south of Bohotle and on the road towards the Nogal. This enabled the Mullah's force to carry out the bold move of crossing our lines of communication between Bohotle and Damot, having first placed the whole of his mounted force in such a position as to contain Bohotle and Damot, and to threaten any force moving from Garrere to Bohotle.

I heard in Galkayu on the 13th June that bodies of the enemy's horsemen had been in the neighbourhood of Bohotle and Damot, and that Damot had been fired into by a mounted force of dervishes. It was not until I arrived at Badwein on the 17th June that I received information which made it evident that the Mullah had profited