

6 Turkhana Irregulars

UGANDA



11/12

My dear - I'm afraid you'll be feeling neglected, not to say annoyed at getting no letters, so here goes. Letter writing is not easy however - I live literally under a bush, there's usually a half-gale blowing, it's definitely warm & I've got quite a lot to do, so you can choose any of those reasons as to why I haven't written!

Well, things are going very well, we spent a week getting straight, holding barazas etc., then another getting the men in, clothing & rifles issued & now we're training. Still no more officers, which I don't really mind - Dawson, who is Q.M., the D.C. as C.O. & myself as training officer & general sort of Adjutant. My part is going very well - they're as keen as mustard & can't stop even after hours! They're grand people - I can't tell you, of course, how many, but it's a lot & I've got Police etc to train them. The C.O. is a very pleasant chap & we're going to get on well, I think, & finally I'm happier

than live ever been since the beginning of
the war! So there! I had a strong feeling, in
spite of violent protests from my friends in
the 1/4 that I was right & now there's no
question about it.

The chiefs are, some of them, fine old men -
there's one called Ekai, who is grand & had
all his people in, armed & ready a week before
the others - the paramount chief Abong, is
coming up shortly - everything has to be
done with their connivance, of course, but
they're all spilling to help, so that doesn't
matter.

It's not actually, unbearably hot, there's nearly
always a breeze & under my bush, things
might well be worse! There's permanent
water here, so one gets a bath regularly &
we get fresh fruit & veg. from Kitale.

Turkana is a pretty difficult language - all
natives seem to have stressed values for
vowels, but these people do it to an amazing
extent - some words consist of vowels
only - however, I'm going to have a crack
at it.

once again live been in an overturned car
& come off without a scratch - it's alright,
I'm touching wood!, it was a rotten shanvi



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however - I went with 40 trucks to look for a plane that had made a forced landing, having lost the way - by making enquiries all along the road I found out roughly where it must be & tipped off the Trucks in twos to search. After about 20 miles, I decided this was far enough & leaving one lorry, started for home in the other with 12 men left over in the back. The ass driving, NAR driver, tried to take a corner at 30 mph, locked his front wheels & over we went twice, landing again on the wheels - you've no idea of the mess & I won't describe it, but it resulted in one killed & several broken legs etc - pity it should happen to these chaps, because they don't like lorries anyway. However the plane & pilot were found, where we expected them. I wrote weeks ago to Phil & asked him to order me some flour etc at the Store, but no reply - in case he hasn't got it send me via P. Will 10 lbs flour, & if procurable 1 case whiskey. Best love - Kusiary sends his salams to you & the kids & the Cheptoms. P.T.O.

later - re stores - I hear there is a shortage
of whiskey or may be so can you order
me a case per month till I let you

know to stop.