The Mufumbiro Mountains: Discussion

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which had, I believe, for all of us who worked there, an undeniable charm and fascination.

The British triangulation was based on the side Ihunga-Chamiumbu. As this side is also common to the surveys of the Anglo-German and Anglo-Belgian Boundary Commissions (of 1903 and 1907-8) the topographical work throughout this part is thoroughly well connected.

This survey was in an exceptionally favourable position for determining the positions and heights of all the volcanoes, and full advantage was taken of this. A large number of observations for altitude were taken to the volcanoes from stations around, and it is believed that the heights of these mountains are now known to within ± 20 feet at the outside (in the case of the three eastern mountains probably ± 10 feet).

The heights obtained are given below, the results being the weighted means of the determinations by the present Survey, by the Anglo-Belgian Boundary Commission (1907), and by Captain Behrens (1903), paying due regard to the numbers of observations made and the lengths of the rays to the peaks (for full account see official report).

	Feet.		Feet.
Muhavura	13,547	Karisimbi	14,780
Mgahinga	11,400	Mikeno	14,540
Sabinio	11,960	Nina Gongo	11,386
Visoke	12,175	Namlagira	10,046

NOTE ON THE NAME MUFUMBIRO.

The Rev. H. E. Maddox, a recognized authority on the languages of the Uganda Protectorate, has kindly given me the following note on this name:—

“The word ‘Mufumbiro’ seems to be due to the Baganda. The word in their language actually means a cook. . . . I should guess that the Baganda got the idea of the verb *oku-fumba*, ‘to cook,’ from the district Bufumbira, and deliberately altered it to Mufumbiro to provide a name for the mountain. Perhaps they did actually call it in fun ‘the cook,’ omu-fumbiro; but this could not survive as a proper name without losing its initial vowel. . . . The Baganda are exceedingly fond of giving nicknames.

“The accentuation of four-syllable words in Luganda is interesting and a little difficult. These words have three accents: (1) A primary stress accent on the first syllable; (2) a secondary stress accent on the third syllable; (3) a pitch accent on the second syllable. The pitch accent is unusual, and claims so much attention that people are inclined to think it should be pronounced Mufúmbiro, and English people generally do so. The secondary stress accent is of course weak, but it ought not to be neglected.”

(For practical purposes a near approach to the correct pronunciation would probably be to lay almost equal stress on the first three syllables, but giving the second slightly more emphasis.—E. M. J.)

Major LEONARD DARWIN, Vice-President in the Chair (before the paper): Captain Jack, who has kindly consented to lecture to us to-night, has had wide experience in all questions connected with surveying, more especially in those regions of Africa about which he is going to speak to us to-night. He went out under Major Bright,

in the year 1907, on the Anglo-Congolese Boundary Commission, and, after that was over, he stayed on in connection with the survey of the 30th meridian of latitude. Later on he again went out as chief British Commissioner to the Anglo-German-Belgian Boundary Commission. I believe this is the only known case of a boundary commission where three great Powers have joined together to simultaneously delimit the boundaries where their frontiers met. This work led him into certain very interesting and remote regions of Uganda, to the most out-of-the-way part of the whole Protectorate.

Major DARWIN (after the paper): I think Captain Jack, in his paper he has just read to us, was wise in giving us a general and broad description rather than giving a detailed account of his work, either on the boundary commission or of his later survey work in Uganda. I want, however, to make it quite clear that we highly appreciate the admirable work which he did in this district of Africa in surveying the land, the results of which are seen in the map which you have in your hands. A general description is what we want, because it indicates the nature of the problems which have to be solved by those who go to this country at a later date. I was very much struck by his observation on the shape of these volcanic cones. He showed us how the small cones showed the direction of the wind by falling over, as it were, to one side, whilst the large cones showed no such shaping by the wind. I do not know why that is, and I do not know why all volcanic cones do not show the effect of the wind in the way seen in these smaller cones. Altogether, I think his description and his map will form a most valuable addition to the knowledge of that region, both for the traveller and also for Government officials.

Sir ALFRED SHARPE: I have listened with very great interest to Captain Jack's paper, because Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone and myself returned from the Kivu districts only a month ago, and I can most thoroughly endorse what Captain Jack said as to the Kivu districts being "romantic." The scenery is charming and the climate is delightful. With regard to "Mufumbiro." We did not hear this name ourselves, but we were not on the north-east of Kivu. What we heard at the north end was that all the volcanoes were called by the general word "Kirunga," and we came to the conclusion that this meant, not a mountain generally, but a volcano. We were fortunate on our visit, inasmuch as we came in for a tremendous volcanic eruption. It began ten days before we reached the north end of Lake Kivu, and continued for a little more than a month. It was not an old volcano, but an entirely new one, which commenced with an earthquake (we were told), after which a crater opened in the bare plain. When we arrived—ten days after it started—there was a crater 600 yards in diameter, and a cone 500 to 600 feet high had already been formed. The north-west corner of Kivu was more or less boiling water, as a large river of lava was pouring in, there was also an incessant fall of ashes and stones. The prevailing wind, as Captain Jack said, is east and south-east, and this was proved in the case of this eruption; the ashes were all carried to the west. East of the volcano, the stations of Goma and Kissenje, which are within a few miles, did not suffer; but west, as far as the settlement of Walikali, the whole country was destroyed. Walikali is 240 kilometres west of the new volcano. Captain Jack spoke of Ruanda. It is, as he said, a beautiful country. I was told that the German authorities had recently completed a census of cattle in the Ruanda district, and that they had arrived at the gigantic total of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million head. In addition to this, south of Ruanda, is the Urundi district, which is as large and as full of cattle as Ruanda, and on the west there is the Belgian territory. Probably around Lake Kivu there are not less than six million head of cattle. The western half of the Rift valley is one vast lavafield from Kivu to

within about 30 miles of the shores of Lake Edward. We formed the opinion that what is now the south end of Lake Kivu was originally the watershed between the Nile and Lake Tanganyika, and that the whole of what is now Kivu was a valley which ran down to Lake Edward, but that volcanic action has thrown up a barrier across the Rift valley, and thus formed Lake Kivu, which now flows out at the south end.

Colonel C. F. CLOSE: I shall only say a few words about this subject; but I think I ought to begin by saying Captain Jack has given us a very good paper. I have not often listened to a paper which interested me so much. The delimitation which Captain Jack has described is a portion of the great settlement of the eastern frontiers of the Congo. This settlement, which was arrived at after a good deal of difficulty and involved negotiations spread over three years, stretches from the north end of Lake Albert, through Ruwenzori, through Lake Edward, through the range we have just been listening to a description of (the Mufumbiro range), down Lake Kivu, and then to the north end of Tanganyika; so that you will see the arrangements involved many troublesome questions. Two of these were exceptionally difficult. One was the position of the Mufumbiro mountains. Some people went so far as to deny that there were any mountains called Mufumbiro. Fortunately, the evidence was conclusive that there were, and that Speke saw these mountains. It is a matter of regret that Speke never knew that his chance glimpse of this magnificent volcanic range has, as a fact, resulted in a great portion of these mountains and the region north of them becoming British territory. The second troublesome question was the question of the 30th meridian east of Greenwich. The 30th meridian was a wandering meridian. Nobody knew exactly where it was; it was not quite certain until definite observations were taken whether it cut Lake Edward or not, and I can only say that there is no more troublesome geographical problem than to have a meridian which wanders about over the face of Africa. That question and other like questions were settled by a series of officers—Colonel Delmé-Radcliffe, Major Bright, Captain Jack, Captain Behrens, Captain Prittie, and others—who have been out there, and it is, I think, chiefly due to Colonel Delmé-Radcliffe and Major Bright that this question of the Mufumbiro region was brought up for decision. It took a long time to deal with, but finally it was settled, and it is a matter of great gratification to realize that this valuable portion of Africa is now a valuable portion of the British Empire.

Major BRIGHT: It has been my good fortune to work with Captain Jack in Africa on a previous frontier commission. He has made no mention of the various difficulties he must have successfully surmounted in carrying to a rapid conclusion an arduous piece of work, such as the expedition he has described to us.

The results of Captain Jack's and Captain Prittie's expedition will be more definite than is usual from boundary commissions. For some years the country which he has described has been claimed not only by our Government, but also by the Germans and Belgians. In places there have been German and Congolese forts close to each other, and situated in the same native districts.

In other parts the British and Congolese authorities have agreed, pending the final settlement, to perform no act of occupation. Under these circumstances the state of the country and the condition of the natives, in their somewhat bewildering political surroundings, left much to be desired. Captain Jack and his brother officers, working in cordial co-operation with their German and Belgian colleagues, have settled on the spot all these outstanding questions.

In conclusion, I heartily congratulate him, not only on his lecture this evening, but also more especially on his successful and practical solution of a perplexing international problem.

No. VI.—JUNE, 1913.]

2 o

Major DARWIN: There are two names I ought to have mentioned—Captain Prittie, who was the assistant commissioner, and Dr. Marshall, medical officer of the expedition. I am quite sure Captain Jack would wish those names mentioned in connection with his. In bringing this meeting to a close, I am quite sure I may associate these names with the name of Captain Jack when according him a hearty thanks.

THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Report by Captain J. K. DAVIS.

THE *Aurora* left Hobart on December 26, 1912, for Adelie Land, and encountered a good deal of heavy weather. We arrived in the vicinity of the ice barrier we had sheltered under on our previous voyage on January 11, 1913. This barrier was found to have disappeared, and we proceeded south over its former position. The following day we encountered heavy pack ice, which, however, we managed to push through without much delay, and on January 12, at 2 a.m., dropped anchor in Commonwealth bay. It was blowing a fresh gale, and we were unable to communicate with the shore until the afternoon; on doing so we found the party at the hut all well, and three sledging parties out, whose return was expected by January 15.

We learnt that Commonwealth bay had proved to be a terribly windy place, and that during the winter months it blew a constant gale. The average velocity of the wind for the year, we were informed, was 50 miles an hour. By January 18 two of the sledging parties had returned, and we now awaited the arrival of the remaining party under the leader of the expedition. On January 23, a party was despatched to the Five Mile camp to look out for signs of the returning party. On January 25, a fully-equipped relief party left winter quarters to make a thorough search for signs of the missing party, whose non-return had given rise to grave anxiety.

A provisional relief party was now appointed to remain at winter quarters if necessary for another year, under the leadership of Mr. C. Madigan, consisting of Messrs. Bage, Bickerton, Hodgeman, Jefferies, and Dr. Maclean. Stores, coal, and equipment were landed as opportunity offered in the violent weather we experienced after January 20. The wireless mast was lengthened and re-stayed. I had instructed the relief party that it was urgent that the *Aurora* should proceed to Mr. Wild's base on February 1, as the lengthening nights would make our voyage south from Termination barrier one of great difficulty on account of the enormous masses of ice which collect in this region.

The weather in Commonwealth bay was steadily growing worse, and by January 27 we had lost our three anchors and parted our cable twice. No sign of the missing party having been seen at 6 p.m. on January 29, the weather being clear, the *Aurora* proceeded eastward along the coast