

THE HISTORY OF ABERCORN

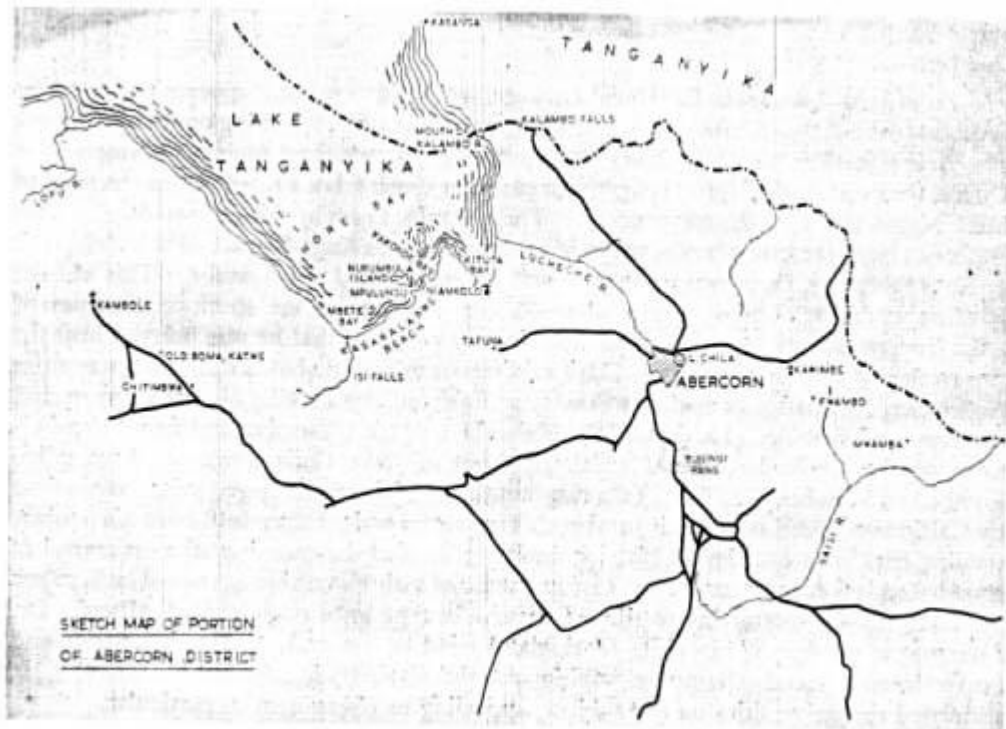
By HOPE AND MARION GAMWELL

THE history of the Abercorn district must be as well authenticated as any in the Territory, at any rate as regards very early dates and after the advent of the European with Dr. Livingstone in 1867. Although the pre-history of the district has not yet been fully established, Dr. Desmond Clark, C.B.E., in his explorations at Kalambo Falls has uncovered living floors which extend from the Evolved Acheulian Stage up to the present, virtually without a break. In his lowest floors he has found wooden tools which have enabled the Lamont Observatory in New York and the Groningen Laboratory in Holland to date these Acheulian Floors by the C.14 method to more than 52,000 years ago. This means that the district was inhabited by Earlier Stone Age man. A well, sunk on the edge of Lake Chila, lying within the Abercorn township, uncovered a floor with hand axes and cleavers at a depth of twelve feet only. Evidence of Stone Age man is widely spread in the district. The fruits and pollens found on the early floors at the Kalambo site indicate quite a different climate from that of the present day. This site is one of the most valuable in Africa. Before leaving the early history, mention should be made of the female skeleton found by Dr. Desmond Clark in a shell midden at Mpulungu, Abercorn's port on Lake Tanganyika. It is thought that this dates back to Late Stone Age-Early Iron Age.

From Iron Age man to Dr. David Livingstone is a far cry, but it appears that between these two dates African tribes came and went, the present tribes turning out the Bushmen. The Arabs, in their search for ivory and slaves, came down from their big stronghold at Ujiji at the north end of Lake Tanganyika and later direct from Bagamoyo via the head of Lake Nyasa and the Bemba country. These Arabs brought with them Swahili and half-caste Arabs as armed bands, which were later known as Ruga-Ruga. The Bemba took up slave raiding on their own account, which slaves they sold to the Arabs. This was the position when Dr. Livingstone reached Mbete, a village at the south-west corner of Lake Tanganyika on 1st April, 1867. Livingstone tells us that he was delayed here for two weeks by an attack of fever. Slave raiding continued unabated until he returned in November, 1872, after he had met Stanley at Ujiji and was making his last effort to find the source of the Nile. He crossed the Kalambo on 11th November and found Zombe's town on the Lucheche Stream which runs out of Lake Chila down to Tanganyika. Zombe had been besieged by M'toka two months previously, the siege having been raised by Chitimbwa and Kasonso, his brothers. The doctor waited here until 16th November, sending back men to bring in his sick donkey. It died the morning after its arrival of trypanosomiasis, a great loss to Dr. Livingstone. On 17th November he moved on between the lake and the mountains to the Isi River when he once more passed Mbete. Dr. Livingstone on one of his visits to England tried to persuade both missionaries and businessmen to lend a hand in wiping out the slave trade in Central Africa. He addressed the universities on the subject, appealing to young men in particular.

The next European to visit the district was Commander Cameron in 1874 when he was making a complete survey of the lake shore. The year 1877 is of great significance to Abercorn as it was in that year that as a result of Livingstone's appeal the London Missionary Society decided to start a Central African Mission on Lake Tanganyika, and the brothers Moir gave up their home employments and prospects in order to devote their lives to Africa. These two brothers started the African Lakes Company in Glasgow with the intention of bringing commerce to Central Africa via the Zambezi, the Shire River, Lake Nyasa and the plateau between the great lakes.

In 1879 Mbete was again visited, this time by James Stewart, a civil engineer who afterwards surveyed the Stevenson Road between Karonga and Abercorn, and by Joseph Thompson, the explorer. The London Missionary Society's Mission to Central Africa, sent out in 1877, was led by E. C. Hore, a sailor of Tasmania, and he took with him a boat to enable him to move about the lake. After many adversities he set sail round the lake shore and, landing at what is now Kituta, followed the native path to Chief Zombe's Village at Mbala on the Lucheche. He was well received and returning to the lake worked his way round to the Lofu mouth, sailing up the river to Chief Kitimbwa, Chief of the Lungu, at Liendwe. Hore was impressed by the Lofu Valley and decided that the steam vessel, which was to be sent to him in parts, should be sent through the Moir brothers of the African Lakes Co., known as Mandala from the native name for Mr. Moir's spectacles, and brought from Karonga on Lake Nyasa to the Lofu for assembly. He also chose the site for the first mission station on the south end of the lake at Niamkolo. After this visit he returned to the north end of the lake and after settling his headquarters on Kavala



Island opposite Kigoma he again came south. This time he brought A. J. Swann, also a sailor, who was to be responsible for the building of the steam vessel, the *Good News*. They settled in the selected spot for the dock in the Lofu Valley on 29th July, 1883.

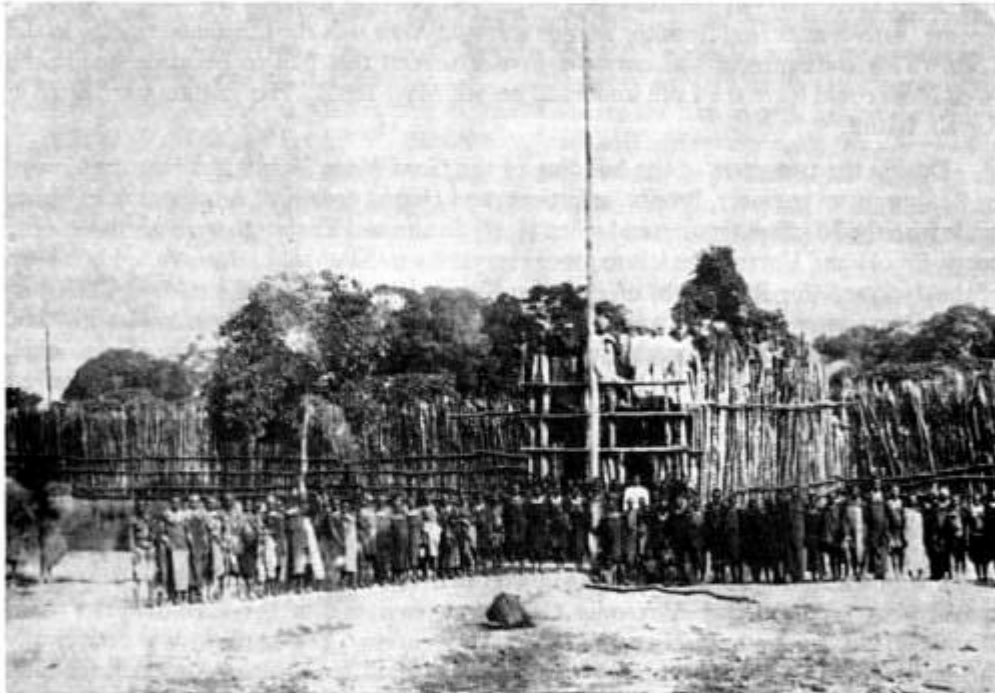
After encountering great difficulties stemming from the size and shape of some of the loads, native wars south of Lake Nyasa and the scorched earth left by Arab slave traders nearer the present Abercorn, Moir arrived at Kasakalawe in Mbete Bay on 29th September, 1883. Not a living soul had been seen by him since crossing the Saisi River and there was still no one to be seen. Moir began to fear that Hore must have been killed in whatever cataclysm had cleared the district. In his account of his wait for Hore we come across the first mention of Ndgaa—small fish like whitebait. Whilst Moir was at Kasakalawe a very large slave caravan passed along the shore, moving towards the east. After its passing, natives appeared from the islands and told Moir that the missionaries were in the Lofu. This consignment was only the first of several that had to be made before the *Good News* could leave the Lofu under sail on 5th May, 1885. Her engines were fitted at Kavala Island.

During the two years of the building of the *Good News* Swann had been reinforced by Roxburgh, an engineer, Brooks, an artisan, and Harris, ordained. A beginning had been made with the Niamkolo station and when Hore, Swann and Roxburgh went north with the boats, Brooks and Harris were left to move everything to Niamkolo. It was a sad break-up of the dockyard, for Roxburgh, on arrival at Kavala Island, died on 18th May, 1885, just thirteen days after their ship was launched; and Harris died at Niamkolo also in May, 1885. This left Brooks by himself, so Hore, who had sustained many losses of personnel, came south and removed him to Kavala Island. Thus Abercorn district was again deserted by Europeans, except for visits by the African Lakes Co., until the following year.

The builders of the *Good News* had suffered not only from a great deal of sickness, but also from a nest of half-bred Arabs and Ruga-Ruga ensconced higher up the valley, who were continually attacking the dockyard labour. When threatened by Swann they made one sweep of all young people at the head of the valley and took them off as slaves. The missionaries saw this convoy going down the river but had not the means to interfere. It had been arranged that Alexander Carson, an engineer, of the L.M.S. was to join Niamkolo Mission by Lake Nyasa and the plateau route. As Niamkolo was now empty the supplies were left at Mbete and a vessel came south once a month to look for him. At length he arrived at Niamkolo in June, 1886. The fact that it was possible to leave goods unaccompanied at Mbete would seem to show that the Lungu were as friendly disposed in those days as are the majority to-day.

In September, 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Jones and the Rev. Stewart Wright arrived by the Nyasa route to reinforce the mission and, finding Niamkolo empty, opened the first settlement on the plateau at Fwambo. In the year 1888 the slave traders—Mlosi and Kopakopa—started to make war on the African Lakes at Karonga, thus cutting off the Abercorn district from the sea, at Chinde in Mozambique; and at the same time the Germans, in taking over German East Africa, started a guerrilla warfare which made the East Coast dangerous also. Brooks, going on leave in January, 1889, was shot and killed by Arabs—being mistaken for a German—only sixteen miles from the coast. In these circumstances Hore suggested concentrating all the missionaries on Kavala Island, but Mr. and Mrs. Jones refused to leave Fwambo and carried on there quite happily until the A.L.C. defeated the slave traders and opened the southern route once more.

The Joneses, in 1889, were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Hemans. So many Europeans having died of fever, an attempt was made to find missionaries who were less susceptible and who had lived previously in the tropics. Mr. and Mrs. Hemans, natives of Jamaica, were sent to Fwambo and remained with the L.M.S. for seventeen years, when they resigned and returned to Jamaica. Early in 1889 Messrs. Swann, Wright and Carson reopened Niamkolo, and it was in that year that Kitimbwa, harassed on every hand by the Ruga-Ruga and the Wawemba, formally handed over the Lungu territory to Swann, in exchange for what help he and his colleagues could give in dealing with the slavers. Kitimbwa was evidently the head Lungu Chief at that time as no mention can be found of a Tafuna.



[Photo: Hugh Marshall

The stockaded Boma at Abercorn in 1893

Shortly after this hand-over, H. H. Johnston, the British Consul at Mozambique, "came tittapping over the plateau on his donkey" making treaties, and Swann persuaded Kitimbwa to make a treaty with him leaving the mission all the land they might require for their stations. Consul Johnston on taking leave of Mr. Swann admitted that he had no means of exerting any influence in these areas that he had taken under the protection of the British Government, and must leave it as before to the mission and Mandala to fight off the slavers as best they could. It was not long after this that Kitimbwa applied for help, and Swann from the mission, and James Yule and Law and Moor from Mandala led an attack on the two half-bred Arab villages on either side of Kalambo River. They were successful in driving out the Arabs and burning the villages, and this was the last

action fought with the slavers in the Abercorn district. During the fight Law received an arrow in the chest and was very ill for some time. He was afterwards drowned in Lake Chila when swimming after a duck which he had shot.

In 1890 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moir of Mandala decided to visit Ujiji to trade with Rumalisa for ivory. They walked across the plateau from Karonga and down to their station at Abercorn which at that time was in Kituta Bay and which had only been established for eight weeks when the Moirs arrived on 1st July, 1890. It was on this visit that they found their agents not at all well and decided to move the station fourteen miles back on to the plateau. It was on this journey also that they found Lake Chila nothing but dry sand. Sharpe met the Moirs on the plateau on their outward journey. He was returning from an abortive attempt to cross the Luapula River and had been staying with Teleka, just beyond Sumbu. Sharpe (Sir Alfred) had been consul in Fiji and came on a hunting trip to Nyasaland. When he heard of the trouble with the slave traders at Karonga he volunteered his assistance and after the defeat of the Arabs he joined the administration and eventually became Governor in 1897.

In 1892 Carson started to build Kawimbe Mission Station, a little higher up than Fwambo on the Cambrian rocks. An excellent water supply, good soil and much closer native occupation suggested this move. Fwambo can just be distinguished to-day, but Kawimbe is still the major L.M.S. station in the Abercorn district. Up to this time, in spite of the fact that Mr. Consul Johnston had visited the area, its protection and administration was still left to the missionaries and Mandala. Mandala, never a very wealthy company found that the war against the slave traders had been a very great strain on their finances. In 1893 they sold their concessions to the British South Africa Company hoping to be relieved of some of their responsibilities. They reorganised themselves as the African Lakes Corporation, but the B.S.A. Company did not take over at once.

At first the Abercorn district was administered by the Foreign Office from Blantyre by Consul Johnston. He sent up the first Consular Officer, Hugh Marshall, protected by a squad of Makua police and some Sikhs. Marshall built a large stockaded camp of eight-foot poles outside which was a deep ditch, next to Zombe's Village on the right bank of the Luचेche, with its gate on the road to Kituta and a small postern facing the river. Mr. Marshall was not only the Consular Officer, but also the first Postmaster and the first official Magistrate. In order to carry out all these duties he erected, within his stockade, a wattle and daub residency, quarters for his men, post office and magistrate's office. The plan of this stockade exists to-day, as also a photograph of the main gate. On the 1st July, 1893, an official notice inaugurated the postal service between Cape Town and Abercorn via Chinde and Nyasaland. Later under the Abercorn Post Office (which was then called Zombe by Consul Johnston) were the postal agencies of Kawimbe, Niamkolo, Kasakalawe and Mambwe. To carry this postal service forty African runners were employed by Mr. Marshall. They were dressed in red flannel tunics, red shorts and red fezes. Each carried a Snider rifle and some cartridges and always travelled barefooted. They had the reputation of absolute punctuality, even after a journey of some weeks, and were affectionately known as the "Scarlet Runners".

In 1894 the Chartered Company (Rhodes' British South Africa Co.) took over responsibility for North-Eastern Rhodesia, but it was still administered from Nyasaland until June, 1895, when Fort Jameson became the capital. In 1896 Major Forbes was sent

up to visit the B.S.A. bomas of which Abercorn was the most important. He had previously supervised the erection of the Transcontinental Telegraph north of the Zambezi, after which he became Deputy Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia. He entered North-Eastern Rhodesia on this occasion via Karonga and the Stevenson Road, leaving one or two men to form a boma at the Mandala station of Fife. He passed through the L.M.S. Mission at Kawimbe where he reports finding excellent strawberries, vegetables and wheaten flour. At that time Abercorn was the only B.S.A. Co. boma on the plateau. Forbes went down to the Mandala station at Kituta and crossed to Sumbu in one of the Company's sailing boats. Mandala had just bought *Good News* from the L.M.S. but their engineer had not yet arrived. Sumbu was at that time a sub-station of Abercorn, in charge of Captain Livingstone. After picking up porters Forbes went on to Rhodesia on the Kalungwishi, which had been established two years before. He then returned through Abercorn.

In 1896, too, Mr. Lawrence Wallace (afterwards Sir Lawrence Wallace), Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia, came to Abercorn and persuaded Mr. Marshall to leave his fortified camp and to build brick houses on the hill above him. Parts of the fortified camp can still be seen as the thorn poles which formed one side of the boma have taken root and are now big trees. The offices of the second boma were built near Mandala on the hill above the left bank of the Lucheche, whilst the living quarters were above the right bank.

During the early 1890s the L.M.S. Mission had been broadening its responsibilities, a station was opened at Mbereshi in Bemba country, and Dr. C. B. Mather had opened a leprosy settlement at Niamkolo. In 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Hemans were moved down to Niamkolo where, besides looking after several schools and doing church work, Mr. Hemans, an enthusiastic gardener, introduced various tropical plants and fruits from the West Indies.

In 1899 the Transcontinental Telegraph Company—a company which had been formed by Rhodes with the object of linking the Cape to Cairo—brought their line through Abercorn and down to the lake shore at Kasakalawe, where they took up a mile square freehold plot.

During and after the Anglo-Boer War a number of traders, cattle buyers, hunters and settlers came up to Abercorn from the south. At first the settlers went in for ranching and brought in exotic bulls to cross with native cattle. Horses were imported and race meetings held in the Saisi Valley. Some of these settlers took up land along the German border; some combined elephant hunting for ivory and labour recruiting with ranching. Rubber seed was imported, but this did not prove a successful crop.

Big companies such as Tanganyika Concessions opened branches in Abercorn, and the Stevenson Road from Karonga on Lake Nyasa to Abercorn having been completed by the B.S.A. Company, there grew up a brisk trade between the Congo, Abercorn and Karonga. The Stevenson Road was started by Mandala in 1881, with the object of completing the route from the coast at the mouth of the Zambezi to Lake Tanganyika. The project was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Stevenson, the chairman of the A.L.C., who contributed largely to its construction. Mr. James Stewart surveyed the

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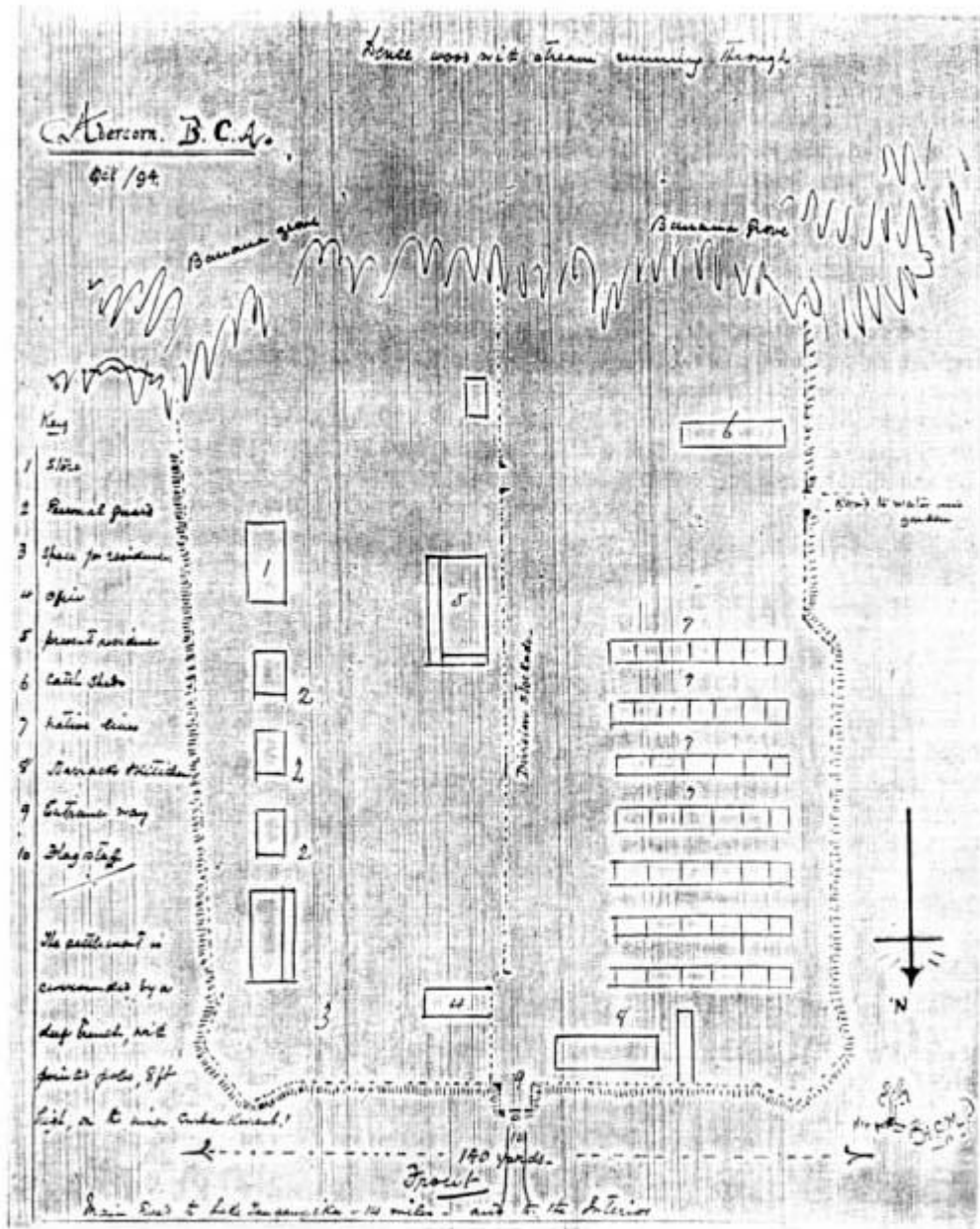
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Plan of Abercorn Stockade

road and started the work from the Karonga end, but died of fever before reaching the plateau. A young engineer, William McEwan, volunteered to carry on, but he too died when only seventy miles of the road had been completed.

In 1902 the people of Abercorn decided to erect a memorial of some kind to Queen Victoria, and a public meeting was held on 26th June. There were twenty-five people

present at this meeting. It was decided to build an institute, to be called the "Tanganyika Victoria Memorial Institute", since Abercorn was the centre of Tanganyika Province of North-Eastern Rhodesia. The title of this institute and the letter "T" of the present car registration numbers are the last vestiges of this province to-day. Those present at this meeting promised various sums, and managers of large firms promised to bring in some of the necessary materials free of freight. As everything had to be bought in Durban, sent up through Nyasaland to Karonga and thence by porter to Abercorn, these offers were a very considerable help. A committee for the building was chosen; the difficulties of transport account for the fact that the institute was not completed until February, 1904.

The history of Abercorn and its district has been much influenced by three insects, *Glossina Palpalis*, *Glossina Morsitans* and the Red Locust. In the early years of this century the *Glossina Palpalis* became recognised as the host of one of the trypanosomes of sleeping sickness. Infected "fly" were found in quantity on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. In those days it was not thought possible to eradicate the "fly" so in 1908 the Administration took the drastic step of moving all lake shore villages back, a distance of five miles or more, in order to allow the trypanosomes of sleeping sickness to die out for lack of human blood. A special boma was opened at Katwe to supervise the move and to maintain the policing of the forbidden area. This was no light task. It entailed the confiscation of all canoes and fishing nets and a very strict watch had to be kept to prevent approach of any sort to the shore. Unfortunately, Swahili caravans, carrying ivory from the Congo to German East Africa, passed through the forbidden area. A very lively watch had to be kept on this route. The area in which these lake shore villages (sixty in all containing roughly 12,000 men, women and children) were settled became a huge quarantine ground, 100 miles in length. No one was allowed to leave this area without medical examination and each individual had to be carefully documented. Likewise, a careful check was kept on those wishing to visit inside the area, and these visitors were only allowed to stay for at most a day or two. The whole of this administration was carried through without serious incident. Official reopening of the lake shore took place in 1926, but many villages had moved back prior to this. The medical aspect of this move away from the lake was undertaken by Dr. Kinghorn and several other doctors and a veterinary surgeon from England.

In the years 1907-8 a postmaster of the name of McNiel was stationed in Abercorn. He was a skilled caricaturist and he has left some very clever drawings of many of the inhabitants of that period. Copies of these are in the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum and in the T.V.M.I. After the death of his wife and child he left the B.S.A. Co. and went hunting in German East Africa where he died. He took with him the member of the Sikazwe family who is now Chief Tafuna of the Lungu tribe.

In 1911 North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia were amalgamated in what became known as Northern Rhodesia. Earlier in this year Mr. Marshall had left Abercorn to become Acting Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia. He had, therefore, served in Abercorn from 1893 until 1911, a period of eighteen years, during which time the district had seen many changes and the first steps were taken to bring it under some form of administration. In fact it might be said in modern parlance that this had been an era of considerable "development"! In recognition of all his work the main street of Abercorn has been called after him—"Marshall Avenue".

In the years before the 1914-18 war the Abercorn residents were employed—as we have said before—in farming, trading, hunting and recruiting. In spite of the fact that all travelling was done on foot, horseback or bicycle, an appreciable amount of visiting and social life seems to have been enjoyed. There were race meetings and cricket matches. The cricket pitch was in what is now Marshall Avenue, between Mandala and the T.V.M.I., and at one period cricket matches were held on Sundays so that a European prisoner serving a sentence for poaching might be released to act as wicket keeper. When there was water in Lake Chila regattas were held, and duck shooting on the Unyingi Pans was a very favourite pastime. Perhaps one of the most popular sports at this time was target shooting by members of the Tanganyika Branch of the North-Eastern Rhodesia Rifle Association. A shoot was held on 24th May each year for a cup. Individual prizes were also given. The T.V.M.I. has in its possession a small silver teaspoon marked with the initials of the North-Eastern Rhodesia Rifle Association, which was won by the late R. M. Smith. It is on record that on one of these occasions there were seventeen white people in Abercorn at one time! Visits were exchanged between Bismarckburg, the German port on the lake, now Kasanga, and Abercorn.



Homestead on Jericho Farm, C. W. Blyth, 1905. Baskets contain rubber seeds. Jericho was scene of early experiments in growing ceara trees for rubber plantations. Blyth's partner was G. H. Lobb

Between 1884 and 1890 international negotiations in Europe had partitioned Central Africa into spheres of influence, and what is now Tanganyika Territory was handed over to Germany and became German East Africa. Abercorn was then and has remained the northernmost settlement of North-Eastern Rhodesia, twenty-two miles from the border.

At this time the boundaries of the new Congo Free State were laid down and a trade agreement—the Congo Basin Treaty—was agreed at the Berlin Conference, 1884–5. Abercorn was affected by this treaty since it lies between the two headwaters of the Congo—Lake Tanganyika and the Chambeshi River.

On the outbreak of war in August, 1914, C. P. Chesnaye, the Magistrate at Abercorn, had at his disposal twenty-one native N.C.Os. and men of the Northern Rhodesia Police. He at once did what he could to put his station in a state of defence, turning the newly built prison into a fort. He sent out patrols of European and African volunteers to obtain news of enemy movements. The few European women and children were sent south. The sub-station at Sumbu was also put in a state of defence by R. M. Smith, an Abercorn settler, who then proceeded to join the force in Abercorn. There were small skirmishes in August and the Germans attacked Abercorn twice during September, shelling the prison. Reinforcements having arrived three hours before the second attack the enemy were driven back over the border on 11th September. The inhabitants of the near-by villages brought water into the besieged camp at night on their own initiative.

The telegraph line had been carried along the border and in consequence was very vulnerable and continually cut by the enemy. Heliographs from Sunzu and Tembo maintained communications between Abercorn and Fife, and later a telegraph line was run from Abercorn via Kasama to the railway line. In the meantime communications with the south were kept going by relays of native runners (who once accomplished a journey of 450 miles in six days) and native cyclists.

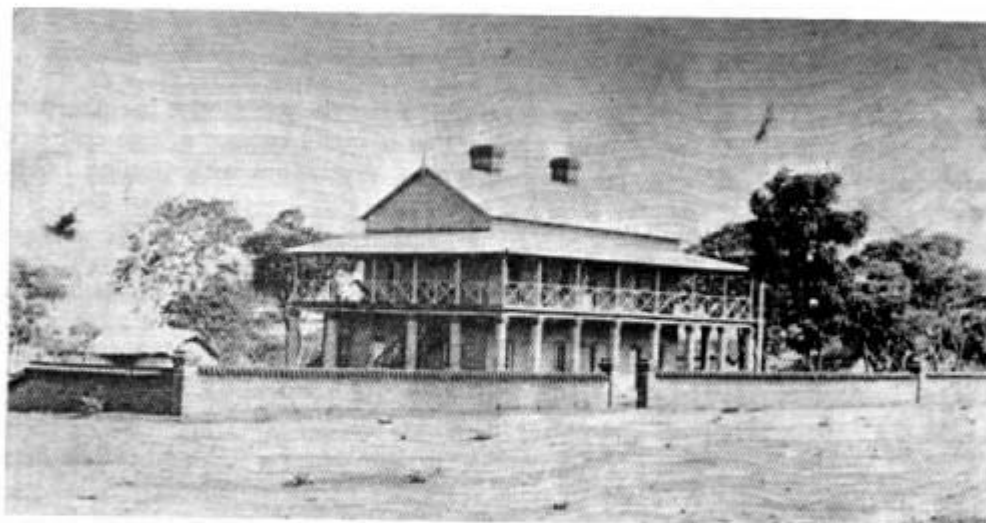
On 26th September the defence of Abercorn was again reinforced by the arrival of 500 Belgian native troops under European officers and N.C.Os. with two field guns. Most of the settlers of Abercorn had joined the Northern Rhodesia Police and eventually moved on with their detachments into German East Africa.

Various skirmishes took place along the border, the most serious being an attack on the fort which had been constructed at Jericho Farm on the Saisi to cover the direct route to the Supplies Headquarters at Kasama. The garrison consisted of Northern Rhodesia Police, British South Africa Police with a seven-pounder gun, Northern Rhodesia Rifles and a contingent of Belgians. The engagement took place on 26th July, 1915, and was continued until the enemy retired on 3rd August. From this time German incursions into Northern Rhodesia ceased until von Lettow-Vorbeck's final drive south in 1918. In May, 1916, Lt.-Col. Murray left Abercorn with a force of British South Africa Police and 450 Northern Rhodesia Police to join General Northey's advance into German East Africa. The officials in Abercorn now devoted their time and energies to maintaining the supply of first-line carriers with the column, and also supplies and supply carriers.

On the outbreak of war the Germans were in the ascendancy on Lake Tanganyika, and were able on the 17th November, 1914, to destroy Mandala Stores at Kituta and on the 20th November to carry off telegraph material from Kasakalawe. To combat this state of affairs an expedition of twenty-eight white men and two motor launches of approximately four tons each was sent under the command of Lt.-Commander Spicer-Simpson, R.N., to Kalembe, now Albertville, on Lake Tanganyika. The transport of the boats from the railhead in the Katanga Province to Lake Tanganyika constitutes an epic in itself. The launches were ready for action on Christmas Eve, 1915, and on

Boxing Day captured the German ship *Kingani*. She was repaired and joined the English fleet as H.M.S. *Fifi*. Early in 1916 they had overcome all resistance on the lake. *Fifi* came south following the western shore, and having been repulsed at a Belgian port and at Sumbu (being thought to be German), she eventually arrived at Kituta. After Colonel Murray and his British South Africa Police had driven the Germans from Bismarckburg, Lt.-Commander Spicer-Simpson made this German port his headquarters.

Abercorn saw the last act of the German East African campaign when General von Lettow-Vorbeck laid down his arms at an impressive ceremony in front of General W. F. S. Edwards, C.M.G., D.S.O., and his staff and the then District Commissioner, Mr. C. R. B. Draper.



[Photo: Ronald Smith

African Lakes Corporation house at Abercorn

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THE PIONEER TRADERS AND FARMERS OF ABERCORN

We have been trying to get some information about the pioneers of the Abercorn district which at one time held out high hopes that it would become a large centre of European settlement. Eric Clough has had some conversations with Gordon Lobb. He says:

“The names of the early farmers on the northern border are as follows:

“Barnshaw who had Itimbwe. After Barnshaw died it was bought complete with valuable cattle by Maxwell of Mandala for a mere song. Later it was bought by H. O. Gliemann, who liked wrestling with lions.

“Gordon Lobb arrived in Abercorn about 1905, and had a third share in a farm with C. N. Blyth. It was called ‘Mula’ because there appeared to be herds of Sitatunga (I think) which is very unusual, as these animals are normally solitary creatures. I understand that ‘Mula’ was the native name for this game. I think that Blyth afterwards had Jericho Farm. I think he took that name as a sort of joke having been told by someone to go to Jericho.

“The first owners of Barnshaw's farm Itimbwe were two chaps called Irvine and Veriker who came there about 1905. Irvine was the first European killed in the 1914–18 war along the border. I don't know what happened to Veriker. Then another farm was taken by Gerald Morton before the 1914–18 war. He later entered Government service at Abercorn as a clerk and became an Assistant Native Commissioner with the British South Africa Company. You may have heard his history of how he finally became insane and was sent to an institution at Cape Town.

“Gordon Lobb's last farm was Ntingila. Part of it is now owned by Geoffrey Stokes. The rest of the farm is still owned by Lobb. There was another farm owned by Edwin Booth but I am a bit vague about it. I think it was originally owned by Dr. Kinghorn. It was on that farm (I have forgotten the name) that Gliemann was mauled by a lion but, at the time, he was living at Itimbwe. I have an idea that he had acquired Booth's farm and was visiting it when he had his encounter with the lion.”

Miss Hope Gamwell says:

"A man by the name of Dean came up in 1900-1. He was a hunter, started a train of small stores and first opened up Chipandu. A Mr. Irwin was a cattle trader. The agent of the Flotilla Company was a Mr. Chiappini and Tanganyika Concessions was represented by Mr. Faulkner. Mandala was represented by Mr. Gillespie and at Kawimbe Mission were Messrs. Robertson and Walter Draper."

Mr. Geoffrey Stokes adds some more items of interest:

"Ronald Smith, before the first world war, had a farm on the Stevenson Road a few miles east of the Saisi River. It was there that his younger brother Lionel joined him. About the time of the outbreak of the war, all stock was moved several miles (fifteen, I fancy) south of the border on account of rinderpest. Farmers were given fresh land in exchange for their old holdings. I next heard of the Smiths at Itimbwe in the Saisi Valley where they were with a man named Barnshaw who was the owner. Then, finishing with Barnshaw, they went to Nsunzu on the Saisi. At least so I think. In 1928 I found Ronald Smith at Mbeti to the left, as one faces Tanganyika Lake, of Mpulungu. I think he had been trying out cotton, and that that was one of Chesnaye's schemes. At that time also Kamboli Industries, a cotton-growing project, was started by a missionary named Ross who was in charge of Kamboli Mission Station. Whether Ronald owned that land at Mbeti or not, I cannot say. He did own Nsunzu. Unwin Moffat passed through Mpika, where I was at the time, sometime between 1926 and 1929 on his way to Abercorn. I have heard that he had previously or had then some connection with the British Cotton Growers' Association. I did not see Lionel at Mbeti, but by that time the Smiths and Kitchin had already started the motor business. By 1930 Ronald Smith was certainly living at Nsunzu and as a partner in Smith and Kitchin doing something like one trip per week with mail and/or goods from Abercorn to the Chambeshi River south of Kasama.

"Ginger Davison later became the owner of Mbeti; but the place was closed on account of sleeping sickness and he was compensated."

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

Smith Hempstone in his book *The New Africa* (published 1961) says: "Christianity has never successfully opposed Islam in Africa and the only thing that has slowed down the advance of the faith of the Prophet is the tsetse fly, the only thing that has stopped it is the rain forest; Islam is a desert faith and it was spread by conquering horsemen. Horses cannot live under the fly and they lose their tactical effectiveness in the forest. Where either of these conditions has existed, Islam has lost its impetus even though traders wandering on foot have brought it as far as the coast. A religious map of Africa would coincide almost completely with one showing the natural features of the land: Islam reigns where the horse can go, in the desert and on the savannahs; Christianity penetrates only so far as the river boats could take the missionaries; in the inaccessible forest between the two are the pagans."