

Primitive Rebellion of Mau Mau Cult Nearing End in British African Colony

Editor's Note In the 20th century turmoil of hydrogen bombs, jet planes and television, one of the most primitive and savage rebellions of all time has gone almost unnoticed in the jungles of Africa. Behind it is a great native cult called Mau Mau. The uprising is a forerunner of what may come in newly-stirring Africa. The United Press asked its Nairobi correspondent for an up-to-date report on Kenya and the Mau Mau.

By DUDLEY HAWKINS
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Nairobi, Kenya (U.P.)—The primitive rebellion into which the African cult of Mau Mau has plunked this once-idyllic British colony for three bloody years is near its end.

Slowly but inexorably brains and bullets are beating the rebels. Today there are a few thousand hunted, desperate outlaws hiding in the dense mountain jungles.

To them now, food is far more important than killing white settlers or the African natives who cling to Christianity and loyalty in the face of savagery almost unbelievable.

But the scars will never leave. Over 11,000 men, women and children have been killed. More than \$100,000,000 have been spent to prevent mass murder. Magnificent mountain lodges, serene farm homes have been burned, cattle by the thousands butchered. Hatreds have been inflamed that will take decades to cool.

Mau Mau began almost unnoticed 10 years ago. Kikuyu tribesmen and their cousins in the Meru and Embu reserves disappeared mysteriously. Then, in isolated places, African families were found butchered in their huts. They had refused to join the Mau Mau.

The terrorists were encouraged by the stiff-necked complacency of British colonial administration. These civil servants still lived in the rosy glow of hunting incoming motion picture safaris and whiskey and soda.

Trail of Death
By 1952 the well-armed terrorist gangs, made brave by moonshine liquor, blood oaths and promises of taking land from the whites, had left a ghastly trail of death through the reserves. Razor-sharp pangas cut down anyone who refused to cooperate. Oath-taking ceremonies—incidentally filthy orgies of sex and superstition to initiate recruits—were held openly just outside Nairobi.

In October, 1952, British paratroopers landed by air and a state of emergency was declared. But the barn door was being shut after the horse was gone. On a pre-arranged plan, Mau Mau leaders fled the city, leaving a few unimportant "generals" behind to face the music and leave the impression the crisis had ended.

In the dense jungles and mountain country, the Mau Mau organized an intricate, efficient system of "cells" on Communist lines which stretched to every Kikuyu, Embu and Meru tribesman.

Among the whites, guns appeared on every hip and in every woman's handbag. On the farm the settlers' homes became fortresses, some with watchtowers

and machinegun.

But it was not enough. The Mau Mau were sworn to kill the whites and they did.

James MacDougall, who came to Kenya in 1906, trusted his native servants. He never locked his doors and windows. Nine killers broke in and surrounded him in his wheelchair. Arthritis prevented his moving. In cold blood, they hacked him and burned his body.

Family Killed
The Meloncellis, an Italian family, lived in a house surrounded by bush country. Meloncelli was at the saw mill one morning when 20 Mau Mau attacked the house. His wife was shot and chopped to pieces. The terrorists searched the house and killed their 15-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son. The children had arrived only 10 days before.

On this April, two schoolboys, Geoffrey Daby and Christopher Twohey, innocently but foolishly strolled through the veld on the outskirts of Nairobi. Their airgun attracted the Mau Mau. The boys were surrounded and butchered.

Horrible as was the campaign against the whites, the Kikuyu terror against their own kinsmen was unimaginable. Hundreds of native Christians died rather than renounce their faith. Many others still live—minus eyes, hands, legs.

Worst Night
Mau Mau reached its bestial peak on the night of March 26, 1953. Near Nairobi, men, women and children were sleeping peacefully in the Christian village of Lari when three terrorist gangs of 30 to 50 men each attacked. In an orgy of murder, they set fire to every hut and butchered the people as they ran out. The entire village became a roaring furnace. Many villagers were lucky to die in the fire. Others were chopped up slowly, piece by piece. Disemboweled mothers watched terrorists slice their children.

In the morning the remains of more than 100 Africans were found. Hardened police wept.

Several captured Mau Mau were shot on the spot by the enraged Africans.

This was the sign of things to come. The decent people among native Kenya turned against Kikuyu and the Mau Mau in revulsion. The complete defeat will come from within. Already the attempts of hard-core leaders to prevent their men from surrendering has caused a rift in their ranks.

Mau Mau is not a revolt for freedom and equality. Initially it was intended that way—hitting back at colonialists who held the finest land and resources.

But the primitive instincts of its adherents took over. They are people living in a contemporary stone age. The Mau Mau oaths are opposite to everything that was fine about traditional tribal custom.

Neuberger Raps Fisheries Critics

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) said yesterday some "so-called fisheries groups" are criticizing him for supporting appropriations for a start on Ice Harbor dam. He said the criticisms are "politically" motivated.

Money for a start on the dam on the Snake river in Washington was included in a public works appropriation bill finally approved by Congress yesterday.

Neuberger said the Izaak Walton League in Oregon wrote him an "abusive" letter because he supported the appropriation. But he said the group has not criticized supporters of a partnership plan for John Day dam, a Columbia river structure he said is of about equal height.

"Why do certain fisheries groups bewail the dam built by Uncle Sam but stay silent concerning the dam at which the private utilities may win domination over the power plant?" he asked.

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