

Lange Reports on Troublesome Areas of Eastern Africa

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles by Luke Lange, former Medford resident who is on an around the world cruise aboard the freighter, SS Friesland. Today's article concerns the eastern coast of Africa.)

By LUKE LANGE
Port equipment and facilities in Beira had been pretty badly damaged by a recent hurricane, and ships of all types and sizes were at anchor outside the harbor waiting for a berth. We were anchored for six days before docking.

Most of us had hand lines, and fished from the ship's stern. Our ship must have been anchored at the hottest fishing spot in the Indian ocean. More than 200 were landed in one day. A group of sharks showed up, and within a few days had broken all the lines and ran off with most of our hooks.

We got a meat hook from

the galley, and baited it with a complete front shoulder of pork, and used a half-inch line. The sharks would make passes at it, but they were too smart to take it.

Gang Plank Lowered

The gang plank had been lowered, and we had been swimming beside the ship. This was stopped when the sharks arrived.

News of our visa trouble at Laurencio Marquest must have been sent ahead, because we had no trouble going ashore at Beira, and were treated well by custom officials, who did not ask to see any passports or visas.

Two Races

This town was also full of Portuguese soldiers, and they have more than 30,000 of them in East Africa. With such an armed force, they may not have the "blow up" they anticipate. The natives seem to hate the Arabs and Indians more than whites.

The two races run all of

the stores and are natural traders. They are sharper than the blacks, and own everything. The blacks have no use for them, but can do nothing about it.

I have talked to black workmen on board ship, and they have said that when they get their freedom, the white people can stay, but they will get rid of the Arabs and Indians. But if I were in Portuguese East Africa at the time these people are given independence, I would lose no time in getting out. The attitude of all of them I have talked to convinces me it will be another Congo.

Our cargo loaded, we left Portuguese Africa with no regrets, and two days later docked at Dar-Es-Salaam, a town which along with Zanzibar, is one of the main ports of the country of Tanganyika.

This country was a British protectorate, and recently received its independence. It shows it. Here, as in Zanzibar,

nearly all of the Europeans have gone.

The people, who clamored for freedom and were pushed on by their leaders, were promised the lands, automobiles and possessions of the white man. They are beginning to realize the leaders have occupied the homes and plantations, taken over the automobiles and refrigerators.

At the start of one of these revolutions, the natives are led to believe that the whites are to blame for their poverty, and as soon as they are freed, they will have the better things of life like the white man had. They are not told these things have to be produced and worked for.

Then, when they get independence and the white man has left, they are disillusioned. This is the case in Tanganyika, but the leaders being equal to the situation have given native a new whipping boy. They have pointed out that members of the Indian race, who own most of the

shops and good homes, are to blame, and should be eliminated.

This thinking was pretty well proven to me by a native black policeman who became quite friendly over a couple of African brewed beers. He told me, among other things, that they would eliminate the Indian population of Tanganyika within six months. I asked him how they intended to do this when the Indian was a citizen of the country just as he was.

He said the all-native government would take care of the citizenship, and if the Indian did not voluntarily leave the country, the only other alternative was to deport him forcibly. If that didn't work, killing them would.

All this was from a black man who had received independence. This gives you an idea of what they have learned of "their struggle for freedom."

They even have race prejudice against their own people. If the other fellow is not a member of your tribe, he is an enemy; and if he has more worldly possessions than you, he too, is an enemy.

Tribes Fight

These tribes have fought each other for centuries. White control has kept it to a minimum, but now the biggest problem of the independent black governments is the outbreak of tribal warfare, which is beginning to occur throughout Africa in newly independent nations.

Zanzibar was the most interesting town in Africa we have visited. The population is nearly all Arab and black.

This was the Arabian center for the slave trade. The Arabs set out from here for the interior, going inland as far as 1,000 miles to capture their victims. Those who survived the march to the coast were shipped from Zanzibar to the Arab markets in Egypt, India, Arabia and other lands.

It has been rumored that the Arabs still are dealing in slaves on a small scale in this area. It would seem highly possible with Egyptian and Arab ships sailing the Indian ocean and the Red sea by the hundreds, with no check on these it would be easy enough to smuggle a few blacks into these countries, especially Arabia.

A Touch of Kenya

Ten miles out of Zanzibar is a beach of home. After much argument, persuasion and money they allowed the

U.S. to install one of 17 space checking stations.

We visited the installation and were shown the works by an Army boy from Mississippi. They have complete recordings of their conversations with Glenn as he passed over Africa. It was to this station that he first reported the yaw that his space ship was developing. This was on the second time around. You could hear him tell Zanzibar that he had corrected the yaw by manual control and will go around again.

The voice of the man on the ground became quite excited, but Glenn seemed to be calm about the whole thing. The station was full of scientists, medics and equipment. The entire program seemed to be headed by the thought of getting the man back safely.

Equipment Duplicated

Every item of expensive equipment was duplicated in case of failure. One item did fail during the flight and there was a break in the conversation between Glenn and the ground for several seconds until the duplicate machine was adjusted.

The tour was so fast and the terms used were so technical we didn't understand much of anything. It did give you something to think about, listening to a man in space from a spot on the globe where within a few miles there was a possibility of 16th century slave trade with more modern methods, although on a small scale.

The native open air markets in Dar Es Salaam and Zanzibar are the best we have encountered. They can be smelled for a great distance. Fish of all kinds, fresh, smoked, dried or salted were sold. Animals slaughtered at daylight were sold and eaten the same day. There is no refrigeration.

Made A Delicacy

Goat heads seemed to be a delicacy, and sold for high prices. They were complete with horns.

Quite a contingent of Malaysian and Indian troops in United Nations uniform were being shipped inland from these ports. They were headed for the Congo by train to relieve troops that have been there too long.

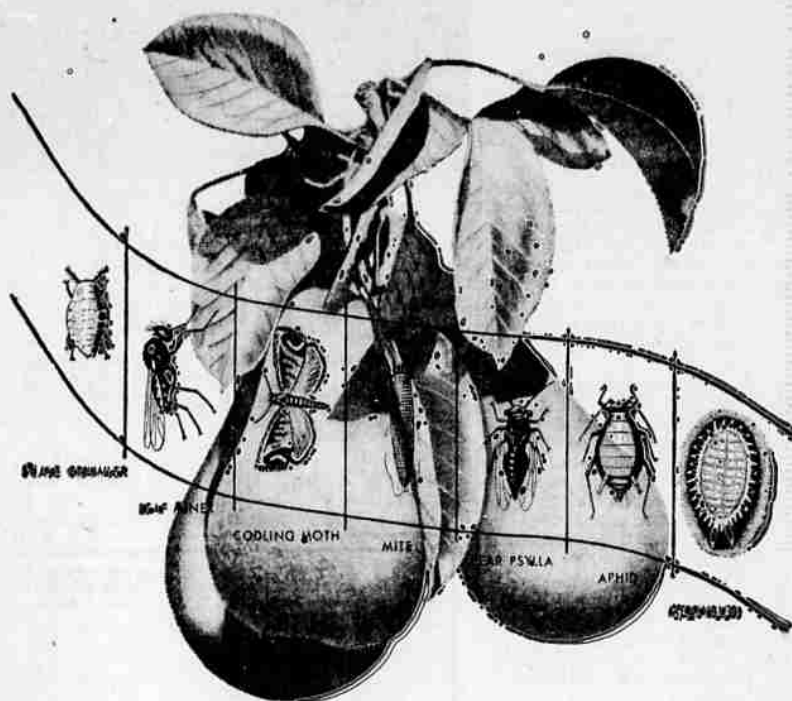
Mombasa in the country of Kenya is the next stop and we will be able to see the large game reserves around Nairobi and the mountain Hemingway made famous, Killimanjaro.

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