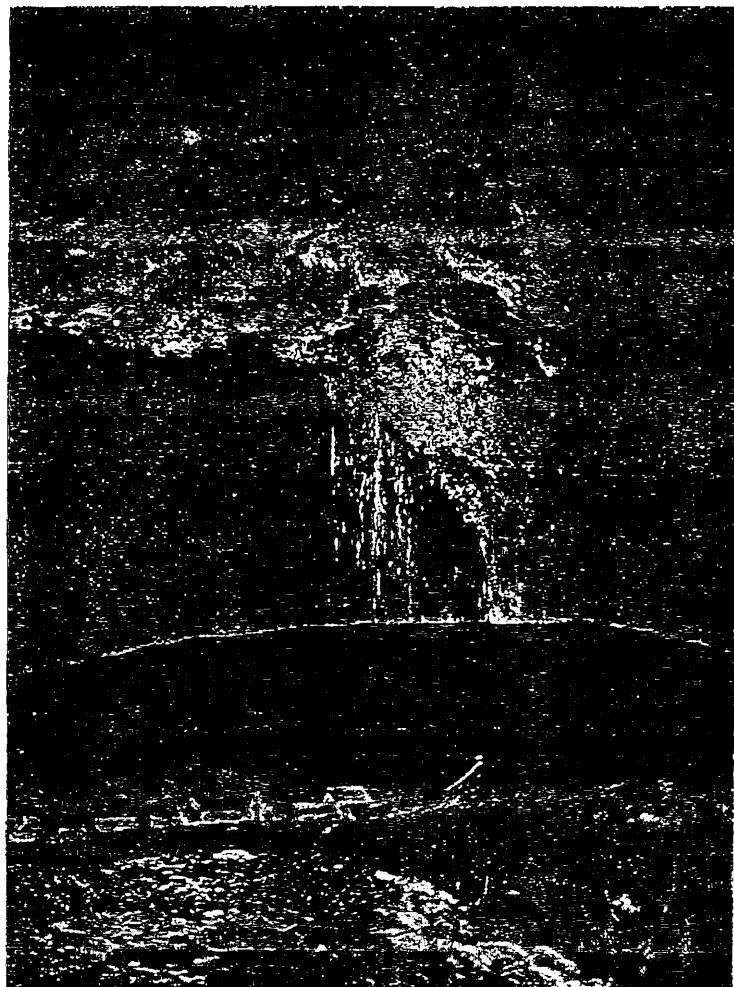


original given 1909



ERUPTION OF NAMLAGIRA

*From a painting by W. Kuhnert*

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# IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

BY  
THE DUKE ADOLPHUS FREDERICK  
OF MECKLENBURG

TRANSLATED BY  
G. E. MABERLY-OPPLER

WITH MAPS AND NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS



CASSELL AND COMPANY, LTD.  
London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne  
1910

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number of skulls and other anthropological specimens, which were five complete skeletons.

The following morning at sunrise we reached that lazily flowing stream, the Ngono, a deep tributary of the Kagera, over which dense layers of mist were hovering. The sun was struggling painfully to show its pale face through the damp, nebulous veil. Thanks to the foresight of Captain von Wissmann the crossing was rapidly effected and without the least contretemps. A number of boats were in waiting, and by the aid of powerful oars the transit was completed in an hour and a half.

The country through which our way had so far led us was a dreary, swampy waste. The Bukoba people have with great difficulty constructed a fine *barraque* here, which has contributed in no small degree to the development of traffic and commerce in the district. Speaking generally I may say that I met with such excellent roads as I have elsewhere in the Bukoba province. Splendidly kept highways led the way in all directions, and a brisk traffic was maintained, particularly with the chief city.

On the heights, we were soon afforded a view of the lake, and in and out, encircled by a broad belt of forest, following its course, we came to the village of a small outpost close to the river, under the command of a commissioned officer. The main body of the expedition remained at this spot for a few days, whilst the various parties employed the time in making a series of investigations.

The Schabots visited the German portion of the lake for zoological and botanical purposes, whilst Wissmann, Wiss, Raven and I wandered along the shore towards Kitengule in search of zoological specimens. Our messengers met us with tidings of a herd of buffalo, and we were anxious to kill one for the purpose of obtaining its hide, which we might come across later on, we



stationed ourselves at the rear of the troop. Unfortunately we had our trouble for nothing. In spite of rising in the grey of the morning, being all in our places, and getting wet with cold dew, and though we sighted these striking-looking creatures several times, we failed to bring off a lucky shot. To compensate us, however, Lieutenant von Wiese brought down three rhinoceroses, which proved to be the only ones we met. Lieutenant Weiss alone of us saw any more of these animals—at Mtagata in Karagwe. Their boundary line is limited by the Kagera on the northern and western side.

The different spheres of activity which our ten members represented soon manifested themselves, and thus the big caravan was continually being divided into sections. We adhered to this principle the whole way through, and with the best of results.

Still, apart from these various interests, the size of the caravan alone made it necessary to strike different marching routes if we desired to avoid the fear of famine. Thus at Kifumbiro we had to separate. After arriving there, Weiss and Kirschstein soon broke off again to march southwards from the Kagera over the hot springs of Mtagata, through Karagwe to Mpororo, while the rest of us selected the route to the north of the river.

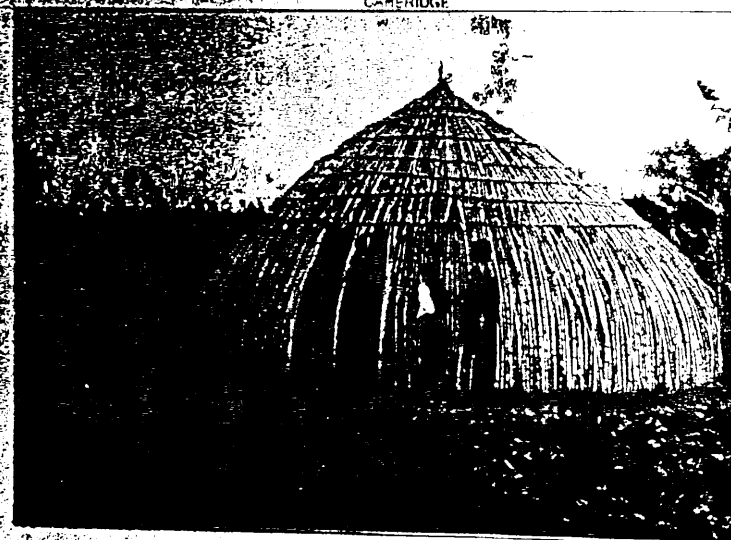
Whilst crossing the torrential Kagera in a folding boat early on the 25th of June, three salvos from the guns of the Kifumbiro outpost thundered a farewell over our heads.

Here we left Kisiba to enter into the Buddu territory. After an easy and pleasant march in the cool morning air, we neared the Katojo residence of the reigning Sultan Ruhikika, who welcomed us with great ostentation. All his people and his police troops drew up in line. Mildbraed and Schubotz met us here again. After a long march, keeping always to the *barrabarra*—a particularly painful journey to me in consequence of a touch of lumbago I had acquired from the excessively cold nights—we reached the camp at midday in the burning noontide heat.

Whilst hitherto banana plantations had formed the most



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