

# The Fight Against MAU MAU

*Rounding Up Suspected Mau Mau Adherents; the Murder of Commander I. H. Meiklejohn; a Mau Mau Raid*

Although Jomo Kenyatta and other African leaders alleged to be concerned in the management of Mau Mau have been behind bars, their absence has in no way seemed to impair the belligerence of the troublesome Kikuyu tribesmen, and many hardened Mau Mau criminals may still be in hiding in the thick forests of the Aberdares.

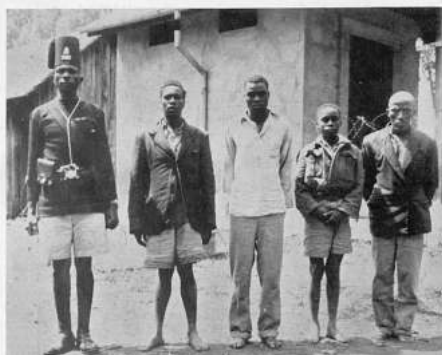
During the raid undertaken in the Mahiga location by two companies of the 5th King's African Rifles, with elements from the police and the Kenya Regiment, a new feature was the assistance afforded by some 350 members of the Kikuyu "resistance groups," armed with spears, *Pangas* (heavy knives) and bows and arrows, and wearing red arm-bands. The raiding parties achieved complete surprise, but as they began to move forward through the area shrill bird-call whistles sounded the alarm. Some 200 men were screened and 140—including at least one important criminal—taken away to Nyeri.

It was clear from the appearance of the prisoners, from the state of their garments and their matted hair, that they had been lying out in this district for some time. The troops also found a glade where Mau Mau ceremonial "apiances" were lying about, and it was evident that oath-taking ceremonies had been held there repeatedly.

After the raid members of the Kikuyu "Home Guard" marched back to their homes in high spirits at their success, laughing and shouting as they went.



**ROUNDING UP A NUMBER OF MAU MAU SUSPECTS WHO HAD BEEN HIDING IN A MAIZE PLANTATION IN THE MAHIGA LOCATION OF KENYA:** It was believed that hardened Mau Mau criminals were hiding in this area, committing crimes both in the Reserve and on the other side of the Aberdares at Thomson's Falls. About 140 suspects were taken to Nyeri after the raid by two companies of the 5th King's African Rifles, assisted by police and the Kenya Regiment. Local "Home Guard" groups also helped the soldiers.



**THE AFRICAN SERVANTS WHO WERE ARRESTED AFTER THE MURDER OF COMMANDER I. H. MEIKLEJOHN IN HIS HOUSE AT THOMSON'S FALLS:** It was stated that the two men on the left are suspected of the murder, while the others have turned Queen's evidence against them. Commander Meiklejohn and his wife were attacked by five Africans who burst into the house and slashed them both with heavy knives.



**MRS. SQAIR OF NGOBIT, KENYA, EXAMINING THE WRECKAGE OF HER HOME AFTER A VISIT FROM THE MAU MAU:** The Squairs were away when the Mau Mau entered their home, which is thirty-four miles from the nearest settlement in the Nyeri-Thomson's Falls area, so the raiders gave vent to their fury by wrecking everything they could lay hands on. On right—The wreckage in one of the bedrooms. The windows and mirror are smashed and the contents of the drawers strewn around. A note, evidently written by a semi-literate, was left behind. It read: "Be thankful to God whatever the case may be and first we are required your head and we did not take it... Think you are Kenya's meat. We are not too much and we are more than 25 million people and we are killing Europlain."



**POLICEMEN MAKING INVESTIGATIONS AT THE SQAIR HOMESTEAD AT NGOBIT AFTER THE MAU MAU RAID:** Fortunately Mr. and Mrs. Squair were away when the raid took place, but much of their furniture was severely damaged by the raiders.