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Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 29 Mar 1820

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About this record

A report on the island of Qeis or Kenn [Kīsh] compiled by John McNeil from information gathered from inhabitants of the island and the adjacent Persian [Iranian] coast, undated. The report examines the relations of nearby Persian ports, in particular Charrack [Bandar-e Chārak], with the Joasmees [al-Qawāsim] and Wahabees [Wahhabis], the Persian Government at Sheraz [Shīrāz], and Muscat. It contains tables displaying the strength in men and boats of Linga [Bandar-e Lengeh], Magoo [Bandar-e Moghūyeh], Charrack, Kelaht or Ghelaht [Kalāt], and Taonah [Bandar-e Tahūneh] and their dependencies, and the names of ruling Shaiks [Shaikhs].

The letter was enclosed in the letter of Henry Willock, HM Chargé d’Affaires in Persia [Iran], to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, dated 29 March 1820 [IOR/L/PS/9/69/1].

Copy. — 4/ L/PS/9/69/5

①

Statement of information collected on the Island of Socotra, or Socow, from the Natives of that Island, and from some Inhabitants of the opposite Coast.

It appears that the towns of Singa, Magoo, Chavack, Saonah, and Kelakt, have all been on terms of intimacy with the Seasmens of the Coast of Arabia — but they have not any of them committed acts of Plunder with their own vessels.

They were employed in commerce and conveyed from the different parts of the Gulf provisions and Shoes, which the Seasmens could not themselves procure, and which the people of the Persian Side found their account in selling to them.

The better to cover the nature of this traffic it was not unusual with them to make a show of being at War with the Wahabees, and this expedient was

has been resorted to particularly by the
Sheikh of Charack; though the connections
of that Chief with the Wahabees seems
to have been entirely commercial on
his part.

It is said that about four
years ago a Poosnee force appeared on
this Coast, that some negotiations were
carried on, between that Tribe, and the
Sheikh, and that one result of this was
the reception of a Wahabee Agent at
Charack. — Who was to be made ac-
quainted with the departure, and dis-
tination of every vessel leaving that
Port. —

It seems however that the
Sheikh was jealous of this interference
and endeavoured to improve his rela-
tions with the Court of Shiraz, and
Muscat. — His Troops accompanied
those of the Prince of Shiraz, in an
Expedition against Magoo about a
year.

②

year ago, and assisted in the attack on that place, which had become obnoxious in consequence of the Inhabitants having become Wihabees.

He sent about nearly at the same time to Muscat, which on its return thence was plundered and taken by the Wihabees, since which time the people of Charack have been in a continual War with the Soasmees.

The only act of Plunder of which the Charack people are accused is their having taken possession of a Schooner from Bushie, which was wrecked on the Island of Gueff, and which had on Board a quantity of Treasure, and some Horses besides other property.

The Sheikh returned 29 of the 32 Bags of treasure, which were on board, and all the Horses and Mares excepting

accepting, four or five, to a Mr Horshaw
who came from Bushia to recover
the property. — The matter was com-
promised by the intervention of Shaikh
Kufelan of Bander, Assala, who accom-
panied Mr Horshaw to Chavack,
and who threatened the Shaiks, with
an attack, in the event of his not coming
to an arrangement.

This act however of
Abdulla ben Ahmed is essentially
different from the depredations of the
Joasmes, as it was not a forcible attack,
and could not have been the effect of
any previous arrangement, or depredation.

These Pats on the Persian
Side seem all of them to have been
connected with the Joasmes for
their own security, and for the sake
of the advantages derived from the
Trade with them — not for the pur-
pose of Plunder — They were not
protected.

③

protected against the Wahabees by their own Government and were not strong enough to protect themselves. I have remained therefore only the alternative of giving up Trade altogether, or of being on terms with the Wahabees.

Subjoin a statement of the Forces in armed men, and boats of a size fitted for Piracy belonging to each of the places which I have enumerated. A considerable portion however of the armed population is unaccustomed to maritime occupations as they live inland.

These Towns, and their Dependencies occupy I believe all the part of the Coast of Persia which has been connected with the Wahabees on terms of intimacy.

Force of Men and Boats, for		
Singā, and its Dependencies,	725 men,	8 Boats
Magoo.	Do, 142	3
Charack	Do,	
with the Island of Susp.	452	5

Charack, and its dependencies, }
with the Island of Suez. } 452 men, 5 Boats.

Kilakht, or Shelakht _____ 490 " 5 "

Taanah _____ 40 " 2 "

Total _____ 1049 men, 20 "

Kilakht is a port on the
vicinity of, and immediately to the
Northward of Taanah. —

The accompanying detail
will show the number of men, in each
village of the different Sheikhs, whose
principals towns have been enumerated.

Signed / John W. Keil.

Dep. Asst. Surg. Major.

The above Statement has
been corroborated by the evidence of
Shaikh Hapson, & Shaikh Retief, sons
of Shaikh Barakat, formerly of Charack,
whom I have seen subsequent to its
being drawn up. —

A true Copy.

Signed / D. Wilson.
Mil. Secy.

④

*Detail of the Force in Singa,
Mogoo, Charaack, Saonah, Kelatt and
their dependencies.*

Singa &c^o Shaik Mahomed ben Khalid.

<i>Singa</i> _____	<i>500 men</i>
<i>Sunnahs</i> _____	<i>50</i>
<i>Sheehak</i> _____	<i>20</i>
<i>Bunder Raug</i> _____	<i>20</i>
<i>Bhai chi</i> _____	<i>30</i>
<i>Suzen</i> _____	<i>50</i>
<i>Bawaid</i> _____	<i>30</i>
<i>Mergon</i> _____	<i>20</i>
<i>Bon Mohulline</i> _____	<i>5</i>
<i>Total</i> _____	<i>725</i>

Mogoo and its Dependencies.

<i>Mogoo</i> _____	<i>50</i>
<i>Kapsanah</i> _____	<i>40</i>
<i>Suwacet Suzil</i> _____	<i>12</i>
<i>Bustanah</i> _____	<i>40</i>
<i>Total</i> _____	<i>142</i>

Charaack &c^o Shaik Abdulla ben Ahmed.

<i>Charaack</i> _____	<i>200</i>
<i>Bamuroob</i> _____	<i>7</i>
<i>Mooragh</i> _____	<i>20</i>
<i>Hogoon</i> _____	<i>5</i>
<i>Kustanee</i> _____	<i>30</i>
<i>Balushko</i> _____	<i>20</i>
<i>Dooran</i> _____	<i>20</i>
<i>Guefs</i> _____	<i>150</i>
<i>Total</i> _____	<i>452</i>

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Tarnah Dew Shaik Ahmed.

Tarnah	50
Seckonar	10
Nukpulanmer	10
Total	70

Kelakt, or Kelakt Dew Shaik Ali.

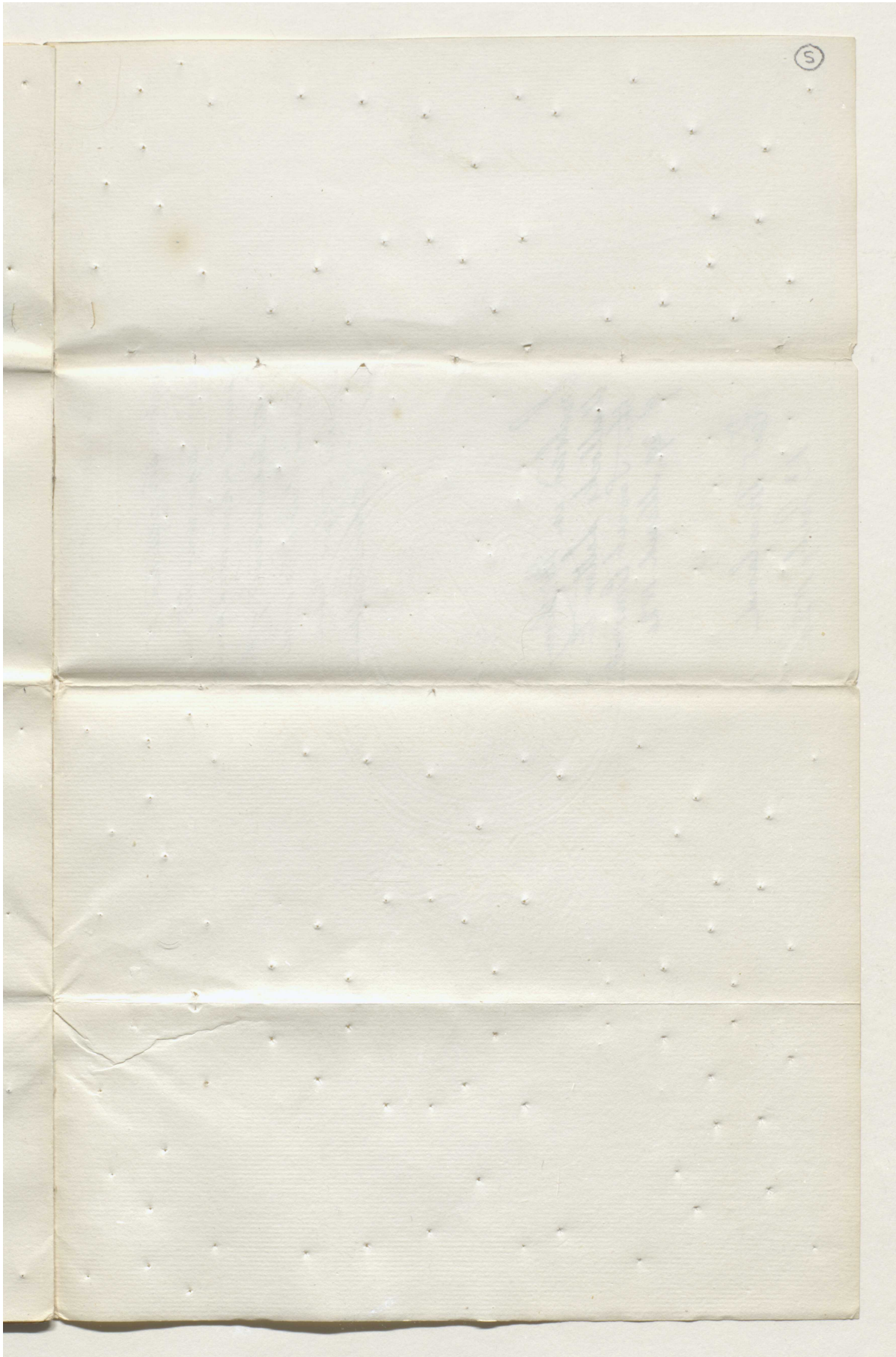
Kelakt	60
moorakh	300
Rustak	50
Sechak	30
Shershak	30
Total	490

/Signed/ John W. A. C.

A true Copy.

/Signed/ D. Wilson.
M. S.

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Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 29 Mar 1820
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