



SECRET.

*From General Smuts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.*

11th March, 1916; 7.5 p.m.

(No. G.O. 284.)

There was a resolute action fought by the enemy the whole of yesterday at Tabora Hill's Nek and Kitevo Hill, west of Taveta. The direction of the enemy's retirement appears to be towards Moshi, and eventually towards Arusha and the interior. This is not in accordance with our anticipation that his retirement would be along the Tanga railway, and it may possibly mean that he intends to evacuate Pare and the Usambara Mountains along his northern frontier. I have warned General Stewart, Commanding the 1st Division, of the enemy's apparent plans to retire in the direction of Arusha, and this division should be able to frustrate his retreat towards that place. It is very difficult, however, to remain in communication with Stewart. Notwithstanding that recent rains have rendered the ground almost impassable for transport, pursuit will be vigorously pushed.

SECRET.

*From General Stewart to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.*

12th March, 1916, 11.55 a.m.

(No. G.O.F. 151.)

There is still some obscurity in the situation in front of me. In spite of strong efforts to dislodge him the enemy who was supposed to be retiring to Moshi and further west remained in possession of Kitovo Hill yesterday, and this, combined with a report from General Stewart that there is practically no opposition to his advance, points to the possibility that the enemy's main force may be still opposed to me. Last night my (word omitted) were opposed Kitovo Hill and will continue action to-day. General Stewart's advance is lamentably slow as he had last night only reached a point about 9 miles north of Bomangome. I have repeatedly impressed upon him how essential his advance is to the success of the main operations.

A large body of the enemy cut off by my rapid advance is wandering along the eastern slopes of Kilimanjaro. It was the enemy's intention that this force should make a flanking attack against my lines of communication, and on 8th March, a determined attack was made on my camp on the Lumi. As this force keeps to the bush it is very difficult to locate it and capture it.

Railway construction is proceeding rapidly. It is expected to reach Taveta in about a week.

*From General Smuts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.*

12th March, 1916, 11.55 p.m.

(No. G.O.F. 156.)

The military situation which I reported in my telegram of this morning as being still obscure has to-day cleared up completely. The action which was begun yesterday morning for clearing the enemy from the Kitovo Hills resulted in a very obstinate struggle, which continued with wavering fortunes until midnight. The hills which were densely wooded and steep presented a most formidable obstacle; the enemy held them with very large forces and portions of them were taken and retaken several times in the course of the engagement. As the result of a final bayonet attack between 9 p.m. and midnight two parties, of which one was led by Lieut.-Colonel Freeth of 7th South African Infantry and the other by Major Thompson of the 5th South African Infantry, secured a hold on the hills, and this they maintained during the night until reinforcements could come up in the morning. The German Army of 2,000 to 3,000 Askaris were then seen streaming away in a south-westerly direction towards Kahe. Comparatively severe losses have been suffered by both sides. The moral effect, however, of our victory is certain to be great and far-reaching.

During this engagement a mounted brigade was clearing the hills at the foot of Kilimanjaro towards the north-west (?) and cutting off enemy's retreat in a westerly direction. General Stewart also arrived on the road connecting Moshi and Arusha, and in consequence enemy is retreating to the Moshi-Tanga railway in a southern direction. The pursuit is being continued.

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