

EAST AFR PROT
37577 *East*

C. O.
37566
REC'D
FEB 16 1915

War Office
1915
14 Aug.
Next previous Paper
745

German East Africa
Telegraphic correspondence as to
operations

See on 400 37567 5 East

Next subsequent Paper
W.O.
375675

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

1st August, 1915.

(No. 786 9.)

Your telegram No M.O. 330, cipher, 29th July. India was asked for increased requirements 2nd Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, but replied in the negative and suggested that application should be made to War Office. In the meantime, 70 rank and file as the usual 10 per cent. reinforcements, were sent from India, which, presumably, will have to be continued.

Repeated Chief of General Staff, Simla, with reference to his No. S. 14462, 5th July, with the intimation that 2 officers, 108 rank and file for the 2nd Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, have been sent by War Office.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

2nd August, 1915, 12.55 p.m.

(No. S. 322)

To-day I posted a summary of the present situation per a.s. "Matiana" a *precis* of it is given below. The situation has considerably changed since my telegram No. 283, 20th April.

(a) Although the Komingsberg has been destroyed it is possible that some of the guns may be salvaged. Neither the Admiral nor I can prevent this. If mounted at sea or coast towns these will greatly increase the difficulty of landing.

(b) The Navy sunk a blockade runner near the German coast in April. The Admiral considered the cargo destroyed, but intelligence reports received lately denote salvage up to 6 field guns, 8 machine guns, 5,000 rifles and 5,000,000 rounds. Ammunition of recent date has lately been freely used against us. The enemy now have 12,000 African troops since then levied and among the good fighting tribes in German East Africa they have an unlimited recruiting ground. If the reports of salvage are true the Germans could have 20,000 armed African troops by the end of the year. If stiffened by whites and backed by many machine guns these are better fighters under African conditions than any but the best Indian troops.

(c) Among the white troops sickness is serious. Nearly all the past fighting has been in malarial areas and malaria is at once brought out by exposure or exertion. My reliable troops are few and consequently I have not been able to spare them. After providing for adequate defence of the rest of the frontier the greatest striking force I could concentrate this month in the Voi area would be only 4,500 reliable infantry, 18 guns and 35 machine guns. I can hold my own at present but paragraph (b) must be borne in mind.

(d) I regret that at Mbayuni some of the 29th did not behave well. 14 join 18 Sikhs awaiting trial by court-martial for self-mutilation.

(e) I have had to return two good companies of the 1st King's African Rifles to Nyassaland. Men long time-expired and therefore discontented.

(f) As regards possible plans for the future, Moshi is still the most important area. With one extra brigade the railhead could be pushed to Njaro or Sabta, and possibly the Germans might be induced to attack it. With two extra brigades I should propose to demonstrate against Tanga, sending a mobile column via Longido and using every other available man to attack Taveta. With three extra brigades if the Belgians were then co-operating at Ujiji, I should propose that one brigade should take Dar-es-Salaam, the remainder operating as before. This would not only assist the Belgians but great political effects would follow from the possession of Dar-es-Salaam.

