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Was office

German East Africa

1915

25 Aug.

Telegraphic correspondence as to

Last previous Paper
 78548 S

operations

- see Bismarck
- see Berlin
- see Hamburg
- see Ziddeh

We have had the most interesting
 parts of his report, but note
 telegram from him to General Tingle
 of August 19th as to sending of
 Rhoderian in 2 Africa to a

X full battery - the practicality
 of this is under consideration

Next subsequent Paper
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But 26/15
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SECRET.

7-86
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From Base, Kilindini to War Office

13th August, 1915.

(No. 25/79.)

"Taroba" from Bombay, arrived 12th.

*Reinforcements, Force B.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office

13th August, 1915.

(No. 20/O)

With reference to my telegram to Buckingham Engine Works, Coventry, No. 33, of 8th August ---

"Please send 500 incendiary bullets 303, also 200 Shaw Chlorosin, also 20 ignition tubes charge $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. Tell Maddox."

The firm requires Government permission before they can export. Could supplies be arranged, except that it is believed 450 incendiary bullets are more satisfactory than 303. It is presumed that these are suitable for the old Martini Henry rifle.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office

14th August, 1915, 6.40 p.m.

(No. 325.)

With reference to my letter of 31st July No. 322 and the summary of same which was sent in telegram No. 323 of 2nd August.

(a.) Reliable information has now been received that four guns have already been salvaged from the "Königsberg" and that others may be shortly.

(b.) It is indicated by recent intelligence that a second storeship (the first was sunk in Mansa Bay) has run the blockade and is in or near Tanga now. The Admiral has been asked to verify this. It is shown by intercepted messages that there is no lack of munitions of war in German East Africa.

(c.) If the above is true the whole situation in German East Africa is radically altered. The Germans have an unlimited recruiting area. The two storeships must have been expected and in anticipation of arms and ammunition being available it is natural that recruits should have been trained. Therefore the Germans may have at this time 20,000 reliable men under arms, and may be greatly superior to ourselves in field and machine-guns. For the last 8 weeks Mbyuni and Tavata area have been so strongly picketed that I have not been able to obtain any information of the enemy's movements there.

(d.) Against such odds, if all my troops were fit, I could probably hold my own, but owing to the ever increasing sickness of the European and Indian troops, the reliable infantry now only totals about 4,000 men, of whom no more than 3,000 can be concentrated in the Maktau and Mzima lines. This concentration is now being carried out. Should the enemy therefore make a determined advance on these two lines, a contingency which I regard as quite possible, the situation would be serious.

(e.) Only 2nd line troops can be spared to hold coast. To safeguard Mombasa and keep up morale of the inhabitants, I consider the continual presence of a man-of-war is essential.

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From General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 326.)

14th August, 1915, 10.5 p.m.

The Union Government are about to demobilise six 12-prs. and two 5-inch howitzers which are not required for Europe. These, complete with personnel and ammunition, would be invaluable here.

I am informed that the Union Government are prepared to recruit for a second Rhodesian Regiment up to 600 strong. To be mobilised and equipped at Poteschefstroom at the expense of the Union Government as far as Union stores permit. The purchase of equipment to complete to be defrayed from Imperial Revenues, also pay and rations and cost of forwarding to East Africa. I strongly recommend that this offer should be accepted.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi.

(No. 7010, cipher. M.O. 336.)

15th August, 1915, 10.50 a.m.

Offer received from Mr. Eustace, alias Thatcher, to raise and command corps of scouts for service in East Africa, partly untrained men from England, partly natives to be locally recruited by him. He gives as references Major James, 29th Punjab, Captains Phillips and Hardingham, 1st King's African Rifles, Captain Notley, Commissioner of Police and other officers. What is your opinion on this?

From War Office to Major-General Tighe.

(No. 7048, cipher. M.O. 1A.)

16th August, 1915, 6.10 p.m.

We are sending 100 Very's pistols and 10,000 cartridges for lighting up ground at night, also 500 parachute rockets. Do you require further quantities?

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 327.)

16th August, 1915, 4.15 p.m.

Reference to my letter of 5th July No. 314, paragraph (c). I am informed that portable wireless installations, Douglas pattern, are possessed by the Admiralty. They would be extremely useful for columns, and between Malakau and Mzima (30 miles thick bush). I should be very glad to have four, with operators, who are very scarce here.

From General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 328.)

16th August, 1915, 6.35 a.m.

The garrison of Kasigau, consisting of Captain Sealy, four Indian officers and 88 men, all of the 125th Baluchis, was surprised at dawn on 14th August. About an equal number of the enemy attacked and they rushed the camp after a short resistance.

Five rank and file were killed and one wounded, while Captain Sealy, Intelligence Agent, Perks, Subedar Abdul Amir (wounded) with 30 rank and file (7 wounded) were captured. The remainder broke free.

As Captain Sealy was changing the site of his camp the defences were therefore incomplete; but the lack of ordinary military precautions to guard against surprise was apparently the principal cause of this unfortunate incident. I am awaiting further details.

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It is necessary to hold Kasigau, to deny water to parties of the enemy who come to raid the Uganda railway, on which at least 20 attempts have been made, and which by its very vulnerable nature makes such isolated posts necessary.

Recently cavalry patrols have made very successful long distance rides beyond Longido and Lake Natron. Much valuable information has been acquired, and one German officer, five German rank and file and several Askaris have been captured.

From Major-General Tighe, Nairobi, to War Office.

(No. 330 B.)

18th August, 1915, 9.15 p.m.

In reference to your No. 7010 of 14th August. We find from Police Commissioner and other sources, Eustace is undesirable character and the proposed corps no use to me. Fully trained and equipped troops are necessary for British East Africa.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi.

(No. 7185, cipher. M.O. 341.)

19th August, 1915, 5.40 p.m.

Reference your No. 326 of 14th August. Proposal of Union Government to facilitate recruiting to raise Rhodesians to strength of full battalion has been accepted.

Union Government are being asked to send you two 5-inch howitzers if they can provide personnel. There seems no chance of getting more owing to difficulty of obtaining personnel at Imperial rates.]

From War Office to Major-General Tighe.

(No. 7186. M.O. 343.)

19th August, 1915, 5.15 p.m.

Your No. 821 of 30th July. Steps are being taken by Admiralty to provide better wireless installation at Mafia.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi.

(No. 7187, cipher.)

19th August, 1915, 5.45 p.m.

No. M.O. 342, 19th August. A large number of Packhard motor lorries carrying capacity 8 tons; Reo cars, capacity 1½ tons, motor cycles, cars and hupmobiles are offered by the Union Government. Would any of these be any use to you? Please state the sort and the number required.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi.

(No. 7188, cipher. M.O. 345.)

19th August, 1915, 11.30 p.m.

Reference your letter of 5th July, No. 314, and your telegram of 16th August, No. 327. There are no portable wireless sets with a range of 200 miles in existence. Personnel can be sent you together with rubber sack sets, total weight of station with saddle, 800 lbs., range about 30 miles. The same set on bedplate for use in cart, weight about the same, or wagon sets, weight with wagon 5,000 lbs., range about 80 miles. The latter would have to be specially adapted for oxen, and delay thereby caused, as they are constructed for transport. The former could be carried in any kind of cart or on mules. The heaviest normal, indivisible part of pack set weighs about 200 lbs. but further sub-division into three loads, though undesirable, is possible. Please state which of these three kinds you prefer.

Three oxy-acetylene searchlights with a range of 500 yards are being ordered,

From General Officer Commanding, South Africa, to War Office.

(No. 8298.)

19th August, 1915, 3.05 p.m.

Your No. 6208 of 13th July and No. 6627 of 29th July. General Tighe wants 6,500 rounds 15-pr. B.L. ammunition. Ministry of Defence cannot spare any rounds for British East Africa.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 331 S.)

21st August, 1915.

With reference to your telegram, No. 7148, of 19th August, I should be glad to receive one wagon set and two pack sets mule transport complete with personnel.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 27/O.)

21st August, 1915.

In view of two more 4-inch Q.F. naval guns of the "Pegasus" being now of use, is there a possibility of a further supply of 2,000 rounds lydellite? Please reply by telegraph.

From General Officer Commanding, South Africa, to War Office.

(No. 4293.)

19th August, 1915, 7.35 p.m.

Your No. 6208 of 13th July and No. 6627 of 29th July. General Tighe wants 6,500 rounds 15-pr. B.L. ammunition. Ministry of Defence cannot spare any rounds for British East Africa.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 331 S.)

21st August, 1915.

With reference to your telegram, No. 7148, of 19th August, I should be glad to receive one wagon set and two pack sets mule transport complete with personnel.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 2770.)

21st August, 1915.

In view of two more 4-inch Q.F. naval guns of the "Pegasus" being now of use, is there a possibility of a further supply of 2,000 rounds Lyddite? Please reply by telegraph.
