

EAST AFR. PROT
51903 *Serial*

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War Office
1915
10 Nov
Last previous Paper.
No. 51867
75

German East Africa

Telegraphic correspondence as to
operations.

~~the following~~
~~was from~~
~~the~~
~~the~~

Gen. G. Fether

There were interesting parts of this we
have had already in separate
correspondence. We know that the
War Office have now undertaken to
send out from home by ordinary
personnel for the S. African, to Namibia.

As to the latest position as to
the German naval office, Lieutenant
Christiansen.

Partly?

600 10/11/15 Gen 10/11/15

Next subsequent Paper

[Handwritten signatures and dates]
10/11/15
11/12/15

Partly

SECRET

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 71 U.)

29th October, 1915, 5.20 p.m.

Your telegram No. 9276 of the 28th October. D.1 would not be suitable for the purpose; for this only heavy cable is required. If D.1 is available it would be very acceptable in addition to the heavy cable. On account of breakage by animals the chief necessity of the heavy cable is strength. Improvement on the cable laid by hand barrow

From Major General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 870/3.)

29th October, 1915.

Your telegram of 14th October. Enquiry has been made locally, including Italian Consul previously responsible for that district. The name is unknown here.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Mauritius.

(No. 9315, cipher. M.O. 1 (B).)

29th October, 1915, 6.5 p.m.

Your cipher telegram of 27th October. Will you please send seven maxims and four tripods of Mark IV. Three tripods Mark IV. will be sent by us to East Africa. Please cable what guns are sighted for Mark VI ammunition and which for Mark VII. Sighting strips for the latter will be sent with the tripods. It is presumed that two guns and two tripods are 17th Infantry equipment and five guns and two tripods are ammunition, vide our telegram No. 2917, cipher, dated 25th January.

In future please number your telegrams.

From War Office to Commander-in-Chief, India.

(No. 9321, cipher. Q.M.G. 9.)

29th October, 1915.

Your No. S. 25641, cipher. Will you kindly arrange for chain of reliefs by the usual monthly transport as under:-

- (1) Double Company 130th, India to Mombasa; thence empty to Mauritius
- (2) 17th Infantry, Mauritius to Mombasa. (The numbers of 17th Infantry will be cabled on receipt of information from Mauritius.)
- (3) 13th Rajputs, Mombasa to Ceylon.
- (4) 28th Punjabis, Ceylon to Mombasa.

Freight for Hong Kong-Singapore Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Mauritius to Egypt, and two companies 46th Punjabis, Mombasa to Suez, will be arranged by us.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi

(No. 9357, cipher. M.O. 463.)

30th October, 1915, 7.25 p.m.

Your No. 353, of 28th October. About the 10th November the following will sail:-

- Base detachment for pack and wagon sections, other ranks, 11.
- Pack wireless section of two detachments, officer, 1, other ranks, 16.
- Three searchlights.

The wagon wireless section, which will consist of two detachments, officer, 1, other ranks, 22, will not be ready until the end of November.

From Base, Kilindini, to War Office.

(No. 25/1417) 1st November, 1945, 1.5 a.m.
"Arratoon," "Apear" from Bombay arrived 31st October.

From Major General Tighe to War Office.

(No. D. 277.) 1st November, 1.35 p.m.
Send 6,000 helmets urgently required for South Africa as, unobtainable South Africa Consign Base Supply Kilindini.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 355.) 1st November, 1915, 1 p.m.
Reference by No. 236 of 13th September. After consulting fully the South African delegates it appears probable that about the end of November the Union Government may offer reinforcements considerably in excess of those noted in your telegram No. 3857 of 15th October. These would chiefly be mounted burghers and they would not in any case volunteer for service in Europe.

Should large reinforcements arrive, I consider it indispensable that Colonel Shephard should continue (on the) General Staff, and General Malleson remain (in his) present appointment.

In view of the above I request that my telegram No. 352* of 17th ultimo may be cancelled.

I am asking India for a suitable Senior Officer as Inspector-General of Communications.

Repeated to Chief of the General Staff, India.

* This is possibly recorded as No. 442.

From War Office to Commander in Chief, India.

(No. 9430, cipher. Q.M.G. 2.) 1st November, 1915, 8.30 p.m.
General Officer Commanding Ceylon, General Officer Commanding Mauritius, and General Officer Commanding Force B have been directed to place themselves in communication with you regarding the conveyance of the 28th Punjab, 13th and 17th Infantry.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Mauritius.

(No. 9438, cipher. Q.M.G. 2.) 1st November, 1915, 8.30 p.m.
See conveyance of 17th Infantry is being arranged by Commander-in-Chief, India, from Mauritius to Mombasa. You should place yourself in communication with him.
With reference to your No. 38, cipher, of the 30th October. You should send the remainder of the Hong Kong-Singapore Company Royal Garrison Artillery, and the two 10-pdr guns in the "Himalaya," if possible, and make the best local arrangements for the equipment of the two 4.7 guns. Please cable the arrangements made.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe.

(No. 9431, cipher. Q.M.G. 2.) 1st November, 1915, 8.45 p.m.
Sea conveyance for 17th Infantry, from Mauritius to Mombasa, 13th Infantry, to Ceylon, and 28th Punjab, from Ceylon to Mombasa, is being arranged by Commander-in-Chief, India. Please get into communication with him. I am arranging freight for the double company of the 40th Punjab to Suez to leave after the arrival of the double company of the 130th Baluchis from India.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Ceylon.

(No. 9432, cipher. Q.M.G. 2.) 1st November, 1915, 8.30 p.m.
You should place yourself in communication with Commander-in-Chief, India, who is arranging sea conveyance for the 13th Infantry from Mombasa and 28th Punjab to Mombasa.

From General Officer Commanding, Mauritius, to War Office.

(No. 63, Reference No. 9179, cipher. M.O. 1 (s).) 1st November, 1915, 7.25 p.m.
The accommodation by classes which is required is as follows —
Troops proceeding to England —
1st Class: 23 (including 3 ladies), family of British officers of 17th Infantry.
2nd Class: 34.
3rd Class: 81 men; 26 family beds.

Troops for East Africa —

1st Class: 9 officers.
2nd Class: 20 Indian; 1 British band master, wife, children.

Deck: 922 (including 97 Indian, 17th Infantry, band and other from depot) Indians because communication Mauritius and India is seldom and irregular.

In addition, wives of officers, 17th, for England, 1 with 2 children desirous to go to parent Hong Kong, 2 desirous passage to Mombasa. Can these be granted?

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 356.) 2nd November, 1915, 12 noon.
In continuation of my telegram of 1st inst. No. 355. Exclusive of those coming from South Africa the troops of my command number over 17,000. I have only one administrative officer for this force, Major Dobbs. For the work of the field I consider it essential that the administrative staff should be augmented to that of a division.

I, therefore, propose that Major Dobbs become Assistant Quartermaster-General, Major Orr, Assistant Adjutant-General, and that Major Orr's place as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General be taken by Major Towns, 28th Bn. Royal Fusiliers.

From War Office to General Smuts, Pretoria.

(No. 9439, cipher. M.O. 1 (c).) 2nd November, 1915, 12 noon.
Your difficulty as to 13-pr. batteries is appreciated, but we should like to know as soon as possible the numbers and ranks of officers and the numbers of other ranks now willing to proceed direct at once to East Africa, where there is urgent need of guns. We propose to provide fully-trained personnel to complete establishments as far as possible, and train and organize the units after their arrival in East Africa. That we may be enabled to select the cadres we should like to have your estimate of what skilled personnel we must find, also your opinion of capabilities of Union officers willing to proceed bearing in mind that no high degree of mobility is required. We understand that you can provide mule transport and coloured drivers for five batteries and ammunition column, according to requirements of General Tighe after consultation with General Hughes. You should, if necessary, formally amend terms of engagement and obtain signatures to the variation. Please telegraph the earliest date when above personnel together with guns, all ammunition, stores and equipment in your possession can embark. Deficiencies in equipment will be made good from here at once, but the departure should not be delayed for their arrival. Please keep us informed of progress made. We shall submit later through Colonial Office a scheme for utilizing the balance of enlisted personnel who are unwilling to go to East Africa, but until those for East Africa have left nothing need be said about this.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi.

(No. 9453, cipher. M.O. 466.)

2nd November, 1915, 4 p.m.

Your No. 67/O, of the 28th October. We have asked General Officer Commanding, Egypt, to send bayonets.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi.

(No. 9458, cipher. M.O. 464.)

2nd November, 1915, 6.6 p.m.

The Admiralty are satisfied that Oberlutenant Christensen, arrested 5th August in Johannesburg, and now interned in England, is a naval officer and that he had been in command of a naval supply ship. Also that he was sent here from the "Königsberg" that he might carry a message to Germany.

From High Commissioner for South Africa to Secretary of State for the Colonies.

3rd November, 1915.

Commandant General has to-day received out Kabalo following from Simonsen Begins 28th October, A.23. Have arrived Lukuga on Tanganyika. As there is no harbour either here or at any other Military Station, am not pending arrangements for building of finding some shelter, putting boats in water. So-called port Lukuga has bar with less than two feet water and tornadoes have begun eads.

From Commander-in-Chief, India, to War Office.

No. S. 26136.

3rd November, 1915, 9.15 p.m.

Your No. 8419, cipher. On 22nd October "Arcauon Apou" sailed with:-

Officiant, British Officer, 1 private follower, 1. East Africa Police—British Officer (returning from escort duty); private follower, 1. Loyal North Lancashire—British rank, 1. East Africa Transport—British rank, 1 (both returning from escort duty). East Africa Mounted Rifles—British rank, 1 (discharged from hospital). Telegraphist, Indian Officer, 1. Rations for British troops—2,000 (1) maunds. Rations for Indian troops—9,425 maunds. Grain for animals—8,375 maunds. Fodder—32,125 maunds. 300 packages of clothing, gifts &c., of all, 926 maunds. 600 gallons of petrol in 15 drums.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe.

(No. 9521, cipher. M.O. 1 (0))

4th November, 1915, 1.20 p.m.

Reference our No. 9184. In addition to their 2 machine guns and 2 tripods regimental equipment the 17th Infantry will bring 5 machine guns with 20,000 rounds Mark VII ammunition per gun from ammunition Mauritius. We are sending from home tripods and sighting strips for all 7 guns for Mark VI ammunition. You will thus be enabled to use the guns with either Mark ammunition.

From War Office to General Smuts, Pretoria.

(No. 9551, cipher.)

4th November, 1915, 6.30 p.m.

With reference to your telegram of 17th October addressed to Colonial Office regarding 4-inch guns for East Africa. If you can complete the battery and ammunition column with vehicles, coloured drivers and draught animals, four 4-inch guns (Q.F.) with 300 rounds for each gun and fairly trained Royal Garrison Artillery personnel can be sent from here.

In order to fix establishment, please inform us as to the numbers of drivers and vehicles and the numbers and class of animals for trains.

From Command Ordnance, Nairobi, to War Office.

(No. 720.)

4th November, 1915, 6.35 p.m.

Your telegram, 2nd November, No. 22366. Send D.5 cable on English pattern drums and six barrows, drum universal, and one waggon cable Mark I if available.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding Mauritius.

(No. 9560, cipher. Q.M.G. 2.)

4th November, 1915, 7.43 p.m.

With reference to your No. 63, cipher. The numbers of 17th Infantry for Mombasa have been received. The British bandmaster wife and children and 97 other ranks. Indians of 17th Infantry should accompany the battalion to Mombasa, from which place they will return by first public opportunity, to India. Please inform General Tighe, Nairobi. Packet passages may be provided for wives and families of the British officers to India or England, but no ladies are to go to Mombasa. A passage, not exceeding the cost of the passage to England, may be provided for one lady and two children to Hong Kong.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 73/0.)

5th November, 1915, 4.50 p.m.

Please supply portable telephone apparatus Indian pattern, or other patterns for mounted troops. Complete set. Sandrey not available at present from India.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 959.)

5th November, 1915, 9 p.m.

The following telegram has been received from General Smuts—

"I am asking the Governor-General to arrange with the Imperial Government that any requests from Major-General Tighe may be regarded as having War Office authority."

With reference to your telegram No. 8982, cipher, dated 19th October. I will, of course, refer all questions as to additional troops to you. With this provision, may I ask for all my requirements direct from General Smuts.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 360.)

5th November, 1915, 10 p.m.

M. Tombeur is now at Kibati, so I hope that the Belgians will shortly advance into Ruanda in earnest.

The visit of the South African officers was extremely useful and may produce important results.

Nine bombs on the railway 4th October, a private found and removed one, which exploded and killed two men. Four took effect on trains, and one engine was slightly damaged, and one badly.

The enemy have been very quiet during the past month. The only incidents were threats on the coast and Eastern lake area, neither of which were pressed.

The water and camps on Voi to Maktau line are now ready for the arrival of reinforcements from South Africa.

From Major General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 780.)

6th November, 1915, 3.40 p.m.

Please to supply by post 200 Stars, 50 crowns.

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

6th November, 1915, 4.50 p.m.

(No. 6422. Reference your telegram No. 7704, cipher. M.O. 1 (A).)

General Tighe now requests that 4 Packard lorries and 48 Reo lorries should be provided instead of the numbers mentioned in your telegram quoted above. As the Union Government can provide, I am making arrangements accordingly.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe.

(No. 9650, cipher. M.O. 1 (A).)

7th November, 1915, 9.10 p.m.

Reference your No. 359 of 5th November. You can act as you propose, but War Office should have copies of all your wires to General Smuts.

From Major General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 78/O.)

6th November, 1915, 3.40 p.m.

Please to supply by post 200 Stars, 50 crowns.

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

6th November, 1915, 4.50 p.m.

(No. 6422. Reference your telegram No. 7704, cipher. M.O. 1 (A).)

General Tighe now requests that 4 Packard lorries and 48 Reo lorries should be provided instead of the numbers mentioned in your telegram quoted above. As the Union Government can provide, I am making arrangements accordingly.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe.

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Reference your No. 359 of 5th November. You can act as you propose, but War Office should have copies of all your wires to General Smuts.