

EAST AFR. PROT
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C.O.
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REC
REG. 31 MAR 15

War Office
1915
27 March
Last previous Paper
13615

German East Africa
Telegraphic correspondence as
to operations

Party
Next subsequent Paper
14791

Mr. B. ...
Mr. ...
The ... Contingent arrived
on March 12.
Party?
for 3/15
(with ... towards ...
written to me about it you.)
W.C.B. 2926
H.J.R.
30/3/15
U. 14-15
Per 31.3.15

See also
15035
H. Y.A.
3/13/15

J
5-6-15 1-4-15



The Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to

*Under Secretary of State
Colonial Office*

and begs to forward for his information a copy of

Telegrams

which have been received dealing with

operations in

East Africa

File to 8710

March 27th

From Base Commandant, Kilindini, to War Office.

(No. A.V. 25.)

19th March, 1915.

Transport "Takada" arrived to-day from Bombay with reinforcements and remounts.

From Base Commandant, Kilindini to War Office

(No. 17 E. 36)

19th March, 1915, 7.30 p.m.

"Rheinfels" left for Bombay this afternoon with details and stores.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare.

(No. 2668, cipher Q.M.G. 2.)

20th March, 1915, 6.45 p.m.

My No. 3533, cipher, 12th March. Please cable whether the Rhodesian Contingent has arrived.

From Earl Hutchinson to Sir B. Duff

(No. 3703, cipher)

23rd March, 1915, 10.40 a.m.

If you agree, I would suggest instead of the proposal in your No. S. 5800 that General Wapshare be sent, and General Tighe left in command in East Africa.

From Adjutant-General, Base, Kilindini, to War Office

(No. 1301/S/Base.)

20th March, 1915, 2.27 p.m.

Sailed for India, transport "Rheinfels," 19th March—Captain Hanson, 69th Punjab, Captain Whitechurch, Military Accounts Department, India; Major H. C. Campbell, Royal Engineers, latter invalided to England, steamship "Yarra," 14th March—Major F. W. Robey, 27th Mountain Battery.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office

(No. 386/16.)

22nd March, 1915, 11.30 p.m.

Your No. 2668, Q.M.G. 2, of 20th March. The Rhodesian Contingent arrived on 15th instant. They are a fine body of men.

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

(No. S. 5818.)

20th March, 1915, 5.40 p.m.

The greatest difficulty is being experienced here in complying with demands for signal units, especially for Force D.

We suggest that in view of the relative importance of General Barrett's requirements, which are urgent, that two Regular brigade signal units with Wapshare be transferred to Basra, and that, if it is really necessary to replace them, they should be replaced by telegraphic signallers drawn from the Indian Telegraphic Department and any such visual signallers drawn from Indian units as can be made available.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare.

(No. 8698, cipher. M.O. 210.) 22nd March, 1915, 8.45 p.m.

Can you arrange locally for transportation to the Persian Gulf of the two Regular Brigade Signal units now with your Command? These units are required with the force in Mesopotamia. If it is really necessary to replace them, India will make up two such units composed of telegraphic signallers from Indian Telegraph Department and as many visual signallers as can be made available from Indian units.

From Major-General Wapshare, to War Office.

(No. S. 259) 22nd March, 1915, 9.45 p.m.

An affair of patrols occurred on 10th March, east of Kilimanjaro, when 40 Kashmir Rifles, under Major Lyall, were attacked by about 60 of the enemy and lost one killed and 10 missing. The intelligence agent, Scott, is missing and is believed to be a prisoner. Apparently the Germans were mistaken by the outposts for our own African Rifles. At the time Scott was ill and Lyall was away scouting. It is believed that six Germans were killed.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 254.) 23rd March, 1915, 11.50 a.m.

Your telegram No. 3698, cipher, of 22nd March. I am sending to the Persian Gulf as soon as possible a brigade signal sections complete, but I have suggested to India that mules should be sent from there. I can then retain my mules pending the arrival of new sections which are absolutely necessary here. Intercommunication even with trained signal units is at present difficult, it would be impossible without them.

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

(No. 3706 cipher. O 165/6767 M.S.3) 23rd March, 1915, 12.55 p.m.

Referring to your No. S. 5759 of the 19th instant, it is not considered that the operations referred to are of sufficient importance to justify the grant of rewards. One of them was a failure.

From Governor-General of Union of South Africa to Secretary of State for the Colonies.

23rd March, 1915, 2.26 p.m.

My telegram of 18th March, Wedd's offer. I am informed by Ministers that their previous observations must be considered applicable to modified offer. In principle they do not think themselves justified in countenancing recruiting for East African campaign when it is found that there is considerable difficulty in obtaining suitable and experienced men to make up wastage of mounted units already in field for German South-West Africa. These difficulties would be accentuated by formation of even a small corps of 50 men for East Africa. In Ministers' opinion offer emanates from individuals whose chief motive is to adventure their fortunes in another country.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 256.) 24th March, 1915, 2.35 p.m.

In continuation of my telegram of 12th instant, No. S. 251, and my No. S. 250 of 16th March, detailed reports confirm the fact that the Germans were driven back from our border with considerable loss. They were thoroughly disorganized and retired quickly to the south of the Mara River. It is unlikely that raiding will recur in this area.

Natives report that the boat "Muansa" has been refloated and towed into Muansa Bay. Owing to the Karunga operations, it was, I understand, impossible to keep a continuous watch on the "Muansa", and she has certainly disappeared. Our patrol boat could see no sign of her in Muansa Bay, and I think that the boat has been sunk by the Germans. In any case, it is not probable that she can be repaired, as she was so damaged by our guns.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 257.) 24th March, 1915, 2.50 p.m.

Owing to the length of the Longido Lines of Communication, and the fact that they will be very vulnerable when railways have made it possible for the enemy to move over the intervening plains, and owing further to the difficulty of supply, I have decided to withdraw from the Longido position to a line through Basal, 20 miles south of Kajiado. In order to hold Longido I should have to discontinue my forces, and my general reserve in consequence scarcely exceeds one battalion of reliable troops. We can, if necessary, easily retake Longido, as we are now well acquainted with the ground, and the enemy is not likely to back up large forces there, especially when protected by the Voi-Maktau railway. By keeping a movable column at Kajiado and a compact force at Basal I shall occupy a line that can be easily defended, and it will be possible to deal effectively with any German offensive, while at the same time my general reserves will be increased by 600 infantry, 4-12 pra., 4-10 pra. and two sections of machine guns. I shall, of course, have to move the Masai now in the neighbourhood further north in order that they may remain under our protection and for political reasons. The withdrawal will not, therefore, be carried out until the rains have well set in and water and grass can be found for their cattle, probably about a month from now.

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

(No. 3728, cipher. M.O. 1 (D)) 24th March, 1915, 6 p.m.

The following telegram has been received from Wapshare. It is presumed that you are arranging with Wapshare with regard to mules. - "I am sending to the Persian Gulf as soon as possible two brigade signal sections complete, but I have suggested to India that mules should be sent from there." With reference to your No. S. 3818, cipher, of the 20th March. Please now arrange the despatch of improvised signal units therein mentioned.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 259.) 25th March, 1915.

I have recently returned from Uganda and Lake. The situation there is that we can easily hold our own on the southern border of Uganda, but there are not sufficient reliable troops to make a forward movement. I heard from Malleson that Henry has been ordered to concentrate 7,000 troops in the neighbourhood of Lake Riva of whom 4,000 to 5,000 will be available for offensive. They anticipate great difficulty with transport and ask for my help in this respect which of course I cannot give. Pending the revision of ammunition arrivals, however, nothing can be done. The first consignment is now at Kampala and will leave there for Fort. * soon, it is improbable that

* Probably a name ending in "al."

Postcard

all will arrive before the end of May. Until we can co-operate vigorously from Lake, the Belgians are averse to any large effort, but no doubt they will demonstrate against the Ruanda border and so indirectly assist me if after my withdrawal from Luanda I attack Muanza. Before any action is decided on I will submit detailed proposals to you.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office

(No. 440/1.)

25th March, 1915, 12.25 p.m.

25th March. Your telegram 23rd March. Should like 100 waterproof capes, pattern as in Mr. Edward's communication of 19th February, for the sentries and for orderlies as the rainy season has commenced. Cash balance in hand, 800/-, is placed to my credit at National Bank of India, Nairobi, it can best be spent on providing locally for flooring hospital tents, cows for the hospitals, &c. Convey cordial thanks to East Africa Field Force.

all will arrive before the end of May. Until we can co-operate vigorously from Lake, the Belgians are averse to any large effort, but no doubt they will demonstrate against the Ruanda border and so indirectly assist me if after my withdrawal from Lake I attack Huanza. Before any action is decided on I will submit detailed proposals to you.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office

(No. 440/1.)

25th March, 1915, 12.25 p.m.

Your telegram 23rd March. Should like 100 waterproof capes, such as in Mr. Edward's communication of 19th February, for the sentries and for ambulances as the rainy season has commenced. Could balance in hand, 890k, be placed to my credit at National Bank of India, Nairobi, it can best be spent on providing blankets for covering hospital tents, cows for the hospitals, &c. Convey cordial thanks to the African Field Force.