

EAST AFR. PROT

25016

51 MAY 15

25016 ~~SECRET~~

463

Master
Lester

Belgian Operations

1915

May 29th

Gives information as to

Last previous Paper.

transport of battery to Congo etc.

by Belmont
by Red

Pr. G. Zidler

As my point as to which
action is required concerns the
matters.

Perhaps we had better telegraph
to Gen. in Egypt: Sent 5:30pm.
then started.

2953) May June 3 your tel 12 May 1915

am informed by B. S. A. Corp.:

that 20 mules for Belgian battery
have been obtained in Egypt and
that they will be shipped by S. S.

"Clary Castle" due to reach
Congo about 10th July. Montreal
will by then have organized

No plan. Lat. Feb. 3. Line.
To bring a message to June.

Next subsequent Paper

70-25721

his battery at Kumpata and
it is desirable that his mother
should on his arrival be
despatched to him with
"most possible expedition"

And in acknowledging this
letter, inform Major Kessath
what has been seen.

Gen 1/6/15
Col. 1/6/15

H. J. R.

1/6/15
P.M. 1.6.15

1.6.15

1/6/15

2.6.15

25016

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British East Africa Corporation, Limited.

Speciality:
 T. PRESSLAND
 TELEPHONS: LONDON WALL 8176
 TELEGRAMS: FAAL AVE. LONDON.
 CABLES: INCREASE, LONDON.
 CODES:
 WESTERN UNION AND BROOMHALL'S
 COMBINATION.
 AND AT
 MOMBASA, NAIROBI, KISUMU, AND
 THE EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE,
 AND
 KAMPALA, UNGA, MASHINDI, &c.,
 UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

96, GRESHAM HOUSE,

LONDON, 29.5.15

In your reply please refer
 to No. _____

Confidential

H. T. Read Esq^r CB CMG
 Colonial Office SW.

Dear Read

Your dept is in care to have following advised,
 which we have received from Belgian War Office
 as the share per their Co. London. Belgian W.O
 has a cable from Commandant Montagne at
 Mombasa reporting the safe landing & capture
 tally by BEA Corporation there, of the "Montagne
 battery". Also that all is in order for the
 forwarding of same to Kampalla for the
 organising work at latter & that Montagne
 expects to be starting for Kisumu end June
 & arrive Kisumu end June. I think he is too
 busy, & would myself reckon that his

batteries will do well if fully organized & 468
marching from Kampalla by last June,
arriving Kivu about mid July.

Montalant further cables that Donkeys
are too weak for the battery transport &
that he must have 20 mules. The Belgian
War Office has passed me urgent orders to
set the latter.

The British W.O. informed me (informally)
that I should make commercial enquiry in
Egypt and that if come here as latter they
would not stand in way of export if I could
arrange shipping.

I have got the offer from our
Cairo agents & secured space in Chany
Castle, - the mules should then reach
Mombasa about 10th July. It will be a
matter of urgent rail & lake steamer
transport to set them to Kampalla for

801

for Montacute. Anything you could kindly
 do to assist by asking informing the
 Govt of B.E.A. of the urgency, would be
 done help to reduce the delay which the
 battery is compelled to suffer if it waits for
 arrival of the mule.

Re motor boat for Lake Kivu You are aware
 that on Belgian Congo C.O. orders are given them
 option on 2 boats now in Mombasa. They
 called Montacute to inspect in company with
 Cox. He called to Belgian W.O. that one of
 boats seems suitable, but other two large. The
 object is to mount machine gun & carry
 6 armed men, for service on Kivu. If he decides
 to accept it will be transported whole, via
 Kampala. He has two in hand.

Re Ammunition base (secondary base for Belgian
 force supply) - The Belgian W.O. has enquired

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...to arrange for shipping from Mombasa in
Cluny Castle for omnium round, & if we
can provide storage & if so at what points,
from which they would draw it as required.
The shipping is arranged for - they reply, the
storage is there on warehouses at Mombasa
Nairobi & Kisumu & Kampala, are all at their
disposal, subject to their arranging with
the British W.O. Officially per our F.O -
This reply is on our W.O. suggestion to me.
The Belgian job are acting accordingly -
Impress, Equipment, hospital stores etc.
I have despatched for them some hundred of
packages to those in Rydal Hall, & more to go
to Cluny Castle, for Nairobi via Kampala by
the Corporation agencies. This is all in
order.
Quality phos Vaccine. I have sent their supply
ag. cleared, by mail boat via Capetown &
Alexandria.

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Alexandria.

Meat rations. These have been purchased & Antineas. Rav. Com. permits obtained. About 140 tons so farward. & via Roma (Atlantic) in Belgian Govt. steamer to depart mid June, & 20 to 30 tons via Beira to Elizabethville. Also 8 tons dried cod fish.

Battery for Katanga. The second half of the Moulart battery stores in Beninik Castle has been tallied by my people at Mombasa & sent on to Beira, as instructed, and I have arranged for landing & forwarding thence to Congo with Finance Trading Co. and asked Belgian Govt. to advise Portuguese legation in London.

I thank the latter summaries the main matter. I am reporting separately to our home office. Would you kindly acknowledge the safe receipt of this letter? (to me)
Yr. sincerely
E. M. Mombasa etc.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the name 'Mombasa' and other illegible text.

Ed. G.

4 June 1915

Dear Leggett,

A receipt of your
 letter of May 29th
 relating to the guns
 and military stores which
 are on their way to
 the Belgian Congo, we
 telegraphed to the Secy
 of the P. & P. Prot.
 asking him to
 facilitate the rapid
 despatch of the
 Kampala of the 20th
 miles from Eggen
 when they arrive at
 Mombasa on July 10th
 Yours sincerely
 H. R.



Confidential

to be put under the signature

DRAFT

Ed. G. 1915 850

MINUTE

4/6/15
Mr. Drummond 4/6/15

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir G. Biddle
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Islington.
- Sir Harcourt.

[The following text is mirrored bleed-through from the reverse side of the page and is largely illegible due to the quality of the scan and the angle of the paper.]