

EAST AFR. PROT

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~~Secret~~

For
Prepared (hand)

General Post office

1916

Feb. 2nd

London Soc's War Diary for

Last previous Paper.

period January 8th to January 27th

No. 15410

Copies to D. I. & Albany (John J. Davidson) (15410)

Next subsequent Paper.

For [unclear]

15409

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
~~Mombasa~~ Mombasa,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

SECRET.

12th February 1916.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of January 18, 1916, I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of the War Diary of the General Officer Commanding from January 8 to January 27.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Alfred B. B. B.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

(Copy).

ENCLOSURE 676

In Despatch *Secret* of Feb 12 1916.

No. 216/7.

SECRET.

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & Uganda,
Nairobi, 16th January 1916.

From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,
British East Africa and Uganda,

The Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor
and Commander-in-Chief,
British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a résumé
of my War Diary, from the 8th to the 14th January
1916, inclusive, for the information of His Excellency
and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. DE C. O'GRADY, Major,

for Major General,

Commanding in B.E.A. & Uganda.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.
The Senior Naval Officer, H.M.S. 'Challenger', Zanzibar.
The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyanza.

(Signed) H. DE C. O'GRADY, Major,

General Staff.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

8th January 1916. The enemy continue to show activity in the vicinity of Ngurungane and towards the Coast. They have occupied the former place.

Pika Pika reports no signs of the enemy. The situation at Kasigau remains unchanged.

On the Uganda Railway bombs were removed yesterday from the line at miles 248, 249/17, and 250/5.

The headquarters of the enemy in the Eastern Lake Area now appears to be at Susuni, and the Mara bridge is being repaired.

9th January. The General Officer Commanding, with G.S.O. (1), went to Kajiado to inspect the troops there.

This morning Major Wavell, commanding the Arab Company, at Mwale Ndogo, with some 80 rifles, moved out to attack an enemy party which had been located at Mkongani the evening before. Our forces were beaten off, losing Major Wavell and Lieut. Macintosh, killed, and Major Leitch, Royal Fusiliers, wounded, besides about 30 other casualties, machine gun, and a bomb mortar. In consequence of the above, the 40th Pathans have been detained at Kilindini, and two Double Companies will proceed at once to Mwale.

A force of some 500 rifles, with 2 mountain guns and 8 maxims, is marching on Ngurungane to eject the enemy, who are reported to be holding that place.

This increased activity of the enemy is probably with a view to delaying our general concentration on Mbuyuni and Longido. The G.O.C. does not propose to postpone these major movements for more than a day or two.

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The report is confirmed that several companies are in occupation of the hostile camp at Mwakejembe, but the camp does not appear to be entrenched.

On the Uganda Railway, at mile 70, at 7.15 p.m., yesterday, an enemy bombing party was driven off, two bombs being removed from the line.

Our aeroplanes dropped bombs on the enemy camps at Serengetti and Taveta yesterday morning, doing uncertain damage.

On the 7th instant our patrol from Makindu dispersed an enemy patrol 4 miles North of Mbea Hill.

10th January. Tempy. Lieut. Colonel Grant, R.A., G.S.O. (1), General Headquarters, E.A. Force, arrived from Gallipoli.

India has promised to despatch, in March, the following railway material - 50 miles of track, 15 engines, and 100 waggons.

At 4.15 this evening Colonel Graham was in touch with the enemy at Ngurungani, but no details are as yet to hand. Apparently the enemy have made no attempt to capture Mwele.

The 3rd Regiment of South African Horse have arrived at Kilindini.

An enemy patrol was reported at Mbasi yesterday on the Western slopes of the Shimba Hills.

On the Uganda Railway last night an enemy patrol was dispersed near mile 68, and a hostile party fired on the train at about mile 63.

Our troops are now holding Kilibassi.

All quiet generally.

11th January.

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11th January. The General Officer Commanding, with the majority of the proposed 2nd Divisional Headquarter Staff, left Nairobi for Voi yesterday. From here he will gradually bring in General Headquarter and Divisional organisations pending the arrival of Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien.

An accident at Maktau has resulted in the complete loss of one of our aeroplanes. The pilot was unhurt.

Our Samburu Column has returned from Ngurungani to that place, leaving 1 D.C. Bhartpores and 1 Company K.A.R. at Kiringoni (8 miles South of Samburu), where there is water. Our Column suffered considerably from the heat and lack of water, this influenced Lieut. Colonel Graham in attacking in the afternoon, and prevented pursuit. Our casualties were 5 killed and 8 wounded. The enemy are reported to have lost 3 Europeans and about 40 askaris, killed.

15th January. The G.O.C. has decided to push on the Voi-Maktau Railway forthwith, towards Campi-ya-Ribi, but he has given General Malleon a free hand as to the actual date of the advance.

The 40th Pathans have been temporarily added to the garrison of Mwele Ndogo, while the centre of gravity of enemy activity remains in that neighbourhood.

The enemy are reported to have entirely retired from Ngurungani.

The strong force which is now at Mwele should completely counteract the presence of the enemy at Mkongani.

Major

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Major Carter, 101st Grenadiers, attached 40th Pathans, is reported to have shot himself at 4 a.m. this morning at Mwele.

All quiet in the Magadi District, in the Eastern Lake Area, and in Uganda.

14th January. General Malleson, till now commanding the Mombasa Area, left with his Staff, to take over the command of the Voi Brigade at Maktou.

The situation at Kasigau and Mwele remains unchanged.

(Copy).

No. 215/O.

SECRET.

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & Uganda,

Nairobi, 22nd January 1916.

From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,

British East Africa and Uganda,

To

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor

and Commander-in-Chief,

British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a Résumé of my War Diary, from the 15th January to the 21st January, inclusive, for the information of His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. DE C. O'GRADY, Major,

for Major General,

Commanding Troops, B.E.A. & Uganda.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to the Government, Uganda.
 H.E. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good Hope.
 The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyanza.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

January 15th.

Glanders has appeared at Kilindini among the horses which have arrived from South Africa. It is hoped that the precautions taken will check the spread of the disease.

The 'Iaconia', with 2,500 African Infantry on board, has arrived at Kilindini.

The Longido Column will leave Bissil, for the occupation of Longido, on the 16th and 17th instant.

January 16th.

General Beves, commanding the South African Infantry Brigade, with his staff and 2½ battalions, passed through Voi en route for Mwashoti.

The mounted troops of the Longido Column have arrived at Olikunoni.

A cable was sent to Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, in South Africa, asking for his sanction to the formation of the Infantry on the Longido Line into a Brigade, and for the appointment of Colonel Sheppard to be in command of it.

A cable was received from General Smith-Dorrien to the effect that operations against the Mbusuni and Longido positions should be postponed until the arrival of heavy artillery from England. A representation was made to Sir Horace that serious opposition was not to be expected from either of these positions, and that the moves had actually commenced. Sir Horace replied cancelling his previous telegram and allowing the operations to be continued.

Instructions were received from the War Office that,

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that, in future, demands for railway material, necessary to carry out projects already sanctioned by the War Office, should be made direct on India, and that the Indian Government should be asked to obtain elsewhere what they cannot provide locally.

All reports quiet.

January 17th. The whole of the Line of Communication has now been placed definitely under the control of Brigadier General Edwards.

The General Officer Commanding visited rail-head, near Campi-ya-Bibi. The moral of our troops at Maktau is now very good, and all are keen and anxious to advance.

The enemy still hold Mkongani, and are connected by wire with Mwakijembi. On the 12th it was thought that 3 companies were in the Ngurugani District, 1 at Tanga, and 1 at Mwakijembi.

All quiet in Magadi and Eastern Lake districts.

In Uganda our patrols have penetrated 70 miles into German territory from Mital Aiyu. They captured 60 head of Government cattle.

The latest estimate of the German Forces in East Africa is :-

<u>Europeans</u>	<u>Askaris</u>	<u>Levies and Recruits</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Machine Guns</u>
1,950	12,500	2,200	62	84

The above are organised into some 46 Companies.

January 18th. During the night of the 17th/18th a bomb was picked up at mile 222 on the Uganda Railway.

There has been considerable patrol activity on our

3.

our part recently in the Kagera District, resulting in loss to the enemy of 1 white captured, 1 white killed, 14 askaris killed, 4 wounded and captured. We also captured 10 enemy rifles.

The situation remains unchanged at Kasigau. The enemy are showing signs of withdrawing from Mkoigani.

The War Office made enquiries as to the amount of motor transport probably in use in German East Africa. A reply was sent to the effect that it was only used to a limited extent, and that petrol in all probability is now very short.

January 19th. The G.O.C. visited rail-head at Campi-ya-Pihi.

The Longido Column arrived at Kedongai on the 18th.

The enemy have completely evacuated Mkoigani.

General Smith Dorrien lays great emphasis on the importance of railway extension in British East Africa, with particular reference to the suggested Longido extension. In this connection he has asked India to supply an extra 100 miles of track with all accessories.

Recent native reports confirm the report that the garrison of Dar-es-salaam consists of 1,000 rifles. Most of the European women have left the town. Four of the 'Königsberg' guns were moved to Dar-es-salaam some time ago.

The Germans are now issuing paper money of low value. Ngurugani is clear of the enemy, but Mkoigani is still in hostile occupation. Yesterday an enemy picquet

4.

plouquet was located at Mbuyuni West Ridge.

There are indications that the enemy may make an attack on Ngirende, which is on the Amala River.

In Uganda, our recent post at Kisibbu has been withdrawn to Kachumbi.

One hundred of the enemy were at Lutobo yesterday.

The above is from Intelligence Report dated 17.1.16.

The following is from Intelligence Report dated 18.1.16 :

The situation is unchanged on the Coast, at Kasigau, and Serengetti.

In the Southern Masai Reserve the Masai have been persuaded not to attempt raids across the border.

January 20th. A cable has been sent to General Smith-Dorrien regarding the supply of extra gun ammunition and rifles for the troops in British East Africa. He replied to the effect that, after consultation with Generals Crow and Ewart, Major General Tighe could make demand on the War Office for whatever he considered necessary, stating that the demand had the approval of General Smith-Dorrien himself.

Information was received from General Smith-Dorrien that South Africa had offered, and he had accepted, two more mounted regiments, to be ready in South Africa by the 1st June, for service in British East Africa.

At 2.30 a.m., during the advance on Longido, a party

5.

party of East African Mounted Rifles was ambushed by the enemy, estimated at about 20, between Manga and Longido, with the result that our troops returned to the former place, having lost 2 killed and 1 wounded.

On the Voi-Taveta Line the railhead has reached mile 47/32 without incident.

An aerial reconnaissance was made of Mbuyuni to-day, confirming previous reports.

Very heavy rain fell on the Longido line to-day.

The General Officer Commanding visited Campi-ya-Bibi to-day where everything is progressing satisfactorily.

Longido was occupied by our troops on the 20th instant.

All is reported quiet from the Coast to Uganda.

Intelligence Report to the 19th is as follows :

An enemy deserter states that there are now 3 enemy companies at Kasigau, where supplies are reported to be plentiful.

A definite statement has been received to the effect that a trolley line connects the two German railway systems between Korogwe and Morogora, via Handeni, the total journey taking from 2 to 3 days.

It is reported that there are now only four Europeans, sixty askaris, and a machine gun at Kisaka, South of the Mara.

The Belgians are reported to be taking energetic measures to punish the Batussi for recent raids.

(COPY).

General Headquarters,
Nairobi,

1st February 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Résumé of my War Diary from 21st to 27th January, 1916, inclusive, for the information of His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. De C. O'GRADY, Major,

for General,

Commander-in-Chief, East African Forces.

The Private Secretary

to His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

British East Africa.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

January 21st. Longido was occupied by our troops yesterday, the only resistance met with being an encounter with a chance hostile patrol on the night 19th/20th. We had 2 killed and 1 wounded, all F.A.M.R.

January 22nd. The troops destined for the L. of C. Longido Line have all reached their respective locations.

Mbuyuni was occupied by our troops at 9.30 a.m. One battalion was left at that place, and the remainder of the force moved on against the enemy camp at Seregetti. This camp was not located, and our force returned to Mbuyuni. The enemy casualties are reported to have been 1 white and 3 askaris killed and 1 askari captured. Our casualties were nil.

The 40th Pathans remain on the Coast for a short time longer owing to renewed enemy activity there.

The enemy are reported to have wireless stations at Beira and Quilimane.

The situation at Kasigau remains unchanged.

An aerial reconnaissance to the Lumi on the 20th confirms Salaita Hill being strongly entrenched.

The Batussi witch movement has now become anti-European, regardless of nationality, and both Belgians and Germans are taking energetic measures to suppress it.

Reliable information from Tabora shows that at the end of November last there were about 800 recruits there without arms, rifles not being available.

January 23rd.

At 2 p.m. about one company of the enemy advanced from Serengetti towards Mbuyuni. They were at once attacked by part of our force, and fled; 1 German officer and 7 askaris were taken prisoners. The enemy's other casualties are estimated at 20. Our casualties were 1 wounded.

January 24th.

Colonel Sheppard left for Kajiado to assume temporary command of the 1st E.A. Division.

General Malleon reconnoitred Serengetti Camp, which was found to be abandoned by the enemy. It is now occupied by our troops as an advanced post.

January 25th.

It is reported that 3 companies of the enemy are still in occupation of Kasigau. The Dar-es-salaam garrison is reported to be now not more than 500 rifles. There are 6 large guns mounted at the entrance of the harbour. The enemy garrisons at the Coast towns have all been reduced, and it is known that some of the troops at any rate have been sent to the Tanga-Moshi line.

At daylight on the 22nd our armoured train was derailed by a bomb about 1 mile West of Maktau.

At mile 224 on the Uganda Railway we dispersed an enemy bombing party, capturing 13 bombs.

All quiet in Uganda.

The probable number of motor cars and lorries in German East Africa is under 25.

January 26th.

The majority of the Staff and Departmental Officers of the East African Force as now constituted arrived at Mombasa.

General

3.

General Tigue has temporarily moved his headquarters back to Nairobi.

January 27th.

Another of our aeroplanes has been completely wrecked, leaving only 2 now available for work.