

EAST AFRICAN
23947

23947
Recd 22 MAY 16

To Self

For

1916

April 19th

Last previous Paper.
No 23918

Sends copy of Soc's War Diary for
period March 1st to April 7th.

to Robertson
his Road.

This covers the Kilimanjaro fighting,
and is very interesting.

Note, in particular, the marked
passages as to the assistance
rendered by the Navy.

Copy to D. I. D. Army (J.P.)
as usual

W.C.H. 29/5/16 29/7/16

Copy to D.I.D. Army file 5 June

J.R.
29/5/16

23947

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROCONSUL GENERAL

19th April 1916.

SECRET

Sir,

With reference to the despatch of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of the Résumé of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's War Diary from March 3 to April 7 1916.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Alinway B. P. S. d.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

LONDON, S.W.

No. 1743

SECRET

From

The General Office, Admiralty
Whitehall, London, W.C.2

To

The Com. The Chief Secretary to the Admiralty
British West Indies

Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. in relation to the Resumé of my War Diary, from the 1st March 1914 to the 1st March 1915, inclusive, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the British West Indies. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, and to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, for the Service of the Admiralty.

Copy to :-

- The Chief Secretary to the Admiralty
- The Senior Naval Officer, Barbados
- The Naval Commandant, St. Vincent
- Major General

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.1st to 14th March inclusive.

March 1st. Coast Detachment reports enemy patrol at Mshiwu. Slight increase in enemy's strength reported opposite Dwenkuba Section.

Patrol of 2nd Division met enemy's patrol South of Luchore; we suffered 8 casualties.

March 2nd. Intelligence Department Report :- That enemy's concentration appears to be on the Lumi River, South of Taveta, with 1,000 rifles at Salaita, the latter being supported by an entrenched camp four miles nearer Taveta. Small posts on the Girigan Hills, Warombo Hill, Chala, Taveta, South of Jipe, and Lembeni. The continued strengthening of Salaita indicates an intention to fight with whole force; maximum estimate 500 whites, 4,600 askaris, 13 guns, 30 machine guns.

March 3rd. Orders issued for our forces to be concentrated as follows :-

- (a) Brigadier-General van Deventer's Column consisting of :-
- S.A. Mounted Brigade
 - 3rd S.A. Infantry Brigade
 - S.A.F.A. (less 1 battery)
 - 28th Mountain Battery
 - Mounted Section, E.A. Pioneers
 - E.E. Bridging Section
- (b) 2nd Division (plus 4th S.A. Horse)
- Division (less Mounted Brigades)
- Artillery

MBUYUNI

SERENGETI-
MBUYUNI
LONGIDO-
MANGA

SERENGETI AND MBUYUNI

- (a) General van Deventer instructed to secure and bridge

bridge across the river at Chala (when moving forward).

(b) 1st Division (less 1st Mounted Brigade) will be ordered to reach R. Engare Nanjuki in vicinity of Ng'ombe on morning of 6th instant.

Intelligence Department state that troops of the 1st Division runs from Momba to Ng'ombe.

March 4th. Concentration as above being carried out, 1st Division concentrated at Longido West.

March 5th. Concentration for forces ordered on March 3rd completed.

1st Division moving from Longido West to Sheeps Hill.

Following movements ordered :-

Brigadier-General van Deventer's Column to move to line of R. Lumi and to secure Chala position.

2nd Division advance from Serengeti Camp and occupy and entrench a line to be notified to the Divisional Commander separately and to select and prepare positions for 2nd Divisional and Army Artillery for an attack on Salaita from the East.

1st Division to establish strong post in neighbourhood of R. Engare Nanjuki and continue to advance to Boma-ja-Ngombe.

Force Reserve at disposal of Commander-in-Chief under General Beves and consisting of 2nd S.A.

Infantry Brigade and 1 Battery S.A.F.A.; to detach 8th S.A. Regiment to follow rear-guard of General van Deventer's

Deventer's Column and establish and entrench post near Point 3306 (Tav. H. 2 b). Remainder to concentrate at Serengeti Camp (less 4 companies who are to garrison Mbuyuni).

March 6th. 1st Division continue to advance from Sheep Hill and have occupied Nagasseni.

March 7th. Admiral Charlton, Commander-in-Chief, Cape Station, arrived Mbuyuni.

March 8th. 1st Division reached Geraragua.
General van Deventer's Column, after occupying Chala, pushed on and took Taveta practically unopposed.

Force Reserve on Lumi, N.E. of Chala, heavily attacked by enemy during afternoon. Enemy easily beaten off, with small loss to us.

Small party of enemy, with machine gun, surrendered to General Berrange (G.O.C. 3rd S.A. Infantry Brigade).

General Tighe (G.O.C. 2nd Division) commenced bombardment of Salaita.

March 9th. Coast Detachment report enemy activity patrolling in order to deceive us as to his strength.

Salaita bombarded, attacked, and occupied by 2nd Division, which had been evacuated.

March 10th. Coast Detachment report small enemy raid on village of Ziwini.

1st Division at Geraragua Farm.

Trains seen at Moschi. Aeroplanes dropped

bombs

on Mosochi-Tanga line. Effect doubtful.

March 11th. Enemy's most resolute rearguard action on Kitovo Hills this day, and, as he had not been dislodged by our action was continued throughout the night.

1st Detachment report indicates weakening of enemy forces in that district.

1st Division reached Sanja Drift on Small Har - Arusha Road.

March 12th. Latama and Reata action continued during night and our troops occupied the position in the morning. All evidence goes to show the severity of the enemy's defeat. 3 machine guns and one field gun captured. Our losses comparatively heavy, roughly 37 killed and 196 wounded. Final returns not in yet. Enemy's losses heavy, and, although he evacuated his wounded, his dead were left strewn all over the field.

March 13th. Maurin Brigade occupied Mosochi, enemy retreating south and entraining at Kaho.

March 14th. 1st Division occupies Mt Mosochi.
2nd Division occupies Taveta and Kitovo Hills.
2nd and 3rd Brigades outside Hima River.
Enemy still reported concentrated at Kaho.
Hima River Hill is a very important area.

1917

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,

East African Force.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government,

B. E. Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of Resume of my War Diary, from the 15th to 31st March, inclusive, for the information of His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) B. S. VAN DER BYL, Capt.,

for the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
East African Force.

Copying to:-

The Chief Secretary, Entebbe.

The Governor, East Africa.

The Commander-in-Chief, East Africa.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.15th to 31st March inclusive.

15th March. Our troops holding line from Taveta to New Moschi.

Enemy reported in thick bush along the Ruwu River.

Unconfirmed report from Lake Detachment states that 106 enemy whites and 800 askaris left Muanza for Fort Ikona and thence proceeded towards Magadi and Magai country.

Heavy rains Himo District.

16th March. 1st Mounted Brigade Scout Corps left Moschi en route for Aruscha.

Heavy rains in Kilimanjaro district.

17th March. Mounted Patrol which was sent South from Himo Camp to Kifu Mbu, to reconnoitre towards Rasthaus, report latter place strongly held.

18th March. Our Scouts which were on Unterer Himo last night were forced by the enemy to evacuate it this morning. When this was known orders were issued for the re-taking of the hill as follows :-

2nd Division to send 2 battalions from Reata-Latema Nek to assist in the operations.

2nd S.A. Brigade camped on left bank of Himo River to advance due South and ~~mountain~~ attack hill.

3rd S.A. Brigade camped right bank of Himo River to advance due South and occupy Euphorbien Hill.

Mounted

2.

Mounted Brigade at Old Moschi ordered to stand by.
2nd S.A. Brigade ordered to move from New Moschi to
Kile.

After a short bombardment the infantry advanced,
and occupied the position unopposed, the enemy
having evacuated the hill, leaving 2 dead.

19th March. Enemy apparently holding line along River

Pangani, from Kahu Hill North to junction of that
river and the Rau, and then East along the Ruwu to
where the Himo joins it, and then North along the
Himo up to Rasthaus Hill, which latter place
strongly held by them.

Orders were issued at 10.30 a.m. for the
3rd S.A. Brigade to advance on Rasthaus and to
and outflank it on the West. The 1st Division
Mounted Troops to act on the right of the 3rd
Brigade. The 2nd S.A. Brigade to advance on Ras-
haus from the East.

The advance was slow on account of the density
of the bush, which was impenetrable in many places,
and, as by nightfall nothing definite had been
achieved, the troops were ordered back to their
camps of the night before. We had 30 casualties.

20th March. The advance on the enemy's position was not
continued, and instead a reconcentration of troops
for the attack was undertaken.

3 Battalions of the 2nd S.A. Brigade were sent
from Unterer Himo to join General Sheppard's Force
at Etara (4 miles South of Base) as well as
the

the 12th Howitzer and 1st and 3rd S.A.F.A. batteries.

The Mounted Brigade, plus 4th S.A. Horse, with the 2nd and 4th S.A.F.A. batteries, were ordered to proceed from Moschi and Mus to a point on Kabe Hill to threaten the enemy's left flank.

The 9th (Naval 12 pr.) and 10th (Naval 4 inch) batteries arrived at Himo River from Taveta.

The 1st K.A.R. and 27th Mountain Battery were moved from Moschi to Mus on arrival of the Cape Corps at the former place. 1st E.A. Brigade took over the Unterer Himo position from the 2nd S.A. Brigade.

From 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on the 20th/21st night the enemy heavily attacked General Sheppard's Camp four times but was beaten off.

Our casualties 20; enemy's estimated at 60.

Mounted Brigade Scout Corps occupied Aruscha, driving off a company of the enemy.

21st March. General Sheppard's Force (plus the 3 S.A. Infantry Battalions) in action all day. Mounted Brigade forced a crossing of the Pangani, West of Kabe Hill, in the early morning, and took the hill, enemy counter-attacking twice during the day. At nightfall General Sheppard's Force was confronted by a large area of open ground surrounded by dense bush with the enemy holding the far side. Troops slept in their positions that night.

During the night the enemy evacuated their whole line and retired South along the Pangani line to Lamani.

At 11.10 a.m. the enemy destroyed the Kahs railway bridge.

Our casualties for last two days between 250 and 300.

22nd March. Mounted Brigade followed retreating enemy to Kwa Ngoga Station. The gnr. left much stores at Kahs Station. The 1st Div. found a 4.1 inch Krval gun abandoned by the enemy.

During the day we established a defensive line of posts along line Kangarunga - Nashorn Hill - Ruwu Road Bridge - Kahs Station.

At Aruscha the Masai have murdered a Dutch settler and are raiding cattle. The E.A.M.R. have been despatched there and are due to arrive on the 24th.

The Admiral reports having bombed and burnt by indirect fire. Effect of bombardment unknown.

23rd March General [unclear] E.A.M.R. from [unclear] Moschi.

24th March. Genl. and Lt. [unclear] report no movement since 12th inst.

25th March. Two Regiments of [unclear] Moschi for Aruscha.

Intelligence [unclear] states that main enemy's force is at [unclear] with strong outposts at [unclear] railway.

27th March. Carrier Corps recruited by ...

... advance into Ruanda (not ...)

... two enemy companies with a ...
... reported at Kakikota yesterday

28th March. 1st S.A. Mounted Brigade now at Arusha.
G.M.Q. moved to Old Moschi.

29th March. Quiet day on all fronts.

30th March. Intelligence report that the enemy's dispositions in Pare Mountains are as follows :-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Bogwe | 1 company. |
| Schigatini | 9 companies. |
| 1st B in MORD PARE (Map G.B.E.) | 1 company. |
| Kiwerange | 1 company. |
| Kwa Kisinga | 20 Europeans. |

This information is however considered doubtful.

31st March. Lake Detachment reports that 2 Germans and
80 askaris crossed border at Mohuro, due South of
Karungu, on 28/29. Enemy's losses 10, curnil.

(Copy).

CONFIDENTIAL.

General Headquarters,
Old Moschi,
10th April 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Resume of my War Diary from the 1st April to the 7th April 1916, inclusive, for the information of His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) F. E. GUEST, Major,
for Commander-in-Chief,
East African Forces.

The Private Secretary
to H.E. the Governor of British East Africa.

Copy for information forwarded to :-

- The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.
- Naval Commander-in-Chief, Zanzibar.
- Senior Naval Officer, Kisumu.
- Major Grogan.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

Covered from 1st to 7th April (inclusive).

1st April. Patrol of the 1st Division inflicted ten casualties on a patrol of the enemy encountered at Hisingire.

Intelligence report that a Wapare Chief states his tribe to be in sympathy with us, but owing to the vigilance of the enemy on the Pare Mountains they are unable to come across. It is added, however, that too much reliance must not be placed on this.

2nd April. 1st Division report a small skirmish on the Kahe-Lembeni road.

Intelligence report that two captured enemy's porters state that Lembeni is being held by three companies, and that the falls from Tanga to Muheza have been removed.

3rd April. Two regiments of the 1st South African Mounted Brigade moved out from Aruscha with a view to attacking Lolkissale.

Admiral Charlton reports that he visited several harbours in the G.E.A. Coast north of P.E.A. and was fired on by two guns - which were silenced - from Kilwa Kisiwani.

4th April. The two regiments referred to above succeeded in surrounding the enemy on Lolkissale.

Our scouts in the Eastern Lake Area inflicted ten casualties on an enemy's patrol.

A pre-war circular, emanating from the G.E.A., U.E.A.,

... has been found, calling upon senior officials to submit proposals whereby the spread of Islam might be counteracted. The advisability of forbidding the religion entirely, and of encouraging the natives to breed pigs, was to be considered.

5th April. The enemy on Lokkissale are still holding out. 2nd Division reports that our horses have not had water since noon on the 3rd.

Intelligence report 200 Wapares all told have crossed over to us.

Lake Detachment reports no change since the 1st instant.

6th April. Lake Detachment reports that Belgian askaris raided British village Kigezi on March 16th, killing 13 men, 16 women, 5 children, and driving off 120 head of cattle.

Enemy on Lokkissale surrendered this morning. We captured 17 whites (including 2 officers), 404 natives, 2 machine guns, and much ammunition. Our casualties 1 killed, 6 wounded.

7th April. A patrol of the 2nd E.A. African Brigade encountered enemy at Kisiwa.

During the past week preliminary operations of Belgian concentration at Outubo for the purpose of the invasion of the ...

N.I.D. 9084

(C.O. 1090/1046)

The Director of the Intelligence Division presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and begs to return with thanks the enclosed War Diary of General Officer Commanding in Chief East Africa, for March 1st to April 7th, 1916.

Admiralty War Staff.

Intelligence Division.

12th June, 1916.