

EAST AFR. PROT

17675

REC'D
13 APR 16

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Was done

1916

13 April

Last previous Paper.

German East Africa

Telegraphic correspondence as to operations -

Next subsequent Paper.

17675

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13 April

... that the G.O. will be able to admit General Smith in the matter of drafts and reinforcements.

Per K.

13/IV/16

17675

Next subsequent Paper.

17680

If Wipitberg = Wiyaberg it means that the L. lanes are being removed to the Cape Peninsula. The G.O. has been concerned about the quantity of reinforcements, as he realized that if S.A. could not supply them then G.O. would, and as his suggestion

I wrote recently to L. Buxton to ask his
opinion about the local deposits & consulting

Pr. 14. 4

As. M. 184. 4

Apr. 18. 4

SECRET

176/5

326

[OPERATIONS.]

From Lieut.-General Snuts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

(No. G.O.F. 358.)

9th April, 1916. 11 p.m.

Have nothing to report.

SECRET

175/5
326

[OPERATIONS.]

From Lieut.-General Smuts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

(No. G.O.E. 358.)

9th April, 1916, 11 p.m.

Have nothing to report.

SECRET.

17675

327

[OPERATIONS.]

From Lieut.-General Smuts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

(No. G.O.F. 361.)

10th April, 1916, 9.25 p.m.

The situation remains unchanged.

SECRET.

328

[OPERATIONS.]

From Lieut.-General Smuts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

(No. G.O.F. 372)

11th April. Nothing to report from any area.

12th April, 1916, 10.10 a.m.

SECRET

328

[OPERATIONS.]

From Lieut.-General Smuts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

(No. G.O.F. 372.)

12th April, 1916, 10.10 a.m.

11th April. Nothing to report from any area.

SECRET

17/6/75

329

[OPERATIONS.]

*From Chief of the Imperial General Staff to General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
East Africa.*

(No. 15333, cipher.)

Your No. G.O.F. 324, 4th April. Foreign Office and Colonial Office have this
matter under consideration.

11th April, 1916, 6.50 p.m.

From General Smuts to C.I.F.S.

330

11-4-1916.

7.30 p.m.

G.O.F. 371.

I am much concerned with the question of drafts to keep my fighting units up to strength. I have not asked you for reinforcements because I do not consider them absolutely necessary, although (some group) Infantry Brigade like the 1st S. African Brigade now in Egypt would help greatly to shorten the campaign. Too great a proportion of my force is not reliable fighting material and can only be employed on the Lines of Communication, while the fighting units are being eaten into by casualties and sickness. As regards drafts however to fill up the existing units, they are very necessary, and with dwindling forces it would be difficult to occupy this huge country and beat the enemy armies in the field. I have written to the Union Government that with practically 20,000 already recruited in the Union in addition to some 100,000 that have gone to England incidentally to enlist, they find it very easy to recruit the necessary drafts for me. They suggest that I should approach you for supplies of drafts from those sent to the 1st S. African Infantry Brigade amounting to 90% of the total which has hitherto only suffered slightly. If this could be arranged it would remove my anxiety about the 2nd and 3rd S. African Infantry Brigades here and would also enable me to fill up the 2nd Rhodesian Regiment. This last named receives no drafts at all and will soon disappear from the map. For the above purpose I estimate that about 2,500 men would be required in the next few months with such drafts as I shall get from S. Africa. The Loyal N. Lamps have become generally stale and unfit and under medical advice the bulk of the regiment is being sent to Wynberg for some months to recuperate. Both this regiment and the Royal Fusiliers, the state of which is not much better, should be

supplied with drafts well above the average physically as both climate and campaign here are most exacting.

Repeated to Governor-General, S. Africa.

C.2. for action to A.C.2.a.

S. of B.
C.I.C.S.
A.G.
M.C.2.b.
Army Council
D.C.I.C.S.
S.M.C.
C.O.S.
C.S.B.
S.D.2.
Major Merrice.
D. of C.
Colonial Office