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Iran Office

German East Africa

1916

19 July

Telegram correspondence re to
Operations

Last previous Paper

No. 1505

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... End

It is a direct telegraph that it was
sent out to the Belgians by the
captured Luwanga.

Latest Belgian communications
arrived in record.

P. 15?

"Times" account says
pled Southwest in the
Stubbins said "Dormin"
should be withdrawn towards the lake, but the
help against that. I hope the Belgians could
be approved.

897 20/7/16

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H. J. R
20/7/16

AS-M. 20-7-16 (v. 1)

Next subsequent Paper.

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SECRET

OPERATIONS.]

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

(No. F. 5343.)

10th July, 1916, 10.20 p.m.

As the 129th Baluchis have ceased to exist as a fighting unit owing to malaria, and as great shrinkage in number is most undesirable at present, I propose, until I reach the Central Railway, to keep the 29th Punjabis.

[OPERATIONS.]

From Chief of the Imperial General Staff to Lt. General Smith

(No. 19418, cipher. M (A) 27.)

11th July, 1916.

Your No. F.3544. You must send an Indian Army battalion to replace the 57th Rifles, which must leave Mombasa for Egypt not later than the end of August. If you do not wish to send the 20th Punjab, nominate in good time for any selection three battalions, as all Indian battalions in your force are not suitable for employment in Egypt on religious grounds.

SECRET

66

[Crossed out]

*From General Office Commanding Cape Town, to Chief of the Imperial
General Staff*

(No. 684)

47th July, 1916.

My No. 684 of 1st July. As regards the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, do
you sanction my sending it on 1st August to Kilindini?
To enable arrangements to be made, I require this information.

SECRET

67

(Overlapped)

From Lieut. General Scouts to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

(No. F. 5379.)

18th July, 1916, 1:10 p.m.

In continuation of my previous telegram dealing with the capture of Muanza. The enemy evacuated the town after a slight resistance owing to the skilful dispositions of General Crew; the strength of the enemy was about 800; a 4.1-inch gun from "Koenigsberg" was left in our hands. We captured part of the enemy's supply column and found many rifles in the bush which the enemy's Askaris had thrown away. Most of the Europeans escaped in steamship (one group undecipherable) down Stuhlmann Sound pursued by SS. "Winifred."

[OPERATIONS.]

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

(No. F. 5378.)

18th July, 1916, 5.55 p.m.

Our troops followed up the enemy force which attacked Korogwe unsuccessfully and drove them down the Pangani and captured Hotchkiss gun with crew complete. General Hannington is now clearing that part of the country with his brigade. On the night of 14th July, the Lake Detachment, under Brigadier-General Sir Charles Crewe, occupied Muanza. No details have been received yet. General Vandeventer's division is moving to the Central Railway from Kondoa Irangi.

- The second phase of the Belgian operations against German East Africa has commenced.
- The initial phase consisted of a concerted defense of Lakes Tanganyika and Nyasa against the German offensive. In co-operation with the British forces on the Uganda and Nyalandland frontiers, the Belgians prepared their offensive by steadily outbidding themselves on the lakes.
- The German offensive started in May, and the Germans are now expelled from the provinces of Ruanda and Urundi, and have abandoned the province of Usukuma under the pressure of the Belgians.
- On July 3 the Belgian Belgians inflicted a severe defeat on the army of Kilimanjaro.
- The Belgian forces, on their march from Lake Tanganyika to Lake Victoria, the area occupied being three times the size of Belgium, and having a native population of four millions.

After General Vandenberg had departed on the 20th of June to the east of Kilimanjaro (about 100 miles east of Lake Victoria) the Belgians under Captain Mervin proceeded to march towards the Victoria Lake with the object of cutting off the Germans who were still in possession of the country between the River Ruvubu and Lake Tanganyika.

On June 27 the Belgians reached the shores of Lake Victoria at two points, Mwanabunde and Dunda, members of the detachment arrived. A few days later the Belgian parties advanced and just to eight German detachments a detachment of Mwanabunde, taking a number of prisoners.

On July 2 the bulk of the enemy forces with their guns and artillery made a desperate effort to free itself by forcing the Belgian lines. The enemy attempted to cross the Mwanabunde, but passage of which was opposed by a Belgian detachment, finally resulting in the capture of the enemy. After a battle of four hours, during which hours the enemy was decimated and captured. The Belgians captured a considerable quantity of arms, including the German rifles of various kinds, machine guns, and a large quantity of food and stores on the field, including a number of German prisoners.