

E. AFRICA  
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REC'D MAY 14

1919  
27 May  
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E. African Campaign Cost

112. Brigadier-General Sir Owen Thomas. — To ask the Secretary of State for War, if he will state what is the total expenditure to date in connection with the East African campaign; whether he will state the number of staff officers, officers, and men, both European and Native, at present on service in the campaign; and the daily cost of the same; and whether, in view of the manner in which this campaign was conducted, he is prepared to institute an inquiry into the details of and responsibility for the expenditure on the whole campaign. [Tuesday 13 May 1919]

To answer reply

Mr. Stanley

As in the question laid over from 18639 and should be left to you. You will recollect that Sir H. D'Almeida telephoned from Paris a few days ago to obtain a full statement of the cost of the campaign for the year. In connection with the negotiations with the Belgian Government as a result of which communication with the Congo River is being maintained.

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annexed was prepared & sent over  
to Paris - It was for the purpose of an  
[that attached to L.S. 61252/10]

Mr. Forster

Gen 25/10

I have to say I am very much  
with a view to

Sir O. THOMAS: And the direct  
of State for the civil state  
is the total amount of the  
in connection with the African cam-  
paign; whether by the employment  
of staff officers, whether European and native, at present in  
vice in the country and the cost of  
the same; and whether, in view of the  
manner in which this campaign was con-  
ducted, he is prepared to institute an  
enquiry into the details of and responsi-  
bility for the expenditure on the whole  
campaign?

Mr. FORSTER: I regret that the Com-  
mission of Government accounts does not ascertain  
the total expenditure on a particular cam-  
paign being ascertained without a great  
deal of research. The present force in  
East Africa is about 15,000 officers and  
men, mostly natives, of whom about half  
are in course of despatchment, and the  
present cost is, roughly, £2,500 a day. The  
accounts of these operations have, like  
other war accounts, been annually audited  
and reported upon to the Public Accounts  
Committee, and I am not aware of any  
circumstances calling for the institution of  
a further special inquiry into this ex-  
penditure.

Sir O. THOMAS: Is it not a fact that  
the East African campaign has cost nearly  
£200,000,000—double the amount of the  
South African War?

Mr. FORSTER: No. I do not think  
there is anything approaching that sum  
of money involved.

Sir O. THOMAS: I have asked the  
question.

Mr. FORSTER: I cannot give the total  
expenditure without a great deal of re-  
search, and, honestly, I do not think it  
would be worth the labour involved. If  
my hon. and gallant Friend wants a very  
rough estimate, I dare say that could be  
provided, but I do not think it would  
come to anything approaching the figure  
he has mentioned.

Sir O. THOMAS: I should like to  
have it.

Gen 25/10  
P. K.  
L.S. 61252/10

COST OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

From information received from the War Office it is estimated that the cost of the military operations against German East Africa amounts to £72,000,000. This figure includes -

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| (1) Expenditure incurred by the War Office, the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Munitions.....                             | £53,000,000. |
| (2) Cost of shipping.....   | 7,000,000    |
| (3) Capitalised cost of pensions.....   | 5,000,000    |
| (4) Contribution by the Union of South Africa.....  | 3,000,000    |
| (5) Expenditure defrayed concurrently from the funds of the local Governments in East Africa, West Africa and Rhodesia..... | 2,000,000    |

The figure of £72,000,000 includes expenditure on all troops engaged whether British, Indian, South Africa or Native Africans.

It excludes -

- (1) Expenditure chargeable to Naval Funds.
- (2) The cost of the Tanganyika expedition.
- (3) Expenditure after March 31st, 1919.

It is estimated that (3) i.e. expenditure after March 31st, 1919 may be reckoned at £1,000,000.

The Admiralty state that they are quite unable to give any estimate of the cost of the purely Naval expenditure in connection with (1) the German East Africa campaign and (2) the cost of the Tanganyika expedition.