

EAST AFRICAN

1915
MAR 11

27th January
1915
Last previous Paper

German East Africa

Operations War Diary 11-23 January
Captains views on recruitment of Volunteers
for offensive movement.

Mr. Blomfield to Sir J. Fiddes

I have marked the chief points of interest with pencil.

- (1) £8000 to be spent on motor cars
- (2) The Gov^t is reluctant to call for European Volunteers for an offensive movement

Don't believe it
they based out
to Berlin as
land but? do they
receive any

G.P.O. reported to be in communication
with Berlin? through Windhoek
? put by

January a map which may be of some use.
Have not read the papers & sh^d like to see
them again later.

There are indications in the reports
of 1911 & 1910 that the Germans
were getting short of food
H. J. F. D.
18.3.15

12022/5
18.3.15

11912

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MOMBASA
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

27th January 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit for your information copy of the War Diary received from the General Officer Commanding covering the period from the 11th to the 23rd of January inclusive.

2. In explanation of the attitude attributed to me on page 4 of the diary, I have to state that the opinion I expressed to General Malleison was to the effect that, while there could be no question of the propriety of encouraging the Settlers to volunteer for the defence of the Protectorate, I was doubtful whether it was equally justifiable to press for their services for the purpose of assuming the offensive in the enemy country. I have since been informed that it is the desire of the War Office that our Volunteer force should be amplified for this purpose, I am doing what is possible to assist the movement. I do not however anticipate that many additional recruits will be forthcoming.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Alouway Boydell

HONOURABLE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

GOVERNOR

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LONDON, S.W.

GOVERNOR

SECRET

ENCLOSURE 264
A.D. 1915

198.8

Command Headquarters, F.E.A.
Camp Mombasa, 25th January 1915.

From
The General Officer Commanding Troops
in British East Africa and Uganda,
The Private Secretary to His Excellency the
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Résumé
of my War Diary, from 11th to 23rd January 1915
inclusive, for the information of His Excellency
and the Colonial Office

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) P. McE O'GRADY, Major,
for Major General,
Commanding Troops in F.E.A. and U.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

July 11th A cablegram No. 2698, received from the Secretary, War Office, heartily approved of co-operation with Belgians and urging that it should be utilised to fullest possible extent if in accord with Civil Authorities.

G.O.C. intends to send General Malleson on a mission to Uganda to arrange details and personally interview the Belgian Commander.

A request for a Mohammedan Squadron of Indian Cavalry to be sent to East Africa, for work on the Longido line, was sent to the War Office.

Capt. Grogan, Assistant Intelligence Officer, came to Nairobi to-day and gave latest information concerning Belgian forces and the general situation in the Belgian Congo.

News was received from Mafia Island that our troops had occupied the German position, sustaining a loss of 3 British officers, viz. Major Soames and Lieut. Joyce severely wounded and Capt. Giffard slightly, and 8 rank and file, King's African Rifles, wounded.

The enemy lost their Commander, wounded and captured; also one man killed and one wounded.

A telegram (No. 153.S) was sent to the Governor of Uganda regarding General Malleson's mission. It was to the effect that General Malleson was to represent the views of the G.O.C. in a personal conference with the Belgian Commander, regarding

co-operation

2.

co-operation with our troops, after having seen and interviewed the Governor of Uganda.

January 12th Reported from the Umba that our post at Jasin had been attacked by the enemy, the attack was repulsed but no details given.

January 13th General Wapshare with S.O. (I) and (II) left for Tongido at 11 a.m.

Telegram No. 2721 received from War Office on subject of raising a local Irregular Corps. General Malletson was directed to discuss the matter with Mr Bowring and Sir Ralph Williams. It was decided to approach Lord Delamere for his opinion, and in the meantime to publish a communique of the principal recent military events in British East Africa as a stimulant to recruiting.

Information was received from the War Office that the Canadian Mounted Rifles would not now be available, and that the 130th Baluchis would shortly leave Burma en route for British East Africa.

Telegraphic report was received of the unconditional surrender of Mafia Island at 12 noon on the 12th without further fighting.

A communication was received from the War Office asking if a limited number of officers and selected civilians with East African experience could be successfully employed. An answer was given in the affirmative.

A general summary of the situation as it appears at present in East Africa and Uganda was posted to

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A general summary of the situation as it appears at present in East Africa and Uganda was posted to

the War Office (No.158.S).

No.161.S was sent to the Chief of the General Staff, Delhi, suggesting that 500 Volunteers from Southern India should be lent for service in East Africa and asking for approval and permission to approach War Office on the subject.

January 14th

The G.O.C. has approved of breaking up of Ross' Scouts and of utilising the services of its members elsewhere.

The steamer 'Nyanza' has been taken over from the Uganda Railway and is now at the disposal of the S.O. Marine, Kisumu.

A detailed telegraphic account of the recent fighting in the Uмба was received. The enemy's attack was repulsed with a loss on our side of 5 wounded. Five of the enemy, including 1 European, were picked up dead. A detailed report has been forwarded to the Hon. the Chief Secretary to Government.

The War Office have given approval to the expenditure of £8,000 in the purchase of motor cars.

The Indian Government has intimated its willingness to spare a squadron of the 17th Cavalry (Indian Troops) for service in British East Africa if the Secretary, War Office, approves.

No.2738 from War Office was received asking if additional European or native corps could be raised, and if such a course was recommended. The Chief Secretary and Colonel Graham, on being consulted, gave it as their opinion that the suggestion was not practicable.

There

4.

There is no news of importance from any other portion of the frontier.

January 15th

General Stewart returned from the Lake district to-day.

The reports from the different parts of the frontier show that all is quiet.

There are signs of German activity in the Ruanda country.

The steamer 'Nyanza' has been placed at the disposal of the S.O. Marine, Kisumu.

Information received that the Mafia Expeditionary Force was returning to Mombasa, leaving 1 double company 63rd Infantry in occupation.

Lieut.- Col. Mackay is administering the island for the present.

War Office asked if any additional European or native corps could be raised locally. This synchronises with the wish of the General Officer Commanding to raise a European Volunteer Corps (locally). The question was discussed by General Malleson (representing the G.O.C.) with His Excellency the Governor. (Mr Bowring was also present). His Excellency, though somewhat out of sympathy with the idea, promised to give it his unofficial support.

Telegram No. 2747 was received from the War Office placing a limit on the undertaking of offensive action without previous reference.

India have approved of sending a squadron of the 17th Cavalry provided War Office agree; latter has been referred to.

January 16th

January 16th General Malleson, accompanied by Capt. Grogan left for Uganda.

It has now been definitely decided that the only reinforcements which can be expected are the 130th Baluchis and one squadron of the 17th Cavalry.

January 17th-18th G.O.C. and staff returned from inspection tour

It has been decided to make a new road to Longida West to facilitate an advance in the future towards Ngare Nairobi.

News was received from General Tighe of the attack on our forces in the Umba, and the isolation of Jasin Post which was held by three weak companies with one machine gun. General Tighe made two unsuccessful attacks on the enemy, with a view to relieving the Jasin Post, and the fighting was continuous and general for 9 hours. Reinforcements were sent to General Tighe, which will enable him to hold his own against any possible force that the enemy may bring against him. The enemy's strength is now estimated at about 300 Europeans a 500 black troops, with 6 guns and about 18 machine guns.

January 19th All reports show that the frontier is quiet except for the Umba Valley district. This tends to confirm the reports already being received of movement of German troops from the Kilimanjaro district towards the Coast.

A long cable was sent to the War Office (No. 1758) giving a general resume of the situation and outlining anew the plans for future operations.

The

The War Office suggest that the possibility of raising a local native corps should be considered. After consultation with local officers, it was decided that the idea is not practicable as the time required to train the men would be prohibitive.

A German report placed our forces at Sherati at 1,000, including 300 whites; actually we had 1 double company of the Local North Lancs. and one section Mountain Artillery.

News was received that the post at Jasin surrendered this morning after having exhausted their ammunition; the garrison was 2 companies Kashmir Rifles and 1 company 101st Grenadiers.

The 'Weymouth' arrived off Vanga and may be able to co-operate with General Tighe. Arusha and Ngare Nairobi are reported to be lightly held; there is reason to believe that the Taveta line is being heavily entrenched.

The exodus of German women and children from the Kilimanjaro district is now completed.

The German Masai and Boers are reported to be in entire sympathy with us; it is stated that the latter in the Arusha district have been disarmed and removed.

The German tug 'Muanza' is still reported to be active on the Lake.

Further report received from General Tighe giving the situation at the Umba; no further attacks or developments have taken place there. Reinforcements have been sent to Mombasa where they will be favorably

favorably situated for that purpose if required.

Some movements of troops have been ordered with a view to greater concentration of our available forces. General Tighe considered the advisability of making an attack on the enemy, but in view of the apparent great strength of the enemy and the large number of sick among our troops he was obliged to abandon the idea.

The G.O.C. and staff left for Mombasa to discuss the situation with General Tighe in a personal interview.

It is reported from the Umba that von Forbeck, the German Commander-in-Chief, has arrived at the Coast.

Many sources report that the garrison of Moshi has been much reduced during the last few days. This all points to the fact that the enemy cannot have a very large number of troops at his disposal.

A telegram was received from the Office to the effect that it was reported, from a European source, that a wireless installation has been established at Kildanjaru.

A telegram was received from Uganda making a direct offer of assistance from General Henri by placing troops at our disposal. A condition was attached that these (11 officers and 520 men) should not be utilised at a distance beyond recall by him if urgently required.

Belgium report German dispositions :-

400 South of Lake Uvuhari
200 at Kisenji
500 at Bubegera-Shangugu-Almachilu

with 10 guns

8.

It is also reported that a force of about 1,000 men (of sorts) have arrived at Kigali from Tabora.

January 22nd

An affair of patrols reported from Samanya in the Umba, without casualties, is the only active operation reported from that district.

General Tighe has been further reinforced by drafts from India for the units now under his command.

Two 15 prs. with detachments, as well as 7 machine guns, have now been landed at Umba in addition to those already there.

The G.O.C. went ashore, discussed the situation with General Tighe, and inspected the camp.

The Bwagamacha Post has been called in and orders issued for the concentration of the Samanya Post also at Umba Camp.

The morale of the troops has somewhat suffered since the Jasin affair, but it is considered that General Tighe is strong enough to deal with any situation that may arise.

January 23rd

The Samanya post was successfully withdrawn this morning, and all the available troops in the Umba Valley are concentrated at Umba Camp under the direct orders of General Tighe. 4 companies of Kashmir Infantry will arrive at the Umba to-morrow to relieve the Jhind Infantry, which have been on the Coast since their arrival in Africa in October.

There are indications that German East Africa is in touch with Berlin, probably through Windhoek.

H.M.S. Hyacinth arrived off Vanga this evening.

9.

No further developments have as yet occurred in the Uмба; the enemy's main force is apparently some 3 miles South of Jasin.