

EAST AFR. PROT

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REG'D 14 APR 15

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Ev. Secret
Briefed

German East Africa

1915

March 12 - 2

Forward copy of Soc's War

Last previous Paper.

30/17088
8

Diary for period Feb. 6th - Feb. 28th

Mr ~~B. M. ...~~ ^{W. G. Fiddler}

2/12

most of this we have had before from one quarter or another. There are several indications that food is running short in certain parts of S. E. A.

See passages marked.

? Partly

W.G.F.
15.4.15

Gen 15/4/15

Curry

Next subsequent Paper.

W.O.

[N.B. Dept. ...]

17395

549

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Nairobi, MOMBASA,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

12th March 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of
February 17th, I have the honour to forward for your
information copy of the General Officer Commanding's
War Diary from February 6th to 28th.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

A. Conway Bejard.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

10, WHITEHALL PLACE,

LONDON.

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LEWIS HARCOURT, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA

11, DOWNING STREET,

LONDON

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch ~~XXXXXX~~ of 12th March 1915

(COPY).

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,
Nairobi, 13th February 1915.

550

SECRET

No. 215/39

From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,
British East Africa and Uganda,

To

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the
Governor,
and Commander-in-Chief,
British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Resume
of my War Diary, from the 6th to the 12th February
1915 inclusive, for the information of His Excellency
and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. de C. O'GRADY, Major.

for Major General.

Commanding Troops, B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.

Brigadier General W. Malleon, C.I.E.

6th February 1915 - Signs are evident that the Germans at Taveta are making attempts to undermine the loyalty of our Mahomedan troops.

The question of the construction of the railway from Voi to Maktau has been thoroughly discussed with Mr Sutherland (a railway officer who accompanied the force from India) and it was decided to wire to the War Office advocating the construction. It is estimated that the time required for construction would be about 5 months, and it is practically certain that no large reinforcements will arrive in the country sooner than that.

The cost of the railway is estimated at £50,000, and it is probable that half of this would be recovered by sale of material on the conclusion of the operations. The only material which would have to be obtained from India is 35 miles of permanent way, with iron sleepers, and a slight increase for the staff.

An alternative proposal is that India should send over 40 miles of railway material from the Delhi Durbar stock.

In the Mombasa area our patrols have been in touch, and the enemy still hold Jasin Ridge and Factory.

In the Kilimanjaro district a German raiding party has been driven off by armed Masai with a loss of two whites.

Olmolog on the western slopes of Kilimanjaro has been evacuated by the enemy.

SECRET

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

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Desertion

2.

Desertions from the native ranks from Ngare Nairobi are reported as frequent.

Evidence is not wanting that the Bura Mission interests itself in trafficking with the enemy.

From the Lake area reliable information shows that there are 5 guns at Muanza, none of which is of larger calibre than 3".

There are reports to the effect that the ~~Tabora~~ Tabora, living on the ~~Tabora~~ Tabora-Muanza road, are disaffected towards the Germans.

24th February

All is reported quiet from the Frontier.

The evacuation of the Umba has commenced and is progressing smoothly.

General Malleon reports that he hopes to reach Kasindi in Belgian territory on February 26th.

Instructions have been received that the forces in British East Africa are in future to be known as "I.E.F. 'B'".

25th February

General Tighe's withdrawal from Umba is proceeding satisfactorily.

A report received from the War Office that a contingent of 400 Rhodesians might be expected for service in British East Africa early in March.

26th February

News of the successful evacuation of the Umba Valley received.

The troops lately employed there will now be redistributed.

There is reported to have been a somewhat serious affair of patrols in Uganda, but details have

3.

have not been received.

A report from a German source states that the tug 'Adjutant' taken from the Germans at the commencement of the war, has been retaken by them, having grounded off the Kufigi river. No confirmation of this report has been received.

Heavy rain has fallen in Voi, Northern Taru, and Magadi areas.

Sherati was reoccupied by the enemy on 5th February 1915.

10th February

A report was received from Lieutenant Colonel Mackay that he had heard rumours that the Germans might try to retake Mafia Island. It has not been considered necessary to increase the garrison of Mafia Island, 53rd Palamcottah Light Infantry, but steps are being concerted with the Navy for the complete protection of the island.

For reason of the very great amount of sickness prevalent among the troops, the Umba Valley has now been evacuated without interference from the enemy.

A strong post has been established at Mumbani. It is reported that the Mushi troops who fought at Mushi have returned to Mushi.

Intelligence reports puts the German casualties at Mushi at over 25 whites killed.

Zanzibar reports food scarce on the coast, and dhow and canoe trade at a standstill, which is a serious matter.

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Pugu is still occupied by force.

The German askaris are being paid mostly in paper money.

In

In the Kilimanjaro district the post at Ngaaseraï has been reoccupied by the Germans.

On the Congo border the Belgian forces in British territory are 11 officers and 520 men with 2 guns. Belgian estimate of German forces in that area is 1,000 with 10 machine guns. German forces at Kigali are estimated at 5 Europeans, 200 askaris, and 6 guns.

11th February

All quiet on the Frontier.

Information received from War Office that it has been decided to send a contingent of 400 Rhodesians for service in British East Africa. They should arrive early in March.

12th February

The squadron 17th Cavalry has arrived at Kajiado where they were inspected yesterday by the General Officer Commanding. The 130th Baluchis have also arrived and are now at Voi.

A report from the Senior Naval Officer was received confirming a previous one regarding the loss of the 'Adjutant.' She was engaged in reconnaissance work in the Rufigi River, and, having unfortunately become disabled, was obliged to surrender. One officer and 19 men were captured.

Lord Cranworth and Colonel Kitchener have arrived at Mombasa and are expected at Nairobi to-morrow. The object of the visit is in connection with the question of raising Volunteers in British East Africa.

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch *Secret* of 12 March 1915

SECRET.

Command Headquarters,
Nairobi, 25th February 1915.

No. 215-0/46.

From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,
British East Africa and Uganda,

To

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Resume
of my War Diary, from the 13th to the 19th
February 1915 inclusive, for the information of His
Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) S. H. SHEPPARD, Lt. Col.,
for Major General,
Commanding Troops in B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.

Brigadier General W. Malleson, C.I.E.

PRECIS OF WAR DIARY.

13th February 1915 Colonel Kitchener and Lord Cranworth arrived at Nairobi and discussed matters with the General Officer Commanding.

14th February Owing to a movement Northward by the enemy in the Kisii district one company King's African Rifles and the King's African Rifles Mounted Infantry were despatched to that district to augment our forces in that area.

General Tighe arrived in Nairobi to confer with the General Officer Commanding.

A telegraph line is being run out to Mzima on the Tsavo line as there is a likelihood of a German raid on the Friendly Masai in that district.

15th February Orders were received from the Secretary, War Office, London, to disembark railway material from the s.s. Rheinfeld on return the vessel to India. This material and other brought from India by Force 'B' to be used on proposed railway line from Ap1 to Maktau.

16th February Information received from India that no more mules can be spared. Arrangements are therefore being made in this country to combine all the available mules and form a Mule Corps.

It was decided to enlist a number of Swahilis as gun porters, train them up to a certain pitch, and then draft them to regiments.

A telegram was despatched to the War Office giving proposed terms for cooperation with the Belgians. As a result of this arrangement...

proposed to capture Muanza, which would practically give us command of the Lake. This operation would be commenced next month, preferably after the arrival of the Rhodesians.

The General Officer Commanding, accompanied by some of the Staff, left for Mombasa to interview the Senior Naval Officer and carry out inspections at Zanzibar and Mafia.

17th February.

General Officer Commanding had consultation with the Senior Naval Officer after which a telegram was sent to the War Office to the effect that cutting out the 'Konigsberg' from the sea is impracticable from a military point of view, giving reasons.

Railway proposals were discussed with Mr Sutherland.

18th February

Orders given to disarm the Somali Scouts and keep them in a detention camp for the present as they had been giving trouble ~~in the~~ in the Masai country South of Mtitu Andei and had previously shown signs of insubordination.

Orders were given to Mr Sutherland to start work on the railway at the earliest possible moment.

The General Officer Commanding left Mombasa for Zanzibar and Mafia.

19th February

Having in view the early advent of the rains, it was decided that where troops are camped on black cotton soil huts for them should be provided; where the soil is sandy and porous, raised platforms should be provided for the tents.

Orders given to hut the Loyal North Lancs and Rhodesians in Dalrohi.

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch ~~Secret~~ 112

Command Headquarters, R.E.A.,
Nairobi, 4th March 1915.

SECRET

No. 215-0/51.

553

From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,
British East Africa and Uganda,

to

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a
Resume of my War Diary, from the 20th to 28th
February 1915 inclusive, for the information of
His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) M. de C. O'GRADY, Major,
for Major General,
Commanding Troops, B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda,
Brigadier General W. Malleson, C.I.E.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

20th February 1915. A series of telegrams were received from General Malleon reporting his arrival at Rutchuru, where he visited Commandant Henri. The purport of the negotiations so far is that nothing can be done in the way of co-operation on the Belgian side until after the arrival of their expected supplies of ammunition, &c. The question of co-operation was very favorably received, but before plans can be definitely formulated more details on certain points are required. General Malleon remains at Rutchuru for the present.

A concentration of Belgian forces is in progress towards Ruanda; this probably accounts for German movements in that district as reported in Intelligence Diary of 20th February.

Enemy's patrols have recently visited Marjoreni and Kikoneni.

The Turkhana Expedition is reported as progressing favorably. Large captures of stock are reported.

A spy was executed in Voi recently; this has caused a profound impression in the district.

Money is reported to be very short in German East Africa and what there is is largely in the hands of natives.

Patrolling actively is reported on the part of the Germans from the neighbourhood of Kyaka.

200 German troops are said to have arrived at Kigali from Bukoba; 300 have arrived at Kisenji

from

from Kigali and Musinga (Miansa), and 200 are en-
route from Kissenji to Mulera.

Shortage of food is reported from Kigali.

The Belgians report a successful action from
Twungi.

Kilwa is reported to be strongly held by 100
levies with two 12 prs. (old pattern).

It is reported that a new wireless station was
in course of construction in December last at
Kigali, the material being sent from Dar-es-salaam.

21st February

Reports from Gazi appear to indicate that
consequent on our withdrawal from the Umba Valley
the enemy is beginning to renew his old tactics of
raiding our villages, based on Harjarenti.

Telegrams were sent to General Malleon and
the War Office regarding co-operation with Belgians.
The best plan would appear to be a Belgian advance
on Kigali by 2,000 or so, in conjunction with
active operations by us on the Lake. It has been
pointed out very clearly that any operations con-
templated before the completion of the railway to
Maktau must be confined to the Lake area and must
have the approval of the War Office.

A naval demonstration could be arranged for to
synchronise with such an operation in the interior,
but no serious attack could be considered.

The work of construction of the Voi-Maktau
railway will commence at once, and the railway
companies, R.E., have been moved there to assist.

22nd February

Our police near Nzongezi Ferry, on the Kagera
River,

River, attacked a German patrol on the 18th February, killing 3 German askaris with a loss of 1 policeman wounded.

A report was received of the natives raiding of villages to the North of Marjareni, but the natives have retired precipitately as a strong patrol sent out by us failed to come up to the villages.

All is reported quiet on the frontier.

The Double Company 46th M.F.C., attached to the 1st M.F.C. at Voi, has been segregated on account of illness.

25th February All quiet on the front, and no news of importance to be recorded.

24th February A good wagon road has been reconnoitred, which would be suitable for motor traffic, from Tongido west to Olonyo Sambu.

A confirmation of the report that the Wa-Meru are giving the Germans trouble has been received.

The Rombo Mission has been deserted and there are now no signs of activity in that area.

The members of the recently disbanded Somali Scouts are now in camp at Kanyaa.

General Stewart reports that there is no cause for anxiety regarding the state of affairs at Kisumu.

February The General Officer Commanding returned from Mafia and Zanzibar.

It has been decided, in conjunction with His Excellency the Governor, to send Mr Bagge, C.M.C., a retired Protectorate civil officer, to Mafia to assist

On the Uganda Border one German was killed in an affair of patrols in the vicinity of the Kagera River.

28th February

Despatches on the Umba-Jasin and Mafia operations were posted to the War Office and the Chief of the General Staff, India.